RONDAH LOWE NAMED A NEW CENTURY SCHOLAR

Rondah Lowe, a student at the Beckley/Raleigh County Campus, has been named a 2010 New Century Scholar, an honor she earned by scoring highest in the state in the All-USA Academic Team competition for community colleges.

Donna Hawver and Ella Dorsey, students at the Greenbrier Valley Campus, were named along with Lowe to the All-West Virginia Academic Team for 2010. These three outstanding students will be honored by Governor Manchin in a ceremony at the State Capitol on April 9.

A resident of Hinton, Lowe is a U.S. Army veteran. She is the mother of four sons and has six grandchildren. She will graduate from New River in May with an associate’s degree in Social Service Management as well as a Board of Governors associate’s degree. She plans to transfer to Concord University in the fall to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Social Work and Psychology. Her ultimate goal is to earn a master’s degree in Counseling from Marshall University.

“My desire is to become a rape crisis/domestic violence counselor,” Lowe says. “I also want to make myself available to do substance abuse counseling and mentoring for juvenile delinquents and at-risk children within the judicial system.”

Lowe was selected based upon her grade point average, volunteerism and service to the college. The application process included an essay and seven discussion questions in addition to other qualifying criteria. She has been serving this year as the student representative on New River’s Board of Governors. In addition, she is a student worker in the office of Beckley/Raleigh County Campus Dean Carolyn Sizemore, and she coordinated last month’s Black History Month program for the Beckley/Raleigh County Campus.

“Being selected is a great honor for any student, but it has really been motivational for me because I am 49 years old,” Lowe commented. “I would like to thank New River Community and Technical College’s administration, faculty and staff--everyone who believed in me and extended the chances and opportunities. Each time I walked into a classroom eager to learn there was a dedicated faculty member to teach me everything they had learned. I want to thank the classified and non-classified staff--each and every one--who performed their job as best they could to a level that allowed me to be a student here; Dean Sizemore and Dr. Curry who allowed me to serve students to the best of my ability and encouraged me to continue my education; Stephanie Gaiser, Dr. Davis and Amanda Kincaid, who took time from their Christmas vacation to come in to complete my packet; and Dr. Spring and Dr. Faulk, who have always treated me with respect as a student and student employee. I would like to say congratulations to everyone at New River, for this is an institutional honor.”

Lowe will travel to Seattle in April to represent West Virginia at the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention. She also will receive a $2,000 stipend.

The New Century Scholars program is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges, Phi Theta Kappa, The Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.
PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENTS SPONSOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE ON NICHOLAS COUNTY CAMPUS

The Student Practical Nurse Organization, Nicholas County Cohort, sponsored their sixth annual Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on Tuesday, March 16, in the campus commons area. A total of 69 students presented for donation, according to Joyce Egnor, director of the nursing program. The goal for the drive was 40 units, and 48 units were successfully obtained. The Practical Nursing students and faculty thank all the students for this wonderful support. They also thank Dean Culler and Roger Spinks for donating a unit of blood, and all the Nicholas County faculty for their support, especially Emily Browning, Carol Friend, Boats Keene, Derek Igo, Dr. Nancy Wemm, Dr. John Mullens, and Dr. John Mark Walkup.

WELCOME TO NEW RIVER

New River welcomes Angela Alston, administrative secretary senior in the Office of Enrollment Services, who joined the staff on March 17.

The “Green House,” located behind the Department of Highways Building on the Greenbrier Valley Campus, has been donated to New River by the Greenbrier County Commission. Campus Dean Roger Griffith, President Spring and others are evaluating possible ways the building can be used to benefit the college.

SGA FORMED ON MERCER COUNTY CAMPUS

Now that the Mercer County Campus has settled into its new home at Mercer Tech, a Student Government Association is being established. Student program advisor Crystal Haynes (seated) is helping coordinate the effort with faculty advisor Brian Testerman (standing left). Misty Kitts (standing, right) is the new SGA president. The first activity they have planned is a pizza party before final exams.
Adrienne Biesemeyer of Alderson, a well know local speaker and counselor, presented an entertaining and inspiring program about 11 “Wild Wonderful Women of West Virginia” on the Greenbrier Valley Campus on March 11. Students and visitors from the community enjoyed her mini-biographies of everyone from the founder of Mother’s Day to a Confederate spy.

The program was part of Women’s History Month activities planned by student program coordinator Wanda Johnson. Biesemeyer, daughter of famed singer and actor Harry Belafonte, highlighted the lives of Nancy Hart, Pearl Buck, Mother Jones, Kathy Mattea, Mary Lou Retton, Mad Ann Bailey, Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis, Elizabeth Betty Zane, Fanny Cobb Carter, Harriet B. Jones, Mildred Mitchell-Bateman.

Pictured with Beisemeyer (center, with glasses) are audience members (L-R) seated, Joan Montgomery, Jennie Serreno; (middle row) Mary Lindquist, Angela Jackson and Vicki Dove; (back row) Morgan Tobergte, Kerry Workman, Joanna Swartz, Sadie Callahan and Gerald King.

Don’t Forget the Classified Staff Field Day!

Thursday, March 25
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ghent, WV
Fun, Food, Team Building, Training

RSVP to Mary Igo, migo@newriver.edu