**NEW RIVER WELL REPRESENTED AT ANNUAL WVCCA/WVADE CONFERENCE**

A number of faculty, staff and administrators from New River attended the annual joint conference of the West Virginia Community College Association and the West Virginia Association for Developmental Education. The conference was held Oct. 14-16 at the Pullman Plaza Hotel in Huntington. This year’s theme was “Ageless Learning: Moving from Pedagogy to Andragony Education for Adults.”

Several New River faculty and staff members were presenters. Joycie Wawiye and Dr. John Mark Walkup made a presentation on “Innovative Strategies for Recruitment and Retention of Adults Students at New River CTC.” John Dynak’s topic was “Using Custom Animations in Power Point Presentations.” Dr. Lucie Refsland discussed “Using IT-84 Graphics Calculator to Graph Absolute Value Inequalities.” Dr. Shirley Davis presented “College Algebra: Opening the Doors of the Future,” and Ralph Payne discussed “Teaching with Videoconferencing: Tools, Techniques and Tips.” Libby Belcher participated in a panel discussion on “Preparing Women for Transformation in Higher Education Roles.”

At the closing banquet, Larry Barnhill was honored as New River’s Outstanding Contributor for 2009. He was selected by nomination from his fellow employees and was recognized for his extraordinary leadership in coordinating the many facets of the transition from Bluefield State.

In his letter of commendation, President Ted Spring noted: “Throughout this very stressful time, Larry has displayed consummate professionalism, good humor, enduring patience and tireless devotion to every task. These qualities have earned him the admiration and respect of co-workers and vendors alike. Larry is truly in a league of his own, and we are indebted to him for accepting the challenges of this huge task.”

Barnhill has announced that he will retire at the end of November, but the impact he has made on the College during his short tenure will be felt for years to come.
A lively discussion about the unique challenges and tremendous potential of online and distance learning education was the order of the day at the first Instructional Technology Forum sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). The forum was held at the Public Higher Education Center in Beaver on Friday, Oct. 23.

Payne envisions the forum as a monthly gathering that will provide faculty and staff the opportunity to discuss issues related to technology, distance learning, online learning, teaching with videoconferencing, collaboration tools, course design and other issues. To minimize travel time and expense, the forum can be attended either in person or via the IVN network.

The group at the first session voiced several issues that they would like to discuss at future sessions, including classroom management in a distance learning setting and remote site technical support. Another suggested topic was establishing standards for student access to online courses. The group also expressed an interest in ongoing training that will reinforce techniques covered in workshops. Payne indicated that such training can be set up online so that faculty can practice at their own schedule and pace between training sessions.

Payne encourages faculty to take advantage of the CTE Faculty Resource Center for assistance with multimedia and IVN course design, and for training in programs such as WebCT/Angel, Wimba, Turnitin, Respondus and other course management development tools. Payne has developed a Center for Teaching Excellence website that also provides many tools for faculty. The address is http://newriver.edu/index.php/faculty-and-staff/center-for-teaching-excellence. The CTE is supported by a Title III grant administered by Beckley/Raleigh County Campus Dean Carolyn Sizemore.
NEW RIVER CAMPUSES ARE GOING GREEN

Beckley Campus Recycling Program Gains Momentum

A recycling program was initiated on the Beckley Campus in early May. Prisca Baker, Human Resources administrative assistant, contacted the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority and arranged to have a large bin placed at the Beckley Campus location on Dye Drive.

The bin is open to the community and the following can be recycled: cardboard (flattened); paper (shredded ok, office paper, junk mail, magazines, etc.); newspapers; aluminum (cans – empty); Number 1 & 2 plastics (bottles, jugs, & more - empty); steel (cans – empty).

Baker reports that the program got off to a slow start, but student participation has picked up considerably since the Student Government Association donated bins for collecting plastic bottles and aluminum cans in student common areas.

Campus Dean Carolyn Sizemore approved the purchase of approximately 20 recycling bins for under employees’ desks in July. Several employees are bringing items from home as well.

“We went from dumping the bin once per every four to six weeks to a frequency of about once every three weeks. That is good progress, and if we can keep that up then we should be able to keep the bin,” Baker said. She added that a tremendous effort has also been put forth by the maintenance staff, Student Services, Student Government and the IT Department to support the program.

The Beckley Campus recycling team includes (front, L-R) Prisca Baker, Steve Calloway and Jamie Dalton; (middle) Melanie Slone, Larry Taylor, Tracy Evans, Kara Bowling, John Wood; (back) Jason Garris, Barbara Elliott, Ingrid Hudnall, Cindy Dalton and Phillip Dues.
GVC Phi Beta Lambda Chapter Raises Money with Inkjet Cartridge Recycling

The Greenbrier Valley Campus chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda - has begun a drive to collect used inkjet cartridges for recycling.

“The empty cartridge we used today will still be in landfills long after we are gone” said FBLA-PBL President Justin Kincaid. “This is a chance for us as a group to do our part for the environment and to raise funds for our FBLA-PBL community involvement programs.

In a partnership with a recycling and fundraising group, the Greenbrier Valley Campus FBLA-PBL can receive up to four dollars per ink cartridge submitted.

“These funds will greatly assist us in giving back to the community during the holiday season” said Chapter Treasurer Joyce Martin. “We have several large initiatives in the works and wanted to find a fundraiser that was both socially and financially responsible.”

Mercer County Campus Front and Center at Women’s Expo

The Women’s Expo was held Oct. 23 and 24 at the Brushfork Armory in Mercer County. Rita Holcomb, executive secretary on the Mercer County Campus, made the reservations and recruited a team to work the New River booth.

Darian Permila, trades worker on the Beckley Campus, and Donna Feijo, student recruiter, transported and set up the booth. Mercer County faculty members Sharon Evans, Brian Testerman, and Margie Vines worked the booth along with Campus Dean Bo Hylton and Feijo. Technical support was provided by Jason Garris, data technician in the IT Department.

“We had 881 people enter to win the “mystery” door prize at the New River booth. (The mystery prize was a gift wrapped box of New River items.) The New River team effort made the event a huge success! Thank you for helping in this community event. Our booth would not have been a success without you,” Feijo commented.

Spring Joins Board of Rural Community College Alliance

President Ted Spring has been appointed to the board of directors of the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCCA), a network and advocacy group that helps build the capacity of member community colleges to improve educational and economic prospects for rural America.

Spring attended his first board meeting in New Hampshire in mid-October. He reports that the organization offers a number of advantages to New River.

Membership in the Alliance provides the opportunity to provide direct and state-specific input at the national level to influence legislation to support rural community colleges; opportunities for smaller, rural community colleges to develop partnerships among these institutions to share ideas, projects and expertise; consistent opportunities to learn about and explore best practices at like colleges; and opportunities for the College to seek grant funding through the Rural Community College Alliance.
Campuses Showcased During Media Appreciation Days

The Office of Public Relations is hosting four “Media Appreciation Days” this fall to thank the media for their coverage of the College. Representatives from newspapers and radio and television stations that cover New River’s service area were invited to visit the campus nearest them for refreshments and an informal information session with the Campus Dean and other college representatives. The first two events were held on the Nicholas and Mercer County campuses the week of Oct. 26 and were well received. The Beckley/Raleigh County Campus and the Greenbrier Valley Campus events will be held the week of Nov. 2.

(L-R) Nicholas County Campus Dean Fred Culler,
Nicholas Chronicle
Publisher Charlotte Neilan,
Workforce Education Program Specialist Mary Igo
and Greg Carter of Radio Station WSWW-FM participated in Media Appreciation Day in Summersville on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Carter interviewed Culler for a segment that aired the following day.

Pictured at the Mercer County Media Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Oct. 28, are (L-R) Pat Whittaker of Adventure Radio Group (J105); Tammie Toler, editor of the Princeton Times; Shafali Pendleton of the Bluefield Daily Telegraph; Campus Dean Bo Hylton; and Linda Witt and Pat Tolley from Star 95 Radio. Representatives of television stations WVVA, WOAY and WVNS also attended, and stories about New River appeared on that evening’s newscasts on WOAY and WVNS.

Many thanks to the following contributors to this edition of Transitions:
Prisca Baker, Nathan England, Donna Feijo, Chris Fink

Please share news of events of interest in your department or on your campus!
Send your news items and photos to Barbara Elliott, director of public relations, belliott@newriver.edu.