

Financial Aid Update

By Libby Sturm, Interim Director of Financial Aid

Now that New River's summer and fall registration is underway and the Finance Office is taking shape, it's possible to begin setting up Financial Aid processes for 2009-10. Bluefield State will continue to process financial aid for 08-09 through the summer term, so students need to register for summer classes and follow their usual procedures for summer financial aid. All aid processing will be done by New River for Fall 2009, but the timeline will be somewhat delayed. New positions have been posted for a Beckley Campus Financial Aid Counselor and a Director of Financial Aid, based in Beckley.

2009-10 Processing

Most students have already filed their FAFSAs and have listed New River and, in some cases, Bluefield State. If they are degree or certificate students at New River, they will receive aid from New River, but some New River students may receive requests for information from Bluefield State because the school was listed on their FAFSAs.

We hope to be ready to send out requests for additional information to our students by the end of April and have some forms available on the New River website for students to use. There will also be an FAQ link for some additional information for students and staff. Notification of financial aid packages will begin in early June for those students who have completed all their requirements. New students must be admitted to New River before financial aid will be awarded.

New River students will be increasingly directed toward the school's website and to online Self-Service for the status of financial aid and updates to financial aid awards. Students who have had Direct Loans in the past will not have to do any additional entrance counseling or promissory notes, but first-time borrowers will be able to complete these requirements at Department of Education websites.

Contact Information

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a question or student financial aid situation that you do not know how to handle. My email is libbysturm@comcast.net and my phone is 304-876-8359. I plan to be on one or more of New River's campuses at least twice a month until a new director is in place.

Additional Updates

- **Registrar's Office**
 - Pre-registration began as scheduled on April 6. One area of data fed to our new database from Bluefield State was not completely verified by Monday morning, so paper registration forms were used until Monday afternoon. Once the new database was tested, the paper registration forms were processed.. The delay helped ensure that everything was working as designed.
- **Business Office**
 - Training with Bluefield State Finance staff and on Banner has continued. Some business functions are now being handled by New River staff.

- **Admissions Office**

Tracy Evans, Interim Director of Admissions, is working with Tom Cook from Bluefield State on the Banner transition in regards to the fall Admission Applications. Hopefully all glitches will be worked out within the next week so that fall applications may be entered. Term codes have changed in to reflect the following:

- 2010 01 Fall 2009
- 2010 02 Spring 2010
- 2010 03 Summer I 2010
- 2010 04 Summer II 2010

The ACT® test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. Tracy has purchased the ACT names for our nine-county service region, as well as for Clay and Braxton counties. This list will increase our prospective applicant pool. There will be a combined mailing to include EDGE course information.

Donna Lewis and Tracy Evans held an Admissions/Registrar meeting for Student Services personnel to inform staff of impending changes and updates regarding the transition.