

# Transition Update

## Financial Aid Update

By Libby Sturm, Interim Director of Financial Aid

FAFSA data has been loaded into Banner for almost 1,500 New River students for FY2009-10. This is a major step and will allow students, who have access, to view their information using the Web Self-Service WVNET link at the bottom of the New River home page. Program advisors on each campus will also have access to this information in Banner to assist students and parents with questions concerning their financial aid.

FAFSA information will continue to be loaded on a regular basis. Letters have been mailed to students who have been selected by the Department of Education for verification (audit). There is not a separate New River application to fill out with the FAFSA as there was in the past. However, some students may need to provide additional information on an individual basis. Please urge students to return documents or forms as quickly as possible so that processing of financial aid can be completed in a timely manner. An incomplete admissions file will delay the process, therefore delaying the student's aid.

Pell and other grants, scholarships, work study and loans will all be awarded at the same time as a student's financial aid. Work study positions and loans will be offered to students and must be accepted by the student before processing can continue. The student may return a copy of the award letter to the Financial Aid Office at the Dye Drive Office of the Beckley Campus or to any campus Student Program Advisor.

The new online bookstore, which will be operational for the fall term, will utilize financial aid credit balances to allow students to purchase books prior to the beginning of classes. No 'allowance' will be automatically withheld for bookstore purchases. Any credit balance not used for books will be refunded as part of the financial aid refund process. There will be more information about electronic bookstore credits in the next few weeks, so keep checking the New River website for updates.

All school charges, including tuition, fees, bookstore charges (if any) will be deducted from financial aid as it is paid to student accounts. Enrolled hours will be reviewed before any credit balance will be refunded to the student, but all types of aid will be refunded in one check. A refund check schedule has not been established, but the first refund checks for those students whose financial aid is complete will be issued the week of August 10. After that, refunds will be made on a regular basis. The schedule will be available shortly, so check for updates on the website. Since New River is implementing additional Banner processes in the Finance area, the time between 'aid complete' and the refund date should be just a few days, not weeks.

The Financial Aid Office is trying to balance new, faster, electronic processes with some of the older, required steps in awarding and paying financial aid. We hope the end result is faster processing and more information to students.

## **Information Technology Update**

By Dr. David J. Ayersman, Chief Information Officer

New River has three projects related to the separation of services from Bluefield State that will not be completed until mid-August. Those projects are:

1. **Networking and Phones Project** – Procurement paperwork has recently been completed. The vendor has ordered equipment and is expecting it to arrive in early July. Internet and phone service contracts have been signed and Fibernet has ordered fiber installs (as well as copper so that we can at least guarantee some connectivity by August, even if the fiber doesn't get installed until after that date). As equipment arrives and more information is known about the project, we will communicate the information. Appropriate office staff must be identified so that we can invite them to receive training on the new phone system in late July. Vendors indicate an early August completion date is realistic.
  
2. **IVN Project** – Four new classrooms must be functional by early August (we have only one summer IVN course which is being delivered during Summer II term using the BSC classroom in Lewisburg G417 and a room at the Public Higher Education Center). We have 57 IVN sections scheduled for Fall 2009. This project recently cleared procurement. The vendor has ordered equipment and expects it to arrive in early July. The vendor has indicated that the early August timeline should not be a problem. Although two of the rooms were intended to be "receive only" (Beckley and Summersville), we are making revisions to the equipment list so that instructors can teach from these rooms if necessary. The other two rooms will be created on the Lewisburg campus. We do not expect to have an IVN room on the Mercer County campus until Spring 2010, although there are a number of IVN courses currently on the Fall 2010 schedule. There are two remaining years of the IVN project for us to complete, but they are not required for the separation of services from BSC.
  
3. **SCT Banner** – Fall schedule, registrations and enrollment are now being updated using the new Banner system at WVNET. Additionally, Finance is creating a new chart of accounts on the new system. The old Banner system at BSC will continue to be used until the completion of all summer terms (July 31, 2009). Tom Cook will be assisting us until early August to move data from Bluefield's Banner to New Rivers' Banner system.

## Town Hall Meetings

Two more Town Hall Meetings are scheduled where you can ask questions or express concerns about the transition process.

June 24, 2009 Larry Barnhill/Heike Seoffker-Culicerto  
Greenbrier Valley Campus  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Auditorium

June 25, 2009 Harry Faulk/Donna Lewis/Tracy Evans  
Nicholas County Campus  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
The Commons