At the end of the first week of fall semester classes, New River’s enrollment was up 35 percent based on the same time last year. We are anticipating another 500 dual enrolled high school students and 250 students from the inmate program to enroll in the coming weeks. Although we expect some decline due to non-payment, we believe end-of-term enrollment will exceed 3,000 students. Enrollment at the end of the fall term last year was 2,393.

This is the third consecutive year that the college has experienced an increase in enrollment. Two years ago enrollment jumped 33 percent, and last year it was up another eight percent. And you know all too well, this sustained growth has created challenges.

Several factors have contributed to this increase. The recession has brought many adult learners into the classroom to upgrade their job skills. The efforts of our staff in recruiting students and hosting orientation sessions during the summer resulted in students making an earlier commitment to New River than in years past. Awareness of the college has increased significantly over the past few years because of marketing efforts. Outreach services in counties of our service region where there is no campus location increased considerably, such as the satellite location in Marlinton to serve residents of Pocahontas County.

The first major challenge is lack of space. New River completed a 10-Year Facilities Master Plan to address the needs for expansion. The first phase of the plan includes construction of a new administration and classroom building in Beckley and renovation of the student activities building on the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg. The legislature appropriated $16.5 million for these projects last year, but sale of the bonds was postponed due to the economic situation. We received the go-ahead to move forward with these projects and are meeting with architects to begin the planning process. We will also pursue grant opportunities, federal stimulus dollars and other avenues to fund the other projects in the facilities plan.

A second challenge is the extra burden that our rapid growth has placed on faculty and staff. Although a number of new positions have been added as we have assumed responsibility for administrative services previously provided by Bluefield State, there are still only about 100 full-time employees to serve a student population fast approaching 3,000. You have put forth a tremendous effort to complete the mandated transition from Bluefield State while at the same time adjusting to a phenomenal rate of growth and change. You are simply outstanding, and our students are the benefactors of your great work.
FALL SEMESTER HAS BEGUN!

Snapshots from our Campuses

Greenbrier Valley

A new reception area has been created in the second floor lobby of Greenbrier Hall on the Greenbrier Valley Campus. Faculty members Lucie Refsland and Jerry Dale are pictured at the new campus hub with student Thomas Wood. Student workers typically man the desk to greet visitors, answer phones and provide students with information, forms and directions.

Beckley/Raleigh County

The Beckley Campus SGA hosted a series of Back-to-School lunches for faculty, staff and students during the week of August 24. Enjoying a meal with SGA President John Wood (right) are Lori Midkiff, executive secretary to the president and Tracy Evans, interim director of enrollment services. Wood is serving a second year as SGA president.
The large incoming class of nursing students on the Nicholas County Campus is pictured in the new classroom at the Allied Health Training Center at Northside Shopping Center in Summersville. The new center is still a work in progress. When completed, it will greatly expand facilities for the Practical Nursing and Medical Assisting programs while freeing up much-needed space in the main campus building.

The headquarters of the Mercer County Campus was moved to Mercer Tech in Princeton over the weekend of August 22-23. Campus Dean Bo Hylton and his staff and most faculty offices are now located in Princeton. Dr. Harry Faulk, executive vice president, and President Spring visited the campus on August 26. They are pictured touring the future home of the Mechatronics lab. Their tour guides are Hylton and Mechatronics program coordinator Shawn Garretson.

Nicholas County

Mercer County

Mercer County Campus
1397 Stafford Drive
Princeton, WV 24740

(304) 425-5858
(304) 425-0860
The Beckley Campus Chapter of the New River Community and Technical College Foundation held its first meeting on Aug. 20. Dr. Spring made a presentation about the college and the 10-Year Facilities Master Plan. The group also heard from Chris Anderson of the Clements Group, a consulting firm that specializes in planning capital campaigns for community colleges. The advisory group elected a slate of officers and endorsed a proposal for New River to contract with the Clements Group to plan a capital campaign for the college. The proposal must be approved by the governing board of the Foundation before work on the campaign begins.

Pictured are (front row L-R) Carolyn Sizemore, dean of the Beckley and Raleigh County Campuses; Carol Calvert, vice chair; Joe Brouse, chair; Jeanie Richmond, secretary; Libby Belcher, director of college relations; and Dr. Harry Faulk, executive vice president and chief academic officer; (Back Row, L-R) Mick Bates; Mike Darby; Scott Hill; Mark Gunter; Kip Buchanan; Bill Loope, vice president of Workforce Education and Institutional Advancement; and President Spring. Not pictured: Tom Cochran, Bill Dickey, Kathie Dickey, Woody Duba, Dr. Charlotte Hutchens and Jack Scott.
EVERYDAY ACTIONS CAN HELP PREVENT FLU

With the possibility of a tough flu season ahead, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommends these simple preventive actions to protect yourself and others:

- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends staying home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (The fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine.)
- While sick, limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

**Flu-like symptoms include:**

- fever (usually high)
- headache
- extreme tiredness
- dry cough
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle aches
- sore throat
- vomiting
- sometimes diarrhea

_A Fair Day for New River_

Steve Butler, academic computer lab specialist and Wanda Johnson, program specialist, from the Greenbrier Valley Campus manned New River’s display at the State Fair of West Virginia on Saturday, August 15. The pair spent the day handing out candy and talking about the college to fair visitors--who were out in record numbers due to the picture-perfect weather.

Got news? Please send information and photos of events on your campus to Barbara Elliott, bellriott@newriver.edu.