NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SELECTS ARCHITECTS FOR RALEIGH COUNTY CAMPUS

[Beckley, WV] New River Community and Technical College has selected E. T. Boggess Architects of Princeton, WV, in partnership with MBAJ Architecture of Charlotte, NC, to design its new Raleigh County Campus. The new administration and classroom building, the first to be built, will be constructed adjacent to the Erma Byrd Higher Education Center in Beaver. The selection was announced by New River President Ted D. Spring at a Board of Governors meeting on March 2.

The architectural firms were selected through a competitive bidding process in which 22 firms submitted proposals for 11 community projects around the state.
John Thomas of MBAJ and Todd Boggess of E.T. Boggess attended the Board of Governors meeting to present an overview of how the design process will work and to give some background on their respective firms. Both are currently working on multiple projects around the state, including two new elementary schools and a high school renovation in Greenbrier County. MBAJ specializes in designing community and technical college facilities.

Both architects stressed the importance of client involvement in the design process. Through meetings with New River’s Raleigh County Campus Planning Committee, they have already determined space needs and are now trying to reconcile those needs with the 54,000 square feet available. The square footage was determined by the $13.5 million budget for the building. The legislature appropriated that amount from a bond issue.

The architects not only will design the building, they will also play a major role in developing the bid specifications and communicating with contractors about the construction bid. It is anticipated that the building will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2012.

“The continuing efforts and vision of our Board of Governors, our staff, and the help and support of our delegates, senators, and our local officials combined have brought this project to fruition,” Spring commented.

“The role our community college plays in economic development through education and training will change the economic landscape of our region. The construction of the Raleigh County Campus Central Administration Building marks the next milestone in our efforts. Our young adults and returning adult students who need marketable skills to earn a wage to feed their families will be benefactors of this successful project. Let me assure you, other buildings will follow,” Spring said, adding that “each of those buildings will address expanding needs of students, our employers and our communities. Our goal is and will continue to be to reach out throughout our nine-county service region to let everyone know that they have a place at New River.”

Board of Governors Chair Leslie Baker noted that New River also received a $3 million appropriation to renovate a building on the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg that is currently occupied by the Department of Highways. Architects for that
project will be selected soon, and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in time for occupancy in spring 2011. Board member Dave Nalker of Lewisburg noted that the renovation project has created great excitement and anticipation among the Greenbrier Valley residents.

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