December 3, 2009

**Bond Sale Clears the Way for New River CTC Capital Projects**

[BECKLEY, WV] New River Community and Technical College is moving forward with its plans for a new Raleigh County Campus and renovation of a building on the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg now that West Virginia has sold community and technical college bonds to finance the projects.

Sale of the bonds was delayed for a year because of the recession. The bonds were sold on Nov. 18, generating a total $78.3 million for community and technical college capital projects statewide. Of that amount, $16.5 million is designated for the two New River projects. West Virginia Code provides that $5 million in regular lottery funds be deposited annually in the Community and Technical College Capital Improvement Fund for debt service on the bonds.

New River administrators have already begun meetings with MBAJ Architecture and ET Boggess, consultants hired by the Council for Community and Technical College Education to assist with the facility programming planning process. A committee has been formed on each campus to gather input from community members and from college faculty staff and students to determine the building parameters for each project.
Once the specifications for each project have been outlined, the Council in conjunction with New River will advertise and select project architects and will bid the construction contract.

“We anticipate breaking ground on these projects in the late spring or summer of 2010,” said New River President Ted D. Spring. “With our explosive enrollment growth, the need for instructional space has become even more critical than it was when we announced our 10-Year Facilities Master Plan two years ago.” Spring has already begun plans for an additional building to be added to the Raleigh County Campus site.

“The need for technical education programs to support economic development in the region is tremendous, and the building being planned will not meet those needs. We need to provide training programs in our region to put people to work so they can earn a living.”

The Raleigh County project will be a $13.5 million facility and will be 50,000 square feet. Spring said that discussions to locate the building at the Public Higher Education Center in Beaver are continuing. The property will house both the Raleigh County Campus and the Central Administration headquarters of the college.

The remaining $3 million will be used to renovate a building on the Greenbrier Valley Campus that is currently leased by the West Virginia Department of Highways. The renovated building will house New River’s Fine Arts program and other functions as determined by the planning committee.

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