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DISPLACED WORKERS LEARN OF SERVICES AT NEW RIVER CTC GREENBRIER VALLEY CAMPUS

A cross-section of workers affected by recent layoffs in Greenbrier County attended a free information session at New River Community and Technical College Greenbrier Valley Campus on Wednesday, Jan. 14. Campus Dean Roger Griffith organized the session to share information about assistance and training available to displaced workers through New River.

Griffith welcomed the group and encouraged them to take advantage of this time to upgrade their job skills or train for a new profession. He explained that there were sources of financial aid and grants to help pay for the training. He added that New River was willing to add additional sections of popular classes such as welding if there was increased demand.

Griffith then turned the program over to Suzanne Soucier, who coordinates New River’s College Prep 4 Success program and also offers counseling to help adult learners navigate the admissions and financial aid process. She gave an overview of resources available through New River and Workforce West Virginia and encouraged attendees to make appointments with her for one-on-one assistance. Soucier is based at New River’s Greenbrier Valley Campus and also meets with clients at the Region One Workforce office in Fairlea on Mondays.
William J. Loope, director of workforce education for New River, explained the valuable information available on the Region1 Workforce West Virginia website, www.region1workforcewestvirginia.org. The site provides detailed list of training programs that qualify for federal grants to assist with expenses. The site also contains detailed information about what is involved in different jobs and a forecast of how much demand there will be for each job in the future.

Many of those in attendance expressed an interest in College Prep 4 Success, a free program for anyone without prior college credits who has graduated from high school or received a GED and would like to try college in a low-stress, highly supportive environment. Enrollment is underway now for the spring semester. The program includes classes in development English, math skills, college success skills and word processing and the internet. Students can earn college classes for these courses at no cost. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. from Feb. 3 through May 14.

After the general presentation, attendees were able to meet individually with members of the Student Services staff who answered questions and provided assisting with filling out application forms for those interested in enrolling in regular courses or the College Prep 4 Success program.

New River Community and Technical College is committed to providing training and support for displaced workers or anyone interested in upgrading their job skills. Spring semester classes begin Jan. 20, but late registrations will be accepted until Jan. 26.

If you would like additional information about New River’s programs, contact the Greenbrier Valley Campus at (304) 647-6560. The college will be closed for the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday, Jan. 19. Student services staff will be available until 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday to assist anyone wishing to register or learn more about New River programs.