NEW RIVER REPORTS EIGHT PERCENT ENROLLMENT INCREASE THIS FALL

[Beckley, WV] New River Community and Technical College experienced an eight percent increase in full-time equivalent enrollment across its five campuses this fall. The number of students attending the college is 2,338; however, officials expect enrollment will reach 2,500 students by the semester’s end with the addition of students from weekend and other less traditional classes. Last year, the college increased enrollment by 33 percent in the fall semester.

“This increase is exceptional when you consider the increases from last year,” commented Harry Faulk, vice president and chief academic officer. “Our recruiters, student program advisors, campus deans and other staff have done outstanding work in their efforts to attract students to New River.”

New River President Dr. Ted D. Spring added that a number of factors are attracting students to New River. Affordability tops the list.

“Even though costs to operate the college have increased significantly, those costs have not been passed on to our students. New River has not increased tuition for the past two years,” he stated. “Many of our students take advantage of low cost tuition for the first two years of college and then transfer as juniors to four-year colleges in and out of state. In addition, our college foundation is committed to providing scholarships to needy students.”
Accessibility is another important factor. Courses are offered on at five locations that are convenient to students in the nine-county region served by the College. New River has also increased offerings in online courses and courses offered over its interactive video network system so students can take classes close to home. With a $2 million Federal Title III Grant awarded this year, the college is further upgrading its distance and online learning capabilities.

The college is continuing to add new programs and courses to its curriculum with a special emphasis on courses to help students develop marketable skills for employment.

“The college is quickly becoming a partner in our communities,” Spring said. “We are expanding our outreach programs to support training needs in business and industry in our region through our workforce education division. Specialized programs can be customized to meet individual company needs to improve services and improve profitability.”

“I think the tremendous growth in our enrollment confirms that New River has become a viable alternative for higher education in the region,” Spring concluded.

New River Community and Technical College serves Fayette, Greenbrier, Mercer Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers, and Webster counties from locations in Beckley, Beaver, Greenbrier Valley (Lewisburg), Nicholas County (Summersville) and Bluefield.

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