June 24, 2009

MCDOWELL COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER PARTNERS WITH NEW RIVER CTC TO ENHANCE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Participating in the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the McDowell County Career and Technology Center and New River Community and Technical College were (Seated L-R); Dr. Harry R. Faulk, vice president and chief academic officer at New River; Dr. Ted D. Spring, president of New River, Suzette Cook, superintendent, McDowell County Schools, James K. Spence, assistant superintendent McDowell County Schools and ; (Standing, L-R) Joyce Egnor, RN, MSN director of the New River Community and Technical College School of Practical Nursing; Roger Smith, principal, McDowell County Career and Technical Center, Francis Bivens, RN, nursing faculty, McDowell County School of Practical Nursing and Francine Kirby, RN, program director, McDowell County School of Practical Nursing.
The McDowell County Career and Technology Center and New River Community and Technical College have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a collaborative effort to provide affordable practical nursing training for students at the Career and Technology Center located in Welch.

“Healthcare workers, particularly nurses, are in high demand," stated Dr. Ted D. Spring, president of New River. “This collaboration makes it possible for students to obtain financial aid and earn college credits in an allied health program without leaving McDowell County. In less than a year they can completely change their lives for the better, personally and professionally.”

“The MOA promotes seamless education between the post-secondary technical certificate available at McDowell County Career and Technology Center and the degree completion programs at New River Community and Technical College,” Spring explained.

Students enrolled in the McDowell Career and Technology Center School of Practical Nursing are dual enrolled in New River Community and Technical College and will be awarded a block credit up to 12 credit hours per semester, with a maximum of 36 total credit hours being awarded for successful completion of the McDowell Career and Technology Center Practical Nursing Program.

Twenty-five students have been accepted into the upcoming class, 22 new and three returning. Classes will begin on Wednesday, July 1.

This agreement would not have been possible without a shared vision and dedication of many individuals at the WV Department of Education, WV Higher Education Policy Commission, Southeastern Tech Prep Consortia, McDowell County Board of Education, New River Community and Technical College, and the WV State Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses.

New River Community and Technical College serves nine counties in southern and south central West Virginia from four campuses: Bluefield/Mercer County, Nicholas County (Summersville), Beckley/Raleigh County and Greenbrier Valley (Lewisburg). Administrative offices are located in Beckley.

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