February 12, 2009

Two from Mercer County Serve on New River Community and Technical College Board of Governors

[BECKLEY, WV] E.T. Smith, owner and president of Smith Services in Princeton, WV, was recently installed as a member of the Board of Governors of New River Community and Technical College. Smith was appointed by Governor Joe Manchin to serve a two-year term on the board which directs policy for the multi-campus institution headquartered in Beckley.

Robert Farley, president and CEO of the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, was re-appointed to the board and continues to serve as its chairman.

Smith began his career with General Electric in Tampa, FL. He left GE to become a partner and president of Cleveland Electric in Birmingham. When that company was sold, he started his own repair and service company. In 1991 he started the Mining and Small Motor Division of Smith Services in Falls Mills, VA. In the late 1990s he combined his Bluefield and Falls Mills facilities to create the largest independently owned motor repair company in the United States. Smith Services currently employs more than 225 at the corporate headquarters in Princeton.

Farley joined the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce in 1998 after a long career with Appalachian Power Company and Virginia Electric and Power Company. He also serves as chairman of the board of Princeton Memorial Hospital, Inc., and as president of the West Virginia Chamber Association of Chamber of
Commerce Executives. He is vice president of the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau and serves on the board of the Southern West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Farley and Smith attended a board meeting in Beckley on Friday, Feb. 6, and a day-long retreat on Saturday during which New River President Ted D. Spring and other senior administrators provided an overview of current projects, expansion plans, budget and financial information and an update on the transition to complete independence from Bluefield State College.

New River Community and Technical Colleges serves a nine-county area of southern West Virginia from locations in Raleigh County (Beckley and Beaver), Mercer County (Bluefield and Princeton), Nicholas County (Summersville) and the Greenbrier Valley (Lewisburg). Additional information can be found at [www.newriver.edu](http://www.newriver.edu).

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**Photo Caption:** New River Board of Governors members pose following their meeting on February 6. (Front row, L-R) Leslie Baker, Chris Pennington, E.T. Smith, Marilyn Leftwich: (Back row, L-R) Robert Farley, Deborah Hill, Al Martine, Gerald Hough, Mary Igo. Not pictured: David Nalker and Edward Knight III.