Oral History and Cultural Heritage Tourism Workshop
Offered at New River’s Greenbrier Valley Campus

[Lewisburg, WV] West Virginia’s rugged mountains have nurtured a rich and vibrant culture that resonates in its songs, ballads and oral traditions.

“Listening for a Change: Oral History and Cultural Heritage Tourism” will explore techniques for seeking out and recording the voices and songs of local citizens. This one-day workshop will be held Sunday, July 19 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at New River Community and Technical College’s Jefferson Office Park location in Lewisburg, WV.

The workshop is open to anyone wanting to broaden their appreciation for the richness of local life by exploring the vibrancy of folklore and the oral tradition. It will also appeal to students interested in developing cultural heritage tourism initiatives based on local voices. The workshop will teach new levels of listening and interviewing skills to record life stories. It also will address how to recognize and experience varied flavors of regional culture.

Instructors Michael and Carrie Kline, folklorists, audio producers, singers and guitar players, met through a mutual love for the spoken word and song. Their production company, Talking Across the Lines: Worldwide Conversations, has documented both individual narratives and interwoven expression of broad communities for cultural heritage tourism initiatives throughout the region. Their work has won the Spirit of West Virginia Award from the West Virginia Division of Tourism.

The Klines are experienced at teaching deep listening, oral history and Appalachian heritage. Their courses have attracted students from various disciplines and professionals of all kinds, including social workers and carpenters, educators, museum directors and life-long learners.
This class can be applied to coursework or professional development in fields such as Anthropology, Folklore, Communications, English, History, American Studies, Social Work, Planning, Law, Medicine, Biology, Geology, Education, Economics, Nursing, Health and Nutrition, Hospice Training, Environmental Studies, Psychology, Theology, Ethnomusicology, Cultural Journalism and Tourism.

Fee for this workshop is $90 per participant. Deadline for registration is Friday, July 10. Class size is limited to 16 and preregistration is required.

For more information or to register, contact New River at (304) 645-6570 or (304) 793-6101.

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