SENATOR PLYMALE TO DELIVER ADDRESS AT NEW RIVER’S SEVENTH COMMENCEMENT ON MAY 16

[BECKLEY, WV] New River Community and Technical College will hold its seventh commencement exercises on Sunday, May 16, at 2 p.m. at the Beckley/Raleigh County Convention Center. Ted D. Spring, Ph.D., president of New River, will preside over the ceremonies. Dr. Harry R. Faulk, executive vice president and chief academic officer, and registrar Donna Lewis will confer the degrees.

The commencement address will be delivered by Senator Robert H. Plymale. Plymale is CEO and director of the Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI) and is currently serving his fifth term in the WV State Senate, District 5. He is chairman of the Senate
Education Committee and serves on the Budget Conferees, Rules, Finance, Pensions, Confirmations, and Transportation and Infrastructure committees, respectively.

As CEO and director of the Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI), Plymale leads a dynamic team of business, academic and research professionals working to enhance safety and economic development opportunities through transportation. Under his leadership, RTI has received two US patents, developed the National Maritime Enhancement Institute at RTI, and produced the award winning Electronic Commercial Drivers Licensing (eCDL) program.

In 2003, Plymale was appointed by Governor Wise to the Board of Control for the Southern Regional Education Board. He was reappointed by Governor Joe Manchin in 2006 and now serves on the executive committee. In 2004, Plymale was named to the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) National Task Force on “No Child Left Behind” and from 2005-2006, he was Chairman of the NCSL Education Committee and a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education.

In 2009-10, Plymale co-chaired the NCSL Federal Education Policy Task Force whose report was completed on February 1, 2010 and presented at the National Press Club in Washington, DC..

In 2005, Plymale received the Distinguished Service to the Community Award from his alma mater, Marshall University. More recently, he was named co-president of the Keith Albee Theater Performing Arts Center, Inc., and has been instrumental in reviving and maintaining this Huntington landmark as a performing arts and community center. He received the Legislative Leadership Award for Arts in Education in March 2010.

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