Faculty and graduates of the New River Community and Technical College School of Practical Nursing pose following pinning ceremonies for the second Pocahontas County Cohort on Sunday, April 25. Pictured are (L-R, seated) graduates Amanda McLaughlin, Victoria Warner, Emily Bennett and Ellen Essex, and (L-R, standing) Mary Walkup, instructor; Pam McLaughlin, clinical instructor; and Joyce Egnor, director of the New River School of Practical Nursing.

RIVER SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL NURSING
POCAHONTAS COUNTY COHORT

[DUNMORE, WV] The second Pocahontas County Cohort of the New River Community and Technical College School of Practical Nursing received nursing pins at a ceremony at Pocahontas County High School in Dunmore, WV, on Sunday, April 25.
The graduates are Emily J. Bennett of Hot Springs, VA; Ellen T. Essex of Warm Springs, VA; Amanda D. McLaughlin of Hillsboro, WV; and Victoria L. Warner of Durbin, WV.

The four completed most of their coursework at Pocahontas County High School under the instruction of Mary Walkup, RN, Pocahontas County site coordinator. They received their clinical training at several healthcare facilities in the region under the supervision of clinical instructor Pamela McLaughlin, RN, BSN.

The platform guests and graduates processed to Elgar’s “Pomp and Circumstance” performed by pianist John Westenburger.

Joyce Egnor, RN, MSN, director of the New River School of Practical Nursing, presided at the ceremony. She introduced members of the nursing faculty including Walkup, McLaughlin, and Rebecca Legg, RN BSN.

Egnor then introduced William J. Loope, New River’s vice president of institutional advancement and workforce education, who offered congratulations from the entire New River community on behalf of President Ted D. Spring, who could not be present.

Loope also recognized the Pocahontas County Commission and the Marlinton Rotary Club for its support of the nursing program.

The commencement address was given by Kyna Moore, RN, director of nursing services at Pocahontas Memorial Hospital. Moore challenged the graduates to “never stop learning,” and reminded them that “no matter how bad a day you are having, the person you are nursing is having a worse day. A true hero is the person who faces challenges and gets up the next day and goes back to do it all again.”

She concluded her remarks by charging the nurses to remain true to their calling, to maintain their integrity at all times, and never to refer to themselves as “just the nurse.”

“At this time of confusion in healthcare, we will be the light for our patients. You may be one person, but you can affect the lives of all those with whom you come in contact,” she said. She then welcomed the four graduates as members of the nursing profession.

After receiving their pins, the four nurses recited the Nightingale Pledge, the oath that nurses take promising to uphold the highest standards of their profession.

Ellen Essex was recognized at the Greenbrier Valley Campus Awards ceremony on Saturday, April 24, as the outstanding student in the Pocahontas County Cohort. She excelled academically in the nursing program while at the same time also pursuing a Board of Governor’s associate degree from New River.

Family and friends celebrated with the graduates at a reception following the ceremony.