FOUR POCAHONTAS COUNTY STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM NEW RIVER’S PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

[MARLINTON, WV] The first Pocahontas County cohort of the New River Community and Technical College School of Practical Nursing received their nursing pins at a ceremony at the Pocahontas County Opera House in Marlinton on Saturday, April 18.

The graduates are Melonie Gibson and Lori Simmons of Marlinton; Hollie Goldizen of Buckeye; and Michelle Workman of Hillsboro.

The four completed most of their coursework at Pocahontas County High School under the instruction of Julia McDade, RN, BSN, Pocahontas County site coordinator. They received their clinical training at various healthcare facilities throughout the county including Pocahontas Center and Pocahontas Memorial Hospital and at hospitals in Lewisburg and Weston, under the supervision of clinical instructor Tracy Mines, RN, BSN.

The platform guests and graduates processed to Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance performed by Pam Pritt on the organ.
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 McDade, Mines, Rebecca Legg, RN BSN, and Anita Stapleton, RN, BSN.

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

Loope recognized the Pocahontas County Commission for its support of the nursing program. The three county commissions, Reta Griffith, David Fleming and Martin Saffer, were all in attendance at the ceremony. He also acknowledged the important role that Roger Trussler played in bringing the nursing program to Pocahontas County.

The commencement address was given by Jud Worth, administrator of Pocahontas Center. He praised the graduates for the sacrifices they had made to accomplish their goals, and commended their families and the community for its support of their efforts. He also emphasized the great need for nurses to fill positions that are being vacated by retiring baby boomers.

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.

Hollie Goldizen was honored for having the highest grade point average in the class. Lori Simmons was named clinical student of the year. The graduates presented a tongue-in-cheek gift of a coffee urn to the seven students who will make up the second Pocahontas County cohort.

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

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Photo Caption: Faculty and graduates of the New River Community and Technical College School of Practical Nursing pose following pinning ceremonies for the first Pocahontas County cohort on Saturday, April 18. Front row seated (l-r) Lori Simmons; Hollie Goldizen Back row (l-r) Rebecca Legg, RN, BSN instructor; Anita Stapleton RN, BSN, instructor; Michelle Workman; Joyce Egnor, RN, MSN; Melonie Gibson; Tracy Mines, RN, BSN, clinical instructor; Julia McDade, RN, BSN, Pocahontas County site coordinator.