Two from Raleigh County Serve on New River Board of Governors

[BECKLEY, WV] Albert A. Martine of Daniels, principal of Meadow Bridge High School in Meadow Bridge, was recently installed as a member of the Board of Governors of New River Community and Technical College. Martine 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.

Leslie Baker, museum coordinator at the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia in Beckley, was re-appointed to the board and continues to serve as vice chairman.

Al Martine earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a master’s in speech communication from West Virginia University. He held a variety of management positions with Cox Cable and WNOW-TV9 before purchasing a radio station in Beckley. After a near fatal accident from which he was not expected to recover, he decided to retrain for a career in education. He earned his master’s in educational administration from Marshall University and taught at-risk youth at Woodrow Wilson High School for two years before becoming principal at Montgomery Middle School. He has been principal at Meadow Bridge for the past eight years.

Leslie Baker has worked at the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia for 19 years. She is the museum’s primary grant writer, and her other responsibilities include the installation, augmentation, and special educational programming that relates to each of the museum’s permanent and traveling exhibitions. She is also responsible for the museum’s advertising, marketing, and development. Baker has served on the Governor’s Cabinet on Women and
Children and is currently on the board of the Salvation Army in Beckley and Beckley Renaissance.

Martine and Baker 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.

Other appointed members of the New River Board of Governors are Robert Farley of Princeton, executive director of the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce (chairman); Deborah A. Hill of Summersville, CEO of Summersville Memorial Hospital; E. T. Smith, owner and president of Smith Service in Princeton; Edward D. Knight III, an attorney from Lewisburg; Marilyn Leftwich a guidance counselor at White Sulphur Springs Elementary School; and David Nalker of Lewisburg, a retired commercial vehicle dealer. Mary Igo, a program specialist at New River’s Nicholas County Campus is the elected classified staff representative. Gerald Hough, a professor on the Nicholas County Campus is the faculty representative, and Christopher Pennington of Lewisburg, a student on the Greenbrier Valley Campus, is the student representative.

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.

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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 D. Knight III.