



Vol. 2, Issue No. 6

*From the Hawk's Nest* is distributed on the first and third Friday of each month. We need your input! Please send your ideas for stories on upcoming events, reports on attendance at conferences, awards and honors received, photos or information on outstanding employees or students to Barbara Elliott, belliot@newriver.edu. **The deadline for submitting items for the next issue is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2014.**

## Karen Harvey Named VP For Institutional Advancement

Karen Harvey joined New River on March 31 as vice president for institutional advancement. She is responsible for the New River CTC Foundation, alumni affairs and fundraising for the College. She will work with the foundation's governing board and the advisory boards for each campus to plan a comprehensive multi-year development strategy to include gifts from individuals, businesses, industry partners and grants from corporate, foundation and government entities.



Harvey has a wealth of experience in the field of higher education advancement. She most recently worked at the Appalachian School of Law in Virginia, where she served as director of institutional development. Before that, she was director of institutional advancement and planning and BSC Foundation executive director at Bluefield State College. Her track record in raising funds through grants, gifts and annual funds is outstanding.

A graduate of Ohio University with a degree in magazine journalism, she earned a master's degree in arts administration from Shenandoah University, where she wrote her thesis on planned giving. She is a certified fundraising executive and has also earned certificates in nonprofit executive leadership and annual funds and nonprofit management from the Fund Raising School.

"We are fortunate to have attracted such an experienced advancement professional to help us shape the future of New River Community and Technical College," said President L. Marshall Washington.

## New River Employees Attend Workshops on Improving Retention and College Completion Rates

Five New River employees attended a *Retention Focus Training* workshop at West Virginia State University on March 26. The workshop was sponsored by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia. Attendees included staff from two- and four-year colleges from the southern part of the state.

The training was designed for front-line staff who deal directly with students on a daily basis. Attending from New River were Belinda Cox, financial aid assistant; Karen Sparks, records assistant; Melissa Craddock, administrative secretary in the Office of Enrollment Services; Janie Smith, executive secretary in the Office of Student Services; and Dr. Allen Withers, vice president for student services.

The program included a keynote address on *How to Serve All the Students*. There were also two plenary sessions: *There's an App for that: Free or Low-Cost Technology to Manage Workflow and Academic Nurturing for Rural Students*.

The attendees were enthusiastic about the tips they gained from the sessions the opportunity to get to know each other better.

"We also enjoyed spending time with our counterparts from other colleges comparing our challenges, successes and processes," Smith said.

"The keynote speaker was excellent, and the speaker on rural students brought to light the needs and challenges of rural area high school students and provided pointers on how we can better assist them," Craddock added.

Another group from New River is attending a day-long workshop on *Increasing Adult Learner Persistence and Completion Rates* being held at Stonewall resort on Friday, April 4. Attending that workshop are Peaav Eplina, director of the student success centers; Candice Stadler, director of

career services; Dr. Carolyn Sizemore, director of developmental education; Emily Browning, instructor of biology; Karen Tully, allied health instructor; and Dr. Allen Withers.

## A Busy Week for Line Service Mechanic Students



Students in the Line Service Mechanic program have had a very busy week. On Tuesday, April 1, they received real-life experience while saving the College some funds during an exercise in the streets of downtown Lewisburg.

"We removed the cable and fiber optics which connected the former offices and classrooms New River had rented at Jefferson Office Park with the main New River Greenbrier Valley Campus," instructor Mike King explained.

The project involved use of the New River bucket truck and applying the safety regulations learned in the classroom in a real-life situation. While some students climbed poles to loosen the cables, others used the bucket to remove the attachments from the cables. Other students put into practice the safety skills learned in class by directing traffic, observing the climbing students, placing the directional safety signs for the public's benefit and making certain nearby pedestrians were kept back from possible danger, added James Jones, an instructor for the program.

The project took almost seven hours and was conducted with the cooperation and assistance of the City of Lewisburg and the Lewisburg Police Department. Those participating included Cody White of Danese; Justin Foster, Summersville; Allen Nutter, Mt. Nebo; Dakota Jones, Fayetteville; Brent Lewis, Fayetteville; Brandon Hanshaw, Oak Hill; Tristin Gilles, Craigsville; Chris Hellems, Mt Nebo; Robbie Adkins, Athens; Casey Bailey, Princeton; Michael Wells, Oceana; and Matthew Bennett, Prosperity. Besides Instructors King and Jones, the group's work was also supervised by Robert Davis, LAN specialist.



On Thursday, April 3, the students demonstrated their newly learned skills for prospective employers at the annual Line Service Mechanic Rodeo that was held at the Advanced Technology Center in conjunction with the Career and Transfer Fair sponsored by the Office of Career Services.

## Update From The Bridging the Gap Grant

by Amanda Sue Sauchuck

Bridging the Gap committee members have met several times during the last month. Coordinators are working closely with faculty to identify and/or develop programs aligned with national and/or industry standards within the Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Energy areas. Curriculum will be designed during spring and summer semesters to submit to the Curriculum Committee during the fall. We anticipate moving to a modularized schedule for programs including Line Service Mechanic (which replaced weatherization within grant initiatives), Industrial Technology and Machining.

### PERSONNEL POSITIONS

The applications programmer position has been re-advertised and a hiring committee has been appointed. Application review will begin immediately.

In addition, advertisements for student success peer coaches will begin this weekend. This position is an extra help, temporary position aimed to provide individualized student support. Peer coaches will be involved in all stages of the enrollment process from assisting with recruitment efforts through graduation activities. Peer coaches will be located at each campus within the Student Success Centers. Please find more information regarding this position on New River's Human Resources Employment Opportunity web page.

### NEXT STEPS

- Continue assessing program needs and restructuring to a modularized format as needed.
- Purchase equipment for two locations.
- Obtain direction from consortium in areas such as Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Energy.

### SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to Dr. Carry DeAtley, Twana Jackson, Candice Stadler, Peggy Epling and Dr. Renae McGinnis for helping with grant initiatives.

For more information, visit the Bridging the Gap page located on New River's Intranet.

## Kudos!

**Roger Trusler**, a great friend of New River CTC, received the Community Involvement Award from the Pocahontas County

Chamber of Commerce during its annual dinner at the Pocahontas County Opera House on March 26. Trusler was a driving force behind the creation of the One Room University in Marlinton, where New River offers classes through a partnership with the Pocahontas County Commission and City National Bank. Trusler is pictured with Elaine Diller, coordinator of the One Room University, and President Washington.



SGA members and other students from the [Mercer County Campus](#) recently



participated in the Hunger Challenge in Princeton. Pictured are (left to right) Liz Stauffer, Zach Clarkson, William Johnson-Porterfield, Dannielle McGraw and Jessica Peak.

### Farewell

Patrick Vance, database technician in the Information Technology Department, has left New River James Froemel, student program advisor at the Mercer

County Campus, has left his full-time position but will continue to teach for us as an adjunct instructor.

### Correction:

In the last issue, the president of our Phi Theta Kappa chapter was incorrectly identified as Terry Holland. His name is actually Terry Holliday. My apologies for the error.

Help us spread the word about the good things happening at New River CTC. Send your stories, photos or Kudos to [belliott@newriver.edu](mailto:belliott@newriver.edu). The deadline for the next issue is **4 p.m. Wednesday, April 16**. Thanks to the following for their contributions to this issue: Libby Belcher, Elaine Diller, Candice Stadler, James Froemel, Amanda Sue Sauchuck, Janie Smith and Mike Williams.

### **Keep Us Posted!**

We encourage you to check the New River Facebook page for additional updates on student activities and college events. We also encourage you to let us know about upcoming events so that we can share information across the college. Send information for the Facebook page to Michael Meador, [mmeador@newriver.edu](mailto:mmeador@newriver.edu). Send items for the newsletter or for news releases to Barbara Elliott, [belliott@newriver.edu](mailto:belliott@newriver.edu).