



Vol. 2, Issue No. 12

*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 the next issue is 4 p.m. in Wednesday, July Wednesday, July 16.**

## Developmental Education Faculty Attend National Accelerated Learning Program Conference

New River sent a large delegation to the National Accelerated Learning Program Conference held in Baltimore June 18-20. According to Dr. Carolyn Sizemore, director of developmental education, the conference provided excellent training for faculty in how to structure programs so that developmental courses can be run concurrently with college level courses, thereby helping students achieve earlier and motivating them to continue their studies. She noted that New River CTC is following a statewide directive from Chancellor Skidmore to accelerate developmental education pathways for students.

The Accelerated Learning Program concept originated in Baltimore, and the conference featured a number of nationally recognized experts in the field who demonstrated techniques that research has shown are effective.

Many of the New River team traveled to Baltimore by train from White Sulphur Springs. Pictured preparing to board are (l-r) Dianna Putorek, Jim Fedders, Rebecca Clayton, Shirley Davis, Sharon Evans and Lisa Brewer. Also attending, in addition to Sizemore, were Dr. Deepak Pant, Dr. Nancy Wemm, Sandry Lilly and Cathy Singleton.



"It was a real show of support from Dr. Washington that he encouraged and allowed us to send such a large group," Sizemore said.

She said the New River team became so caught up in devising ways to incorporate the concepts into their programs that they went in search of a place to brainstorm and ended up sneaking into a historic library building so they would have a quiet place to work.

"Everyone was 100 percent ready to get this done!" Sizemore said.

Sizemore noted that accelerating program content is just one way that New River CTC is addressing the problem of retaining developmental education students who become discouraged when it takes them a semester or more to qualify for college level courses.

Another new initiative is the Summer Fast Track program, which enables students who traditionally have been directed into semester-long developmental courses to build skills needed to bypass some or all of those courses.

The new program is a self-paced online program for students who have tested at less than fully successful in reading, writing or math based on their ACT or Accuplacer scores. Students take online diagnostic tests in the subject(s) they wish to master. Learning paths are then identified for each student based on these initial assessments. Personalized content modules are assigned by the program and completed by the student to develop knowledge and mastery. The program has been very successful, with 108 students registered across the College this summer. Sizemore said that some students were able to pass out of the courses in two to three weeks.

## Prospective Students Welcomed at Open Houses



The Office of Enrollment Services is very busy this summer hosting Open Houses at all four campuses and the Advanced



Technology Center. The first event was held at the Greenbrier Valley Campus on June 23. A large number of faculty and staff were on hand to greet visitors and answer questions about programs offered.

Pictured at left are (l-r) Veronica Brandon, Teresa Parker, Donna Polk, Tracy Evans, Dr. Christopher Linsin, Staci Green, Lisa Carter and Shane Bennett.

The Nicholas County Campus Open House coincided with the New River Gorge Development Authority's Entrepreneurs' Cafe on July 1. Thanks to everyone who helped organize those events so that they complemented each other. Pictured at right are SGA members (l-r) Sharon Overbaugh, Charles Overbaugh, Daniel Wilson and James Bailey. They were great ambassadors for the College.



Additional Open Houses are scheduled for July 8 at the ATC, July 15 at the Raleigh County Campus and July 16 at the Mercer County Campus.

## Farewell

**Nora Overath** (left), financial aid counselor at the Greenbrier Valley Campus, is retiring this week after 35 years of service in West Virginia higher education. Nora became one of the original



employees of New River CTC when the College was created in 2003. She began her career at New River as an accounting assistant and became a program coordinator in 2004. She moved into the financial aid position in 2009. We will miss you Nora! Best wishes for a happy retirement.

**Dr. Carry DeAtley**, associate vice president for academic affairs, has left New River to pursue other opportunities. Her last day was June 30.

## Kudos!

### The Life Skills Management Class

(GNED 100) taught by Dianna Putorek at the Mercer County Campus conducted a community service project on June 16 at the Mercer County Animal Shelter in Princeton. The students helped wipe down walls in the shelter and offered support for the animals, as the shelter was getting ready for an adoption event that next weekend.

The shelter's goal is to provide shelter, safety, and food for orphaned and abused animals of Mercer County with the hope of placing them in loving homes.

Pictured are participating students (l-r) Amber Russ, Megan Kittle, Amanda Walls, Cassandra Tait, Dalton Russ and Morgan Cook.



**Dr. Lucie Refsland**, professor of mathematics at the Greenbrier Valley Campus, was inducted into the Roll of Honor of the Greenbrier Youth Camp, a non-profit camp serving 4-H, church, scout, diabetes, high school band, family reunions and bird and hiking groups. The award was presented at the first Trustees Annual Dinner held June 21 at the camp. Among other duties, Dr. Refsland serves as president of the Board of Trustees and heads the annual Family Fun Day fund raising event held at the State Fairgrounds on the third Saturday of July.

## A Request from Human Resources

New River CTC has a number of openings for adjunct instructors and other positions. Amanda Baker in Human Resources reports that often they get their best candidates through referrals from faculty and staff. Please take a look at the [Position Openings](#) and share them with anyone you know who might be a good fit.

Share the good news about what's going on at New River CTC. Send your articles, photos or

Kudos to Barbara Elliott, [belliot@newriver.edu](mailto:belliot@newriver.edu). Many thanks to Dr. Carolyn Sizemore, Mike Williams and Dianna Putorek for their contributions to this edition.

**The deadline for the next issue is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16.**



***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, [belliot@newriver.edu](mailto:belliot@newriver.edu).

**Mission**

New River Community and Technical College provides accessible, affordable, quality education and workforce programs to meet the needs of the region it serves.

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