



**Vol. 2, Issue No. 1**

*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, bellott@newriver.edu. The deadline for submitting items is the end of the day on Wednesday before the Friday of publication.

## Interim Convocation: Focus on Change, Values



Interim Convocation, held Jan. 8 at the Mountaineer Conference Center in Beckley, brought the entire New River family together for a day of concurrent sessions and faculty and staff meetings.

The morning session opened with an update from President Washington on spring semester enrollment and upcoming budget cuts. He also praised the work being done by the self-study committee chairs in preparation for the upcoming accreditation site visit.

Washington reported that the good news is that enrollment is up across the College. Total headcount as of Jan. 8 was 2,141, which represents an 8.1 percent increase over enrollment at this time last year. The not-so-good news is that we are facing a mid-year budget cut of .98 percent, which is less than some had feared. However, the College will have to cut another 7.5 percent from next year's budget, so further belt tightening is on the horizon. A Budget Committee is working to address ways that efficiencies can be achieved and costs can be lowered in ways that least impact services to our students.

Dr. Allen Withers then made a presentation on the Values Statement that was developed by the Values Committee over the past year based on faculty and staff input. The statement has now been adopted, and all employees were asked to sign large posters featuring the key values that will shape the College going forward (photo at right). Those posters will be also be signed by students and displayed on each campus. As a demonstration of the serious commitment to these values, all employees will also be asked to sign a copy of the complete Values Statement for inclusion in their personnel files.



The keynote speaker for the day was Julie Smith (top photo), a consultant from Morgantown who assists corporations and organizations in adapting to change. She offered a thoughtful exploration of the ways that we each approach change, noting that responses tend to fall in four major categories: resistant, receptive, instinctive and resilient. She noted that resilience not only reflects and acceptance of change, but also indicates that you are able to help others through the process. Finally, she offered tips on how to move from resistance to resilience when experience major life changes.

Following lunch, the faculty met at the Beckley Campus and the Classified Staff remained at the Conference Center to elect new members of the Classified Staff Council (see article below).

## WELCOME TO NEW RIVER

**Diane Tyson** has been named director of the Medical Laboratory Technician program. Her responsibilities include development, implementation and evaluation of the program in accordance with published National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) standards. She is located at the Center for Rehabilitative Services and Medical Assisting Education in Beckley. Assuming accreditation is achieved, the MLT Program will begin enrolling students in 2015.



**Diane Tyson**

Tyson comes to New River from California, where she had served as program director/ consultant and adjunct faculty at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill since 2006. During that time she also served as laboratory education coordinator at John Muir Health in Concord. She earned an associate degree in medical technology from the College of the Air Force, a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a master's degree in clinical laboratory science from Rutgers University in New Jersey. She began her career as a medical laboratory technologist during her active duty in the Air Force. She served overseas during Desert Storm.

**James (Jim) Fedders** has joined the faculty as an instructional specialist of developmental education. He will teach, tutor and facilitate the education of students in New River's Allied Health programs at several campus locations. He is based at the Beckley Campus.



**Jim Fedders**

Before joining New River, Fedders worked as an ecologist at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Beaver for more than 25 years. He also taught biology at Concord University and at St. Catharine College in Kentucky. Fedders earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Thomas More College in Fort Mitchell, Ky., and a master's in biology from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. He also completed graduate courses in biology and ecology at the University of Louisville and WVU.

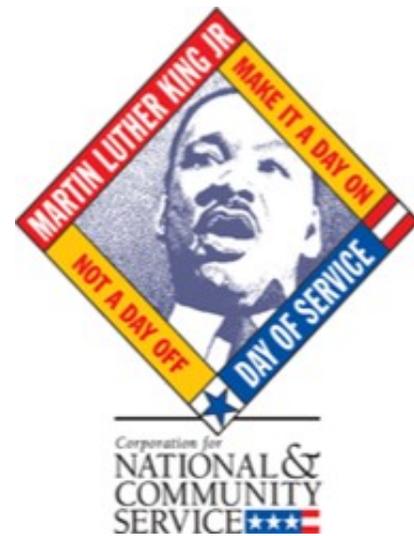
## Make the MLK Holiday A Day On, Not a Day Off

New River is once again partnering with other organizations to sponsor a volunteer project as part of the Martin Luther King Day of Service. This year's project will take place at Burlington United Methodist Family Services located at 4700 Robert C. Byrd Drive in Beckley. The tentative work schedule is 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 20. Lunch will be provided.

Burlington United Methodist Family Services (4700 Robert C. Byrd Drive, Beckley, WV) is a nonprofit, multi-service organization providing preventative services to children, youth and families with facilities in Burlington, Keyser and Beckley, WV, including residential treatment homes for youth.

Volunteers will paint the recreation rooms and corridor areas in two of the cottages on Burlington's Beckley Campus. The Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia is also a partner in this project.

To sign up to help, or for more information, please call Allen Withers or Janie Smith in the Student Services Office at 304-929-5008.



## New Members Elected to Classified Staff Council

The Classified Staff met during the Interim Convocation to elect new members to the Classified Staff Council, a group that addresses employee concerns and plans activities such as service projects and the recent holiday door decorating contest.

Two members and one proxy were selected to represent each of the five categories of classified employees. The new members are Rahni Borders and Karen Sparks (secretarial), Melissa Craddock, proxy; Barbara Elliott and Lisa DeLilly (executive administrative/managerial), Mary Igo, proxy; Wanda Johnson and Susie Atkins (professional non-faculty) Jason Garris, proxy; Darvis Cox and Julius Brown (service and maintenance), John Hammond, proxy; and Lisa Rose and Lori Midkiff (technical and paraprofessional), Robert Davis, proxy.

The newly elected members then convened to elect officers. Bob Runion, who was elected chair last spring, will continue to serve in that capacity. Lori Midkiff was elected vice chair, and Rahni Borders was elected secretary/treasurer. The Classified Staff Council meets monthly. All classified employees are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## KUDOS!



Students from the Mercer County Technical Education Center visited the Suicide Prevention Project presented by **Mercer County Campus Medical Assisting students** Tammy Richardson (far right) and Krista Redden (second from right). The project was a requirement of the Human Diseases class last semester. The students' research included studying statistics regarding high incidents of suicide in Mercer County and among veterans nationally. The presentation focused on warning signs, intervention strategies, and information about local resources.

**Jakeb Shuck, SGA President at the Greenbrier Valley Campus,** heard about a fellow student in

need and served as a "secret Santa" to make sure that her family had a happy Christmas.

**Practical Nursing students from the Nicholas County Campus** donated more than \$700 worth of toys and clothes to Salvation Army for needy children over the holidays.



*Thanks to Anna Marie Fuda, Vanessa Bailey and Tina Bryant for submitting these reports. Help us celebrate the good things happening at New River! Send your kudos to [belliott@newriver.edu](mailto:belliott@newriver.edu).*



### **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).