



Vol. 2, Issue No. 2

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 for the next issue is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19.**

Student Success Centers Provide Centralized Services for Convenience of Students

New River is establishing a Student Success Center at each of its campuses with support from a \$3 million U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Program (TAACCCT) grant.

"The new Success Centers will offer our students a place to go where they can meet with staff members who are specifically trained to deal with the issues that present barriers to their success, whether these issues center on needed academic support, managing multiple life roles or assistance with career issues," says Dr. Allen Withers, vice president of student services.



Rachel Kelly

Peggy Epling, coordinator of the centers at all campuses, says she is excited because this is the first time that support services have been organized in a central location for the convenience of students.

Rachel Kelly at the Greenbrier Valley Campus, Joe Connard at the Beckley Campus and Sherry Shaffer at the Nicholas County Campus have been promoted to the new position of educational counselor and will coordinate the centers on those campuses. Epling said that committees are in the process of hiring counselors for the Mercer County Campus and the Advanced Technology Center, and that all the centers should be staffed within the next couple of months.



Joe Connard

The educational counselors will assist students who need tutoring services and work with faculty to identify students who need extra help. They also will advise students, administer college-entrance tests, confirm and accommodate needs for students with disabilities, teach time management and study skills and facilitate the use of career exploration software provided by the Office of Career Services.



Sherry Shaffer

The Student Success Centers are located in Room C-3 on the Beckley Campus; 208 Greenbrier Hall at the Greenbrier Valley Campus and Room 118 at the Nicholas County Campus.

WELCOME TO NEW RIVER

Michael D. King has joined the faculty at the Advanced Technology Center as a visiting instructional specialist in the Line Service Mechanic program. He retired from American Electric Power (AEP) in Charleston with 38 years of service. He has extensive experience with transmission systems, distribution systems, low voltage systems and underground and network systems. He earned a diploma in electrical engineering International Correspondence Schools (ICS) of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and is a licensed master electrician.



Mike King

Dawn Nycole (Nikki) Lykens and **Ann Thomas** have joined the full-time faculty of the Cosmetology program at the Greenbrier Valley Campus. Both had previously been part-time instructors in the program.

Lykens is a visiting instructor of cosmetology. She is a graduate of the Beckley Beauty Academy and is currently pursuing an associate degree in business marketing from New River. She was a self-employed nail technician for 10 years before joining the College.



Nikki Lykens

Thomas is a visiting instructional specialist of cosmetology. She attended the Huntington School of Beauty Culture and has completed training in cosmetology. She has 23 years of experience owning and working in salons and most recently was a continuing education instructor for the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.



Ann Thomas

A New Role

Amanda Sue Sauchuck

has been appointed to the new position of visiting instructional specialist/BTG transformation leader. The College was awarded a \$1.3 million "Bridging the Gap (BTG)" grant as part of the Round 3 Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program from the Department of Labor. The grant efforts will benefit anyone interested in a technical certificate or degree program in energy, advanced manufacturing or information technology. The program specifically targets displaced workers, veterans, National Guard, CTE students in energy and mechatronics, adults with some college credit but no degree and technical degree completers seeking a bachelor's degree. Sauchuck recently sent a newsletter containing details about the grant to All Users. Updates about the progress of the grant will be published in future issues of *From the Hawk's Nest*.



Amanda Sue Sauchuck

Farewell

Shawn Garretson, manufacturing and industrial systems instructor, and **Lora Kosa**, information systems tech, have left New River to pursue other opportunities. We wish them well in their new ventures.

Volunteers Preparing for College Goal Sunday

For the fifth year, the Greenbrier Valley Campus will be a host site for West Virginia College Goal Sunday. The event will take place on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 25 sites around the

state.

College Goal Sunday is an opportunity for students and families to receive free confidential support in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Attendees do not have to be planning to attend New River in order to receive assistance.

Donna Polk, student program advisor, and Nora Overath, financial aid counselor, have coordinated the event for the past three years. They recruit a team of volunteers, including faculty, staff, students and community members, to assist with registration, hospitality and FAFSA preparation.

Bryan Seldomridge, instructor of accounting, will be on hand with his students who are participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to offer income tax preparation services for participants.



Donna Polk (L) and Nora Overath (R)

Other volunteers who have signed up to help this year are Suzanne Fry, Sandra Dixon, Wanda Johnson, Jakeb Shuck, Claire Soucier, Lauren Perkins, Steve Butler, Solomon Simmons, Rodney Harris, Mike Williams and Barbara Elliott. Trish Harmon, director of financial aid, will assist with the event at the Erma Byrd Center site in Beaver.

Interested students and parents are asked to bring their Social Security numbers and 2013 tax records. Those who have not yet completed their 2013 taxes can bring 2012 forms. For a complete list of what to bring, visit www.cfvv.com. All information shared is protected by privacy laws. A complete list of other College Goal Sunday sites can also be found at www.cfvv.com. For further information about the Greenbrier Valley Campus event, contact Overath or Polk at (304) 647-6560.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who are giving their time to provide this valuable service!

KUDOS!



A great group of volunteers came out to help at the **MLK Day of Service** at Burlington United Methodist Ministries in Beckley on Jan. 20. Thanks to New River students Michelle Pearson, Nina Pearson, Meredith Mick and Meronica Harrison and staff members Cindy Dalton and Janie Smith. They were assisted by Independence High School student Allison Cook, along with Jack Kincaid, Ed Cornett and John Farrell of the Conservation Corps of West Virginia staff. The project was coordinated by Dr. Allen Withers, vice president of student services.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Withers

A team of **maintenance employees** from the Beckley and Greenbrier Valley Campuses put in a back-breaking day of work on Jan. 17 as they moved the Workforce Education offices from Jefferson Office Park in downtown Lewisburg to a newly renovated building at the Lee Street Complex. The GVC maintenance crew spent many hours over many months converting the former band building into classrooms and offices for Workforce Education staff. Pictured in the new table games training classroom are (L-R) Bob Runion, Jason Janney, Casey Baber, Darvis Cox, Julius Brown, David Thompson and Aubrey Houck. (Not pictured: Scott Winfrey).

Help us celebrate the good things happening on your campus. Send your kudos to belliott@newriver.edu. The deadline for the next issue is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20.



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. Send items for the newsletter or for news releases to Barbara Elliott, belliott@newriver.edu.