NEW RIVER CONVENES MEETING TO DISCUSS LABORATORY TECH PROGRAM

Hospital administrators and laboratory staff from throughout the region met with New River representatives at Tamarack on July 14 to identify the region’s current and future medical needs for laboratory technicians. The group was welcomed by Dr. Harry Faulk, executive vice president and chief academic officer, who provided some brief background information about New River. Leslie Baker, chair of the New River Board of Governors, also welcomed the group.

Debbie Hill, CEO of Summersville Regional Medical Center and a Board of Governors member, explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the viability of creating a medical laboratory technician program to meet the needs of hospitals and clinics and to provide employment opportunities for area residents.

Lisa Hatcher, allied health specialist, solicited input from those attending regarding their needs and what expertise their labs might provide to students doing clinical rotations.

Hatcher explained that in the past New River offered a lab tech program through a cooperative agreement with Bluefield Regional Medical Center, but that program was put on hold last year due to poor enrollment.

Those in attendance were very supportive of New River’s reviving the program, and stressed the importance of developing a strong marketing plan to attract students. They commented that many professionals currently in the field are reaching retirement age, and they are possibly facing a critical shortage of technicians, especially facilities in more rural areas.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that New River should pursue grant funding to hire a coordinator to get the laboratory technician program established as soon as possible. Following the meeting, Hatcher applied for a grant from the WV Community and Technical College System. She has already been notified that a grant in the amount of $70,000 has been approved so that a coordinator can be hired.
In thinking of way to honor my dad, Jack Prince, I decided that creating a scholarship in his name was the perfect way. Dad touched so many lives over the 79 years of his life, whether it was his family, many of his coworkers and friends at the local printing companies, Beckley Newspapers, the Board of Education, the Raleigh County Vo-Tech Center, other church members, or his fellow Marines.

As a tribute to my dad's legacy, I sent emails and letters to family, his coworkers, friends and fellow Marines to allow them the opportunity to make a contribution to the Jack Prince Memorial Scholarship. I felt there was no more appropriate way to honor his memory than to create a memorial scholarship that would assist in funding the education of a veteran or the spouse, child, or grandchild of a veteran.

By creating this scholarship, I am helping someone else reach their educational goals. My dad always had confidence in me as I continued my education and told me to never let anyone discourage me from reaching my goals. He told me to always do the best I could do and he would never ask for any more. A very fond memory I have of my dad is how very proud he was of me when I completed my master's degree in 1997.

Donations to the Jack Prince Scholarship Fund can be made through the New River Foundation.
BECKY LEGG HONORED AT RETIREMENT RECEPTION

A packed house of students, co-workers and family members turned out for a retirement reception for practical nursing instructor Becky Legg on the Nicholas County Campus on July 15. Legg had a long career as a nurse before joining the New River faculty six years ago.

Members of this year’s nursing class surprised Legg with a video presentation featuring many photos of their teacher—past and present—accompanied by the Ben E. King hit “Stand by Me.”

After a tribute by nursing program director Joyce Egnor, Dr. Harry Faulk read a congratulatory letter from President Spring, who was out of the country and not able to attend.

Student Caleb Davis read a moving explanation of what it means to be a nurse, concluding with the ultimate tribute to Becky Legg: “Florence Nightingale would be proud.”

Top Photo: Becky Legg and Joyce Egnor pose before the festivities began.

Bottom Photo: All eyes were on “The Becky Legg Story” as told in a video produced by her students.

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WELCOME TO NEW RIVER

Michael Morsches is our new Director of Developmental Education. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Education from the University of Central Oklahoma and a master’s in Education from the University of Akron. He most recently was chief operating officer for Opportunity Education, a non-profit organization based in Omaha, Neb. He previously served as associate dean in the Developmental Education Department at Chemeketa Community College in Oregon and director of developmental programs at the University of Akron.

Dara Fann has joined the Information Technology Department as a systems programmer senior. She comes to us from Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, where she has been a database administrator since 2006. Fann earned associate’s degrees in Computer Engineering from National Institute of Technology and Information Technology/Business from Southern. She received her bachelor’s degree in Technology Management from Franklin University in Ohio and is completing a master’s in Higher Education Leadership from Marshall University.
BRICK WALKWAYS ENHANCE GREENBRIER VALLEY Campus

Members of the maintenance staff of the Greenbrier Valley Campus have been working inside and out to ready the campus for the influx of students who will begin fall semester classes on Aug. 16.

Under the direction of David Thompson, trade specialist I, and Aubrey Houck, trade specialist II, two new brick sidewalks have been constructed to connect the main parking area with Greenbrier Hall. Bart Johnson and Frank Houck also worked on the project.

The New River Community and Technical College Foundation will engrave sidewalk bricks in honor or in memory of loved ones for a donation of $100. New River students can engrave a brick for a donation of $25. Bricks can be paid for at the Business Office on the Greenbrier Valley Campus.

BECKLEY CAMPUS EMPLOYEES ENJOY GET-ACQUAINTED POTLUCK

After a busy few weeks of relocating offices and adjusting to the consolidation of the Beckley Campus to Harper Industrial Park, employees took time out for a get-acquainted potluck lunch in the lounge of the Wilburn Building on Wednesday, July 7. In addition to providing a great meal, the event was a good opportunity for people to get acquainted with new employees and renew old friendships. The luncheon was the brainchild of Amanda Baker in the Human Resources Department.

George Washington and Betsy Ross Check out New River’s Fall Schedule

George Washington and Betsy Ross, better known as Dick Brockway of White Sulphur Springs and his granddaughter, Allyson Griffin of Mechanicsville, Va., examined the fall schedule of classes at New River just prior to participating in the Durbin Heritage Days Festival Parade on Saturday, July 17.

Brockway was visiting the northern part of Pocahontas County to attend a family reunion. He completed his Regents Bachelor of Arts degree through a program on what is now the Greenbrier Valley Campus.

The fall schedule was published in a tabloid that has been inserted in weekly newspapers throughout New River’s nine-county service area in the last week. Many thanks to Mike Williams for driving hundreds of miles to deliver the inserts to their destinations.