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NEW RIVER EXPO HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

[GHENT, W. VA.] Spend a few hours at New River Community and Technical College’s Advanced Energy and Technology Expo on Saturday, Oct. 30, and learn how you can save money and conserve precious natural resources.

The Expo will take place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at New River’s newly opened Education and Technology Training Center located just off the Ghent Exit on Interstate 77 at 527 Odd Road in Ghent, W. Va. Admission is free.

The Expo will feature exhibitors from a wide range of energy and technology firms, as well as free workshops presented by experts in weatherization and green technology.

Visitors will learn about new technologies at exhibits healthy and biodegradable products, hybrid automobiles, outdoor adventures, green products, recycling made easy, small wind and small solar residential and commercial installation training, virtual welding and demonstrations in the future in building science and the proper installation of insulation, windows and heating/air conditioning systems.

Some of the workshops include Going Green in the Workplace, Building Automation Web Based Access, Basic Building Science, Evaluating Building Environmental Systems for Energy Management, Going Green at Home and Building Projects for Kids.

The event is designed to showcase the new facility, which is quickly becoming a hub for workforce training in southern West Virginia. Information will be available on New River’s upcoming training programs in heavy equipment operation, CDL, line service mechanic, weatherization, green building technologies and more.
“With the opening of this facility, New River now has the capability to expand technical training programs that are at the heart of our mission as a community and technical college,” commented Dr. Ted D. Spring, president of the college. “We know that people from across West Virginia will come and learn about the new education and training programs that we can now provide to prepare workers for good paying jobs that are in demand now in our region. The new facility is specifically designed to increase our potential to deliver multiple, high-quality technical programs to support existing business and industry demands for skilled employees. In addition, our region will now have a first-class facility for technical instruction that will help attract and retain new business into the area.”

William Loope, vice president for institutional advancement and workforce education said, “We hope that this facility and the partnerships being created between New River and business and industry will quickly become a delivery model for community college education across the state. When business, industry and education work together, everyone benefits and prospers.”

“The demand for instructional programs leading to good paying jobs and full employment is what drives the college. We have committed our limited resources to meet the goals set by our Board of Governors,” says Leslie Baker, board chair. “We have pledged to work with schools and colleges within and outside our region to meet the every-changing demands for a skilled workforce.

Harry Faulk, executive vice president and chief academic officer, notes that New River is working closely with area vocational schools to strengthen and create additional pathways for students to continue their education into college. Currently many students taking a vocational/technical course at the high school level earn advanced credit (EDGE CREDIT) and will move directly into the higher level courses without having to repeat material previously learned.

The New River Community and Technical College Advanced Energy and Technology Expo is made possible with the support of the following sponsors: Platinum: HSC Industrial; Gold: Case WV Leslie Equipment Company and Mabscott Supply; Silver: AMTEK Company, WV Weatherization Assistance Program and WV Division of Energy; Bronze: Appalachian Power, Chapman Radiant Infrared Heating and E.T. Boggess Architects; Community: Alliance Construction Management; Beaver Coal Company; Burning Rock Outdoor Adventure Park, Greenbrier Communications, High Tech Systems & Equipment, USDA Rural Development and Energy Star.
"The Expo has created so much excitement throughout the region and the state. Our phones have been ringing off the hook asking for more information about New River’s programs for the future," Loope says.

New River Community and Technical College is a multi-campus institution with administrative headquarters in Beckley. The college serves a nine-county region encompassing Fayette, Greenbrier, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers and Webster Counties in southeastern West Virginia from five campuses: Beckley, Ghent, Greenbrier Valley (Lewisburg), Mercer County (Princeton) and Nicholas County (Summersville).

For further information, contact the New River Community and Technical College Center for Workforce Education at (304) 929-6735.