New River Fine Arts Program is One of a Kind

The growth of arts related businesses and organizations in southeastern and south central West Virginia encouraged New River Community and Technical College to develop the only Associate of Fine Arts degree offered in West Virginia’s Community and Technical College System.

There are arts organizations in nearly every one of the nine counties served by New River, but the concentration of arts groups, galleries and individual artists in the Greenbrier Valley made New River’s Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg the logical place to locate the
Fine Arts Program. Greenbrier County is one of only four Certified Arts Communities in the state.

Instructor Nathan England coordinates the Fine Arts Program, which offers two tracks: studio arts and arts management. In addition to classes offered in Greenbrier Hall on the Greenbrier Valley Campus, the program also utilizes studio space in Carnegie Hall, the regional arts center located next door to the campus. The college draws on the resources of other organizations such as Greenbrier Valley Theatre and the Greenbrier Valley Chorale to offer classes in the performing as well as the visual arts. Some of the talented artists who live in the region serve as adjunct instructors.

A student arts organization, Allied Student Artists (ASA), offers members the opportunity to travel to regional arts centers and shows. The group also assists with local art shows, including the New River Student Photography Show which is held annually at Carnegie Hall. Students do not have to be Fine Arts majors to join ASA.

New River will soon begin renovations on the former student activities building of the Greenbrier Women’s College, which is located next to Carnegie Hall. This building will be the new home for the Fine Arts program as well as being used for other college functions.

This fall, New River Greenbrier Valley Campus will offer Introduction to Fine Arts, Design II, Introduction to Digital Media, Art History, Drawing I and II, Introduction to Digital Photography, and special topics in Ceramics, Intermediate Ceramics, and Advanced Ceramics. Art History I will be offered on the Nicholas County and Beckley Campuses. Introduction to Fine Arts will be offered on the Nicholas County Campus in Summersville and through the Virtual Campus on the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg, Mercer County Campus in Princeton and the Beckley Campus.

Other Arts-related courses offered on the New River Greenbrier Valley Campus this fall will be Creative Expressions, Photography, Choir (through a partnership with the Greenbrier Valley Chorale), and Theatre Workshop, and Acting I (through a partnership with the Greenbrier Valley Theatre). The Nicholas County Campus will also be offering Photography, Music Skills for Classroom Teachers and Introduction to Music, while the Beckley Campus will offer Photography and a special topics class in Painting.

For further information about the Fine Arts Program at New River Community and Technical College, contact the Greenbrier Valley Campus at (304) 647-6560, or visit www.newriver.edu.

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