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Photo Caption:  The New River Title III project team and some of the 2009-10 faculty cohort members: (front row, L-R), JoAnna Perry, visiting instructor of Practical Nursing; Joyce Egnor, director of the School of Practical Nursing; Karen Tully, Medical Assisting Instructor; Vanessa Bailey, adjunct Allied Health instructor; Tim Hofmann, instructor of Biology; (back row, L-R) Dr. David Ayersman, chief information officer; Ralph Payne, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence; Carolyn Sizemore, Beckley Campus dean and Title III coordinator; Mary Walkup, instructor of Practical Nursing; and Chris Fink, visiting instructor of Business.

New River Approved for $400,000 in Third Year of Title III Grant

[BECKLEY, WV] New River Community and Technical College has been notified by the U.S. Department of Education that a grant of $400,000 has been approved for the third year of its Title III project entitled “Developing a Distance Learning System for Rural Appalachia.” In 2008, New River was awarded a total of $2 million over five years for the project. Continuation of funding is contingent on satisfactory completion of program objectives each year.
The goal of the project is to improve New River’s ability to provide comprehensive student services to time- and place-bound students by increasing access to the learning opportunities provided by the college. Grant funds have been used to install an Interactive Video Learning Network (IVN) with access points on New River’s multiple campuses. The grant also is supporting extensive faculty development to prepare instructors to teach distance learning and online classes, and to provide online student services such as applying for admissions, registering for classes, advising and paying bills.

Carolyn Sizemore, dean of New River’s Beckley Campus, is the project coordinator. She reports that during the second year, the grant supported training of a cohort of faculty, primarily in Allied Health fields.

“We are thrilled to learn that the Title III grant has been renewed,” Sizemore commented. “Our incredible Title III staff has energized our college through the development of a Center for Teaching Excellence. The first cadre of teachers trained through the Title III grant successfully redesigned four online courses and six IVN courses for freshman General Studies. This year’s cadre has been working hard to develop 12 distance learning classes for Allied Health.”

She added that after receiving training, the new cadre has been hard at work developing distance courses that encourage team teaching to maximize the talents of New River’s Allied Health instructors.

“We have received enormous positive response from our students, “Sizemore said. They love the implementation of new technology to improve the design of both our online and IVN classes.”

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