FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW RIVER BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVES TUITION INCREASE FOR 2009-10

[BECKLEY, WV] The Board of Governors of New River Community and Technical College has approved a tuition increase for the 2009-10 academic year. The increase was approved at an April 2 board meeting in Beckley. It is the first tuition increase requested by the college in two years, and it was a decision that was very carefully considered.

Tuition will increase by $65 per semester for full-time students (those taking 12 credit hours or more) who are West Virginia residents. Per-semester tuition for in-state students will increase from $1,374 to $1,439. Non-resident tuition will increase from $3,075 to $3,221 per semester. Dr. Ted D. Spring, president of the college, said, he believes the increase will be offset by an increase in financial aid available to our students.

The increase request was driven by three factors outlined for the board by Larry E. Barnhill, New River’s vice president for finance and administration. Based on directives from Governor Manchin, the college is anticipating a 5 percent reduction in our state appropriation in the coming fiscal year, he explained. Additionally, PEIA, the health insurance provider for state higher education employees, has announced a 6 percent increase in premiums next year. Finally, Appalachian Power has requested a 43 percent rate increase to be phased in over the next three years, with a 16 percent increase proposed for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Barnhill noted that the additional tuition will cover only a portion of the reduction in allocation and
anticipated increases in insurance and utilities expenses. As the college prepares its final budget, it will continue to assess where savings can be accomplished.

Barnhill also reported that New River has conducted a review of all special fees and charges that help defray the cost of more expensive programs and courses or for services not utilized by the entire student population. A number of fees have been eliminated or consolidated, resulting in an overall reduction in fees for the 2009-10 year. The only special fee increase is an additional $5 fee for students in the paramedic program.

“We have worked diligently to keep tuition costs at the lowest level possible while maintaining quality programs and services. We were able to hold the line for the past two years when many other schools increased tuition, Spring said. He went on to say that as a new institution in the midst of transition, New River has not yet accumulated reserves that could be used to offset budgetary pressures. “We are already operating on an extremely tight budget. Raising tuition and/or reducing services are the options directly available to us, and reducing services to our students is not an acceptable option.”

New River Community and Technical College is part of the West Virginia Community and Technical College System. It serves nine counties in southern and south central West Virginia from four campuses: Mercer County (Bluefield and Princeton), Nicholas County (Summersville), Beckley and Greenbrier Valley (Lewisburg). Administrative offices are located in Beckley.

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