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As we begin a new semester, most of us are busy getting ready for classes to start and students to return to campus. In fact, some of us become consumed with "getting ready." While our primary focus is, and should be, getting ready for the start of a new semester, we cannot neglect other important forms of "readiness."

NRReady! is a new e-publication designed to keep New River Community College stakeholders informed of the college's **emergency preparedness** efforts. In this inaugural edition, you will find updates and status reports regarding the college's ongoing efforts to improve emergency prep systems and procedures. During the semester, you will see several of these systems and procedures tested.

In addition to the e-publication, there is also a new email address that can be used to pose questions, express concerns, or make suggestions. It is nrready@nr.edu.

Equipment Installations

Three types of equipment are scheduled to be installed on campus during the spring semester: (1) video cameras, (2) audio speakers, and (3) locks on classroom doors. Most of the equipment has been purchased and the IT and Facilities Services staffs have worked diligently to design an installation plan and ensure network compatibility.

Approximately 50 video cameras will be installed in public places (such as hallways and building entrances) throughout campus and the mall site. Recorded data will be stored on a network server for retrieval as needed. The audio speakers will be installed internally and externally on campus and will be connected to the college's existing telephone broadcast system. (You probably heard that system tested earlier this week.) Both of these installations will enhance existing communications systems.

All classrooms will be fitted with new locks. These locks are designed to be locked from the inside for "shelter in place" emergencies. The process of purchasing the locks has begun. We will keep you posted as the semester progresses.

Lockdown Procedure

Along with installation of new locks on classroom doors, a lockdown procedure has been published on the *NRReady!* webpage and the My NRCC Accounts page (secure site). Be sure to review the procedure at your earliest convenience. You will be impressed with both the simplicity of the procedure and the effectiveness of the communication that a lockdown is being executed.

[Need help with My NRCC Accounts? Click on Faculty and Staff on the college's main web page. Click My NRCC Accounts. Use your standard userid and password – the one that you use at your desktop PC – to login.]

Web Page

Be on the lookout for a new link on the college's homepage to the *NRReady!* web site. You will want to check the page often for updates ... and, of course, watch for the next issue of *NRReady!*