Effective Date: March 2, 2001

Date Approved by WVNCC Board of Governors: March 2, 2001

Authority Reference: WV Code 18B-3-6; HEPC Title 133, Series 37, Series 10, Series 11, Series 21

Replaces previous policy dated:

Rule: The WVNCC mission involves a relationship between the College and the business/industry community of the Northern Panhandle Area. To ensure a positive relationship, the College academic programs will reflect a recognition of area employment needs and a broad, flexible view of how the curriculum and course content may be shaped and organized.

Flexible Learning Methodology (FLM) will include assessment of and reaction to changing work force needs, real-life problem solving activities, specific learning outcomes, trans-disciplinary approach to curriculum development, and reliance upon multi-media, on-line learning resources. Educational outcomes are intended to fit the business/industry community’s needs more directly, and to provide employers with well rounded technical personnel who can use creative and critical thinking skills to solve problems in the work place.

FLM will seek to balance and to integrate where possible resources applied to the credit and non-credit programs of the College. FLM recognizes that an alternative method of credentialing may involve the brokering of training and certification through partnership with other institutions and corporate services.

The College will seek business/industry partners who also understand the need for new ways of educating our work force and will join with the College in modeling, validating and promoting a flexible learning methodology. Industry will have direct involvement in the needs assessment and in the curriculum review, revision and development.

FLM will also be used to guide the process of student matriculation. Flexible learning contracts for all matriculated students will be developed to include basic skills assessment, prior learning experience, inventory of needs and interests, and a prescriptive plan for completing degree program requirements to which both the student and the College will be committed.

This rule on flexible learning methodology will be the basis for an effective educational strategy to assure internships and job placements for graduates.