

## **RMCC Tuition and Fee Adjustment Made Beginning July 1**

Rich Mountain Community College's Board of Trustees unanimously approved to raise tuition and fees beginning July 1, 2010.

According to Dr. Wayne Hatcher, RMCC President, over the last four to five years state funding to RMCC has declined from 51% to 40% of the College's budget. Local funding has declined from 5% to only 1% of the budget. In attempts to counteract this gap, grants have grown from 30% to 44% and tuition has increased from 14% to 15% in total funding of the overall budget. Therefore, there has been an 11% reduction in state funding (hard dollars), although tuition has only increased 1% (hard dollars) over the past several years. In addition, the College's headcount has increased over 23% from fall 2005 to fall 2009 and credit hours have increased 30%.

The new rates will be a tuition increase of \$2 per credit hour and fee increases of \$1 matriculation, \$1 technology, and \$3 program improvements/support. The additional matriculation fees will help absorb – but not totally cover - graduation expenses, transcript requests, and testing fees. Technology fees help with a portion of the costs of equipment, license fees, repairs, replacement, etc of computers and other technology. The program improvement/support fees will be utilized to enhance such retention activities as tutoring capability, with the goal of higher academic achievement and completion/graduation rates. As the College reviews their new strategic plan the administration may present other option for the use of the program improvement/support fees.

Dr. Hatcher emphasized that recent polls indicate RMCC's tuition and fees will remain among the lowest in the state. An example of the increase is if a student is taking 15 hours per semester the additional tuition and fees will go up approximately \$105 for that semester.