



## **WVU PARKERSBURG LEADS STATE WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF PART-TIME STUDENTS IN HEAPS GRANT PROGRAM**

More part-time students at West Virginia University at Parkersburg receive state grant funding than at any other institution in West Virginia.

The Parkersburg campus leads the state with the highest number of participants in West Virginia's grant program for part-time students. A total of 904 WVU Parkersburg students received Higher Education Adult Part-Time Student (HEAPS) funds last year.

It is the highest number of part-time students in the HEAPS' program of all public and private institutions of higher education and vocational centers. Marshall University is second with 858 HEAPS' students and West Virginia University is third with 793.

WVU Parkersburg has received \$267,536 for 2007-2008 to disburse to eligible part-time students. It is the most HEAPS' funds awarded to an institution.

The 904 total represents West Virginia resident, undergraduate HEAPS' recipients who are seeking a degree and taking less than 12 credit hours at WVU Parkersburg, explained Bob Long, financial aid manager for the WV Higher Education Policy Commission. The number is used to calculate the percentage of funds allocated to each participating institution in the HEAPS program, Long noted.

Purpose of the HEAPS program is to encourage needy West Virginia students who desire to continue their education on a part-time basis at the post-secondary level.

"We have a strong commitment to our part-time students," said WVU Parkersburg President Marie Foster Gnage.

"We know that many of them are juggling family and work responsibilities to pursue a college education," she continued. "The HEAPS program enables eligible part-time students to attain a degree or gain new skills and knowledge."

Involved in the grant program are 29 WV public and private colleges and universities and 18 vocational institutions. A total of 10,863 students received HEAPS funds statewide last year.

## **ACADEMIC DEAN RECOGNIZED BY KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON WOMEN**

WVU at Parkersburg's academic dean has been recognized by the state of Kentucky.

Rhonda Richards, executive dean of academic affairs, is the recipient of the 2006-2007 Regional Coordinator Performance Award and the 2006-2007 Outstanding Program award from the Kentucky Commission on Women for her work on a leadership guide for women which she co-authored.

“The Starting Gate: A Guide for Developing Leadership Skills” is designed to provide activities for young and adult women so that they can enhance their leadership abilities and skills. The handbook is co-authored by Dr. Richards and Emily Coleman, director of student affairs at Midway (Ky.) College.

Before joining WVU Parkersburg in May, Dr. Richards served as vice president and dean of the Women’s College at Midway.

Her award recognitions were part of the Governor’s Conference on Kentucky’s Women, sponsored by the Kentucky Commission on Women, and held in Louisville.

## **HONOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM AT MISSISSIPPI STATE**

Six WVU Parkersburg honor students participated in a leadership symposium this month at Mississippi State University and learned as much about themselves as they did about leadership skills.

The students were selected to attend the Appalachian Leadership Honors Symposium which covered leadership development, decision-making, and ethics as well as team-building exercises. It was held on the campus of Mississippi State.

“From the experience, I learned that if you look deep within yourself, you can do anything,” noted Clarissa Coleman, a Parkersburg psychology major, adding that she rappelled for the first time in one of the symposium’s team-building activities.

WVU Parkersburg’s Honors College students joined approximately 30 others from MSU and Concord College in the three-day program which featured speakers including Sylvester Croom, MSU football coach; General Robert “Doc” Foglesong, president of MSU; former Tupelo Mayor Glenn McCullough and others.

“This provided our students with a life-changing learning opportunity which will resonate with them beyond their college years,” said Gregg Busch, director of WVU Parkersburg’s Honors College.

For some, the symposium offered an opportunity to view how leadership skills can impact their future careers.

“I realized it’s ok to fail because you can learn from it,” said Adam Stover, a Ripley English major, who videotaped the experience to create a documentary.

“I tend to be an observer of life,” he noted. “I need to be more assertive and try to strike a balance.”

“This was such an amazing experience for me,” added Chasity Rice, a Parkersburg student majoring in elementary education. “It’s so important to always be aware of who we are. We lead by experience and that’s an important lesson for me as a future educator.”

The symposium is a part of the Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation (ALEF), a non-profit organization funded by foundations and companies, supports and enables young men and women from Appalachia to pursue higher education through scholarship and leadership curriculum. It was founded by Foglesong, a retired four-star general and a native West Virginian.

“At the symposium, I realized the importance of learning how to trust,” Jaylene Dawe, a Marietta education major and student government vice president, said. “As a leader, it’s important to trust others; otherwise, how can you expect them to trust you?”

The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation assisted with some of the funding so the WVU Parkersburg students could participate in the symposium.

WVU Parkersburg’s Honors College provides enhanced learning opportunities, such as the Mississippi State symposium, for talented students in both academic and career programs in an effort to enable them to develop to their fullest potential.

### **About On Campus**

*On Campus* is published monthly by the Institutional Advancement unit of West Virginia University at Parkersburg. It is distributed to faculty, staff, students, institutional boards and others interested in the college. *On Campus* contains official college announcements, news reports and notices of campus events and other college-related information. The newsletter may be viewed online at [http://www.wvup.edu/On\\_Campus/index.htm](http://www.wvup.edu/On_Campus/index.htm). Submissions for *On Campus* should be sent to the Institutional Advancement, Room 1102 or emailed to [wvupinfo@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:wvupinfo@mail.wvu.edu).

## **INAUGURATION OF WVU'S NEXT PRESIDENT PLANNED OCT. 19**

"Coming Home" will be the theme of a weeklong series of events in October at West Virginia University that will culminate with the inauguration of Mike Garrison as the University's 22nd president.

The inaugural activities will coincide with Homecoming and Diversity Weeks at WVU Oct. 14-21. The official inauguration ceremony is being planned for 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, in historic Woodburn Circle on the Downtown campus.

Details and a complete schedule of the week's events will be announced later.

"We're still in the planning stages, but we want everyone to mark their calendars and save the dates," said Bill Case, transition steering committee member. "Mike wants everyone – from students, faculty and staff, to alumni all over the world, community members and residents across the state – to take part. He really wants people to 'come home' to WVU and be involved in this historic event and the many activities that will take place around it."

Garrison has been on the job as president-elect since July 2 working on his transition. His goal during the transition period is to engage people and get their ideas on how to make WVU a better place, Case said.

## **2007-2008 CATALOGS AVAILABLE**

Spiral-bound copies of the 2007-2008 college catalog are available for faculty and staff in the Institutional Advancement Office (Room #1102).

## **WVU PARKERSBURG RECEIVES NATIONAL CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY 2007 INNOVATOR AWARD**

WVU at Parkersburg is one of 13 institutions nationwide being recognized for innovative use of technology to solve a campus challenge.

Campus Technology magazine has selected WVU Parkersburg to receive its 2007 Innovator award for the campus' emergency paging system project.

As part of an institutional safety initiative, WVU Parkersburg implemented a campus-wide broadcast system to provide classroom connections to college security and communications staff in emergency situations. The overhead paging system provides two-way communication in classrooms and key areas of the institution as well as exterior broadcast speakers at all college entrances, including the Caperton Center for Applied Technology.

The \$131,000 system is part of a comprehensive safety plan for the college.

"Dave White, our director of facilities and grounds, is to be commended for taking the initiative to pursue a technology application which maximizes our capacity to respond to campus safety situations," noted WVU Parkersburg President Marie Foster Gnage.

"The paging system is a key component of our safety plan to provide communication during a campus crisis," she added.

Campus Technology's nationwide competition sought exemplary colleges and universities, their visionary technology project leadership and their innovative vendor partners who developed solutions to campus challenges through the use of technology.

Institutions throughout the country submitted more than 330 proposals in the competition. WVU Parkersburg and 12 other winning Innovator institutions are featured in the August issue of the magazine and were recognized at the Campus Technology 2007 conference in Washington, D.C., July 30-August 2.

"The paging system is an excellent system for two-way communications between classrooms and security personnel and administration on campus," said White who also serves as the college's safety officer. "We are in the process of adding a similar system at our Jackson County Center in Ripley as well."

The vendor partner in the WVU Parkersburg paging system project is ProCom Technologies of Parkersburg.

The national magazine's issue featuring WVU Parkersburg is available on-line (page 46) at [http://pdf.101com.com/CampusTech/2007/CAM\\_708DG.pdf](http://pdf.101com.com/CampusTech/2007/CAM_708DG.pdf) .

## FORUM ON-LINE

The archived webcast of the forum with WVU President-Elect Mike Garrison held at WVU Parkersburg August 7<sup>th</sup> is available at <http://transition.wvu.edu/conversation> .

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST

Congratulations to **Ron Reip**, Jackson County Center Campus Service Worker, who has been selected as Employee of the Month for August.

Ron has been a member of the Jackson County Center Physical Plant staff since May, 2005.

Ron lives in Reedy, WV, with his wife Suzanne. He has one daughter, Jami, and two step-daughters, Rachel and Autumn. In his free time Ron enjoys outdoor activities, hunting and fishing.

Ron expressed his gratitude for being selected Employee of the Month by saying "Thank you - to a great staff to work with at West Virginia University at Parkersburg."

Following is an excerpt from the nominations that served as the basis for Ron's selection as Employee of the Month:

*"I would like to nominate Mr. Ron Reip for employee of the month. Ron has been the night maintenance worker for the Jackson County Center for the past two years. While most of us are sleeping, Ron is busy cleaning and preparing our buildings for the next day. He is an excellent worker that goes above and beyond what is asked and does it all with a smile and a great sense of humor. Mr. Reip is always willing to change his work schedule when our day time maintenance worker needs extra help or when there is an event where we need extra hands. He is truly an asset to the JCC campus."*

## WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG

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