



West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Board of Governors Meeting
Media Clips

April 7, – June 4, 2020

Congratulations!

to these outstanding SMHS Early College students

Students earning a Certificate of Applied Science in General Education degree complete 30 hours of college classes while attending high school.



Aidan Cosper



Peyton Auxier



Mary Taylor



Aimee Chambers



William Steele



Jocelynn Campbell



Jaden Schofield



Grace McFarland



Peyton Oliver



Hannah Barker



Class of
2020

8 • The News • Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Congratulations!

to these outstanding Early College students



Garrett Owens



Andrea Kirk



Students earning a Certificate of Applied Science in General Education degree complete 30 hours of college classes while attending high school.



Eric Darnold

Ritchie County High School
& WVU Parkersburg
Class of 2020

Collaborative sponsors virtual Easter Egg contest

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 8, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/04/collaborative-sponsors-virtual-easter-egg-contest/>

PARKERSBURG – Being stuck at home because of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic shouldn't stifle creativity.

The Arts and Culture Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley is accepting entries for Egg Hunt MOV 2020, a virtual Easter Egg design contest open to all children and adults in the Mid-Ohio Valley. Entries will be accepted until Monday, Lori Ullman, organizer, said.

The contest is sponsored by the Arts and Culture Collaborative with the Parkersburg Art Center, West Virginia University at Parkersburg and the Parkersburg Actors Guild.

The rules are:

∫ Eggs can be created from any medium found in the home, either two-dimensional or three-dimensional.

∫ After creating the eggs, take a picture of it and post the photo to the Arts and Culture Collaborative Easter Egg Hunt Event Page on Facebook. Note if the egg was created by a child or an adult.

∫ Place the egg in a window for others to see.

∫ Photos of eggs need to be posted by 5 p.m. Monday. The pictures can be posted on the Arts and Culture Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley Facebook page.

Judging will take place on April 14. Winners will be announced on April 15.

Prizes will be awarded in two age categories, for children age 2-17 and adults 18 and older, Ullman said.

WVU-P board discusses scheduling

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 9, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/04/wvu-p-board-discusses-scheduling/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg has transitioned as much as possible to online classes and other operations in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected the entire country, the university's president told the Board of Governors Wednesday.

The board met Wednesday, via Zoom — a live streaming program that allowed members to participate online from their homes — to help maintain social distancing practices during the pandemic.

"I am happy to report the transition from conducting the educational and business affairs of the University from face-to-face to virtual has been fully and seamlessly completed," President Chris Gilmer said. *"We are midway through the second week of this transition with no major challenges reported, "major" defined as any problem for which we could not find a ready solution."*

Officials are hoping to return to face-to-face classes by May 4, but caution that has yet to be determined as the pandemic continues to play out.

"We recognize with each passing week that the likelihood of such an aspiration grows less likely," Gilmer said. *"We have already restructured finals week as an additional week of instruction. It would be incredibly helpful to end the semester with one or two weeks of face-to-face instruction in such areas as welding and science labs which, despite the best efforts of faculty members and students, truly do not lend themselves to virtual instruction."*

Officials want to return for at least some in-person instruction to avoid having to give out a number of "Incomplete" grades in the more hands-on programs.

"If we are not able to return to any face-to-face instruction this semester, quite a few students will receive grades of "Incomplete," and we will begin trying to complete those credits in the summer term," Gilmer said.

Officials are also considering a pass/fail option for this semester.

"At present, we do not intend to extend the spring 2020 semester, although we still retain the right to do so," Gilmer said. *"At present, we plan to offer our full summer and fall 2020 course offerings in face-to-face format as scheduled, except for those courses originally planned to be taught online and which would continue as originally planned, but are prepared to transition all instruction to fully online as the trajectory of the pandemic dictates."*

Spring Commencement has been rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8.

The CARES Stimulus Act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump includes higher education, and WVU-P is expecting around \$2.1 million coming within the next few weeks, Gilmer said.

"That is by far the largest amount awarded to any institution in West Virginia reporting to the West Virginia Community and Technical College System and based on the fact that our full-time

enrollment is the largest among all of these institutions,” he said. “We are still waiting for a firm amount and for guidance and restrictions on how these funds can be expended, but we are told that there will be considerable flexibility to allow for the wide variety of local needs across the nation.”

Gilmer said around 50 percent of the funds will pass through directly to students in the form of mini-grants to help with such urgent needs as food, shelter, medical care, transportation and childcare. The other 50 percent will be retained by each institution to help offset unexpected spending or decreases in revenue caused by the pandemic, he said.

University officials are developing plans for how to use these funds to the greatest advantage of the students and the university as a whole, anticipating what the federal guidelines might include.

Gilmer also reported that student recruitment was already above the levels of this time last year.

“Just eight days into April, new applications for fall enrollment are up 24 percent over 2019, at 664 total new applications,” he said adding current numbers are already surpassing the whole of April 2019.

“This is already the highest number of new applicants of any April for the past four years,” Gilmer added.

Summer 2020 numbers are also up with 220 now compared to 197 in all of April 2019.

Alice Harris, executive vice president of finance and administration, said the university has already received its final appropriation from the state, around \$2 million.

“That will help with the expenses we have for the rest of the year,” she said.

They have collected the majority of tuition and fees for the current semester.

Officials shouldn’t expect a lot of revenue from economic and development programs with the only things coming in being the collection of receivables that have already been billed.

Programs at the university that brought in fees and other money are expected to end the current fiscal year where they are due to the closure of the campus.

Grant writing is continuing to find money the university can use.

The university is still planning to spend money on advertising to help bring in new students and community support.

“We will continue to do that,” Harris said “That is as important, if not more important than it was even before this.

“We need to make sure the community and our students know that we are still here and still open for business.”

All of the university’s bills are being handled in a timely manner and they are limiting purchasing orders to better control costs.

“Looking at cash flows in and out, I think we will be OK this fiscal year,” Harris said. “We should end up pretty close to break-even as we have more unexpended grant funds that are going to carry into future periods.”

Currently, the university is continuing to pay employees.

“We made the conscious decision not to furlough or lay off any employee,” Gilmer said. “We gave everyone the best alternate work assignment, but we didn’t want to put anyone in the extra burden of having to be without their paycheck.”

WVU Kids' College still set for June

WTAP-TV

April 9, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-Kids-College-still-set-for-June-569477281.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, WVU's summer program for children, called Kids' College, is currently still schedule to begin in June.

This summer, children ages eight to 12 can attend West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s inaugural Kids’ College program. Volunteer opportunities are available for ages 13 and older. Children can attend one or three weeks of fun, educational classes, from June 8 – 12, June 15 – 18 and June 22 – 25, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., daily.

Children can choose four classes per week; topics range from drone technology and welding to archery and photography. Lunch will be provided.

The complete list of classes includes:

- Archery
- Arts and Crafts
- American Sign Language
- Broadcasting
- Canvas Painting
- Cartoon Drawing
- Coding
- Creative Writing

- CSI
- Dynamic Figure Drawing
- First Aid
- Intro to Dance
- Intro to Making
- Music Technology
- Photography
- Science
- STEM
- Tae Kwon Do
- Theater

“Our Kids’ College program goes beyond just your typical summer camp; this is a chance for kids to experience learning in a genuine college setting with instructors who are experts in their field, but in a fun, hands-on way,” said Workforce and Economic Development Program Coordinator Logan Mace.

Class sizes are limited and granted on a first-come, first-serve basis (with payment). The Kid’s College registration fee is \$130 per week per child. The deadline to register is Friday, May 22.

Visit www.wvup.edu/discollege to complete an application. For more information, contact WVU Parkersburg’s Workforce and Economic Development Division at wed@wvup.edu or 304-424-8383.

Feds mull funds to boost West Virginia universities, colleges

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 11, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/04/feds-mull-funds-to-boost-west-virginia-universities-colleges/>

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., announced Friday the potential for more than \$66 million to be dispersed among higher education institutions in the state from the U.S. Department of Education.

Several institutions in the region are potential recipients, according to the senators.

According to a press release from Capito, the funds are designed to “provide direct emergency cash grants to college students who have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through the discretion of their university or college.

The funding is possible due to the COVID-19 Aid, Relief and Economic and Security Act, a stimulus package also called CARES, passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump.

Capito said the funds will help assist students with school-related expenses, food, housing, healthcare and childcare.

“During this uncertain time, students across our state and country have shown dedication and resiliency as they adapted to drastic changes in the pursuit of their degrees,” Capito said. “I am thankful for the Department of Education and the support they bring to our state.”

Manchin said with classes switching to an online platform, some students don’t have the broadband access to maintain their work and stay on track.

“I am pleased the Department of Education will be delivering these emergency cash grants to students through their higher education programs, but it is important to remember that this is only the first installment,” Manchin said. “We have a lot of work yet to do to help ease the burden so many of our students are facing.”

The potential allocations to institutions are:

- * West Virginia University — \$20,174,232
- * Marshall University — \$9,003,939
- * Fairmont State University — \$3,426,559
- * Shepherd University — \$2,679,616
- * West Liberty University — \$2,246,663
- * Concord University — \$2,057,014
- * West Virginia University-Parkersburg — \$1,753,087
- * West Virginia State University — \$1,650,103
- * Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College — \$1,523,218
- * Bridgevalley Community and Technical College — \$1,445,025
- * Glenville State College — \$1,440,768
- * Bluefield State College — \$1,296,174
- * West Virginia Wesleyan College — \$1,242,558
- * West Virginia Wesleyan College — \$1,242,558
- * Blue Ridge Community and Technical College — \$1,185,596
- * Pierpont Community & Technical College — \$1,154,797
- * Alderson Broaddus University — \$1,126,674
- * Mountwest Community and Technical College — \$1,129,207
- * Davis & Elkins College — \$980,322

- * Salem University — \$904,789
- * Wheeling University — \$766,653
- * West Virginia Northern Community College — \$732,317
- * New River Community and Technical College — \$688,982
- * Bethany College — \$582,649
- * West Virginia Junior College — \$506,663
- * West Virginia Junior College — \$470,415
- * Ohio Valley University — \$405,760
- * Huntington Junior College of Business — \$384,451
- * Valley College — \$328,669
- * Carver Career and Technical Education Center — \$307,983
- * West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine — \$247,036
- * Appalachian Bible College — \$238,981
- * Valley College — \$230,104
- * International Beauty School — \$213,159
- * Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College — \$211,888
- * Huntington School of Beauty Culture — \$189,254
- * Morgantown Beauty College — \$179,773
- * Academy of Careers and Technology — \$174,170
- * Cabell County Career Technology Center — \$160,620
- * Charleston School of Beauty Culture — \$151,472
- * Garnet Career Center — \$148,515
- * James Rumsey Technical Institute — \$138,292
- * Fred W. Eberle Technical Center — \$121,970
- * Putnam Career & Technical Center — \$106,383
- * Fayette Institute of Technology — \$106,163
- * Mercer County Technical Education Center — \$105,541

- * Clarksburg Beauty Academy & School of Massage Therapy — \$99,727
 - * Benjamin Franklin Career & Technical Center — \$96,740
 - * Monongalia County Technical Education Center — \$93,681
 - * Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre — \$93,719
 - * Mountain State College — \$86,177
 - * Ralph R Willis Career and Technical Center — \$73,861
 - * Roane Jackson Technical Center — \$73,406
 - * Mingo Extended Learning Center — \$59,512
 - * United Technical Center — \$57,801
 - * Scott College of Cosmetology — \$53,972
 - * Mountain State School of Massage — \$47,967
 - * Mineral County Vocational Technical Center — \$40,808
 - * Wood County Technical Center — \$37,341
 - * Randolph Technical Center — \$36,561
 - * B M Spurr School of Practical Nursing — \$31,232
 - * West Virginia University Hospitals — \$20,244
 - * John D. Rockefeller IV Career Center — \$15,141
-

Online event to raise funds for 55 Mid-Ohio Valley non-profits

WTAP-TV

April 13, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Online-event-to-raise-funds-for-55-Mid-Ohio-Valley-non-profits-569607291.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va.(WTAP) - Fifty-five non-profit organizations around the Mid-Ohio Valley are gearing up for the Give Local MOV online fundraising campaign on May 5.

The event is organized by the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation (PACF), and has been an annual event since 2014. The PACF encourages philanthropy and supports non-profit organizations in Washington County, Ohio, as well as Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood counties in West Virginia.

According to Julie Posey, the PACF's Give Local MOV coordinator, the event has raised a total of approximately \$1.5 million for local organizations since 2014. It got its start as part of a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the first community foundation. A number of foundations around the country launched Give Local America, and Give Local MOV grew out of that campaign.

In addition to fundraising, the PACF also intends for the event to be an opportunity to shed light on the work being done by local non-profits.

"The big goal of the day is to raise that awareness, as well as introduce our non-profits to new supporters and friends, and to online giving and the opportunities that come with online services," Posey said.

Some of the organizations involved include the Blennerhassett Historical Foundation, Artsbridge, Inc., the Boys and Girls Club of Parkersburg, the Children's Home Society of West Virginia, the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation, the Little Kanawha Community Foundation, Project Yoga MOV, and others.

Donors will be able to make contributions to the organizations of their choice online at www.givelocalmov.org beginning at 12 A.M. on Tuesday, May 5, and they will have 24 hours to contribute. Various prizes will be given to some of the participating non-profits, including the organization that receives the first donation, organizations that receive the most donations during particular hours of the day, and more. Although the site will not open for contributions until May 5, it is currently live and those interested can visit ahead of time to learn more about participating organizations.

This year in particular, the virtual event is playing an important role in supporting local non-profits. For example, the Children's Home Society of West Virginia, a child welfare organization that supports foster and adoptive families, has participated in Give Local MOV since its inception in 2014. This year, the non-profit had to cancel important fundraising events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the organization plans to use the funds it raises through Give Local MOV to support a larger number of its projects and programs than in previous years.

"Historically, we've utilized the funds in support of what we call our Midtown Family Resource Center, which is our food pantry, clothing closet, and after-school programming at McKinley Elementary, and for general community education and support services," said Shelley Plauche-Adkins, regional director of the Children's Home Society of West Virginia. "This year, however, we have decided to encompass our full site because we have had to cancel other fundraising events...We're utilizing it as an opportunity to provide some support to our full array of programming," Plauche-Adkins said.

You Are Worthy of Your Dreams

DiverseEducation.com

April 14, 2020

<https://diverseeducation.com/article/173144/>

by Chris Gilmer

“You are worthy of your dreams.”

This is my unchanging message to my students as their president, never more important than during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg, because of its mission and location, is often the only higher education option for our students, most of whom come from a rural, economically bleak beginning, many of whom are first-generation and need frequent reminders of their worth.

To succeed, they must trust that their president believes in them and is willing to give as much as I require.

If I believe in their dreams, actually and not just rhetorically, then never has my call to servant leadership been timelier. If you believe, then never has our responsibility to rise to the challenge of leading been more urgent. Never will we need to focus more clearly on one skill—empathy—for without it, we will not remain relevant to our students.

I do not want them to see me as an unapproachable, mythological figure separated by multiple doors and several assistants, a detached representation of the “other” in a suit and tie, wearing the college medallion at commencement and not knowing any of the people to whom he is awarding degrees.

I want to hear their stories. For them to be willing to share, I must simultaneously step off of my pedestal of privilege while lifting them up to it, if only for a moment, if only to give them a glimpse of what hard work and the sacrifices of the elders created in my own life, a first-generation student born into multi-generational poverty. I have to humanize myself before them, to become a tangible and realistic role model, a role model not only of things done right, but of things done very wrong and the lessons learned in failure.

To those students who are losing loved ones and fearing for their own lives during the COVID-19 crisis, I say that I was a gay man coming of age in a rural, conservative state in the middle of the AIDS crisis, that I lost friends who died before their lives ever really started, and that there but for the grace of God go I. What some might hide in shame, I must never get in the way of the single most important gift I can give my students—the imperfect, yet persistent and unvanquished example of my own life.

I hear much about the academy’s desire for our students to be better prepared academically, but I also understand the many reasons why they are not. Some of them are hungry. Worse,

some have hungry children. Try to pay attention in class while worried about your child's next meal. Some take public transportation, and thankful as they are for it, its schedule is insufficient. Some are homeless. Some work two jobs. Some are addicted to drugs or recently in recovery. Many have mental health issues, diagnosed and undiagnosed, brought on by these and other challenges.

Some are transgendered. Some are veterans. Some are afraid of being deported, or racially profiled, or stabbed because they look vaguely like someone from a nation blamed for starting COVID-19. Yes, this really happens in America, and the list goes on.

It is past time that we put away the fantasy of the students we want to teach and confront with the students we are called to teach the realities they face daily. It is less their job to be college-ready than it is our job to be student-ready. I speak with authority as a survivor of gay prejudice who has proudly served three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), a non-traditionally focused online university, and now an Appalachian community college/university hybrid. Few leaders have been privileged to observe the struggles of our most vulnerable students, and often our most determined ones, from more diverse perspectives.

On the other side of this crisis, we have the opportunity to do something my mama taught me. As a child, I asked, "Mama, how do I become great?"

She looked at me and said, without hesitation, "Baby, the only way to be great is to try to be good, all day, every day. And when you fail, and you will, get up the next day and try again." This wisdom came from a woman born on the kitchen table of a cotton shack to sharecropper parents, but who taught her children that we are worthy of our dreams.

We hear a lot about making America great again. If we apply my mother's definition, we have problems because America has stopped being good. Certainly many Americans individually display amazing acts of goodness, but for us as a nation, I worry. Also, I hope more than I worry.

I hope the mirror that this global crisis causes us to hold up to ourselves, individually and collectively, will force us to hear what Mama told me all those years ago. There is still time for us to help our students live into the worthiness of their dreams.

Dr. Chris Gilmer is the president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg and founder of the National Institutes for Historically-Underserved Students.

Here is a link to a video Gilmer made for his students: <https://www.wvup.edu/news/a-personal-message-from-president-gilmer/>.

WVUP cancels Kids' College summer program

WTAP-TV

April 16, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-Kids-College-still-set-for-June-569477281.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - UPDATE 4/16/2020 4:00 P.M.

West Virginia University Parkersburg has cancelled its summer program for children, Kids' College, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The university hopes to hold the program in the future and will make updates public as information becomes available.

Ramp Quiche

Clutch MOV

April 15, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/ramp-quiche/>

By Olivia Reeder

A Rich History of Ramps

Ramps are plentiful in the Mountain State, thriving down in the hollows and on the tops of mountains. They're hardy, they're filling, and most importantly for many people inhabiting these hills one hundred years ago – they're free.

The early Appalachianians relied on the land not only for food, but also for medicinal purposes as reliable medical care was often unavailable to mountain folk. According to the American Folklife Center, the ramp was thought to cleanse the blood and provide protections against viruses through its mineral and Vitamin C rich leaves. Many people today still rely on members of the onion family for these properties.

As for its flavor, the ramp is the most lovely fusion of garlic and onion together. They are known for their potent smell, but cooked in small batches, the scent dissipates quickly.

In their most traditional preparation, ramps are fried in bacon grease with ham, brown beans and cornbread. This is how they're most frequently found in Appalachia during ramp dinners which pop up all across West Virginia in the spring.

Ramps gained popularity in Richwood, W.Va., at ramp feeds. Then, they started to appear in cookbooks often associated with "hillbilly" or "redneck" recipes. However, the tides started to turn for the humble ramp in the 80s and 90s when ramp dinners continued to explode across the east coast and they made their way into high ticket restaurants in New York. The ramp, now rebranded as a "wild leek" or "spring onion," became a key ingredient in pestos and remoulades. They're even considered an expensive vegetable outside of Appalachia.

“I started eating them when my cousin Lynn started to take me to ramp feeds, and we made it a yearly tradition,” Mineral Wells resident Gale Daggett said. “They’re like onions, but put a little vinegar and salt and pepper, and eat them with everything else, but you don’t want to eat too many at once.”

Ramp feeds often serve as fundraisers and a few can see up to 1000 people – particularly in the southern part of the state. However, you can always dig your own, find them on roadside stands or purchase them from local ramp diggers.

Now, to borrow some wisdom from Ina Garten, “if you can’t go dig your own ramps, that’s okay. Purchased from the Facebook Marketplace is just fine.” This is exactly what I did. They came to me freshly dug, dirt still intact and only \$5 per pound. A pound of ramps is a hefty amount of ramps. I bought two pounds, made a pound of butter, fried some for breakfast and made a ramp quiche. Even with that, I probably gave away another pound.

To be clear, this recipe is not on the menu of a ramp feed. However, it’s a great brunch recipe that honors the Appalachian love of the ramp. This ramp quiche is the perfect infusion of smokey bacon and garlicky onion goodness.

Ramp Quiche: Serves 8

First, you must clean your ramps really well. Remember, these just came out of the ground and there will likely be dirt hiding in every section of the vegetable. You’ll also need to cut off the ends. They might have a translucent skin – peel that off too. Set them aside to dry. Go ahead and preheat your oven to 400°.

Now is a great time to start frying your bacon. I used a cast-iron skillet and I swear that’s the best way to prepare bacon. Fry until chewy and save your bacon drippings. Set your bacon aside so it can cool.

Take nine of your ramps and separate the white section from the green section. Set the leaves aside.

Chop your mushrooms and the root of the ramp and add them to the skillet with the bacon grease. Throw in your garlic now too. Saute until the vegetables are tender. Set aside and allow to cool.

Roll your pie crust out. Dice the leaves of your ramps and add to a medium sized bowl. In that bowl, combine the diced leaves, cheese, and salt and pepper.

Once your skillet vegetables are cooled, add them to the mixing bowl with the cheese. Dump the bacon in as well.

Add that entire mixing bowl to the crust.

In a separate mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, heavy cream, and seasoned salt. Pour over top of your quiche filling. You'll need to use a spatula to really work the egg mixture down into the filling. Decorate your quiche with the remaining three ramps.

Put your quiche in the oven at 400° for 15 minutes. Then reduce the heat to 300° for an additional 40-50 minutes – you'll want to use a pie shield or tin foil on your crust for the remainder of your bake as well.

Allow to cool 20-30 minutes before serving, it should be warm, but not hot.

Ingredients

- 1 Pie crust
- 9 ramps + 3 for decoration
- 18 mushrooms (I used white, but any would work)
- 6 eggs
- 1.5 cup heavy whipping cream cream
- 2 cups cheese (I used a Gruyere and Swiss blend, use your favorite)
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 2 tsp minced garlic

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°
2. Prepare your ramps by cleaning them really well and cutting off the ends. They might have a translucent skin – peel that off too. Set them aside to dry.
3. Roll out your pie crust into a 9-inch deep dish pie plate – you can make your own crust, buy one, whatever – it's not the star here anyway
4. Fry the bacon until chewy, set aside to cool, and save the drippings
5. Take nine of your ramps and separate the leaves from the bulb (the white part). Dice the root and separately dice the stems.
6. Dice your mushrooms
7. Add the diced mushroom, diced bulb, and garlic to the skillet with the bacon drippings. Saute until tender, then set aside to cool

8. Combine ramp leaves, cheese, bacon, and cooled vegetables in one bowl
 9. Spread the cheese mixture in the pie plate
 10. Whisk together the eggs, heavy whipping cream, salt, and pepper
 11. Pour the egg mixture over the pie crust using a spatula to allow it to soak in nicely
 12. Bake the quiche at 400° for 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 300° and bake for an additional 40-45 minutes (you may want to use a pie shield or wrap foil around your crust to prevent burning) or until a toothpick inserted two inches from the center comes out clean
 13. Allow it to cool 20-30 minutes before enjoying
-

3D printing limbs gives pets the mobility they deserve

CNET

April 17, 2020

<https://www.cnet.com/news/3d-printing-limbs-gives-pets-the-mobility-they-deserve/>

Custom prosthetics can help dogs, sheep, alligators and other animals with limb loss swim or run again.

Mr. Stubbs was not like the other alligators.

An Arizona Highway Patrolman found him in a tractor trailer along Interstate 10, one of several exotic animals being transported without a permit. The alligator, who would be dubbed Mr. Stubbs upon taking up residence at the Phoenix Herpetological Society, was missing a large portion of his tail.

While no one is completely sure how Mr. Stubbs lost his tail, the theory is that another, bigger alligator bit it off when he was a baby. A missing tail is a problem for an alligator. The appendage functions something like an extra limb, helping the animal propel itself through the water and keep its balance on dry land when it walks. The tail accounts for about 30% of an alligator's total body mass.

So the Herpetological Society reached out to The CORE Institute, which specializes in orthopedic care, and its sister organization, a nonprofit called the More Foundation, with the wish for a new tail for Mr. Stubbs.

"Certainly, this was the first time we'd had a request for an alligator," says Marc Jacofsky, executive director of research and education at the MORE Foundation. "The motto of our organization is 'keep life in motion,' and I didn't see anywhere where it says human life only."

Jacofsky, the More Foundation and Midwestern University researchers approached the task traditionally -- at first. They took a mold of Mr. Stubb's backside, and then took a mold of a tail from the cadaver of a similarly sized alligator, and blended the two. Using a tough rubber silicone material called Dragon Skin, they made a flexible tail they could attach to Mr. Stubbs' residual tail.

Everyone might have gone back to their swamp at that point, but Mr. Stubbs, like most living creatures, grew and changed over time -- meaning he needed a new tail just about every year. That involved dipping a 90-pound alligator's butt in rubber, annually, and scouting for yet another cadaver. That's when the foundation turned to 3D scanning and printing technology.

Using computer software, they scanned the alligator and scaled up his tail, digitally. It took about 150 hours to print, and about \$1,000 worth of materials to create, but the result was a new, 35-pound Dragon Skin tail for Mr. Stubbs.

Best fit

While Mr. Stubbs is far from the first critter to end up with a human-made appendage, there's no hard data available about how many animals out there use prosthetics. One higher-profile prosthetics makers in the field, Derrick Campana, says on his site that he's "treated 20,000 furry patients with mobility devices" since 2004 alone.

At North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, doctors Simon Roe and Natasha Olby tell me over Zoom calls about their work on everything from prosthetic joints (more Roe's speciality) to the use of carts for paraplegic or neurologically challenged animals (Olby's area).

Animals with mobility issues have a spectrum of available options, Roe says. There are the prosthetics that slip over residual limbs. Less commonly, some doctors implant prosthetics directly into bones and through the skin. Or, as was the case for Olby's late dachshund Mickey, a cart for his back legs helped him zip around and even bully his other dog siblings by blocking doorways.

Overall, though, Roe says prosthetics for animals aren't as prevalent as you might think, despite all the feel-good videos of animals with new limbs you might catch on social media.

You're not exactly going to run into a video where the owner says, "I spent \$3,000 and 40 hours trying to get my dog to wear a prosthetic, and all he would do is stand there, shake it off and run away," Roe says.

Prosthetics and even carts aren't an easy or all-encompassing fix. While dogs, for example, tend to adapt to carts pretty well, they can't be in them all the time, Olby says.

"If they're going to be active, [owners] can pop the dog in the car and off they go. And the dog can perform extremely well," she says. Still, if they want to lie down or rest, they can't do that while in a cart.

Pegs and printers

Not all pet owners are willing or financially able to take on the challenge of finding a vet and a prosthetist to work with their furry pal over the long term.

Luckily for Keating, an almost 6-year-old greyhound-boxer mix, his humans are up for the job. In fact, it is their job.

Mark and Nancy Miller own Miller Prosthetics and Orthotics in Belpre, Ohio. In 2014, they received an email from a listserv they were on asking if anyone would be willing to adopt a puppy who was born without part of his right front paw.

The Millers drove down to the shelter in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and brought Keating home.

Over the years, Keating -- who Nancy describes as happy and "obviously well-fed" -- has had a few prosthetics, including a hand-turned peg leg that helped win him a costume contest held at a fundraiser for a local animal shelter (he was a pirate).

As solid as that pirate leg was, though, the Millers had been interested in getting into 3D printing. They decided maybe Keating's leg could be their first project.

There were challenges along the way. While it seemed like using a 3D scanner might be an easier way to get a scan of Keating's leg, it turned out the scanner couldn't really interpret dog hair. Other scanners took longer, meaning the Millers would have to get a sedative from the vet so that Keating would hold still during the scan.

With the help of a prosthetics instructor in Tulsa, Oklahoma, named Rick Sevier and the maker space at West Virginia University of Parkersburg, in July 2019 Nancy was able to print a blue and black leg that says "Keating" on it, based on her husband's design.

"As long as it fits, he'll use it and he'll run with it," Nancy says. "He doesn't think about it. He just wants to go," She and Keating even did a 3-mile turkey trot race in November on his 3D printed leg.

Keating, now a certified therapy dog, has become something of a greeter and ambassador at the Millers' clinic. He might be their laziest employee, Nancy says, but he's a comfort for folks in the office. And, in classic dog fashion, he's able to get the newspaper every morning.

Felix, free

When there aren't any visitors at the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary in High Falls, New York, the sheep get to roam freely about the 150 acre farm -- all except Felix.

Felix came to the sanctuary in 2008 as a baby after a predator of some kind had bitten off part of his back left leg. While he could still move around on his other three legs, he couldn't cover as much ground as the other sheep.

"It was always sad to see Felix not being able to follow his friends, [and] always be left behind," shelter director Hervé Breuil tells me over the phone.

When Felix was about four years old, and showing signs of stress on his other limbs, the sanctuary decided to get him a prosthetic leg. Ultimately, after trying more traditional prosthetics, Felix ended up with a 3D printed leg, created with help from SUNY New Paltz researchers.

Felix is just one of several animals the sanctuary has helped, including a Jersey cow named Fawn, who uses orthotic boots to get around, and a goat named Albie who's getting a brace to help accommodate the arthritis he's developed in his old age.

The sanctuary has worked with prosthetists and universities to figure out how to bring increased mobility back to farm animals.

"When something is wrong with [farm animals] they're put down by the farmers -- they just don't have time and or the money to put in them," Breuil says. Fawn for example, required surgery at Cornell University. All in, she's cost the sanctuary about \$35,000.

Breuil says it's all about seeing these animals as individuals, deserving of a good quality of life. Felix, at least, seemed to agree.

"That was a beautiful thing to witness," Breuil says. "He [could] just be himself and with his friends."

WVU Parkersburg's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Honored

Clutch MOV

April 16, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburgs-phi-theta-kappa-chapter-honored/>

West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Sigma Omega chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recently honored at the Ohio Region's awards gala held on March 7, at Marion Technical College. Sigma Omega was presented with seven individual and chapter-wide awards during the ceremony.

Chapter honors included the Catch a Shining Star Award for being named the newest chapter in the Ohio Region, joining the organization in August 2019. Sigma Omega was also recognized as a Five Star Chapter as well as a Top Ten Ohio Regional Chapter for its many accomplishments, including an Adopt a Highway event and research conducted on voting behaviors and traditions.

Sigma Omega chapter member Serena Graham won the award for Most Distinguished Regional Chapter Member.

“Serena has been an enormous asset to our chapter due primarily to her engagement,” said Marie Butler, WVU Parkersburg Sigma Omega chapter advisor. “She has volunteered her time and resources to our chapter, plus has been extremely active in all of our activities. Serena has set the example for others to follow pertaining to engagement.”

Chapter President Fallyn Buffington and Vice President Victoria Poellot-Tauber were both recognized for the Most Distinguished Chapter Officer award. Poellot-Tauber was inducted as the new Regional Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the Ohio Region of Phi Theta Kappa.

Sigma Omega chapter advisors, Marie Butler and Andrew Walker, were also recognized with the Dr. Mary Navarro Most Distinguished Advisor Award.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society that recognizes the academic achievements of college students. The Society is represented on nearly 1,300 community colleges across 11 nations. Phi Theta Kappa also helps students grow as scholars and leaders through skill development, scholarships and more.

Membership to Phi Theta Kappa is by invitation only and extended to students meeting specific eligibility criteria. In order to be eligible for membership, current enrolled students must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average and completed at least 12 credit hours of associate degree coursework.

For more information about WVU Parkersburg’s Sigma Omega chapter, contact advisors Marie Butler (mbutler1@wvup.edu), Andrew Rochus (arochus1@wvup.edu) or Andrew Walker (wwalker1@wvup.edu).

CUNY ASAP wins innovation award

Campus News

April 21, 2020

<https://cccnews.info/2020/04/21/cuny-asap-wins-innovation-award/>

The City University of New York’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, a nationally recognized student success initiative replicated around the country, has won the 2020 Innovations in American Government Award from the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. ASAP was one of four finalists for this year’s award selected by a team of policy experts, practitioners and

researchers for their success in addressing and promoting economic opportunity and social mobility.

For over 30 years, the Innovations in American Government Award has recognized public-sector programs at all levels of government that find efficient and creative solutions to persistent social problems. This year, the Innovations Award sought programs working to create economic opportunity for all in their communities. At nearly 53 percent, ASAP's three-year graduation rate is more than double the rate among non-ASAP associate degree-seeking students. Additionally, analysis of the first five cohorts shows that ASAP narrows existing graduation gaps for black and Hispanic males and that all subgroups of students benefit from the program.

"For the past 13 years, ASAP had an enormous impact on the lives of over 58,000 associate degree-seeking CUNY students, helping them achieve their educational dreams and transform their lives, while simultaneously earning its much-deserved recognition as a national model for student success and educational opportunity," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. "At this time of great national urgency and personal challenges, at CUNY we feel tremendous pride at the news that ASAP has been awarded the prestigious 2020 Innovations in American Government Award."

"CUNY through its ASAP program clearly demonstrates how supportive programs increase the completion rate of students able to complete their associates degrees," said Professor Stephen Goldsmith, the director of the Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Center. "The conclusions of our national panel of experts show that as we come out of the current crisis now more than ever what CUNY has done should be a model for community college and university systems across the country."

Since 2007, when ASAP was launched thanks to the generous support of the New York City Office of the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity (now NYC Opportunity), ASAP has helped students earn associate degrees within three years by providing a range of financial, academic and personal support services. Specific services offered by the program include comprehensive and personalized advising, career counseling, tutoring, waivers for tuition and

mandatory fees, public transportation passes, and additional financial assistance to defray the cost of textbooks.

The program's success has led to national replication of the ASAP model across five states. A random-assignment evaluation conducted by MDRC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research firm, recently found that a replication of ASAP at three community colleges in Ohio had doubled three-year graduation rates and increased transfers to four-year colleges by nearly 50 percent. Most recently, Arnold Ventures awarded a \$4.2 million grant to the Community and Technical College System (CTCS) of West Virginia, enabling West Virginia University Parkersburg and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College to launch their own ASAP-like programs this fall 2020.

ASAP, which is committed to graduating at least 50 percent of its student within three years, also offers special class scheduling options to ensure that ASAP students get the classes they need, are in classes with other ASAP students, and attend classes in convenient blocks of time to accommodate their work schedules. As students approach graduation, they receive special supports to help them transfer to four-year colleges or transition into the workforce, depending on their goals. The program now serves 25,000 students per year across nine partner colleges, and has been adapted to support baccalaureate students at two CUNY senior colleges.

The other 2020 Innovation in American Government finalists included: BenePhilly, a Philadelphia-based anti-poverty initiative that seeks to connect eligible citizens with public benefits; the Massachusetts Pathways to Economic Advancement Project, a workforce development initiative that aims to increase employment and educational opportunities for limited-English speakers; and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Business Relations Program, a state agency that works with employer partners to promote and support the hiring of individuals with disabilities.

Artsbridge announces award winners

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 23, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/04/artsbridge-announces-award-winners/>

PARKERSBURG — Recipients of the first Donna Campbell Award for Excellence and the Janet Frazier Awards for Excellence have been announced by Artsbridge.

The Donna Campbell student scholarship recipient is Jesse Eaton, a senior at Parkersburg High School.

The winner of the Janet Frazier Teacher Awards are: Scott Tignor, Ravenswood High School band teacher in the High School Fine Arts Teacher category; and Danielle Taylor, Neale Elementary School general music and choir teacher in the Elementary/Middle School Fine Arts Teacher category.

Eaton will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. He will study fine arts at the college level. Any high school senior that is planning to pursue fine arts in college is eligible to apply for this new scholarship.

Each of the teacher winners, who will receive \$500 for supplies for their classroom, were selected in a nomination process as anyone can nominate their favorite fine arts teacher. Tignor was nominated by a student and Taylor was nominated by a parent.

The selection process will begin again in the fall.

Both the Donna Campbell Award and the Janet Frazier Award were made possible by a fund established by Artsbridge by Parkersburg native Luke Frazier, the founder and director of the American Pops Orchestra in Washington, D.C. Both awards are named after Frazier's grandmothers.

Several individuals have also made donations to Artsbridge in support of these award funds.

Frazier handpicked the panel of scholarship readers from his own teachers and mentors and it consists of arts educators and advocates who have inspired and impacted his music career. Several entries were made this year and Artsbridge is hoping for more in the coming years as the awards become more well known.

For the last two years Frazier has brought the American Pops Orchestra to the Mid-Ohio Valley to perform in the Artsbridge Arts Tours. In the fall of 2018-19, it presented a tour of local schools with a production of *"A Very Silly Vaudeville."* In the fall of the 2019-20 school year, it produced *"The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly."*

In addition to the school performances, free public concerts were held at WVU-Parkersburg. The plan is to return this fall of 2020 with another school tour and another public performance.

WVU-P giving emergency relief to students affected by COVID-19 [video]

WTAP-TV

April 24, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-P-giving-emergency-relief-to-students-affected-by-COVID-19-569937701.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg is offering emergency grants to eligible students to assist with unexpected financial challenges related to COVID-19. This is coming after Gov. Jim Justice signed an order to provide college students affected by the virus to receive compensation. In turn, WVU-P is receiving \$1.7 million to provide to students that are eligible. The funding, made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will help students with expenses, such as food, technology and child care.

Fully-admitted students who are currently enrolled in at least one course in the Spring 2020 semester at WVU-Parkersburg and eligible to participate in programs under FAFSA can apply for a CARES emergency student grant.

Those that are eligible can find this on the university's website. However, there are those that aren't eligible to receive funds such as foreign-exchanged or those doing only online courses as of the start of the semester.

The priority application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2020. CARES emergency grant funds will be distributed to qualifying students as quickly as possible.

Financial challenge grants available to WVUP students

Parkersburg News and Sentinel | The Marietta Times

April 26, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/04/financial-challenge-grants-available-to-wvup-students/>

PARKERSBURG — Students at West Virginia University at Parkersburg are able to apply and determine eligibility for emergency grants to assist with unexpected financial challenges such as food, technology and child care related to COVID-19.

"We tried to make the application easy and flexible as possible so that we can help as many students as possible," said WVUP President Chris Gilmer.

Fully-admitted students who are currently enrolled in at least one course in the Spring 2020 semester at WVU-Parkersburg and eligible to participate in programs under FAFSA, can apply for a CARES emergency student grant. However, there are those that aren't eligible to receive funds, such as foreign-exchange or those doing only online courses as of the start of the semester. Those that are eligible can find the application on the university's website.

Gilmer said he encourages all students to apply.

WVUP was awarded \$1.7 million, half of which is going directly to the students, the other half will be for the institution, according to Gilmer.

The funding was made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The priority application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 8. CARES emergency grant funds will be distributed to qualifying students as quickly as possible.

“I want to stress the need for technologic upgrades our students have had to take on to finish their classes,” said Gilmer. *“Everyone had to transfer to online courses, many had to buy programs that school computers had access to or upgrade their systems to be able to continue their work.”*

The college has made the decision to keep classes online only for the summer semester as well, aside from a very few select courses, such as welding, that would be difficult to function completely online.

“We will begin to phase in the business operations of the college this summer, but we do not want to rush into it,” said Gilmer.

He said the college anticipates a normal fall semester, but that is subject to change.

WVUP has more than 3,000 students, according to Gilmer.

“We are continuing on the side of caution, are following the national and state guidelines and want to continue social distancing as long as needed to keep our staff and students safe.”

WVUP’s Gilmer receives Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society award

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 26, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/04/wvups-gilmer-receives-phi-theta-kappa-honor-society-award/>

PARKERSBURG — The president of WVU Parkersburg has received the Paragon Award for New Presidents by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

President Chris Gilmer is a 2020 recipient of the prestigious award for his support of student success.

Nominated by student officers in the WVU Parkersburg Sigma Omega Chapter of the PTK honor society, Gilmer has demonstrated support of student success and recognition of academic achievement, leadership and service among high-achieving students.

“We are so grateful for President Gilmer’s support of the Sigma Omega chapter at WVU Parkersburg,” said Victoria Poellot-Tauber, WVU Parkersburg student and Sigma Omega chapter vice president. *“His leadership, campus involvement and belief in students have changed the atmosphere on our campus to foster student success. He has in one way or another personally inspired each of us to become the leaders we see him to be.”*

Gilmer is one of only 28 college presidents throughout the nation recognized during PTK Catalyst 2020, the Society’s annual convention that took place virtually on April 16 and 17. More than 500 college presidents were eligible to receive the award.

“What means most to me is that this award comes from our students,” said Gilmer. *“I share it with them because our students are the reason and the joy for everything that I do. I thank Phi Theta Kappa and our local chapter for this honor and for their passion for student success.”*

In 2018, the college’s Sigma Omega chapter presented Gilmer, who is also a PTK alumni member, with the Phi Theta Kappa alumni medallion in recognition of embodying the organization’s true spirit of leadership, service, fellowship and continued academic excellence.

“We decided some time ago we wanted to nominate Dr. Gilmer for the Paragon Award for New Presidents because of his support and passion for our students,” said Marie Butler, WVU Parkersburg Sigma Omega chapter advisor. *“He has made our students a priority.”*

PTK students have a 91 percent student success rate, and research has shown that strong presidential leadership and support of PTK increases member success and the depth of their college experience.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders.

The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation’s colleges.

For more information about WVU Parkersburg’s Sigma Omega chapter, contact advisors Marie Butler (mbutler1@wvup.edu), Andrew Rochus (arochus1@wvup.edu) or Andrew Walker (wwalker1@wvup.edu).

WVU-P Students sing "America the Beautiful" [video]

WTAP-TV

April 27, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-P-Students-sing-America-the-Beautiful-569993061.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - The delay in the graduation of college seniors is something that is damaging to the ones that worked so hard to get to this point to have the COVID-19 pandemic stop them from the moment of walking and receiving their degree. But a few of the school's students provided a video of them singing "America the Beautiful" to lift their spirits.

It's the school's traditional song that they sing for the last time for their graduation, and because of these uncertain times, they needed to see something like this. And until that day in early August when they get the chance to walk in-person for their graduation, they will have this to continue to motivate them.

WVU-P Offers Grants To Returning Students

The St. Marys Oracle

April 28, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is offering emergency grants to eligible students to assist with unexpected financial challenges related to COVID-19.

The funding, made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will help students with expenses, such as food, technology and child care, during this uncertain time.

Fully-admitted, degree-seeking students who are enrolled in at least one course in the spring 2020 semester at WVU-Parkersburg and eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 can apply for a CARES emergency student grant at www.wvup.edu/cares.

Students must be logged in to their campus email account to access the application.

The priority application deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, May 8. CARES emergency grant funds will be distributed to qualifying students as quickly as possible.

In addition to transient, Early College and other non-matriculated students, those enrolled in fully online degree programs are not eligible for emergency financial assistance through the CARES Act.

“The Board of Governors, administration, faculty and staff of WVU Parkersburg are at all times committed to supporting our students in pursuit of their educational dreams,” said WVU-P president Dr. Chris Gilmer.

“At no time has our support been more essential than in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the months to follow. We are appreciative to the federal government for the stimulus funds which will help us to provide direct support to our students and also to provide strategic fiscal support for the institution as a whole.” Students will need to have a completed 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file to qualify for a grant.

“We thank West Virginia Sens. Manchin and Capito and our other elected leaders who worked hard to have higher education included in the stimulus package, and we pledge to our students that we will get these funds into your hands as quickly and easily as possible,” Gilmer added.

Students who do not have the means to complete the online application or need assistance should call the WVU Parkersburg Financial Aid Office at 304.424.8310 and leave a name, student I.D. number and phone number, or e-mail finaid@wvup.edu.

WVU-P offers grants to returning students

Wirt County Journal

April 28, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is offering emergency grants to eligible students to assist with unexpected financial challenges related to COVID-19.

The funding, made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will help students with expenses, such as food, technology and child care, during this uncertain time.

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WVU-Parkersburg plans to hold in-person classes this fall

WTAP-TV

April 30, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-Parkersburg-plans-to-hold-in-person-classes-this-fall-570091871.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) As students and faculty finish up the school year virtually, the administration at WVU-Parkersburg have been hard at work trying to figure out how the fall semester is going to look.

The college currently plans on having students and staff back on campus for the fall semester.

"Our plans are that we will open in face-to-face format, in the traditional format for fall instruction," said WVU-P President Chris Gilmer. "But, we will have a contingency in place for online instruction if something should change between now and then."

As they continue to make plans to re-open, the safety of the students and staff members will continue to be the school's main concern.

"We will be rolling out a re-entry to face-to-face business and face-to-face learning slowly and thoughtfully, so we can try to protect the health and safety of everyone," said Gilmer.

Area arts organizations to host virtual talent show [video]

WTAP-TV

May 4, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Area-arts-organizations-to-host-virtual-talent-show-570180581.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va (WTAP). - As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, area organizations are joining together to help local residents continue to engage with the arts by hosting a virtual talent show.



The show, called heARTS of the MOV, is sponsored by the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley, a joint initiative of the area’s arts organizations. WVU Parkersburg is the home of the collaborative, which is supported by a grant from the Ross Foundation. Episodes of the show will stream on Facebook each Friday at 7 P.M. Eastern for the next 10 weeks, beginning May 8.

The show will feature performances from the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, the Parkersburg High School a capella choir, the Sounds of Soul, and local poet and WVU Parkersburg professor Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz, among others. It will also include a pottery demonstration by professionals from the Parkersburg Arts Center.

“We’re not able to participate in concerts or go to see art show openings or plays because of the pandemic...So we wanted to give something back to the community,” said Chris Gilmer, president of WVU Parkersburg.

Arts Collaborative of the MOV Hosts Virtual Variety Show

Clutch MOV

May 1, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/arts-collaborative-of-the-mov-hosts-virtual-variety-show/>

heARTS of the MOV to present virtual variety show series featuring local, national and international artists

The heARTS of the MOV, a virtual variety show featuring the works of local artists and a host of national and international artists who support them, will air the first of 13 episodes Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m., on Facebook.

The Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley, a joint initiative of the area's arts organizations, is hosting the shows. WVU Parkersburg is the home of the collaborative, which is supported by a grant from the Ross Foundation.

The heARTS showcase is designed to highlight the talent in the Mid-Ohio Valley and some friends of the Mid-Ohio Valley that are scattered across the nation and around the world. Every week we will feature at least four entertainers from a variety of backgrounds, including singers, dancers, actors, novelists, bands, choirs, musicians, poets, painters, and potters to name a few.

“Art in all its form is powerful, healing and much needed right now,” said WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer. “The collaborative and all our partners want to bring something good, something positive, something encouraging and something new during this time of uncertainty.”

Host organizations are Artsbridge, the Parkersburg Actors Guild, the Parkersburg Art Center, The Historic Smoot Theatre, ArtBeat Studios at the Wood County Society, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra – Parkersburg, Schrader Youth Ballet, the Parkersburg Children's Museum and WVU Parkersburg.

Michael Enoch of Enoch Productions, a WVU Parkersburg alumnus, has volunteered his services to support the showcase and local artists. WVU Parkersburg students and staff are designing the event.

Join us on Facebook every Friday for an hour of diverse entertainment and a whole lot of fun. Mark your calendar for May 8 at 7 p.m. for the premiere of the heARTS Virtual Variety Hour.

The first episode will feature the award-winning Parkersburg High School A Capella Choir, a fun performance from the Classics of Soul, some art tips from the Parkersburg Art Center and a few other surprising and fun acts.

Visit the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley Facebook page to learn more about the initiative and the heARTS Virtual Variety Hour.

Give Local MOV campaign begins

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 5, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/05/give-local-mov-campaign-begins/>

PARKERSBURG — The seventh annual Give Local MOV is underway today when more than 50 organizations in the region will benefit from the benevolence of local contributors during a 24-hour period.

Give Local began at midnight and lasts until 11:59 p.m.

The 24-hour endeavor in 2019 raised more than \$361,000 for nonprofits in our community that help residents with programs impacting children and families, schools and education, housing, health care, the environment, economic development, arts, history and culture.

Participating organizations are: Actors Guild of Parkersburg; American Red Cross of the Ohio River Valley; Artsbridge; Bike and Hike Parkersburg; Blennerhassett Historical Foundation Inc.; Boys and Girls Club of Parkersburg; Children's Home Society of West Virginia; Colonial House; Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Mid-Ohio Valley; Doddridge County Community Foundation; Doddridge County Humane Society; Doddridge County Park; FaithLink; Family Crisis Intervention Center; Friends of Auburn Community Cemetery.

GFWC – West Virginia; Give Local MOV Stretch Pool; Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Ohio Valley; House to Home; Humane Society of Parkersburg; Little Kanawha Area Community Foundation; Mid-Ohio Valley Fellowship Home; Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department; Minnie Hamilton Health System; Ohio Valley University; Old Man Rivers; Parents and Friends of the Hearing Impaired; Parkersburg Area Community Foundation and Regional Affiliates; Parkersburg Art Center.

Parkersburg Catholic Schools; Parkersburg Choral Society; Parkersburg High School Foundation; Parkersburg Pride; Parkersburg South High School Choir; Parkersburg YMCA; Project Yoga MOV; Ritchie County 4-H Leaders Association; Ritchie County Community Foundation; Save A Kitty Feral Cat Program Inc.; SW Resources; The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley; The Children's Listening Place.

The Salvation Army – Parkersburg; Voices for Children Foundation – CASA Program; Voices of the Streets — Essentially Yours; Westbrook Health Services; West Virginia Symphony Orchestra – Parkersburg; Williamstown High School; Wood County 4-H Camp Trustees; Wood County Christian School; Wood County Historical and Preservation Society; Wood County Senior Citizens Association, Inc; Wood County Society; WVU at Parkersburg Foundation.

Participants also receive additional prizes.

The agency that gets the first donation will receive \$500, a prize sponsored by Warfield Realty

An Early Bird Prize of \$500 will go to the organization with the most dollars raised between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. The prize is sponsored by Williamstown Bank.

Golden Ticket awards of \$500 will be chosen by random drawing among organizations that received a donation between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. The prizes are sponsored by Intra-State Insurance, Erie Insurance and Star Plastics, respectively.

A \$500 Lunch Break Prize sponsored by Curtis Miller Insurance will go to the organization with the most donors between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Happy Hour Prize of \$500 will go to the organization that has raised the most money between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. It is sponsored by Mountain River Physical Therapy.

The Night Owl Prize of \$500 goes to the group with the most donors between 10 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. The prize is sponsored by Ashby Glen and Tremont Apartments.

Organizations may win only one hourly prize during Give Local MOV 2020 and one Golden Ticket prize drawing. Organizations that win hourly prizes are not eligible for Golden Ticket prizes.

For organizations to be eligible to participate, they must be a 501(c)(3) public charity or school, benefit from a charitable fund at the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation and Regional Affiliates of Doddridge County, Ritchie County and the Little Kanawha Area, participated in an orientation and signed the Give Local MOV Memo of Understanding and created their profiles on GiveLocalMOV.org by March 1.

The minimum donation is \$10, but there is no maximum. Contributions, which are tax deductible, will be received and distributed by the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation.

Donations must be made by credit or debit card or through the ACH feature available through the GiveLocalMOV.org website and designated to the applicant organization between the hours of the drive. Donations made on any other day or by any other method cannot be counted for purposes of the prizes or matching funds.

Contributors also can donate with a mobile device at <https://www.givelocalmov.org> on your mobile device. Donations, however, can not be pre-scheduled.

Groups will receive contributions within a few weeks. The Community Foundation will distribute donations, prizes and matching funds in a single check.

Platinum Sponsors for the seventh annual event are Superior Toyota, Williamstown Bank and the Williamstown Fund for Excellence.

Gold sponsors are Wells Fargo and Erie Insurance. Silver sponsors are Leavitt Funeral Home, Star Plastics and Harry and Kathe Deitzler. Bronze sponsors are Comfort Keepers, West Union Bank, West Virginia Central Federal Credit Union, Robert J. and Ernestine Gissy Family Foundation and Christ Lutheran Church.

Media Partners are CAS Cable, The Parkersburg News and Sentinel, V96.9 and Lite Rock 93R.

Friends are Ashby Glen & Tremont Apartments, Marie and Joe Caltrider , Commonwealth Financial Services, Community Bank, Earl and Jeane Curry Charitable Fund of the PACF, Debbie and Randy Dick, First Lutheran Church, Judy and Bruce Holmes, Intra-State Insurance, Kam and David Lawson, Curtis Miller Insurance, Mountain River Physical Therapy, Warfield Realtors – Bob Wright and WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center.

WVU-P's Child Development Program Earns National Ranking

St. Mary's Oracle

May 6, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has again been recognized as the most affordable college in the nation for its online bachelor's degree in child development by OnlineU.

The published rankings help prospective students find an online degree program that matches their budget and career aspirations by comparing colleges across the U.S.

"To be number one in the nation is something almost impossible to achieve, but to do it in back-to-back years is beyond any set expectations," said Dr. David Lancaster, professor and chair of the Education Division at WVU-P. "I'm so proud of our child development program in achieving this status."

WVU-Parkesburg offers a highly flexible and accommodating online program for those interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in child development. Through a career ladder approach, students can move seamlessly from a one-year certificate to a two-year associate degree and then on to a four-year bachelor's degree without losing any credits along the way.

All students, no matter where they live, receive in-state tuition and can earn a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in child development entirely online for \$2,652 or less per semester, depending on course load. Additionally, WVU Parkersburg's tuition charges are capped, so any credits taken in excess of 12 credit hours per semester are offered at no additional charge.

Students in the program gain the knowledge to earn credentials in the child development field to create positive learning environments in child care centers, HeadStart and professional positions at the local and state level for young children to learn and grow their emotional, social and cognitive skills. Program courses include Guiding Young Children, Healthy Environments and Infant and Toddler Development.

Students from West Virginia, Ohio, Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Georgia and California are currently pursuing or have completed the online child development degree program through WVU-P.

OnlineU's 2020 Most Affordable Child Development Degrees Online rankings represent schools across the nation that are committed to providing quality, low-cost online bachelor's degrees in

child development. Schools are ranked based on factors such as affordability, accessibility and quality. The tuition rates of 193 accredited colleges were manually researched and collected to determine and rank the most affordable options.

Questions about WVU-P's child development program, can be directed to Christi Calvert at 304.424.8000, ext. 430, or e-mail christi.calvert@wvup.edu.

WVU Parkersburg student named Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar

ClutchMOV

May 7, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-student-named-coca-cola-academic-team-bronze-scholar/>

Victoria Poellot-Tauber, West Virginia University at Parkersburg student and Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Omega Chapter vice president, has been named a 2020 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for demonstrating academic excellence, leadership, and excellence in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze scholars with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. Each scholar also receives a commemorative medallion.

Students are nominated for the academic team by their college administrators based upon an application they submit. One of the most important pieces of the application is the essay portion. Poellot-Tauber's application was chosen by Sigma Omega Chapter advisors for her ability to encourage and motivate others, using her past experiences as inspiration.

Victoria Poellot-Tauber, West Virginia University at Parkersburg student and Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Omega Chapter vice president, has been named a 2020 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for demonstrating academic excellence, leadership, and excellence in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

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“Victoria is an achiever! She aims for excellence in all she does,” said Marie Butler, WVU Parkersburg Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Omega Chapter advisor. “She sets high goals and isn’t afraid to accomplish them, no matter how difficult they may be. She knows what it means to fall, but most importantly, she knows how to get back up and doesn’t allow disappointments to stop her from the goals she has set.”

Ambitious in her pursuits, Poellot-Tauber will graduate in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting; Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting and Financial Management; Associate of Science in Business Administration and a Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice.

Phi Theta Kappa is a premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges. The society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations.

WVU Parkersburg student named Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar

WVVA-TV

May 7, 2020

<https://wvva.com/2020/05/07/wvu-parkersburg-student-named-coca-cola-academic-team-bronze-scholar/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WVVA) – Victoria Poellot-Tauber, West Virginia University at Parkersburg student and Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Omega Chapter vice president, has been named a 2020 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar.

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WVU to furlough 875 employees

Parkersburg News and Sentinel/The Weirton Daily Times

May 8, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/05/west-virginia-university-to-furlough-875-employees/>

<https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/news/local-news/2020/05/wvu-to-furlough-875-employees/>

MORGANTOWN — West Virginia University has announced it will enact temporary furloughs beginning May 24.

In a letter to staff Thursday and a press release Friday, Rob Alsop, vice president of strategic initiatives for WVU, announced approximately 875 employees would be furloughed for a projected savings of about \$4 million. The affected employees were contacted Friday, according to officials, and will continue their benefits during the furlough.

The furloughs would remain in effect until June 28 or July 26, "*depending on operational needs,*" Alsop said.

Officials said the furloughs are only for West Virginia University faculty and staff and do not affect employees of WVU Medicine.

The temporary furloughs are due to the spread of COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, and a shutdown of schools and college campuses throughout the state and country.

“West Virginia University must continue to limit our on-campus operations for the foreseeable future to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19,” Alsop said. *“We have determined it is necessary for the University to move forward with a temporary furlough program for designated staff based on our current financial conditions and operational needs.”*

Alsop said officials believe all furloughed employees will be back at work by the end of July.

“I can assure you we did not take the decision to move forward with a temporary furlough program lightly,” he said. *“We truly believe our people are what sets our university apart, which is why this decision was so difficult.*

“However, I am also confident this decision is necessary to ensure the financial sustainability of our institution,” Alsop said.

Gov. Jim Justice, speaking Friday during his daily coronavirus briefing from the State Capitol Building, said he was not familiar with the details of WVU’s furloughs.

“As far as WVU, I don’t know the specifics about that, but we have significant dollars that we know are going to flow to the higher ed community from the federal government as well,” Justice said.

The Governor was referring to the \$20.2 million set aside for WVU as part of the \$2 trillion federal C.A.R.E.S. Act. Congress set aside \$14 billion for U.S. colleges and universities, with amounts weighted towards schools with large student populations who qualify for Pell grants. West Virginia’s four-year colleges and universities received a total of \$24 million, though Justice said the federal government was still working on guidelines for use of the dollars.

“There’s all kinds of things that are still unanswered, but as we continue to go forward and everything, we just try to knock them down with the rules and guidelines that we get,” Justice said. *“As we keep going forward, that’s I know to tell you. We’ve got to get the rules and the guidelines from the federal government in regards to different things we can do.”*

Chris Gilmer, president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg, said the move by WVU would not affect the community college. WVU-P split from WVU several years ago, but under a partnership agreement continues to use the WVU name and logo as well as some services.

“WVU Parkersburg values our long and mutually productive partnership with the state’s flagship university, West Virginia University,” Gilmer said Friday in a statement. *“WVU Parkersburg is, however, an independently accredited, locally-governed, separate institution. WVU Parkersburg*

is in very sound fiscal condition and does not currently anticipate any layoffs, furloughs or reductions in force for faculty or staff as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Gilmer said while summer and fall enrollment looks *“positive at this time”* and the college plans to resume face-to-face classes in August, officials will continue to monitor the situation with COVID-19 and make any necessary adjustments.

Artists take to the virtual stage for heARTS of the MOV

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 11, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/05/artists-take-to-the-virtual-stage-for-hearts-variety-show/>

PARKERSBURG — The heARTS of the MOV, a virtual variety show featuring the works of local artists and a host of national and international artists who support them, aired their first of 13 episodes on Facebook Friday. The Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley, a joint initiative of the area’s arts organizations, is hosting the shows.

The heARTS showcase is designed to highlight the talent in the Mid-Ohio Valley and some friends of the Mid-Ohio Valley that are scattered across the nation and around the world. Every week’s episode will feature at least four entertainers from a variety of backgrounds, including singers, dancers, actors, novelists, bands, choirs, musicians, poets, painters and potters.

“I am so excited to be a part of this collaboration and get the chance to spread a little happiness and joy at this time,” said RJ Lowe, an actor and director with the Actors Guild of Parkersburg during the episode.

The first episode featured the Parkersburg High School A Capella Choir; a performance and interview from American R&B and soul singers: Theo Peoples, Joe Coleman and Joe Blunt; some art tips from the Parkersburg Art Center; some poetry reading; songs from shows put on by the actors guild and a few other acts.

Blunt, with the Voices of Classic Soul and former singer with the Drifters, was thrilled to be a part of the collaboration and share music with people.

“Historically, music has always been there to help us back up when we are down,” said Blunt. *“In times like these when the whole world is upside-down, people reach for music to soothe the soul.”*

“Music and love are a great combination to get us through hard times, especially when what we really need is each other, but we have to be apart,” said Coleman, with the Voices of Classic Soul and former singer with the Platters. *“Because when we listen to music, we can reflect on great times when we had together.”*

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is home of the Arts Collaborative, which is supported by a grant from the Ross Foundation.

“Art in all its form is powerful, healing and much needed right now,” said WVUP President Chris Gilmer. *“The collaborative and all our partners want to bring something good, something positive, something encouraging and something new during this time of uncertainty.”*

Host organizations are Artsbridge, the Parkersburg Actors Guild, the Parkersburg Art Center, The Historic Smoot Theatre, ArtBeat Studios at the Wood County Society, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra – Parkersburg, Schrader Youth Ballet, the Parkersburg Children’s Museum and WVU Parkersburg.

Michael Enoch of Enoch Productions, a WVUP alumnus, has volunteered his services to support the showcase and local artists. WVUP students and staff designed the event.

Each episode, including the one from Friday night can be viewed on the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley Facebook page.

Virtual showcase of MOV arts

The Marietta Times

May 11, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2020/05/virtual-showcase-of-mov-arts/>

PARKERSBURG — The heARTS of the MOV, a virtual variety show featuring the works of local artists and a host of national and international artists who support them, aired their first of 13 episodes on Facebook Friday. The Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley, a joint initiative of the area’s arts organizations, is hosting the shows.

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Each episode can be viewed on the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley Facebook page.

WVU-P program earns ‘most affordable’ rating

Wirt County Journal

May 12, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has again been recognized as the most affordable college in the nation for its online bachelor’s degree in child development by OnlineU. The published rankings help prospective students find an online degree program that matches their budget and career aspirations by comparing colleges across the U.S.

“To be number one in the nation is something almost impossible to achieve, but to do it in back-to-back years is beyond any set expectations,” said Dr. David Lancaster, professor and chair of the Education Division at WVU-P. “I’m so proud of our child development program in achieving this status.”

WVU-Parkesburg offers a highly flexible and accommodating online program for those interested in pursuing a bachelor’s degree in child development. Through a career ladder

approach, students can move seamlessly from a one-year certificate to a two-year associate degree and then on to a four-year bachelor's degree without losing any credits along the way.

All students, no matter where they live, receive in-state tuition and can earn a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in child development entirely online for \$2,652 or less per semester, depending on course load. Additionally, WVU Parkersburg's tuition charges are capped, so any credits taken in excess of 12 credit hours per semester are offered at no additional charge.

Students in the program gain the knowledge to earn credentials in the child development field to create positive learning environments in child care centers, HeadStart and professional positions at the local and state level for young children to learn and grow their emotional, social and cognitive skills. Program courses include Guiding Young Children, Healthy Environments and Infant and Toddler Development.

Students from West Virginia, Ohio, Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Georgia and California are currently pursuing or have completed the online child development degree program through WVU-P.

OnlineU's 2020 Most Affordable Child Development Degrees Online rankings represent schools across the nation that are committed to providing quality, low-cost online bachelor's degrees in child development. Schools are ranked based on factors such as affordability, accessibility and quality. The tuition rates of 193 accredited colleges were manually researched and collected to determine and rank the most affordable options.

Questions about WVU-P's child development program, can be directed to Christi Calvert at 304.424.8000, ext. 430, or e-mail christi.calvert@wvup.edu.

WVU-P awarded \$1.7M grant from CARES Act

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 13, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/05/wvu-p-awarded-1-7m-grant-from-cares-act/>

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, West Virginia University at Parkersburg was awarded \$1.7 million, half of which is going directly to the students, while the other half will be for the institution, according to WVUP President Chris Gilmer.

Students were previously encouraged to apply for those funds via an online application.

"Many students applied, but many did not," said Gilmer. "I heard multiple students say that although they figured they would be eligible, that they still had jobs and wanted to save the funds for those who really needed them, but we wanted to help everyone we could," said Gilmer

So, on Friday, after the application closed, eligibility for all students was verified and grants were processed for 1,048 eligible students totaling \$876,544.

According to Gilmer, all eligible students will be receiving \$650 in grant money by Monday, and those who applied and showed a greater need for assistance will receive a little over \$1,300.

“The individual grant award amounts were determined by the administration of West Virginia University at Parkersburg based on the belief that all students attending classes on our Parkersburg and Ripley campus were in some way financially impacted by the disruption of switching to 100 percent online courses and the closing of our facilities,” said Gilmer.

The CARES funds will be released to the eligible students regardless of whether they owe any balance to WVU-P for current or future classes.

“If you do not need your grant funds for other expenses, and want them applied to a balance, you will need to contact the Business Office after you receive your grant funds and make a payment arrangement,” according to an email sent out by the college.

The email said that students are not required to use this grant to pay a balance at WVU-P, in fact it is intended for other expenses that they may have.

“It is so important to be able to put money into our students’ hands at this time, because historically college students are in the low income bracket as it is, and many have been without jobs, or have been sacrificing as it is, working a job that doesn’t pay well but works with their school schedule,” said Gilmer. *“We hope this grant money helps ease the stress that some students are feeling, because no one should have to make a choice to pay bills, feed their children or continue their education and secure their futures.”*

Gilmer said the college has received the second half of the \$1.7 million, but that they have not decided how the money will be spent.

“We are going to allocate a portion of those funds to go towards students in need, but we have not determined the specifics yet,” said Gilmer.

WVU Parkersburg awards \$876,544 in CARES Act grants to students

WTAP-TV

May 13, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-Parkersburg-awards-876544-in-CARES-Act-grants-to-students-570439571.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. – West Virginia University at Parkersburg has acted quickly to award more than \$876,000 in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to students in need with financial expenses related to COVID-19.

The college invited qualifying students to apply for an emergency grant to assist with food, technology and child care expenses needed to continue their higher educational pursuits. The grant application period ran from April 24 to May 8.

Financial Aid staff reviewed the applications and awarded a total of \$876,544 in funding to 1,046 students, with grants ranging from \$650 to \$1,300. The college decided to award a \$650 cash grant to every eligible student, plus additional funds to those who filled out an application indicating greater financial need. Students awarded a grant will receive funds by as early as Friday, May 15 via the student's requested refund method (direct deposit, BankMobile VIBE deposit or paper check in the mail).

"While WVU Parkersburg is delighted to be able to support our eligible students with these grants, we wish we had been able to give every student a grant in this difficult time," said WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer. "We appreciate the federal government for providing us with these funds, but we want our students and their families to realize that we were given strict federal guidelines about which students would qualify and which would not. The University had to follow those guidelines, but we did not develop them at the local level."

WVU Parkersburg administration determined the individual grant award amounts based on the belief that all students attending classes at the Parkersburg Campus or Jackson County Center were in some way financially impacted by the disruption of switching to 100 percent online courses and the closing of its facilities.

"We recognize that all of our students have been challenged financially and in other ways by this pandemic, and we want all of them to know that we support them and are here for them. We look forward to welcoming a large number of students for summer school in the coming weeks and a large group of new and returning students for the fall semester. Everyone is welcome at WVU Parkersburg, and we hope everyone will choose to take advantage of a high-quality, local higher education," added Gilmer.

For more information, go to www.wvup.edu/CARES-Emergency-Grants.

College student leaders from across West Virginia share excitement, ideas, concerns about returning to campus this fall

WVCTCS Press Release

May 14, 2020

CHARLESTON, W.VA. – Student government leaders from colleges and universities across West Virginia gathered virtually today for the West Virginia Student Leadership Conference, which is hosted each year by the state's Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) and Community and Technical College System (CTCS). Discussions focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their education and how they, through their leadership roles, can help as institutions plan for the fall semester and beyond.

Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Interim Chancellor of the Commission and Chancellor of the CTCS, kicked off today's conference by asking the students to share their experiences in switching from in-person to online classes during their spring semester, as well as their thoughts about potentially returning to campus this fall.

“I know how challenging these last couple of months have been for all of you. Your spring semesters were interrupted. You and your professors had to move quickly to online classes. And the picture of your upcoming fall semester isn’t perfectly clear,” Chancellor Tucker said. “That’s why, today, I want to hear from you. I want to make sure that the decisions we’re making at the statewide level reflect the real experiences of our students.”

Students’ thoughts about the fall semester were varied, with some, like Alexis Carder, a rising junior studying strategic communications at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, sharing an eagerness for returning to campus.

“I’m very excited to get back to the WVU Parkersburg campus,” Carder said. “I focus better there than I do at home.”

Others, like Annalisa Hall, a rising junior studying business administration/marketing at Fairmont State University, shared positive experiences with online courses.

“One of my professors did a voiceover to his class PowerPoints and then did chapter quizzes after,” Hall said. “Hearing him explaining everything and not just reading was extremely helpful.”

The Commission and CTCS are coordinating efforts across the state’s public higher education institutions to ensure they have access to personal protective equipment, including masks, and other safety items for when students return to campus. The agencies are also working with state leaders and institutions to address issues related to broadband connectivity to help strengthen online course delivery.

The West Virginia Student Leadership Conference is typically held each year at Jackson’s Mill. Due to COVID-19, this year’s event was held via Zoom. Today’s sessions addressed combatting stress and mental health concerns, as well as tools for student leaders in this time of change.

Virtual variety show brings artists, musicians together

WOWK-TV

May 18, 2020

<https://www.wowktv.com/news/virtual-variety-show-brings-artists-musicians-together/>

CHARLESTON, WV (WOWK) – These are [The Carpenter Ants](#) and this is the first time the Charleston band is playing together since the pandemic began.

Michael Lipton is the band’s guitarist.

“As a band we’ve been together for almost 35 years and this is the longest time in 35 years that we haven’t played or seen each other,” Lipton said.

Charlie Tee is the lead vocalist.

“Had to get kind of loosened up a little bit I guess is the world but once we started playing it was fine, just like old times,” he said.

The Carpenter Ants got back together in one place for this concert... which was recorded for the “Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley” at [WVU Parkersburg](#).

The Arts Collaborative weaves performances like this one with other artists into a show called “HeARTS of the MOV” on Facebook.

“Several of us got together and we came up with the idea of doing sort of an old-fashioned variety show,” explained Senta Goudy, the Executive Director of Civic Engagement and Innovation at WVU Parkersburg.

She says no one gets paid and it’s not a fundraiser, but it’s a way to bring artists together and bring joy to anyone at home who wants to watch.

“We want to do what we love to do and that’s entertain and be in the hearts and minds of our community at this time,” she said.

“We’ll try anything. Once. And this sounds like an interesting idea,” Lipton said.

The Carpenter Ants also include Ted Harrison on bass and Jupie Little on drums.

As much as they enjoyed this experience, they can’t wait to get out and play in front of a live audience.

“We had a lot of shows booked through May and June and we had an overseas tour planned in July to Slovakia and that was cancelled,” Lipton said.

“Just being out there and playing and enjoying people and having them enjoy us. That will be the best medicine of all,” said Tee.

Medicine for the soul which all of us could use during times like these.

The virtual variety show is called “HeARTS of the MOV” for Mid-Ohio Valley.

The first of eleven episodes began last week on the Arts Collaborative’s Facebook page.

The Carpenter Ants will appear at 7 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2020. Click [here](#) to watch the show.

From: **Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley** <info@movchamber.org>

Date: Fri, May 15, 2020 at 8:45 AM

Subject: Would you like to learn some new skills on being a leader in a time of crisis?

To: <tjacks10@wvup.edu>



Workforce and Economic Development

Please join us for a Virtual Lunch and Learn Webinar on

Leadership in a Time of Crisis

Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Business leaders have recently found themselves in the midst of challenges they had not previously planned for. Whether it's a scenario that is happening in the home, the community, or on the job – skills necessary to successfully lead in a time of crisis are essential not only now, but for any potential future challenges, we may face.

Our team of leadership coaches has developed methods and tools which will help you overcome these hurdles and ensure that your efforts make a positive impact.

Meet the Experts

- **Ann Y. Frost, BS, MA, MSL** – Since 2012, Ann has been a member of the training staff for WVU-Parkersburg/Workforce and Economic Development; specifically, creating and delivering customized training focused on

leadership, effective communication, employee engagement, and teamwork.

- **Laura Prisc** has a burning desire to awaken you so you may live a more creative, fulfilling, and satisfying life! She holds a variety of degrees and certifications around Coaching, Teaching Leadership, Communication, and building Strengths-Based organizations.
- **Mary Barbara Hanna** joined the WVU-P WED training team in 2018 after living and working in Hong Kong for a number of years. With a background in Adult Learning and Development, she brings a wealth of experience in cultural communications, leadership development, and Emotional Intelligence

Register to Attend

If you plan on attending, please register using the "Yes, I'll be there" button below.

The registration will give you access to the Zoom link for this meeting.

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 **Greg Garvin** 8 hrs · 

*Parkersburg Catholic High School
Class of 2020*

  

Stephen Garvin
West Virginia University
at Parkersburg
Welding

Parkersburg Catholic Schools Like Page
11 hrs · 

Today, Stephen Garvin is our featured senior! This is his senior quote:
"If you ain't first, you're last!"
-Ricky Bobby

 Laura Tracewell and 47 others 15 Comments

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View previous comments 4 of 15

 **Jackie McBryer** added 2 new photos. Congratulations Stephen!!xoxo
44 minutes ago

 **Teresa Blaker** Congratulations Stephen 🙌

WVU-P Gives Students Grants Totaling \$876,000

St. Marys Oracle

May 16, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has awarded more than \$876,000 in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to students in need with financial expenses related to COVID-19.

The college invited qualifying students to apply for an emergency grant to assist with food, technology and child care expenses needed to continue their higher educational pursuits. The grant application period ran from April 24-May 8.

Financial aid staff reviewed the applications and awarded a total of \$876,544 in funding to 1,046 students, with grants ranging from \$650-\$1,300. The college decided to award a \$650 cash grant to every eligible student, plus additional funds to those who filled out an application indicating greater financial need. Students awarded a grant received funds by as early as Friday, May 15, via the student's requested refund method (direct deposit, BankMobile VIBE deposit or paper check in the mail).

"While WVU-Parkesburg is delighted to be able to support our eligible students with these grants, we wish we had been able to give every student a grant in this difficult time," said president Chris Gilmer. "We appreciate the federal government for providing us with these funds, but we want our students and their families to realize that we were given strict federal guidelines about which students would qualify and which would not. The university had to follow those guidelines, but we did not develop them at the local level."

WVU-Parkesburg administration determined the individual grant award amounts based on the belief that all students attending classes at the Parkersburg Campus or Jackson County Center were in some way financially impacted by the disruption of switching to 100 percent online courses and the closing of its facilities.

"We recognize that all of our students have been challenged financially and in other ways by this pandemic, and we want all of them to know that we support them and are here for them. We look forward to welcoming a large number of students for summer school in the coming weeks and a large group of new and returning students for the fall semester."

WVUP student a Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 16, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/05/wvup-student-a-coca-cola-academic-team-bronze-scholar/>

Set to receive \$1K scholarship

PARKERSBURG — Victoria Poellot-Tauber, a student at West Virginia University at Parkersburg and Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Omega Chapter vice president, has been named a 2020 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar.

One of the most important pieces of the application is the essay portion. Poellot-Tauber's application was chosen by Sigma Omega Chapter advisors for her ability to encourage and motivate others, using her past experiences as inspiration.

"Victoria is an achiever. She aims for excellence in all she does," said Marie Butler, WVU Parkersburg Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Omega Chapter adviser. *"She sets high goals and isn't afraid to accomplish them, no matter how difficult they may be. She knows what it means to fall, but most importantly, she knows how to get back up and doesn't allow disappointments to stop her from the goals she has set."*

Poellot-Tauber will graduate in May 2021 with a bachelor's of science in business administration with a concentration in accounting, a bachelor's of applied science in business administration with a concentration in accounting and financial management, an associate's of science in business administration and a certificate and associate's of applied science in criminal justice.

Phi Theta Kappa is a premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges.

The society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze scholars with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually.

Each scholar also receives a commemorative medallion.

Students are nominated for the academic team by their college administrators based upon an application they submit.

Wood County Schools works to connect students for summer, fall

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 16, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/05/wood-county-schools-works-to-connect-students-for-summer-fall/>

PARKERSBURG — Wood County Schools is taking steps to ensure students have access to technology and the Internet this summer and fall.

The Wood County Board of Education on Tuesday approved a nearly \$1.5 million purchase order for iPads. With the purchase, the district will now have 12,000 iPads, enough to provide 1-to-1 access for all Wood County Schools students.

Superintendent Will Hosaflook said the purchase was made possible through federal CARES funding distributed for the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’re definitely expanding our realm in terms of technology and making sure we are prepared if this would happen in the fall,” he said.

Hosaflook said officials have developed *“a very robust, versatile summer school”* program which will allow for virtual learning during the summer break and will help the district plan ahead for the fall if remote learning is needed.

“We’re utilizing the teachers, we’re utilizing their connections” to students, Hosaflook said *“What we do not want to happen is for those connections to be lost over the summer, so we have reached out to many teachers and many programs to continue summer school virtually.”*

Hosaflook said part of that requires making sure students not only have Internet access, but also the appropriate technology.

“The question is, how do we do virtual summer school if the kids don’t have devices? Well, we’re making that happen,” he said. *“We’re making that happen by passing out iPads and computers.”*

Hosaflook said the district’s attendance department has been distributing hundreds of refurbished laptops, reaching about 641 students so far.

The district also plans to outfit buses with wifi *“cradles”* which can allow up to 150 devices to connect to the Internet. The buses will be placed in areas of the county with low to no Internet access, Hosaflook said.

“I know that Mineral Wells and Blennerhasset have a hard time with wifi access, so we are going to start parking a bus up there,” he said.

Two of the buses will be available this summer, and the district is working to create additional wifi hotspots.

“We’ve established three cradle spots in our substation fire department throughout the county, especially in rural areas,” he said.

Hosaflook said all Wood County Schools students will have the ability to log into the wifi systems, as will students who attend West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

“We have a great collaboration with WVUP, and they reached out to us,” Hosaflook said. “We have a lot of students who attend WVUP from Wood County, so we are helping them out as well.”

WVU Parkersburg Launches Ascend Program

Clutch MOV

May 18, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-launches-ascend-program/>

West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s Ascend program is on track to start this fall. Accelerating Student Completion: Encouraging New Dreams (Ascend) is a program created to help more students earn certificate and associate degrees within three years by increasing financial, academic, and personal supports.

Funded by a \$1.7 million, five-year grant from Arnold Ventures, Ascend is modeled after the Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs (ASAP) at City University of New York’s (CUNY) colleges. WVU Parkersburg is one of two community colleges in W.Va. selected to pilot this program.

WVU Parkersburg Ascend students will receive textbook assistance to reduce or eliminate the cost of books; a monthly Kroger gift card to help pay for groceries or gas; a tuition gap waiver covering remaining tuition and mandatory fees left after applying a student’s financial aid award; a devoted advisor from start to graduation; special registration options to get students the courses that best fit their schedule; and enhanced academic and career assistance from campus support areas.

As students approach graduation, they will receive additional assistance to transfer to a bachelor’s degree program at WVU Parkersburg, another four-year college or enter the workplace, depending on their goals.

To be eligible for Ascend, students must have less than 15 college credits (credits obtained by high school students are not counted unless a student has 30 or more credits), minimum 2.0 GPA and enroll in an Ascend-approved major. Students must qualify for in-state tuition and re-apply for FAFSA each year, accepting all federal and state grants and scholarships.

“WVU Parkersburg is proud to begin this partnership and provide more benefits to our students as they achieve their academic goals,” said Jennifer Forster, WVU Parkersburg Ascend director. “CUNY has positively impacted the lives of so many students and we hope to do the same with these invaluable resources.”

A study by Levin and Garcia (2017) found a 30.8% increase completion rate for students participating in the ASAP program as well as more students graduating and placing into the

workplace. WVU Parkersburg hopes to replicate these success rates, increasing the number of students who enter and graduate from high-demand programs, and then move on to high-wage jobs.

To learn more, contact ascend@wvup.edu or 304.424.8353. Apply to WVU Parkersburg Ascend at wvup.edu/ascend. The priority registration deadline is July 1, 2020.

WVU-P launching program to help students ‘Ascend’

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 19, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/05/wvu-p-launching-program-to-help-students-ascend/>

PARKERSBURG — A program at West Virginia University at Parkersburg to help students earn certificates and associate degrees by increasing financial, academic and personal support will be starting this fall, university officials announced Monday.

In a Zoom presentation, university officials, state college officials and a representative from the Arnold Ventures Foundation announced WVU-P’s Accelerating Student Completion: Encouraging New Dreams (Ascend) Program.

Funded by a \$1.7 million, five-year grant from Arnold Ventures, Ascend is modeled after the Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs (ASAP) at City University of New York’s (CUNY) colleges. WVU Parkersburg is one of two community colleges in West Virginia selected to pilot this \$4.2 million program. The other is Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in Martinsburg.

“This is the largest single foundation grant in the history of West Virginia University at Parkersburg,” WVU-P President Chris Gilmer said. *“It is indeed a transformational gift for a university of our size in rural West Virginia.*

“It is to strengthen the retention and completion rate of our associate degree students. We are very proud of our focus on being a community college which also offers bachelor’s degrees. We are hoping those who complete their associate degrees here will go on and pursue their bachelor’s degrees here.”

The grant will allow WVU-P to offer additional support for students from around the area to improve their lives and the lives of their families through education, said Donna Smith, chairwoman of the Board of Governors for West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

“Student success is the top priority of the college’s leadership and everyone who serves there,” she said.

Sarah Armstrong Tucker, chancellor of the West Virginia Community and Technical College System (CTCS), said the two schools will be providing financial support so students will be able to finish their certificates and associate degrees.

“In order for the State of West Virginia to be successful to grow its economy we need at least 60 percent of our population to have some form of post-secondary credentials by 2030,” she said.

“That is a big leap.

“This grant will get us much close to reaching that goal.”

Students will be supported who are going into such fields as advanced manufacturing, information technology, welding, health care and other fields.

“(Once completed) they will have promising careers waiting for them here in West Virginia,” Tucker said.

WVU Parkersburg Ascend students will receive textbook assistance to reduce or eliminate the cost of books; a monthly Kroger gift card to help pay for groceries or gas; a tuition gap waiver covering remaining tuition and mandatory fees left after applying a student’s financial aid award; a devoted advisor from start to graduation; special registration options to get students the courses that best fit their schedule; and enhanced academic and career assistance from campus support areas.

“We want students to graduate, graduate on time and enter into the workforce as expeditiously as possible,” said Chad Crumbaker, provost.

Over the past couple of years, the university has added additional support programs as students have pursued degrees.

“This grant, this opportunity, will allow us to go up to the next level and increase those completion rates for our students so they can be successful,” Crumbaker said.

Erin Crossett, evidence based policy manager from Arnold Ventures, said the ASAP model is a proven way of increasing the number of students graduating, significantly increasing the graduation rates in states where it has been applied.

“In West Virginia, we are excited to see the program expanded in the hopes more West Virginians can graduate with occupational focused degrees that lead to higher wage jobs that are in demand in local economies, increasing their long-term earnings and contributing to the West Virginia economy,” Crossett said.

Crumbaker said they are planning to have 60 students in the initial start of the program this fall. They are planning to get that number up to around 120 as the program grows.

“We will be able to serve many students and have them successfully completed on time,” he said.

To be eligible for Ascend, students must have fewer than 15 college credits (credits obtained by high school students are not counted unless a student has 30 or more credits), minimum 2.0 GPA and enroll in an Ascend-approved major. Students must qualify for in-state tuition and re-apply for FAFSA each year, accepting all federal and state grants and scholarships. Those in the program will be enrolled as full-time students.

WVU-P has 16 programs focused on workforce needs.

The focus of the recipients will be occupational fields, such as advanced manufacturing, nursing, information technologies and others, Crossett said.

“There is a high degree of likelihood that these programs would increase the earnings potential for an individual with ties to the local economy,” she said.

Also, computer science, welding, electrical instrumentation and other technical fields will be the programs that will be the primary focus of the program, officials said.

The bulk of the funding will be put into the incentive programs and for the advisor part of the program, Crumbaker said.

The program is designed for people working towards their certificates and associate degrees. The hope is to encourage some of those people to continue on to a bachelor’s degree.

“We will be focusing on people meeting their career goals, workforce goals and what they are looking to do,” Crumbaker said. *“Are they looking to continue their education or looking to get into the workforce.”*

The university launched its application process this month and the process will continue to July 1. After that they will begin determining who the first 60 students will be.

“We have no concern about filling the first 60 seats,” Gilmer said.

Those interested in applying can contact ascend@wvup.edu or 304-424-8353 or apply to WVU Parkersburg Ascend at wvup.edu/ascend.

WVU-Parkersburg beginning new program in the fall [video]

WTAP-TV

May 18, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/video?vid=570591832>

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is one of two community colleges in the state to introduce a new schooling program. It’s called the Ascend program, and is designed to help fast track those looking to earn Associate degree within three years. The selection process will begin soon and a total of 60 people will be chosen.

“At the beginning of May, we launched our application process. At this point we have almost 60 applicants, and then we will have all the way to the priority deadline of July 1, 2020, which will be when we look at all of the applications. At that point, we’ll start processing the applications for the first 60 seats.”

The program will provide financial aid to those applicants with textbook assistance, Kroger gift cards and many more opportunities.

Ohio import of NYC community college program passed rigorous 3-year test

The Hechinger Report

May 18, 2020

<https://hechingerreport.org/ohio-import-of-nyc-community-college-program-passed-rigorous-3-year-test/>

Older students and parents graduated community college in higher numbers

It’s rare for researchers to test a promising treatment on only a portion of students in real schools to see if it’s effective. Educators typically loathe the idea of denying anyone an opportunity to learn, which is what happens in a randomized controlled trial. Even rarer in education is a replication of this kind of experiment to see if something works in a different setting. So a recent study caught my attention because it not only copied a New York City program for community college students in three different Ohio communities but it also studied 1,500 low-income Ohio students for three years to see how many graduated when only half of them received the treatment.

The treatment was a multifaceted and expensive program that included not only free tuition and books for three years, from 2015 to 2018, but also a \$50 a month stipend. Students were required to attend college full time, participate in a first-year seminar and meet frequently with an adviser. Extra academic tutoring and career counseling were also part of the program.

The results were good: 35 percent of the treated group succeeded in getting a two-year associate degree within three years, nearly double the graduation rate of 19 percent for untreated students who only had access to the usual services on campus.

A 35 percent graduation rate after three years might seem pitifully low and there’s still much room for improvement. But the 16 percentage point difference in graduation rates between the treated and untreated students is unusually high in rigorous experiments like this where researchers factored in the outcomes of all students who were assigned for treatment but didn’t comply with the program’s rules or even enroll in college at the start. When the original

New York program, called the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) was studied at the City University of New York (CUNY), researchers calculated an 18 percentage point difference in graduation rates between treated and untreated students. [The New York researchers](#) believed it to be one of the largest improvements in graduation rates ever posted in a randomized controlled trial in higher education. The Ohio result was statistically similar.

“People thought maybe it was just a New York thing but this study shows you can actually take this and do it somewhere else,” said Colleen Sommo, a senior associate at the research organization MDRC, which conducted the [January 2020 evaluation](#). (The evaluation and the Ohio version of the ASAP program were partly supported by several philanthropies that are also among the many funders of the Hechinger Report: Arnold Ventures, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the ECMC Foundation, the Joyce Foundation and the Lumina Foundation.)

There were substantial differences between the New York and Ohio students. The New York students were more than 40 percent Hispanic and only 10 percent white. Those demographic ratios flipped in the opposite direction for Ohio. (Both had the same share of black students, about a third.) More importantly, Ohio’s community college population tended to be older. More than 30 percent of the Ohio students were age 24 or older compared with less than 20 percent of the New York students. More than a quarter of the Ohio students were parents with their own children compared to only 13 percent in New York.

It was unclear at the start of the study if Ohio’s nontraditional students with many responsibilities would be able to juggle full-time school along with part-time work. Two-thirds of the Ohio students worked an average of 30 hours a week. To accommodate busy schedules, Ohio students were offered online tutoring instead of in-person tutoring on campus. Another tweak from the New York model, where students were given free subway passes, was to give Ohio students gift cards for gas or groceries.

It’s too early to tell how much the Ohio program helped students get a degree that they wouldn’t have gotten otherwise or if it’s mostly helping students get their degrees faster. In a [six-year follow-up study of the New York students](#), published in 2019, an additional 19 percent of the untreated students eventually got their two-year associate degrees. The graduation gap between the treated and untreated students shrunk from 18 percentage points after three years to just 10 percentage points after six years.

None of the many aspects of the program are particularly new or innovative. But when colleges have separately tested just one or two of the program’s pieces, such as advising and tutoring, they didn’t generate such large graduation improvements, MDRC’s Sommo explained.

“I think what’s working here is the combination of multiple things and doing it over the long term, not just one or two semesters,” said Sommo. “Community college students have multiple needs, barriers and challenges...There was a lot of hope that if you could get students on the right track in their first year, they’ll be fine. But that’s not what the evidence points to. The evidence is that you have to be able to provide a holistic set of supports and support them through to the finish line.”

Providing many services is expensive, of course. MDRC calculated that it cost the three Ohio community colleges \$5,500 extra per student to run the program over three years. (Because the students are low-income, their tuition is mostly covered by federal and state grants, such as \$6,345 [Pell Grants](#), and the colleges don’t have to subsidize that themselves.) But the costs to the colleges can balloon to \$8,000 per student if you also count indirect costs because the program requires students to take more credits and causes the colleges to add courses and hire more instructors.

The state of Ohio awards more funds to community colleges as their students reach certain milestones and graduate, offsetting a large portion of the cost. But the program doesn’t pay for itself; the colleges still incur \$4,500 per student themselves without philanthropic grants. Despite the proven boost to graduation rates, two of the Ohio community colleges that tried the program — Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and Cuyahoga Community College — eliminated it after the study ended. Only Lorain County Community College continues to operate its program, which is currently called [Students Accelerating in Learning](#) program (SAIL).

Meanwhile, CUNY has cut some costs from its \$14,000 program by eliminating the first-year seminar and has expanded it to 25,000 students. Westchester Community College, which is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, and the colleges in the San Mateo County Community College System in California, such as Skyline College, have launched pilot programs. In January 2020, [two colleges in West Virginia](#) — West Virginia University Parkersburg and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College — received \$4 million from Arnold Ventures to try the program there.

But with the coronavirus pandemic, prospects for further expansion are now slim. “My personal opinion is that there’s really strong evidence right now that if you can afford to do this as a college you should,” said Sommo. “Unfortunately, we’re now at a point that all the colleges are broke.”

St. Marys Oracle
May 19, 2020



Mary Ellen Taylor
Valedictorian



Peyton Owen Auxier
Co-Salutatorian



Bethany Grace McFarland
Co-Salutatorian



Jaden Michael Schofield
Co-Salutatorian

St. Marys High School has announced the Valedictorian and a trio of Salutatorians for the Class of 2020. Each will speak at the 116th Commencement Sunday, May 24, at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the school.

Valedictorian Mary Taylor is the 18-year-old daughter of Jimmy and Shelley Taylor. She is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary and Leo Club. **She has earned more than 35 college credit hours through the early college program at West Virginia University at Parkersburg**, has been an advanced placement student for two years and has earned a scholarship letter each academic year. She was a senior captain of both the cross country team and the girls' basketball team. She is an Ag completer and is a four-year member of the FFA, where she has received her State Degree and is currently working towards her American Degree. She is a member of Mt. Pleasant Ephesian's Youth group and has attended Mt. Pleasant Church her entire life. She has participated in many volunteer programs through her involvement in Goat's Grateful Gang in efforts to support the community. In the future, she plans to attend WVU as an early admit into the pharmacy program, where she will pursue a degree in pharmacy and business.

Co-Salutatorian Peyton Owen Auxier is the son of Andy and Shannon Auxier. He has been a four-year member of the SMHS basketball team and a Little Kanawha Conference Scholar athlete for the past three years. He is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and Science Honorary. He also was a Presidential Scholar nominee. **He has completed 41 college credit hours through West Virginia University at Parkersburg**. He is enrolled in the John Chambers College of Business at West Virginia University with plans to major in human resource management.

Information about co-salutatorians Bethany Grace McFarland and Jaden Michael Schofield was not submitted to The Oracle for publication.

WVUP assisting students through CARES Act funding

The Pennsboro News

May 19, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is offering emergency grants to eligible students to assist with unexpected financial challenges related to COVID-19. The funding, made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will help students with expenses, such as food, technology and child care, during this uncertain time.

Fully-admitted, degree-seeking students who are currently enrolled in at least one course in the Spring 2020 semester at WVU Parkersburg and eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 can apply for a CARES emergency student grant at www.wvup.edu/cares. Students must be logged in to their campus email account to access the application.

The priority application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2020. CARES emergency grant funds will be distributed to qualifying students as quickly as possible.

In addition to transient, Early College and other non-matriculated students, those enrolled in fully online degree programs are not eligible for emergency financial assistance through the CARES Act.

“The Board of Governors, administration, faculty and staff of WVU Parkersburg are at all times committed to supporting our students in pursuit of their educational dreams,” said WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer. “At no time has our support been more essential than in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the months to follow.

We are appreciative to the federal government for the stimulus funds which will help us to provide direct support to our students and also to provide strategic fiscal support for the institution as a whole.” Students will need to have a completed 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file to qualify for a grant.

“We thank West Virginia Senators Manchin and Capito and our other elected leaders who worked hard to have higher education included in the stimulus package, and we pledge to our students that we will get these funds into your hands as quickly and easily as possible,” Gilmer added.

Students who do not have the means to complete the online application or need assistance should call the WVU Parkersburg Financial Aid Office at 304.424.8310 and leave a name, student ID number and phone number, or email finaid@wvup.edu.

Caperton Center at WVUP making face shields for the community

WTAP-TV

May 19, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Caperton-Center-at-WVUP-making-face-shields-for-the-community-570605821.html>



PARKERSBURG, W. Va. (WTAP) - The Caperton Center at West Virginia University of Parkersburg is helping develop face shields for the community using their 3-D printer.

They are going to donate the face shields and masks they make to different organizations across Wood County, such as schools and health facilities.

Staff at the Caperton Center say that as long as there is a market for P.P.E. in the area, they will continue to make it.

"I see it going on for a long time," said Jared Voldness, who works at the Caperton Center and is a coach for the Dark Side Robotics team in Wood County. "When we get students back in the fall I actually expect it to take on a next phase of them going back through and looking at what is made and redesigning and hopefully making them better."

Two Parkersburg Catholic School students are assisting at the Caperton Center, and they feel a great sense of pride in being able to give back to the community.

"This gives me like a real sense of 'I'm doing something good for the community and there's an immediate benefit,'" said Paul Teltseher, a student at PCHS. "It's not going to pay off in five years. And it really makes me feel good about what I'm doing."

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Hannah Ray

Victoria Carpenter

Ritchie County
High School
Graduate
2018



St. Marys
High School
Graduate
2011

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WVU Parkersburg Holds Virtual Honors Ceremony Celebration for Student Accomplishments

Clutch MOV

May 20, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-holds-virtual-honors-ceremony-celebration-for-student-accomplishments/>

West Virginia University at Parkersburg honored 38 students, four faculty, and two staff members during the annual Honors Ceremony sponsored by United Bank. Due to the public health situation, this year's recipients were recognized with a virtual celebration at wvup.edu/virtual-honors-ceremony. WVU Parkersburg leadership, faculty, and staff filmed video presentations to honor the accomplishments of students they nominated.

"Although circumstances do not allow us to gather together, WVU Parkersburg has come together in so many other ways to support our students," said WVU Parkersburg Provost Dr. Chad Crumbaker. "Our students succeeded during a challenging semester, and their persistence is a true inspiration to our campus community. Congratulations, honorees!"

Dr. Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg president, presented the Community Partner of the Year award for the main campus to Hino. Dr. Steven Smith, vice president for Enrollment Management and Jackson County Center (JCC) CEO, announced Constellium as the Community Partner of the Year for JCC. This award recognizes a collaborative effort to offer both organizations training and development to their employees and respective regions.

Dr. Gilmer also named the Lutz family as the Philanthropist of the Year recipient. The family gifted the Oakland House, a mansion built by James Stephenson in 1832, to the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation for the upkeep and care of an important piece of history. Oakland resides on Seventh Street and has been a part of Parkersburg's history for over 180 years.

Dr. Smith named David and Linda Dickirson its Philanthropist of the Year for their continued commitment to the center and the greater Ripley area. Last year, the Dickirsons sponsored a WVU at Parkersburg Foundation fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the Violet Mosser Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund provides tuition assistance to JCC students with a proven financial need.

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Dr. Gilmer also named the Lutz family as the Philanthropist of the Year recipient. The family gifted the Oakland House, a mansion built by James Stephenson in 1832, to the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation for the upkeep and care of an important piece of history. Oakland resides on Seventh Street and has been a part of Parkersburg’s history for over 180 years.

Dr. Smith named David and Linda Dickirson its Philanthropist of the Year for their continued commitment to the center and the greater Ripley area. Last year, the Dickirsons sponsored a WVU at Parkersburg Foundation fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the Violet Mosser Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund provides tuition assistance to JCC students with a proven financial need.

The complete list of award winners includes:

Community Partner of the Year, Parkersburg Campus

Hino

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Philanthropist of the Year, Parkersburg Campus

The Lutz Family

Philanthropist of the Year, Jackson County Center

David and Linda Dickirson

All West Virginia Academic Team Member

Victoria Poellot-Tauber

Catch a Shining Star Chapter, PTK

Fallyn Buffington

Allison Ezell

Seth Kerby

Brittany Sword

Victoria Poellot-Tauber

Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar Award

Victoria Poellot-Tauber

Distinguished Chapter Officer Nominees, PTK

Fallyn Buffington

Victoria Poellot-Tauber

Five Star Chapter Award, PTK

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Allison Ezell

Seth Kerby

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Victoria Poellot-Tauber

Most Distinguished Ohio Member, PTK

Serena Graham

PTK Inductees

Hunter Ackerman

Timothy Bales

MacKenzie Byrd

Brittany LaMar

Alicia Life

Regional PTK Officer, 2020-2021

Victoria Poellot-Tauber

Top 10 Regional Chapter, PTK

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RN-BSN Student of the Year

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First Surgical Technology CST-AAS Graduates

Jamie Broschious

Amber Riggins

Surgical Technology Inspiring Leader Award

Nicole Kittrell-Hughart

Surgical Technology Outstanding Student Award

Caylee Carmichael

2020 Outstanding Artist Award

Timothy Bales

Amelia Hartzog

Outstanding Achievement in Leadership

Holly Buskirk

Collegiate Honor Choir

Anthony Province

Philip Wilson

Digital Media Excellence

Ryan McCoy

Madison Sayre

Dottie Bibbee Student of the Year

Toni Grogg

Excellence in Media and Communication

Kaitlyn Thompson

WPKM Service Award

Noah Bird

Outstanding Experiential Learning Student

Ryan McCoy

Elementary Education Students of the Year

Brittany Sheppard

Paige Burner

Outstanding High School Biology Students

Aidan Roberts

Andrew Shaw

Ben Vierheller

Outstanding Early College Students

Aimee Chambers

Mary Taylor

Eric Darnold

Andrea Kirk

Academic Excellence in Business

Justina Morris

Leadership Excellence in Business

Daniel Seebaugh

Service Excellence in Business

Kaitlyn Frazier

Academic Excellence in Criminal Justice

Fallyn Buffington

Service Excellence in Criminal Justice

Seth Kerby

Law and Society Scholar Award

Miranda Reed

Student Organization of the Year

Student Surgical Technology Association

Tutor of the Year

Leah Harvey

Faculty of the Year, Parkersburg Campus

Dr. Lauri Reidmiller

Faculty of the Year, Jackson County Center

Joyce Stover

Adjunct of the Year, Parkersburg Campus

Jessica Trippett

Staff of the Year, Parkersburg Campus

Jennifer Conrad-Miller

Staff of the Year, Jackson County Center

David Mullins

WVU-P honors

The Marietta Times

May 21, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/neighborhood-news/2020/05/wvu-p-honors/>*WVU Parkersburg holds virtual Honors Ceremony celebration for student accomplishments*

Parkersburg, W.Va. – West Virginia University at Parkersburg honored 38 students, four faculty, and two staff members during the annual Honors Ceremony sponsored by United Bank. Due to the public health situation, this year’s recipients were recognized with a virtual celebration at wvup.edu/virtual-honors-ceremony. WVU Parkersburg leadership, faculty and staff filmed video presentations to honor the accomplishments of students they nominated.

“Although circumstances do not allow us to gather together, WVU Parkersburg has come together in so many other ways to support our students,” said WVU Parkersburg Provost Dr. Chad Crumbaker. “Our students succeeded during a challenging semester, and their persistence is a true inspiration to our campus community. Congratulations, honorees!”

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WVU-P helps high school students graduate with college credits

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 22, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/05/wvu-p-helps-high-school-students-graduate-with-college-credits/>

PARKERSBURG — Thirteen area high school students are graduating with college credits as part of a joint program with West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Through WVUP's Early College program, students had the opportunity to complete their first full year of college while earning their high school diploma.

The Early College program allows eligible high school students to take college-level courses on their school's campus or at a WVU Parkersburg campus for a reduced tuition rate. To earn a Certificate of Applied Science in General Education, a student must successfully complete 30 credit hours from courses in math, science, English, fine arts and other designated areas of study with a 2.0 or higher overall GPA.

WVU Parkersburg awarded a Certificate of Applied Science in General Education degree to the following Early College students for the Spring 2020 semester:

* St. Marys High School: Peyton Auxier, Hannah Barker, Aiden Cospers, Jocelynn Campbell, Aimee Chambers, Bethany McFarland, Peyton Oliver, Jaden Schofield, William Steele and Mary Taylor.

* Ritchie County High School: Eric Darnold, Andrea Kirk and Garrett Owens.

“Our students have been able to complete 40+ hours of their college education prior to their high school graduation without having to leave our school grounds,” said Shelley Taylor, assistant principal at St. Marys High School. *“Most of our students are able to complete their post-secondary coursework in less time than a traditional college student and/or double major without spending extra time and money.”*

During the 2019-2020 academic year, nearly 1,000 high school students from 10 area high schools, as well as homeschools, participated in the college’s Early College program.

“The opportunities given to me by not only St. Marys High School, but WVU Parkersburg, have given me the reliable stepping stone I needed to jumpstart my education and future goals,” said Aimee Chambers, a graduating senior at St. Marys High School.

The program is open to all public school districts, private schools and homeschools in the college’s seven-county service region. Tuition for eligible high school students is currently \$50 per credit hour, and scholarships may be available for qualifying students.

Officials estimate students can save more than \$23,000 in tuition by enrolling in the Early College program and completing their first full year of college while in high school.

For more information about WVU Parkersburg’s Early College program, visit wvup.edu/earlycollege or contact earlycollege@wvup.edu.

PHS’ Kyle Moore headed to West Liberty

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 26, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/sports/local-sports/2020/05/phs-kyle-moore-headed-to-west-liberty/>

PARKERSBURG — Kyle Moore would rather be playing baseball.

The Parkersburg High School senior, who is set to attend West Liberty University and continue his career on the diamond for skipper Eric Burkle, has been through plenty the past two months.

With four years of football in the books and one spring left of baseball, Moore was looking ahead to college, but was ready for whatever his final prep season was about to thrust upon him.

Aside from finishing with a 4.25 GPA as a senior, the pitcher/outfielder said he's basically heading to WLU as a sophomore thanks to earning college credits at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

"I'm going into athletic training as my major," said Moore, who was looking forward to playing summer ball with American Legion Post 15. *"After that go to PA school. What they have is this three and two.*

"I'll get my undergraduate in exercise physiology and then I'll get my master's in athletic training. Then go another two and a half years to PA school and become a physician assistant. It's all a matter of getting into the PA program."

Even though the Big Reds weren't expected to challenge for a Class AAA state championship, Moore wishes he had his final spring with his teammates and coach Alan Burns.

"We were pretty excited," he said. *"We had a really young team this year. It was going to be interesting to see how all the pieces were going to piece together. We were putting up good numbers in the weight room all winter and we were excited to see how that translated on the field.*

"We had about 10 practices when everything hit. The following week we were supposed to have three games, including a game against South.

We were excited and then all of this hit. I mean I hate losing your senior year. Couple of the guys I've played with since 7 years old. You don't get that last final game to play with them."

Moore was the Big Reds' top returning pitcher after working 22-plus frames as a junior. He recorded three decisions, which included a pair of victories, to go along with a 2.51 earned run average and one save.

"I've kind of accepted it," Moore expressed of the whole COVID-19 situation. *"It is very hard not being able to have that senior season. I was going to be one of our main pitchers and play a lot in left field.*

"Last year I pitched a lot of games out of the bullpen. I was mainly a relief pitcher. Going into my senior year, I was making the transition to a starting pitcher and I played a lot in the outfield last year."

Things are kind of looking up it appears for the Big Red, depending on how things unfold with the ongoing pandemic.

"It's been pushed back to June 26," Moore said of his delayed graduation. *"Right now I think it's supposed to be regular, but they haven't told us much detail. I think they are waiting to get closer and see how open the state is.*

“I mean the main thing (with COVID-19) is just losing the senior baseball season, not getting to play your final season. You’ve played with them the last four years and probably more and just not getting that experience.”

It took just a single trip for Moore to realize where his home for the next few years was going to be.

“I got into contact with graduate assistant coach Joel Jarrett,” he explained. “I went up on a couple visits and I really liked the campus and the coaching staff. I went on another visit and worked out with some of the guys and they were awesome up there.

“I fell in love with the campus and the atmosphere of the school. There were a couple of schools who talked to coach Burns about me, but I just love West Liberty and the program, but I didn’t go on any other visits anywhere.”

If Moore can catch a break this spring, it will come from playing baseball this summer in some way, shape or form.

He’s thankful for the opportunities and experiences he had while a member of the red and white.

“You look back at all the people who have played through the program at PHS of baseball,” Moore added. *“You got Nick Swisher and those guys. It’s fun to make your own memories with the same program he went through.”*

When asked whether he felt prepared for the rigors of being a Division II student-athlete, Moore didn’t hesitate.

“You’re always a little bit worried,” he said. “Division II, going to the next level, it’s going to be a different pace of play and people as good or better than you.

“You have to work hard for it, but I think I’ll do OK. I think I’ll have to do a little more studying when I go to college, but I think I’ll be OK.”

WVU-P Starts Ascend Program

The St. Marys Oracle

May 26, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s Ascend program is on track to start this fall. Accelerating Student Completion: Encouraging New Dreams (Ascend) is a program created to help more students earn certificate and associate degrees within three years by increasing financial, academic and personal supports.

Funded by a \$1.7 million, five-year grant from Arnold Ventures, Ascend is modeled after the Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs at City University of New York's colleges. WVU-P is one of two community colleges in West Virginia selected to pilot the program.

Ascend students will receive textbook assistance to reduce or eliminate the cost of books, a monthly Kroger gift card to help pay for groceries or gas, a tuition gap waiver covering remaining tuition and mandatory fees left after applying a student's financial aid award, a devoted advisor from start to graduation; special registration options to get students the courses that best fit their schedule and enhanced academic and career assistance from campus support areas.

As students approach graduation, they will receive additional assistance to transfer to a bachelor's degree program at WVU-P, another four-year college or enter the workplace, depending on their goals.

To be eligible for Ascend, students must have less than 15 college credits (credits obtained by high school students are not counted unless a student has 30 or more credits), minimum 2.0 GPA and enroll in an Ascend-approved major. Students must qualify for in-state tuition and re-apply for FAFSA each year, accepting all federal and state grants and scholarships.

To apply to WVU-Parkesburg Ascend visit wvup.edu/ascend. The priority registration deadline is July 1.

10 St. Marys Graduates Get Early Start on College at WVU-P

The St. Marys Oracle

May 26, 2020

Ten 2020 graduates of St. Marys High School have gotten an early start on their college educations.

Through West Virginia University at Parkersburg's early college program, the students had the opportunity to complete their first full year of college while earning their high school diploma.

Earning a Certificate of Applied Science in general education degree were SMHS students Peyton Auxier, Hannah Barker, Aiden Cosper, Jocelynn Campbell, Aimee Chambers, Bethany McFarland, Peyton Oliver, Jaden Schofield, William Steele and Mary Taylor.

The early college program allows eligible high school students to take college-level courses on their school's campus or at a WVU Parkersburg campus for a reduced tuition rate.

To earn a Certificate of Applied Science in general education, a student must successfully complete 30 credit hours from courses in math, science, English, fine arts and other designated areas of study with a 2.0 or higher overall average.

“The faculty and staff of St. Marys High School would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to our students who have successfully completed courses through WVU Parkersburg and especially to those who have been dedicated to completing their certificate degrees,” said Shelley Taylor, assistant principal of SMHS. “We would also like to thank the faculty and staff of WVU Parkersburg for their time and effort in order to provide this amazing opportunity to our students. Our students have been able to complete 40-plus hours of their college education prior to their high school graduation without having to leave our school grounds.”

“Most of our students are able to complete their post-secondary coursework in less time than a traditional college student and/or double major without spending extra time and money,” she added.

“The opportunities given to me by not only St. Marys High School, but also WVU-Parkersburg, have given me the reliable stepping stone I needed to jumpstart my education and future goals,” said Aimee Chambers, a member of the Class of 2020 at SMHS.

The program is open to all public school districts, private schools and homeschools in the college’s seven-county service region. Tuition for eligible high school students is currently \$50 per credit hour and scholarships may be available for qualifying students.

With proper planning, students can save more than \$23,000 in tuition by enrolling in the Early College program and completing their first full year of college while in high school.

WVU-P looks to reopen cautiously; in-person classes planned for fall

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 28, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/05/wvu-p-looks-to-reopen-cautiously-in-person-classes-planned-for-fall/>

PARKERSBURG – Students are not expected to be able to return to the campus of West Virginia University at Parkersburg for in-person classes until at least the Fall of 2020, the university’s president told the community Wednesday afternoon.

President Chris Gilmer and a number of the university’s vice presidents held a virtual town hall meeting across Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube to allow students, faculty and community members to discuss what the immediate future of the college will be like as the Mid-Ohio Valley continues to deal with the ongoing impacts of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are here to talk about our present and more importantly talk about our future,” Gilmer said.

Gilmer announced that there will be no tuition increase for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year. The Board of Governors had already approved a five percent increase if it would be needed.

“We decided not to do that,” Gilmer said. *“During this pandemic it is hard enough for students already without doing anything to make it harder.”*

“We have made the decision not to increase tuition in any way.”

Gilmer said a firm date on when their facilities will reopen has not been set yet. A provisional date of June 1 will now not happen for reopening.

“The bottom line is we are following state and federal guidelines very closely on that,” he said. *“I cannot tell you exactly when it is going to happen.”*

When it does happen, Gilmer said the college will give at least one week’s notice. He believes it will happen in either June or July but that is not certain.

Because of that the in-person Spring Commencement which was tentatively being planned for August will now not happen.

Gilmer said he doesn’t believe it is socially or medically responsible to bring more than 500 people together to do it.

“The next time we have a face-to-face commencement at WVU Parkersburg, the May (2020) graduates who want to return for that will be specially honored as special participants because of what you lost,” Gilmer said.

On Sunday June 7 at 11:30 a.m. the university bought an hour of live airtime on a local television station and will also stream on Facebook and YouTube.

“We are going to have a celebration of our May 2020 graduates,” Gilmer said. *“You are going to feel very celebrated.”*

“Your family will be able to watch it with you.”

Each graduate will be personally recognized during the broadcast.

Gilmer said he would continue to err on the side of caution and follow the state and federal guidance he is getting to protect students’ health and safety.

In the coming weeks, some people will be allowed access to the campus to be able to get it prepared for the eventual return of students.

“We are planning for face-to-face instruction in the fall,” Gilmer said.

However, the faculty are being told to prepare to move coursework back online if the need arises to do so as plans will be in place if there is a surge in new COVID-19 cases.

“We need to be prepared for those contingencies,” Gilmer said.

Officials have been talking about how to return students to school while maintain social distancing recommendations, limiting the number of people in the classroom and other safety measures.

Officials said Plexiglas shields will be put up in some areas and around some equipment. Officials are also working on getting the needed personal protective equipment.

Students and faculty will be informed of the safety measures and what will be expected of them in the fall.

“We are going to balancing people’s rights to make decisions about their own physical being about whether they want to wear a mask or don’t,” Gilmer said. *“With the overall public health concern we will err on the side of the public health concerns.”*

Officials said many of the online comments were thankful for *“cautious leadership.”*

There are no plans to cut any jobs at the college and officials will look at positions that will become vacant to determine what is in the best interest of the college.

The college will be doing away with its Legal Studies program, but Gilmer said that decision was based on declining enrollment for the program itself and not the effects of the pandemic. Students in the program will be put in courses that will still help them meet their requirements.

As WVU-P enters its second week of Summer School, enrollment is strong. It is up 24 percent in new students and up 15 percent overall of where they were this time last year. They are also up 10 percent for new students in the fall.

“In the middle of a pandemic, that is quite an accomplishment,” Gilmer said.

He believes many of the new students may be people needing to be retrained in other fields before they are able to re-enter the workforce after being laid off due to the pandemic or people just wanting to stay closer to home at this time.

There are also a number of current students who have not signed up for the fall that Gilmer hopes will sign up soon.

“I am asking all of you to reach out to the students you know and ask them to complete their registration,” Gilmer said.

Currently, Summer School is being offered totally online. Some welding programs, science labs and other specialized programs will be allowing people on campus in a limited fashion to do needed coursework.

“We are going to do that in a very careful way,” Gilmer said.

The college is distributing \$850,000 in CARES Act stimulus money to eligible students under federal guidelines and requirements for the money.

The college itself is receiving \$900,000 in institutional stimulus money. Officials are still discussing how that money will be spent. Gilmer said there are a lot of strings attached with what they can and cannot do with that money. They will be finding the best uses for that money.

With no tuition increase WVU-P remains one of the most affordable schools in the state with one of the lowest tuition rates. People are now taking the opportunity to go back to school to prepare for when they can re-enter the workforce.

"We believe this will have a positive impact on enrollment in the fall," Gilmer said.

WVUP, Washington State see gains in enrollment, officials say [video]

WTAP-TV

May 26, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Mid-Ohio-Valley-community-colleges-talk-enrollment-increase--570789711.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - Two colleges in the Mid-Ohio Valley are seeing positive enrollment statistics amid the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

West Virginia University Parkersburg, which recently began summer classes, reported a 24 percent increase in new students and a 15 percent increase in summer-school enrollment, Dr. Chris Gilmer, the school's president, said on Tuesday.

"So, if students or parents are thinking about the safety factor or the desire to be close to family, we hope that we can welcome a lot of them as Riverhawks at WVUP come August," Gilmer said.

Meanwhile, Washington State Community College recently concluded its spring semester on the heels of its highest year of enrollment in the past 10 years, according to Dr. Vicky Wood, the school's president.

"We also anticipate an increase in our adult student population because we know that unfortunately through this pandemic, several have probably lost their jobs and maybe looking for employment in the future and come to Washington State to re-train for an in-demand occupation," Wood said.

Wood said Washington State is also working with 23 other community colleges in the Ohio and other higher-education leaders to plan for upcoming semesters.

Leaders from both colleges said they are preparing to reopen for in-person classes this fall but that they will have a contingency plan if the pandemic forces them to continue only online.

Fletcher M. Lamkin to Retire as President of Westminster College; Donald P. Lofe, Jr., to Become Interim President on July 1

Westminster News

May 27, 2020

https://news.westminster-mo.edu/news-releases/fletcher-m-lamkin-to-retire-as-president-of-westminster-college-donald-p-lofe-jr-to-become-interim-president-on-july-1/?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_1256329&cid=db&source=ams&sourceid=5147821

Fulton, MO — May 27, 2020: Dr. Fletcher M. Lamkin, who has led historic Westminster College with distinction for two separate terms as President, announced today he will retire from his post at the end of June 2020. The College also announced that Donald P. Lofe, Jr., will become Westminster’s Interim President, effective July 1. Following his retirement, Dr. Lamkin will become a formal advisor to the College as part of this transition process and will continue in this role through December 31, 2020.

During his first administration, from 2000 to 2007, Dr. Lamkin was responsible for significant expansion and modernization of the College’s facilities, strong growth in enrollment and major gains in fundraising and alumni engagement. He left the presidency of West Virginia University-Parkersburg, when he was asked to return Westminster in late 2017.

In Dr. Lamkin’s second term, Mr. Lofe said, “Dr. Lamkin greatly influenced and assisted in the stabilization of many of the College’s functions and also brought to the Cabinet strong new leadership. During both terms, ‘Fletch,’ as he has been known to students, faculty, staff, alumni as well as the Board, has demonstrated a tireless effort and passion to foster the College’s well-being during numerous challenges.”

Dr. Lamkin said the timing of his retirement will enable him to relinquish the responsibilities of the presidency at the end of the current academic year to provide for the implementation of a thoughtful transition plan, which he is confident will enable the College to continue its upward trajectory without interruption. “When I left the presidency at West Virginia University-Parkersburg, I said that the only school I would leave it for was Westminster College,” Dr. Lamkin said. “I remain passionate about Westminster and its belief in the Power in Purpose, and it has been a privilege to be its leader. I believe the College has a bright future. I look forward to participating in an orderly transition to build on our achievements.”

Donald P. Lofe, Jr., to Become Interim President

Donald P. Lofe, Jr., a Westminster alumnus who currently serves as Chair of its Board of Trustees, was elected to serve as Interim President, effective July 1, 2020.

“I am honored to become the Interim President of an institution that I care deeply about and which has inspired so many students over the years, including myself, and has produced so

many great leaders by helping them find their purpose in life,” Mr. Lofe said. “During Dr. Lamkin’s administration, the College has made many important strides to ensure that it will continue inspiring future generations of students. On behalf of the College’s Board of Trustees, I thank Fletch for everything he has done for Westminster, and I also thank Cindy Lamkin, who has worked so closely with Fletch, for her many contributions as well. They leave an important legacy, and we wish them a very happy and well-deserved retirement.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Lofe said, “It is my sincere goal for Westminster to meet the needs of today, and into the future, while adhering to its timeless mission. We will continue to strive to build young men and women who are critically aware, lifelong learners and leaders of character — individuals committed to the values of integrity, fairness, respect and responsibility — and to prepare them for lives of success, significance and service. I very much look forward to meeting with our alumni across the country very early in my tenure to discuss the College’s direction and obtain their valuable perspective.”

During Mr. Lofe’s interim presidency, he will also carry the title of “Chief Transformation Officer” to emphasize the continuation of the College’s transformation that began under Dr. Lamkin, and to ensure the effective collaboration of the entire Westminster community. Mr. Lofe said, “Such ongoing collaboration will not only foster continued effective financial and operational change for the College but will also enhance the opportunities for revenue-growth initiatives.”

While Interim President, Mr. Lofe will take an extended leave of absence from his current role and responsibilities as Board Chair and will serve on the Board as an ex officio member, consistent with historic practice for the role of the President.

Mr. Lofe is an alumnus of Westminster College and has served on its Board for approximately eight years in a variety of Board capacities throughout his Board tenure. He was awarded the College’s Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award in 2010. He received a BA in accounting and political science from Westminster and an MBA, with concentrations in finance and business policy, from the University of Chicago.

Most recently, Mr. Lofe was a Partner and the Chief Risk Officer for Global Business Services – Mortgage and Lending Solutions for the IBM Corporation. Prior to joining IBM, he served in several senior executive roles for insurance, community lending and other financial and mortgage-related service entities, both domestically and internationally. He was also a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, specializing in financial services and private and public higher-education clientele. Mr. Lofe is a CPA, CGMA (Active Status) and is also COSO Certified by the AICPA. He was named by *Treasury and Risk*, a leading corporate finance and treasury periodical, as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Finance.

James C. Morton, Jr., to Become Board Chair

James C. Morton, Jr., will assume Mr. Lofe’s Board Chair role and responsibilities on June 1. He presently serves as a Vice Chair of the Board and began his Board tenure with Mr. Lofe in 2011. Mr. Morton graduated from Westminster College with a BA in Economics and is also a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law. He is the former General Counsel and Vice

President of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations of Michelin North America. Prior to his retirement, he was the Vice Chair and Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration for Nissan North America. Mr. Morton also received the College's Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award in 2003. He is a former U.S. Army captain and Vietnam veteran.

Both Mr. Lofe and Mr. Morton will be working with Dr. Lamkin and the College's staff and faculty leadership throughout the next several months to facilitate an effective and efficient transition of Dr. Lamkin's role and responsibilities. Dr. Lamkin said, "I have worked closely with Mr. Lofe and Mr. Morton over the past several years. Both Don and Jim are experienced professionals and bring strong leadership to the College. I wish them much success in their new roles and look forward to working with them during the transition."

Westminster College president to retire; interim leader named

St. Louis Business Journal

May 28, 2020

<https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2020/05/28/westminster-college-president-to-retire.html>

Westminster College President [Fletcher Lamkin](#) will retire from his post at the end of June. Lamkin has led the college for two separate terms as president, first from 2000 to 2007, and then from 2017 to now.

"When I left the presidency at West Virginia University - Parkersburg, I said that the only school I would leave it for was Westminster College," Lamkin said in a statement. "I remain passionate about Westminster and its belief in the power of purpose, and it has been a privilege to be its leader. I believe the college has a bright future."

Lamkin served as president of West Virginia University - Parkersburg until he was asked to return to Westminster in 2017. During his first administration at Westminster, he was responsible for expansion and modernization of the school's facilities, growth in enrollment and gains in fundraising, officials said.

Following his retirement, Lamkin will become a formal adviser to the college as part of the transition process. He'll continue in that role through Dec. 31.

[Donald Lofe Jr.](#), who currently serves as chair of the school's board of trustees, will become interim president, effective July 1.

"I am honored to become the interim president of an institution that I care deeply about and which has inspired so many students over the years, including myself, and has produced so many great leaders by helping them find their purpose in life," Lofe said in a statement. "It is

my sincere goal for Westminster to meet the needs of today, and into the future, while adhering to its timeless mission."

Lofe also will carry the title of chief transformation officer to "emphasize the continuation of the college's transformation that began under Dr. Lamkin," officials said.

During his time as interim president, Lofe will take an extended leave of absence from his role as board chair and serve as an ex officio member. Lofe has served on the board for eight years in a variety of capacities.

Lofe holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and political science from Westminster and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Most recently, he served as partner and chief risk officer for global business services - mortgage and lending solutions for IBM Corp. Prior to that, he served in several senior executive roles in the insurance, community lending and other finance industries.

[James Morton Jr.](#) will assume Lofe's board chair role and responsibilities beginning Monday, officials said. He currently serves as vice chair of the board and began his tenure in 2011.

Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri, is among the region's largest colleges with 2019-2020 enrollment of 656 students. The college's most recent annual budget was \$12 million and its endowment \$50 million.

WVU Parkersburg earns national accreditation for excellence in teacher preparation

WTAP-TV

May 29, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-Parkersburg-earns-national-accreditation-for-excellence-in-teacher-preparation-570833531.html>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. – West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Elementary Education program has achieved accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for meeting rigorous national standards for excellence in teacher preparation.

As the sole nationally-recognized accrediting body for educator preparation, CAEP advances equity and excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.

Educator preparation providers seeking accreditation must pass peer review on five standards based on the principles that its graduates are competent and caring educators, and its educator staff can create a culture of evidence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer. CAEP review occurs every seven years for programs that have met all standards set by the accrediting body.

“WVU Parkersburg’s Elementary Education program’s commitment to excellence in preparing tomorrow’s teachers was verified by the outstanding accreditation report received from CAEP,” said Dr. David Lancaster, professor and chair of the Education Division, WVU Parkersburg. “I’m so proud of our nationally accredited program for having the highest quality and lowest tuition in West Virginia.”

WVU Parkersburg’s Elementary Education program gives teacher candidates the option of securing a teaching certificate to teach all subjects in grades K-6 for any state in the United States. Students can also choose to specialize in content areas for grades 5-9, including English, General Math – Algebra I, Social Studies, Science and PreK-K.

Established in 1992, WVU Parkersburg’s teacher education program has an exceptional record of state and national accreditation approval.

To learn more about WVU Parkersburg’s Elementary Education program, contact the Center for Student Services at admissions@wvup.edu or 304-424-8310.

WVU-P Elementary Ed Program Earns Accreditation

St. Marys Oracle & Pleasants County Leader

May 29, 2020

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To enroll in the elementary education program, contact the Center for Student Services at admissions@wvup.edu or call 304.424-8310.

WVUP awards CARES Act grants to students

The Pennsboro News

May 29, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has acted quickly to award more than \$876,000 in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to students in need with financial expenses related to COVID-19.

The college invited qualifying students to apply for an emergency grant to assist with food, technology and child care expenses needed to continue their higher educational WVUP awards CARES Act grants to students pursuits. The grant application period ran from April 24 to May 8.

Financial Aid staff reviewed the applications and awarded a total of \$876,544 in funding to 1,046 students, with grants ranging from \$650 to \$1,300. The college decided to award a \$650 cash grant to every eligible student, plus additional funds to those who filled out an application indicating greater financial need. Students awarded a grant will receive funds by as early as Friday, May 15 via the student’s requested refund method (direct deposit, BankMobile VIBE deposit or paper check in the mail).

“While WVU Parkersburg is delighted to be able to support our eligible students with these grants, we wish we had been able to give every student a grant in this difficult time,” said WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer. “We appreciate the federal government for providing us with these funds, but we want our students and their families to realize that we were given strict federal guidelines about which students would qualify and which would not. The University had to follow those guidelines, but we did not develop them at the local level.”

WVU Parkersburg administration determined the individual grant award amounts based on the belief that all students attending classes at the Parkersburg Campus or Jackson County Center

were in some way financially impacted by the disruption of switching to 100 percent online courses and the closing of its facilities.

“We recognize that all of our students have been challenged financially and in other ways by this pandemic, and we want all of them to know that we support them and are here for them,” Gilmer added.

Innovative Recovery-to-Work Learning Academy begins in the MOV

The Marietta Times

May 30, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/opinion/local-columns/2020/05/innovative-recovery-to-work-learning-academy-begins-in-the-mov/>

Before the pandemic, when I was traveling and sitting in an airport waiting for my flight, I began talking with the person across from me at the gate. She asked where I was going and where I was from. When I mentioned that I was from Ohio, she exclaimed, “*Ah, the State known for Cows and Opioids.*” I have to say that I was a bit taken aback by her comment and quickly shared my defense of Ohio. “*We have been working hard to improve substance use disorder in Ohio and one day soon look forward to serving as a model for our Country.*”

Indeed, I recall this experience today as Deputy Director of the Washington County Behavioral Health Board. Our agency is proud of its continued efforts to reduce stigma and increase access to services in the mental health and substance use disorder realm. As defined by the Mayo Clinic, drug addiction, also called substance use disorder (SUD), is a disease that affects a person’s brain and behavior and leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medication. Substance use recovery requires collaborative action to help individuals become stable contributors to the workforce. Active, successful “*ecosystems*” of regional organizations must work together to help individuals in recovery succeed in the labor market and help companies find and support those individuals.

To advance those connections, I am pleased to share that last fall we were chosen to participate as one of the lead organizations in a “*Recovery to Work Learning Academy*” funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) with a grant to the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA). ARC has been supporting projects to enhance the ability of regions to support workers trying to achieve long-term sobriety and employment. And DDAA is a membership organization of local development districts (LDDs) in the Appalachian Region that works to strengthen LDDs and their member governments.

Through this process, DDAA is supporting four regional initiatives that involve multiple stakeholders working together to help individuals with a history of substance use disorders to successfully navigate sustained recovery through meaningful employment. The Learning Academy involves a twelve-month process in which a core team of organizations from each

region collaborates both within and across regions to improve working relationships, identify and adopt best practices, and access technical assistance and funding that will enhance the lives of individuals and communities impacted by the substance use crisis.

This innovative initiative links Washington County with Wood County to facilitate cross-river collaboration and alignment of recovery workforce development services and programs.

“It is exciting to further our joint collaboration. Having expanded opportunities on both sides of the river can only enhance and support training and employment opportunities for those in recovery.” — Robin Bozian, Southeastern Ohio Legal Services and Washington County Hub Co-chair.

I am pleased to be serving on the Core Team for this new program with John Leite, the Director of the newly established SUD Collaborative. The SUD Collaborative is leading a partnership among organizations across the Mid-Ohio Valley to improve access to prevention, treatment, and recovery resources by identifying gaps and improving efficiency. I am extremely proud of how well John and the other core team members have worked together to keep our region on track in this process throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Regional leaders are still working to refine our goals for the academy, but overall we hope to better align and expand education, training, and employment services. We believe that people in recovery deserve opportunities to share their talents. Indeed, *“Stable, meaningful employment is critical to sustain long-term recovery, and people recovering from addiction are often the best employees. They have overcome challenges and their resiliency makes them great employees if given the chance.”* — Dr. Wittberg, President of Community Health Improvement Associates.

We also intend to grow the network of engaged employers and education/training programs focused on workforce development in the region. *“As an employer, you are looking for a workforce that is diverse in experiences, ideas, and backgrounds. This creates an environment that can move mountains. Having programs and the support to achieve this is critical to any employer and employees to continue to evolve and grow in today’s environment.”* (Josh Wagner, General Manager, Wal-Mart in Marietta.) Lastly, we aim to remove barriers to employment for individuals impacted by substance use disorders, such as transportation.

Below is a list of the regional participants currently represented on the Core Team and a broader Home Team essential for success in our region:

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Community Health Improvement Associates

FaithLink

Fourth Circuit Public Defender Corporation

Jobs and Hope WV

Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council

Parkersburg Area Community Foundation

REO Logistics

Sisters Health Foundation

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

SUD Collaborative

Wal-Mart (Marietta, OH)

Washington County Health Department

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Wincore Windows

If you have thoughts on this work, or your organization would like to get involved, please contact John Leite, Director, SUD Collaborative, sudcollaborative@gmail.com

John Leite is the director for SUD Collaborative and Hilles Hughes is the deputy director for the Washington County Behavioral Health Board.

WVU-P program earns accreditation

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 30, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/05/wvu-p-program-earns-accreditation/>

PARKERSBURG — The elementary education program at West Virginia University at Parkersburg has been accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

The council advances equity and excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.

The council review is held every seven years for programs that have met all standards set by the accrediting body.

“WVU Parkersburg’s Elementary Education program’s commitment to excellence in preparing tomorrow’s teachers was verified by the outstanding accreditation report received from CAEP,” David Lancaster, professor and chair of the Education Division of the college, said.

The program gives teacher candidates the option of securing a teaching certificate to teach all subjects in grades K-6 for any state in the United States. Students can also choose to specialize in content areas for grades 5-9, including English, general math, algebra I, social studies, science and PreK-K.

The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley moving summer program online

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 30, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/05/the-arc-of-the-mid-ohio-valley-moving-summer-program-online/>

PARKERSBURG — The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley Inclusive Summer Day Program is going virtual.

The camp, sponsored and organized by The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley, will be held June 15-July 10 utilizing the Zoom platform.

“We are excited to bring summer activities to youth in our community,” Executive Director Liz Ford said. *“Out of an abundance of caution we decided to cancel in person activities due to COVID-19. We hope that many students utilizing the special education program will be able to participate.”*

This year’s theme is One Key to the Community is Technology and will focus on using technology to access the community and the world.

The four-week program provides social and recreation activities for youth through grade 12 who utilize the special education system and will be provided at no charge. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.

“We will provide participants with the key to their community using technology,” Ford said. *“People with disabilities often face barriers to full immersion in their community and we want to utilize all the tools in our tool belt to overcome any barriers and encourage full community participation.”*

Among activities are interactive games such as online *“Jeopardy,”* tie dye T-shirt demonstrations, yoga, mindfulness and chalk demonstrations. The virtual summer day program will be high energy and youth focused.

Program Coordinators Doug Hess and Marsha Davis will travel to interesting landmarks in the Parkersburg area in a segment called *“Doug’s Discoveries.”* The Oil and Gas Museum, McDonough Wildlife Refuge and the Williamstown Interactive Bank are just a few sites that will be featured.

A celebration of The Arc’s 65th Anniversary, jewelry making, a planting demonstration by the Master Gardeners, line dancing and craft making are part of the program.

Wood County Society is providing an online Temple Challenge segment. Mike Penn from Artsbridge will provide instruction in drawing and Kevin Oliphant will share *“Cartoons by Kevin.”*

A youth advocacy day will be held with featured segments from local, state and national legislators. Employment and career exploration will be undertaken with guests from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, Workplace West Virginia and West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Supplies will be delivered to students and participants. The program will be free and online to anyone who would like to join, but supplies will only be provided to those who meet the criteria for the program.

Additional information is available by calling The Arc at 304-422-3151. Parents and care givers who have specific technology support needs are encouraged to call for assistance.

Program staff include special education teachers and assistants. Some individuals will have direct support staff as needed and volunteers will assist with special presentations and community integration.

Donations from Peoples Bank, Vienna Baptist Church, Home Depot and community supporters make the camp possible.

6B June 3, 2020
The St. Marys Oracle

Alumni success.



Morgan Najar

"The most enjoyable part about WVU Parkersburg was the **close relationships** you can build with your professors and fellow students. I believe that having the opportunity to **develop strong bonds** with your professors can only help you **achieve your goals.**"

Morgan graduated from WVU Parkersburg in 2015 with a **Bachelor's** degree in **Business Administration** with an emphasis in Marketing and Management. She is now the newest **Executive Director** of the **Boys & Girls Club** of Pleasants County.

**The most
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**Morgan
Najar**



A Letter to George Floyd

Diverse Issues in Higher Education Magazine

June 2, 2020

<https://diverseeducation.com/article/179315/>

by Chris Gilmer

Dear George,

Sitting safely on my front porch as afternoon flickered into evening, in the distance a boy came into sight. As he passed without even looking my way, I saw what appeared to be an African-American boy, perhaps 10-years-old, small for his age, not quite meandering and in no particular hurry either—just walking down the sidewalk as any child ought to feel an inalienable right to do.

As he headed out of sight, an image replaced him in my mind, an image of you lying face down calling for your mother, begging for mercy, or really not mercy as much as your own inalienable right to be treated as a human being. I started to rise from my chair, but then I remembered one of the prejudices often leveled against people like me, and I sat back down. I felt the need to follow along behind that child, to be there in case he needed protection in a world where boys like him grow into men like you.

The street was quiet. A few people were sitting on their porches here and there, one or two doing yard work in the last hour of daylight on a Sunday afternoon. As far as I know, good people live on my street. I told myself he would be fine. I did not see a parent trailing along behind him, but perhaps there was one watching nearby.

While I have served on the faculty of three Historically Black Colleges and Universities and taught hundreds if not thousands of young African Americans, many of whom I came to think of as my own children; while there are two African-American women I think of as dearly as sisters and countless others, men and women, who are family-like friends; while I have pretty much devoted my life to serve as an instrument of inclusion, equity, and social justice, I never pretend to be what I am not. Neither do I hide what I am.

I do not know at a biological or emotional level what it is like to be Black. White privilege was my birthright. Poverty, and homosexuality, and a propensity toward obesity were equally my birthright, and I have experienced prejudice for all of those reasons. Still, I do not pretend to know what it feels like to be racially profiled or to know that my ancestors were violently separated from their homeland and brought in chains to serve people whose race is the same as mine.

I do, however, know what it feels like for it to be assumed that gay men are pedophiles, just waiting to corrupt innocence and innocents at the first opportunity. Thus, I sat back down in my chair on the porch today and did not follow the little boy, because people like me have to be especially careful in the ways we express our appropriate concern for children. Also, we are

ourselves often targets of hate crimes based on prejudices deeply ingrained and a sense that it is somehow all right to hurt us because we started out less-than anyway.

This very afternoon, while my husband and I were sitting under the shade tree in our own backyard, a group of teenage boys started to enter the backdoor of the home across the alley. As they shut the door, they loudly shouted back at us one word: “Faggots.” I know this word well. It is not the first time I have heard it in similar contexts, and it probably will not be the last. This happened several hours before I saw the boy on the sidewalk. Instead of wondering if he will grow into the teenagers from earlier in the afternoon, I think only of the future I long for him to have, something that you will not have—a future in which a miracle occurs and universal love becomes as contagious as the COVID-19 virus and the hate which plague our world now.

I thought of my former student who posted on Facebook recently that she is afraid for the life of her Black son. I thought of my friend and colleague who is an African-American father of seven, his two youngest twin boys in high school, and I tried to imagine the visceral fear he must feel every time they leave his sight.

I thought of my favorite words from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” I have said those words dozens of times to thousands of people, and I have believed them. Sometimes the bend of the arc is difficult to see. Today, it almost feels impossible.

While I do not condone either the violence that was done to you or the violence that is being done in your memory, and while I pray that both will stop, I understand the rage which spurs the latter. I remember the words of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer who said it best: “I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

I pray for a day when it is easier to see the bend in the arc of the moral universe trending as it should. Until that day, I say these insufficient, but not hollow words to those who loved you. I am sorry, and I recommit my life to helping build a better world for all of our children, especially yours.

Dr. Chris Gilmer is the president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg and founder of the National Institutes for Historically-Underserved Students.

WVUP awards CARES Act grants to students

Pennsboro News

June 2, 2020

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WVU Parkersburg administration determined the individual grant award amounts based on the belief that all students attending classes at the Parkersburg Campus or Jackson County Center were in some way financially impacted by the disruption of switching to 100 percent online courses and the closing of its facilities.

“We recognize that all of our students have been challenged financially and in other ways by this pandemic, and we want all of them to know that we support them and are here for them. We look forward to welcoming a large number of students for summer school in the coming weeks and a large group of new and returning students for the fall semester. Everyone is welcome at WVU Parkersburg, and we hope everyone will choose to take advantage of a high-quality, local higher education,” added Gilmer.

For more information, go to www.wvup.edu/CARES-EmergencyGrants.

WVU-P program to honor graduates

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 4, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/06/wvu-p-program-to-honor-graduates/>

PARKERSBURG — WVU-Parkersburg will hold a televised, one-hour graduation celebration for Spring 2020 Graduates starting Sunday.

WVUP will honor its graduates and area high school seniors during a special one-hour television program on local TV stations and social media outlets, according to a release from the college.

The graduation celebration will air on Sunday, June 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the local NBC affiliate and will be live-streamed to WVU Parkersburg's official Facebook and YouTube pages. The program will be replayed on Wednesday, June 10, from 7 to 8 p.m., on the local CBS station and Thursday, June 11, from 7 to 8 p.m., on the local FOX affiliate.
