



West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
Board of Governors Meeting  
**Media Clips**

*June 5, – August 7, 2020*

8 June 17, 2020  
The St. Marys Oracle

# Building a Legacy



A family tradition of education

"WVU-P afforded me **opportunities** that have changed the **course** of my **family** for **generations** to come."

Dr. David Lancaster graduated from **WVU Parkersburg** in 1996 with a **Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education K-8**. Dr. Lancaster serves as **Chair** of the **WVU Parkersburg Education Division**.



Camaron Lancaster

"The WVU-P Education Program prepared me to enter the classroom as an **effective** educator. The foundational skills I learned **prepared** me for the classroom and also taught me to strive to **better myself** both inside and outside of the school setting."

Camaron graduated from **WVU Parkersburg** in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education K-6, Specialization Social Studies K-12, Physical Education K-12, Health K-12. He later pursued a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Camaron works at St. Marys High School teaching **Civics**.



Kyle Lancaster

"After graduating from WVU-P, I had the **skills** and **certifications** needed to be hired as an eighth grade science teacher in Pleasants County. I continued my education to receive a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Currently, I have **returned** to WVU-P as an instructor to give back to an institution that **has given me so much**."

Kyle graduated from **WVU Parkersburg** in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education K-6, Social Studies 5-9, Math 5-Algebra I. Kyle works in the Education Division at WVU Parkersburg.



Connor Lancaster

"WVU Parkersburg provided me with a top-tier education that **equipped** me with the skills needed to **excel** as an educator. Being an alumnus of the education program has provided me the ability to be a **leader** in my **classroom** and **community**."

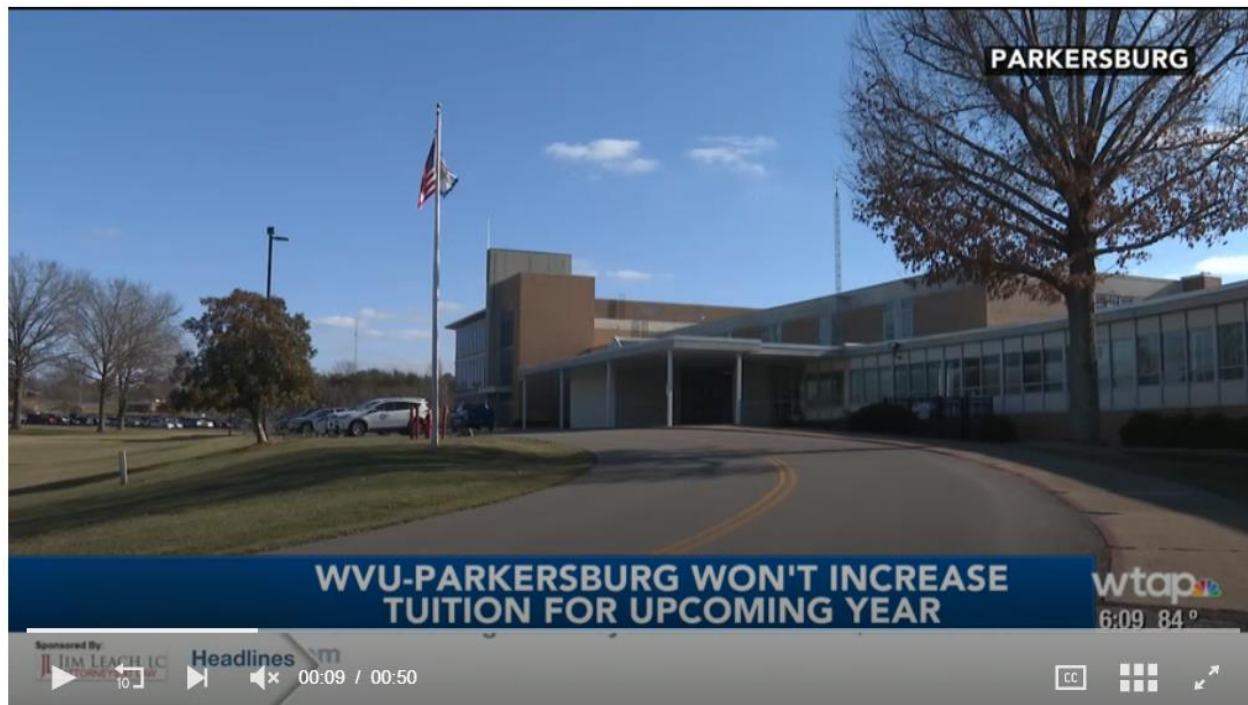
Connor graduated from **WVU Parkersburg** in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education K-6, Science 5-9. Connor works at the Pleasants County Middle School teaching **Science** in fifth and sixth grades.

**WVU-Parkersburg won't increase tuition for upcoming year [video]**

WTAP-TV

June 8, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/video?vid=571115502>



---

**63 Local Students Earn Honors at WVU-P**

St. Marys Oracle & Pleasants County Leader

June 10, 2020

Sixty-three local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the spring semester. Named to the president's list with perfect 4.0 averages for 12 or more hours of college credit were: Belmont: Alexis Carder. St. Marys: Peyton Auxier, Hannah Barker, Summer Bayless, Robert Bills II, Jocelynn Campbell, Bralynn Davis, Jacob Elder, Lara Fetty, Dylan Fitzsimmons, Brody Grimes, Emily Hadley, Ryan McCoy, Bethany McFarland, Mary Taylor, Mallory Webb and Kylie Wright. Waverly: Lakyn Ankrom and Whitney Kiger. Named to the dean's list for averages of 3.5-3.99 for six or more hours of college credit were: Belmont: Rachel Gumm, Michelle Neff and William Stanton. St. Marys: Shelby-Jo Anderson, Colton Barnhart, Jenna Barnhart, Ciara Bennett, Anthony Bowie, Richard Burkhammer, Summer Burkhammer, Aimee Chambers, Kelly Chandler, Aidan Cospers, Gabrielle Cunningham, Isabella Davis, Mara Eisenbarth, Brendan Fox, Rachal Hashman, Jaden Hatcher, Karly Henderson, Sydney Maston, Kylie Myers, Miranda Myers, Abigail Peckens, Willio Rene, Logan Rice, William Steele, Kyle

Taylor, Juan Timmons, Amanda Ward and Aaron Wince. Waverly: Jamie Broschious, Hannah Mollohan, Meredith Davis, Jaimi Fleming, Stevie Florence, Jacob Huggins, Logan Rhodes and Amber Ward. Friendly: Haylea Lemasters, Sierra Mace, Jaden Schofield, Jacob Sharp and Sydney Smith.

---

### **WVU-P Will Not Raise Tuition for 2020-21 Year**

St. Marys Oracle & Pleasants County Leader

June 10, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has announced that it will not increase tuition for the 2020-21 academic year. Students will pay the same tuition rates as they did for the 2019-20 academic year.

“We are living in challenging and uncertain times, and many of our current and potential students are facing financial difficulties from the loss of jobs,” said Alice Harris, executive vice president of finance and administration, WVU Parkersburg. “Adjusting our expenditures so that we can hold our tuition rates at their current affordable level is one way that we can help to ensure that our students can fulfill their educational dreams and that those who may need job retraining have affordable options to do so.”

WVU Parkersburg offers the lowest bachelor’s degree tuition rate in West Virginia and in-state tuition rates to all Ohio residents, making it one of the most affordable, accredited four-year colleges in the nation. Additionally, WVU Parkersburg’s tuition charges are capped, so any credits taken over 12 credit hours per semester are offered at no additional charge. Scholarships, need-based grants, loans and employment opportunities are also offered to students to help cover the cost of attendance.

“We are all about creating opportunities for our students,” said WVU Parkersburg president Chris Gilmer. “Summer 2020 enrollment increased considerably, and we are hoping to welcome face-to-face a large and excited class for the fall 2020 semester beginning in August. We hope that both new and returning students will register early so that their course schedules can be confirmed, and while most of our staff and faculty are still working remotely due to social distancing, we are eager to help you by telephone and online. Soon, we hope our doors will be opening again in person, with proper health precautions in place. “The university is fully open for business and committed more than ever to supporting our communities as we all navigate these challenging times together,” he added.

---

### **26 Earn Degrees at WVU-P**

St. Marys Oracle & The Pleasants County Leader

June 10, 2020

Twenty-six local students earned certificates, associate and bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University at Parkersburg in the spring semester.

Academic honors were awarded to those graduates who attained a 3.50-3.749 grade point average, cum laude; 3.75-3.99, magna cum laude; and 4.0, summa cum laude.

WVU-Parkersburg graduates included: Belmont: Ryan Fluharty, CAS, AAS, Business Administration; and Rachel Gumm, BS, Business Administration. St. Marys: Devon Amos, CAS, Welding, and AAS, Welding Technology; Peyton Auxier, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; Hannah Barker, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; Anthony Bowie, AAS, Computer & Information Technology, Magna Cum Laude; Jocelynn Campbell, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; Aimee Chambers, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; Kelly Chandler, BS, Nursing; Aidan Cospser, CAS, General Education, Cum Laude; Ryan McCoy, BAS, Communication & Media Studies – Digital Communication, Cum Laude; Bethany McFarland, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; Peyton Oliver, CAS, General Education; Kaitlynn Rhodes, AA, General Education; William Steele, CAS, General Education; Laura Taylor, BA, Elementary Education, Cum Laude; Mary Taylor, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; Bradon Vannoy, AA, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; and Amanda Ward, CAS, AAS, Business Administration. Waverly: Jamie Broscious, AAS, Surgical Technology; Sarah Hart, AAS, Business Administration; Hannah Mollohan, BAS, Business Administration, Cum Laude; and Whitney Kiger, AAS, Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude. Friendly: Haylea Lemasters, BS, Nursing; Sierra Mace, BS, Nursing; and Jaden Schofield, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude.

---

### **11 graduate from WVU-P**

Wirt County Journal

June 10, 2020

Eleven local students earned certificates, associate and bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University at Parkersburg in the spring semester.

Academic honors were awarded to those graduates who attained a 3.50-3.749 grade point average, cum laude; 3.75-3.99, magna cum laude; and 4.0, summa cum laude.

WVU-Parkersburg graduates included: Elizabeth: Beth Goodwin, AAS, BOG; Jeremy Kerby, AAS, BOG; Seth Kerby, BAS, Criminal Justice, Cum Laude; and Shayna Lowe, CAS, AAS, Criminal Justice. Palestine: Emily Allen, BAS, Child Development; Shawni Hill, BA, Elementary Education; and Dakota White, CAS, Welding, Magna Cum Laude; Leroy: Hannah Hamon, BA, Elementary Education, Cum Laude Reedy: Kaitlyn Bowen, AAS, Nursing; Erica Ellison, AAS, Criminal Justice; and Madison Marshall, AAS, Nursing, Magna Cum Laude.



---

### **36 earn honors at WVU-P**

Wirt County Journal  
June 10, 2020

Thirty-six local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the spring semester.

Named to the president's list with perfect 4.0 averages for 12 or more hours of college credit were: Creston: Hannah Stephens and Matthew White. Elizabeth: Addie Bailey, Paul Bunner, Toni Cain, Hunter Hickman, Shawn Jones, Jeremy Kelbaugh, Thomas Mullenix II, Penny Shrader, Shannon Stanley and Kaitlyn Thompson. Leroy: Aarin Cale. Palestine: Brooklyn Smith. Reedy: Kaitlyn Bowen and Madison Marshall.

Named to the dean's list for averages of 3.5-3.99 for six or more hours of college credit were: Brohard: Mikaela Baccay. Creston: Kassandra Starcher Reedy: Anna Errickson, Felicity Shannon and Holly Terrell. Elizabeth: Curtis Browning, Elle Campbell, Madison Cogar, Deborah Darling, Haylee Exline, Kaitlyn Frazier, Beth Goodwin, Seth Kerby, Shayna Lowe, Daniel McCloy and Kaysi Trickett. Palestine: Kaitlyn Lockney, Peyton Richards, Dakota White and Stacey Wyer.

---

### **Academic Achiever of the Week: Julia Auch**

WTAP-TV  
June 11, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Academic-Achiever-of-the-Week-Julia-Auch-571145131.html>



**PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP)** - Julia Auch is going to be a senior at Parkersburg High School. She carries a weighted GPA well above a 4.0.

Auch wants to work in the medical field, and she's doing a lot to prepare.

She takes classes at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, She's accumulated 580 hours of volunteer hours just at WVU Medicine Camden Clark and she's a member of HOSA: Future Health Professionals. Through HOSA, she competes in knowledge based testing. This year she placed first in the state in a knowledge test in the field of Pathophysiology.

"[I also] got an award for my volunteer experience in healthcare," said Auch. "Since I placed first in the state, I was invited to compete in the international conference which is coming up at the end of June."

Unfortunately, she won't get to go to Texas to compete in person thanks to the Coronavirus pandemic, but she will still compete online.

Auch's goal is to one day be a physician. She hasn't yet decided on a college, but she's got one in mind.

"It depends on the types of scholarships that I get. The school that I have liked a lot is Marshall. I'm still looking, but a lot of the programs they have are really great and it's not too far from home," said Auch.

Like many other Academic Achievers, Auch is a dedicated volunteer, but she also stays busy doing seasonal work.

"I have worked since I got my worker's permit when I was 15, I believe," said Auch.

She says working has taught her how to manage her time more efficiently, but her volunteer work has made her realize what she wants to do with her life.

"For me, volunteering has really solidified that I do want to go into healthcare. I love being in the hospital and I love interacting with patients, patients' families, and healthcare professionals," said Auch.

Auch hasn't been able to be in the hospital much since the coronavirus pandemic began, so she found another way to help out and lift spirits. She's been making cards for staff and patients.

"I like to be involved even when I can't be there. That's what's really hard about this, because I can't go and do the stuff that I want to do," said Auch. "I think that it's important to reaffirm, like thank our healthcare professionals right now."

Auch says she is motivated by an eagerness to learn and to succeed in her goals.

---

### **Gilmer: WVU-P will open classrooms for fall semester**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 12, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/06/gilmer-wvu-p-will-open-classrooms-for-fall-semester/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is planning to restart face-to-face classes this fall, the university president told the Board of Governors on Wednesday.

The board met via Zoom and discussed the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the university. It also passed a budget for the 2020-21 year.

President Chris Gilmer announced his intention to begin in-person classes for the fall 2020 semester.

A lot of the guidance from state education officials have left the decision on how and when that happens in local hands, Gilmer said.

*“Reopening of campus facilities is a local decision,”* he said. *“(The chancellor of the West Virginia Community and Technical College System) advised discretion and caution as we move forward.*

*“In the near future, after further consultation with this Board, the University’s executive team, and our COVID-19 task force, I will announce a tentative schedule for the phased reopening of our facilities.”*

Gilmer reminded the board even after that phased reopening, which will follow all state and federal guidance, the university will reserve the right to change course if the pandemic changes course.

*“I have charged Provost Chad Crumbaker to work with the faculty and students to ensure that all faculty members and students are prepared to transition back to virtual instruction if that is required, and furthermore, we are also exploring the option of making all or most classes into hybrid classes for fall, part-time face-to-face and part-time virtual,”* Gilmer said.

Currently, the university is not adjusting the fall calendar, but has reserved the right for students to complete online the short portion of the semester which falls after Thanksgiving break, in case the pandemic makes a comeback, he said.

The university has remained open for business, and summer school is being conducted through online instruction.

*“Full-time equivalent Summer 2020 enrollment currently stands at 112 percent compared to summer 2019, and new student enrollment for Summer 2020 stands at 305 percent compared to summer 2020,”* Gilmer said. *“In fairness, while the percentage growth of new students is exponential, it represents a small pool of actual students, nonetheless still a great accomplishment for our recruiting and retention teams considering the adverse recruiting and retention circumstances.”*

It is too soon to know whether summer will be a predictor of fall enrollment, Gilmer said.

*“I certainly hope it will be,”* he said. *“We are using all available measures to recruit new students and to retain existing ones.*



“Total new student applications are up significantly for fall 2020. Total applications for May surpassed total applications for any of the four previous months of May.

*“Still, for this success to be fully realized, we must admit and register these students and retain a large number of continuing students who have not yet registered for fall.”*

WVU Parkersburg’s students traditionally wait until mid-to-late summer to register for fall, he added.

*“We are hopeful that the remainder of June, all of July, and early August will help us close the gap between where we are now and where we ended the fall 2019 semester,”* Gilmer said. *“Progress toward fall enrollment is down at many institutions because of the pandemic, but you may trust we will do all within our power to ensure a robust class for fall 2020 at WVU Parkersburg.”*

In an attempt to remove all possible barriers toward enrollment, officials have made the decision not to increase tuition for the fall 2020, spring 2021 terms.

*“We made the strategic decision not to impose any hardships on our students beyond those which the pandemic has already caused,”* Gilmer said.

The board passed the proposed \$21.1 million budget for 2020-21. The university will end the current budget year with a small surplus and Gilmer said it will be proposing a balanced budget to the board for the next fiscal year.

The surplus is around \$234,000, Executive Vice President Alice Harris said.

This was done through measures to control costs through emergency purchasing guidelines, starting in March, she said.

When shutdowns started, it impacted the amount of money the college would be getting.

*“(The surplus) happened because we didn’t buy anything we didn’t need or weren’t obligated to purchase,”* Harris said. *“We are looking at a decent year financially, despite everything that has been going on.”*

Revenues from traditional sources within the college, child care services and Ricky’s Cafe will be down because of the pandemic.

Due to the C.A.R.E.S. Act stimulus funding received, the university was able to provide \$876,544 in grants ranging from \$650 to \$1,300 to 1,046 students. However, Harris said that will not impact the university’s bottom line.

*“Given everything we are going through, all of the uncertainty, I think we have done as good as we can do to control the finances and keep us in good shape going forward,”* Harris said.

Harris said she had worked on the budget as the pandemic continually changed circumstances for the college.

The budget reflected additional resources for the admissions office, marketing efforts, plans to retain students and more.

*“There are probably more unknowns that I have ever faced in putting together a budget,” Harris said. “The status of the pandemic and the impact it will have on our enrollment and the impact it will have on the West Virginia state budget where they might feel the need to adjust our appropriations.”*

---

### **WVUP professor wins screenwriters award**

WTAP-TV

June 14, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVUP-professor-wins-screenwriters-award--571250001.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP)** - Adam Stover is an adjunct english professor at WVU Parkersburg and a West Virginia native.

Stover recently won first place in the 2020 Los Angeles Motion Picture Festival for best feature screenplay and the Royal Wolf Film Awards for best screenplay feature for the Shadow of Frankenstein.

Stover has a media studies masters degree from West Virginia State University and he says pursuing film projects is something, he's been doing for a few years now. The film is made after the novel by John Johnson. Johnson and Stover collaborated on bringing the novel to life.

The story is a literary sequel to the original Frankenstein by Mary Shelley but set ten years later. The novel is set in the 1830s, the story follows a young man who loses his fiancée and shortly after that, he loses his parents and poses the question, 'what if he can bring them back to life?' "Well this is something...there's not a lot of infrastructure in the state of West Virginia for the arts and any kind of support like that, so if you're going to do something, you're going to do it yourself for the most part so I mean I'm really happy about that," said Adam Stover, WVUP professor.

Stover is currently working on his next film based on a graphic novel, Pin Pricks by an author in Charleston, Jason Pell.

---

### **Some West Virginia colleges, universities among those going ‘test optional’ for admissions in pandemic**

WV MetroNews

June 16, 2020

<http://wvmetronews.com/2020/06/16/some-west-virginia-colleges-universities-among-those-going-test-optional-for-admissions-in-pandemic/>

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — More than half of all four-year, accredited colleges and universities — including several in West Virginia — are making standardized testing in the forms of SATs and ACTs optional for Fall 2021, according to the latest analysis from FairTest.

Bob Schaeffer, interim executive director of the organization which has advocated for optional testing for incoming higher education students since the 1980s, said the coronavirus pandemic has added to what had been a growing trend of taking emphasis off tests.

“Last year was the best year ever for the test-optional admissions movement. At the beginning of this year there were already 1,050 schools,” Schaeffer told MetroNews.

“The virus rapidly accelerated the number of school revising their SAT and ACT requirements.”

Harvard University was one of the latest institutions to announce students applying for admission in the Class of 2025, beginning classes next fall, could do so without standardized test scores.

“We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has created insurmountable challenges in scheduling tests for all students, particularly those from modest economic backgrounds, and we believe this temporary change addresses these challenges,” a Harvard message said.

The **latest FairTest list** included about 1,240 institutions where ACT and SAT requirements had largely been dropped, at least for the foreseeable future, out of the 2,330 qualifying institutions which have granted bachelor’s degrees.

SAT and ACT test date cancellations may have been factors in the decisions.

“Colleges recognize that students who are currently high school juniors who will be seniors next year probably do not have an opportunity to take the SAT or ACT because many test sites were closed due to the pandemic,” Schaeffer said.

Now may be a good time, he argued, to make the dropping of testing requirements permanent.

The West Virginia colleges and universities included on the latest test-optional list from FairTest for 2021 were the following:

- American Military University in Charles Town;
- Bluefield State College (SAT/ACT may be required but considered only when minimum GPA and/or class rank is not met);
- Glenville State College (SAT/ACT may be required but considered only when minimum GPA and/or class rank is not met);

- Salem International University;
- University of Charleston (SAT/ACT required for some programs);
- West Liberty University (SAT/ACT may be required but considered only when minimum GPA and/or class rank is not met);
- West Virginia University at Parkersburg;
- West Virginia University Institute of Technology (SAT/ACT used only for placement and/or academic advising or SAT/ACT may be required but considered only when minimum GPA and/or class rank is not met);
- West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon.

Other schools, like Fairmont State University, were on [a separate FairTest list](#) because of testing requirement suspensions for this fall only, Fall 2020, thus far.

“Though colleges and universities announcing 2020 testing waivers merit praise for their response to the admissions testing disruptions caused by coronavirus, and some may ultimately decide to make the change permanent, they are not truly test-optional, at least not yet,” according to FairTest.

Without ACTs and SATs, Schaeffer said colleges and universities can look at prospective students as more than score.

“The SAT and ACT are unfair barriers to access. They measure how well you fill in bubbles for 3 1/2 hours on a Saturday morning,” he said.

“Colleges already have better information, more accurate predictors of undergraduate success and that’s the high school record.”

---

# Alumni success.

## Melissa Speece



"I was fortunate to have an excellent education program so close to home. The instructors were very knowledgeable and motivated to assist me in my educational goals."

Melissa graduated in December 2017 with a **Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education K-6** degree. She was a kindergarten teacher at Wirt County Primary Center. She is now the school's **Special Education Interventionist** for Math and Reading.

**I was fortunate  
to have an  
excellent  
education  
program so  
close to home.**

**~ Melissa  
Speece**





**WVU Medicine Camden Clark awards \$14,000 in scholarships to local students**

WTAP-TV

June 17, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-Medicine-Camden-Clark-awards-14000-in-scholarships-to-local-students-571320741.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va** - WVU Medicine Camden Clark has announced Wednesday the recipients of the 2020 Camden Clark Auxiliary and the Camden Clark Foundation healthcare scholarships.

The Auxiliary of Camden Clark Medical Center awarded four \$2,500 Leo D. Carsner (Memorial) Scholarships to area students obtaining a degree in a healthcare field. The 2020 recipients are Samantha Armstrong, Muskingum University; Kayleigh Terrell, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine; Krista Jameson, Washington State Community College; and Isaac Pringle, West Virginia University.

“Funds raised by operating the hospital Gift Shop and sponsoring fundraisers throughout the year enables the Auxiliary to maintain the scholarship fund as well as give an annual donation to the hospital. Providing these scholarships continues to be a high priority to the Auxiliary,” said Marjorie Reed, Volunteer Auxiliary Manager. “They see the dedication that college students must have to complete their education and the academic journey as a successful achievement and are honored they are able to assist these deserving students.”

The criteria for submitting an application are: students must have completed or in the process of completing one year of college; are obtaining a degree in the medical field, and live in the area serviced by the hospital. Applications are received annually from January 1 to March 1 and can be found on the hospital website or by contacting Volunteer Services.

Leo D. Carsner was the CEO and president of Camden Clark Memorial Hospital from 1963-1989. Known for always respecting his fellow employees, Carsner created the “Employees Association” in 1975.

This year’s Scholarship recipients were selected by the Auxiliary Board Chairperson, Sue Rhymer, Auxiliary Board Member, Ralph Tewksbury, and a Camden Clark employee.

Camden Clark Memorial Foundation awarded two \$2,000 Nursing Scholarships. The 2020 recipients are Ivy Linger, West Virginia University at Parkersburg and Kate Salmans, West Virginia University. The Camden Clark Nursing Alumnae made funding for the scholarship available. “The foundation is thrilled to once again be able to provide two deserving students with scholarships to assist them on the educational path to becoming nurses,” said Kim Couch Executive Director of the WVU Medicine Camden Clark Foundation. “We appreciate the continued help and dedication of our the alumnae from the Camden Clark School of Nursing who provide this generous support and continue to play an important role in assisting our program long since the last class graduated in 1969.”

---

**WVU Medicine Camden Clark awards \$14K in scholarships**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 19, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/06/wvu-medicine-camden-clark-awards-14k-in-scholarships/>

PARKERSBURG — WVU Medicine Camden Clark has announced the recipients of the 2020 Camden Clark Auxiliary and the Camden Clark Foundation healthcare scholarships.

The Auxiliary awarded four \$2,500 Leo D. Carsner (Memorial) Scholarships to students pursuing a degree in a healthcare field.

They are: Samantha Armstrong, Muskingum University; Kayleigh Terrell, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine; Krista Jameson, Washington State Community College; and Isaac Pringle, West Virginia University.

*“Funds raised by operating the hospital Gift Shop and sponsoring fundraisers throughout the year enables the Auxiliary to maintain the scholarship fund as well as give an annual donation to the hospital. Providing these scholarships continues to be a high priority to the Auxiliary,”* said Marjorie Reed, volunteer auxiliary manager. *“They see the dedication that college students must have to complete their education and the academic journey as a successful achievement and are honored they are able to assist these deserving students.”*

The criteria for submitting an application are: students must have completed or in the process of completing one year of college; are obtaining a degree in the medical field, and live in the area serviced by the hospital.

Applications are received from Jan. 1 to March 1 and can be found on the hospital website or by contacting Volunteer Services.

Leo D. Carsner was the CEO and president of Camden Clark Memorial Hospital from 1963-1989. Known for always respecting his fellow employees, Carsner created the Employees Association in 1975.

This year’s Scholarship recipients were selected by the Auxiliary Board Chairperson Sue Rhymer, Auxiliary Board Member Ralph Tewksbury and a Camden Clark employee.

Camden Clark Memorial Foundation awarded two \$2,000 nursing scholarships. The 2020 recipients are: Ivy Linger, West Virginia University at Parkersburg; and Kate Salmans, West Virginia University.

Camden Clark Nursing Alumnae made funding for the scholarship available.

*“The foundation is thrilled to once again be able to provide two deserving students with scholarships to assist them on the educational path to becoming nurses,”* said Kim Couch executive director of the WVU Medicine Camden Clark Foundation. *“We appreciate the continued help and dedication of our the alumnae from the Camden Clark School of Nursing who provide this generous support and continue to play an important role in assisting our program long since the last class graduated in 1969.”*

---

June 24, 2020 - Wirt County Journal - Page 5A

# Alumni success. **WVU**

## Jami Casenelli



"I had always dreamed of going away to college after high school, but my circumstances led me to WVUP. I was disappointed at first because I felt like I was missing out, but WVUP quickly became the **right fit** for me. I **loved** my professors and instructors, and they gave me a great **foundation** for my nursing practice. I worked with my ADN for 10 years before choosing WVUP again for my BSN. They were so **affordable**, and again I received the **best education** from **incredibly qualified** and **caring** nurse educators."

Jami graduated in December 2016 with a **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** and with her **Associate Degree in Nursing** in 2006. In the last year, things came full circle for Jami as she began teaching in the same **program that built her**. She is an **instructor** in the WVUP Nursing and Health Sciences Division. Her **daughter** also takes **Early College classes** at WVUP. Jami is **WVU Parkersburg proud!**

**WVUP has  
provided me  
with personal  
and professional  
connections, and  
I would not be  
where I am  
without it.**

**~ Jami  
Casenelli**





Page 6 - Pleasants County Leader - June 27, 2020



**THIS YEAR, FOLLOW YOUR  
OWN PATH, NOT THE CROWD.**



**EARN YOUR CERTIFICATE, ASSOCIATE  
OR BACHELOR'S DEGREE WITH US.**

Quality Education  
Affordable Price • Online Instruction



**NO TUITION INCREASE FOR  
2020-2021**

WVU Parkersburg offers the lowest bachelor's degree tuition rate in WV and for OH residents, making us one of the most affordable four-year colleges in the nation!

**APPLY TODAY**  
**wwup.edu | 304.424.8310**

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.



**WVUP magazine accepting submissions**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 24, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/06/wvup-magazine-accepting-submissions/>

*“The Poorhouse Rag,”* the West Virginia University at Parkersburg literary magazine, is accepting submissions.

The magazine this year will include themes of social and political marginalization and lack of equity in opportunity to honor 100 years of women’s suffrage. The edition will recognize the social changes that have occurred and highlight the hardships of political minorities.

*“The Poorhouse Rag”* is asking for submitted pieces to be connected to the feeling of *“being left out”* in terms of gender, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, social status or other challenges and obstacles, emotional and physical, individuals may have faced.

Deadline is July 1.

*“The Poorhouse Rag”* is led by the WVU Parkersburg Editorial Collective that includes Sandra Kolankiewicz, Lauri Reidmiller, Danielle Kelly, Joyce Stover, Alicia Matheny Beeson and Woody Wilson. The Editorial Collective selects the pieces featured in the magazine, however, the goal is to transition into a student-led process.

Last year, *“The Poorhouse Rag”* received more than 50 submissions from the WVU Parkersburg campus community.

*“We pick quality pieces that align with the theme and are written by individuals affiliated with the college community,”* Beeson said. *“We especially look for heartfelt, thoughtful, well-constructed pieces in a range of genres!”*

All works will be considered for a \$50 prize in each genre and the Foundation Prize for best cover art and the President’s Prize for best overall art or literary work.

*“We hope to provide opportunities for those affiliated with the college to express themselves through visual and written mediums, and to educate our campus and local community about the history of the poor farm on our campus grounds,”* Beeson said.

To submit a writing or artwork to *“The Poorhouse Rag”* or to view submission guidelines, go to [wvup.edu/poorhouserag](http://wvup.edu/poorhouserag). Submissions are open to WVU Parkersburg students, faculty, staff, alumni and their family.

There is no fee to enter.

**Mu Chapter awards recruitment grant to Bailey**

Wirt County Journal

June 29, 2020

Maggie Bailey, a 2020 graduate of Wirt County High School displays the Recruitment Grant she received from the Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Mu Chapter is the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, an international organization of women educators.

Mu Chapter's membership comes from female educators living or working in Wirt, Calhoun or Roane, counties.

The recruitment grant is presented on a rotating schedule among the counties to a young lady planning to enter the education field. Bailey plans to attend West Virginia University at Parkersburg and major in elementary education with certification in special education.

---

# WVUP Alumni success.

Rachel March  
Jeremy Waters



As a brother and sister, **Dr. Jeremy Waters** and **Rachel (Waters) March** both attended college at WVU Parkersburg because it was **close to home** and **affordable**.

Both began their careers in the medical field with an **Associate Degree in Nursing**. Rachel graduated in 1998 and Jeremy in 2000. They both work for Marietta Memorial Hospital in an office in Waterford, Ohio. **Rachel** is a **Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP-C)** and **Jeremy** is a **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)**.



**Rachael  
(Waters)  
March**

**Dr. Jeremy  
Waters**

**WVU Parkersburg student named Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar**

The Marietta Times

June 29, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/neighborhood-news/2020/06/wvu-parkersburg-student-named-coca-cola-academic-team-bronze-scholar/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. – 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 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.

---

**WVUP literary journal to showcase work on women's suffrage, social justice**

WTAP-TV

June 30, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/06/30/wvup-literary-journal-to-showcase-work-on-womens-suffrage-social-justice/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, West Virginia University, Parkersburg's (WVUP) literary journal, The Poorhouse Rag, is seeking submissions relating to women's suffrage and social justice. Submissions of both written pieces and visual art will be accepted through midnight, July 1, and the issue will be published in October.

"We see suffrage as part of giving people a voice. And education is a really big part of giving people a voice. So we see it as part of the big picture of the campus and the direction the campus goes in," said Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz, member of the school's English Department and chair of its Fine Arts Committee.

The journal is seeking poetry, fiction, flash fiction, creative nonfiction, children's stories, and artwork from those with connections to WVUP. It is particularly requesting work from those who have been marginalized due to their gender, age, race, sexual orientation, economic or educational status, or disability, highlighting the significance of intersectionality in terms of the ways in which social justice movements interact.

"There are a lot of reasons that people find themselves marginalized and voiceless," Dr. Kolankiewicz said. "And then COVID brought to light all of this and more. If you're [low-income] you may not have access to broadband and you may not be able to do your assignments [remotely]...It's all part of the same thing and we we decided to expand it because, to act like suffrage was the only thing going on, that didn't seem very realistic," she added.

The journal will be released during October's Poorhouse Week, during which a reading and an art show will be held, as well. Submissions will also be eligible to win a number of prizes.

For more information about the journal and the submission process, [click here](#).

---

### **Jan Risher: Strange times present different struggles for each of us**

The Acadiana Advocate

July 2, 2020

[https://www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/entertainment\\_life/jan\\_risher/article\\_a1bf0930-bce4-11ea-a3d2-bbd5c6fbd14b.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/entertainment_life/jan_risher/article_a1bf0930-bce4-11ea-a3d2-bbd5c6fbd14b.html)

As we celebrate the anniversary of our nation's independence, I've spent time dissecting a big realization I've had over the last week — which turned out to be easier than the time in 10th grade my lab partner and I used a tiny blade to find a frog's vital organs.

Plus, not a single whiff of formaldehyde was necessary.

The epiphany seemed to come from out of nowhere, but I know it didn't. Much like a so-called "overnight success," those kind of things never happen on their own or in a vacuum. A thousand little things lead up to and contribute to those moments.



However, in a moment last week, I realized that one of the things bothering me about the pandemic and quarantine is how much I miss in-depth conversations with people outside my inner circle. I missed those magical conversations, often with people I barely know or haven't seen in years.

I realize the notion came to me as I was finishing my column last week — a process that turned out to be more complicated than usual.

Typically, I read my final draft aloud to my husband. He patiently listens and often makes suggestions. Last week, when the time came to send in my column, my husband was not available.

I decided to do an experiment. I explained my predicament on social media and asked if anyone would like to volunteer to help me do a final edit of my column. Within minutes, a friend from high school messaged to say he would be glad to help.

I haven't seen Chris Gilmer since we were teenagers, but we've known each other since we were toddlers. My uncle and his dad were close friends. Chris was (and is still) a year younger than me. In high school, we had Spanish together when I was a sophomore and he was a freshman. (He still calls me Juana.) In the summer of 1982, a couple of years later, we worked together at my Uncle Mack's little grocery store. My uncle Mack had high expectations of all of his employees. He often told me about how smart Chris was.

Uncle Mack was right.

Chris left the tiny town where we grew up and got himself an education. He earned an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts from East Central Community College, a Master of Arts in English from Mississippi College and a Bachelor of Science and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is now the president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Via social media, I've loved watching Chris from afar. Even though we weren't close friends in high school, we shared enough common ground for me to appreciate how far he's come and the steps required to get there. I've been thrilled at his success and the happiness he's found.

Talking to him was like looking, from a great distance, at something so familiar but still so far away — a blend of knowing it well and marveling at all that has happened between here and there. Our conversation yielded a surprising and incalculable amount of joy. A week later, I still smile when I recall the territory we covered in the 15 minutes we talked.

I've mentioned the conversation to my husband several times. My husband is a man whose goal when going into a store is to get in and out only having said two words: a "thank you" to the clerk. He realized long ago that I, on the other hand, appreciate conversations with as many people as possible. We both realized just how much I miss those random encounters. He

suspects that those chance conversations and random tidbits provide much of the fodder for what he calls my ongoing idea factory.

These days, my innate extroverted tendencies are hedging in the opposite direction, but the conversation helped me realize the dangers and risks of living in an echo chamber — something that’s easy to do when much of the world is on lockdown and we’re not out there mingling as much as we once were.

I decided to develop a plan to make real conversations happen with a greater variety of people. I’m going to be deliberate about scheduling chats with people outside my inner circle — adding at least one a day to my daily routine.

This strange time presents struggles to each of us. I appreciate the quiet it offers. I just need to bring in more voices, celebrating the differences and common ground we discover.

Just like, I believe our country is a better version of itself when it celebrates the patchwork of people that make it the incredible experiment it has been for 244 years. I’m a better version of myself when I’m influenced by and connecting to a variety of people.

---

### **WVU Parkersburg Forms Partnership with the West Virginia Potato Company**

West Virginia Executive

July 7, 2020

<http://www.wvexecutive.com/wvu-parkersburg-forms-partnership-with-the-west-virginia-potato-company/>

WVU Parkersburg has formed a partnership with the Mister Bee Potato Chip company to collaborate with local farmers and begin producing West Virginia grown potatoes for the company.

Mary Ann Ketelsen, owner and president of Mister Bee Potato Chips, has provided WVU Parkersburg with a grant to assist the college in growing 10 acres of specialty chipping potatoes for Mister Bee. The project will begin this fall on the Riverhawk Farm near the Parkersburg campus.

“Love for a certain locally-produced potato chip, and a passion for WVUP, led me to explore ways for us to ‘grow’ together,” said Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg executive director of Civic Engagement and Innovation. “I am so excited to be helping WVUP, Mr. Bee and the local economy by helping to build a sustainable agriculture program on the WVUP Riverhawk Farm. The first year’s pilot growing season is in full swing, and this fall, Mr. Bee will produce its first potato chips from West Virginia-grown, WVUP potatoes.”

With a resource and training center focus, WVU Parkersburg is developing the Riverhawk Farm to expand sustainable agriculture practices. The college will also be training a workforce for

production and supporting the region’s agricultural small businesses. Current business leaders in the agriculture field will be providing expertise and support for the WVU Parkersburg Potato Cooperative and the Riverhawk Farm Learning Center.

“Thanks to the generosity of Mary Ann Ketelsen and her team at Mister Bee, we are engaging in one of the most exciting and entrepreneurial ventures that WVU Parkersburg has undertaken in a long time,” said WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer. “We are bringing the university’s farm back into service to provide locally-grown potatoes so that Mister Bee can now promote that some of its potatoes are West Virginia grown. We hope to expand our growing potential in future years and to bring together a coalition of local farmers who are interested in helping to meet even more of Mister Bee’s needs.”

WVU Parkersburg will offer ways for individuals in the community to get involved. SW Resources and the college are collaborating to bring opportunities for individuals in recovery from substance abuse. WVU Parkersburg will also be working with the WV Department of Agriculture to give student veterans the chance to receive agricultural training with the WV Vets to Agriculture program. “This will be of direct benefit to our students who will be able to engage in a number of new experiential learning roles related to agribusiness,” Gilmer said.

WVU Parkersburg and Mister Bee continue to look for area farms that would like to help the local economy and save shipping costs for Mister Bee during certain times of the year. “WVUP is planning a variety of training and educational opportunities at the Riverhawk Farm to encourage and promote farming innovations that improve the environment, increase profitability and improve the quality of life for individuals in our community,” Goudy said.

---

### **WVUP students will return to campus this fall, administrators say**

WTAP-TV

July 8, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/07/09/wvup-students-will-return-to-campus-this-fall-administrators-say/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg students can return to campus this fall, administrators say. The university’s president, Dr. Chris Gilmer, says the current plan is to have students on campus in August. However, school won’t look the same as it did before the coronavirus pandemic. Among many other changes, students will alternate being in the actual classroom and attending over Zoom.

“We will be doing our classes in a hybrid format,” said Gilmer. “Students will receive half their instruction face to face and half their instruction virtually. SO if a class meets at nine o’clock on Monday and Wednesday, half the group will be in class with the professor on Monday, half the group will be in the class with the professor on Wednesday so we can maintain proper social

distancing and all of our health protocols. The day they aren't physically in class with the professor they will be learning virtually over zoom, in real time."

Gilmer says WVUP is following every guideline given by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reopen. Everyone who enters the building has to wear a mask and get their temperature checked. He says safety is a top priority for the university.

It's too early to tell how well the reopening plan will go, but Gilmer says there are multiple studies that suggest a staggered attendance is better for a student's education anyway and the little reaction he has gotten to the reopening plan has been positive.

"Our students have been telling me, while they've enjoyed their virtual learning, they want to come back and be face to face with their professors in class," said Gilmer.

While the university has been open amid the coronavirus pandemic, many employees were sent home and facilities were closed. Now in preparation for students to return, WVUP began bringing staff back in phases on the first Monday in July.

"We've brought back about 75 of our employees in a phased, socially distanced kind of way," said Gilmer. "We're going to try to bring back the entire faculty and staff around the first of August to get ready for a large class of students who will be coming back in the fall."

Enrollment numbers aren't final for fall semester yet, but Gilmer says he was pleasantly surprised to see summer enrollment climb by ten percent this year.

There are some concerns about reopening, but one student says she is ready to be back.

"It is concerning being back with a bunch of people where there are still unknowns, and uncertainty. However, I am excited to be back in the classroom and face to face with my favorite professors and all of my friends," said Sarah Weeks, a media communications major. "I have no doubt in my mind that I will be safe and ready to return to courses and be absolutely healthy."

Gilmer says students or potential students who would like to arrange a meeting or a tour of the campus can make an appointment to do so by calling WVUP at 304-424-8310.

---

### **WVU-P professor wins first place in screenwriting competitions**

The Marietta Times

July 9, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/neighborhood-news/2020/07/wvu-p-professor-wins-first-place-in-screenwriting-competitions/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. – Adam Stover, WVU Parkersburg adjunct professor of English and Theatre Appreciation, has a secret talent – one that has recently been nationally and internationally recognized.

Stover began writing screenplays in graduate school where he served as the producer and secondary writer for his first creative team. As the team pursued other ventures, Stover began writing smaller pieces and gradually transitioned to longer ones. *“It takes varying amounts of time to produce a finished screenplay,”* Stover said. *“It usually takes me one to two months depending upon the amount of time I can dedicate to the project and can take longer to develop original concepts depending upon the amount of research necessary to successfully build the world in the story.”*

*“I’m actually a transmedia producer at heart, and writing is one of the things I do to generate projects,”* Stover said. Before this year, Stover had only entered the West Virginia Writer’s, Inc. 2015 Annual Writing Contest, and placed fourth in the screenplay category.

*“I went through a project generation phase last year that’s resulted in a number of promising scripts,”* Stover said. *“The Shadow of Frankenstein”* was entered into four screenwriting contests and has two first-place finishes – the 2020 Los Angeles Motion Picture Festival Best Feature Screenplay and Royal Wolf Film Awards Best Screenplay Feature for April 2020. Stover also received a second-place finish in the Pinnacle Film Awards and a fourth-place finish at Mindfield Film Festival.

*“We’re obviously happy about the start,”* Stover said. *“It’s (‘The Shadow of Frankenstein’) been entered into a number of European film festivals, so I’ll be curious to see how it does overseas.”* Although the film has not been recognized internationally yet, it has been a hit all over America and Stover says they will find out how the film does in Europe in July.

John Johnson, actor, producer, director and writer, released two plays that Stover produced in the previous four years with Johnson’s company Astral Theatre Collective. In 2016 and 2017, two of those plays were brought to WVU Parkersburg, Sherlock Holmes and the Beast of White Chapel and Carmilla. Johnson and Stover served as co-writers on the project.

Stover continues to work on his current project, *“Pinpricks,”* an anthology animated film based on the graphic novel of Charleston, W.Va. author Jason Pell. *“It’s reminiscent of ‘The Twilight Zone’ if it were set in West Virginia,”* Stover said. *“It’ll premiere later this year and have its own run on the festival circuit.”*

---

## **Twenty-five high school seniors selected as West Virginia’s first Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars**

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

July 8, 2020



[http://www.wvhepc.edu/twenty-five-high-school-seniors-selected-as-west-virginias-first-underwood-smith-teaching-scholars/?fbclid=IwAR3cwIezWRS85k\\_BWHpYkLMxW7z-BGsvUgbc6SJh42WoqAsd0uhj641JhZU](http://www.wvhepc.edu/twenty-five-high-school-seniors-selected-as-west-virginias-first-underwood-smith-teaching-scholars/?fbclid=IwAR3cwIezWRS85k_BWHpYkLMxW7z-BGsvUgbc6SJh42WoqAsd0uhj641JhZU)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Twenty-five high school seniors who graduated this year have been selected as West Virginia’s first Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars. These students will receive the state’s newest and most prestigious scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year – or \$40,000 total – for their college education as they prepare to pursue rewarding careers as West Virginia teachers.

“I’m incredibly proud of these young scholars, and I can’t wait to see what they accomplish over the next four years and beyond,” said **Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor of West Virginia’s Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System**. “When we worked with the Legislature and Governor Justice last year to revamp this program, we knew we wanted to create a preeminent scholarship that would produce new generations of strong, committed teachers for years to come in the Mountain State. This cohort is just the beginning, and it’s certainly a bright one.”

“I am pleased to congratulate the inaugural class of Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars. Their interest in and commitment to education is commendable, and I know this scholarship is paving the way to build capacity among our teacher ranks,” said **West Virginia Superintendent of Schools W. Clayton Burch**. “The challenges we face in filling content areas such as math, science and special education are very real. Programs such as this will assist us to meet the demand with a highly qualified corps of new teachers.”

This program – the first in the state to be open to a national applicant pool – is designed to help West Virginia address ongoing teacher shortages in the fields of math, science, special education and elementary education. Recipients commit to teaching in one of these high-demand fields in West Virginia for at least five years after graduation. To give students the greatest chance at success, each is paired with a practicing classroom teacher mentor, who will provide guidance throughout their college careers.

A video highlighting the scholars can be found on [YouTube](#), and their photos are available at [underwoodsmith.org/2020-scholars/](http://underwoodsmith.org/2020-scholars/). The 2020 Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars beginning their studies in West Virginia this fall are:

**Maggie Bailey** from Wirt County High School is attending West Virginia University at Parkersburg to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Emily Barr** from Nicholas County High School is attending Glenville State College to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Kailee Beckman** from North Marion High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in special education.

**Olivia Burns** from Hurricane High School is attending Marshall University to pursue a degree in math.

**Wiley Byers** from Greenbrier East High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in math.

**Payton Campbell** from Lewis County High School is attending West Virginia Wesleyan College to pursue a degree in special education.

**Kyler Carper** from Wirt County High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in science.

**Brooke Choiniere** from Spring Mills High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Ashley Davis** from Ritchie County High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Samuel Dudgeon** from Mount View High School is attending Ohio Valley University to pursue a degree in math.

**BreighAnne Glover** from Hedgesville High School is attending Shepherd University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Chase Haines** from Spring Mills High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in science.

**Emma Haley** from St. Clairsville High School in Ohio is attending West Liberty University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Josie Hill** from Point Pleasant High School is attending Glenville State College to pursue a degree in math.

**Somer Kerr** from Philip Barbour High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Stori Ketterman** from Petersburg High School is attending Shepherd University to pursue a degree in science.

**Faith Lovejoy** from Buffalo Putnam High School is attending West Virginia State University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Jacob Massey** from Sherman High School is attending West Virginia State University to pursue a degree in math.

**Emily McElwain** from Greenbrier East High School is attending Concord University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Sophia Miller** from Parkersburg South High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Megan Noss** from Preston High School is attending West Virginia Wesleyan College to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Caroline Smith** from Nicholas County High School is attending Concord University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Mallori Straub** from Morgantown High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

**Isabella Vint** from Scott High School is attending Marshall University to pursue a degree in math.

**Kensley White** from Van Junior Senior High School is attending West Virginia State University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

A virtual celebration of the scholars will be held on Wednesday, July 29 at 2:00 p.m. on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/HEPCMediaCenter/>.

For rising high school seniors who want to become a teacher in West Virginia, applications open on July 15, 2020 for the 2021 cohort. Visit [underwoodsmith.org](http://underwoodsmith.org) for more information. The Underwood-Smith award is stackable with other forms of financial aid. West Virginia residents who receive the PROMISE Scholarship as well (\$4,750 per year) receive nearly \$15,000 per year to help pay for college.

---

### **West Virginia's first Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars announced**

West Virginia MetroNews

July 12, 2020

<https://wvmetronews.com/2020/07/12/west-virginias-first-underwood-smith-teaching-scholars-announced/>

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — Twenty-five high school seniors have been selected as West Virginia's first Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars and look to make an impact on the state's children.

**The students selected** will receive a scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year, or \$40,000 total, for their college education which is geared towards education as West Virginia teachers.

"My counselor kept hounding all the people who are going to be teachers and said 'you need to fill this out, it's going to be a really good scholarship,'" Kensley White, a scholarship recipient from Van Junior-Senior High School [said on MetroNews 'Talkline.'](#)

"It was a three-step process and 25 people out of hundreds got chosen for it."

White will be attending West Virginia State University to pursue a degree in elementary education. She said she has grown a passion to teach the youth.

“I have been a member of my church up here for a few years and every summer we hold a bible school and I love to teach the kids at bible school,” she said.

“I have even considered special education because I have grown up with a little cousin and he pulls at my heartstrings and taught me patience. That is something I am very passionate about.”

The program, the first in the state to be open to a national applicant pool, is designed to help West Virginia address ongoing teacher shortages in the fields of math, science, special education, and elementary education, a release said.

Recipients commit to teaching in one of those fields in West Virginia for at least five years after graduation. Each student is paired with a practicing classroom teacher mentor, who will provide guidance throughout their college careers.

White said she sees potential with giving back to the state.

“Looking at it now, it seems difficult to make a five-year commitment but I want to see growth in our state and keep jobs here instead of everyone leaving. Because we have so much potential in our state to grow,” White said.

**Other scholarship winners include:**

- Maggie Bailey from Wirt County High School is attending West Virginia University at Parkersburg to pursue a degree in elementary education.
- Emily Barr from Nicholas County High School is attending Glenville State College to pursue a degree in elementary education.
- Kailee Beckman from North Marion High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in special education.
- Olivia Burns from Hurricane High School is attending Marshall University to pursue a degree in math.
- Wiley Byers from Greenbrier East High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in math.
- Payton Campbell from Lewis County High School is attending West Virginia Wesleyan College to pursue a degree in special education.
- Kyler Carper from Wirt County High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in science.
- Brooke Choiniere from Spring Mills High School is attending Fairmont State University to pursue a degree in elementary education.
- Ashley Davis from Ritchie County High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.
- Samuel Dudgeon from Mount View High School is attending Ohio Valley University to pursue

a degree in math.

– BreighAnne Glover from Hedgesville High School is attending Shepherd University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Chase Haines from Spring Mills High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in science.

– Emma Haley from St. Clairsville High School in Ohio is attending West Liberty University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Josie Hill from Point Pleasant High School is attending Glenville State College to pursue a degree in math.

– Somer Kerr from Philip Barbour High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Stori Ketterman from Petersburg High School is attending Shepherd University to pursue a degree in science.

– Faith Lovejoy from Buffalo Putnam High School is attending West Virginia State University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Jacob Massey from Sherman High School is attending West Virginia State University to pursue a degree in math.

– Emily McElwain from Greenbrier East High School is attending Concord University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Sophia Miller from Parkersburg South High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Megan Noss from Preston High School is attending West Virginia Wesleyan College to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Caroline Smith from Nicholas County High School is attending Concord University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Mallori Straub from Morgantown High School is attending West Virginia University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

– Isabella Vint from Scott High School is attending Marshall University to pursue a degree in math.

“I’m incredibly proud of these young scholars, and I can’t wait to see what they accomplish over the next four years and beyond,” said Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor of West Virginia’s Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System in a news release.

“When we worked with the Legislature and Governor Justice last year to revamp this program, we knew we wanted to create a preeminent scholarship that would produce new generations of strong, committed teachers for years to come in the Mountain State. This cohort is just the beginning, and it’s certainly a bright one.”

West Virginia Superintendent of Schools W. Clayton Burch said, “I am pleased to congratulate the inaugural class of Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars. Their interest in and commitment



to education is commendable, and I know this scholarship is paving the way to build capacity among our teacher ranks.

“The challenges we face in filling content areas such as math, science and special education are very real. Programs such as this will assist us to meet the demand with a highly qualified corps of new teachers.”

A virtual celebration of the scholars will be held on Wednesday, July 29 at 2:00 p.m. on [Facebook Live](#).

For high school seniors who want to become a teacher in West Virginia, applications open on July 15, 2020 for the 2021 cohort. Visit [underwoodsmith.org](http://underwoodsmith.org) for more information.

The Underwood-Smith award is stackable with other forms of financial aid. West Virginia residents who receive the PROMISE Scholarship as well (\$4,750 per year) receive nearly \$15,000 per year to help pay for college.

---

### **Parkersburg mayor to declare ‘Back the Blue Day’**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 13, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/07/parkersburg-mayor-to-declare-back-the-blue-day/>

PARKERSBURG — Mayor Tom Joyce plans to issue a proclamation slating a day to honor local law enforcement during Tuesday’s Parkersburg City Council meeting.

A copy of the “*Back the Blue Day*” proclamation was included with the agenda for the meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building. It will be on Saturday, the same day two members of council are organizing a rally in support of police.

Joyce said some members of council and the community had asked him to make a proclamation supporting law enforcement in light of protests around the country calling for reform and even defunding or abolishing police, or at least the current model, after the May 25 death of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police. Joyce said there are always opportunities for improvement, but he does not favor the defund or abolish approaches.

*“I don’t believe that our Police Department or any of our local departments need reformed,”* he said. *“‘Reform’ to me indicates there’s something inherently wrong.”*

That doesn’t mean people couldn’t be added to the ranks to deal with issues like mental illness, homelessness and drug addiction, which underly many of the calls to which police respond.

*“I think there are fields of study and professional persons who may be better at dealing with those folks than your average police officer,”* Joyce said.

Councilwoman Sharon Kuhl and Councilman Bob Mercer recently announced plans for a *“Back the Blue, Back the Badge”* rally at 5 p.m. Saturday, traveling down Market Street from Eighth to Second Street

Council will be asked to approve a resolution authorizing Joyce to submit an application to the National Endowment for the Arts’ Our Town Grant Program for \$100,000 to support a program aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among area artists. The program would be administered by Downtown PKB, in cooperation with the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley and West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

The 50 percent local match would come through private donations and contributions, not from the city, Joyce said.

Senta Goudy, dean of the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation at WVUP, said the initiative will include business training, mentoring and technical assistance for artists. In addition, a few will move forward with retail space in the downtown area.

*“We’re actively looking at some vacant spaces,”* she said.

Also on the agenda are resolutions appointing Cindy Lockney to the Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library Board and reappointing Sean Andrews to the Municipal Planning Commission, as well as the first reading of an ordinance revising the local limits on the discharge of certain materials into the sanitary sewer system by a handful of large industrial users. The changes were made by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection during the most recent permit review, Parkersburg Utility Board Manager Eric Bennett said.

After the meeting adjourns, council will reconvene as the Urban Renewal Authority to receive additional information on a housing initiative proposed by the administration. At its last meeting in June, the authority approved acquiring some property on which to build affordable housing, but members asked the administration to provide additional building options, including modular homes.

Attendees at Tuesday’s meetings are asked to wear masks and observe six feet of social distancing. If there are more people than allowed in the chambers’ reduced capacity, overflow seating with audio is available in the executive conference room.

---

### **Smith a finalist for W.Va. Teacher of the Year**

The Marietta Times

July 14, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/2020/07/smith-a-finalist-for-w-va-teacher-of-the-year/>

PARKERSBURG — A teacher in Wood County Schools is among the five finalists for the West Virginia Teacher of the Year Award.

Lisa Smith, a third-grade teacher at Blennerhassett Elementary School, was announced Monday as a finalist by the West Virginia Department of Education. Smith is a National Board Certified Teacher and Wood County Schools' 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Smith received a B.A. in elementary education from West Virginia University at Parkersburg and a middle school math certification from West Virginia University. She is completing a master's in curriculum and instruction from Western Governor's University.

Smith is passionate about every child having access to S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) education. She puts technology in the hands of students at her school through support from the Governor's S.T.E.M. mini-grant and S.T.E.A.M. Power West Virginia grant programs. Additionally, she has collaborated with her school's administration to create an Innovation Center in the school and takes five teams of students to the LEGO League Robotics Expo each year.

This year's other finalists are Erin Anderson from Tennerton Elementary School in Upshur County; Michael, Knepper from Mussleman High School in Berkeley County; Jessica Markwood from Moorefield High School in Hardy County; and Meghan Salter from Martha Elementary School in Cabell County.

*"These five finalists represent the absolute highest standards of educator," said West Virginia Superintendent of Schools Clayton Burch. "Each one of them strives for excellence in themselves and their students and are shining examples of the one caring adult that makes a real difference for a child. It is an honor to recognize them as a part of one of the WVDE's most esteemed programs."*

The 2021 State Teacher of the Year will be announced this fall during a virtual program and the winner will represent West Virginia in the National Teacher of the Year Program.

---

### **WVU Parkersburg partners with Mister Bee Potato Chips**

Clutch MOV

July 13, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-partners-with-mister-bee-potato-chips/>

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has formed a partnership with the Mister Bee Potato Chip company to collaborate with local farmers and begin producing West Virginia-grown potatoes for the company.

Mary Anne Ketelsen, owner and president of Mister Bee Potato Chips, has provided WVU Parkersburg with a grant to assist the college in growing 10 acres of specialty chipping potatoes

for Mister Bee. The project will begin this fall on the Riverhawk Farm near the college's Parkersburg campus.

“Love for a certain locally-produced potato chip, and a passion for WVUP, led me to explore ways for us to ‘grow’ together,” said Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg executive director of Civic Engagement and Innovation. “I am so excited to be helping WVUP, Mister Bee, and the local economy by helping to build a sustainable agriculture program on the WVUP Riverhawk Farm. The first year’s pilot growing season is in full swing, and this fall, Mister Bee will produce its first potato chips from West Virginia-grown, WVUP potatoes.”

With a resource and training center focus, WVU Parkersburg is developing the Riverhawk Farm to expand sustainable agriculture practices. The college will also be training a workforce for production and supporting the region’s agricultural small businesses. Current business leaders in the agriculture field will be providing expertise and support for the WVU Parkersburg Potato Cooperative and the Riverhawk Farm Learning Center.



Photo (left to right): Dr. Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg President; Mary Anne Ketelsen, Mister Bee Potato Chip Company Owner; Ed Morrison, Mister Bee Potato Chip Company Plant Manager; and Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg Dean of the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation.

“Thanks to the generosity of Mary Anne Ketelsen and her team at Mister Bee, we are engaging in one of the most exciting and entrepreneurial ventures that WVU Parkersburg has undertaken in a long time,” said WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer. “We are bringing the university’s farm back into service to provide locally-grown potatoes so that Mister Bee can now promote that some of its potatoes are West Virginia grown. We hope to expand our growing potential in future years and to bring together a coalition of local farmers who are interested in helping to meet even more of Mister Bee’s needs.”

WVU Parkersburg will offer ways for individuals in the community to get involved. SW Resources and the college are collaborating to bring opportunities for individuals in recovery from substance abuse. WVU Parkersburg will also be working with the WV Department of Agriculture to give student veterans the chance to receive agricultural training with the WV Vets to Agriculture program.

“This will be of direct benefit to our students who will be able to engage in a number of new experiential learning roles related to agribusiness,” Gilmer said.

WVU Parkersburg and Mister Bee continue to look for area farms that would like to help the local economy and save shipping costs for Mister Bee during certain times of the year.

“WVUP is planning a variety of training and educational opportunities at the Riverhawk Farm to encourage and promote farming innovations that improve the environment, increase profitability and improve the quality of life for individuals in our community,” Goudy said.

For more information about how to get involved with the Riverhawk Farm, email Senta Goudy at [sgoudy4@wvup.edu](mailto:sgoudy4@wvup.edu).

---

### **WVU-P re-opens Campus by appointment only**

Wirt County Journal

July 14, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s main campus and Jackson County Center re-opened for appointment-only, in-person services beginning July 13. Office hours will be offered Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. for the Center for Student Services, Professional Advising Center and the college’s business office.

Prospective and current students can make an appointment to meet with an admissions counselor, get help with the application process, register for classes, get financial aid questions answered, pay tuition, take a campus tour or conduct other business. All visitors will be required to pass a temperature check before entering the facilities, wear a mask and maintain social distancing during their appointment.



To schedule an appointment, call 304.424.8310 to reach the Parkersburg campus or 304.372.6992 for the Jackson County Center. The college will continue to offer all services remotely in addition to in-person appointments.

“While WVU Parkersburg has never been closed – just offering services virtually – we are thrilled to open our doors to students again,” said Dr. Steven Smith, vice president of enrollment management and CEO and dean of the Jackson County Center, WVU Parkersburg. “In good times and bad, we are committed to helping our students succeed by providing the highest quality educational opportunities.”

Fall semester registration is currently open, and classes are set to begin Aug. 17. WVU Parkersburg plans to offer high-quality instructional options this fall, including in-person, online and hybrid classes in a safe, flexible and supportive environment to help students reach their education goals.

---

### **WVU-P Re-Opens Campus By Appointment Only**

St. Marys Oracle & Pleasants County Leader

July 14, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s main campus and Jackson County Center re-opened for appointment-only, in-person services beginning July 13. Office hours will be offered Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. for the Center for Student Services, Professional Advising Center and the college’s business office.

Prospective and current students can make an appointment to meet with an admissions counselor, get help with the application process, register for classes, get financial aid questions answered, pay tuition, take a campus tour or conduct other business.

All visitors will be required to pass a temperature check before entering the facilities, wear a mask and maintain social distancing during their appointment.

To schedule an appointment, call 304.424.8310 to reach the Parkersburg campus or 304.372.6992 for the Jackson County Center. The college will continue to offer all services remotely in addition to in-person appointments.

“While WVU Parkersburg has never been closed – just offering services virtually – we are thrilled to open our doors to students again,” said Dr. Steven Smith, vice president of enrollment management and CEO and dean of the Jackson County Center, WVU Parkersburg. “In good times and bad, we are committed to helping our students succeed by providing the highest quality educational opportunities.”

Fall semester registration is currently open, and classes are set to begin Aug. 17. WVU Parkersburg plans to offer high-quality instructional options this fall, including in-person, online and hybrid classes in a safe, flexible and supportive environment to help students reach their education goals.

---

**WVU Parkersburg forms partnership with West Virginia potato chip company, Mister Bee Potato Chips**

WV Press Association

July 14, 2020

<https://wvpress.org/breaking-news/wvu-parkersburg-forms-partnership-with-west-virginia-potato-chip-company-mister-bee-potato-chips/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. – West Virginia University at Parkersburg has formed a partnership with the Mister Bee Potato Chip company to collaborate with local farmers and begin producing West Virginia-grown potatoes for the company.

Mary Anne Ketelsen, owner and president of Mister Bee Potato Chips, has provided WVU Parkersburg with a grant to assist the college in growing 10 acres of specialty chipping potatoes for Mister Bee. The project will begin this fall on the Riverhawk Farm near the college's Parkersburg campus.



Attending the announcement are, from left, Dr. Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg President; Mary Anne Ketelsen, Mister Bee Potato Chip Company Owner; Ed Morrison, Mister Bee Potato Chip Company Plant Manager; and Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg Dean of the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation.

“Love for a certain locally-produced potato chip, and a passion for WVUP, led me to explore ways for us to ‘grow’ together,” said Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg executive director of Civic Engagement and Innovation. “I am so excited to be helping WVUP, Mister Bee and the local economy by helping to build a sustainable agriculture program on the WVUP Riverhawk Farm. The first year’s pilot growing season is in full swing, and this fall, Mister Bee will produce its first potato chips from West Virginia-grown, WVUP potatoes.”

With a resource and training center focus, WVU Parkersburg is developing the Riverhawk Farm to expand sustainable agriculture practices. The college will also be training a workforce for production and supporting the region’s agricultural small businesses. Current business leaders in the agriculture field will be providing expertise and support for the WVU Parkersburg Potato Cooperative and the Riverhawk Farm Learning Center.

“Thanks to the generosity of Mary Anne Ketelsen and her team at Mister Bee, we are engaging in one of the most exciting and entrepreneurial ventures that WVU Parkersburg has undertaken in a long time,” said WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer. “We are bringing the university’s farm back into service to provide locally-grown potatoes so that Mister Bee can now promote that some of its potatoes are West Virginia grown. We hope to expand our

growing potential in future years and to bring together a coalition of local farmers who are interested in helping to meet even more of Mister Bee’s needs.”

WVU Parkersburg will offer ways for individuals in the community to get involved. SW Resources and the college are collaborating to bring opportunities for individuals in recovery from substance abuse. WVU Parkersburg will also be working with the WV Department of Agriculture to give student veterans the chance to receive agricultural training with the WV Vets to Agriculture program.

“This will be of direct benefit to our students who will be able to engage in a number of new experiential learning roles related to agribusiness,” Gilmer said.

WVU Parkersburg and Mister Bee continue to look for area farms that would like to help the local economy and save shipping costs for Mister Bee during certain times of the year.

“WVUP is planning a variety of training and educational opportunities at the Riverhawk Farm to encourage and promote farming innovations that improve the environment, increase profitability and improve the quality of life for individuals in our community,” Goudy said.

For more information about how to get involved with the Riverhawk Farm, email Senta Goudy at [sgoudy4@wvup.edu](mailto:sgoudy4@wvup.edu).

---

### **WVUP now open for appointment-only services**

WTAP-TV

July 16, 2020

[https://www.wtap.com/2020/07/16/wvup-now-open-for-appointment-only-services/?fbclid=IwAR2YDTAGLpMNIp-R0j8POc5R3wHP59XuxqCQWd9HRKiLH7nF75\\_dcU7mc\\_w](https://www.wtap.com/2020/07/16/wvup-now-open-for-appointment-only-services/?fbclid=IwAR2YDTAGLpMNIp-R0j8POc5R3wHP59XuxqCQWd9HRKiLH7nF75_dcU7mc_w)

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg opened its campus this week for appointment-only services. These services include orientations, meeting with student support services, financial aid, the professional advising center, and the business office. The bookstore will also be open for appointments soon.

In addition, prospective students can arrange for campus tours with recruiters. Tours are held in very small groups, usually consisting only of the recruiter, the student, and their parents or spouse.

Those who visit the campus are required to wear masks and practice social distancing. Temperatures will be checked before entering facilities.

While many of these services have been available online during the COVID-19 pandemic, some students welcome the opportunity to meet in-person, said Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement.

---

### **More Than 200 Miles Fresher**

WV Living Magazine

July 16, 2020

<https://wvliving.com/more-than-200-miles-fresher/?fbclid=IwAR3GKBDjxPD91RvwMAJ4HSicllwoCTyB-k-A87jTxazQrReBY4Dfldnix0>

Mister Bee Potato Chips joins West Virginia University at Parkersburg in an agribusiness partnership.

-----

In the 1960s, Mister Bee Potato Chips was advertised as “200 miles fresher” than its competitors. Its new agribusiness partnership with West Virginia University at Parkersburg is about to make its potato chips even fresher than that.

The smell of frying potatoes hangs thick in the air along West Virginia Avenue in Parkersburg. That’s where the West Virginia Potato Chip Company—producer of Mister Bee Potato Chips—is located, nestled in the corner of a residential neighborhood across the railroad tracks from the Ohio River.





*image courtesy of Mister Bee Potato Chip Company*

Leo and Sarah Klein founded Mister Bee Potato Chip Company—named after one of its original incorporators—in 1951. Back then, Mister Bee Potato Chips were fried in the morning and distributed by Mr. Klein in the afternoon. The locals of Parkersburg fondly remember elementary school field trips to Mister Bee’s factory, where they ate potato chips hot off the line or enjoyed them with the milkman’s delivery of Broughton dip. Now, almost 70 years later, the West Virginia Potato Chip Company is still the sole potato chip manufacturer in the state.

#### *A partnership takes root*

In 2015, Parkersburg native Mary Anne Ketelsen became Mister Bee’s majority owner and, in 2018, she became a managing member. It was in 2018 when Ketelsen first met WVUP’s President Chris Gilmer and expressed her interest in giving back

to her alma mater and supporting her hometown community. “WVUP has always been very special to me. It’s in my blood,” Ketelsen says.

WVUP is just a 15-minute drive down Route 47 from Mister Bee. There, down a tree-lined side road, no more than a stone’s throw from the main campus, is a small, unassuming farm with gently rolling hills. On 10 of its 25 acres, potato plants are just beginning to sprout. But until March of this year, the farm had lain fallow.

Ketelsen had long dreamt of using locally grown potatoes in Mister Bee Potato Chips, but the state’s potato production never reached viable levels, leaving the company no choice but to source them from Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. The cost of freight alone was upwards of \$5,000 per week. So, this spring, Ketelsen made a \$45,000 donation to the college in order to reopen its Riverhawk Farm. “She really did it as a vote of confidence in things unseen,” Gilmer says.



*image courtesy of Mister Bee  
Potato Chip Company*

Gilmer, who is a first-generation college student from a sharecropping family, says his upbringing taught him the value of hard work and entrepreneurship. “It also taught me the value of using the resources available to you. In partnership with the right people, any dream can be accomplished,” he says.

Ketelsen’s donation funded the purchase of farm equipment, supplies, and ongoing professional consultation. When it comes time for the 2020 harvest, the 10 acres

should yield 220,000 pounds of potatoes, roughly five percent of what Mister Bee needs per year to keep up production. But this harvest is just the beginning. The college will act as a convener, bringing in other local farmers who are interested in providing locally grown potatoes for Mister Bee's distribution.

*The future looks bright*

The college also plans to reinvest profits from its sale of potatoes into future crops and increased acreage. Gilmer is enthusiastic about the future of the partnership. "I can't foresee this is going to do anything except grow and expand and be part of the inheritance of the future generations of WVUP students and graduates."

When classes start again in the fall, the farm will become an experiential learning center. Chemistry students will have the opportunity to work with local farmers and gain scientific knowledge about soil quality; business students will develop real life marketing plans with Mister Bee; and marketing students will photograph, write brochures, and develop a website using the new agribusiness program—the joining point of agriculture and business—as their content.

"The students will really benefit from the learning lab this is going to create for them," Gilmer says. "I think students are going to be touched in so many ways by the enhanced opportunities we hope this will provide."

Ketelsen agrees. "Maybe one of these kids, we'll touch them, and they'll say, 'One of these days I would like to be a small business owner.' We want to let college students know there are opportunities in this area."

Ketelsen and Gilmer also share a commitment to providing opportunities for veterans through their partnership by way of horticultural therapy. Both have a strong history of supporting veterans' affairs. Mister Bee has an ongoing pledge to donate 10 percent of its sales of "Salute to Veterans and Military Personnel" chips to the United Services Organization until the end of the year, matching the donation dollar for dollar, and WVUP has a strong Veterans Resource Center dedicated to providing a learning environment that conveys the college's appreciation for its more than 200 student veterans.

"The students are the center of everything I do and every project I undertake," Gilmer says. "In the largest way possible, the students benefit, because the community benefits. We form partnerships that sustain the whole economy of the Mid-Ohio Valley, and our students are an integral part of that."

*Back to their roots*

In recent years, more than 90 percent of the college's students have been West Virginians. In the early part of the 20th century, West Virginians grew most of the food they consumed. The partnership between Mister Bee and WVUP can be seen as a way to preserve the traditions of West Virginia as well as Appalachian culture.

Riverhawk Farm now serves the community and gives the students the opportunity to get back to their agricultural roots, Gilmer says. "A little bit of West Virginia will go out to all the places Mary Anne ships her potato chips, which is a real badge of pride for the Parkersburg community, the Mid-Ohio Valley, and West Virginia." *Mister Bee Potato Chip Company, 513 West Virginia Avenue, Parkersburg, 304.428.6133, [misterbee.com](http://misterbee.com); [wvup.edu](http://wvup.edu)*

---

**UPDATE: WVUP to hold fall semester virtually**

WTAP-TV

July 17, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/07/16/wvup-to-hold-virtual-town-hall/>

UPDATE: 7/17/20

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - In a virtual town hall Friday morning, Dr. Chris Gilmer, president of WVU Parkersburg, announced the university will be holding its fall semester virtually, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

WTAP is continuing to monitor announcements from the school and additional details will be provided when they are made available.

ORIGINAL STORY: 7/16/20

PARKERSBURG, W.Va (WTAP) - WVU Parkersburg will be holding a virtual town hall to provide details on the college's plans for the fall semester.

The town hall will take place Friday morning at 10 AM.

Leaders from the university will provide an update on plans for the fall semester instruction.

They will also be providing details on the phased reopening of campus facilities.

Students, families, faculty and staff are encouraged to learn more about these plans and to share any feedback.

The town hall can be watched on the college's official Facebook page or YouTube channel.

---

### **Most classes will be virtual classes this fall at WVU Parkersburg**

WV MetroNews

July 17, 2020

<https://wvmetronews.com/2020/07/17/most-classes-will-be-virtual-classes-this-fall-at-wvu-parkersburg/>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va.** — For the most part, students at West Virginia University Parkersburg won't be back on the Wood County campus when the 2020 Fall Semester begins on August 17.

Chris Gilmer, president of WVU Parkersburg, announced the decision to go with virtual classes, with some exceptions, for the duration of the semester during an online town hall event on Friday.

He addressed those watching, "Students, faculty, employees, community members, how can I look you in the face, as your president, and tell you that I love you and then put you in harm's way by bringing a thousand people or more into our physical facilities every day this fall?"

Gilmer cited rising COVID-19 case numbers in recent weeks in West Virginia as a factor in his decision.

"We made no comparisons and no judgments about what any of our sister institutions in West Virginia or nationwide might do, what decisions they might make. This is a local decision," Gilmer said.

"This spring, we were all caught off guard when we had to change everything that we did because of COVID-19 on a week's notice," Gilmer said.

"Today, we're going to reclaim that narrative as a community and take it back from the pandemic and begin telling our own story in a more positive way."

As of Friday, Gilmer said no decisions had been made about classes for Spring 2021.

---

### **WVU-Parkersburg online this fall**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 17, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/07/wvu-parkersburg-online-this-fall/>

Classes for the fall semester will be online only at West Virginia at Parkersburg, WVUP President Chris Gilmer announced Friday morning in a video conference.

Gilmer said this decision came after thorough discussion with students, the school board and faculty members.

*“This was a local decision,” said Gilmer. “We did not look at what other universities in the state are doing, we based this decision off of what we felt was safe and medically responsible for our student body and faculty.”*

See the newspaper for the full story.

---

### **WVUP fall semester to be held virtually**

The Marietta Times

July 18, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2020/07/wvup-fall-semester-to-be-held-virtually/>

PARKERSBURG — Classes for the fall semester, which begins Aug. 17, will be online only at West Virginia at Parkersburg, President Chris Gilmer announced Friday morning in a video conference.

Gilmer said this decision came after discussion with students, the school board and faculty.

Some exceptions will be made to technical courses such as welding and nursing that require hands-on lab time.

Gilmer said there will be another video conference Monday to provide another plan update and more details.

To help lower stress about continuing an educational path during these uncertain times, Gilmer said the college has not raised tuition and has pushed its due date from July 24 to Aug. 7.

*“This was a local decision,” said Gilmer. “We did not look at what other universities in the state are doing, we based this decision off of what we felt was safe and medically responsible for our student body and faculty.”*

Gilmer said if COVID-19 numbers show improvements, all classes originally designed to be in-person could be switched.

*“On July 10, West Virginia had the highest transmission rate of COVID-19 in the nation, after months of being in the best tier of states,” Gilmer said.*

Gilmer said a major concern was the spike in the daily percentage rate, going from 2-3 percent to almost 6 percent.

*“The United States reported 77,255 new cases yesterday, the highest one day total yet with 943 dead Americans in one day’s time,” Gilmer said, quoting Johns Hopkins University. “In the U.S.,*



*138,000 people have died of the virus. Medical authorities are not predicting that this pandemic will approach the 1918 flu pandemic which infected 500 million worldwide and killed more than 50 million people worldwide, but they do not discount the possibility.”*

While classes will be online, the school building is not closed.

Gilmer said facility will still have access to their offices, people in administration will be on campus, work study options will still be available, the bookstore will open on Aug. 3 and computer labs will be open in rotation to help those who do not have access to the internet.

The bookstore is open to ordering textbooks as well.

*“It is our job to provide a safe and supportive school environment, and right now it is hard to decide the best way to do that,”* said Donna Smith, board chairman.

Administrators said it is too soon to say if spring semester will also be held virtually, but that updates will be provided to the community regularly.

*“Although I want nothing more than to throw open those doors and welcome everyone back, I can not in good conscience do that at this time,”* said Gilmer.

Also up for consideration at this time is whether WVU-Parkersburg will be the testing site for the ACT this fall.

Those with questions, concerns or have a unique situation are encouraged to call the school and talk with faculty and staff to make plans, arrangements or compromises.

*“We know many students choose face to face learning styles and hands on courses, because it is how they learn best, and we want to work with students and faculty to help everyone succeed,”* he said.

Madeline Scarborough can be reached at

[mscarborough@newsandsentinel.com](mailto:mscarborough@newsandsentinel.com).

Fall semester classes at WVU-Parkersburg will be virtual, with exceptions being made for some technical courses.

Although classes are virtual the school is still open for:

- ∫ Access to the computer labs for those without internet access
- ∫ Buying textbooks and other school supplies
- ∫ Teachers to access offices and classrooms
- ∫ Reaching staff to answer questions

### WVU-P, Mister Bee form partnership

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 18, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/07/wvu-p-mister-bee-form-partnership/>



From left, Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg President; Mary Anne Ketelsen, owner of the West Virginia Potato Chip Co.; Ed Morrison, Mister Bee Plant Manager; and Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg Dean of the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation. The college and Mister Bee are in a partnership for the production of West Virginia spuds for the famed chip maker. (Photo Provided)

**PARKERSBURG** — West Virginia University at Parkersburg has formed a partnership with the Mister Bee Potato Chip Co. to collaborate with local farmers and begin producing West Virginia-grown potatoes for the company.

Mary Anne Ketelsen, owner and president of Mister Bee Potato Chips, has provided WVU Parkersburg with a grant to assist the college in growing 10 acres of specialty chipping potatoes for Mister Bee. The project will begin this fall on the Riverhawk Farm near the college's Parkersburg campus.

*"Love for a certain locally-produced potato chip, and a passion for WVUP, led me to explore ways for us to 'grow' together," said Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg executive director of Civic Engagement and Innovation. "I am so excited to be helping WVUP, Mister Bee and the local economy by helping to build a sustainable agriculture program on the WVUP Riverhawk Farm. The first year's pilot growing season is in full swing, and this fall, Mister Bee will produce its first potato chips from West Virginia-grown, WVUP potatoes."*

With a resource and training center focus, WVU Parkersburg is developing the Riverhawk Farm to expand sustainable agriculture practices. The college will also be training a workforce for production and supporting the region's agricultural small businesses. Current business leaders in the agriculture field will be providing expertise and support for the WVU Parkersburg Potato Cooperative and the Riverhawk Farm Learning Center.

*"Thanks to the generosity of Mary Anne Ketelsen and her team at Mister Bee, we are engaging in one of the most exciting and entrepreneurial ventures that WVU Parkersburg has undertaken in a long time,"* said WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer. *"We are bringing the university's farm back into service to provide locally-grown potatoes so that Mister Bee can now promote that some of its potatoes are West Virginia grown. We hope to expand our growing potential in future years and to bring together a coalition of local farmers who are interested in helping to meet even more of Mister Bee's needs."*

WVU Parkersburg will offer ways for individuals in the community to get involved. SW Resources and the college are collaborating to bring opportunities for individuals in recovery from substance abuse. WVU Parkersburg will also be working with the WV Department of Agriculture to give student veterans the chance to receive agricultural training with the WV Vets to Agriculture program.

*"This will be of direct benefit to our students who will be able to engage in a number of new experiential learning roles related to agribusiness,"* Gilmer said.

WVU Parkersburg and Mister Bee continue to look for area farms that would like to help the local economy and save shipping costs for Mister Bee during certain times of the year.

*"WVUP is planning a variety of training and educational opportunities at the Riverhawk Farm to encourage and promote farming innovations that improve the environment, increase profitability and improve the quality of life for individuals in our community,"* Goudy said.

For more information about how to get involved with the Riverhawk Farm, email Goudy at [sgoudy4@wvup.edu](mailto:sgoudy4@wvup.edu).

---

**Clifton Roger Lewis**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 18, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/obituaries/2020/07/clifton-roger-lewis/>



Clifton Roger Lewis

Clifton Roger Lewis (Roger), age 77, finished his Earthly adventure on July 15, 2020. Roger grew up in Greensboro, North Carolina. He was born on February 11, 1943; the only child of James Clifton Lewis (Jim) and Myrtle Tyrone Harris Lewis (Ty).

Roger graduated from Grimsley High School in Greensboro in 1961. While in high school, he played football and played piano in a popular band. Roger served in the United States Army. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics at North Carolina State and a Master of Science degree in business administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Roger was a passionate N.C. State Wolfpack fan. During college, he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He loved telling stories about his SAE days; particularly about the time he invited the entire New York City Ballet touring company to the fraternity house for an impromptu party on the night of the company's Raleigh performance. As we understand it, a good time was had by all.

Most people knew Roger through his teaching career or scuba business. He taught accounting, marketing, management, statistics and quantitative analysis at Parkersburg Community College/West Virginia University at Parkersburg. His students appreciated his enthusiasm for teaching, his sense of humor, and his quick wit. For many years he dressed up as Santa at the staff Christmas parties and handed out presents to children. His teaching career spanned more than 43 years. When his family asked why he never considered retirement sooner, he always responded, *"Why should I retire? I love what I do."* West Virginia University at Parkersburg recognized Roger's long career and retirement with a very nice ceremony in 2016. Roger also taught at Marietta College and Glenville State College. He was named Outstanding Accounting Educator in West Virginia for 2003-2004 and Outstanding Faculty Member at Marietta College

for 1994-1995. Before beginning his teaching career, Roger worked for IBM and for Carolina American Textiles.

For many years, Roger was co-owner of Scuba West Virginia with his good friends Jim Carez, Donnie Schrader, and Marvin Trippett. They enjoyed teaching scuba diving and travelling the globe to scuba dive in exotic locations such as Bonaire, Belize, Cozumel, and Galapagos. Roger recalled his *"scuba days"* fondly and had many entertaining tales about his worldly travels. He explored the ocean with his dive partner, Bob Williams, by his side. Roger particularly loved scuba diving at Captain Don's Habitat in Bonaire and was a close friend to Captain Don Stewart.

Roger referred to his family as his greatest gift. He enjoyed taking his family to Oak Island, North Carolina for summer vacations, continuing a tradition started by his parents when he was a child. He is survived by son William Shepherd Overton (Shep) and spouse Caroline Goodwyn Overton, daughter Ann Tyrone Fowler and spouse Daniel Boye Fowler II, daughter Marie Alice Krinock, son Roger James Lewis (R.J.), and grandchildren: Tyler James Lewis, Edward Leroy Krinock, II (Eddie), Christian Michael Krinock, Daniel Boye Fowler, III, Emily Ann Fowler, and Nathanael Shepard Overton. He also maintained a friendly relationship with his former spouse, Pauline Gent Lewis throughout the years. Roger is preceded in death by his parents and his son, Clifton Roger Lewis, II, who died in infancy.

The family is planning a memorial service to be announced at a later date. You may send condolences, good memories, and/or pictures of Roger to: Roger Lewis' Family, P.O. Box 1663, Parkersburg, WV 26102. When you think of Roger, remember him with a smile.

---

**WVU Parkersburg among only WV public colleges, so far, to say it will remain mostly online**

Charleston Gazette-Mail

July 19, 2020

[https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/education/wvu-parkersburg-among-only-wv-public-colleges-so-far-to-say-it-will-remain-mostly/article\\_10f213d0-653e-57d7-8d44-3593bb99c3f3.html](https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/education/wvu-parkersburg-among-only-wv-public-colleges-so-far-to-say-it-will-remain-mostly/article_10f213d0-653e-57d7-8d44-3593bb99c3f3.html)

West Virginia University at Parkersburg announced Friday that its classes would remain mostly online-only in the fall semester, which starts there next month.

It's one of the only West Virginia public colleges, so far, to announce such a move, though other institutions have said they will be increasing the use of online courses to reduce class sizes and in-person contact.



WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer announced the change in plans Friday in an online Zoom news conference.

He noted, among other facts, that West Virginia had the highest coronavirus transmission rate in the nation one day last week, and this week, the U.S. reported its highest number of new cases in a single day — more than 77,000.

He read the names of students who died from COVID-19 in other states.

Gilmer's announcement came before students' tuition payments are due.

"Do I believe that this has the potential to harm enrollment? Yes I do," Gilmer said. "Do I believe that this has the potential to harm our financial bottom line in the short term? Yes I do."

"Do I expect every one of you to agree with my decision? No, I do not. The bottom line is I must live with my own conscience, and I cannot be a person who places any value higher than the value of a single human life."

Dr. Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement for WVU Parkersburg, said up to one fourth of students may still have at least one class on campus in the fall — most likely including those in technical programs like welding; residential and commercial electricity; and computer information technology.

"It doesn't mean that they would be here every day," Jackson said.

She said the college will try to make most of the lectures for such programs virtual, and some in-person portions, like clinicals for nursing students, won't be on campus.

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is also staying mostly online, according to its website.



“Students will only be expected on campus for specified lab course activities and these will be done in small groups,” that graduate school announced. “Students will be paired together and assigned to a small group or pod that will be used for lab courses during the academic year. Thus, students remain more isolated by reducing student-to-student contact.”

These colleges, despite being novel in West Virginia, are not the first in the nation to make the move. Harvard University and the [California State University System](#), have announced they will do likewise.

WVU Parkersburg is both a community college and a four-year degree school, and it has no dormitories.

It isn’t actually part of the WVU System, which is still planning a mix of in-person and online classes in the fall, with students returning to the dorms on its campuses.

Jessica Tice, spokeswoman for the state’s higher education oversight agencies, wrote in an email that “this fall, you’ll see two- and four-year colleges across the state thinning out physical classes to reduce the number of students in a room, in accordance with state and local health department guidance, and you’ll see more classes offered online than have been in the past.”

---

### **WVU-P virtual semester and what it means for some classes [video]**

WTAP-TV

July 20, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/07/20/wvu-p-virtual-semester-and-what-it-means-for-some-classes/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va (WTAP) - With the recent announcement that West Virginia University of Parkersburg will be having virtual-only classes, there are a few things that might get in the way of students getting everything out of their courses.

Some classes that are more hands-on or performative will likely be taught virtually. Classes that fall in the same category will have an exception such as welding or science labs.

However, the college is confident in the professors’ creativity in providing the same experience in a virtual aspect.

Our faculty are every bit that creative. So, they're looking for hands-on ways to teach their classes in virtual means. And this generation of students really enjoy technology much more than my generation did when we were students.

*Christopher Gilmer, West Virginia University-Parkersburg President*

The college also says that they will likely go back to a hybrid or in-person classes later in the semester depending on how the COVID-19 numbers look.

---

### **WVU Parkersburg among only WV public colleges, so far, to say it will remain mostly online**

Huntington Herald-Dispatch

July 20, 2020

[https://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/wvu-parkersburg-among-only-wv-public-colleges-so-far-to-say-it-will-remain-mostly/article\\_b673a803-82a2-59c3-b318-28bc61dc918b.html](https://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/wvu-parkersburg-among-only-wv-public-colleges-so-far-to-say-it-will-remain-mostly/article_b673a803-82a2-59c3-b318-28bc61dc918b.html)

West Virginia University at Parkersburg announced Friday that its classes would remain mostly online-only in the fall semester, which starts there next month.

It's one of the only West Virginia public colleges, so far, to announce such a move, though other institutions have said they will be increasing the use of online courses to reduce class sizes and in-person contact.

WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer announced the change in plans Friday in an online Zoom news conference.

He noted, among other facts, that West Virginia had the highest coronavirus transmission rate in the nation one day last week, and this week, the U.S. reported its highest number of new cases in a single day — more than 77,000. He read the names of students who died from COVID-19 in other states.

Gilmer's announcement came before students' tuition payments are due.

"Do I believe that this has the potential to harm enrollment? Yes I do," Gilmer said. "Do I believe that this has the potential to harm our financial bottom line in the short term? Yes I do."

"Do I expect every one of you to agree with my decision? No, I do not. The bottom line is I must live with my own conscience, and I cannot be a person who places any value higher than the value of a single human life."

Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement for WVU Parkersburg, said up to one fourth of students may still have at least one class on campus in the fall — most likely including

those in technical programs like welding; residential and commercial electricity; and computer information technology.

“It doesn’t mean that they would be here every day,” Jackson said.

She said the college will try to make most of the lectures for such programs virtual, and some in-person portions, like clinicals for nursing students, won’t be on campus.

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is also staying mostly online, according to its website.

“Students will only be expected on campus for specified lab course activities and these will be done in small groups,” that graduate school announced. “Students will be paired together and assigned to a small group or pod that will be used for lab courses during the academic year. Thus, students remain more isolated by reducing student-to-student contact.”

These colleges, despite being novel in West Virginia, are not the first in the nation to make the move. Harvard University and the [California State University System](#), have announced they will do likewise.

WVU Parkersburg is both a community college and a four-year degree school, and it has no dormitories.

It isn’t actually part of the WVU System, which is still planning a mix of in-person and online classes in the fall, with students returning to the dorms on its campuses.

Jessica Tice, spokeswoman for the state’s higher education oversight agencies, wrote in an email that “this fall, you’ll see two- and four-year colleges across the state thinning out physical classes to reduce the number of students in a room, in accordance with state and local health department guidance, and you’ll see more classes offered online than have been in the past.”

---

### **Former WVU-P history professor Bernie Allen dies at 83**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 22, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/07/former-wvu-p-history-professor-bernie-allen-dies-at-83/>

PARKERSBURG — Bernie Allen, a former history professor at West Virginia University at Parkersburg who has written local histories, died on July 20 at his residence in Conway, S.C.

Allen, 83, is a native of Harrison County, W.Va., and graduated with a doctorate in philosophy at West Virginia University in 1971. He taught at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Horry Georgetown Technical College and Coastal Carolina University.

Among his books were *“Parkersburg: A Bicentennial History,” “The Wood County Poor Farm Property: A Brief History, 1798-1986,” “Compassion: A History of the Henry Logan Children’s Home”* and *“Where It All Began: The Story of the People and Places Where the Oil and Gas Industry Began – West Virginia and Southeastern Ohio.”* The latter was written with the late David L. McKain.

*“Bernie was a true historian,”* said Bob Enoch, president of the Wood County Historical and Preservation Society.

Allen’s passing is the second well-known historian this year from the region. Phillip Sturm, who taught at Ohio Valley University, died on Feb. 9.

*“The area has lost another great historian,”* Enoch said.

Allen was the Professor of the Year in West Virginia when he was teaching at WVU-Parkersburg where the school dedicated a classroom in his honor.

Allen is survived by his wife, Forrest Potts Allen, a son, Dr. Benjamin Allen of Sacramento and a daughter, Asheley Hayes, two granddaughters and a sister. Private services will be held in South Carolina.

---

### **WVU Parkersburg among only WV public colleges, so far, to say it will remain mostly online**

Coal Valley News

July 22, 2020

[https://www.coalvalleynews.com/news/wvu-parkersburg-among-only-wv-public-colleges-so-far-to-say-it-will-remain-mostly/article\\_78e4bc0c-e367-5b09-a76a-cc1915b68c75.html](https://www.coalvalleynews.com/news/wvu-parkersburg-among-only-wv-public-colleges-so-far-to-say-it-will-remain-mostly/article_78e4bc0c-e367-5b09-a76a-cc1915b68c75.html)

West Virginia University at Parkersburg announced Friday that its classes would remain mostly online-only in the fall semester, which starts there next month.

It’s one of the only West Virginia public colleges, so far, to announce such a move, though other institutions have said they will be increasing the use of online courses to reduce class sizes and in-person contact.

WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer announced the change in plans Friday in an online Zoom news conference.

He noted, among other facts, that West Virginia had the highest coronavirus transmission rate in the nation one day last week, and this week, the U.S. reported its highest number of new

cases in a single day — more than 77,000. He read the names of students who died from COVID-19 in other states.

Gilmer's announcement came before students' tuition payments are due.

"Do I believe that this has the potential to harm enrollment? Yes I do," Gilmer said. "Do I believe that this has the potential to harm our financial bottom line in the short term? Yes I do."

"Do I expect every one of you to agree with my decision? No, I do not. The bottom line is I must live with my own conscience, and I cannot be a person who places any value higher than the value of a single human life."

Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement for WVU Parkersburg, said up to one fourth of students may still have at least one class on campus in the fall — most likely including those in technical programs like welding; residential and commercial electricity; and computer information technology.

"It doesn't mean that they would be here every day," Jackson said.

She said the college will try to make most of the lectures for such programs virtual, and some in-person portions, like clinicals for nursing students, won't be on campus.

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is also staying mostly online, according to its website.

"Students will only be expected on campus for specified lab course activities and these will be done in small groups," that graduate school announced. "Students will be paired together and assigned to a small group or pod that will be used for lab courses during the academic year. Thus, students remain more isolated by reducing student-to-student contact."

These colleges, despite being novel in West Virginia, are not the first in the nation to make the move. Harvard University and the California State University System, have announced they will do likewise.

WVU Parkersburg is both a community college and a four-year degree school, and it has no dormitories.

It isn't actually part of the WVU System, which is still planning a mix of in-person and online classes in the fall, with students returning to the dorms on its campuses.

Jessica Tice, spokeswoman for the state's higher education oversight agencies, wrote in an email that "this fall, you'll see two- and four-year colleges across the state thinning out physical classes to reduce the number of students in a room, in accordance with state and local health department guidance, and you'll see more classes offered online than have been in the past."

---

### **Blue Ridge CTC introduces student success pilot program Ascend**

The Martinsburg Journal

July 24, 2020

[https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/blue-ridge-ctc-introduces-student-success-pilot-program-ascend/article\\_e4a43fc9-26af-5006-b6fc-a7419a5023dc.html](https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/blue-ridge-ctc-introduces-student-success-pilot-program-ascend/article_e4a43fc9-26af-5006-b6fc-a7419a5023dc.html)

MARTINSBURG — After officially announcing the creation of the Ascend program in January, staff of Blue Ridge CTC, Community and Technical College System of West Virginia and Arnold Ventures LLC announced the \$4.2 million grant program would be piloted at two West Virginia community colleges this fall through a public Zoom call on Thursday.

The Ascend student success program, acronymic for "Accelerating Student Completion; Encouraging New Dreams," will provide a more accessible education for certificate and degree seeking students at Blue Ridge CTC and West Virginia University Parkersburg.



“This proven program has been shown to significantly increase the number of students graduating with a post-secondary credential,” Erin Crosset, Evidence-based Policy Manager for Arnold Ventures, said. “It’s been shown now to do so in two previous randomized control trials which are considered the gold standard of research.”

In the most recent randomized control trial based out of Ohio, Arnold Ventures reported that graduation rates nearly doubled three years after program entry.

“Here in West Virginia, we’re very excited to see the program expanded in the hopes that more West Virginians can graduate with degrees that lead to high-wage jobs in demand in the local economy, thereby increasing their longer term earnings and contributing to the West Virginia economy,” Crosset said.

Modeled after the highly successful Accelerated Study in Associate Programs at City University of New York, West Virginia’s program will personally, academically and financially support students pursuing degrees in high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, welding, and health care.

“I’m really proud of our community colleges,” CTCS Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker said. “We have become national leaders in implementing meaningful changes that have resulted in more of our students completing college. But to reach our goal of West Virginia’s climb to arm 60% of our workforce with a post-secondary credential by 2030, now is the time to double-down on student success.”

If the pilot program serves as successful, the CTCS of West Virginia intends to expand the program statewide.

“Our goal is to dramatically increase the number of students who enter and graduate from high demand programs and then move on to high-wage jobs waiting on them after they graduate,” Tucker said. “If we’re successful, we will work to scale the program to all the community college across the state.”

Lisha Burks, the Program Director of Ascend at Blue Ridge CTC, shared what the program would look like for the students.

“We’re encouraging new dreams by hopefully alleviating or lessening the burdens our students have by offering assistance and support to help reduce or eliminate the costs of textbooks, tuition waivers to help with any remaining balances after their financial aid has been applied and monthly incentive to help them with groceries and their gas in the form of a gift card,” Burks said.

Academically, the students will also be supported with a dedicated Ascend advisor from entry to graduation, advanced career services support and tutoring assistance.

“We want to not only strengthen retention, but also accelerate our student graduation rate through the use of the support Ascend provides,” Burks said. “We want to help more students earn certificates and Associates degrees within three years.”

Sixty positions focusing on 17 certificate and degree programs are available with Ascend this fall. New, returning and dual-enrolled high school students are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility qualifications include completion of all Blue Ridge CTC admission and FAFSA requirements and prior acceptance into a full-time fall program.

Applicants must also be a West Virginia resident or live in the metro-servicing area, and maintain good academic standing by meeting specified GPA requirements.

More information about eligibility and application standards for the Ascend program can be found on Blue Ridge CTC’s website or by contacting [ascend@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:ascend@blueridgectc.edu).

“This is going to be a complete game changer for many of our students,” Burks said. “I’m so excited to be a part of it. I like to see students grow—that’s one of the greatest things of my career—so I’m just hoping that as many students as possible take advantage of this opportunity.”

---

### **WLU’s First Underwood-Smith teaching scholar from St. C.**

Martins Ferry Times Leader

July 27, 2020

<https://www.timesleaderonline.com/news/community/2020/07/wlus-first-underwood-smith-teaching-scholar-from-st-c/>

WEST LIBERTY, W.Va., July 14, 2020 – Emma Haley of St. Clairsville, Ohio is thrilled to be an Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholar at West Liberty University. She is one of 25 high school seniors who graduated this year that were selected as West Virginia’s first Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars.

These students will receive the state’s newest and most prestigious scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year – or \$40,000 total – for their college education as they prepare to pursue rewarding careers as West Virginia teachers.

Haley graduated from St. Clairsville High School as salutatorian and plans to double major in early education and special education in WLU’s College of Education and Human Performance. Haley was a four-year member of the basketball and track and field team in high school and will be continuing her track career at WLU.

*“I’m honored to be one of the first students from outside West Virginia to earn the scholarship,”* Haley said.

The daughter of two WLU alumni, Debra Wheeler Haley and Patrick Haley, her mother is a teacher at Bethlehem Elementary School in Wheeling and is her inspiration.

*“My mom’s the reason that I’m going into teaching, her love and dedication to her profession is inspiring,”* Haley added. *“But my dad is the one who came across the Underwood-Smith Scholars Program and encouraged me to apply.”*

Her father earned a criminal justice degree at WLU and is employed by the state of Ohio.

*“I’m incredibly proud of these young scholars, and I can’t wait to see what they accomplish over the next four years and beyond,”* said Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor of West Virginia’s Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System.

*“When we worked with the Legislature and Governor Justice last year to revamp this program, we knew we wanted to create a preeminent scholarship that would produce new generations of strong, committed teachers for years to come in the Mountain State. This cohort is just the beginning, and it’s certainly a bright one.”*

*“I am pleased to congratulate the inaugural class of Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars. Their interest in and commitment to education is commendable, and I know this scholarship is paving the way to build capacity among our teacher ranks,”* said West Virginia Superintendent of Schools W. Clayton Burch. *“The challenges we face in filling content areas such as math, science and special education are very real. Programs such as this will assist us to meet the demand with a highly qualified corps of new teachers.”*

This program – the first in the state to be open to a national applicant pool – is designed to help West Virginia address ongoing teacher shortages in the fields of math, science, special education and elementary education. Recipients commit to teaching in one of these high-demand fields in West Virginia for at least five years after graduation. To give students the greatest chance at success, each is paired with a practicing classroom teacher mentor, who will provide guidance throughout their college careers.

Other 2020 Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars, their high school and college include:

Maggie Bailey, Wirt County High School, West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Emily Barr, Nicholas County High School, Glenville State College

Kailee Beckman, North Marion High School, Fairmont State University

Olivia Burns, Hurricane High School, Marshall University

Wiley Byers, Greenbrier East High School, Fairmont State University

Payton Campbell, Lewis County High School, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Kyler Carper, Wirt County High School, Fairmont State University

Brooke Choiniere, Spring Mills High School, Fairmont State University

Ashley Davis, Ritchie County High School, West Virginia University

Samuel Dudgeon, Mount View High School, Ohio Valley University

BreighAnne Glover, Hedgesville High School, Shepherd University

Chase Haines, Spring Mills High School, West Virginia University

Josie Hill, Point Pleasant High School, Glenville State College

Somer Kerr, Philip Barbour High School, West Virginia University

Stori Ketterman, Petersburg High School, Shepherd University

Faith Lovejoy, Buffalo Putnam High School, West Virginia State University

Jacob Massey, Sherman High School, West Virginia State University

Emily McElwain, Greenbrier East High School, Concord University

Sophia Miller, Parkersburg South High School, West Virginia University

Megan Noss, Preston High School, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Caroline Smith, Nicholas County High School, Concord University

Mallori Straub, Morgantown High School, West Virginia University

Isabella Vint, Scott High School, Marshall University

Kensley White, Van Junior Senior High School, West Virginia State University

A virtual celebration of the scholars will be held on Wednesday at 2 p.m. on Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/HEPCMediaCenter](http://www.facebook.com/HEPCMediaCenter).

For rising high school seniors who want to become a teacher in West Virginia, applications open on July 15, 2020 for the 2021 cohort.

Visit [underwoodsmith.org](http://underwoodsmith.org) for more information. The Underwood-Smith award is stackable with other forms of financial aid. West Virginia residents who receive the PROMISE Scholarship as well (\$4,750 per year) receive nearly \$15,000 per year to help pay for college.

---

**New partnership produces potatoes at WVU Parkersburg for Mister Bee**

West Virginia MetroNews

July 26, 2020

<https://wvmetronews.com/2020/07/26/new-partnership-produces-potatoes-at-wvu-parkersburg-for-mister-bee/>



(From left) Dr. Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg president; Mary Anne Ketelsen, Mister Bee Potato Chip Company owner; Ed Morrison, Mister Bee Potato Chip Company plant manager and Senta Goudy, WVU Parkersburg Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation dean

**WOOD COUNTY, W.Va.** — The first potatoes to be grown at West Virginia University at Parkersburg specifically for the Mister Bee Potato Chip Company, part of a new collaboration utilizing Mountain State produce, are due to be harvested within the month.

The partnership is the first major initiative from the new Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation created at WVU Parkersburg.

“It’s going to be an experiential learning project for our students in a variety of majors. It’s going to be one more example to this community of local entrepreneurship,” said Dr. Chris Gilmer, president of WVU Parkersburg.

Mister Bee, which is based in Parkersburg, will put the potatoes to use this fall.

“When I got here two years ago, I began to look around to see what things were working at their full capacity and what things were underutilized and immediately I noted that we had a farm and that farm was basically lying unused,” Gilmer said.

Later, he met Mary Anne Ketelsen, owner and president of Mister Bee Potato Chips, who was looking for local product.

An idea took hold.

It was Ketelsen who provided WVU Parkersburg a grant so the college could grow ten acres of specialty chipping potatoes for Mister Bee at WVUP's Riverhawk Farm, a site with potential, Gilmer said, to host more and more expanded sustainable agriculture programs.

Plans call for future training for farm production workers to support agricultural businesses in the region and for the building of a coalition of local farmers who could further help meet Mister Bee's needs.

In Gilmer's view, "community" is the most important word in community college.

"We really are with and by and for the community that we serve," Gilmer said. "The community that we serve needs high-paying jobs and it needs for its businesses to be fully supported by the primary university in this area."

Earlier this month, Gilmer [announced WVU Parkersburg would be moving classes largely online](#) for the 2020 Fall Semester which begins on Aug. 17.

Gilmer said that decision would not affect the Mister Bee partnership.

"Everything is going to go on at WVU Parkersburg as planned. We may just have to do some things in a different way," he told MetroNews.

---

### **WVU-P bookstore to re-open with safety precautions**

WTAP-TV

July 29, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/07/28/wvu-p-bookstore-to-re-open-with-safety-precautions/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University Parkersburg is planning to re-open its bookstore for in-person visits beginning Monday, August 3. There will be a number of safety precautions in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

There will be markings to indicate where students may wait in order to practice social distancing, and all visitors to the bookstore will be required to wear masks. In addition, students will not be locating their books themselves. Instead, they will be asked to provide bookstore employees with a printed copy of their course schedule and staff members can then retrieve the books needed for each class. Only four visitors will be allowed in the store at a time.

Students will still be able to rent textbooks and may use financial aid to cover the cost of rentals. Students choosing that option are asked to bring their credit card with them. In addition, students may purchase textbooks online at [the university's Barnes and Noble store](#).

While there are concerns about returning to campus safely, many are also eager to move ahead with their plans for the fall.



“I think everyone is excited to try to get back to as close to normal as possible. But it’s totally a different time, for sure,” said Sarah, the store manager.

WVU [announced Monday](#) it is delaying its re-opening by one week until August 26, and the re-opening will happen in phases.

---

### **Local organizations collaborate to address substance use disorder**

WTAP-TV

July 30, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/07/30/local-organizations-collaborate-to-address-substance-use-disorder/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - An organization in the Mid-Ohio Valley is looking for new ways to address the issue of substance use. The Substance Use Disorder Collaborative works to synchronize the efforts of those in the Mid-Ohio Valley striving to help individuals struggling with substance use. It receives support from a number of area organizations, including the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, Sisters Health Foundation, The Bernard McDonough Foundation, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley, and the Fenton Foundation.

John Liete, the collaborative’s director, explained that the organizations that now support the collaborative had noticed something of a lack of coordination between those providing services relating to substance use locally, and they decided to come together to help bridge that gap.

“[The organizations] had been in conversations over the last couple of years and a common theme that they had continued to hear was that there is a significant focus in our region on addressing substance use disorders, a lot of people are doing really great work, but that activity is not always well aligned, and that can lead to confusion or even barriers to accessing that system,” Liete said.

The goal of the collaborative and Liete’s work is to learn about what the various organizations in the community are doing to support those struggling with substance use, and then to facilitate efforts to ensure their work is complementary and connected.

One recent project involves assisting those struggling with substance use to carve a pathway to stable employment. This includes providing access to training programs, encouraging and incentivizing employers to commit to hiring those who have struggled with substance use, and removing barriers to employment, particularly transportation areas. Liete’s work involves coordinating the efforts of those providing related services.

In addition, Liete said another goal is to gather data to help dispel what might be misconceptions about substance use in the area and to demonstrate the impact of various programs.

“I frequently hear that, because we have so many treatment and recovery centers [in the Mid-Ohio Valley], people are sent to our community and then they’re leaving those facilities and staying here and contributing to the homeless population. Well that may be, but I haven’t seen any hard data to say that is happening...And if it is happening, how do we work to address it? How do we connect those folks to stable housing or work with them to help them get back to a treatment facility or back to their community?” Liete said.

Those who would like to learn more about the collaborative are asked to visit its [website](#) or email Leite at [sudcollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:sudcollaborative@gmail.com).

---

### **WVU-Parkersburg graduate founds affordable personal hygiene business**

WTAP-TV

August 5, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/08/03/wvu-parkersburg-graduate-founds-affordable-personal-hygiene-business/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - Justin Bosley, who recently graduated from WVU Parkersburg with his Master’s Degree in business administration, has launched a company that provides affordable personal hygiene products through online ordering.

The company, called [Direct Essentials](#), launched on May 31 and was founded as a response to the often expensive shipping costs and additional fees that typically come with online shopping.

“The thinking behind the whole company was, during grad school...I went online and I was searching for deodorant. I was running low and, of course, while you’re in graduate school it can get very crazy. I didn’t have time and I couldn’t get to the store, so I went online...and it was a two-dollar product, so I thought, ‘I’ll just order it, no big deal.’...[With added costs] my two-dollar product ended up being \$13.50. And I thought, oh my goodness, everyone needs hygiene products, why are we charging an arm and a leg?” Bosley said. “One thing I always wanted on our website is that it’s one charge and that’s it. I don’t believe in adding all those extra fees and add-ons” he added.

As an alternative to typical online shopping, the company offers a variety of subscription plans with free shipping.

Bosley noted that, due to supply chain challenges occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the company has seen some challenges. Nonetheless, they are working to add additional products to their inventory, potentially including hand sanitizer.

While supply chain disruptions have posed a problem, Bosley also said there is a need for the kind of service his company provides during the pandemic, as more people are shopping online for safety purposes.

“I never intended to start this business with COVID going on. I planned it way before any talk of COVID. But when everything came about, I thought, this is something that people really need,” Bosley said.

Those who would like to learn more about Direct Essentials and its subscription plans can find that information on the company’s [website](#).

---

### **WVUP opens new Market Street location in Parkersburg**

WTAP-TV

Aug. 6, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/08/06/wvup-opens-new-market-street-location-in-parkersburg/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg has opened a new office in the 400 block of Market Street in downtown Parkersburg.

Nicknamed “WVUP on Market” the branch’s actual name is “Center for Civic Engagement.”

It is an extension of the university’s presidential office, and has its own dean, Senta Goudy. She will be the on-site authority.

Goudy says she wants to see the space become a center for conversation and collaboration in the downtown area.

“The whole place is designed to be inspirational, aspirational,” said Goudy.

The extension is filled with local art and multiple community organizations have found a home in its office spaces. The West Virginia Center for Civic Life and a local substance abuse coalition are using offices there. The Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley will also run its programming from the center.

As for students, there won't be any classroom opportunities for them at WVUP on Market. Instead, they will have many "experiential learning opportunities" through the center. There are already two interns working in the offices. Like it says in its name, the Center for Civic Engagement aims to get students involved in their community.

"Students will be working here primarily as part of our experiential learning program to provide support to the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley. We'll have communications students building websites for them, business students creating marketing plans for them, things of that nature. This will be an experiential learning hub for our students," said WVUP President Dr. Chris Gilmer.

Gilmer says his goal has been to increase WVUP's presence in the community ever since he became its president. He's happy to see the center open up.

"The most important word in community college is community. Obviously. What we are devoted to at WVU Parkersburg is being both a community college and being the university in the Mid-Ohio Valley," said Gilmer. "We want this to be an accessible space, where people from the community can come in and see this as an extension of the university and use the facilities for whatever needs they might have."

---