



West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Board of Governors Meeting

Media Clips

Aug. 8 – Oct. 14, 2020



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PARKERSBURG
PROUD**

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It Feels Like Home.** 

Home is safe, home is love, home is where the heart is. Stay close to home with us at WVU Parkersburg. We're invested in your future and will help you start your path to a certificate, associate or bachelor's degree so you can pursue the career you always dreamed of.

With our one-on-one attention with advising, tutoring, student activities, career services and more, you will receive the guidance you need to be successful in your personal and academic journey.

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WVU-P to offer tuition-free classes to alumni

WTAP-TV

Aug. 10, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/08/10/wvu-p-to-offer-tuition-free-classes-to-alumni/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - This fall, West Virginia University at Parkersburg will be offering a wide range of courses tuition-free to alumni. They include everything from professional skill-building courses like, social media management and media design to astronomy and psychology. Alumni who graduated at least two years ago will be permitted to register for one course for the fall semester.

According to Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement, the university wanted to offer a new way to engage with alumni, as many on-campus alumni events have been or are expected to be cancelled for the upcoming school year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“We know that this fall, we won’t have as many opportunities to bring alumni together as we usually do, and we wanted to make sure that we were offering something to our alumni who had not been to our college for a while,” Jackson said.

If an alumnus takes one of the courses and then enrolls in an additional degree program, the credit from the course will be eligible to be applied toward degrees. Jackson said this is particularly helpful for those who may have graduated from the university with a certificate or Associate’s Degree and are pursuing further education.

In addition, Jackson said the university recognized that, with many area residents’ daily routines and work schedules being interrupted due to the pandemic, this might be a time when more people are interested in educational opportunities.

The university has not yet made a decision as to whether the opportunity will be available to alumni after the fall semester, but Jackson said it is something the school is open to considering.

Jackson added that, since the announcement of the tuition-free courses on social media, the school has received positive feedback from alumni.

“We figured a lot of people are probably home right now and they might be open to taking on a new challenge,” Jackson said.

“One of the things that’s exciting about it is that we’ve received feedback from some students who actually attended many years ago when our college was called Parkersburg Community College...To know that it’s of interest to people who have been out of school for quite a while has been exciting. We are hoping that it renews an interest for some people to continue to take some classes, to continue to learn in a lot of different ways,” Jackson said.

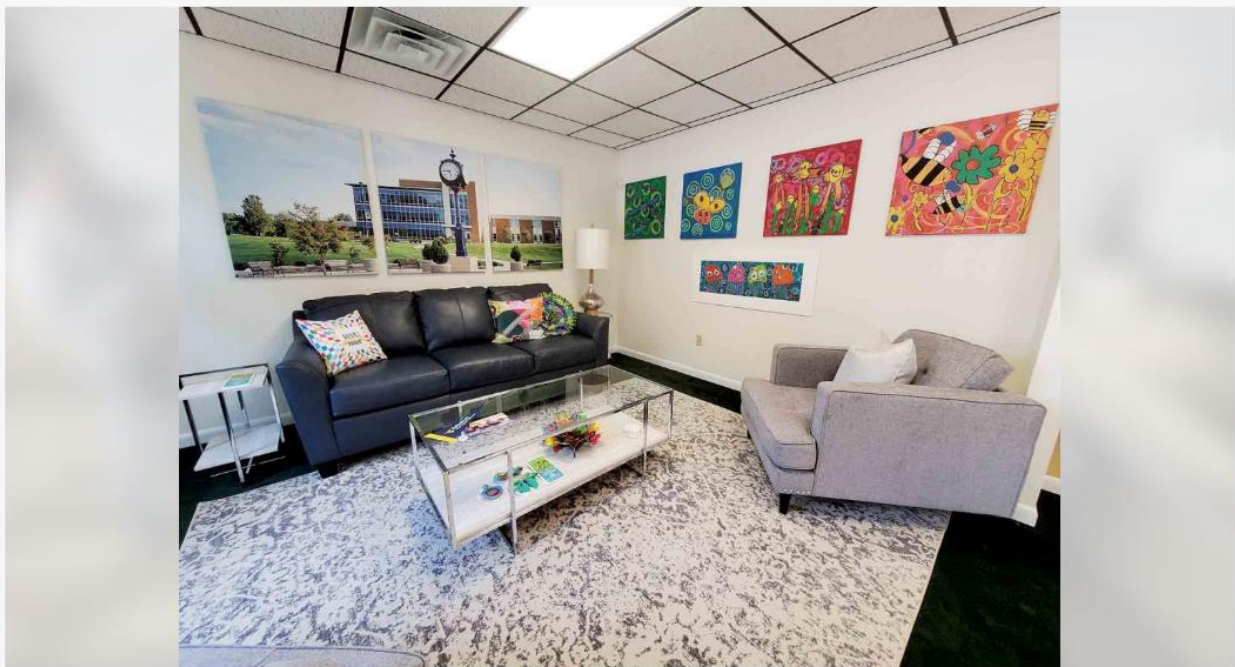
Those who would like to see a full list of courses offered can find that information on the university’s [website](#).

WVUP opens Center of Civic Engagement on Market Street

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 12, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/08/wwup-opens-center-of-civic-engagement-on-market-street/>



The downtown building on Market Street near the Blennerhassett Hotel holds an art gallery as well, that features artists works such as paintings and pillows designed by members of the Wood County Society’s Artbeat studio. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is working to get people more involved with campus life.

As a way to bring new opportunities to the Mid-Ohio Valley, the college has opened new office space on Market Street near the Blennerhassett Hotel called the Center of Civic Engagement.

The office is meant to be a bridge between the school and the community, where all can work together to bring opportunities for students and area businesses to work together, according to college President Chris Gilmer.

Gilmer hopes that by building relationships with move area businesses, opportunities such as internships, portfolio building experiences and even newly offered courses to benefit businesses can arise.

On Tuesday one of those such opportunities arose, as 10 students were awarded scholarships by Constellium in Jackson County.



West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer will be working in the downtown office on Market Street near the Blennerhassett Hotel at least once a week to strengthen community ties. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

“Constellium has given these students scholarships to get an associates degree in the programs of electrical reliability and maintenance and maintenance technology and has guaranteed them a job following their graduations,” said Gilmer.

The downtown building is also offered at no charge a conference room, training area and art gallery that organizations can reach out to Senta Goudy, who will be the dean of the Center of Civic Engagement, to utilize.

While continuing to grow partnerships is a great goal, WVU-Parkersburg also is working to bring alumni back to the campus and keep them involved in the college community.

This fall, according to Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement, the college wanted to do something special for alumni and are offering alumni who have been out of school at least two years one course at no charge.

Jackson said some alumni only received certificates or associates and may want to continue their education, or may even be considering going back to school for a new degree.



The downtown building on Market Street near the Blennerhassett Hotel offers at no charge a conference room and a training area (pictured), that organizations can utilize. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

“We want to give them an opportunity to take a class and see if they are ready to or want to further their education, or just take a class that interested them, but was not offered in their program,” said Jackson.

Offered courses range from options such as Spanish to farm technology and drafting.

The university has yet to make a decision as to whether the opportunity will be available to alumni after the fall semester, but Jackson said it is something the school is open to considering.

WVUP opens new Market Street center

The Marietta Times

Aug. 12, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/2020/08/wvup-opens-new-market-street-center/>



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WVU Parkersburg welcomes inaugural class of Ascend students

West Virginia Executive

Aug. 12, 2020

<http://www.wvexecutive.com/wvu-parkersburg-welcomes-inaugural-class-of-ascend-students/>

“The world can take away many things from you, but one thing it can never take away is your education. Once you earn it, it is yours forever. Each one of you is special, and we are so very proud of your determination to earn an education and a great career.”

West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer recently addressed the college's inaugural class of Ascend students during the program's Summer Institute, offering words of advice and commending their academic drive as they begin the semester.

The Summer Institute, held over the course of two days and four sessions to accommodate for public health and safety guidelines, served as an orientation for 56 individuals participating in Ascend.

Ascend (Accelerating Student Completion: Encouraging New Dreams) was created to help more students earn certificate and associate degrees within three years by increasing financial, academic and personal supports. Funded by a \$1.7 million, five-year grant from Arnold Ventures, Ascend is modeled after the Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs (ASAP) at City University of New York's (CUNY) colleges. WVU Parkersburg is one of only two colleges chosen by the Arnold Foundation for financial support this year.

"There is no better time, in recent memory, for WVU Parkersburg to launch this excellent program and welcome the first class of Ascend students," WVU Parkersburg Provost Dr. Chad Crumbaker said. "The program is uniquely designed to individually support and benefit students in every way possible to ensure successful and *on-time* completion of their degrees. It was my pleasure to meet our Ascend students and I could sense their excitement about starting the school year and being a part of such a valuable and enriching program."

During the event, students met with Ascend staff and faculty who offered information about special class registration options, career assistance, tutoring, tools to be successful in the classroom and more.

At the conclusion of the Summer Institute, students were formally recognized for their admission into the program with a signing ceremony. A photo gallery of the signing ceremony can be found at wwup.edu/ascend.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome our first cohort of students into Ascend," WVU Parkersburg Ascend Director Jennifer Forster said. "Our goal is for all students in the cohort to complete their certificate or associate degree within three years with the help of additional academic advising, tutoring and career guidance."

WVU Parkersburg is pleased to announce its inaugural class of Ascend students:

Chad Albright

Savannah Anthony

Zachary Ball

Sydney Barker

Jenna Barnhart

Jakeb Bertram

Kylee Bethel

Brittany Brady

Julian Brady

Brian Buck

Samantha Chandler

Heavenly Chase

Julie Coberly

Hunter Coull

Isaac Cutright

Mattyson Darling

Ethan Drinkwater

Kaitlyn Fox

Brook Freeland

Caden Fryman

Addison Garner

Savannah Hedgepath

Karly Henderson

Adam Hill

Adam Hoschar

Logan Jackson
Natalie James
Robert Jarvis
Zachary LeClain
Stormie Mahone
Taylor Marks
Jasmine McClure
Travis McDonald
Sierra Mcelwain
Christopher Miller
Jessica Mosier
Kylie Myers
Teddi Northrop
Sydney Nuckolls
Brayden Pfaff
Nachelle Probst
Alexandra Queen
Katelynn Rhodes
Nevada Richards
Noah Richardson
Zachary Silvia
Nathaniel Simonton
Trinity Smith
Tanner Snodgrass
Amauri Tillman

Raynah Wagoner

Amber Ward

Jacob Watson

Levi Westfall

Ethan Wix

Brooke Young

WVU-P enrollment up despite pandemic

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 13, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/08/wvu-p-enrollment-up-despite-pandemic/>

PARKERSBURG — Despite the pandemic, West Virginia University at Parkersburg is seeing an increase in students as the school will be doing mostly online learning for the fall semester, the university president said Wednesday.

President Chris Gilmer addressed the school's Board of Governors during its regular meeting about enrollment and other issues.

As the pandemic has continued since March, forcing a closure of the campus and in-person learning, Gilmer worried about a significant drop in enrollment of 25-50 percent based on what was happening at other campuses nationwide.

"I am delighted to tell you that summer school saw a 10 percent overall increase in Full-Time Equivalent enrollment, up 82 percent in early college students, 149 percent in new student enrollment, 61 percent in transfer enrollment, and even a 1 percent increase in continuing students," he said. "This we did in the middle of a pandemic with one hand tied behind our back in that it all had to be done virtually and with campus facilities effectively closed."

An unofficial tally, with still a month to go before the final numbers will be in, the university is up 17 percent FTE in new student enrollment compared to the final new student enrollment for fall 2019. The university is at 97 percent FTE enrollment of continuing students compared to final fall 2019. A number of registered students are still working through their financial

“Overall, we are at 92 percent total FTE enrollment compared to this day fall 2019 with two weeks in the enrollment cycle still remaining and the vast majority of our Early College students committed, but so far unregistered,” Gilmer said. “After the first week of fall classes, we stand a real chance of achieving level enrollment compared to fall 2019, even in the middle of a pandemic and when few institutions of higher learning are within reach of this goal.”

Gilmer credited Vice President Steve Smith and his recruitment team for that growth with the university’s new Strategic Recruitment Plan as well as many within the university community that helped implement measures to bring students to WVU-P.

“We wrote letters. We made phone calls. We sent text messages. We purchased billboards and created new television and radio commercials,” Gilmer said. “We worked social media like we have never worked it before. The virus threw us a new and unexpected curve ball every day, and every day we found a new way to connect our bat with that curve ball. Now, we are on the verge of a home run with bases loaded, and even if we fall slightly short, no president has ever been prouder of his team.”

University officials have also made plans to determine which courses could be offered fully online and which courses would require a face-to-face component.

“Approximately 25 percent of our students will experience some portion of at least one class face-to-face this fall with all social distancing protocols in place, primarily technical courses and labs,” Gilmer said.

Joe Oliverio, a member of the Board of Governors and chair of the Academics and Student Services, said of 582 course sections of which around 500 will be remotely done. The ones that are not involved labs and hands-on learning, he said.

From Spring 2020 to Fall 2020, the university has retained around 72 percent of the students enrolled, Oliverio said.

“In light of the pandemic and what the world has experienced since March for us to retain those numbers is very exciting,” he said.

Through the use of Zoom, officials said the team in the Tutoring Center has conducted more tutoring sessions this summer than in any previous summer.

The university is considering new academic and workforce programs in cosmetology and agribusiness and a new program which would prepare graduates to better serve veterans.

The Riverhawk Farm, near the WVU-P campus, is getting close to harvesting the first crop of potatoes grown for Mister Bee potato chips, Gilmer said.

“Having proven the concept that appropriate potatoes can be grown locally with the intention of increasing our planting and partnering with other area farmers we plan to become a significant supplier for Mister Bee in future years,” he said.

Gilmer also announced that over the two years he has been at WVU-P, it has secured 57 grants totaling more than \$5.7 million and more than \$600,000 in additional donations to the university’s Foundation.

The university’s WVU Parkersburg Proud campaign was originally launched at Gilmer’s inauguration with the goal of raising \$3 million in three years.

“Less than two-thirds of the way to the three-year mark, we have already secured approximately \$6.3 million including the largest single gift from a national foundation in the University’s history, \$1.8 million from the Arnold Foundation,” Gilmer said. *“We have more than doubled the goal and are ready to take on an even more ambitious one as part of our 60th Birthday year in 2021.”*

Gilmer also announced the Board of Directors of Coplin Health Systems has voted to enter into a memorandum of understanding with WVUP to explore the possibility of opening a campus-based primary care clinic on the Parkersburg campus in the location formerly occupied by the Early Learning Center.

“This Board is aware that it has been my goal from the beginning of my tenure to offer high-quality, low-cost, accessible healthcare to the WVUP community,” Gilmer said. *“Coplin is partially funded through federal grants which allow it to offer deeply discounted primary health services on a sliding scale beginning at five dollars and based on a client’s ability to pay.”*

Gilmer said he will be working with the WVU Parkersburg Foundation to develop a pool of funding to meet the sliding scale and insurance co-pays so the university could hopefully provide free onsite healthcare to students and their families as well as free or reduced cost healthcare to the employees and their families.

“Students and employees from both the Parkersburg and Jackson County campuses will be able to receive services, and I judge this potential partnership to be one of the greatest benefits we will ever have the chance to offer to our students and employees,” Gilmer said.

The Board of Governors swore in three new members, Rose Beebe (faculty representative), Kim McFee (staff representative) and Elaina Segsworth (Student Body President/student representative).

WVU-Parkersburg Board of Governors approves COVID-19 protocol

WTAP-TV

Aug. 13, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/08/13/wvu-parkersburg-board-of-governors-approves-covid-19-protocol/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va (WTAP) - On Wednesday, the WVU-Parkersburg Board of Governors had their final meeting before the start of the fall semester.

The college announced earlier this summer that they would be sticking with the virtual classes that they moved to during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring.

In the meeting, the administration updated the board on their progress this summer with tutoring, fundraising, and the opening of the new Market Street location.

The board took action on several items, most notably approving the COVID-19 protocol for the fall semester.

This protocol has been vetted by local health departments, the state of West Virginia, and at least two members of the board, who also served on the campus COVID-19 committee.

Classes are set to begin virtually on Monday, August 18th.

WVU-P recognizes inaugural A.S.C.E.N.D. class graduates

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 13, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/08/wvu-p-recognizes-inaugural-a-s-c-e-n-d-class-graduates/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg has recognized its inaugural class of A.S.C.E.N.D. graduates during the program’s Summer Institute.

A.S.C.E.N.D., an acronym for Accelerating Student Completion: Encouraging New Dreams, was created to help more students earn certificate and associate degrees within three years by increasing financial, academic and personal support. Funded by a \$1.7 million, five-year grant from Arnold Ventures, A.S.C.E.N.D. is modeled after the Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs at City University of New York’s colleges.

WVU Parkersburg is one of only two colleges chosen by the Arnold Foundation for financial support this year.

“The world can take away many things from you, but one thing it can never take away is your education,” WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer said. “Once you earn it, it is yours forever. Each one of you is special, and we are so very proud of your determination to earn an education and a great career.”

Gilmer addressed the college’s inaugural class of A.S.C.E.N.D. students during the Summer Institute.

The Summer Institute, held over two days and four sessions to accommodate for public health and safety guidelines, was an orientation for 56 individuals participating in A.S.C.E.N.D.

“There is no better time, in recent memory, for WVU Parkersburg to launch this excellent program and welcome the first class of A.S.C.E.N.D. students,” WVU Parkersburg Provost Chad Crumbaker said. “The program is uniquely designed to individually support and benefit students in every way possible to ensure successful and on-time completion of their degrees. It was my pleasure to meet our A.S.C.E.N.D. students and I could sense their excitement about starting the school year and being a part of such a valuable and enriching program.”

During the event, students met with A.S.C.E.N.D. staff and faculty who offered information about special class registration options, career assistance, tutoring, tools to be successful in the classroom and more.

At the conclusion of the Summer Institute, students were recognized for their admission into the program with a signing ceremony.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome our first cohort of students into A.S.C.E.N.D.," A.S.C.E.N.D. Director Jennifer Forster said. "Our goal is for all students in the cohort to complete their certificate or associate degree within three years with the help of additional academic advising, tutoring and career guidance."

The inaugural class of A.S.C.E.N.D. students are: Chad Albright, Savannah Anthony, Zachary Ball, Sydney Barker, Jenna Barnhart, Jakeb Bertram, Kylee Bethel, Brittany Brady, Julian Brady, Brian Buck, Samantha Chandler, Heavenly Chase, Julie Coberly, Hunter Coull, Isaac Cutright, Mattyson Darling, Ethan Drinkwater, Kaitlyn Fox, Brook Freeland, Caden Fryman, Addison Garner, Savannah Hedgepath, Karly Henderson, Adam Hill, Adam Hoschar, Logan Jackson, Natalie James, Robert Jarvis, Zachary LeClain, Stormie Mahone, Taylor Marks, Jasmine McClure, Travis McDonald, Sierra Mcelwain, Christopher Miller, Jessica Mosier, Kylie Myers, Teddi Northrop, Sydney Nuckolls, Brayden Pfaff, Nachele Probst, Alexandra Queen, Katelynn Rhodes, Nevada Richards, Noah Richardson, Zachary Silvia, Nathaniel Simonton, Trinity Smith, Tanner Snodgrass, Amauri Tillman, Raynah Wagoner, Amber Ward, Jacob Watson, Levi Westfall, Ethan Wix, Brooke Young.

Across the State

The State Journal

Aug. 17, 2020

https://www.wvnews.com/across-the-state/article_35de1288-01c4-55b7-bf7e-aa815709ef50.html

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— Parkersburg News and Sentinel

WVU Parkersburg begins virtual fall semester [video]

WTAP-TV

Aug. 17, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/08/18/wvu-parkersburg-begins-virtual-fall-semester/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - WVU Parkersburg begins virtual fall semester. Although classes have returned virtually, there will still be 25 percent of classes that will be in-person such as technical programs like welding.

The computer lab is also available for students who do not have the internet connection at home and professors can book zoom sessions in the lab, students just need to book the time in advance

"It's a different semester but it's an exciting semester just as good and we're trying to do everything in the safest way possible but still providing the highest quality of instruction for our students," said Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg, president.

Gilmer says enrollment is up 22% from the last fall semester and the college will be enrolling students until Friday.

Kelly to present work at Glenville State College

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 20, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/08/kelly-to-present-work-at-glenville-state-college/>

GLENVILLE – An English teacher at West Virginia University at Parkersburg will present a program at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Little Kanawha Reading Series at Glenville State College at the Pioneer Stage, 10 East Main St.

Danielle Kelly, the first event in the Fall 2020 schedule, will have a presentation of her new fiction while there also will be other readings from contributors to the 2020 *"Trillium."*

The event is free and open to the public, but strict social-distancing guidelines will be followed. Seating will be limited inside the Pioneer Stage. Outdoor seating will also be available with live audio. In addition, viewers can go to <https://bit.ly/3kRU5vr> to see the event streamed live to the college's YouTube channel.

Kelly has a master's in fine arts in fiction from West Virginia Wesleyan College and is the managing editor of *"HeartWood,"* an online literary journal in association with the low-residency program. A Pushcart Prize nominee, her work has appeared in *"Deep Water Literary Journal," "rkvry Quarterly"* and the Women of Appalachia Project's 11th annual anthology *"Women Speak."*

Other Little Kanawha Reading Series events include Bil Lepp at 6 p.m. Sept. 29, Kari Gunter-Seymour at 6 p.m. Oct. 28, High Noon Open Mic at the Rusty Musket in November and Storyteller Granny Sue Holstein 6 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Gilmer Public Library.

The Little Kanawha Reading Series is a showcase for a diversity of literary forms and voices to acknowledge and enrich the cultural heritage of Appalachia and the communities around the Little Kanawha River.

Only technical courses being taught on community college campuses in West Virginia

West Virginia MetroNews

Aug. 20, 2020

<https://wvmetronews.com/2020/08/20/only-technical-courses-being-taught-on-community-college-campuses-in-west-virginia/>

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Flat student enrollment, on average, with some institutions seeing potential increases was what the chancellor for the [West Virginia Community and Technical College System](#) was predicting for the fall semester at community and technical colleges statewide.

“Our enrollment numbers did not look great at many of the institutions this summer. Several of the institutions had some pretty significant declines, but I think they have been able to bring those numbers up,” Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker said Thursday.

“I look forward to a productive semester.”

No specific numbers were yet available, but she was asked about projected enrollment in the time of COVID-19 during a virtual meeting for members of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

As of Thursday, West Virginia Northern Community College in Wheeling was the only community and technical college that had not yet started the semester, according to Tucker. The first day there was set for Monday, Aug. 24.

Most schools began classes earlier this week.

“We’re just getting into the swing of things now,” she said.

On all campuses, Chancellor Tucker said, in-person courses were limited to technical classes.

Other classes had been shifted online.

“This gives them the flexibility to have additional spacing and social distancing for their technical courses and, generally, just thinning out their campuses,” Tucker said.

Robert Brown, chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, praised school leaders.

“What an incredible job the presidents and their staff have done,” Brown said.

Tucker echoed those comments.

“I do feel like our college campuses are about as safe a place as anyplace that we could be right now frankly,” Tucker said.

“It’s outside of the campuses that I worry about.”

The West Virginia Community and Technical College System includes nine institutions: Blue Ridge, BridgeValley, Eastern, Mountwest, New River, Pierpont, Southern, Northern and West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

WVU-Parkersburg staff celebrates university president’s 55th birthday [video]

WTAP-TV

Aug. 20, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/08/20/wvu-parkersburg-staff-celebrates-university-presidents-55th-birthday/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va (WTAP) - Because of the pandemic many have had to find innovative ways to celebrate people’s birthdays.

This is what the faculty of West Virginia University of Parkersburg did for its president, Dr. Chris Gilmer as they surprised him with a small parade as they passed the front of the college. It’s something that Dr. Gilmer says overwhelmed him on what he thought was going to be a more reserved birthday.

I thought I knew what love felt like before I got to Parkersburg, but in truth the past two years here at WVU-P and here at this community have really redefined for me what love is. I’ve never felt more appreciated or more supported and, you know, I’m humbled and overcome with emotion at what a wonderful community this is and how supportive it is of this university. - *Dr. Chris Gilmer, WVU-Parkersburg President*

President Gilmer says that he is thankful to everyone that helped him celebrate his 55th birthday.

Ben Queen eager to be Ravenswood's quarterback

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 22, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/sports/local-sports/2020/08/ben-queen-eager-to-be-ravenswoods-quarterback/>

RAVENSWOOD — Playing quarterback is a position that Red Devil senior Ben Queen dreamed about playing his entire life.

Heading into his senior year expecting to return to receiver, Queen was surprised when Red Devil coaches told him that he would be moving to QB.

Playing in a revamped offense that will be out of the gun and running read options to spread the opposition out.

Even though it will only last one season, Queen is just eager to finally be the signal caller.

"I've always dreamed about being a quarterback. My first year as quarterback, it's gonna be a little tough for me, never ran it before. But I'm learning from these coaches, they are doing a great job with me," Queen said. *"I came in the first day of practice and I didn't know what I was gonna be honestly. I just came in and he put me as quarterback and I assumed the role and did what I was supposed to do. I didn't complain, nothing and just went and did my job."*

Queen also will be able to help out his receivers with routes, noting that he has experience running the routes.

Queen entered his first year as a starter as a cornerback and admitted that playing under the Friday Night Lights was overwhelming at first.

But once after week four, Queen was able to grasp what was needed and started playing with confidence. And now a year under his belt and the defensive staying the same, Queen expects himself to play better for a full season.

"I didn't do very good in the start. It was my first year as a starter. I didn't really know what I was doing, but as soon as I learned what to do," Queen said. *"I did my job and*

this year we pretty much had the same defense. So everybody knows what they're doing and I think it's gonna be good."

One of the few returning starters on both sides of the ball and eight seniors on the roster.

Queen has said that this year's team is one of the most focused teams not just with the players, but the coaches as well. With that work in the offseason, Queen believes that it will show up on the field.

"We are more focusing on teamwork and come together as a team to win as a team. If we do that, we won't go three and seven like it did last year, we'll hopefully get to playoffs. "I just hope it's a great season. I love our new coaches, our new staff. They get along very well not like what they did last year a lot of arguing, a lot of bickering. This year I don't see that, they all come together. They're one they all have the same thoughts and goals and it's gonna be a great season."

Queen plans to go to West Virginia University at Parkersburg to get some prerequisite courses out of the way and then attend a chiropractor school. Queen noted that he picked up an interest in that field after taking a human anatomy class and liking muscles and bones.

17th annual Trillium reading to be held August 26th

Glennville State College

Aug. 24, 2020

<https://www.glennville.edu/phoenix/17th-annual-trillium-reading-be-held-august-26th>

The seventeenth annual *Trillium* reading will take place on Wednesday, August 26 at 6 p.m. at the Pioneer Stage. Danielle Kelly will be a guest reader from WVU-Parkesburg. The reading will also include contributors to the *Trillium* Marjorie Stewart, Lisa Hayes-Minney, Cassie Hyre, Abigail Mayle, and Gavin McCord.

Kelly teaches at WVU-P and holds an MFA in Fiction from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She was the managing editor of *HeartWood*, Wesleyan's literary journal. She is currently a faculty editor for *Poorhouse Rag*, WVU-P's literary journal. Her writing has appeared in *Deep Water Literary Journal*, *rkvry Quarterly*, and Women of Appalachia Project's eleventh annual anthology *Women Speak*.

Started in 1979, the *Trillium* is a publication of the Department of Language and Literature, and serves to showcase Glenville State College's creative community. It includes artwork and writings from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the community.

Professor Jonathan Minton said, "I think we're all anxious about how our college and campus culture will continue to change and adapt during the pandemic. In terms of the *Trillium* reading, the audience will be smaller, as we are observing social distancing. And it will be undoubtedly strange to read to a masked audience. But we need community and poetry, now more than ever. One positive thing is that we'll stream the reading via YouTube, which is something that I'd like to do even after the pandemic."

If you choose to attend the *Trillium* reading, please remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Once the Pioneer Stage reaches capacity, the doors will be locked and spectators will be asked to listen outside or watch the YouTube stream. Be on the lookout for a follow up article about the *Trillium* reading.

Wood County Schools holds intensive online teacher training sessions

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 27, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/08/wood-county-schools-holds-intensive-online-teacher-training-sessions/>

PARKERSBURG — Wood County Schools is holding a series of intensive online training sessions this week to prepare teachers and staff for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

The online sessions began Wednesday and will continue through Friday as teachers, administrators and service personnel prepared to head into an unusual school year due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions.

Christie Willis, director of curriculum and instruction for Wood County Schools, said professional development which would normally be spaced out throughout the school year is instead being compressed into the multi-day online training format.

"This year it is all front-loaded," she said.

The district has had more than 4,000 session registrations, with many employees registering for multiple classes. Many of those sessions have topped out at 300 participants, the highest number the online programs can accommodate.

Nearly all Wood County Schools teachers, as well as some service personnel and education students from West Virginia University at Parkersburg, are participating in the online trainings.

Training sessions include use of the district's Schoology system, trauma informed care and best practices for blended learning days.

Wood County Schools students return Sept. 8. For more information, go to www.woodcountyschoolswv.com or use the Wood County Schools app for updates and Frequently Asked Questions concerning the district's fall re-entry plan.

WVU-P Board of Governors acts on sexual harassment policy

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 28, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/08/wvu-p-board-of-governors-acts-on-sexual-harassment-policy/>

PARKERSBURG — A harassment, sexual misconduct and discrimination policy was approved Thursday morning by the Board of Governors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

The board met in a special session about the policy, A44, which replaces earlier versions and allows procedural options to address prohibited behavior under new Title IX definitions and for cases outside of the definitions.

Edits were made to the draft to remove the term “*unethical*” in a description of relationships and to change “*education*” programs to educational programs in general to encompass all aspects of the school rather than the specific education program at the school, as suggested by board member Kim McFee. Consenting adults may not consider the relationship unethical, she said.

Both word changes were unanimously approved.

If no comments are received during a 30-day comment period or other changes recommended within the period, the policy will be considered approved without

further action by the Board of Governors. It next goes to the Chancellor of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College System for final approval.

Debbie Richards, executive director of policy and compliance, also said she anticipates additional edits to the policy while it is under review.

Prominent community members to participate Parkersburg Art Center fundraiser

WTAP-TV

Aug. 28, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/08/28/prominent-community-members-to-participate-parkersburg-art-center-fundraiser/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va (WTAP) - The Parkersburg Art Center (PAC) is officially launching its Pollock a Person fundraiser on September 1. The organization has selected 12 prominent area residents who have agreed to raise funds for the organization. The fundraiser will go through October 3, and the person who has raised the most money will be splattered with paint in a manner inspired by artist Jackson Pollock. Tom Joyce, mayor of Parkersburg, and Chris Gilmer, president of WVU-Parkersburg, are among the participants.

The full list of participating community members includes:

- Michelle Waters, photographer and art teacher at PAC and Artsbridge
- Chris Gilmer, president of WVU-Parkersburg
- Vinnie Conley, talent relations manager at the PM Company
- Tara Gerber, real estate agent with Jackson Realty, LLC
- Keith McClung, co-owner of Crown Florals and Crown Event Rentals
- Kim Couch, Executive Director of the Camden Clark Foundation
- Mandy Stevens, executive director of Artsbridge
- Kim Griffey, director of the Parkersburg High School Red Wing drill team and substitute teacher for Wood County Schools
- Allison Burner Lauderman, sports performance coach and trainer for OVU
- Tom Joyce, mayor of Parkersburg
- Erin Augenstein, communications and public relations professional
- Lisa Collins, owner of Collins PR and Arts & Culture Tours, LLC

“We’ve suffered a lot of loss of income due to COVID, so we were trying to think of a fundraiser that we could do that was primarily virtual. But we also know that other area non-profits have suffered as well. So in this case, the first \$500 that each contestant

raises goes to the Art Center, any money raised after that is split 50/50 between the Art Center and another non-profit of the contestant's choice," said Jessie Siefert, managing director and director of education at the Art Center.

Each week of the fundraiser, there will be additional competitions issued by the Art Center. Because the fundraiser has already had its soft roll-out, its first competition was issued this week. It was announced that the first person to raise \$250 would be splattered with paint, and that turned out to be Chris Gilmer. Additional, similar challenges will be issues throughout the fundraiser.

While the Art Center has faced a number of challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the loss of multiple income streams, Siefert said she feels there have been some unexpected benefits, as well.

"In a way, it has been really good because we've had to look at what we do and how we do it, and really think of new and different ways to fulfill our mission and reach the public...It has also, I think, brought a lot of the arts organizations together even more so because we're all suffering," Siefert said.

Those who would like additional information on the fundraiser and to track its progress are encouraged to follow the Art Center on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). And donations can be made on the Art Center's [website](#).

Parkersburg Art Center breaking out the paint for fundraiser

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Aug. 31, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/08/parkersburg-art-center-breaking-out-the-paint-for-fundraiser/>

PARKERSBURG — The Parkersburg Art Center is starting a new fundraiser to help support programs at the center with the help of local volunteers.

The program is called "*Pollock A Person*," and is named after famed artist Jackson Pollock.

Beginning today, 12 volunteers will act as virtual fundraisers and potential canvases. The first \$500 raised by each contestant goes to the Parkersburg Art Center, anything that is raised above that amount is split 50/50 between the art center and another

local non-profit of the contestants' choosing, said Jessie Seifert, the art center's managing director.

Fundraising activities will continue through September. Though the "official" start date for the month-long effort is Tuesday, Siefert said some fundraising efforts have already started. The event will end Oct. 3, with a rain date of Oct. 4, when all of the volunteers will be doused with paint by their donors, she said.

The first to reach the \$250 benchmark was Dr. Chris Gilmer, president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg, so he will be the first contestant to get splattered with paint by his donors. The first to reach the \$500 benchmark was Tara Gerber. Her prize will be to pick any other contestant to get "Pollocked." She selected Lisa Collins.

The "date with paint" for Collins and Gilbert is expected to be scheduled within a week or two, Siefert said.

The first to reach \$750 will have the chance to challenge a community member to get splattered, she said.

Additional volunteers include Michelle Waters, Vinnie Conley, Keith McClung, Kim Couch, Mandy Stevens, Kim Griffey, Allison Burner Lauderman, Tom Joyce and Erin Augenstein.

Ongoing information about the fundraiser can be found at www.parkersburgartcenter.org/pollock-a-person and on the art center's Facebook and Instagam accounts.

New doctors accepting new patients

Jackson Newspapers

Sept. 1, 2020

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/news/20200901/new-doctors-accepting-new-patients>



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Doctors and staff at Jackson Premier Health from front to back, left to right are Clerk Tia Boggs; Clerk Lori Cochran, Clinical Practices Administrator Dr. Lance Shinn, and LPN Rebecca Robinson. Back row: LPN Sebrina Hartley, Doctor Richard Jones, Clinical Care Coordinator Jennifer Matheny, and Clerk Ashley Parsons. - Courtesy photo

WVUMedicine/Jackson General Hospital welcomes two new doctors to the team: Doctor Richard Jones DC, APRN and Doctor Lance P. Shinn DO.

Richard Jones, a primary and chiropractic care provider along with Shinn, also a primary care provider, make up Jackson Premier Health located at 146 Pinnell Street in Ripley.

Jones is a Chiropractor and an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. He entered the health care profession to serve others in 1996 as a Registered Nurse after graduating from West Virginia University/Glenville State College nursing program. Jones has since broadened his scope of practice by furthering his education to better care for his patients by obtaining a Doctorate degree in Chiropractic and a Master's Degree in Nursing.

He will be providing chiropractic care and primary care in a new office located at the Jackson General Hospital Campus to serve the Jackson County and surrounding area patient population.

Jones and his wife Monica, who is a Jackson County native, have made Ripley their home for the past 14 years and are raising their two children here now. He enjoys his roles as a husband and father, and spending time with his family participating in outdoor activities, such as tennis, golf, hiking, and kayaking.

Jones enjoys his work as a healthcare provider and developing relationships with his patients to better their health and lives.

Lance P. Shinn was born and raised in Jackson County. In fact, he was born at Jackson General Hospital when they still had the Labor and Delivery wing. He grew up in the small town of Mount Alto and attended Cottageville Elementary until he later graduated with honors from Ravenswood High School. After high school he decided to stay close to home and attend West Virginia University at Parkersburg, the Jackson County Center at Ripley, for his basic college classes. He received an Associate's Degree in Pre-Professional Science with a full scholarship awarded to him.

Later Shinn transferred to West Virginia University in Morgantown where he was involved in helping at the WVU College of Medicine research lab in performing Ovarian Cancer Research. The research helped him earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Shinn then decided to continue his education and attend medical school. He thought about staying at WVU; however, he loved the concept of the osteopathic approach to medicine. So, he attended the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg. There he became involved in many clubs and organizations. In his second year of medical school he became the Class President and was then involved in the Student Government Association for the college.

Shinn always wanted to pursue Family Medicine and be the "home town doc" for the people in his community. He went on to further his training in Family Medicine at Access Health Teaching Health Center in Beckley. There he received the Resident of the Year Award during his Intern year for outstanding performance.

During his residency program he did multiple electives in Wound Care, which he has a special interest. Shinn later did a presentation entitled "Wound Care in Primary Care" for the program and WVSOM. He also led a quality improvement project during his

residency program, which focused on improving the companies screening for Colorectal Cancer. During his final year in the residency program he became the Chief Resident.

Shinn thought about staying with a company in Beckley that he had been with for three years and had a large patient base; however, he knew it was time to come back home to Jackson County. Again, he wanted to become the “home town doc” in his community that helped shape him to who he is today.

Shinn has performed many home visits, which he thinks might be an asset to the area. He takes his time to get to know his patients and listens to them to help better their health. He focuses on Primary Care and seeing patients of all ages.

Shinn is excited to be back home in Jackson County once again!

Jackson Premier Health is currently accepting new patients. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, contact 304-373-1521.

WV Higher Education Policy Commission awards grant funding to support diversity efforts at institutions across the state

WBOY-TV

Sept. 2, 2020

<https://www.wboy.com/news/education/wv-higher-education-policy-commission-awards-grant-funding-to-support-diversity-efforts-at-institutions-across-the-state/>

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System have awarded \$85,000 in grants to support strengthened diversity efforts at higher education institutions across the state.

Several academic institutions received funding from this grant, including West Virginia University and Fairmont State University.

A press release from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission stated that the Diversity for Equity Grants are designed to support campus-led initiatives that make higher education more accessible to people of all ages, races, genders and backgrounds.

“This grant program has been in place for nearly a decade, and it remains so important today as we work to embrace diversity in higher education and level the

playing field for educational success in West Virginia,” said Sarah Armstrong Tucker, West Virginia’s Chancellor of Higher Education. “I am grateful to these institutions for working creatively and diligently to promote equity in educational outcomes for diverse populations of students, and I look forward to doing even more to support equal opportunities for student success at campuses statewide.”

The release stated that examples of funded projects include implementing peer mentoring programs; establishing campus diversity committees; facilitating diversity-oriented student projects and research opportunities; providing academic course enhancements and supplemental educational materials; and, conducting various diversity trainings and presentations for students, faculty, and staff.

The following institutions will receive between \$2,000-\$5,000 for their individual projects:

- **Blue Ridge Community and Technical College:** “Active Minds”
- **BridgeValley Community and Technical College:** “Understanding Diverse Populations”
- **Concord University:** “Concord University Diversity for Equity”
- **Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College:** “Human Growth”
- **Fairmont State University:** “At the Elders’ Feet: Conversations across the Generations”
- **Marshall University:** “LSAMP Cultural and Research Experiences, Programs and Initiatives”
- **Mountwest Community and Technical College:** “MCTC Diversity and Inclusion Instructional Change Agents and Racial Bias Training”
- **New River Community and Technical College:** “Creating and Training a College-wide Diversity Committee”
- **Shepherd University:** “Diversity for Equity Grant” and “WISE (Wisdom Inspires Student Excellence)”
- **Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College:** “ONESouthern Campaign”
- **West Liberty University:** “Race Relations and Black History Month”
- **West Virginia Northern Community College:** “Remember the Ladies, and Inspiration to Overcome”
- **West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine:** “Developing Effective Allyship”
- **West Virginia State University:** “Achievements through Collaboration”
- **West Virginia University:** “Anti-racist and Gender-inclusive Safe Zone Training”

- **West Virginia University at Parkersburg:** “OPEN: Opening Pathways to Equity Now, Peer Facilitation Initiative”
 - **WVU Potomac State College:** “Diversity Peer Academy”
-

Higher education systems award \$85,000 in grants to strengthen diversity initiatives on college campuses in West Virginia

West Virginia Executive

Sept. 2, 2020

<http://www.wvexecutive.com/higher-education-systems-award-85000-in-grants-to-strengthen-diversity-initiatives-on-college-campuses-in-west-virginia/>

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Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College: “Human Growth”

Fairmont State University: “At the Elders’ Feet: Conversations across the Generations”

Marshall University: “LSAMP Cultural and Research Experiences, Programs and Initiatives”

Mountwest Community and Technical College: “MCTC Diversity and Inclusion Instructional Change Agents and Racial Bias Training”

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West Virginia University: “Anti-racist and Gender-inclusive Safe Zone Training”

West Virginia University at Parkersburg: “OPEN: Opening Pathways to Equity Now, Peer Facilitation Initiative”

WVU Potomac State College: “Diversity Peer Academy”

St. Marys High School 2020 Fall Sports Preview

The St. Marys Oracle

Sept. 2, 2020

FORMER RIVALRS

Hannah Ray
Ritchie Co. High School Graduate
2018

Victoria Carpenter
St. Marys High School Graduate
2011



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WVUP enrollment up, Marietta College enrollment down in 2020 [video]

WTAP-TV

Sept. 2, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/09/02/wvup-enrollment-up-marietta-college-enrollment-down-in-2020/>

Officials at West Virginia University at Parkersburg announced that student enrollment at the school is up in 2020 from years past.

The large increase in new student enrollment is something the school is very proud of.

“Our recruiting and admissions team has done a good job, prior to the pandemic in cultivating a different relationship with students and getting out a message,” said Torie Jackson, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at WVUP. “Our marketing team has worked really hard on providing a different message about WVU Parkersburg. We feel like the community is really responding to that message and knowing what we have to offer them.”

Marietta College, however, was slightly down in enrollment from previous years, mostly due to students not necessarily wanting to travel to come to school during the coronavirus pandemic.

Scott Schaeffer, the Vice President of Enrollment Management at Marietta College, is not concerned with the lower enrollment, and described some of the challenges of recruiting new students in the midst of a global pandemic.

“Not being able to physically meet with people,” said Schaeffer. “Most high schools are doing virtual visits, virtual college fairs, and although you can still get the information across, part of it coming to a place like Marietta College, is the interaction you get, the human interaction which is still different over zoom, than it is when you’re in person.”

Schaeffer remains optimistic about future semesters and enrollment, saying he already has commitments from many students for the spring.

“There were a couple of other students that still did not feel comfortable and we know are ready,” Schaeffer said. “There are two to three students that were coming in the fall, and have already told us now they’re coming in the spring. So I think we will see an uptick in our spring enrollment.”

Poetry in the time of COVID-19

Glenville State College

Sept. 2, 2020

<https://www.glenville.edu/phoenix/poetry-time-covid-19>

The 17th annual *Trillium* reading on August 26, cosponsored by the Little Kanawha Reading Series, was a success.

Featured reader Danielle Kell, a poet from WVU-Parkersburg and contributors to the *Trillium* read their pieces to a masked, socially distanced audience at the Pioneer Stage that included students, professors, and Glenville State College's new president, Dr. Mark Manchin.

The reading was also streamed on YouTube for viewers who could not attend in person, which is something professor Jonathan Minton would like to continue for future readings. Not only does it give access to viewers who may not be able to attend, it allows the audience to watch the reading at any time, even after the reading has taken place.

If you would like to watch a playback of the *Trillium* reading, you can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1RApKc9u>

WVU-P does its best to make 2020 Census effort count

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 3, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/09/wvu-p-does-its-best-to-make-2020-census-event-count/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg helped people get counted in the 2020 Census on Wednesday.

The college's Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation in downtown Parkersburg at 414 Market St. held a 2020 Census Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Event.

The purpose of the event was to station census representatives in a high-traffic area of Wood County, close to an area that has traditionally seen lower turnout in responses,

to encourage and assist people with responding to the 2020 Census, said Charles Rector, 2020 Census partnership specialist.

It is separate from census takers going door-to-door to count households that have yet to respond.

More than a dozen residents participated, but Rector believes rainy weather cut down on downtown foot traffic.

Census personnel were on hand to help people prepare census forms on a 2020 Census tablet or their own device.

“That is what they are here for,” Rector said. “We are trying to get people situated in places where they can get some traffic.”

Rector said some operations regarding the 2020 Census will conclude toward the end of the month. The deadline for Census field data collection and self-response is Sept. 30, the Census Bureau said.

“COVID has impacted us in this state,” Rector said. “We would have liked to have done this at county fairs and other events, but many of those have been canceled. We are trying to do what we can. We are trying to end with a bang here.”

Rector credited WVU-P with promoting Census efforts throughout the university and its publications to encourage students to fill out the census form.

As of Aug. 24, the national Census response rate was 64.5 percent. West Virginia was at 55.5 percent and Wood County, with one of the highest response rates so far in the state, was at 69.7 percent.

“I think Wood County is second in the state,” Rector said. “We are trying to get those ones who are reluctant to do it online or the paper form. It is easy. There are just nine questions.”

Some people might recall the long form used in the past, which Rector said no longer exists.

“It is not near as intrusive as people might think it is, based on those past forms,” he said.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a Census of the population every 10 years. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone who lives in the United States on April 1, 2020, (Census Day).

Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and helps determine how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers for the next 10 years.

"We are trying to help these communities that rely on these federal funds," Rector said.

Another event will be 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday at Piggly Wiggly on Plum Street.

Rector said they are looking to hold events next week in Mineral Wells.

The Census Bureau is still hiring people to work until the end of the month. Employees make \$16.50 an hour plus mileage, he said.

Senta M. Goudy, dean for the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation at WVU-P, said it is encouraging students to take up the work.

"We need a full-court press right now," she said.

Goudy said this was one of the first things the new center has been engaged in being part of the community and providing people an access point to do the Census.

"This is the first of many things we anticipate happening in this space," she said.

Support from WVU-P has been great, Rector said.

"We all are trying to help the community," he said.

Goudy said they are encouraging students and everyone in the community to be counted through efforts that highlight the message of *"Let's Get Counted."*

"When our students get counted they are designing their own future."

Residents can still self-respond online at 2020census.gov, by phone at 844 330-2020 or by completing and mailing in the paper questionnaire they received, local Census officials said.

WVU Parkersburg announces strong enrollment for Fall 2020

Clutch MOV

Sept. 4, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-announces-strong-enrollment-for-fall-2020/>

WVU Parkersburg announces a significant enrollment increase in new students for fall 2020 and expects when final numbers are tallied to report level enrollment overall for the current semester.

“In the midst of a pandemic, I am delighted to be able to say that we are meeting so many of our enrollment goals for the fall semester at WVU Parkersburg,” President Chris Gilmer said. “While many colleges across the nation are struggling with significant declines in students, we have taken every step possible to keep our students safe, to encourage returning students to stay with us, and to welcome a large class of new students.”

Enrollment of traditional college students, currently 102.8% of last year’s total, shows efforts not only to retain students but also to attract new students. New student totals are currently up 24% for Fall 2020.

“The recruitment staff played a vital role in increasing the new student enrollment numbers,” Vice President of Enrollment Management Steven Smith said. “Prior to the pandemic, we were very intentional about increasing the number of applicants and cultivating that population to ensure enrollment growth.”

Continuing traditional student enrollment is currently up 1%, further showing an effort to retain students despite the pandemic. The final Summer 2020 enrollment also showed a 10% increase over Summer 2019. WVU Parkersburg is offering most of its courses for the fall semester in a technology-enabled instructional environment. Still, about 25 percent of courses have some hands-on, face-to-face component. Those courses are primarily in technical programs such as welding, and for some science, healthcare, and education programs that have lab and field experiences.

The university also opened Zoom rooms and computer labs for students, recognizing that access to the Internet in rural areas is one of the primary challenges of virtual instruction. WVU Parkersburg adjusted expenditures to keep tuition at the same affordable level for the 2020-2021 academic year, declining to implement an approved 5% tuition increase.

“We recognize that we will lose some students after fall deregistration, a process which adjusts our rolls for non-payment, non-attendance, or other factors, but we are doing everything within our power to find a way to hold onto every student who wants to earn an education. These amazing enrollment numbers will change somewhat over the next few weeks, but I could not be prouder of our team for posting such strong numbers during the third week of fall classes,” Gilmer said.

One section of enrollment that is not yet calculated into fall totals is the early college/dual credit population. To assist parents in getting students registered for classes, a process that normally would have occurred in May, college staff spent 10 evenings at high schools and allowed parents to drive up to register their children for early college. While that was effective at bringing in over 550 students, more registrations are expected through personal telephone calls to parents.

“The efforts to enroll early college students who haven’t been on their high school campuses since March is a team approach for which many people are to be thanked,” Vice President of Institutional Advancement Torie Jackson said. “This collaboration with our local school districts to provide higher education opportunities to high school students is essential and must be continued, which is why WVU Parkersburg devotes extra energy to ensure its success.”

The dual credit/early college classes at area high schools begin Sept. 8. Registration is continuing for those students. WVU Parkersburg provides early college/dual credit classes at 10 area high schools and in two vocational-technical centers. Workforce development registration has also not been computed as part of these totals and is expected to add a significant number of additional students this fall.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg sees boost in fall enrollment

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 4, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/09/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg-sees-boost-in-fall-enrollment/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg will see a significant increase in enrollment for the fall semester, officials said.

School officials are anticipating a 24 percent increase in enrollment as the school has increased its efforts to retain students and attract new students.

“The recruitment staff played a vital role in increasing the new student enrollment numbers,” Steven Smith, vice president of enrollment management, said. “Prior to the pandemic, we were very intentional about increasing the number of applicants and cultivating that population to ensure enrollment growth.”

Continuing traditional student enrollment is up 1 percent, further showing an effort to retain students despite the pandemic, university officials said. Final summer 2020 enrollment also showed a 10 percent increase over summer 2019.

“Enrollment is up,” Smith said. “What we did last year was to be very intentional about increasing the number of applications.

“The more applications you have, the stronger chance you will have applicants who will actually complete the process and actually enroll in the institution.”

That was a focus of the university before the pandemic hit, Smith said.

“It has always been my philosophy that when you are recruiting, you associate, you advocate and you communicate then you cultivate and usually the students will matriculate if you do all of those things well,” he said. “We really not only looked at our seven-county service area in West Virginia, we also looked at Ohio and increased our presence and increased our numbers there as well.

“We saw all of that was very beneficial as well.”

WVU-P has also increased its marketing efforts throughout the local community to reach students in a different way, said Torie Jackson, the college’s vice president for institutional advancement.

“We feel that message has been well received,” she said.

WVU-P is offering most of its courses for the fall semester in a technology-enabled instructional environment, Jackson said.

“Still, about 25 percent of classes have some hands-on, face-to-face component,” she said. “Around 75 percent have moved to a more virtual realm. That doesn’t mean it is just online. What it means is our faculty has undergone Zoom training and they are able to conduct their classes at the same day and time they would have normally, but they are able to do it through video.

"They are still seeing their students and talking to their students in real time. That seems to be a good connection with students and it seems to have been well received by students at this point in time," she said.

The university also opened Zoom rooms and computer labs for students, recognizing access to Internet in rural areas is among the primary challenges of virtual instruction.

Many of the in-person classes still operating as usual are primarily in the technical programs such as welding, and for some science, healthcare, and education programs which have lab and field experiences.

"For those still on campus, we are practicing social distancing, we are requiring masks and we are limiting the number of people in the building at any one time," Jackson said. "That is being done for everyone's safety.

"I think that is appealing to some people who are worried about the pandemic."

WVU-P adjusted expenditures to keep tuition at the same affordable level for the 2020-2021 academic year, declining to implement an approved 5 percent tuition increase.

"We remain affordable," Smith said. "We did not increase tuition because of the pandemic."

The affordability and the quality of the education received at the university also played a roll in what they are seeing, he said.

One section of enrollment that is not yet calculated into fall totals is the early college/dual credit population, Jackson said. Many of those are high school students who will be taking college level courses.

While those efforts were effective in bringing in over 550 students, more registrations are expected in the near future once high schools are back in session next week.

"We can't give the final numbers yet, but we do know with our regular student population that we do have an increase (in enrollment)," Jackson said. "We are expecting to sign up more (early college) students once we are able to see them and have them fill out the paperwork. This collaboration with our local school districts to provide higher education opportunities to high school students is essential and must be continued, which is why WVU Parkersburg devotes extra energy to ensure its success."

Smith said this continues to be an unusual year as the university continues to deal with the impacts of the pandemic, but is also continually looking at growth in the future.

“We are working different strategies to make sure we continue what we started this year,” he said. “We want our students and our population to know that WVU-P will be looking at the same goals next year and that is to increase student enrollment as well.”

Across the State

The State Journal

Sept. 7, 2020

https://www.wvnews.com/across-the-state/article_c363922c-cafe-5f91-850d-a46dad0b829a.html

West Virginia University at Parkersburg will see a significant increase in enrollment for the fall semester, officials said.

School officials are anticipating a 24 percent increase in enrollment as the school has increased its efforts to retain students and attract new students.

“The recruitment staff played a vital role in increasing the new student enrollment numbers,” said Steven Smith, vice president of enrollment management.

“Prior to the pandemic, we were very intentional about increasing the number of applicants and cultivating that population to ensure enrollment growth.”

Continuing traditional student enrollment is up 1%, further showing an effort to retain students despite the pandemic, university officials said.

Final summer 2020 enrollment numbers also showed a 10% increase over summer 2019.

“Enrollment is up,” Smith said. “What we did last year was to be very intentional about increasing the number of applications.”

“The more applications you have, the stronger chance you will have applicants who will actually complete the process and actually enroll in the institution.”

That was a focus of the university before the pandemic hit, Smith said.

— Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Area schools to safely recognize September 11

WTAP-TV

Sept. 9, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/09/09/area-schools-to-safely-recognize-september-11/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Parkersburg High School will forego its traditional September 11 ceremony. Because the ceremony typically draws a crowd, maintaining social distancing would pose a challenge.

Instead, the school's administration will make an announcement to honor those lost during the 2001 attacks. This will include honoring Mary Lou Hague, a 1992 Parkersburg High School graduate who was killed in World Trade Center 2 during the attack.

The September 11 recognition will also include a moment of silence to honor those killed, and the school's flag will be at half-mast, the administration said.

And at Marietta College, the College Republicans will create a display of small American flags, with each flag representing one of the victims of the attacks, said spokesperson Tom Perry.

Finally, WVUP will be holding a virtual commemoration via Zoom.

WVU Parkersburg announces strong enrollment for fall

The Pennsboro News

Sept. 9, 2020

WVU Parkersburg has announced a significant enrollment increase in new students for fall 2020 and expects when final numbers are tallied to report level enrollment overall for the current semester.

"In the midst of a pandemic, I am delighted to be able to say that we are meeting so many of our enrollment goals for the fall semester at WVU Parkersburg," President Chris Gilmer said. "While many colleges across the nation are struggling with significant declines in students, we have taken every step possible to keep our

students safe, to encourage returning students to stay with us, and to welcome a large class of new students.”

Enrollment of traditional college students, currently 102.8% of last year’s total, shows efforts not only to retain students, but also to attract new students. New student totals are currently up 24% for fall 2020.

“The recruitment staff played a vital role in increasing the new student enrollment numbers,” Vice President of Enrollment Management Steven Smith said. “Prior to the pandemic, we were very intentional about increasing the number of applicants and cultivating that population to ensure enrollment growth.”

Continuing traditional student enrollment is currently up 1%, further showing an effort to retain students despite the pandemic. Final summer 2020 enrollment also showed a 10% increase over summer 2019.

WVU Parkersburg is offering most of its courses for the fall semester in a technology-enabled instructional environment. Still, about 25 percent of courses have some hands-on, face-to-face component. Those courses are primarily in technical programs such as welding, and for some science, healthcare, and education programs which have lab and field experiences.

The university also opened Zoom rooms and computer labs for students, recognizing that access to Internet in rural areas is one of the primary challenges of virtual instruction. WVU Parkersburg adjusted expenditures to keep tuition at the same affordable level for the 2020-2021 academic year, declining to implement an approved 5% tuition increase.

“We recognize that we will lose some students after fall deregistration, a process which adjusts our rolls for non-payment, non-attendance, or other factors, but we are doing everything within our power to find a way to hold onto every student who wants to earn an education. These amazing enrollment numbers will change somewhat over the next few weeks, but I could not be prouder of our team for posting such strong numbers during the third week of fall classes,” Gilmer said.

One section of enrollment that is not yet calculated into fall totals is the early college/dual credit population. To assist parents in getting students registered for classes, a process that normally would have occurred in May, college staff spent 10 evenings at high schools and allowed parents to drive up to register their children for

early college. While that was effective at bringing in over 550 students, more registrations are expected through personal telephone calls to parents.

“The efforts to enroll early college students who haven’t been on their high school campuses since March is a team approach for which many people are to be thanked,” Vice President of Institutional Advancement Torie Jackson said. “This collaboration with our local school districts to provide higher education opportunities to high school students is essential and must be continued, which is why WVU Parkersburg devotes extra energy to ensure its success.”

The dual credit/early college classes at area high schools begin Sept. 8. Registration is continuing for those students. WVU Parkersburg provides early college/dual credit classes at 10 area high schools and in two vocational-technical centers. Workforce development registration has also not been computed as part of these totals and is expected to add a significant number of additional students this fall.

13 Earn Honors At WVU-P

The St. Marys Oracle & Pleasants County Leader
Sept. 9, 2020

Thirteen local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the summer semester. Named to the president’s list for perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were Colton Barnhart, Richard Burkhammer, Dylan Fitzsimmons and Mallory Webb of St. Marys. Named to the dean’s list for 3.5- 3.99 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were Alexis Carder and Michelle Neff of Belmont, Isabella Davis, Jacob Elder, Lara Fetty and Cari Weekley of St. Marys and Melissa Parsons, William Riddle, Meredith Davis and Amber Ward of Waverly.

3 Earn Degrees From WVU-P

The St. Marys Oracle & Pleasants County Leader
Sept. 9, 2020

Three local students were awarded certificates, associate or bachelor’s degrees from West Virginia University at Parkersburg as August graduates. August WVU-Parkersburg graduates include: Robert Bills II, of St. Marys, Regents Bachelor of Arts; William Riddle of Waverly, AAS in welding technology; and Shannon O’Dell of

Waverly, AAS in strategic communication.

New Student Enrollment Jumps 25% at WVU-P

The St. Marys Oracle & Pleasants County Leader
Sept. 9, 2020

WVU-Parkersburg has announced a significant enrollment increase in new students for the fall semester and expects when final numbers are tallied to report level enrollment overall for the current semester.

“In the midst of a pandemic, I am delighted to be able to say that we are meeting so many of our enrollment goals for the fall semester at WVU Parkersburg,” president Chris Gilmer said. “While many colleges across the nation are struggling with significant declines in students, we have taken every step possible to keep our students safe, to encourage returning students to stay with us, and to welcome a large class of new students.”

Enrollment of traditional college students, currently 102.8 percent of last year’s total, shows efforts not only to retain students but also to attract new students. New student totals are currently up 24 percent for fall 2020.

“The recruitment staff played a vital role in increasing the new student enrollment numbers,” Steven Smith, vice president of enrollment management said. “Prior to the pandemic, we were very intentional about increasing the number of applicants and cultivating that population to ensure enrollment growth.”

Continuing traditional student enrollment is currently up 1 percent, further showing an effort to retain students despite the pandemic. Final summer 2020 enrollment also showed a 10 percent increase over the summer of 2019.

WVU-Parkersburg is offering most of its courses for the fall semester in a technology-enabled instructional environment. Still, about 25 percent of courses have some hands-on, face-to-face component.

Those courses are primarily in technical programs such as welding, and for some science, healthcare, and education programs which have lab and field experiences.

The university also opened Zoom rooms and computer labs for students, recognizing that access to Internet in rural areas is one of the primary challenges of virtual instruction.

WVU-Parkersburg adjusted expenditures to keep tuition at the same affordable level for the 2020- 21 academic year, declining to implement an approved 5 percent tuition increase.

“We recognize that we will lose some students after fall deregistration, a process which adjusts our rolls for non-payment, non-attendance or other factors, but we are doing everything within our power to find a way to hold onto every student who wants to earn an education. These amazing enrollment numbers will change somewhat over the next few weeks, but I could not be prouder of our team for posting such strong numbers during the third week of fall classes,” Gilmer said.

One section of enrollment that is not yet calculated into fall totals is the early college/dual credit population.

To assist parents in getting students registered for classes, a process that normally would have occurred in May, college staff spent 10 evenings at high schools and allowed parents to drive up to register their children for early college. While that was effective at bringing in more than 550 students, more registrations are expected through personal telephone calls to parents.

“The efforts to enroll early college students who haven’t been on their high school campuses since March is a team approach for which many people are to be thanked,” said Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement. “This collaboration with our local school districts to provide higher education opportunities to high school students is essential and must be continued, which is why WVU Parkersburg devotes extra energy to ensure its success.”

The dual credit/early college classes at area high schools will begin Sept. 8. Registration is continuing for those students. WVU-Parkersburg provides early college/dual credit classes at 10 area high schools, including St. Marys High School, and in two vocational-technical centers.

New students were sought through an extensive advertising campaign in The St. Marys Oracle and Pleasants County Leader this summer.

13 Earn Honors at WVU-P

The Wirt County Journal

Sept. 9, 2020

Thirteen local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the summer semester.

Named to the president's list for perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were Kaitlyn Frazier of Elizabeth, Aarin Cale of Leroy and Stacey Wyer of Palestine.

Named to the dean's list for 3.5- 3.99 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were Elizabeth Carihfield of Leroy, Holly Terrell of Reedy, Emily Shearlock and Brooklyn Smith of Palestine, Victor Casenelli, Deborah Darling, Thomas Mullenix II, Mika Parsons, Shannon Stanley and Kaysi Trickett of Elizabeth.

Four earn degrees

Four students from Wirt County were awarded certificates, associate or bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University at Parkersburg as August graduates.

Graduates who attained a 3.50-4.00 grade point average (GPA) earned academic honors, as follows: 3.50-3.749, Cum Laude; 3.75-3.99, Magna Cum Laude; and 4.0, Summa Cum Laude.

August WVU-Parkersburg graduate include: Jason Hopkins of Elizabeth, AS in business administration; Thomas Mullenix II of Elizabeth, BAS in business administration, Cum Laude; Vanessa Duffield of Palestine, BS in Nursing and Kaitlyn Lockney of Palestine, Regents Bachelor of Arts.

WVU-P enrollment jumps by 24 percent

The Wirt County Journal

Sept. 9, 2020

WVU-Parkersburg has announced a significant enrollment increase in new students for the fall semester and expects when final numbers are tallied to report level enrollment overall for the current semester.

“In the midst of a pandemic, I am delighted to be able to say that we are meeting so many of our enrollment goals for the fall semester at WVU Parkersburg,” president Chris Gilmer said.

“While many colleges across the nation are struggling with significant declines in students, we have taken every step possible to keep our students safe, to encourage returning students to stay with us, and to welcome a large class of new students.”

Enrollment of traditional college students, currently 102.8 percent of last year’s total, shows efforts not only to retain students but also to attract new students.

New student totals are currently up 24 percent for fall 2020.

“The recruitment staff played a vital role in increasing the new student enrollment numbers,” Steven Smith, vice president of enrollment management said. “Prior to the pandemic, we were very intentional about increasing the number of applicants and cultivating that population to ensure enrollment growth.”

Continuing traditional student enrollment is currently up 1 percent, further showing an effort to retain students despite the pandemic.

Final summer 2020 enrollment also showed a 10 percent increase over the summer of 2019.

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Still, about 25 percent of courses have some hands-on, face-to-face component.

Those courses are primarily in technical programs such as welding, and for some science, healthcare, and education programs which have lab and field experiences.

The university also opened Zoom rooms and computer labs for students, recognizing that access to Internet in rural areas is one of the primary challenges of virtual instruction.

WVU-Parkersburg adjusted expenditures to keep tuition at the same affordable level for the 2020- 21 academic year, declining to implement an approved 5 percent tuition increase.

“We recognize that we will lose some students after fall deregistration, a process which adjusts our rolls for non-payment, non-attendance or other factors, but we are

doing everything within our power to find a way to hold onto every student who wants to earn an education. These amazing enrollment numbers will change somewhat over the next few weeks, but I could not be prouder of our team for posting such strong numbers during the third week of fall classes,” Gilmer said.

One section of enrollment that is not yet calculated into fall totals is the early college/dual credit population.

To assist parents in getting students registered for classes, a process that normally would have occurred in May, college staff spent 10 evenings at high schools and allowed parents to drive up to register their children for early college.

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“The efforts to enroll early college students who haven’t been on their high school campuses since March is a team approach for which many people are to be thanked,” said Torie Jackson, vice president of institutional advancement.

“This collaboration with our local school districts to provide higher education opportunities to high school students is essential and must be continued, which is why WVU Parkersburg devotes extra energy to ensure its success.”

The dual credit/early college classes at area high schools will begin Sept. 8. Registration is continuing for those students. WVU-Parkersburg provides early college/dual credit classes at 10 area high schools, including Wirt County High School, and in two vocational-technical centers.

Workforce development registration has also not been computed as these totals and is expected to add a significant number of additional students this fall.

County students receive academic honors at WVUP

The Pennsboro News
Sept. 9, 2020

Three students from Ritchie County earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the summer semester. Named to the dean’s list for 3.5-3.99 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were Fallyn Buffington of Cairo, Morgan Reilly of Ellenboro and Brianna Luther of Smithville.

3 graduate from WVUP

The Pennsboro News

Sept. 9, 2020

Three students from Ritchie County were awarded certificates, associate or bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University at Parkersburg as August graduates. Graduates who attained 3.5-4.0 averages earned academic honors, as follows: 3.5-3.749, Cum Laude; 3.75-3.99, Magna Cum Laude; and 4.0, Summa Cum Laude. August WVU-Parkersburg graduates included: Miguelina McMichael of Harrisville, AAS, BOG; Robert Hoffman of Pennsboro AAS in criminal justice; and Jamie Frymier of Smithville, BAS in criminal justice.

WVU Parkersburg announces strong enrollment for fall

The Pennsboro News

Sept. 9, 2020

WVU Parkersburg has announced a significant enrollment increase in new students for fall 2020 and expects when final numbers are tallied to report level enrollment overall for the current semester.

"In the midst of a pandemic, I am delighted to be able to say that we are meeting so many of our enrollment goals for the fall semester at WVU Parkersburg," President Chris Gilmer said. "While many colleges across the nation are struggling with significant declines in students, we have taken every step possible to keep our students safe, to encourage returning students to stay with us, and to welcome a large class of new students."

Enrollment of traditional college students, currently 102.8 percent of last year's total, shows efforts not only to retain students, but also to attract new students. New student totals are currently up 24 percent for fall 2020.

"The recruitment staff played a vital role in increasing the new student enrollment numbers," Vice President of Enrollment Management Steven Smith said. "Prior to the pandemic, we were very intentional about increasing the number of applicants and cultivating that population to ensure enrollment growth."

Continuing traditional student enrollment is currently up 1 percent, further showing an effort to retain students despite the pandemic. Final summer 2020 enrollment also showed a 10 percent increase over summer 2019.

WVU Parkersburg is offering most of its courses for the fall semester in a technology-enabled instructional environment. Still, about 25 percent of courses have some hands-on, face-to-face component. Those courses are primarily in technical programs such as welding, and for some science, healthcare, and education programs which have lab and field experiences.

The university also opened Zoom rooms and computer labs for students, recognizing that access to Internet in rural areas is one of the primary challenges of virtual instruction. WVU Parkersburg adjusted expenditures to keep tuition at the same affordable level for the 2020-21 academic year, declining to implement an approved 5 percent tuition increase.

“We recognize that we will lose some students after fall deregistration, a process which WVU Parkersburg announces strong enrollment for fall adjusts our rolls for non-payment, non-attendance, or other factors, but we are doing everything within our power to find a way to hold onto every student who wants to earn an education. These amazing enrollment numbers will change somewhat over the next few weeks, but I could not be prouder of our team for posting such strong numbers during the third week of fall classes,” Gilmer said.

One section of enrollment that is not yet calculated into fall totals is the early college/dual credit population. To assist parents in getting students registered for classes, a process that normally would have occurred in May, college staff spent 10 evenings at high schools and allowed parents to drive up to register their children for early college. While that was effective at bringing in over 550 students, more registrations are expected through personal telephone calls to parents.

“The efforts to enroll early college students who haven’t been on their high school campuses since March is a team approach for which many people are to be thanked,” Vice President of Institutional Advancement Torie Jackson said. “This collaboration with our local school districts to provide higher education opportunities to high school students is essential and must be continued, which is why WVU Parkersburg devotes extra energy to ensure its success.”

The dual credit/early college classes at area high schools began Sept. 8. WVU Parkersburg provides early college/dual credit classes at 10 area high schools and in two vocational-technical centers.

Workforce development registration has also not been computed as part of these totals and is expected to add a significant number of additional students this fall.

Local Events to Mark Sept. 11 anniversary

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 10, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/09/local-events-to-mark-sept-11-anniversary/>

PARKERSBURG — A number of programs are being held Friday to mark the 19th anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

* West Virginia University at Parkersburg has changed its previous ceremony at the college to a virtual memorial ceremony on Friday due to COVID-19 restrictions.

From noon-1 p.m. Friday, on Facebook Live and YouTube, the college will present its 9/11 Memorial Ceremony with panelists Darren Shearlock, Veterans Advocate; Kim McFee, Program Specialist; Al Collins, Lead Campus Police Officer; and Dr. Rob Anderson, Professor of History. The ceremony will begin with a short historical recap of 9/11. Panelists will then share their memories of the event and its aftermath as well as how it affected the community. Viewers are also encouraged to share their memories on the streaming platforms.

Stream live at [facebook.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.facebook.com/wvuparkersburg) or [wvup.edu/youtube](https://www.wvup.edu/youtube). For more information, contact darren.shearlock@wvup.edu.

* In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, students at Parkersburg High School will not be holding their annual 9/11 memorial service in front of the high school in remembrance of the lives lost to the terrorist attacks in 2001, which occurred in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

School officials said the anniversary will be marked by a moment of silence and recognition time during the morning announcements.

Parkersburg native Mary Lou Hague, a 1992 PHS graduate, was a research analyst on the 89th floor in Tower 2 of the World Trade Center when terrorists flew a plane into the building.

* In Jackson County, the Ripley Baptist Temple will hold its annual “*Ripley Remembers 9/11*” memorial service at noon Friday on the lawn of the Jackson County Courthouse in Ripley.

The program will include a flag ceremony, a rifle salute, patriotic music, prayer, the playing of “*Taps*” and other activities with local veteran, military and emergency service groups. Social distancing will be observed.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Ripley Baptist Temple Auditorium at the corner of Third Avenue and Charleston Drive in Ripley.

Limited 9/11 Memorials Continue in 2020

West Virginia Public Broadcasting

Sept. 10, 2020

<https://www.wvpublic.org/post/limited-911-memorials-continue-2020#stream/0>

This year marks the 19th anniversary of the terror attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. on Sept. 11, 2001 that killed nearly 3,000 people.

To remember the day, communities in Nicholas, Putnam, Kanawha and Raleigh counties are having live events despite concerns about the coronavirus.

Kevin Price, the fire department coordinator for Raleigh County and a city councilman for Beckley, said they never considered not having a memorial of some sort.

“The little monument that we have that features a piece of steel from the World Trade Centers, says ‘We will never forget.’ I think it's pertinent that we don’t forget, no matter what’s going on,” he said.

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) will pay his respects to those lost on September 11, 2001 and all fallen service heroes with Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel “Woody” Williams at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery at 9 a.m. with wreaths placed at 9:37 am, when the plane hit the Pentagon.

Mary Ann Taylor, co-chair of the 9/11 memorial events in Nicholas County, said they wanted to give the people hope by holding their event, but have extended the parade route for social distancing and are limiting the parade to only first responders and law enforcement.

Some 9/11 Memorial Events

[Putnam County](#): American Legion Post 187 will hold its annual 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at 10 a.m. on the front steps of the Putnam County Courthouse.

[9/11 Memorial Ceremony by WVU Parkersburg](#): From noon to 1 p.m., on Facebook Live and YouTube, WVU Parkersburg will present its 9/11 Memorial Ceremony. The ceremony will begin with a short historical recap. Panelists will then share their memories of the event and its aftermath as well as how it affected our community. Viewers are also encouraged to share their memories on the streaming platforms.

[Nicholas County](#): The City of Summersville, City of Richwood, and Nicholas County Commission join together and invite all of Nicholas County to recognize, and honor law enforcement and all first responders.

The parade will begin at 7 p.m. at Nicholas Village along Webster Road to Main Street and end on Broad Street at Lerose Shopping Plaza. Please practice social distancing along the parade route.

[Raleigh County](#): This event is a “Silent” (Emergency Lights Only) Memorial Parade to honor the fallen including law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical services, military and other victims.

Kanawha County: Senator Manchin will pay his respects to those lost on September 11, 2001 and all our fallen service heroes at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery, 130 Academy Drive, Dunbar, WV 25064 at 9:00 a.m., with the wreaths placed at 9:37 am, when the plane hit the Pentagon

West Virginians can participate by sending a photo of their commemoration to common_sense@manchin.senate.gov or posting to social media with the hashtag #WVGGoldStarFamilies.

WVU-P holds virtual September 11 commemoration

WTAP-TV

Sept. 11, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/09/11/wvu-p-holds-virtual-september-11-commemoration/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, WVU Parkersburg held a virtual September 11 commemoration this year. The event was held via Zoom and featured several speakers from the campus community.

Those speakers included veterans services officer Darren Shearlock, history professor Dr. Robert Anderson, campus police officer Al Collins, advisor Kim Mcfee, and President Chris Gilmer.

Anderson spoke first, giving historical perspective on the global events leading up to the formation of the Taliban, the prominence of Osama bin Laden, and ultimately, the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The speakers then recounted their personal experiences of the day. Shearlock, who was an Army officer at Fort Bragg in North Carolina at the time, said that he first heard the news over the radio. He said Fort Bragg was “abuzz” and his fellow officers were “extremely nervous,” afraid that their location would be attacked.

Similarly, Anderson said he was at home when he learned of the events from his wife, and he had a “feeling of uncertainty and that life was out of control.”

The participants next explained how the attacks changed their world views. Shearlock said it prompted him to research the Middle East and Islam, and to attempt to better

understand the relationship between the United States and that part of the world. It also led to him serving in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, and parts of West Africa.

Then, they discussed how the events altered their personal lives. Each participant gave an anecdote. Mcfee explained that her husband became an air marshal because he felt the need to do something to address global circumstances. "Knowing what he was doing, I lived in fear," Mcfee said.

The event concluded with a statement by Gilmer, in which he said that, although the attacks made apparent to him "man's cruelty to man," the reaction of the local community "also reinforced to me man and woman's humanity toward man and woman." Gilmer added, "I'm very proud to be a part of an institution that, after all these years, is committed to remembering [September 11]".

WVUP holds virtual 9/11 memorial

The Marietta Times

Sept. 12, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2020/09/wwup-holds-virtual-9-11-memorial/>

Members of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg community came together virtually Friday to recognize the 19th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I'm very proud to be part of an institution that after all these years is committed to remembering," WVUP President Chris Gilmer said. With most classes being conducted online, faculty and staff presented an online observance that began with history Professor Rob Anderson providing a historical context for the attacks.

The radical Muslim Taliban filled the political power vacuum when the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan after 10 years of battling insurgents, who had been sponsored by the United States *"within the context of the Cold War,"* Anderson said. The Taliban harbored individuals like Osama bin Laden, who sponsored terrorism targeting supposed threats to the Muslim world, he said.

"Obviously to bin Laden, the United States was the target," Anderson said. *"He wanted a huge strike against the United States, to hit symbolic structures of America's economic power, political power and military power."*

That led to the hijacked airliners on Sept. 11 being flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane, believed to be headed for the U.S. Capitol, crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pa., when passengers learned of the other attacks and attempted to retake control.

“By this point, word was starting to spread and passengers ... on United 93 recognized that this was not what they would have said, at the time, was a typical hijacking,” said Anderson, who was then an adjunct professor at Penn State Altoona, an hour or so from Shanksville.

Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks.

“This obviously changed America forever and would ignite the War on Terror, which has lasted now for over 18 years,” Anderson said.

Lead campus police officer Al Collins said some of the changes were temporary, pointing to the political divisions before the attacks and in recent years.

“Everybody came together at the time,” he said. *“It changed us for about eight years. ... We’ve got to get back to where everybody matters, we take care of everybody ... and we’re on the same team again.”*

Collins was at WVUP when the attacks happened, as was program specialist Kim McFee.

She said the fear of that day was extended when her husband at the time became an air marshal as America tried to grapple with the security threats exposed by the attacks.

“I lived in fear for those six months” he was traveling in that capacity, McFee said.

Darren Shearlock, WVUP’s veterans advocate, was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, preparing to transfer from Ft. Bragg in North Carolina to a recruiting post in Atlantic City.

He heard about the plane hitting the first tower on the radio and saw the second plane hit while filling out paperwork to rent a truck.

“I said to myself, ‘This isn’t an accident. We’re actually at war,’” he said.

Shearlock described returning to Ft. Bragg and seeing two soldiers, ages 18 and 20, manning machine gun pits at the gate.

“Just looking at their face, you could see that they were terrified, because they now have a machine gun with live ammunition and are looking at every American that’s coming through (there), that they might be the next enemy,” he said.

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“He looked at me and says, ‘Sgt. Shearlock, if you’re right and we’re really at war with somebody that can do this, then we need people to recruit more military, because this is going to be a huge fight,’” he said.

Shearlock went on to Atlantic City and worked as a recruiter for a year before his duties shifted again, taking him to Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Western Africa.

“It was a lot of deployments overseas,” lasting six months to a year and often with him unable to tell his family exactly where he was going, he said.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s 9/11 memorial goes virtual

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 12, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/09/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburgs-9-11-memorial-goes-virtual/>



West Virginia University at Parkersburg history Professor Rob Anderson is shown in a screen shot as he outlines the historical context of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks during an online memorial ceremony organized by the college. (Image Provided)

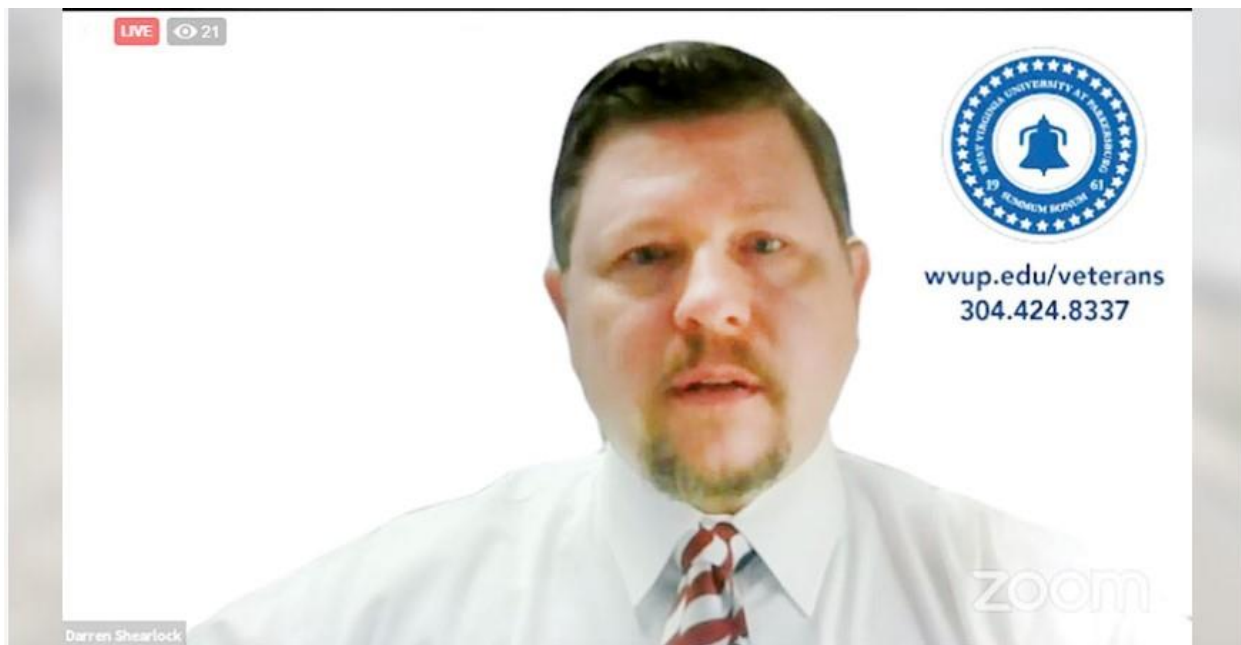
PARKERSBURG — Members of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg community came together virtually Friday to recognize the 19th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I'm very proud to be part of an institution that after all these years is committed to remembering," WVUP President Chris Gilmer said.

With most classes being conducted online, faculty and staff presented an online observance that began with history Professor Rob Anderson providing a historical context for the attacks.

The radical Muslim Taliban filled the political power vacuum when the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan after 10 years of battling insurgents, who had been sponsored by the United States *"within the context of the Cold War,"* Anderson said. The Taliban harbored individuals like Osama bin Laden, who sponsored terrorism targeting supposed threats to the Muslim world, he said.

"Obviously to bin Laden, the United States was the target," Anderson said. *"He wanted a huge strike against the United States, to hit symbolic structures of America's economic power, political power and military power."*



West Virginia University at Parkersburg veterans advocate Darren Shearlock is shown in a screen shot as he recounts his memories of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks during an online memorial ceremony organized by the college Friday. (Image Provided)

That led to the hijacked airliners on Sept. 11 being flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth

plane, believed to be headed for the U.S. Capitol, crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pa., when passengers learned of the other attacks and attempted to retake control.

“By this point, word was starting to spread and passengers ... on United 93 recognized that this was not what they would have said, at the time, was a typical hijacking,” said Anderson, who was then an adjunct professor at Penn State Altoona, an hour or so from Shanksville.

Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks.

“This obviously changed America forever and would ignite the War on Terror, which has lasted now for over 18 years,” Anderson said.

Lead campus police officer Al Collins said some of the changes were temporary, pointing to the political divisions before the attacks and in recent years.

“Everybody came together at the time,” he said. *“It changed us for about eight years. ... We’ve got to get back to where everybody matters, we take care of everybody ... and we’re on the same team again.”*

Collins was at WVUP when the attacks happened, as was program specialist Kim McFee. She said the fear of that day was extended when her husband at the time became an air marshal as America tried to grapple with the security threats exposed by the attacks.

“I lived in fear for those six months” he was traveling in that capacity, McFee said.

Darren Shearlock, WVUP’s veterans advocate, was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, preparing to transfer from Ft. Bragg in North Carolina to a recruiting post in Atlantic City. He heard about the plane hitting the first tower on the radio and saw the second plane hit while filling out paperwork to rent a truck.

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"It was a lot of deployments overseas," lasting six months to a year and often with him unable to tell his family exactly where he was going, he said.

Grimmett earns law scholarship

The Wirt County Journal

Sept. 16, 2020



Austin Grimmatt of Elizabeth received multiple law school scholarships and chose to attend The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Austin graduated Summa Cum Laude Highest Honors with a 4.0 average from West Virginia University at Parkersburg and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

While studying at WVU-P, Austin worked as an academic tutor and served as president of the Student Government Association for two years. He represented the students as a member of the institution's Board of Governors, in addition to serving as the representative to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

Austin received the Outstanding Student Award as well as the Career Services Award.

After graduating, he continued to serve WVU-P for one year in the roles of special liaison to the president for equity and inclusion and admissions counselor where he was responsible for assisting Wirt County High School students transition to college.

Austin received full scholarship offers from many law schools including West Virginia University and Louisiana State University.

The Ohio State Moritz College of Law is ranked #38 out of 194 law schools in the nation according to U.S. News.

Founded in 1881 and ranked #1 in Ohio, the college has grown into one of the nation's preeminent public law schools and one of the most respected law schools in the world.

WVU Parkersburg ranked top in state for affordability

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 16, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2020/09/wvu-parkersburg-ranked-top-in-state-for-affordability/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg has been recognized as the most affordable college in the state by University HQ, the college announced.

The rankings help students find the school that matches their budget and career path by comparing college tuition rates, degrees offered and graduating salaries across the U.S.

"Providing the highest quality education possible at the very best financial value will always be a top priority at WVU Parkersburg," WVU-Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer said. "We are honored and pleased to be recognized as the most affordable in West Virginia, and we remind the community that we are also highly rated for the quality of our programs."

WVU Parkersburg offers in-state and out-of-state tuition below the national average and over 86 percent of students have graduated debt-free with the help of financial aid, grants and scholarships. Additionally, the university's tuition charges are capped, so any credits taken in excess of 12 credit hours per semester are offered at no additional charge.

The bachelor's of applied science in nursing, certificate, associate and bachelor's of applied science in child development and bachelor's of applied science in supervisory management are online programs. All students, no matter where they live, receive in-state tuition when pursuing these degree programs.

Also, WVU Parkersburg's Early College program allows high school students to take college credits at a reduced rate of \$150 per course. Students have the potential to graduate high school with a certificate or associate degree. Students and parents can save up to \$23,760 in tuition by enrolling in Early College.

WVU Parkersburg ranked top in state for affordability

interScholarships

Sept. 17, 2020

<https://interscholarships.com/united-states/wvu-parkersburg-ranked-top-in-state-for-affordability-news-sports-jobs/>

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WVU-P Earns Rating as Most Affordable College

The Pleasants County Leader
Sept. 19, 2020

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Visit wvup.edu/future-students or call 304.424.8310 to view WVU Parkersburg's majors, cost and aid, and other services. To register for Early College, visit wvup.edu/earlycollege or call 304.424.8209.

WVU-Parkersburg President and Collins PR owner "Pollocked" [video]

WTAP-TV

Sept. 20, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/09/21/wvu-parkersburg-president-and-collins-pr-owner-pollocked/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - A new weekly fundraiser at the Parkersburg Art Center involves splattering a person with paint.

They call it “pollocking,” because the painted person leaves looking like a Jackson Pollock painting.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg President, Chris Gilmer and Collins PR owner, Lisa Collins were splattered on Sunday.

It was a good time for all, but the paint-splashed say the best part is yet to come.

“You know the most fun part for me hasn’t happened yet. The most fun part is that there’s going to be children and others in our community that are going to be able to enjoy the services of this great organization. And we know today we get a little bit toward making that happen,” said Gilmer.

As of today, the art center has raised over \$8,000 through their pollocking program.

WVU-P President Gilmer says he will be incorporating more pollock-themed color schemes to his wardrobe after today.

Across the State

The State Journal

Sept. 21, 2020

https://www.wvnews.com/statejournal/news/top_story/across-the-state/article_ffc5a9c6-8ae5-5558-a5b1-dcdef6be5ca4.html

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— Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 22, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/opinion/editorials/2020/09/thumbs-up-thumbs-down-200/>

UP: To West Virginia University at Parkersburg for being named the most affordable college in the state by University HQ. “We are honored and pleased to be recognized as the most affordable in West Virginia, and we remind the community that we are also highly rated for the quality of our programs,” said WVUP President Chris Gilmer. The announcement is an important reminder that Mountain State students do not need to go into debilitating debt to get a quality education.

WVUP students mark National Surgery Technologists Week

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 23, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/09/wwup-students-mark-national-surgery-technologists-week/>



Debbie Hewitt, surgical tech with Marietta Memorial Hospital, stands with pre-packaged snack bags and appreciation posters made by students at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for resident and teaching surgical techs in honor of National Surgical Technologists Week, Sept. 20-26. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Students from West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s Surgical Technology program will be visiting healthcare centers as part of National Surgical Technologists Week.

The students will visit clinical sites at Camden Clark Medical Center, Marietta Memorial Health Systems, Thomas Memorial, and Charleston Area Medical Centers to distribute pre-packaged snack bags and display appreciation posters for resident and teaching surgical techs in honor of their special week which is Sept. 20-26.

“Manual dexterity and physical stamina are essential, and the ability to perform under stressful and emergency situations is required in this health care profession,” said Torie Jackson, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at WVU-P. *“Surgical technologists and other essential workers are superheroes, and WVU Parkersburg would like to recognize and thank those who choose these career paths.”*

Chad Crumbaker, Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, said many within the program were excited about participating in the activities this week.

“Our Surgical Technology program is excited to celebrate National Surgical Technologists Week through visiting and sharing our appreciation to our many partners who host our students throughout their program,” he said. “The hands-on experience and education they provide is critical to the success of our Surgical Technology students.”



Students at West Virginia University at Parkersburg made appreciation posters for resident and teaching surgical techs in honor of National Surgical Technologists Week, Sept. 20-26. (Photo Provided)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Surgical Technology jobs are projected to increase 7 percent nationwide from now until 2029. This is faster than average for all occupations.

Surgical Technologists must be NBSTA (National Board of Surgical Technologists and Surgical Assisting) certified, and WVU-P assists students in gaining this certification with hands-on training through campus laboratory practice and clinical experience, officials said.

The college also offers an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology for individuals to continue their training and work under the supervision of a surgeon to assist the safe and efficient performance of invasive surgeries.

Kathryn Frum, Chairperson/Professor for the Nursing and Health Sciences program, said WVU-P is grateful for the robust community relationship it enjoys with the clinical sites in the area.

“These facilities provide a rich learning environment for the Surgical Technology students,” Frum said. “We could not function without the willingness of the preceptors to teach and to guide our students to be high-quality Surgical Technologists.”

West Virginia University at Parkersburg celebrates downtown facility

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 24, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/09/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg-celebrates-downtown-facility/>



A ribbon cutting was held Wednesday at the West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s Center for Civic Engagement at 414 Market St. in downtown Parkersburg. Pictured are Jill Parsons of the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley, WVU-P President Chris Gilmer, Senta Goudy, Dean of the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation, WVU-P Board of Governors Vice Chairman Jess Hardman and Wendy Shriver with Downtown PKB. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — A virtual ribbon cutting was held Wednesday for the West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s new Center for Civic Engagement in downtown Parkersburg.

Due to ongoing concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held virtually on the Facebook pages of WVU-P and the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley, with only a select few individuals attending in person.

The center, located at 414 Market St., is a means to be a bridge between the school and the community where people can come and work together to bring opportunities for students and area businesses to work together, according to officials. It includes almost 5,000-square-feet.

“WVU-P is a vibrant and energetic member of the Chamber of Commerce,” said Jill Parsons, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley. *“We are excited for this new opportunity for them.”*

Officials said the owners of the building, RVP Properties LLC, worked with the college to put the center together.



West Virginia University at Parkersburg marked the official opening of its Center for Civic Engagement at 414 Market St. in downtown Parkersburg on Wednesday. Pictured are Torie Jackson, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and President and CEO of WVU-P Foundation; Ricky the Riverhawk; Wendy Shriver of Downtown PKB; WVU-P President Chris Gilmer; Jill Parsons, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley; Senta Goudy, Dean of the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation; Rachel Poling of RVP Properties LLC; and Jeff Hardman, Vice Chairman of the WVU-P Board of Governors. (Photo Provided)

WVU-P President Chris Gilmer said the most important word in *“community college”* is *“community.”*

“When I came here over two years ago, I said we were going to reinvest in this community in every way possible,” he said. *“This is a tangible expression of our*

reinvestment in Parkersburg, Vienna, Wood County and all of the counties in our service area.”

The center will be a place where students can come learn, do internships and more. The community will also be able to make use of the space as the West Virginia Center for Civic Life and the Community Substance Abuse Coalition are also located at the center.

Gilmer expressed his wish that he would have liked 200 people present, but doing the virtual ceremony shows how seriously the university is taking the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senta Goudy, Dean of the Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation, said she is excited to have the center open and operational.

The center highlights both the college and the community, including student, faculty and community artwork as well as other cultural aspects of the community, local museums and more. It also features a conference meeting room, a training resource room (which is available to the community by appointment) and space where people can come and do work when they are not at the main campus. The center also has many pictures of students from the college.

“The place is a virtual showcase for the assets we have here in the community,” Goudy said. *“We will be able to connect people to our students and to the members of our community.”*

“We are thrilled to be a part of downtown here in the middle of what is happening in the middle of the Mid-Ohio Valley. I hope people will come and enjoy the space with us.”

WVU-P readies downtown facility

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel
Sept. 24, 2020

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WVU-P to award grants to six local schools

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Sept. 26, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/09/wvu-p-to-award-grants-to-six-local-schools/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg announced Friday it will be giving the Professional Development Schools Mini Project award to six different schools in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

The schools named for the award are Blennerhassett Elementary and Middle, Franklin Elementary, Hamilton Middle, Neal Elementary, and Wirt County Middle will receive funds to help to make learning easier for students during the 2020-2021 school year.

Starting in 1992, the partnership is between 23 schools in six counties and is committed to establishing a relationship that impacts student learning through a grant provided through the West Virginia Department of Education.

“The money that we were able to give to them comes through the West Virginia Department of Education, the competitive grant process that we apply for every year. One of the things that we always write into our grant is the opportunity for these mini-projects,” said Bobbi Marshall, education professor at WVU-P. *“Because money’s always tight, and if we’re able to support our schools in that way. We found that’s been a good way to make that connection and to support the students that are in our school system today.”*

Blennerhassett Middle will be using the funds to take care of its MobyMax subscription, which will help students with special needs with remote learning. MobyMax allows teachers to look at a student’s progress in real-time and will be able to provide help if they see a student that is struggling.

With the majority of them not coming to school because of COVID-19, and with help from the special education teachers, Principal Melanie Arthur wrote the proposal to WVU-P.

Blennerhassett Elementary will use the award to help to provide headphones to be in use with iReady math and two smart TV’s.

Franklin Elementary will be using funds to get resources for the school’s STEM program.

Meaning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, teacher Lisa Rawson, who wrote the proposal, said it will *“allow the students to explore, be a little more creative and it will help them get a little bit more confidence,”* she said.

An idea that proposed multiple times to Hamilton Middle School in the past, teacher Josh Blackburn’s outdoor classroom was also awarded.

Blackburn said that it offers kids a safe place to learn during this time and will help with support engagement for the students as well.

Pickering Associates will also be helping with building the outdoor classroom.

Wirt County Middle school will be using the funds for kinesthetic desks for math classrooms. With physical education time being cut during the school year and with

the help of eighth-grade teacher Jessica Theys, students will keep active by using the exercise bike desks while learning according to PE teacher Louann McVey.

September 2020 Jan Dils Golden Apple Award: Matt Gwynn [video]

WTAP-TV

Sept. 29, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/09/29/september-2020-jan-dils-golden-apple-award-matt-gwynn/>



MINERAL WELLS, W.Va (WTAP) - The September 2020 winner for the Jan Dils Golden Apple Award is Matt Gwynn, a fifth grade teacher from Mineral Wells Elementary School.

Gwynn is beloved by his students, past and present, and is considered a true example for his co-workers.

A big thing Gwynn teaches his students is to know what being a veteran, or being in the military, means for the country and them.

The students seem to retain that information, and past students still keep in touch with him on days that honor veterans.

"I've got kids that are now in high school, and I still send them messages, or they send me messages on Veteran's Day or Memorial Day, you know, Pearl Harbor anniversary, 9/11. And say "Mr. Gwynn, Never Forget," said Gwynn. "And you just get those little messages back and these kids are now in high school, they don't have time for their fifth grade teacher, but they do, and they remember those things and that really means a lot to me."

Matt Gwynn is a WVU Parkersburg Elementary Education alumni.

WVU-P earns 'most affordable' rating

The Wirt County Journal

Sept. 29, 2020

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has been recognized as the most affordable college in the state by University HQ.

The published rankings help students discover the best school that matches their budget and career path by comparing college tuition rates, the number of degrees offered, and graduating salaries across the U.S.

"Providing the highest quality education possible at the very best financial value will always be a top priority at WVU-Parkersburg," president Dr. Chris Gilmer said.

"We are honored and pleased to be recognized as the most affordable in West Virginia, and we remind the community that we are also highly rated for the quality of our WVU-P earns 'most affordable' rating programs."

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Parkersburg Art Center Paints People for a Good Cause

Sept. 29, 2020

Clutch MOV

<https://clutchmov.com/parkersburg-art-center-paints-people-for-a-good-cause/>

The Parkersburg Art Center Raises Funds with "Pollock a Person" Campaign

The Parkersburg Art Center, along with many local arts and culture non-profits, has taken a financial hit during the pandemic. Unable to host exhibit openings, classes and workshops, in-person fundraisers, or private events – all of which contribute to the facility's annual revenue – the art center's staff and team of volunteers have had to get creative. While they would normally be gearing up for their ArtOberfest arts-focused street festival, they have come up with a new – and definitely messier – way to raise funds.

The result of numerous brainstorming sessions, the "Pollock a Person" campaign is inspired by Jackson Pollock, known for his technique of pouring or splattering liquid household paint onto a horizontal surface ('drip technique'), which allowed him to view and paint his canvases from all angles. The style was also called 'action painting' because he used the force of his whole body to paint, often in a frenetic dancing style.

In the spirit of Pollock's spirited artistic style, the Parkersburg Art Center has recruited twelve brave contestants to raise funds and stand in as potential canvases. On October 3rd (or, October 4th if it rains) the contestant who has raised the most money will be celebrated (because the PAC loves a good party) and then splattered with paint by their donors.

In an effort to benefit other local nonprofits who have suffered during the pandemic, funds raised above the initial \$500 will be split 50/50 between the Art Center and the contestant's nonprofit of choice.

We have to support one another and work together to make the Mid-Ohio Valley a place where future generations want to stay.

"Our goal was four-fold," said Jessie Siefert, Managing Director of the Parkersburg Art Center. "We wanted to do something unusual and fun. We wanted to stay in the hearts and minds of the community. We needed to find a fresh way to stay afloat financially and we wanted to support other local nonprofits who are suffering financially due to COVID-19. Together, we are all better. We have to support one another and work together to make the Mid-Ohio Valley a place where future generations want to stay."

Since the kickoff on September 1st, the campaign has raised nearly \$8,000. Five of the twelve contestants are donating 100% of their funds raised to the PAC, while seven are also fundraising for a second nonprofit. Erin Augenstein is currently in the lead at nearly \$2,000 raised.

"I appreciate the PAC extending the fundraiser to include the contestants choosing a second nonprofit to split the funds with one we reach \$500," said Augenstein, a Communications and Public Relations professional who also serves as the Executive Director of the Schrader Youth Ballet Company.

So far, Augenstein has raised at least \$750 for the Ballet Company. "With the existing restrictions on gatherings, public performances aren't able to be produced. This has severely limited the income that performing arts companies typically receive from ticket sales to meet basic operating needs," she said.

Contestants have been enjoying the month-long opportunity to uplift the work of the Parkersburg Art Center and raise some funds. "I've quite enjoyed the FUNdraiser," said Augenstein. "I've received donations from dear friends from all over the country – some who grew up in the area and others who just want to support the arts."

"It's been heartening to feel the support for the work we do for young artists who desire serious study, for our public arts audiences, and for those who understand that a successful community requires vibrant arts at its core," she said.

Because she was the first contestant to reach \$1,000, she was able to arrange for her children to be “Pollock-ed.” She gathered a few of her children’s friends and dancers from the Schrader Youth Ballet Company to paint them. This was one of several special challenges that determined who would be splattered in paint. Chris Gilmer, President of WVU Parkersburg, was the first to raise \$250 and therefore was the first to get splattered with paint by donors.

With these basics covered, we can continue community art outreach, purchase art supplies for programs and do all of the fun artful things that people need and want.

The Parkersburg Art Center intends to use the funds raised to help cover general operating expenses such as heat, electric, staffing, and maintenance. “With these basics covered, we can continue community art outreach, purchase art supplies for programs and do all of the fun artful things that people need and want,” said Siefert.

In addition to the funds raised, Siefert said the Parkersburg Art Center is gaining new followers on social media. “This is so very helpful to a nonprofit because free advertising is something that we rely on heavily.”



The campaign officially ends this weekend, with the winner being announced on Sunday. [Donations can be made on the PAC website](#) by selecting which contestant you want to Pollock. Whoever that “lucky” person is, will become the final canvas.

“We have been blown away,” said Siefert, of the community’s support. “Our contestants have been amazing promoters and we are so very grateful for their efforts on our behalf. The generosity and support of this community continues to humble us.”

October First Friday is Rockin’ Through the Decades

Clutch MOV

Sept. 30, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/october-first-friday-is-rockin-through-the-decades/>

Every First Friday in downtown Marietta, Marietta Main Street hosts themed shopping nights and fun activities for families to enjoy in the heart of the city. October’s First Friday theme is [Rockin’ through the Decades](#), sponsored by WVU Parkersburg, and over a dozen special events can be enjoyed by downtown visitors.

“First Friday events are perfect opportunities for locals to enjoy life in Marietta by supporting local – shopping, dining, drinking, and enjoying all our downtown has to offer,” said Cristie Thomas, Executive Director of Marietta Main Street.

Debbie Cline, area resident and Main Street board member, sees the community coming together to celebrate and enrich their lives with culture and activities with First Friday events.

“We are grateful for our First Friday sponsors as they have a direct association with the First Friday community events as well as being associated with the pulse of the downtown revitalization happening right here in Marietta,” said Cline.

For October’s First Friday, downtown visitors can enjoy special shopping events like an Autumn Daze art show at Riverside Artists Gallery, a pop-up shop of women’s apparel from EmLeigh’s & Mama B’s at Jeremiah’s Coffee House, Teri Ann’s 59th Anniversary Sale, local photographer Bruce Wunderlich selling Marietta prints and calendars in front of Threadz Boutique, a sidewalk sale at American Flags & Poles, and a new line of kid’s t-shirts at Just A Jar Design Press. Shoppers can also enjoy discounts at A Unique Flower & Gift Shop, Sugar Maple Boutique, and Andy’s Toy Chest.

Along with late-night shopping thanks to small businesses open until 9 p.m., downtown guests can enjoy live music from local musicians at a variety of locations. Hannah Miller, a local musician, values being a part of such a supportive community when it comes to the arts and music.

“We love the opportunities that we have to perform at First Friday events and to build our musical following and network with such like-minded people in town, as well as share our passions with the community!” said Miller, who is performing alongside Levi Westfall at the Armory starting at 5:30 p.m.

Other live music events include karaoke starting at 6:30 p.m. at Gator’s, John A. Walsh at 7 p.m. on the patio of Over the Moon Pub & Pizza, live music at 5 p.m. at The Gun Room Restaurant, and local band Aftershock performing unplugged at The Adelphia Music Hall at 7 p.m..

At the Armory, in addition to live music, families can enjoy Kid Central sponsored monthly by the United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley. For October’s First Friday, the United Way is “chuting through the decades” and inviting kids to decorate their own treat bags and then receive treats through large cardboard chutes, one for each decade, to receive special items like peace sign necklaces, mini disco balls, sunglasses, candy, and more.

Event sponsor WVU Parkersburg will have decade-themed photo booths staged at the Armory and invites guests to take the memories home with them. Everyone who stops by the Armory for pictures will leave with souvenir polaroid photos.

Guest sponsor Washington County Relay for Life will be honoring those who have battled breast cancer with a luminaria display and a Men in Pink fundraiser. One Men in Pink participant is Main Street Board President Tim Glover, who is participating in the event because he believes cancer research is the only way to defeat the disease and he has lost family and friends to battles with cancer.

“I had the honor of being asked to raise funds for the Relay For Life Men in Pink promotion. Cancer has affected all of us in some way personally and it is important to support these type of efforts. The Men in Pink will be raising money on the Armory lawn from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and I appreciate the support from everyone that can make it Friday,” said Glover.

Other special events happening during First Friday include antique boat show viewings at the Marietta Harbor courtesy of the Ohio Valley Chapter of the Antique

and Classic Boat Society, a Tap-N-Burn class demo in front of Rockstar Wellness at 6 p.m. featuring music from the 1950s to today as well as Worthington Produce selling pumpkins and gourds, and a new fall lineup of pumpkin spice-infused honey and pumpkin spice creamed honey from Hive Alive.

To learn more about Marietta Main Street, upcoming events, and programs, visit the Marietta Main Street website at: www.mariettamainstreet.org.

Wood County teacher was a finalist for West Virginia Teacher of the Year award [video]

WTAP-TV

Oct. 1, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/2020/10/01/wood-county-teacher-was-a-finalist-for-west-virginia-teacher-of-the-year-award/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - One Wood County Educator was a finalist for this year's West Virginia Teacher of the Year award.

Lisa Smith is a teacher at Blennerhassett Elementary School.

She has been a teacher for 23 years and has been with the elementary school for the past 13 years.

She currently leads the schools S.T.E.A.M program. S.T.E.A.M. stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Smith is grateful to have been nominated for this award.

“I was actually in a training when they called me and I was shocked that I was a finalist,” said Smith. “I work with amazing educators everyday who go above and beyond to do what best for students. I’m honored to represent Wood County Schools as a finalist for teacher of the year.”

As a finalist, Smith was able to collaborate with the other finalists of the award and with state superintendent Clayton Burch.

Lisa Smith is a 1994 graduate of WVU Parkersburg.

Chris Gilmer ambassador for Real Men Wear Pink campaign [video]

WTAP-TV

Oct. 6, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/video/2020/10/06/wtap-news-chris-gilmer-ambassador-real-men-wear-pink-campaign/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va](#) (WTAP) - The American Cancer Society partners up with one of Parkersburg’s own to be an ambassador of the Real Men Wear Pink campaign.

Real Men Wear Pink is a phrase president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg Dr. Chris Gilmer takes to heart. The goal of raising a minimum of \$2,500 for the American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Research and Awareness Projects is personal.

Dr. Gilmer has lost two women in his family to cancer – his mother and his mother-in-law. You can see his mother’s big influence when you look around his office; from her art, painting of her, to the books from her library on his bookcase.

“There is a great destroyer that has left a hole in my heart and in the hearts of so many,” said Gilmer. “So, I am happy to be one of so many raising money to try to eradicate cancer and then also provide new treatments and cures for it as well.”

You can donate to the cause at realmenwearpinkacs.org/wv

Library highlights author online

The Parkersburg News & Sentinel

Oct. 7, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/10/library-highlights-author-online/>



PARKERSBURG — Nearly seven months ago, Stephen Hupp was preparing for a program at the Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library about his novel *“On a Sunday in May.”*

But he never got the chance to share insights into his intertwined stories about the Monaco Grand Prix, Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR World 600 because the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to in-person gatherings.

As restrictions have been lifted, the library has resumed programming, albeit with an eye toward preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus. So circulation clerk Jeanne Michie asked Hupp to share his work in a different format: an online video.

"Prior to the COVID, I would have at least one author a month here to do a discussion," Michie said.

Instead of the racing novel, Hupp, the library director at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, is discussing *"Wings in the Night,"* a novel he released last year that puts his own spin on the Mothman legend.

It brings back Kat and Erin, characters introduced in another of his novels, *"Daughters of the Valley."* After an encounter with the Mothman in the fictional Ohio Valley town of Collinsburg, they set out to learn the truth about the mysterious figure.

Michie asked Hupp to record a video discussing his book. It took him two takes to nail down the 16-minute clip.

"The first session, I was visibly nervous," he said.

Hupp, a fan of John Keel's *"The Mothman Prophecies"* as a teenager, said he likes to write about what he knows.

"I've been working in academia since I was 25," he said of setting two of his books in a college based on WVUP and Marietta College, *"and I've been following motor racing since I was a kid."*

Michie asked Hupp to focus on *"Wings in the Night"* to go along with an October library program called *"Create a Cryptid,"* in which people of all ages are encouraged to dream up their own creature in the vein of the Mothman or Bigfoot and share it online.

"It's an all-ages event," Michie said. *"I'd be happy to have kids as well as adults participate. The more creative the better."*

Information about the event can be found on the library's Facebook Events page. Participants are invited to share their creation through drawing, painting,

photography, sculpture or other media and post their work on the page. Submissions will be accepted through Oct. 31 and shared Nov. 6 in a live Facebook event.

Meanwhile, Hupp's video has been viewed more than 800 times, and Michie hopes the response convinces more authors to give it a try.

2020 RCHS Homecoming: Crowning of queen, parade highlight busy week of activities

The Pennsboro News

Oct. 7, 2020

Three Ritchie County High School students were selected as Senior Princesses last week by the student body. One will be revealed as the 2020 Homecoming Queen Friday night.

The Senior Princesses include: Ryleigh Hardman, Natalie Hartness and Carigan Hayes. The new Queen will be crowned at halftime of the Homecoming football game Friday night at Chuck Schofield Memorial Stadium in Ellenboro.

The rest of the Homecoming court includes Princesses from the junior, sophomore and freshman classes and their escorts, the Football Sweetheart and her escort and the flower girl and crown bearer.

This year's Homecoming festivities have been altered because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but school officials are trying to keep everything as close to tradition as possible.

Friday's Homecoming football opponent was originally supposed to be South Harrison, but the Hawks were scrapped from the schedule when Harrison County went "orange" on the color map that determines which schools can participate in extracurricular activities from week to week.

RCHS athletic director Chris Wells was fortunate to find Moorefield as a replacement on the schedule. The game will kick off at 6 p.m. as opposed to the normal 7 p.m. starting time for home games.

The Homecoming parade will begin at 5 p.m. with line up set for 4:30 p.m. There will be no Homecoming dance this year.

Hardman is the 17-year old daughter of Jill Brewer and Jeff Hardman and lives in Harrisville. Her future plans include attending the North American Racing Academy in puruit of becoming a jockey and/or equine physical therapist.

She will be escorted by Kaleb Cole the 17-year old son of Rick Cole and Angela Trammell. He plans to attend a four-year college to major in coding and app design and continue his track career in college. He also wants to grow up to be like his favorite teacher, Nathan Shipe.

Hartness is the 17-year old daughter of Christina Bishop and Cory Kerns of Pennsboro. Following graduation, she plans to attend WVU Parkersburg to obtain a two-year nursing degree before ultimately becoming a labor and delivery nurse.

Her escort will be Dalton Hayes, the 17-year old son of Michael and Amanda Hayes of Pennsboro. His future plans are to join the U.S. Air Force and pursue a career as a jet engine mechanic.

Hayes is the 17-year old daughter of Jane Hayes and Matt Hinzman of Harrisville. Her post-graduation plan is to attend WVU Parkersburg to pursue a career in the radiologic field as an X-ray technician.





She will be escorted by Eddie McComas III, the 18-year son of Jessica and Eddie McComas Jr. of Harrisville. After high school, he will pursue a military career in the U.S. Army.

Princesses in the underclasses are junior Sarah Ridgway, sophomore Bre McKnight and freshman Jasmine Testerman. Ridgway is the 16-year old daughter of Leigh Ridgway and resides in Pennsboro. Her future plans include attending college to pursue a love for theater.

Ridgway's escort will be William Windom, the 16-year old son of Scott and Ellie Windom of Cairo. After graduation, he plans to attend WVU for a degree in engineering or biology.

McKnight is the 15-year old daughter of Thomas McKnight and Julie and Jimmy Nichols and lives in Cairo. Her dream is to become an actress and to travel all around the world.

She will be escorted by Dalton Settle, the 15-year son of Whitney and Jason Settle of Cairo. His future plans are to continue his wrestling career in college.

Testerman is the 14-year old daughter of Jesse and Victoria Testerman of Harrisville. Her plans for the future are to do whatever makes her happy. She will be escorted by Sawyer Henderson, the 14-year son of Brian and Melanie Henderson of Smithville. After high school, he plans to pursue a path to become a psychologist. In addition to the princesses, the RCHS football team also selected senior Addison Jones as the Football Sweetheart.

Jones is the 18-year daughter of Amber and Barry Lemley of Pennsboro. After graduation, she plans to pursue an undergraduate degree in pre-medicine furthering a career in pediatric oncology.

Jones will be escorted by Dakota Wayne, the 17-year son of Deanna West and Michael Wayne of Pennsboro. His future plans include attending Marshall University for an undergraduate degree in premedicine in pursuit of a career in anesthesiology.

The flower girl for the Homecoming court is Emma Haddox, the six-year daughter of Dustin and Ashley Haddox of Harrisville. She is a first-grade student at Smithville Elementary School and wants to become an astronaut. T

he crown bearer is Grayson Wells, the six-year old son of Chris and Lori Wells of Harrisville. He is a first-grade student at Harrisville Elementary School and his future plans include graduating first grade, going to Dollywood and growing up to be a principal like Daddy because it seems like fun.

High school will crown 67th Belle Friday night

The St. Marys Oracle

Oct. 7, 2020



Belle candidates at St. Marys High School are Kylie Wright, Bralynn Davis, Emily Hadley, Josie Bills and Mahala Nichols. Their escorts are Carson Miller, Wiley Houser, Blake Stanton, Trey Cummings and Brad Pfalzgraf.

Five young ladies from St. Marys are competing for the title of 67th Belle of St. Marys at the annual Homecoming contest Friday, Oct. 9, at Bill Hanlin Stadium.

Little Kanawha Conference rival Wirt County will provide the competition for the football game, which will kick off at 7:30 p.m.

Crowning of the new Belle will occur during halftime. Serving as the gift bearer/flower girl will be Adelyn VanZile, a kindergarten student at St. Marys elementary School and daughter of Brad and Jen Vanzile.

Service as crown bearer will be Owen Deem, a first grade student at Belmont Elementary School and son of Seth and Andrea Deem. Contestants are:

Kylie Wright Ecorted by Carson Miller

She is the daughter of Robin and Jason Wright of St. Marys. She will be driven by Bill Woodburn in a black Chevrolet Corvette.

Her dress was made by Donna Anderson and is white lace with a long-sleeve top and a black velvet bottom.

Her achievements and activities include being a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and Science Honorary, first team All-Little Kanawha Conference basketball and third team All-State basketball.

She plans to attend West Virginia University and become a nurse practitioner. Asked to define manliness she said, "I define manliness as someone who is respectful to everyone and chivalrous. I also define it as someone who is hardworking and good to the people around him."

Bralynn Ashley Davis Escorted by Wiley Houser

She is the daughter of Dave and Jody Davis of St. Marys. She will be driven by Dave Davis in a black Porsche.

Her dress was made by Judy Nutter and is wine-color velvet with a rhinestone belt and a silver Belle candidates at St. Marys High School are Kylie Wright, Bralynn Davis, Emily Hadley, Josie Bills and Mahala Nichols.

Their escorts are Carson Miller, Wiley Houser, Blake Stanton, Trey Cummings and Brad Pfalzgraf. Owen Deem Adelyn VanZile belt and bow.

Her achievements and activities include being a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and Science Honorary, earning a medal at the state level in track and

being a member of the two-time state runner-up cross country team. She plans to attend West Virginia University and major in exercise physiology.

Asked to define manliness she said, "A man is someone who is respectful and hard working. He is tough on the outside but softhearted."

Emily Nicole Hadley Escorted by Blake Stanton

She is the daughter of Mark and Mindy Hadley of St. Marys. She will be driven by Garrett Hadley in a white BMW convertible. Her dress was made by Judy Nutter, and it has a velvet bodice with a velvet shirt and lace overlay.

Her achievements and activities include being a four-year letterman in volleyball, a two-year team captain for volleyball, a three-year track letterman, being a member of National Honor Society and Science Honorary, enrolling in West Virginia University at Parkersburg's early college program and being a member of St. Marys Volunteer Fire Dept. and St. Marys United Methodist Church.

She plans to attend WVU-P and major in nursing. Asked to define manliness she said, "Clye West."

Mahayla Brooke Nichols Escorted by Bradley Pfalzgraf

She is the daughter of Jeff and Becky Nichols of St. Marys. She will be driven by Wyatt Cornell in a 2018 Ram 1500 truck.

Her dress was made by Judy Nutter. It is hunter green microvelvet with an off-the-shoulder fitted bodice and a full skirt. The gown is enhanced with a lighter green French lace.

Her achievements and activities include being a member of National Technical Honor Society, Student of the Month for nursing at the Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Center, second team All-Little Kanawha Conference and honorable mention All-State her freshman and sophomore years for softball, an employee of St. Marys Vet Clinic and videographer at Becky Nichols Portraits.

Volunteers to clean Wood County Poorhouse and Farm

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Oct. 9, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/10/volunteers-to-clean-wood-county-poorhouse-and-farm/>

PARKERSBURG — The WVU Parkersburg Fine Arts Committee will lead a community-wide volunteer initiative to clean the Wood County Poorhouse and Farm from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

The clean up of the farm on the WVU Parkersburg main campus is in honor of the college's Poorhouse Week celebration.

WVU Parkersburg sits on the former site of the Wood County Poorhouse. The Fine Arts Committee focuses on the social justice-related themes of the Poorhouse to emphasize its historical value.

The committee honors the Poorhouse every year with the release of *"The Poorhouse Rag,"* a literary magazine of work and art by students, faculty, staff, alumni and families and addresses social and political marginalization and lack of equity in opportunity.

"The Poorhouse Rag" has restarted a creative initiative on campus. Part of this initiative is offering education to combat poverty to create a more enriched community.

"The college catalog says we consider education a 'sacred trust,'" Professor Sandra Kolankiewicz said. "We share the property with souls who have come and gone before us and who most likely suffered in their lives."

The Fine Arts Committee finds importance and value in honoring the Wood County Poorhouse, so keeping it clean and preserved is a goal and a promise. The graveyard is a reminder to those who serve and volunteer to keep the historical aspect alive.

"Poorhouse Weeks is a way to celebrate our efforts to help others, be reminded of the past and be conscious of the importance of our efforts as educators," Kolankiewicz said.

In celebration of Poorhouse Week, the Fine Arts Committee published *"The Poorhouse Rag,"* gave a Poorhouse Farm virtual tour and provided a virtual reading and art show.

Volunteers will pick up trash, trim bushes and trees interfering with gravesite markers, replace rotten crosses and put new crosses on unmarked graves.

The Fine Arts Committee encourages students to use their voice and is open to any ideas to continue the Poorhouse's education.

To get involved with the graveyard clean up, future Poorhouse initiatives or for more information, email thepoorhouserag@wvup.edu.

Volunteers to clean Wood County Poorhouse and Farm

The Marietta Times

Oct. 9, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2020/10/volunteers-to-clean-wood-county-poorhouse-and-farm/>

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Preserving the Past

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Oct. 12, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/10/preserving-the-past/>



West Virginia University at Parkersburg sits on the location of the West Virginia Poorhouse Farm. Every state had a Poorhouse, which was a working farm for orphans, widows and those who had nowhere else to go. Anyone who came to the Poorhouse during their lifetime was allowed to be buried there. At WVUP, the original barn and cemetery still stands, but it needs some caring for.

WVUP Art club, the historic society and The Poorhouse Rag Magazine have partnered together to work towards preserving the history of the area. Saturday, volunteers such as Lauri Reidmiller, the WVUP art professor, could be seen making new crosses, fixing broken ones and cleaning the area. According to Reidmiller, the crosses are being replaced in small chunks of around 30 a time.

The college wanted to do this earlier in the year, but due to COVID-19, were unable to gather. Instead they were able to align it with Parkersburgs Poorhouse week, and in honor of it, work towards better preservation of the area.

According to Reidmiller, old crosses will be placed at sites that have broken crosses or are unmarked due to a fire that caused the city to lose parts of the records. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)



Nicholas Reidmiller, a volunteer, adds sand to the base of leaning crosses to help sturdy them into the ground. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)



Traci Mills, a drafting student in the Art club fixes broken crosses, until they can be replaced at a later date. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)



Uta Hempel, professor for biology at the college, works to clean up the fence area of the Poorhouse cemetery Saturday. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)