



West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Board of Governors Meeting
Media Clips

April 12 – June 4, 2021



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

GREETINGS FROM GOVERNOR JUSTICE

As Governor, it is my pleasure to recognize the 60th anniversary of West Virginia University at Parkersburg. This is a momentous occasion!

We owe so much to our colleges and universities. They are a central pillar of our bright future in the Mountain State. The mission at West Virginia University at Parkersburg is to provide transformative educational opportunities to the region in affiliation with West Virginia University.

This institution is the only public community and technical college in West Virginia that offers accredited baccalaureate degrees. The vision at West Virginia University at Parkersburg is to deliver affordable quality education, commitment to student empowerment, workforce collaboration, and community involvement to be the centerpieces of each student's education.

It is my sincere hope that you enjoy this special anniversary. I am certain that this institution will continue to expand and support this vision for many more years to come. Please accept my best wishes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice
Governor

SENATE RESOLUTION



SENATE RESOLUTION 48 (By Senators Boley, Azinger, and Stollings)

[Adopted by the Senate, April 10, 2021.]

Recognizing West Virginia University at Parkersburg on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

Whereas, West Virginia University (WVU) at Parkersburg was founded in 1961, as the Parkersburg branch of West Virginia University and had an enrollment of 104 students; and

Whereas, WVU at Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, In 1969, construction was completed on the campus complex on West Virginia 47 east of Parkersburg; and

Whereas, WVU at Parkersburg became one of the state's first comprehensive community colleges in July 1971, as Parkersburg Community College; and

Whereas, In 1989, the West Virginia Legislature established the college as West Virginia University at Parkersburg, a regional campus of West Virginia University; and

Whereas, In 1991, WVU at Parkersburg was accredited to offer baccalaureate degrees in business administration and elementary education, becoming the only community college in West Virginia to offer bachelor's degrees; and

Whereas, Through the years, WVU at Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, offering a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree, and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia; and

Whereas, WVU at Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, WVU at Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment; and

Whereas, The faculty, staff, and administration of WVU at Parkersburg, individually and collectively, hold the responsibility of providing educational and cultural opportunities in the college's service community, based upon the following principles: Education holds a central position in the creation, development, and nurturing of a society; education should be constantly cognizant of the fact that all persons are individuals of worth and are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect; education functions under the realization that equal opportunity to access and to benefit from teaching and learning must be afforded to all persons; education provides the opportunity for all citizens in a democratic society to explore, to discover, and to develop their special aptitudes and interests; and education holds as a sacred trust its responsibility to assist persons in their quest for a fulfilling life and for responsible citizenship in a world characterized by change; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate hereby recognizes West Virginia University Parkersburg on the occasion of its 60th anniversary; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Senate extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to West Virginia University at Parkersburg for its contributions to the State of West Virginia; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the President of West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Dr. Chris Gilmer.



Given under our hands and the SEAL of the SENATE of WEST VIRGINIA this 10th day of April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C.P. Blair", written over a horizontal line.

Craig P. Blair
Senate President-Lieutenant Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Cassis", written over a horizontal line.

Lee Cassis
Clerk of the Senate



The Jackson County Commission

Jackson County Courthouse
P.O. Box 800
Ripley, West Virginia 25271
Phone (304) 373-2220
Fax (304) 373-0245



Commissioner
Mike Randolph

Commissioner
Mitch Morrison

Commissioner
Dick Waybright

County Commission Proclamation:

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the Downtown Center and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment.

Therefore, be it now resolved that Jackson County Commission formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.



Dick Waybright, President

Mike Randolph, Commissioner


Mitch Morrison, Commissioner



Board of Education Proclamation:

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

Therefore, be it now resolved that the Jackson County Board of Education formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

May 6, 2021
Date



James E. Frazier, President
Jackson County Board of Education



COUNTY COMMISSION
PLEASANTS COUNTY

301 Court Lane
St. Marys, West Virginia 26170

JAY POWELL
(304) 488-7905

LARRY O. BARNHART
(304) 684-2868

MIKE SMITH
(304) 679-8861

EVELYN DAVIS
County Clerk
(304) 684-3542

TINA OLDFIELD
County Administrator
(304) 684-1127

County Commission Proclamation:

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary;
and


Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who
passed a bond levy to build the college; and

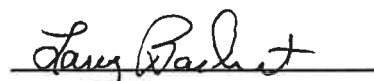
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educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and


Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the
Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce
and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the Downtown Center
and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate,
associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community
dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and
supportive environment;

Therefore, be it now resolved this day, April 7, 2021 that Pleasants County Commission
formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff
and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio
Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.


Jay Powell, President


Larry Barnhart, Commissioner


Mike Smith, Commissioner



PLEASANTS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

WHEREAS, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that Pleasants Board of Education formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

Michael Wells, Superintendent

Dr. Heather Straight, Board President

DR. HEATHER STRAIGHT, PRESIDENT
MR. DANNY DEMOSS, VICE-PRESIDENT
MR. DAVID MEEKS
MR. BRADLEY VANZILE
MR. MARTY LAWHON



Ritchie County Commission Proclamation:

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the Downtown Center and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

Therefore, be it now resolved that Ritchie County Commission formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

Dated April 8th, 2021



Steve P. Wood



Paul G. ...



Randall E. ...

WVU Parkersburg 60th Anniversary



Board of Education Proclamation:

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

Therefore, be it now resolved that Ritchie County Board of Education formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.


Dr. Torie Jackson, President


Betsy Wells, Vice President


Ryan Reed, Member


Denny Nelson, Member


Misty Ingram-Keen, Member



Roane County Commission

200 Main Street * Spencer, WV 25276

Randy Whited, President

Merlin Shamblin

Andrew Corkrean P.E.



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the Downtown Center and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

Therefore, be it now resolved that Roane County Commission formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

PROCLAIMED this 9th day of April, 2021.

Randy Whited, President

Merlin Shamblin, Commissioner

Andrew Corkrean, Commissioner

ATTEST: Charles B. White, Jr.



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

Therefore, be it now resolved that the Roane County Board of Education formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

Jeffrey Mace, President
Gregory Boggs, Vice President
Eileen Richardson, Member
James Minney, Member
Daris Harper, Member

Richard D. Duncan, Ph.D., Superintendent

Adopted, April 8, 2021

Wirt County Commission

Proclamation:

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the Downtown Center and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

WHEREAS, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

THEREFORE, Be it now resolved that the Wirt County Commission formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

In the County of Wirt, State of West Virginia:



Teresa Murray, President
Wirt County Commission

APRIL 12, 2021



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

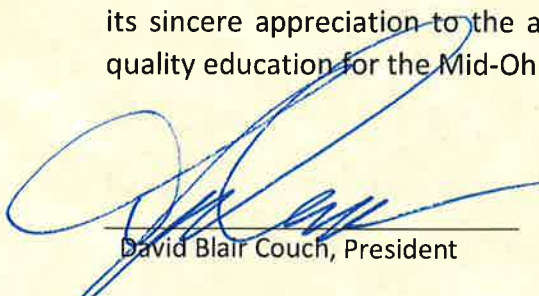
Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the Downtown Center and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;


Therefore, be it now resolved that the Wood County Commission formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.



David Blair Couch, President



Robert K. Tebay, Commissioner



James E. Colombo, Commissioner

Wood County Board of Education
Resolution Regarding West Virginia University at Parkersburg 60th Anniversary

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

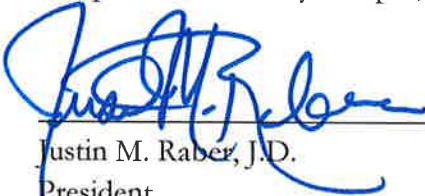
Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver workforce-ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs; and

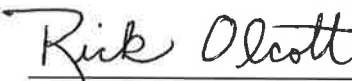
Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;


Therefore, be it now resolved that Wood County Board of Education formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing a quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

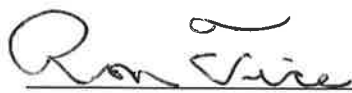
Adopted, this 27th day of April, 2021.



Justin M. Raber, J.D.
President

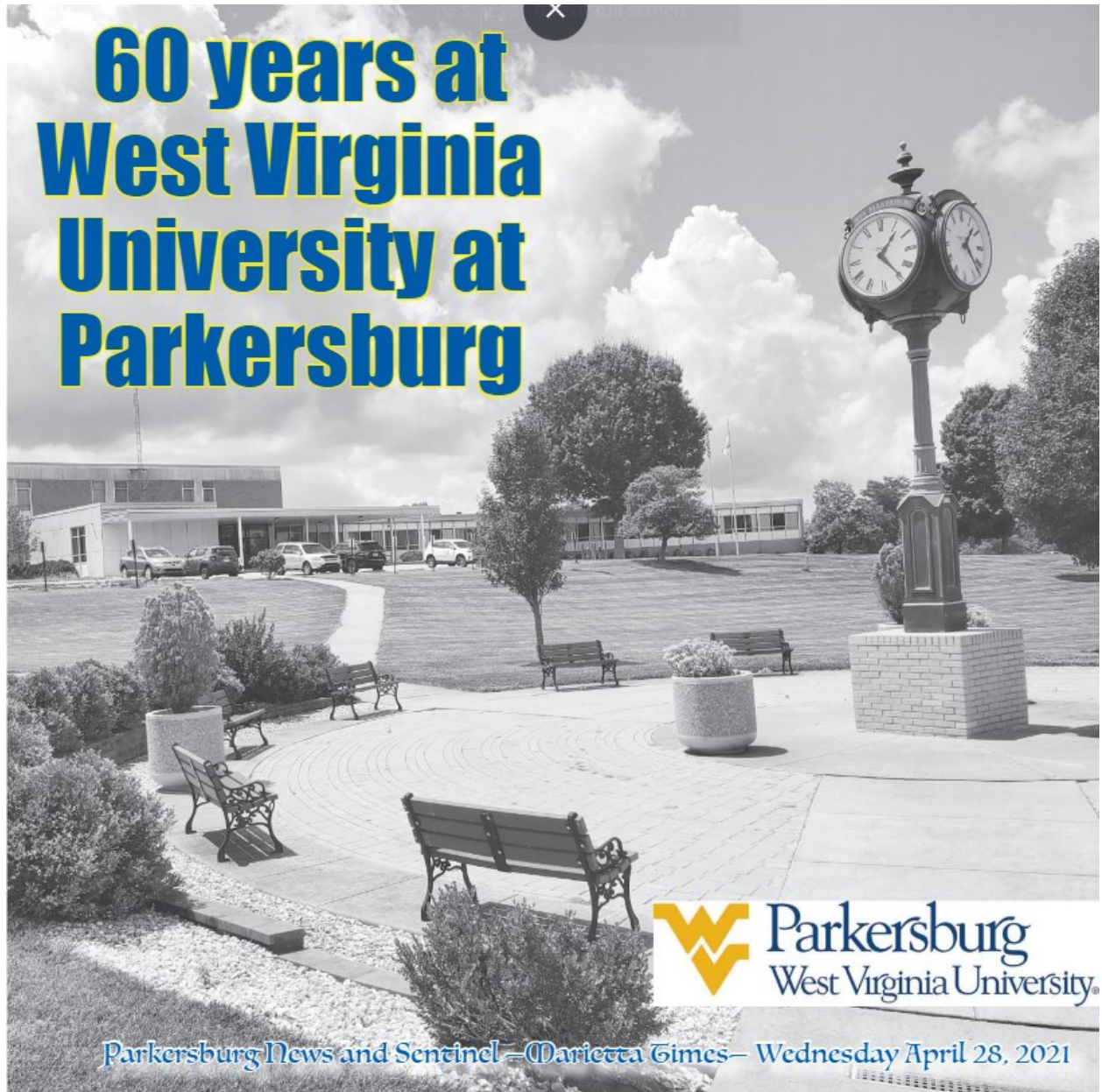

Judy Johnson


Rick Olcott
Vice President


Debbie Hendershot


Ron Tice


William P. Hosaflook
Superintendent



West Virginia University at Parkersburg celebrating 60 years

WVU Parkersburg is the community's college. For 60 years, it has welcomed students, faculty and staff with new programs, facilities and initiatives. See how WVU Parkersburg has supported its Riverhawk family throughout the years in a special issue release of *The Parkersburg News and Sentinel* and *The Marietta Times*.

<https://issuu.com/themariettatimes/docs/ssb04282021a>

New WVU Parkersburg program focuses on digital media

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 12, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/04/new-wvu-parkersburg-program-focuses-on-digital-media/>



A student works a camera in a new WVU Parkersburg Digital Media Production program. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Adapting to digital trends like podcasting and original content creation, West Virginia University at Parkersburg introduces a new program, Digital Media Production.

The program will offer an in-depth glimpse into the digital production industry. Students will be trained on industry-standard equipment, including drone cinematography, broadcast switchers for multi-camera video shoots, consoles for live and studio audio production, DMX-controlled stage lighting and more.

WVU Parkersburg also built a new Digital Media Production Studio to house a live tracking room, two isolation booths (one for percussion) and a mixing booth. Area musicians will be invited to record and provide real-world experience for students to mix music tracks.

Skills gained in the program will prepare students for careers as directors, sounds engineers, videographers, podcasters, producers, documentarians and sports and entertainment journalists. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the field is

projected to grow 18 percent from now until 2029 and have an average pay of \$60,000 per year.

“We’re going to teach with industry-standard equipment, offer more hands-on laboratory time than ever before and see students start internships with large content creator companies as well as partner with local businesses for marketing and public relations initiatives,” Jeremy Harrison, Digital Media Production instructor, said. *“The classes will also prepare students to sit for Adobe and Avid Pro Tools certifications to help boost resumes and show understanding of digital media skills.”*

Students in the Digital Communication, Communication and Media Studies and Strategic Communication majors also will be able to take classes from the new program. In areas of journalism, marketing, communications and public relations, employees will likely be expected to have skills in video and audio production.

Digital Media Production will offer a certificate and two-year associate degree. Upon graduation, students may enter WVU Parkersburg’s Bachelor’s of Applied Science in Communication and Media Studies program or transfer credits to another college or university for further field study.

Enrollment for the Fall 2021 semester began April 12.

For more information or to register for Digital Media Production, contact Jeremy Harrison at jeremy.harrison@wvup.edu or 304-424-8000 ext. 257.

New program at WVU-P highlighted

The Marietta Times

April 12, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/2021/04/new-program-at-wvu-p-highlighted/>

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60 years of service

The Pennsboro News

April 14, 2021



Ritchie County Superintendent Jim Brown and Board of Education president Dr. Torie Jackson display a proclamation that was signed during Monday's school board meeting recognizing WVU Parkersburg on its 60th anniversary. Dr. Jackson is Vice President for Institutional Advancement and President & CEO for the WVU Parkersburg Foundation. Pictured are: board members Denny Nelson, Misty Ingram-Keen and Dr. Jackson, Superintendent Brown and board members Betsy Wells and Ryan Reed.

On 60th Anniversary, Commission Honors WVU-P

The St. Marys Oracle

April 14, 2021



Torie Jackson, vice president for institutional advancement at WVU-P, received a proclamation from the Pleasants County Commission honoring the college on its 60th anniversary.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has been recognized by the Pleasants County Commission on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the university in 1961.

Dr. Torie Jackson, vice president for institutional advancement at WVU-P, submitted a proclamation marking the occasion.

The proclamation reads as follows:

- Whereas, WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and
- Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and
- Whereas, WVU Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver work-force ready graduates; and
- Whereas, through the years, WVU Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the

Downtown Center, and becoming a leader of higher education | West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs: and

- Whereas, WVU Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;
- Therefore, be it now resolved that on this day, April 7, 2021, the Pleasants County Commission formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU Parkersburg for providing quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

Commission adopts WVU-P proclamation

The Wirt County Journal

April 14, 2021



Dr. Torie Jackson, vice president for instructional advancement at WVU-P, reads a proclamation celebrating the college's 60th anniversary at the Wirt County Commission meeting.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has been recognized by the Writ County Commission on its 60th anniversary.

The commission heard from Dr. Torie Jackson, vice president for instructional advancement, at its Tuesday, April 6, meeting.

She submitted a proclamation asking for the commission's approval recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the university in 1961. T

he proclamation reads as follows:

Whereas, WVU-Parkersburg was founded in 1961, and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and Whereas, WVU-Parkersburg is the state's only public institution founded by citizens who passed a bond levy to build the college; and

Whereas, WVU-Parkersburg continually reinvents itself to serve the region's changing educational needs and to deliver work-force ready graduates; and

Whereas, through the years, WVU-Parkersburg has continued to grow, adding the Caperton Center for Applied Technology, the Applied Technology Center, the Workforce and Economic Development Center, the Jackson County Center, the Downtown Center, and becoming a leader of higher education in West Virginia offering 50 baccalaureate, associate and certificate degree programs: and

Whereas, WVU-Parkersburg is a student-centered, accessible learning community dedicated to providing accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment;

Therefore, be it now resolved that on this day, April 6, 2021, the Wirt County Commission formally acknowledges and extends its sincere appreciation to the administration, staff and faculty of WVU-Parkersburg for providing quality education for the Mid-Ohio Valley and the communities served for the past 60 years.

In other business, the commission approved a software upgrade for Courthouse security from Ohio Valley Security Inc. for \$536.60.

The commission met in closed session for 20 minutes discuss the opioid litigation case with attorney Eric Holmes, When the commission returned to open session, no actions or votes took place.

Discussions were held concerning a broadband study grant with Luke Peters from the Mid-Ohio Valley regional Council.

Peters said the study recommendations will be sent to Gov. Justice within the next few weeks and he expects an announcement from the governor in late May.

The commission also discussed having the tower clocks on the courthouse steeple repaired or replaced.

That decision was tabled and will back on the agenda at a later time.

The commission will meet again Tuesday, April 20, at 1 p.m. at the courthouse in Elizabeth.

Constellium Skilled Trades Scholarship Program accepting applications until April 23

Jackson Newspapers

April 14, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/local/2021/04/14/constellium-skilled-trades-scholarship-program-accepts-applications/7224853002/>



High school students seeking hands-on training in technician work and maintenance repair may apply to the Constellium Skilled Trades Scholarship Program.

The Skilled Trades Scholarship program is a collaboration between Constellium and WVU Parkersburg to help provide financial assistance to earn an associate degree in Multi-Craft Technology or Reliability and Maintenance Technology. After students

complete their degree, they will have a five-year employment commitment with Constellium.

“This is a real opportunity for students in the Mid-Ohio Valley to experience an academic path to a trades position,” said Dr. Torie Jackson, WVU Parkersburg vice president of Institutional Advancement. “By partnering with companies like Constellium, we are able to provide programs that meet the needs of employers and help students find employment.”

Applicants must be a current high school senior, obtain a letter of recommendation, supply proof of their GPA and school attendance and successfully pass a drug and/or alcohol screening process. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the above criteria and interview process.

For a scholarship application and more information, visit wvup.edu/skilled-trades-app. Please return applications and required documentation to: Constellium Rolled Products Ravenswood LLC, Skilled Trades Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 68, Ravenswood, WV 26164.

In-person graduation in May for WVUP

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 15, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/04/in-person-graduation-in-may-for-wvup/>

PARKERSBURG –West Virginia University at Parkersburg will be holding an in-person graduation ceremony in May, its first since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

College President Chris Gilmer informed the university’s Board of Governors of the plans during their regular meeting on Wednesday.

The socially-distanced outdoor commencement will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8, on the back lawn of the Parkersburg campus. In case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed until 2 pm. Saturday, May 15.

“It is especially important for our community to celebrate commencement this year,” Gilmer said. “It is always one of the most important traditions of any college and a well-deserved recognition of the hard work of the graduates and their families.

“As we have endured the COVID-19 pandemic for so long, and even as we must still remain vigilant to ensure the health and safety of our community, it seems especially important to observe a moment of collective joy after all the community and the world have been through this past year.”

Torie Jackson, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, said the university is planning to award 343 degrees, including 110 Bachelor and 233 Associate/Certificate to around 300 students.

At this point, there are 123 ceremony participants, including 12 from 2020, she said.

“This year’s commencement will celebrate not only those who have earned their credentials during the past academic year, but also those who we were not able to provide with a commencement in May 2020 and December 2020,” Gilmer said. *“I promised them, even as I reluctantly took commencement away because of the pandemic, that we would welcome them all back the next time we hosted a face-to-face commencement.”*

“On May 8, 2021, we hope to honor that promise. We are hosting the event outside so that we have abundant room to spread out and maintain proper social distancing.”

Gilmer said if weather becomes an issue, the ceremony will not be moved indoors. Also, no official receptions will be held, to promote social distancing.

However, an outdoor pinning ceremony for WVU Parkersburg’s student nurses will occur following the commencement ceremony and observing the same protocols.

“This is an important milestone in the lives of student nurses, and we are happy to support them,” Gilmer said. *“We note, however, that they are not receiving any special consideration for their events which is not received by the other academic programs, because the annual pinning ceremony is the only such academic program which has been part of WVU-P’s commencement traditions in recent years.”*

Gilmer thanked everyone who is working hard to plan a safe commencement ceremony for the graduates and their families.

“WVU-P was forced to cancel the May 2020 commencement and to move the December 2020 commencement to an innovative series of individual events,” he said. *“As we begin the attempt to resume some sense of normalcy, the administration determined to allow spring 2021 commencement to move forward in a limited way, recognizing the importance of this milestone to our graduates and to the community.”*

Many other colleges and universities nationwide are planning similar events including West Virginia University, he said.

“WVU-P reserves the right to make any changes to current plans which guidelines from public health or other local, state, or federal authorities require, with as much advance notice to participants as possible,” Gilmer said. “Masks will be required for participation even though the event is outside.”

Jackson will be this year’s commencement speaker, She is an alumna of WVU-P and the current senior administrator with the longest service at the college.

In other business, the board confirmed honorary degrees for former Board of Governors members Sam Winans and Cheryl Donohoe for the meritorious service they provided which will be conferred at the May commencement.

The university also approved honorary degrees for its commencement speakers and approved one for Jackson for her upcoming speech.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran and West Virginia native Hershel Woodrow “Woody” Williams, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, spoke at the college a number of years back. Through an oversight, he was not presented with a honorary degree which is the tradition for all their commencement speakers. The board approved Gilmer’s request to rectify that oversight.

WVU Parkersburg students will have an in-person graduation

WTAP-TV [video]

April 15, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/04/15/wvu-parkersburg-students-will-have-an-in-person-graduation/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - Colleges are making plans for graduation ceremonies.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg says its students will walk in-person.

The school will host graduation outside in the upper parking lot of its campus.

Attendance will be limited to those who have bought a ticket beforehand.

Families will be in pods of four.

Everyone is expected to wear a mask, and social distance.

College officials say they want to make sure that this ceremony is both safe and enjoyable.

“I think it will be exciting for them to have that opportunity to join together in an actual environment with other graduates,” says Vice President of Institutional Advancement and CEO of the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation, Torie Jackson.

There will be a total of 123 graduates who will be walking. There will be 343 degrees conferred.

Twelve people are walking during this commencement who graduated during the 2020 calendar year.

The commencement will take place at 2 p.m. on May 8.

WVUP changes graduation location

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 16, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/04/wwup-changes-graduation-location/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg has changed the location of its in-person graduation ceremony in May as plans are continually being updated to be able to hold the event.

On Wednesday, College President Chris Gilmer informed the university Board of Governors the socially-distanced outdoor commencement will be held at 2 p.m. May 8 on the back lawn of the Parkersburg campus.

Thursday, university officials changed the location to the upper parking lot by the College Activities Center.

Torie Jackson, vice president for institutional advancement, said the change was to create more space so people could have more room to social distance.

Much of the plans remain tentative as officials are still reviewing the details, Jackson said.

Graduates will have to be 6 feet apart. Each graduate will be given four tickets for family to attend. Families will be seated in “pods” together that are 6 feet apart from the other family pods.

“The families will be able to sit together and not sit 6 feet apart from each other,” she said.

Everyone attending will be required to wear facemasks. The only people who will not be wearing masks will be the speakers at the podium who will be able to take off their masks then to deliver their speech.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed until 2 p.m. May 15. Gilmer said if weather becomes an issue, the ceremony will not be moved indoors.

The university is planning to award 343 degrees, including 110 bachelor's and 233 associate/certificates to around 300 students.

At this point, there are 123 ceremony participants, including 12 from 2020.

The university canceled the May 2020 commencement and moved the December 2020 commencement to an innovative series of individual events, Gilmer had said.

Having this ceremony in person is a step to try to return to some normalcy, Gilmer had said. Many other colleges and universities nationwide are planning similar events including West Virginia University, he said.

WVUP is reserving the right to make any changes to current plans which guidelines from public health or other local, state, or federal authorities require, with as much advance notice to participants as possible, Gilmer said.

Commissioners hear concerns from library board and Sandyville broadband project

Jackson Newspapers

April 16, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/local/2021/04/16/jackson-county-commission-meeting-updates/7240875002/>

If a large cardboard check is evidence, then the Jackson County Commission is assured of \$5.54 million in direct payment from the American Rescue Plan.

Specific guidelines have not been released by the federal government. The general uses for the funds will be sewer, water and broadband.

"We will have to know something more specific soon," said county attorney Eric Holmes. "The first half of the payment comes on May 10."

Commissioners Dick Waybright and Mitch Morrison voted to create Fund #207 to handle those funds once received. Commissioner Mike Randolph was unable to attend.

December's Cares Act monies were approved for use at the April 14 meeting. New mobile communication devices will be purchased from those funds for the county's 911 center, emergency medical services and sheriff's department.

Tanner Communications, the only company to submit a bid for \$183,900, received the award subject to review of the contract.

“Once we get these in place, we will have one of the best communication systems in the region,” said Montana Boggess, 911 director. “Right now, there are times it’s difficult to hear using the current equipment. This puts our people in unnecessary danger. Within three months, we should be up and running.”

One project that is not proving to be as well-used as expected is the Sandyville broadband project which was funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

Luke Peters, from the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council, said that the tower that has been installed had 100 households interested at one point. So far, only seven customers have signed up with the Route21 service.

“We are trying to spread the word,” Peters said. “It may be a name recognition issue. It also could be that people do not realize that Route21 also offers phone and cable as well. Sharing information about this project will be a top priority.”

Peters did have good news regarding the southern Jackson water project.

“We hope to bid the project in May,” he said. “We’re working on the right-of-ways which is the last step before that can take place.”

Jackson County Sheriff Ross Mellinger updated commissioners on a building project that had previously been discussed in closed-door executive session. A law enforcement training facility is something the sheriff’s department is exploring.

“We are talking to both Parchment Valley Conference Center and also investigating land owned by the county Solid Waste Authority,” Mellinger said. “This project is only in its infancy stage, but we are moving forward.”

The last group to address the commission said a ‘new day has dawned.’

Members of the Jackson County Library Board, along with interim director Carla Long, gave an update on the positive changes and challenges facing the two county libraries.

Suzy McGinley, board president, said the library is now fully open for service but still offers curbside delivery for those not comfortable coming into the building. Meeting rooms are also available for reservations.

The current board, whose five members were all appointed about a year ago when the previous board resigned as a group, has made huge strides according to member Denise Toler.

“We have dealt with some physical issues at the Ravenswood branch,” she said. “Those include a new HVAC system and roof repair. We have taken care of some financial obligations as well. Our former director, John Faria, resigned to take a new position and we now have long-time employee Carla Long at the helm.”

The Ripley building needs serious repair.

Katrena Ramsey, who has worked closely with the Ravenswood issues, said a new HVAC is needed at Ripley along with window repair, roof drain and other issues.

“These are going to be quite expensive, and we need some assistance,” she said. “An endowment paid for the majority of the Ravenswood work, but Ripley does not have that option.”

Commissioner Waybright asked that estimates be presented at a future meeting. At that time, the request will be taken into consideration. The excess levy for the library may contain some portion of the funding needed.

In other business, commissioners:

Approved a resolution presented by Torie Jackson recognizing West Virginia University at Parkersburg for its 60th anniversary and contribution to higher education.

Approved hiring Evan Bain as a part-time worker at the Jackson County Animal Shelter effective immediately.

Approved the financial aid agreement and rapid response contract with the Ripley Volunteer Fire Department for FY 2021-2022 which provides \$26,000 from the general fund and \$6,000 from the ambulance levy.

A five-minute closed-door executive session with Walt Smittle, Office of Emergency Services director, for financial purposes occurred with no action taken.

The next meeting of the commission will be April 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the courthouse.

WVU Parkersburg to mark Earth Day

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 17, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/04/wvu-parkersburg-to-mark-earth-day/>



PARKERSBURG — Earth Day will be celebrated 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday on the main campus walking trail at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Organized by the Ecohawks, a student environmental group, the event is free and open to the public.

Family-friendly activities are planned. Children can make terrariums from recycled plastic bottles and pine cone bird feeders and meet Smokey Bear.

Flowers and vegetables will also be available for giveaways. A bat house information station will be available and pre-made houses will be for sell.

The West Virginia Division of Forestry and Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action will have stations with tree and plant identification guides and how individuals can use more environmentally sustainable products in their daily lives.

The identification guides may be used on the college's walking trail to classify wildlife.

"It is our duty to protect the world we share, its ecosystems and species," said Valerie Keinath, Ecohawks adviser. "The Ecohawks hope to inspire and encourage others to give back to the planet and preserve its beauty, and in return, humanity."

Sandwiches, fruits, vegetables and other refreshments will be available for purchase and will follow COVID-19 and health department guidelines. All will be provided in Earth-friendly compostable containers.

Attendees are asked to follow the college's health and safety guidelines, including wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

For more information, contact Keinath at vkeinart@wvup.edu or 304-424-8327.

Constellium Skilled Trades Scholarship accepting applications

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 17, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/04/constellium-skilled-trades-scholarship-accepting-applications/>

PARKERSBURG — High school students seeking hands-on training as a technician and maintenance repair may apply to the Constellium Skilled Trades Scholarship Program.

The program, a collaboration between Constellium and West Virginia University at Parkersburg to help provide financial assistance to earn an associate degree in multi-craft technology or reliability and maintenance technology. After students complete their degree, they will have a five-year employment commitment with Constellium.

Applications will be accepted through April 23.

"This is a real opportunity for students in the Mid-Ohio Valley to experience an academic path to a trades position," said Torie Jackson, WVU Parkersburg vice president of Institutional Advancement. "By partnering with companies like Constellium, we are able to provide programs that meet the needs of employers and help students find employment."

Applicants must be a high school senior, obtain a letter of recommendation, supply proof of their GPA and school attendance and successfully pass a drug and alcohol screening process. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the above criteria and interview process.

Visit wvup.edu/skilled-trades-app for a scholarship application and more information.
Return applications and required documentation to:

Constellium Rolled Products Ravenswood, LLC

Skilled Trades Scholarship Program

P.O. Box 68

Ravenswood, WV 26164.

Digital media hold the key to the future at WVU-Parkersburg

daily304 [podcast]

April 17, 2021

<https://daily304.libsyn.com/>

Today, we ride the wave of the future with the new Digital Media program at WVU Parkersburg.

Adapting to digital trends like podcasting and original content creation, West Virginia University at Parkersburg introduces a new program – Digital Media Production.

The program will offer an in-depth glimpse into the digital production industry. Students will be trained on industry-standard equipment, including drone cinematography, broadcast switchers for multi-camera video shoots, consoles for live and studio audio production, DMX-controlled stage lighting and more.

Skills gained in the program will prepare students for careers as directors, sounds engineers, videographers, podcasters, producers, documentarians and sports and entertainment journalists, according to Jeremy Harrison, Digital Media Production instructor.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the field is projected to grow 18% from now until 2029 and have an average pay of \$60,000 per year.

Twenty Bright Stars: This Year's All-USA Academic Team Scholarship Recipients Named Inside Higher Ed | Custom Content sponsored by Cengage

April 19, 2021

https://narratives.insidehighered.com/all-usa-academic-team/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3jxJKa0KK9s5xLZGet_JErHW8K05sz-PTD7Vf7NblxUgnlvmbiv_WHRlg



WVU Parkersburg Veterans Corps President Jared Smith named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Academic team.

In spite of a difficulty year marked by a pandemic and wide-spread social unrest, 20 community college students have been recognized for their academic excellence and leadership both on and off campus with the coveted All-USA Academic Team Scholarship.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted so much of what higher education has long deemed to be normal. In a span of just a few months, work and study plans were put on hold, teaching and learning was moved into unfamiliar environments and a great number of students' lives were changed due to dramatic financial and personal challenges. Still, amidst the uncertainty of the last year, 20 students managed to exemplify exceptional academic leadership and growth and have worked not only to

better themselves but also to improve their schools and communities. For these students, 2021 is proving to be a year in which their tireless efforts are rewarded. Each winner has been selected to receive a \$5,000 scholarship, for a total of \$100,000 in scholarships awarded, through the All-USA Academic Team Scholarship program.

A holistic approach to picking winners

The recipients of this year's scholarship, which is sponsored by education technology company [Cengage](#), with support from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, are now part of an elite group. This scholarship is widely recognized as the most prestigious academic honor for students seeking an associate degree or credential. Recipients are among the top community college students in the country based on their leadership both on and off campus. Ranging in age from 18 to 45, they were selected from a pool of 2,000 students nationwide; nominated by their colleges. Of this year's 20 scholarship awardees, fifteen of the 20 winners are women, over half (11) are first-generation college students, five are caring for dependents and four are international students.

While GPA was a factor, judges took a holistic view of the applicant pool, considering those who excelled in spite of difficult circumstances. Many winners are part of a demographic of "non-traditional" college students who aren't often eligible for scholarships and who may struggle to access higher education to begin with. The All-USA Academic Team scholarship is remarkable not only in its focus on those pursuing an associate degree (students at 4-year colleges are three times more [likely](#) to win scholarships), but also in its focus on helping those who will benefit most from its impact.

"The All-USA Academic Team represents the top 20 students from an exceptional pool. They are set apart by their hard work both inside the classroom and in their communities. We are pleased to work with Cengage to celebrate their achievements and provide additional financial support to help them further their goals." shared Dr. Lynn Ticher-Ladner, president and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa.

2021 All-USA Academic Team Scholars

Geri Bakushi | Cuyahoga Community College | Ohio

Yasmeen Berry | Henry Ford College | Michigan

Savannah Berryman | Northwest Shoals Community College | Alabama

Monica Bliss | Berkshire Community College | Massachusetts

Ferdinando Castro Gonzalez | Richland College | Texas

Bernard Harrigan | Palm Beach State College | Florida

Preston Hong | Saddleback College | California

Kerry Katz | Community College of Allegheny County | Pennsylvania

Bagul Mammedova | Jamestown Community College | New York

Yozgyul Mustafova | Harry S. Truman College | Illinois

Yasaman Nassab | Irvine Valley College | California

Mary Nguyen | Lone Star College | Texas

Bianca Isabelle Osma | Passaic County Community College | New Jersey

Jared Smith | West Virginia University at Parkersburg | West Virginia

Samiha Syed | College of DuPage | Illinois

Erin Tan | Mt. San Antonio College | California

Kari Warne | Yavapai College | Arizona

Angela White | Pima Community College | Arizona

Jacquelyn White | Johnson County Community College | Kansas

Dahyun Yoo | Bergen Community College | New Jersey

Keeping an eye on a bigger prize

While these students may be pursuing associate degrees, most plan to make higher education a staple in their lives and have their sights set on pursuing further degrees. All but one winner plan to pursue a master's degree or a doctorate, with majors spanning from Biomedical Sciences, Engineering and Business Management, to Theater, Criminal Justice and Event Management.

As for Harrigan, the primary focus as he continues on in his educational journey is serving as a positive role model to his sons by helping others.

"I know I want to make a difference for many and all who need it," he explains.

Congratulating the 60th Anniversary of WVU-Parkersburg

Pleasants County Schools

April 20, 2021

<https://www.pleasantcountyschools.com/live-feed>



Tonight, the Pleasants County Board of Education approved a proclamation congratulating the 60th anniversary of WVU-Parkersburg and recognizing the partnership between WVU-P, PCS, and our Community.

(Pictured – Mr. Wells and Dr. Lancaster)

Mid-Ohio Valley's Inclusive Summer Day Program goes online

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 22, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/04/mid-ohio-valleys-inclusive-summer-day-program-goes-online/>

PARKERSBURG — The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley's Inclusive Summer Day Program this year will provide social and recreational activities for youth and teens who utilize the special education system during the school year.

This year, the program will provide fun and excitement in a virtual format using Zoom and recognizing technology is a key to the community.

Virtual summer day programming will begin June 14 and run through July 23. Two separate sessions per day will run 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. A phone, tablet or computer with internet access or a data plan will be required to participate in the programming this year.

Participants without access to the devices or services can contact The Arc at 304 422-3151. A limited supply of devices are available.

The Arc is responding to health risks posed by COVID-19 by eliminating in-person camp and trips into the community and instead utilizing technology to host visitors and travel locally and around the globe. In addition to developing friendships and having fun with other youth and teens, there is a strong emphasis on daily living skills, peer interaction, socialization skills and community interaction.

Inclusive Summer Day 2021 programming will follow a different theme for each day of the week. Monday will focus on communication and campers will learn about sign language, body language, eye contact, and the importance of being a good listener. Pig Latin, Morse code, and languages of the world also will be discovered.

Tuesday's programming will explore the earth including animals, physics, chemistry, the environment, nature and weather. Participants will be given tools to make a rain gauge and get answers to the questions such as why does it snow and how does fog form. Special presenters include WTAP Meteorologist Thomas Battle, local teachers and representatives from the Parkersburg recycling and waste water plants.

Wednesday means movement and planes, trains, automobiles, bicycles, running and walking and sharing personal stories of travel. Each student will receive a passport

allowing them to document virtual travels around the community and the world. Travel on planes, trains, and automobiles will be explored.

Thursday is dedicated to the love of art and history and will feature drawing, painting, architecture, singing, musical instruments and an exploration of types of music such as jazz, classical, hip-hop and rock. Mark Doebrich and High Schoolers that Rock will join the camp. Local artist and cartoonist Kevin Oliphant will continue his popular Key Man cartoon series with this year's class.

Friday will focus on mind and body and include cooking, gardening, shopping, and mindfulness. Pamela Santer, Wellness Coordinator at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, will provide a session on Mindfulness for participants.

Eligible students will be in the sixth through the 12th grades who utilize the special education system and those who have moderate or severe intellectual or related developmental disabilities will be given first priority. All students may participate in this virtual, inclusive program. Materials will be provided for students with disabilities as funding is limited.

The program is typically based in the South Parkersburg Baptist Church, but for the safety of all participants, this year the program will be held online using technology to show demonstrations, make crafts and to take virtual field trips in the community.

Qualified special education teachers and assistants help staff the program. Volunteers will assist with special presentations encourage community integration.

Traditionally, there would be a camp fee to pay for staff and supplies, but this year the program will be provided at no cost. The community is welcome to donate to The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley to help cover the costs for personnel, supplies and mailing.

Sources of funding include the United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley, the Henry Logan Children's Foundation, Peoples Bank, Vienna Baptist Church, the West Virginia Family Support Program and donors.

Saddle Up; It's Derby Time

Clutch MOV

April 22, 2021

<https://clutchmov.com/saddle-up-its-derby-time/>

West Virginia University of Parkersburg Hosts Derby Dash Fundraiser

With the taste of sugar and fresh mint lingering on your lips, you head down to the bookie to place \$100 on Like the King and \$50 on Bourbonic. A warm breeze washes over you, bringing up the smell of fresh-cut bluegrass along with sweet rose drifting from the winner's circle. The aroma is just as bright as the flashes of large pink and blue tea party hats in the stands. Soon, a booming voice echoes, "Riders to the starting gate."

Let the races begin.

This is the Kentucky Derby everyone imagines and loves. While horse-enthusiasts and spectators may not be able to join the celebration in Louisville, the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Foundation is bringing the excitement of race-day traditions to the comfort of homes while making a local impact.



The Foundation is selling Derby Dash boxes complete with a gourmet charcuterie spread, Mint Julep fixings and commemorative cups for two. Boxes are available for \$75 each and will be ready for pickup at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, on May 1, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., where you can also place bets on the competing horses. Proceeds from the Derby Dash will benefit the upkeep and preservation of the Oakland Estate.

The home is a historical harbinger to all who recognize its significance. Spur marks from General McLellan adorn the dining room table and generations of books, paintings, and stories were left to the keeping of the college.

“In previous years, Oakland has opened its doors for Christmas tours, gatherings for the college’s National Institutes for Historically-Underserved students, and most importantly, the Kentucky Derby Party Fundraiser,” said Olivia Reeder, fundraiser organizer. “Whether in-person or at-home, this event continues the tradition of Oakland’s previous owner Betty Lutz who had a love of derby parties and philanthropy.”





In 2015, the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation received Oakland as a gift from Betty's brother John and his wife, Pamela. John is the great-great-grandson of the estate's builder and owner, James McNeil Stephenson. Built in 1832, Oakland stands as one of Parkersburg's gateways to the past. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a reminder of one man's initiative to bring prosperity in the form of rail lines to the Mid-Ohio Valley.

As a politician, Stephenson represented Tyler, Wood, Ritchie and Doddridge counties in the Virginia House of Delegates. He married Agnes Boreman, sister of Arthur Boreman, the first governor of West Virginia. The home remained in the family for years until it was gifted to the college. Now, it carries on the tradition of hospitality and philanthropy that was so important to the previous owners.





“Oakland has a national and local prominence that we want to uphold for the community and the college,” said Reeder. “By investing in its preservation, we are investing in our history and future. We are proud to continue Betty’s vision of the home and use it to benefit the Mid-Ohio Valley and our alumni and academics.”

To purchase a Derby Dash Box, contact Olivia Reeder at oreeder@wvup.edu.

Mid-Ohio Valley celebrates Earth Day throughout the week

The Marietta Times and The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 23, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2021/04/mid-ohio-valley-celebrates-earth-day-throughout-the-week/>

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/04/mid-ohio-valley-celebrates-earth-day-throughout-the-week/>



BELPRE – In Belpre’s Depot Park, a Green Mountain sugar maple was planted Thursday in memory of Pauline Collett, a longtime member of the Belpre Garden Club and owner of the former Collett’s Greenhouse on Washington Boulevard.

“It just so happened to fall on Earth Day,” said Becky Hennen, vice president of the garden club. *“It was a wonderful day to celebrate.”*

Collett’s is one of multiple memorial trees planted in the park on Depot Street above Belpre High School, said club President Janet Robinson.

“It’s just something that we can do that will last for many years,” she said.

It was a fitting tribute to Collett, who passed away last fall. She earned more than 250 ribbons in floral competitions through the Washington County Fair, said neighbors Dana and Vickie Fouss.

In addition to recognizing Collett and Earth Day, the planting was a nod to the upcoming Arbor Day, Belpre Tree Commission Chairwoman Maxine Mobbs said.

"We didn't get to do the Arbor Day (observance) last year because of the COVID," she said.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg held an Earth Day Celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday on the campus walking trail, which was organized by the student environmental group the Ecohawks and was free to the public.

"It is our duty to protect the world we share, its ecosystems and species," said Valerie Keinath, Ecohawks advisor. "The Ecohawks hope to inspire and encourage others to give back to the planet and preserve its beauty, and in return, humanity."

Festivities included terrarium building for children, as well as produce giveaways and tree and plant identification guides provided by the West Virginia Division of Forestry and the Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action group to promote sustainability.

"We were pretty excited to see in the beginning people were rolling in," said Elizabeth Knick, the administrative associate for the STEM division at WVU-P. "We were very cold, but people seemed to enjoy it."

At Grand Central Mall on Thursday afternoon, a tree dedication occurred for a cherry tree that was planted in front of Belk in honor of healthcare heroes.

"We really want them to look at it as they go by ... so they know they inspire us," Grand Central Mall Marketing Director Mindy Fluharty said.

The tree was donated by T&S Lawn Landscape, according to their press release.

Fluharty said Grand Central Mall began this annual tree planting celebration last year when its first tree was dedicated to first responders.

The Wood County Democratic Party has an Earth Day Clean Up planned for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, gathering at the horseshoe in front of Parkersburg High School. Trash bags, gloves and a tool to safely pick up trash will be provided. Social-distancing and mask protocols will be followed.

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action is celebrating the planet throughout the month with events revolving around the documentary *"Kiss the Ground,"* which focuses on regenerating the world's soils to stabilize its climate.

A free online period for home viewing is available through Sunday by registering at the website of Interfaith Power and Light at www.interfaithpowerandlight.org.

Weather-permitting, Climate Action and the Green Sanctuary Committee of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta will hold a COVID-safe outdoor screening of the film at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the courtyard of the church on Third Street. The number of attendees will be limited to comply with COVID regulations, and masks and social distancing protocols will be observed.

In Marietta, Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday with a day full of activities.

Events will include an early morning bird walk at 8:30 a.m., a scavenger hunt in East Muskingum Park at 9:30 a.m., a tree planting at 11 a.m. by the Putnam Street Bridge and a family bike ride starting at 1 p.m. at the Armory.

To register for the bird walk, contact Dawn Hewitt at hewitt@earth-maker.com.

A Trash to Art contest will also be held starting at 10 a.m. at the Armory Square in Marietta.

"This is where we're just asking you to reuse things ... recycled things to make some piece of art," Betsy Cook said. "There'll be contests. You bring your art at 10 a.m. to the armory and we'll have judges there and they will be picking first, second and third prize in two different age groups."

According to Cook, winners will then be announced at 11:30 a.m. on the Marietta Earth Day Facebook page.

A Zoom panel discussion, *"Are Solutions to the Climate Crisis Right Under Our Feet?"* will be held at 7 p.m. April 29. People can register in advance at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuc-msrTgiEtrSNNJ1GxM1VD88Q8JwY-U>.

WVU Parkersburg Phi Theta Kappa chapter inducts members

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 24, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/04/wvu-parkersburg-phi-theta-kappa-chapter-inducts-members/>

PARKERSBURG — The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Sigma Omega Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held its Spring 2021 induction ceremony for students who accepted membership.

Students inducted include Majeda Al Waked, Amber Arko, Dusty Fox, Adrien Gibbs, Adam Hoschar, Robert Jarvis, Caraline Lancaster, Danielle Lockhart, Christine Morgan, Darlin Muelas Cruz, Elijah Randolph, Madison Scott, Shelby Simonton, Annessa Sweeney and David “Dean” Underwood.

Cynthia Gissy, former WVU Parkersburg associate provost for Academic and Student Affairs, was the keynote speaker for the event. President Chris Gilmer and David Sigmund, Phi Theta Kappa Ohio Regional coordinator, also spoke in encouragement to the new inductees.

“Phi Theta Kappa is a transformative organization that has been changing the lives of students for many years,” Gilmer said. “I am certain it will enrich these students just as I know they will be enriching to PTK.”

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

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

For more information about Sigma Omega chapter, contact advisers Marie Butler at mbutler1@wvup.edu, Andrew Rochus at arochus1@wvup.edu or Andrew Walker at wwalker1@wvup.edu.

Phi Theta Kappa holds induction

The Marietta Times

April 27, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/neighborhood-news/2021/04/phi-theta-kappa-holds-induction/>

West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Sigma Omega Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held its Spring 2021 induction ceremony for invited students who accepted membership. Students inducted include: Majeda Al Waked, Amber Arko, Dusty Fox, Adrien Gibbs, Adam Hoschar, Robert Jarvis, Caraline Lancaster, Danielle Lockhart, Christine Morgan, Darlin Muelas Cruz, Elijah Randolph, Madison Scott, Shelby Simonton, Annessa Sweeney, David "Dean" Underwood.

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

Chamber of Commerce offering Women in Leadership scholarship to WVUP students

WTAP-TV

April 27, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/04/27/chamber-of-commerce-offering-women-in-leadership-scholarship-to-wvup-students/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - The Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley is offering a Women in Leadership scholarship to WVU-Parkersburg (WVUP) students for the 2021-22 collegiate year. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a woman who currently attends the school or will start attending in 2021.

The scholarship has been introduced for the first time this year and is offered in conjunction with the Chamber's Women in Leadership conference series. For 2020 and 2021, the conference was moved online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. One of the sponsorship levels for this year's online series included a scholarship for a female student at WVUP.

"It's something that we wanted to include this year because of everything that's going on. And hopefully it's something we'll be able to continue to include in our Women in Leadership programming," said Nicole Guinn, membership and events specialist at the Chamber.

The Women in Leadership conference aims to support female leaders in the local business community, and Guinn said the scholarship was created with the intention of furthering those goals, as well.

"It's promoting that female leader within a business or a nonprofit in our community. We're definitely all about supporting that avenue," Guinn said.

The scholarship application can be downloaded online [here](#). It must be mailed to the Chamber and must be received by the Chamber by May 3 at 3 P.M.

Constellium, WVU-P offer scholarships to trades program

The Wirt County Journal

April 28, 2021

High school students seeking hands-on training in technician work and maintenance repair may apply to the Constellium Skilled Trades Scholarship Program.

The Skilled Trades Scholarship program is a collaboration between Constellium and WVU-Parkersburg to help provide financial assistance to earn an associate degree in multicraft technology or reliability and maintenance technology.

After students complete their degree, they will have a five-year employment commitment with Constellium.

“This is a real opportunity for students in the Mid-Ohio Valley to experience an academic path to a trades position,” said Dr. Torie Jackson, WVU-P vice president of institutional advancement.

“By partnering with companies like Constellium, we are able to provide programs that meet the needs of employers and help students find employment.”

Applicants must be a current high school senior, obtain a letter of recommendation, supply proof of their GPA and school attendance and successfully pass a drug and/ or alcohol screening process. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the above criteria and interview process.

Visit wvup.edu/skilled-trades-app for a scholarship application. Please return applications and required documentation to: Constellium Rolled Products Ravenswood, Skilled Trades Scholarship Program, P. O. Box 68 Ravenswood, WV 26164.

Klesel named Wood County Schools Teacher of the Year

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel & The Marietta Times

April 28, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/04/klesel-named-wood-county-schools-teacher-of-the-year/>

PARKERSBURG – The Wood County Board of Education announced the district’s 2022 Teacher of the Year, recognized new and renewed National Board Certified teachers and received an updated on the Wood County Technical Center’s cosmetology program during a board meeting on Tuesday night.

Parkersburg South High School’s Sara Klesel was named the 2022 Teacher of the Year. Klesel has been a mathematics teacher at South for the past 10 years, with 15 years of teaching experience in total.

“This is quite an honor, especially in a year when every teacher has truly gone above and beyond. I couldn’t do it without my family, who’s been super supportive this past year,” Klesel said. “Helping out when I’ve been losing my mind. The administration has been truly supportive and even National Board Certified teachers who I’ve met throughout this year (have) been a lifeline.”

Wood County Schools received more than 300 online nominations over a two-week period, narrowing to six teachers that were interviewed by a committee of educators, community members and former Teachers of the Year.

Klesel will have the opportunity to compete with teachers from around the state for West Virginia Teacher of the Year.

The board recognized three teachers receiving their National Board Certification, from a voluntary assessment program designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and embed ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. While state teacher credentialing programs set the basic requirements to teach in each state, National Board Certified teachers must demonstrate advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices.

The newly certified teachers are Marley Jolly (middle childhood generalist, Neale Elementary), Jennifer Tennant (early childhood generalist, Mineral Wells Elementary) and Christine Walker (exceptional needs specialist, early childhood through young adult, Parkersburg High School).

Teachers that had their certification renewed were Jimmy Stewart (middle childhood generalist, technology integration specialist, Curriculum and Instruction Department), Mary Blaker (English language Arts, adolescence and young adulthood, Parkersburg High School) and Corinne Full (English language arts, adolescence and young adulthood, Parkersburg High School).

Lisa Smith, facilitator of the Wood County National Board Cohort, said teachers who pursue and achieve the title of National Board Certified teacher choose to engage in a rigorous process that takes one to five years to complete. The components are content knowledge, differentiated instruction, teaching practice and learning environment and effective and reflective practitioner. Candidates on average engage put 200 to 400 hours into the certification process.

Wood County ranks second in West Virginia with 108 teachers who have achieved certification and six currently pursuing.



West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer speaks during a Wood County Board of Education meeting on Tuesday night. (Photo by Tyler Bennett)

Also during the meeting, West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer affirmed the college's commitment to a partnership allowing high school students to participate in the college's cosmetology program. While some details still need to be worked out, he hopes to have the program ready by the fall of 2022.

The program will not only teach students a trade, but supply them with an associate's degree, entrepreneurial skills and business management skills, Gilmer said.

Board Honors Staff of Year

The St. Marys Oracle

April 28, 2021



Tyler Satterfield, a second-grade teacher at St. Marys Elementary School, and Neal Hearn of Pleasants County Schools' maintenance department, were recently selected as the Pleasants County teacher and service personnel of the year, respectively.

The honored staff were chosen by their peers to represent teacher and service personnel from each school in the county as well as a service personnel from the maintenance and transportation departments.

This year's teachers selected were: Josalin Casto from Belmont Elementary School, Satterfield from SMES, Matt Nelson from Pleasants County Middle School and Howard Meeks from St. Marys High School. The 2021 service personnel selected were: Debbie Crowe from BES, Erica Smith from SEMS; Hearn from the maintenance department, Julie Smith from PCMS, David Wagner from SMHS and K. D. Lamp from the transportation department.

This year's teachers selected were: Josalin Casto from Belmont Elementary School, Satterfield from SMES, Matt Nelson from Pleasants County Middle School and Howard Meeks from St. Marys High School. The 2021 service personnel selected were: Debbie Crowe from BES, Erica Smith from SEMS; Hearn from the maintenance department,

Julie Smith from PCMS, David Wagner from SMHS and K. D. Lamp from the transportation department.

Pleasants County has a committee at the board level consisting central office staff, a board of education member and a community member at-large. That committee then selects the two county winners from the nominees to represent the county in the state competition.

Satterfield has been a second-grade teacher for four years at St. Marys Elementary. He also spent one year teaching third grade at Waverly Elementary school in Wood County. He received his bachelor's degree in elementary education degree for K-6 from West Virginia University at Parkersburg and is certified in history K-12 and special education K-12.

Tyler serves as vice-president of the faculty senate at SMES and is a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council. He is also very accomplished with technology and helps many of his colleagues with their iPads and other technology questions.

In addition to his teaching duties, Tyler is assistant boys' basketball coach at Williamstown High School. "It's a great honor that my peers think of me in this way," Tyler stated. "I feel very humble. There are many other teachers more deserving than me. I am proud to represent Pleasants County at the state level," he added.

"I am so excited for Tyler," Tammy Haught, principal at SMES stated. "He is an outstanding teacher and figures out ways to reach every child. It is his personal mission to help every second grader. You could not ask for a better teacher. The kids love being in his classroom. He makes a difference in their lives," she said.

Satterfield said that the application process is very intensive

"There are several long essays I have to write, background info to provide and even video recordings of some of my classroom lessons. It is a very extensive process," he explained.

Satterfield said the deadline for the state competition is May 17, and the state winner will be chosen sometime in September when all the local winners are invited to the Clay Center in Charleston for the state winner announcement.

The last Pleasants County teacher to make the finals was Jason Hughes who went on to be named West Virginia's teacher of the year in 2005.

Hearn has been an employee in the Pleasants County Schools for 14 years in the maintenance department.

He is a 1980 graduate of SMHS and said the best part of his job is the great bunch of people with whom he works every day. Hearn said that the former maintenance director Ronnie Holmes was a very good mentor to him when he started working there and taught him a lot.

Hearn said he feels humble that his co-workers choose him as the service person of the year.

“It makes me feel good that they feel I do a good job,” he said. Jeff Sole, director of maintenance and facilities for the school system, said, “Neal has great work ethic and is always wanting to help out wherever and whenever he can. He is a real asset to the Pleasants County School system.”

Teen of the Week: WVUP student’s artwork focuses on Marvel, Star Wars

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 1, 2021



West Virginia University at Parkersburg student Joseph Whipkey inside the college’s radio station. (Photo by Tyler Bennett)

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg student Joseph Whipkey has a tendency to turn real life into art, including superheroes, athletes and landscape

into stills that have been on display from art exhibits to hallways of the college's campus.

Nearing the end of his freshmen year after graduating from Parkersburg South High School in the spring of 2020, Whipkey first started drawing by tracing Pokemon and other characters from books until he moved on to freehand.

Freehand drawing is the ability to draw something without depending on instruments, like rulers.

Struggling at first when drawing portraits, but with help from his art teacher in high school and continuously working on his craft, Whipkey now believes that it is one of his strong points.

"My freshman year, my art teacher Mrs. White always helped me out with a lot of things. We did portraits because I always had trouble with faces. With her encouragement, I was able to get it finished. I thought it looked pretty good," Whipkey said.



West Virginia University at Parkersburg student's Joseph Whipkey's artwork.

Whipkey preferred his artwork to be more on the realism side, from scenery to human subjects, with his favorite drawing characters from the Marvel and Star Wars universes. He also found out that abstract was not his style when experimenting.

When drawing, Whipkey uses pencil, digital and watercolor styles.

Whipkey has been participating in many art events in the Mid-Ohio Valley since his first art show as a middle schooler at Blennerhassett Middle School. That includes art fairs in high school, to even having his artwork on display during Artsbridge events.

A member of the honor roll in high school, Whipkey first took classes at WVU Parkersburg as a senior for college credit. During the spring semester in 2020, his class was made strictly online after the campus was shut down due to COVID-19.

With the change and having the majority of his freshmen year participating online, Whipkey did say that the transition of moving to virtual helped him prepare when becoming a student in the fall.



West Virginia University at Parkersburg student's Joseph Whipkey's artwork.

"We had them in person until March and then after that we went online," Whipkey said. "So that kind of helped me transition into the college online classes. Definitely not what I expected college to be, I mean nobody does. But it has definitely helped me with the transition and being able to plan everything out."

Part of the digital communication program, Whipkey said he has a big passion for radio broadcasting, preferring to listen to morning talk shows and music stations. Whipkey also said that the fact WVU Parkersburg is the only community college in the state with a radio station was a big selling point of the college.

Unable to record a show due to COVID protocols during the school, Whipkey hopes to have his first show in the works during the summer but is unsure of what the subject will be.

“I’ve always loved listening to radio stations as a kid. I’ll wake up and instead of watching TV, I’ll listen to the radio. They always just seem like they have so much fun, just laughing and joking around doing all these fun things. That’s pretty cool,” Whipkey said. “Not many freshmen can say they have their own radio show, definitely psyched about that. Not sure yet on what I want to be aiming towards, definitely something that I love and maybe other people enjoy too.”

Scholarship winners announced

The Marietta Times

May 3, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/neighborhood-news/2021/05/scholarship-winners-announced/>



The Ohio State University Extension of Washington County announces the winners of the annual 4-H College Scholarship Awards. Each applicant must be a high school senior or college freshman and a 4-H member for at least three years.

Funding was provided by the Washington County 4-H Endowment Committee through funds housed at Marietta Community Foundation.

Two winners receiving \$500 scholarships are:

Kesselyn Bigley, daughter of Jessica and Joe Kidd and Jason and Emily Bigley. She is a member of the Salem Liberty Homemakers and Lower Salem Boys 4-H Club. She is a senior at Marietta High School and plans to major in Animal Science or Livestock Production and Management at an undecided university/college.

Lindsey Hartline, daughter of Gale and Christina Hartline of Marietta and a current member of the Lynch Combined 4-H Club. She graduated from Marietta High School and is attending Zane State looking to a degree in Occupational Therapy.

Three winners receiving \$250 scholarships are:

Tyler Hartline is attending Marietta College and looking to a degree in Music Education and Vocal Performance, with a goal of teaching high school level choir and music, plus teaching private voice lessons.

Connor Tullius plans to attend either Ohio State University or Wilmington College to major in Animal Science, with a minor in Agribusiness.

Levi Westfall attends West Virginia University Parkersburg to obtain Electrical Certification plus a Bachelor's degree in Applied Sciences.

National Honors Society Stages Second Night of Champions

The St. Marys Oracle

May 4, 2021

St. Marys High School celebrated the Class of 2021 members of National Honor Society Sunday, May 2, with a ceremony of champions.

Each senior member was recognized and celebrated on his successes over the last four years of their high school career.

In addition, each senior nominated his champion, the person that has helped shape them the most in their life. They recognized them by giving a short speech about how this person has helped them in their life and gave their thanks for that.

In addition, the champion was given the student's NHS stole to present to him for graduation. Sunday's ceremony is the second in history of NHS at SMHS, but the hope is this to continue as a tradition for years to come. The following students were recognized during this event.

Hope Bennett, a two-year NHS member, a member of National Technical Honors Society, MOVTI completer: Therapeutic Services, graduating with honors and plans to attend WVU-P in the fall. Hope's champion was her mother.

Beth Bennett Brennan Boron, a two-year NHS member, member of National Technical Honors Society, twoyear MOVTI completer, Welding, Early College Program, 21 college credit hours completed, graduating with Honors and plans to attend Waynesburg University in the fall. Brennan's champion was his mother.

Kris Taylor Tre Cummings, a two-year NHS member, Early College Program, 27 college credit hours completed, Private 1st class Army National Guard, Graduating with Honors, and plans to attend WVU-P in the fall. Tre's champion was his parents, Keith and Heather Cummings.

Bralynn Davis, a two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 60 college credit hours completed, Earned Associate Degree in Art from WVU-P, 2021 Valedictorian, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend WVU in the fall. Bralynn's champion was her parents, Jody and Dave Davis.

Isabella Davis, a two-year NHS member, Early College Program, 56 college credit hours completed, Certificate in Applied Education, Science Honorary, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and plans to attend Marietta College in the fall. Isabella's champion was her mother, Letitia Shull.

Jacob Elder, a two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 60 college credit hours completed, Earned Associate Degree in Art from WVU-P, 2021 Salutatorian, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend Fairmont State University in the fall. Jacob's champion was his cross-country and track coach, Jeremy Rhodes.

Alexus Farson, a two-year NHS member, Early College Program, 12 college credit hours completed, graduating with honors and will attend WVU-P in the fall. Alexis' champion was her mother, Jessica Farson.

Lara Fetty, a two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 60 college credit hours completed, Earned Associate Degree in Art from WVU-P, 2021 Valedictorian, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend West Liberty University in the fall. Lara's champion was her father, David Fetty.

Emily Hadley, a two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 50 college credit hours completed, Earned Certificate in Applied Education from WVU-P, 2021 Salutatorian, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend WVU-P in the fall. Emily's champion was her brother, Garrett Hadley.

Hannah Hudson, a two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 60 college credit hours completed, Earned Associate Degree in Art from WVU-P, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend Fairmont State University in the fall. Hannah's champion was her middle school English teacher, Jessica Nohe.

Abigail Peckens, two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 30 college credit hours completed, Earned Associate Degree in Art from WVU-P, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend Farimont State University in the fall. Abigail's champion was her brothers, Jacob and Jonathon Peckens.

Logan Rice is a two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 60 college credit hours completed, Earned Associate Degree in Art from WVU-P, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend Ohio University in the fall. Logan's champion was his father, Jerry Rice.

Blake Stanton is a one-year NHS member, Mu Alpha Thea, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 43 college credit hours completed, graduation high honors (4.0+) and will attend the University of Charleston in the fall. Blake's champion was his mother, Cathy Stanton.

Brittney Strum is a one-year NHS member, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 55 college credit hours completed, graduating with high honors and

will attend Marshall University in the fall. Brittney's champion was her mother, Stacey Whaley.

Carolyn Shingleton is a two-year NHS member, Promise Scholarship, Mu Alpha Theta, National Technical Honor Society, two-year completer Emergency Medical, 2021 Field Commander SMHS marching band, Early College Program, 27 credit hours completed, graduating with honors and will attend Fairmont State University in the fall. Carolyn's champion was her grandmother, Betty Hendrickson.

Katie Turner is a two-year NHS member, member of National Technical Honors Society, two-year completer Emergency Medical Services, Mu Alpha Theta, Early College Program, 36 credit hours completed, graduating with honors and plans to attend Marietta College in the fall. Katie's champion was her sister, Erica Turner.

Kylie Wright, a two-year NHS member, 2021 Promise scholar, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, Early College Program, 60 college credit hours completed, Earned Associate Degree in Art from WVU-P, 2021 Valedictorian, graduating with high honors (4.0+) and will attend West Virginia University in the fall. Kylie's champion was her sister, Andrea Arnott.

Ravenswood Grade students donate generously to fight hunger in the community

Jackson Newspapers

May 4, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/local/2021/05/04/ravenswood-grade-school-student-teacher-no-hunger-food-pantry-campaign/4943784001/>

Each year, West Virginia University at Parkersburg requires its student teachers to complete a project that benefits the community in which they are placed.

For Ravenswood Grade student teacher Shane Johnson, it was an easy choice.

"Collecting food for the No Hunger Food Pantry seemed like it would benefit the most people in need," Johnson said.

Johnson wanted to involve the entire school in the project, not just his fourth-grade classroom.



Over 3,400 non-perishable food items were donated to the local pantry. *Shane Johnson*

“The first day we had 150 cans donated, the second 300 items,” he said. “I realized that we needed to spur on the competition a bit more.”

Offering a pizza party to the class that brought in the most food and extra recess to second and third place made students even more eager to donate.

“The third and fourth days saw a total of almost 2,000 donations,” Johnson said.

A particular student stood out in the campaign.

“One of my students brought in 120 cans all by himself,” said Johnson. “He went home and had his mom take him to Walmart where he spent all his Christmas and birthday money to buy food. And he didn’t stop there. He called all his family and brought in 96 more items.”

When the competition ended, Johnson’s classroom came in second place, with Mrs. Hood’s third-grade class coming in third.

“The other fourth-grade class came in first place,” he said. “Mrs. Wine’s kids brought in 18 more cans than mine and Mrs. Scritchfield’s did.”

Those 18 cans saved the student teacher a ‘new look’.

“I had promised if our class won, they could shave off my hair and beard,” Johnson said with a laugh. ‘I think they were a little disappointed.’”



Student teacher Shane Johnson and No Hunger Food Pantry volunteers unload one of two pickup trucks full of food.
Jennifer Coberly

When the week-long campaign ended, Johnson and five other teachers loaded two pickup trucks and an SUV to make the delivery to No Hunger Food Pantry.

The staff and volunteers at the local pantry were astounded by the students' generosity.

A note that Johnson received thanking the students said, in part, "Your food drive was so successful and our hearts, as well as our clients, are overwhelmed with such pride, joy and awe of what your school did. Be proud of yourselves and your accomplishments but mostly thank you for your caring hearts in helping individuals and families that need a little help."

Johnson said that this donation was one of the biggest the pantry had ever received.

One of the longest-lasting benefits is the connection the school and the pantry now have.

"They want to be part of school activities going forward," Johnson said. "So hopefully this partnership will continue on for years."

Johnson's tenure at the school will be ending soon.

“My student teaching will be over, but I hope to get a job soon because I have loved every minute of working with Mrs. Scritchfield and these kids,” he stated. “And I’ll be back. I’m coordinating the June field day and No Hunger Food Pantry wants to help.”

Changes coming for early elementary classes and virtual school in 2021-22 school year

Jackson Newspapers

May 7, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/education/2021/05/07/jackson-county-board-education-elementary-schools-virtual-school/4995075001/>



Superintendent of Schools Blaine Hess and Board President Jim Frazier present Dr. Torie Jackson, professor, a proclamation supporting WVU-Parkersburg in its 60th year of operation. *Jim Mahan*

As a result of the Jackson County Board of Education’s decision at the May 6 meeting, class size for grades kindergarten-3 will be reduced to no more than 17 students.

Superintendent Blaine Hess and Assistant Superintendent Jay Carnell explained this change was made possible by funding source changes.

“We are able to use Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) for this,” said Hess. “This stimulus money will go to good use in adding additional positions and keeping others.”

The premise behind lowering class size according to Hess is “to recapture learning loss.”

“No matter how good our summer school is, we won’t be able to get these kids totally caught up,” he said. “This will offer a more proactive, long-lasting solution.”

Carnell also pointed out that by using the ESSERF money, 11 teaching positions have been saved. With the decline in school population, a reduction in staff would have occurred. County funds will be used to fund positions as well.

If there is a large influx of new students or students returning from virtual or home school, the class sizes will have to be adjusted.

The positions that have been added or retained can be found on the agenda under Board of Education at www.boe.jack.k12.wv.us.

Virtual school will be another change in the upcoming school year. Elementary virtual school will be eliminated. Secondary virtual school will be offered for courses not available in the curriculum, scheduling issues or other limited factors.

“This pandemic has proven one thing we’ve really always known,” Hess said. “Students learn better in the classroom, particularly those in early grades.”

Two other pieces of good news were the approval of the school calendar by the West Virginia Department of Education and the audit report coming back from the department's Office of School Finance with no findings.

“We’ve become so used to that with Laura Matheny at the helm,” said Jim Frazier, board president. “We’d be shocked it we didn’t pass with flying colors. She and her team do a fantastic job with a massive task.”

Summer education will see packets being available for grades kindergarten-2 and grades 3-5. The younger children will benefit from packets prepared by Cheryl Miller from Jackson County Early Explorers. The older students will have book challenges and lessons provided by Tracy LeMasters and Rhonda Jellch.

COVID-19 continues to be a concern in the schools.

“Currently there are 18 cases,” Hess said. “This is one of the highest numbers we’ve seen. At least 100 are quarantined at Ripley High and there are double digits at other schools.”

With the anticipation that COVID vaccines will be available for children ages 12-17, a call out will be issued to find the number of parents interested.

The board went into closed-door executive session for discussion of the appointment to a public office. Letters and resumes of potential replacements for Bobbi Ferrell who recently resigned were under review by Frazier, Steve Chancey, Ben Mize and Dan Barnette. The appointment will be made at the next board meeting on May 20.

In other business, board members:

- Issued a proclamation of support to WVU-Parkersburg.
- Approved contracts with Triad Environmental Consulting for \$13,414.20 for an asbestos abatement project at Gilmore Elementary, Family Carpet for \$58,426 to complete flooring projects in six schools, Partners Too Inc., dba Stanley Steemer, for \$11,116 for carpet cleaning, Blue Ridge Termite & Pest Control LLC for \$4,512 (\$376 per month) for monthly inspection for pests and James Watkins for \$1,000 to purchase the hay from the lot behind the transportation building.
- Approved out-of-state trips for Ravenswood Middle sixth-grade team to Beaver, Ohio, on June 8, Ravenwood Middle (May 11-13, 2022) and Ripley Middle (May 4-6, 2022) eighth-grade classes to Washington, D.C.

Retirements: Mary Ann Mullins, fifth-grade teacher, Evans Elementary, effective July 31; Ralph A. Brown, Route #34 bus operator, effective May 18.

Resignations: Alyssa Galusha, English teacher, Ravenswood High, effective July 1; Candise Anderson, elementary summer school leacher; Beverly Isner and Marquita McIntyre, substitute teachers; Rowena Mullins, substitute secretary; Buddy L. Reynolds, substitute bus driver; and Rosemary F. Burdette, school paper advisor, Ravenswood High.

Employments: Melissa Kimble, substitute school nurse; Jeffrey T. Gibbs and Shane Johnson, substitute teacher; and Michelle Rotenberry, executive secretary, county office.

Transfers: Kathy DeQuasie from Cook III to Cook III part-time, Ravenswood Middle.

Other: Natalie Wayne, Secretary III, Ripley Middle, family medical leave for the 2021-22 school term.

Professional positions eliminated: Title I teacher (Gilmore), Special Education (Ravenswood Grade and Ravenswood High), sixth-grade teacher (Ripley Middle), Spanish teacher (Ravenswood High) and Special Education/Physical Education and History teacher (Ripley High).

Additional personnel items can be found on the board of education website.

The next board of education meeting will be Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. at the administration building.

Belpre High School names May Students of the Month

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 8, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/05/belpre-high-school-names-may-students-of-the-month/>

BELPRE — Magdalynn Willey and Matthew Bayne are the Belpre High School Students of the Month for May.

Willey is the daughter of Shad and Pam Willey.

She is in the marching band and has lettered, BHS, AERO Club, Number One Club, National Honor Society and the Interact Club at the Washington County Career center. Willey plans to attend the Radiology Technology Program at Washington State Community College.

Bayne is the son of Shawn Bayne and Cheryl Schumacher.

He is a baseball and football letterman, in the BHS, Number One Club and attends CCP college classes. After graduation, he would like to play baseball and attend West Virginia University at Parkersburg for a degree in information technology.

WVU Parkersburg software students present final projects

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 8, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/05/wvu-parkersburg-software-students-present-final-projects/>



West Virginia University at Parkersburg professor Charles Almond speaks during the Software Programs ShowCase at Caperton Center on Friday. (Photo by Tyler Bennett)

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg Computer Science Program students gave presentations of their final projects as part of the Software Programs ShowCase inside the Caperton Center for Applied Technology Center on Friday.

The first year having a presentation similar to this in front of classmates and college officials, the Software Programs ShowCase is a set of presentations of final projects completed and delivered by students from the AAS Computer Science Program and the BAT Software Engineering Program.

Only a select few were able to present from many projects in the program. Students came from courses ranging from Introduction to Programming, Mobile App Development and Capstone courses from both programs.

Some of the presentations included computer gaming, mobile app and a series of custom business applications.

"My presentation was on information on a programmable logic controller monitoring system, which integrates with Mitsubishi PLCs. It's basically an industrial monitoring system, which monitors that PLC," student Donatas Vasauskas said. "Which is defined by the user and that allows you to see all the faults, all the run times, all the stop times to show the efficiency of work. It eliminates such things as human error and paper logging."

Fellow student Devon Dalrymple's presentation was making a customer portal for the college's reverse makerspace system. Originally using a pen and paper to kept track of everything, according to Dalrymple, he made a system now where customers could make an account on the college's website and have instant communication.

"It's excellent to see students making an application that we can use here and companies can use. You can see the evolution, they're learning through the program," said Chad Crumbaker, WVU-P Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. "It's really exciting to see students take that stuff on and be able to just excel, then to be able to present to us and show us what they're up to. It's just a really neat experience that we can provide at West Virginia University at Parkersburg."

Program professor Gary Thompson said one of the main reasons for doing the presentations was to show the phenomenal projects that the students have been working on since the beginning of the semester.

"It just seemed wrong that nobody else was going to see what was going on here. So we figured we got to come up with a way of doing this, we had the idea of this computing program showcase, with the support of WVU Parkersburg," Thompson said. "We were able to put this together and pull it off. I'm ecstatic because it's allowed our students to show the quality of work that they can come up with."

WVU-P offers two computing programs, Computer Information Technology and Computer Science program. Both programs offer associate and bachelor's degrees.

"People stepped up and have adapted well. It's not as good as learning and teaching in person by any stretch. But everybody has done the best we can in the situation. I'm very proud of what people have accomplished," Professor Charles Almond said.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg holds commencement

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 10, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/05/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg-holds-commencement/>



Saturday West Virginia University at Parkersburg celebrated their 2021 graduates and their 60th year as a University. In order to best adhere to COVID-19 regulations the graduation ceremony was held in one of the colleges parking lots. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg celebrated their 2021 graduates and their 60th year as a university Saturday in person.

This was the 50th annual spring commencement for the college.

In order to best adhere to COVID-19 regulations, the graduation ceremony was held in one of the college's parking lots.

WVU-P was the first public university in the state to announce a switch to online learning in March 2020, according to President of the college, Dr. Chris Gilmer, and at the ceremony he was pleased to announce the college's current plan will be to resume face-to-face instruction in the fall of 2021.

"None of us reach a moment like this alone. None of us reaches moments like this without a legion of people supporting us. Some known, many unknown, who begin their sacrifices generations before you were even born," said Gilmer. *"Somewhere among this assembly is a mother who watched her grandchild so her son or daughter*

could go to class; somewhere there is a spouse who worked an extra shift to pay for textbooks; somewhere there is a veteran who served this nation, then came home to pursue an education; somewhere is a father who borrowed against his present to secure a better future for his child. I am very proud of all of you."



Saturday West Virginia University at Parkersburg celebrated their 2021 graduates and their 60th year as a University. WVU-P set up a stage and chairs outside for students, faculty, friends and family to enjoy the ceremony. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

Following opening speeches, the college held a moment of silence for those lost during the pandemic.

Dr. Torie Jackson, WVU Parkersburg vice president for Institutional Advancement and WVU at Parkersburg Foundation president and CEO, gave the commencement address.

"You before us are a symbol of our present and our future," said Jackson.

Jackson is a proud WVU Parkersburg alumna who built the college's four-year Communication and Media Studies program and founded its radio station, WPKM 96.3 FM, the Beat. According to a press release provided by the college, she was the strongest advocate for the Spring 2021 commencement to take place face-to-face.

"Each student crossing the stage today has a story of accomplishment," said Jackson.



Ricky the Riverhawk rode around the graduation to celebrate the school's 60 year anniversary and the 2021 graduates. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

During her speech, she referenced a commercial the college is running that talks with alumni of the college.

"You hear the alumni talk about how here at WVU-P they were encouraged, accepted and pushed to succeed. Here, they found a home," said Jackson.

She shared some of their stories and spoke about how proud it makes her to be able to continue playing an active role in the college community.

More than 150 graduates crossed the stage, with a total of 358 students earning certificates, associate and bachelor's degrees, pending final grades. The college also awarded four honorary degrees and emeritus status to five college faculty and staff.

Honorary degrees were given to Hershel Woodrow "Woody" Williams, retired United States Marine Corps warrant officer; Sam Winans, former WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors chair; Cheryl Donohoe, former WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors member, and Jackson, the commencement speaker.

Emeritus status, which is sometimes awarded posthumously, was bestowed upon past university faculty and staff for their service and distinguished career. WVU Parkersburg presented emeritus status to Debbie Baker, professor; Dr. Cindy Gissy, associate provost and professor; Janice McCue, program coordinator; Cheryl B. Robinson, professor and Dr. Sy Sarkarat, professor.

Also during the ceremony, WVU Parkersburg recognized Dr. Missy Spivy as the Bernard P. McDonough Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year. Spivy is an associate professor in the education division, faculty senate representative and accreditation leader in her division, ensuring teacher candidates in the elementary education program meet rigorous standards prior to graduation.

To watch the Spring 2021 commencement ceremony, visit youtube.com/wvuparkersburg.

WVU-P marks graduation

The Marietta Times

May 10, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/2021/05/wvu-p-marks-graduation/>



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To watch the Spring 2021 commencement ceremony, visit [youtube.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.youtube.com/wvuparkersburg).

Registration open at West Virginia University-Parkersburg

WTAP-TV [video]

May 10, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/05/10/registration-open-at-west-virginia-university-parkersburg/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Open registration starts today at West Virginia University at Parkersburg as they are re-opening for in-person learning.

And with this in mind, staff and faculty are giving students a chance to be re-introduced to the school.

It's a part of their "Rediscovering WVU-P" event.

Students will be able to see the different changes to the campus and restructuring that has happened during the pandemic.

They even get a chance to see the new learning and tutoring center for students.

"This is an opportunity for our service area schools to come back to WVU-P to really begin again. To where we are opening up to the public in the fall. We want to make sure that our students have an opportunity to come and be a part of our family," says WVU-P Jackson County Vice President, Steven Smith.

Open registration for today will be ending at 7 p.m.

Congratulations!

The Pennsboro News

May 10, 2021

6B • *The News* • Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Congratulations!

to these outstanding Early College students



Kaleb Cole



Alexis Enoch



Madeline Hilvers



Gabrielle Jones

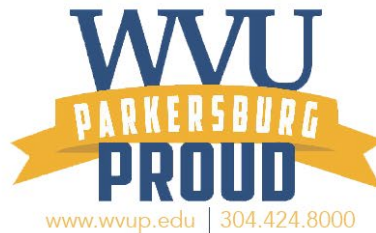


Katelyn Lambert



Dakota Wayne

Ritchie County High School students earning a Certificate of Applied Science in General Education degree complete 30 hours of college classes while attending high school.



“I believe what we need is often hidden in what we have. Each student crossing the stage today has a story of accomplishment, and here at WVU Parkersburg, they were encouraged, accepted and pushed to succeed. Here, they found home.”

*~ Dr. Torie Jackson,
Commencement Speaker May 2021*

Students of the Month

The Marietta Times

May 13, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/neighborhood-news/2021/05/students-of-the-month-7/>



Belpre High School

May Students

of the Month

Magdalynn Willey is the daughter of Shad and Pam Willey. She is in the Pride of Belpre Marching Band and has lettered, is in BHS AERO Club, the Number One Club, National Honor Society as well as National Technical Honor Society, and in the Interact Club at Washington County Career Center. After graduation, she plans to attend the radiology technology program at Washington State Community College.

Matthew Bayne is the son of Shawn Bayne and Cheryl Schumacher. He is a baseball and football letterman for the Golden Eagles. He is in the BHS Number One Club and attends College Credit Plus classes. After graduation he would like to play college baseball and/or attend West Virginia University at Parkersburg to obtain a degree in information technology.

Emily Hadely makes local firefighter history

WTAP-TV [video]

May 14, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/05/15/emily-hadley-makes-local-firefighting-history/>



ST. MARYS, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Emily Hadley is now Saint Marys Volunteer Fire Department's first female firefighter to pass the probationary period and be accepted as a permanent member.

With 132 hours of strenuous training under her belt, Emily is prepared to enter the world of first responders.

Although Emily may be the first female to become a permanent member of the department, firefighting isn't anything new to her.

In fact, she's a third generation firefighter. Both her dad and granddad still work at the Saint Mary's Volunteer Fire Department. Her dad even trained with her.

Emily said, "It's definitely scary at first because you're kind of like a fish out of water. You don't know what you're getting into but I grew up around the apartment and knew all of the guys. They're kind of like either brothers or dads to me."

Still this doesn't mean being a female in a male-dominated field doesn't come without its challenges.

Emily said, "It's definitely been a challenge. I remember whenever I first started down here I came down and you go home and you're like I don't know if I can do this. You're around six foot tall guys that put on all the big gear and you kind of question yourself at first."

Emily said she got over her self-doubt by proving that she was capable through training.

"I know a lot of girls think 'oh it's a male thing I can't do it' but never limit yourself and know that you can do it."

Her dad is more than happy that his daughter is continuing the family legacy.

He said, he's... "Very proud of her willingness to take on this and give back to the community."

And community service is the first thing on Emily's mind.

She said, "Hearing all the stories and knowing what they do for the community. I grew up watching you [her dad] and mom doing whatever you could for the community. You know, it's kind of like I want to carry that torch on. I want to be a part of something bigger."

Emily is also a WVU Parkersburg Early College student.

Richmond Fed President visits Parkersburg Meeting gives exec chance to see challenges, successes

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 15, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/05/richmond-fed-president-visits-parkersburg/>

PARKERSBURG — The head of a federal bank who has a seat at the table for national monetary policy spent time in Parkersburg this week to see how local people and businesses are experiencing the economy.

“Almost every other week, I try to get into some community in our district,” said Tom Barkin, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. *“I like being on the ground and understanding what’s working for people and the challenges.”*

Barkin has led the Richmond Fed, which houses the Federal Reserve’s national IT organization, since 2018. He’s a member of the Federal Open Market Committee, which determines interest rates.

One of 12 Federal Reserve banks around the country, the Richmond Fed serves Maryland; North Carolina; South Carolina; Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and most of West Virginia (the Northern Panhandle is covered by the Cleveland Fed). The bank works to promote stable prices and employment and ensure there are secure and efficient ways to transfer funds electronically.

Barkin regularly meets with business leaders and officials to see how those policies and economic conditions play out day to day. In Parkersburg from Monday to Wednesday, he met in small, in-person groups and virtually with folks from the oil and gas and chemical industry, Mister Bee Potato Chips CEO Mary Anne Ketelsen, West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer, Parkersburg Mayor Tom Joyce and more. His visit was facilitated by Matheny Motors President Tim Matheny, who sits on the Richmond Fed’s West Virginia Industry Roundtable.

“We talked a lot about housing, employment,” Joyce said. *“He’s a sponge, but he’s also got a lot of knowledge.”*

Barkin said one topic that came up was the area’s low housing inventory. A majority of the housing stock in Parkersburg is more than 60 years old.

“That’s not something I would have known if I hadn’t been here,” Barkin said.

Another subject was the difficulty businesses are having hiring people. Barkin noticed numerous “help wanted” signs as he traveled in the area.

The issue isn’t unique to this area, he said. Some people are kept out of the workforce because of child care challenges or health concerns like COVID-19 and drug abuse. Others are simply being more choosy about jobs because they received more

unemployment assistance than they initially expected during the pandemic, Barkin said.

“(It seems) we have plenty of demand; the real issue is getting people off the sidelines and into the workforce,” he said.

Outside of large metro areas like Charlotte and Charleston, communities in North and South Carolina have a lot in common with West Virginia, Barkin said. Many of them are “smaller towns with industrial history and footprints,” not unlike Parkersburg, he said. The struggle with opioids is common in many places.

But Barkin found plenty of unique, positive characteristics on his visit as well.

“The mix of heavy industry is really much nicer than most places I go,” he said, adding that the presence of WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center, WVU-P and active foundations in the community “are great things to build on.”

“I just think there’s a good sense of opportunity here,” Barkin said. “Businesses are interested in what Parkersburg has to offer.”

Congratulations!

The St. Marys Oracle

May 15, 2021

May 15, 2021 - Pleasants County Leader - Page 3

Congratulations!

to these outstanding SMHS Early College students

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



Isabella Davis



Emily Hadley



Abigail Peckens



Logan Rice

Students earning an **Associate of Arts degree** also earn the CAS in General Education while completing 60 hours of college classes and attending high school.



Bralynn Davis



Jacob Elder



Lara Fetty



Hannah Hudson



Kylie Wright



www.wvup.edu | 304.424.8000

“I believe what we need is often hidden in what we have. Each student crossing the stage today has a story of accomplishment, and here at WVU Parkersburg, they were encouraged, accepted and pushed to succeed. Here, they found home.”

*~ Dr. Torie Jackson,
Commencement Speaker May 2021*

McCuskey, Manchin talk COVID relief with West Virginia officials

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 18, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/05/mccuskey-manchin-talk-covid-relief-with-west-virginia-officials/>

PARKERSBURG — State officials want to help local communities know how they can legally spend federal aid money to help repair and rebuild from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials from around the state gathered Monday at West Virginia University at Parkersburg to listen to presentations on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and ask questions of West Virginia Auditor JB McCuskey and others about federal money coming locally, how it can be spent and about the processes to keep track of those expenses.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., in a video message to those in attendance talked about the lives lost to the COVID-19 virus, including 2,700 West Virginians as well as the way people have adapted to be able to keep things moving forward and how local officials know the best way to handle local problems in receiving federal aid money through the ARP.

“This was a challenging year that tested every American,” Manchin said. “You know how best to use this funding to protect and improve the lives of those in your communities.”

The state of West Virginia is set to receive the money under the plan with millions going directly to West Virginia’s cities and counties, to be administered by local governments for coronavirus-related expenses and to be used for infrastructure projects, including water, sewer, and broadband.

McCuskey said this is the first time these funds have been delivered directly to local governments. His office is setting up accounting measures to make sure the money is properly spent where it is needed by helping local officials report to the federal government how the money is being used.

“We must avoid the pitfall of fraud, waste and graft,” McCuskey said. “We need to make sure this money is spent efficiently and effectively, legally and transparently.”

The state has discovered it needs to improve broadband access as well as repair and replace aging water and sewer lines, some of which have not been upgraded in 50 to 80 years in some places, he said.

“This money is designed to help all of you to find these problems and fix them quickly because you are the ones who know where the problems are and you can do the designs fast and efficiently,” McCuskey said. *“There is a significant amount of reporting that will be done on a fairly regular basis.”*

This is being done so people will know how the money was spent and be able to track it so 10 years down the line people aren’t asking what became of that money, he said.

“This way our constituents can hold us accountable,” McCuskey said. *“We can prove what we have done.”*

Records will show where and when the money was spent, what contractor used it and how long it took, he said. The guidelines are designed for counties and communities to do joint infrastructure projects that expand beyond one of the other’s city/county lines.

“It is not our job to tell you what you can and cannot spend this money on,” McCuskey said. *“We don’t want to do that.”*

“What we want is that when you are spending this money you are doing it confidently.”

Many local governments still have money left over from the first round of COVID aid because they weren’t sure what they could and could not spend it on, he said, adding they wanted to make sure local governments knew how it could be spent legally.

Many officials had questions about how the spending will be tracked and what will be expected of local governments and what exactly the auditor’s office will be doing as the money will be coming directly to the local governments and not allocated through the state.

Wood County Commission President Blair Couch said issues like broadband expansion need to be done in a partnership with the state to get the widest coverage possible as well as work with bordering states as broadband lines will cross into those states and lines could enter West Virginia from other states.

Couch said local governments will also have to work with the state to get additional funding to do certain water/sewer lines from allocations the state can provide from its share of the money coming in which would probably be approved by the state legislature during upcoming interim sessions.

"Maybe they will listen on how to use these funds to benefit everyone," he said.

McCuskey said the goal is to be able to build things that governments would not otherwise be able to afford.

"It is going to take a unified effort by cities and counties working together," he said.

MOVTI, WVU Parkersburg set early college classes

The Wirt County Journal

May 19, 2021

The Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute (MOVTI) and WVU Parkersburg are ready to help high school students earn college credit and fast-track their careers in Elementary Education.

This new partnership will allow MOVTI students to take two WVU Parkersburg Elementary Education classes, earning six hours of college credit and 40 hours of field placement. Twenty of the field placement hours will be in a special education setting.

"This is progress towards creating true program of study pathways for students transitioning from high school to college," Dr. Ryan Haught, MOVTI director, said.

"It is also an excellent example of collaboration between one of our state's career and technical education centers and one of our state's community colleges. Targeting a career path in our region, where the current need exceeds the current supply of qualified applicants."

The courses, Introduction to Education (EDUC 100) and Introduction to Exceptional Children (EDUC 200), will familiarize students with the teaching profession and give them the opportunity to receive hands-on experience observing and practicing teaching theories in a real classroom.

"We are excited about this new partnership with MOVTI, especially because it focuses on students exploring the teaching profession, gaining experience in the field and earning college credit," Dr. Chad Crumbaker, WVU Parkersburg provost, said.

“Working hand-in-hand with the team at MOVTI to develop and implement this innovative pathway is vital to success. We hope to partner with MOVTI and other schools in our region to develop additional pathways such as this for students in our communities.”

Students may choose one of two pathways to receive college credit. First, students may receive financial assistance from MOVTI to complete the courses through an agreement (MOU) by successfully passing the Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills test.

The Praxis I test may be taken during or after the course instruction has been completed.

Praxis tests measure the academic skills and subject knowledge needed for teaching and is required for educator licensure.

In the second pathway, students may pay WVU Parkersburg’s Early College tuition rate of \$150 per course.

Students will be awarded credit immediately upon completing and passing each course.

“This opportunity to work with MOVTI is incredible! In today’s climate, I believe we are on the cutting-edge of helping our students find the right career path in the shortest amount of time,” Dr. David Lancaster, WVU Parkersburg Education division chairperson, said.

“This program will be a rigorous and relevant career path to teaching with hands-on experience.”

For more information about MOVTI and to become a student, visit movti.org or call 304.684.2464. To learn more about WVU Parkersburg’s Elementary Education program, contact Dr. Lancaster at david.lancaster@wvup.edu or 304.424.8314. Reach out to Michelle Nabers, WVU Parkersburg Early College coordinator, at mnabers@wvup.edu or 304.424.8209 for high school enrollment in college courses.

Tri-Valedictorians, Tri-Salutatorians To Lead SMHS Class of 2021

The St. Marys Oracle

May 19, 2021



Tri-Valedictorians at SMHS

Bralynn Ashley Davis



Lara Elizabeth Fetty



Kylie Brooke Wright



Tri-Salutatorians at SMHS

Jacob Zane Elder



Emily Nicole Hadley



Logan Tyler Rice

Tri-valedictorians and trisalutatorians will lead the Class of 2021 at St. Mars High School at graduation. The ceremony is set for Sunday May 30, at 7 p.m. at Bill Hanlin Stadium.

The ceremony will cap a week of events completing students' time in the Pleasants County school system.

Named tri-valedictorians were Bralynn Ashley Davis, Lara Elizabeth Fetty and Kylie Brooke Wright. Named tri-salutatorians were Jacob Zane Elder, Emily Nicole Hadley and Logan Tyler Rice.

Tri-valedictorian Bralynn Davis is the daughter of Dave and Jody Davis of St. Marys. She is also senior class president. She is a West Virginia University Parkersburg Early

College graduate where she has earned an associate degree in art and a Certificate in Applied Science in general education prior to her high school graduation.

She is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary and National Honor Society. She has also been part of the varsity cross country and track teams all four years at SMHS, where she has helped her team to two state runner-up titles in cross country and became an All-State medalist in track.

In the fall, Bralynn will attend West Virginia University in Morgantown to major in exercise physiology and pursue a doctorate in physical therapy.

Tri-valedictorian Lara Fetty is the daughter of David and Joette Fetty of St. Marys.

She is a four-year letterman in cross country, basketball and softball.

She has participated in the WVU-P Early College program and will graduate from high school with an associate degree in the arts from WVU-P.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary, ACT 30 Club and St. Marys United Methodist Church.

In the fall, Lara will attend West Liberty University where she will major in ecology, evolution and organismal biology with the hopes of one day becoming a conservation biologist.

Tri-valedictorian Kylie Wright is the daughter of Angela and Jason Wright of St. Marys.

She is a West Virginia University Parkersburg Early College graduate where she has earned an associate degree in art and a Certificate in Applied Science in general education prior to high school graduation.

She is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary and National Honor Society.

She is a four-year letterman in basketball and was named to the second team All-State and first team All-Little Kanawha Conference 2020-21 and the 1,000-Point Club.

In the fall, Kylie will attend West Virginia University in Morgantown. She was a direct admit to its nursing program.

Tri-salutatorian Jacob Zane Elder is the son of Rob and Sheri Elder.

He has participated in Student Council, cross country and track.

He is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and Science Honorary.

He has obtained an associate degree in arts from the Early College program at West Virginia University Parkersburg.

He plans to attend Fairmont State University to pursue a bachelor's degree with a dual major in national security and intelligence and another bachelor's degree in political science.

Tri-salutatorian Emily Nicole Hadley is the daughter of Mark and Mindy Hadley of St. Marys.

She is vice president of the Class of 2021, a position she has held for the past year and will continue after graduation.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honorary and the WVU-P Early College program.

She will graduate with 50 credit hours and a Certificate of Applied Science in education.

Her plans include attending WVU-P to obtain an associate degree in nursing to become a Registered Nurse.

Tri-salutatorian Logan Rice is the son of Jerry and Julie Rice.

He is the current Student Body vice president and was involved in varsity football, basketball, track, Mu Alpha Theta and National Honor Society.

In the fall, Logan will attend Ohio University in Athens, OH, and major in sports management.

13th SMHS Senior Earns Promise Scholarship

The St. Marys Oracle

May 19, 2021



Carolyn Shingleton

Carolyn Suzanne Shingleton has been named the 13th Promise Scholar at St. Marys High School.

The scholarships, awarded by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, are worth up to \$19,000, paid at \$4,750 per year for four years or the cost of tuition and mandatory fees, whichever is less.

Carolyn plans to attend Fairmont State University in the fall and major in psychology.

She is a two-year member of National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta and will graduate with honors.

In addition, she has participated in the Early College Program at SMHS and will graduate with 27 college credit hours and is a two-year completer at MOVTI in diagnostic services at MOVTI.

Other recipients previously announced were Joshua Brookover, Bralynn Davis, Jacob Elder, Lara Fetty, Emily Hadley, Wiley Houser, Hannah Hudson, Carson Miller, Abigail Peckens, Logan Rice, Ashton Skorupinski and Kylie Wright.

Wood County Schools officials attend firefighter, EMS program demonstration

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 20, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/05/wood-county-schools-officials-attend-firefighter-ems-program-demonstration/>



Students Johnathon Sams, left, and Bear Wix, center, back up Wood County Schools Superintendent Will Hosaflook, right, during a fire hose demonstration Wednesday at the Caperton Center. Officials had the chance to tour the Wood County Technical Center Firefighter and EMS Program at the center on the campus of West Virginia University at Parkersburg. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Wood County Schools officials — including the superintendent and members of the Board of Education — attended a demonstration Wednesday of the Wood County Schools Technical Center Firefighter and EMS Program at the Caperton Center on the campus at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

The program was created in 2005 by a group of fire chiefs in the county with the plan to come up with a program that would train high schoolers to be firefighters and EMTs, according to instructor and retired Parkersburg firefighter Jim Reynolds.

The program has grown since then. It began with pre-owned equipment donated from local departments and only having one inoperable fire truck and now is able to buy more up-to-date and new equipment. It also has a fully functional fire truck donated by Blennerhassett Volunteer Fire Department and an EMS vehicle donated by WVU Medicine Camden Clark.

Open to Wood County high school juniors, the two-year program offers students firefighting, hazmat, American Heart Association CPR first aid and EMT courses under the state's public service training, said Reynolds.

"What they get in two years, it took me probably 10 years to get. Everything they need as far as basic training for working at a fire department or ambulance service they have the opportunity to get in two years," Reynolds said. *"This is a county program and it's nice to know that people are aware we are here and parents trust their kids to us to train them and I'm happy they (officials) came out and they're welcome anytime."*

Students of the program gave demonstrations of what they have learned in front of Superintendent Will Hosaflook, school board members Judy Johnson, Rick Olcott and Ron Tice and Director of Wood County technical programs Pier Bocchini.

The demonstration included two students competing against each other on who would be first to put their firefighter uniform and equipment on safely and properly, crawling through a box with wires inside as quickly as possible and going through a scenario of a victim suffering a heart attack.

Hosaflook and Olcott got involved during the demonstration personally, both spraying water from the fire truck's water hose.

"It's a testament to the program and our school system. This is a wonderful opportunity, I think there are only six other counties in the state that offer a program like this and the students here are very knowledgeable," Hosaflook said. *"These students know what to do given the circumstance and situation that they are in. I'm very proud of Mr. Reynolds and Pier Bocchini for this program and to give students an opportunity for life skills that can propel them into life. So I truly appreciate them, truly appreciate the demonstrations today and I feel very good to know that these students will be protecting us."*

Two students of the program recently received gold medals in the state's SkillsUSA competition and will move on to nationals sometime in June.

Parkersburg High School senior Charles Boston, who is a member of East Wood VFD, won gold in First Aid & CPR, earning the highest score among nine other participants in a 50-question quiz.

Receiving gold in Fighting, Parkersburg South senior Emma Hunt, a member of Elizabeth-Wirt VFD, also had the highest score possible out of four.

Originally supposed to take place in Nashville, Tenn., Boston and Hunt will have their nationals demonstrations take place at the Caperton Center and live-streamed to the judges.

Both Boston and Hunt say they are disappointed about having to compete virtually, but they do prefer having it at home, instead of two states away.

"We're familiar with all the equipment we have. We've trained with it for the past two years. We know how it all works," Boston said. "So we're not going to go somewhere and there's one new piece of equipment that we don't know how to use. We know how to use this stuff."



Students of the Wood County Schools Technical Center Firefighter and EMS Program. (Photo by Tyler Bennett)

"It's kind of having the home team advantage. If you forget something, you're not two states away from it," Hunt said. "I think it'll be a lot of fun. I'm very nervous but we've been in this for a long time so why not keep going."

Williamstown's Emilee Ellison to compete in cross country, track at W.Va. Wesleyan

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 20, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/sports/2021/05/williamstowns-emilee-ellison-to-compete-in-cross-country-track-at-w-va-wesleyan/>



Courtesy photo Williamstown's Emilee Ellison (front row, center) signed a National Letter of Intent to continue her running career at West Virginia Wesleyan.

WILLIAMSTOWN – Williamstown High School senior Emilee Ellison had a celebration ceremony Wednesday afternoon and she's ready for her next step as a student-athlete at West Virginia Wesleyan.

Ellison, a four-time all-Little Kanawha Conference cross country honoree with three of those being on the first team, earned seven athletic letters for the Yellowjackets. Along with being a member of the four-time WHS state championship cross country team, she also qualified twice in the 3200 at the state track meet.

"I'm leaning more toward getting a doctorate, I think. Obviously, that's a few years down the line but for job opportunities that's the best thing to shoot for," said Ellison, who carries a 4.5 GPA and has 33 hours of college credit from WVU Parkersburg, when asked about what she hopes to do after earning a psychology degree.

"I think I'd like to be a psychologist, more than a therapist, on the researching side. My plan is to go there for four years and possibly go to WVU for graduate school."

The Yellowjacket, who would've had eight letters if not for track season being canceled due to Mountain State COVID-19 restrictions last spring, made all region during the 2019 cross country season with a 5K PR of 20 minutes and 55 seconds.



Courtesy photo Ellison competes in a cross country race last fall.

She also was a member of the 2019 Williamstown state championship track team.

"I'm nervous and excited at the same time," admitted Ellison of competing for the Bobcats of head cross country and track coach Alan Crise. *"I still feel like a child half the time, and now that I have to go to adult now it's really crazy to me."*

Ellison said she could graduate in three years because of the credits she's earned through West Virginia University at Parkersburg (30) and the three dual credits from Marshall University.

"I don't think I know anybody on the team," said Ellison, who is familiar with assistant coaches Kelsey Chambers and Andrea Chidester. *"Kelsey was a counselor at coach (Steven) Nutter's running camp, so my freshman year going into cross country season she was one of my counselors and we got really close."*

"I've talked to her a bit throughout the years and we get along really well and that's one of the reasons I chose Wesleyan. Andrea Chidester is actually a WHS alumni so I had something in common with the coaches, and I feel like they could understand me well."

Aside from W.Va. Wesleyan, a Division II program which competes in the Mountain East Conference, the 'Jacket also made official visits to Waynesburg and Frostburg State.

"It was small and homey," Ellison said of the campus. "It was comfortable. The campus was beautiful, very like a nice small town vibe. It just felt comforting."

For the first time in her career, Ellison will be competing in indoor track as well.

Although she's not sure exactly what events she might run in college, the thinclad does have some interest in competing in the steeplechase.

Getting a summer workout program, focusing on that and staying healthy are the current items at hand for Ellison.

"I need to do strength training and stuff, more chore workouts and things like that," she said. "I'm building strength a lot through my biking and swimming, not just running, and that will help out and hopefully I'm not stressing my legs out running on concrete everyday."

Ellison said her top individual memory was running sub 21 minutes at the regional cross country meet her sophomore year, but she added "I'll definitely always remember my teammates, really.

"The Williamstown cross country and track teams, it's just something I'll never forget. I love my teammates, and I hope to keep in contact with them and I'll try to come back and watch them every now and then to show support."

From the files of the St. Marys Oracle

The St. Marys Oracle

May 25, 2021

Thirty Years – 1991

St. Marys High School senior, Brian Smith, accepted an invitation to join 32 other football standouts on the North Bear All-Star squad. The annual North-South-Football clash features 66 of the most outstanding football players in West Virginia. Brian is a 6-foot-1, 215 lb. tight end and defensive end.

Mary Wells, Colin Anderson Center personnel officer presented a \$50 check to Apartment A individuals and staff in recognition of their winning the center's safety

poster contest. Winners included Tony L., James T., David W., Kenneth Decker, Sandy Fletcher, Scott Brown, safety coordinator Jamie Cupp and Vieva Simmons.

Four Pleasants County residents are among West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Class of 1991. They are Deborah Mullins of Belmont, Associate in Applied Science degree in social services technology; Marjorie Van Noy of Belmont, AAS in social services technology; Richard Moore of St. Marys. Associate in Art.

SMHS Graduates, Honors

The St. Marys Oracle

May 25, 2021

Leslie Brooke Ash

Emilie Lynn Asher, MC

*Hope Elizabeth Bennett

Josie Lynn Bills, MC

Shawn Matthew Boley, A

*Brennan Garrett Boron, MC, N, NT, S

*Darrien Gabriel Bortey

Joshua Dewain Brookover

*Jason Andrew Clayton, Jr., M, MC, NT

*Keith Wayne Cummings, III, N

**Bralynn Ashley Davis, AS, C, M, N, P, S

Haiden Brice Davis

*Isabella Faith Davis, C, N, S

Joshua Lee Davis

Hunter Scott DeLancey, A, MC, NT

Olivia Lynn DeNeese

Autumn Rose Dennis

Charles Kenneth Dunn

**Jacob Zane Elder, AS, C, M, N, P, S

*Alexus Caroline Farson, N

Tyler Wayne Felter

**Lara Elizabeth Fetty, AS, C, M, N, P, S, 30

Joseph Lynn Flesher

Joshua Michael Flesher, A

Kacie Leann Garrett
John Michael Giboney, A, NT
**Emily Nicole Hadley, C, M, N, P, S
Alexis Lee Hashman
Isabella Marie Hileman
*Sydni Paige Hinton
William Wiley Houser, P
*Hannah Marie Hudson, AS, C, M, N, P, S, SP
Christopher Allen Kalinofski
Kaylie Marie King
*Tressa Jane Lamp, A
Benjamin Miles Long
Isaiah Shawn Loy, A, MC
Jaden James Daniel Lucas
Haley Dawn McCardell, NT
Steven Tyler McCoy
Adam Braden Mercer, A
*Carson Jacob Miller, NT
Hunter Manuel Mitchell
Jonathon Robert Morrison
Owen Timothy Moss, MC
Robert Hoyt Moss, III, A, MC
Jacob R Neiswanger, A
Mahayla Brooke Nichols, MC, NT
Kyra Elizabeth Parker, SP
Ethan Michael Parsons
William Michael Parsons
Hailey Isabella Payne
**Abigail Faith Peckens, C, P, M, N, S
Isaiah O'Brian Peckens
*Bradley James Pfalzgraf
Eddie Eugene Pugh, A
Jeremy Brian Rhodes, MC
**Logan Tyler Rice, C, N, M, S, P
Isaiah Mark Shepard
*Carolyn Suzanne Shingleton, N, M, P

Madison Brookann Sigler, MC
Ashton Christopher Skorupinski, P
**William Blake Stanton, N, M, S
Ethan Michael Statler
**Brittney Dawn Strum, N, M, S
Aaron Joseph Stull, A, MC
Isaac Nathaniel Sunderman, A
*Desiree Lea Taylor, M, N, S
Eden Baray Turner
Jennifer Hope Turner, A
*Katelyn Faith Turner, M, N, NT
*Cyle Allen West A, NT
*Reagan Jalynn Williams, MC, NT, S
Brayden Tyler Wilson, A
Jeb Earl Alan Wince
Simon Wiley Wren
**Kylie Brooke Wright, AS, C, M, N, P, S, 30
Aidan Robert Zerby

A-Agricultural Education Completer: Blue FFA Sash
AS- Associate Degree in Arts WVUP: Purple and White Cord
C- Certificate of Applied Science in General Education WVUP: Blue and Gold Cord
M- Mu Alpha Theta: Light Blue and Gold Cord
MC- MOVTI Cord: Teal and Black Cord
N- National Honor Society: Blue Stole
NT- National Technical Honor Society: Silver Stole
P- Promise Scholar: Gold Cord
S- Science Honorary: Green Cord
SP- Spanish Honorary: Red Cord
30- 30 Club Recognition: Red, White, and Blue Cord
**High Honors 4.0+ GPA: White Sash
*Honors 3.5-3.9 GPA: Gold Sash

Ritchie County High School seniors earn more than \$990,400 in scholarships, awards

The Pennsboro News

May 26, 2021

Ritchie County High School seniors received \$990,480 in scholarships and awards.

Awards and scholarships were presented to the graduating seniors during an awards ceremony Friday, May 21.

Administrators, staff and representatives from various colleges, local organizations and alumni associations presented awards and scholarships to several seniors during the ceremony.

Awards, scholarships and presentations distributed included:

LEO Club Scholarship: Lily Copeland.

Mountaineer Parents Club Student Body President Scholarship: Madeline Hilvers.

WVU Top of the Class Scholarship: Madeline Hilvers.

WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences: Caleb Kuffner.

WVU Go First Level 5 Scholarship: Benjamin Bartlett and Jacob Easton.

WVU Go First Level 2 Scholarship and Scholarship for Distinction Level 3: Jordan Adams, Addison Jones, Katrina Jones and Benjamin Bartlett.

WVU Go First Level 1 Scholarship and Scholarship for Distinction Level 2: Madeline Hilvers, Caleb Kuffner, Katelyn Lambert and Joseph Moler.

Troy Mills Scholarship: Rachelle White.

Ritchie County Deputy Sheriff's Association Scholarship: Carigan Hayes, Katrina Jones, Creed Knight and Gabriel Morrison.

Nathaniel Bartlett Memorial Scholarship: Gabriel Morrison.

Makayla Horner Memorial Scholarship: Carigan Hayes and Roxy Monroe.

McCullough-Raiguel Funeral Home Scholarship: Kaelynn McKenna.

Marshall University – Level 4 Get Started Scholarship: Christopher Sandy.

Marshall University – Presidential Scholarship: Dakota Wayne.

RCBS Athletic Boosters Scholarship: Madeline Hilvers and Dakota Wayne.

West Virginia University Parkersburg Presidential Scholarship: Joden Juilfs.

West Virginia University Parkersburg Early College Achievement Award: Alexis Beck, Benjamin Bartlett, Blaine Bowie, Chloe Campbell, Kaleb Cole, Chloe Elliott, Alexis Enoch, Mackenzie Harshbarger, Carigan Hayes, Sarah Hill, Madeline Hilvers, Catherine Jones, Gabrielle Jones, Katrina Jones, Joden Juilfs, Creed Knight, Caleb Kuffner, Katelyn Lambert, Larissa McDonald, Roxy Monroe, Haley Nutt, Anthony Rader, Isaac Slater, Destinee Smith, Kaitlyn Wass, Dakota Wayne, Rachelle White and Clayton Wilson.

Coach Kenny Wright Scholarship c/o St. Marys End Zone Club: Dakota Wayne.

Pennsboro High School Scholarship: Kaleb Cole. Harrisville Lion's Club Scholarship: Caleb Kuffner.

Bob Zide Memorial Scholarship: Alexis Enoch.

Haught Scholarship: Caleb Kuffner.

John A. Statler Memorial Scholarship: Chloe Elliott.

Wayne-Meadoer-Elliott Scholarship: Kaleb Cole.

Thomas F. Cowan Memorial Scholarship: Chloe Elliott and Dakota Wayne.

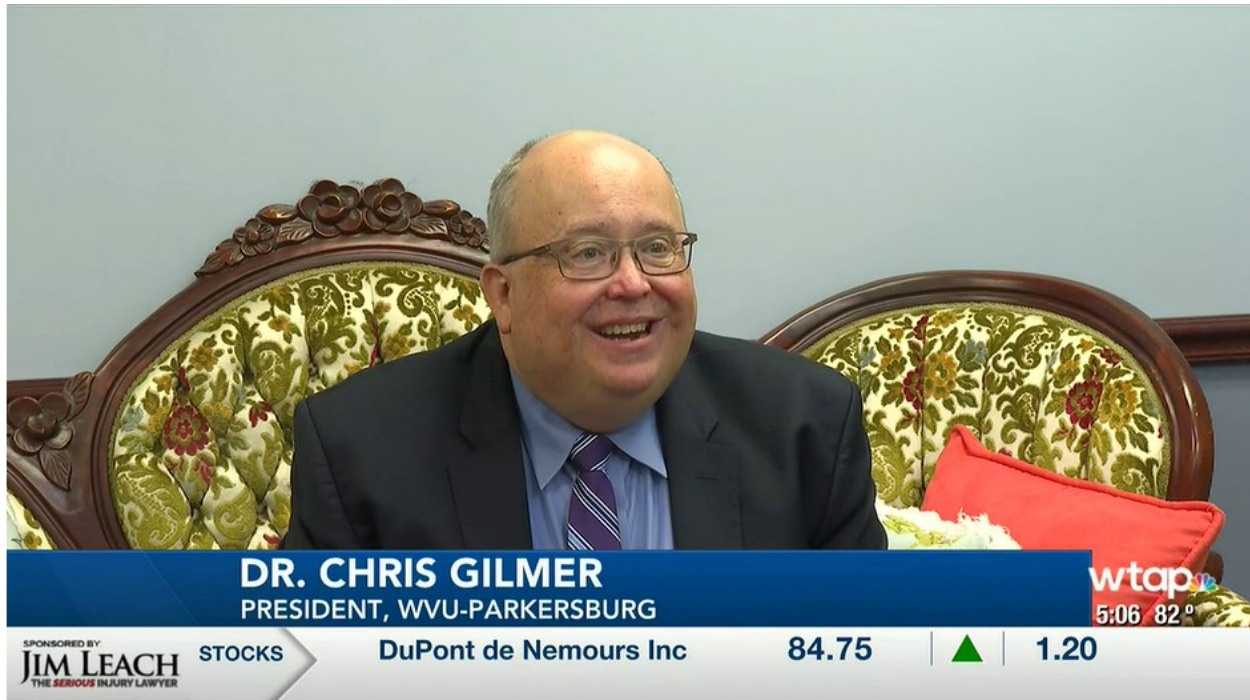
Alexander D. II & Blanche L. Dulaney Scholarship: Clayton Wilson and Dakota Wayne

WVU-Parkersburg sees increase in attendance for 2021-2022 year

WTAP-TV [video]

May 27, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/05/27/wvu-parkersburg-sees-increase-in-attendance-for-2021-2022-year/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg says a lot of students are planning to attend in the fall.

The community college is seeing a significant increase in nearly every enrollment category compared to last year.

The institution saw a three percent increase in continuing students, 12 percent in new students, and even a 70 percent jump in early college students.

This is an overall six percent increase in overall enrollment for the 2021 fall semester.

WVU-P president Dr. Chris Gilmer says a lot of this has to do with more in-person learning coming back.

“We directly attribute that to how excited students are that we are planning to come back face-to-face for the fall semester,” says Gilmer.

Officials at WVU-P say that they will be following CDC and state guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing for next semester.

Wood County ceremony honors adults who earned high school equivalency diplomas

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

May 28, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/05/wood-county-ceremony-honors-adults-who-earned-high-school-equivalency-diplomas/>

PARKERSBURG — The Mid-Ohio Adult Education and Wood County Adult Learning Center hosted a recognition ceremony Thursday evening inside the Actors Guild of Parkersburg theater for those who obtained their high school equivalency diploma between May 2020 and May 2021.

Not being able to host graduation last spring, 21 out of the 53 total graduates attended the ceremony and received their diplomas in person.

The ceremonies' keynote speaker was Warren Elementary School Principal Joe Oliverio.

Oliverio is a Pleasants County native and was for a long time associated with education in both Wood County and at the state level, before moving to the other side of the river to Ohio.

During his speech, he told the graduating class that their journey to get to this milestone wasn't picture perfect, but the fact that they continued on the path despite the ups and downs will make them resilient later in life.



Keynote speaker Joe Oliverio, principal of Warren Elementary School, speaks during the graduation inside the Actors Guild Theatre on Thursday evening. (Photo by Tyler Bennett)

“Some of you encountered the trials and tribulations of life’s ups and downs. Some of you needed to delay this night because you took care of your family. Through it all, you eventually reach out and prepare yourself for the time, energy and coursework to complete your high school equivalency diploma. That’s something that no one can ever take away,” Oliverio said.

“As Voltaire said ‘Each player must accept the cards life deals him or her; but once they are in hand, he or she alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game.’ You’ve played your cards and you’re the winners tonight, because of how you’ve played your game,” he said.

Students had to deal with following COVID protocols throughout the year and with constant construction where Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) testing was taking place. TASC administrator Bruce Goody said he was proud to see the students completing one last hurdle despite the distractions.

“So all different days of the week, in all different times of the day. We took your temperature, we spaced you out and we sent you home to study,” Goody said. “Some of you ignored the construction in the new center, but we made it through all of that, to give you some memories that nobody else is going to have.”

The graduates of the 2020 and 2021 classes were: Cora Adams, Nellie Amos, Amanda Bailey, Andrei Baltazar, Kaytlynn Banks, Anthony Barker, Cody Batten, Sasha Bee, Tommy Bosley, Deborah Bounds, Richard Brown, Preston Brush, Cody Byers, Chris Clendenin, Cameron Cox, Maddy Cunningham, Aerianna Farnsworth, Carlos Flores, Landon Gainer, Nora Gordon, Jade Graham, Samuel Greene, Samuel Harvey, Briana Hesse, Austin Leek, Jerry Leggett, Chole Lott, Jasmine Mar, Adeline Marchal, Liam McIntosh, Dakota McNemar, Kayla Menking, Sierra Miller, Kendra Monroe, Lindsey Moore, Trinity Naylor, Brenden Post, Brady Powell, Brianna Powell, Abigail Ridenhour, Scott Rogers, Ashley Schofield, Ashley Schuler, Mikhail Short, Chad Spencer, Nicole Stivers, Jennifer Swiger and Tyler Teters.

*Joe Oliverio is secretary for the WVU Parkersburg Board of Governors.

Scholarships Listed

The Calhoun Chronicle
May 27, 2021

Calhoun County High School has announced the name, school, intended major, and scholarships (annual and four-year total) for this year's graduates:

Jordan Yoak, WVU (exercise physiology), HSTA Tuition Waiver, WVU Top Scholar Award, GSC Dean's, MU Level 1, \$20,500, \$41,000.

Briar Stehman, GSC (environmental science), GSC Hidden Promise, GSC Dean's, Promise, \$7,750, \$31,000.

Alexandrya Lipscomb, WVU (forensic examining, WVU Go First, CCHS Alumni, GSC Dean's, MU Level 2, \$5,000, \$30,500.

Marissa Taylor, FSU (exercise science), Lions Club, GSC Dean's, MU Level 3, \$4,000, \$14,000.

Levi Walker, Washington County Career Center (HVAC), Above & Beyond Award.

Ellie Stump, GSC (biology), GSC Director's; Drexel Ice, \$1,300, \$5,200.

Tavia Fowler, GSC (chemistry), GSC Hidden Promise, GSC Director's, \$2,500, \$10,000.

Summer Jones, WVU (animal science). WVU Davis College Dean's, WVU Go First; GSC Dean's, \$18,000, \$24,000.

Paige Persinger, GSC (English education), GSC Hidden Promise, GSC Dean's, Homegrown, \$5,500, \$22,000.

Madison Gribble, Fordham (psychology), Ryan A. Underwood, GSC Dean's, \$2,500, \$8,500. Ronnie Laughlin, Quest4Air Flight School (aviation/pilot license), GSC Director's, \$1,000, \$4,000.

Hannah Johnson, BridgeValley Community/Tech (dental hygienist), GSC Director's, \$1,500, \$6,000.

Gabe Metz, Pierpont (culinary arts). Marissa King, GSC (English education), GSC Director's, Delta Gamma Grant, Homegrown, \$3,700, \$14,000.

Luke Basnett, Concord (athletic trainer).

Jaden Swearingen, Northwestern, Ohio (auto mechanics).

Adrianna Brannon, FSU (civil engineering), FSU Soar Scholarship, GSC Deans, \$2,500, \$12,000.

Christopher Kendall, GSC (computer science), Hidden Promise, GSC Director's, \$2,000, \$8,000.

Kyla Lovejoy, GSC (biology), Hidden Promise, Band Stipend, GSC Director's, \$3,000, \$12,000.

Sally Morris (psychology), GSC Director's, \$1,000, \$4,000.

Philine Lippmann (psychology), GSC Director's, MU Level 4, \$2,750, \$11,000.

Kaylin Parsons, WVU-P (nursing), GSC Dean's, WVU-P Minnie Hamilton, \$5,000, \$20,000.

Samantha Tanner, FSU (nursing), GSC Dean's, \$2,000, \$8,000.

Dominick Whipkey, GSC.

Lacy Whytsell, GSC (early education), GSC Director's, Homegrown, \$4,000, \$16,000.

Trinity Yeager, Pierpont (criminal justice), DAR Good Citizen Award; GSC Director's, \$1,000, \$4,000.

Tori Arnold, GSC Director's, \$1,500, \$6,000.

Abby Yoak, BridgeValley Community/Tech, GSC Dean's, \$1,500, \$6,000.

Hailey Staton, GSC Director's, \$1,500, \$6,000.

Monique Taylor, MU Level 4, \$1,250, \$5,000.

WVU Parkersburg Veterans Corps Broadcasts Memorial Day Program

Clutch MOV

May 28, 2021

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-veterans-corps-broadcasts-memorial-day-program/>

This Memorial Day, tune into WPKM 96.3 FM The Beet, the college radio station of WVU Parkersburg, for special programming honoring the men and women who gave their life serving in the U.S. military.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg Veterans Corps students and advisors and President Dr. Chris Gilmer will host the program airing on Monday, May 31, at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. It will also be available at [youtube.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.youtube.com/wvuparkersburg).



Students Jared Smith (left) and Chelsie Fost (right) prepare their Memorial Day radio scripts.

"Many times, the patriotic holidays – Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Independence Day and Memorial Day – are confused, but all have a different meaning," said Darren Shearlock, WVU Parkersburg veterans advocate. "Independence Day celebrates the

patriotic spirit of America; Veterans Day is for those who wore the uniform; Armed Forces Day is for those who still wore the uniform and Memorial Day is for the ones who didn't get the chance to take the uniform off."

"If we don't remember the ones who served, we won't have a country to remember the sacrifice of those who came before and no one to take up the oath to protect this nation."

The special will include a reading of General John A. Logan's Memorial Day Order, the Gettysburg Address, a poem and personal messages from the Veterans Corps.

The full list of hosts includes:

Dr. Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg President
Jared Smith, U.S. Army Reserves Staff Sergeant Vet.
Kurt Klettner, U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Vet.
Bob Boyter, U.S. Marine Corps Vet.
Darren Shearlock, U.S. Army Ret.
Chelsie Fost, U.S. Army Reserves Vet.
Brianna Gray, spouse of U.S. Army and Navy Vet.



WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer gives the opening remarks for the Memorial Day special.

“The college’s Memorial Day program is to honor our fallen,” said Jared Smith, Veterans Corps president. “The cause is greater than I, and it is a privilege to celebrate those who gave their everything for me. It is only appropriate that the Veterans Corps remember this holiday and teach our children and communities its true meaning.”

For more information or to become a WVU Parkersburg Veterans Corps member, please contact Darren Shearlock at darren.shearlock@wvup.edu or 304-424-8000 ext. 337.

St. Marys High School holds graduation ceremony

WTAP-TV

May 30, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/05/31/st-marys-high-school-holds-graduation-ceremony/>

ST. MARYS, W.Va. (WTAP) - St. Marys High School held its 117th commencement ceremony on Sunday evening.

The ceremony was held outside at the school’s Bill Hanlin Stadium.

During the ceremony, 78 students received diplomas.

The ceremony featured speeches from the three salutatorians: Jacob Elder, Emily Hadley, and Logan Rice, the three valedictorians: Bralynn Davis, Lara Fetty, and Kylie Wright, as well as the class historian William Stanton.

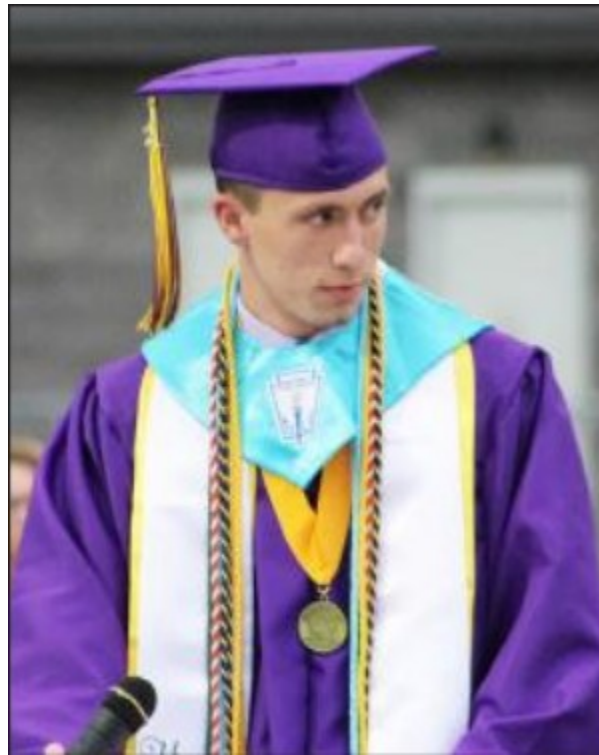
It also included a presentation of the senior class flag from the class officers.

*Bralynn Davis, Jacob Elder, Laura Fetty Emily Hadley, Logan Rice and Kylie Wright are WVU Parkersburg Early College students.

**3 Valedictorians, 3 Salutatorians Address Class of 2021 At 117th Commencement
Sunday, May 30**

The St. Marys Oracel

June 2, 2021



Hello everyone and welcome to the graduation of the Class of 2021.

I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers, administrators, the board of education and the community for everything they have done for not only me, but for everyone. I am standing here today as someone that truly did not plan to be in this position.

I am not a man of many words, and even though I took a public speaking class, it didn't really help, so please bear with me as I give this speech.

When I was working on this speech, I struggled with knowing what to say because I am someone who is more about action rather than words.

I can honestly say that without the hard work and discipline that I have, I wouldn't be in this position I am in today.

This is because of parents, Julie and Jerry Rice.

My dad taught me that a person has to work for what they are given and that you cannot stand alone just on your name. He taught me to not only be strong physically, but also mentally.

There are always going to be people or other things in life that will try to get to you, so he taught me to try to fight through those things and to be you.

My mom taught me to have good character. She valued being kind to others, and being respectful and understanding as well.

Hopefully that worked, because if it didn't then this just got pretty awkward. Without the guidance of my parents, I wouldn't be who I am or have the success I have had.

I stand here today as a true student-athlete. I have been successful in athletics and also in the classroom, and still maintained the morals I have even through all of the obstacles I faced.

I have my athletic honors, but I am proud to be one of the salutatorians of this year's class. I have done everything I've wanted to do in high school, and also managed to graduate with high honors and a certificate in applied education from WVU-P.

All of this was possible because of the way I value hard work and discipline.

To my classmates, we have faced a lot of obstacles in these past four years, but we all have come out of it together and I know that any obstacles we may hit later in life, we will continue to do so.

We may not all be the best of friends, but the memories we have will never be forgotten.

My parting words for the Class of 2021, having good character and being a good person will get you far in life, and eventually, will be noticed by others.

Thank you.

WVUP business program ranked as most affordable in W.Va.

WTAP-TV [video]

June 1, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/06/02/wvup-business-program-ranked-as-most-affordable-in-wva/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg continues to provide students with an education that is affordable.

The business program at WVU-P ranks as the most affordable in West Virginia compared to other four-year institutions.

It is currently ranked at 18th in the nation according to [University HQ](#).

“Affordability was one of the major factors for me coming here as well and I see it a lot when I talk to my other friends who have ventured out and gone else where for college. And it’s great to be at this point in my life and be one of the few people I know that is not buried in college debt. So, that’s a huge foot forward in getting out into the real world,” says WVU-P business school alum, Jake Frady.

The business school has numerous graduates that continue to speak about how the program helped them in their professional career and personal life.

“I have friends who have went to larger school both in-state and out-of-state who received business degrees. And I’m on par with them if not doing better. And I think that a lot of our students have similar feelings with that,” says fellow alum, Olivia Reeder. “We have quality education at an affordable price. And there’s no denying that through the success of our students.”

The Business Administration Management and Marketing concentration focuses on running internal and external operations for a company, like creating a product or service, managing staff and profits, identifying viable markets and more.

“We’re delighted to be chosen and happily accept the recognition,” said Jeff Holland, WVU Parkersburg Business, Accounting and Public Service (BAPS) division chairperson. “Our goal has always been to deliver the highest quality education that is possible and this serves as a sign that we are moving in the right direction.”

Constellium and WVU Parkersburg award skilled trades scholarships to area students

Jackson Newspapers

June 1, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/local/2021/06/01/constellium-skilled-trade-scholarships-jackson-county-students/7494455002/>

A scholarship program in its second year will help high school students pay for college and start a skilled trades career through a partnership with West Virginia University at Parkersburg and Constellium.

The Skilled Trades Scholarship Program, a collaboration between Constellium and WVU Parkersburg, provides scholarships to selected students to help them earn a college degree and gain employment in a skilled trades job. Students may choose to complete an Associate of Applied Science degree in Multi-Craft Technology or Reliability and Maintenance Technology offered through WVU Parkersburg. After completing their associate degree, students will commit to employment with Constellium for at least five years as part of the scholarship requirements. Constellium and WVU Parkersburg will honor the students with a signing ceremony on June 16 at Constellium featuring messages from several state dignitaries and WVCTC Chancellor Sarah Tucker.



“Constellium has faced the skilled trade shortage that most businesses across the country are challenged with. We decided to solve this problem by offering qualified students an opportunity to get an associate degree in their chosen craft and an opportunity to work at Constellium as a millwright or electrician once they acquire their degree. This program has a goal of not only providing an education to students with a desire to be 'hands on,' but it will give them an opportunity for a career in their community, rather than going out of state to obtain work,” said Teresa Kerns, Constellium community relations coordinator.

Jackson County students selected for the inaugural scholarship program are:

Christian Groves, Ripley High School

Iann Barton, Ravenswood High School

Dalton Moore, Ravenswood High School

Tyler Casto, Ravenswood High School

Scholarship recipients are selected based on criteria such as grade point average, school attendance, letters of recommendation and an interview process. After all applicable aid is applied, the scholarship will cover any remaining costs to allow students to graduate debt free.

“Constellium has been a strong partner with WVUP for over 10 years through training and credentialing opportunities. We were thrilled Constellium chose us to create and provide the degree programs for their scholarship program. Not only are the students receiving the benefits of education related to their future employment with Constellium, but they are also increasing economic growth for our region and the state of West Virginia,” said Dean Michele Wilson, Office of Workforce and Economic Development at WVU Parkersburg.

5K Run and Walk a success

The Marietta Times

June 3, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/06/5k-run-and-walk-a-success/>

The 11th Annual Ohio River Sternwheel Festival Memorial 5K Run and Walk was held on May 29, 2021. The event was a huge success because of the many run/walk participants, business sponsors, and assistance from local businesses, city government and other individuals.

We are extremely grateful to Memorial Health System for their participation. We also thank the many participants who entered the race and participated in the day’s events. A very big thank you to our sponsors: Carol Goff & Associates Real Estate; Charles Wentz State Farm Insurance Agency; Discount Signs and Awnings; Durham Financial Services LLC; Edward Jones Investments, Mary Segrest, Financial Advisor; Engels Natural Healing & Massage; Eye Care Associates, O.D.; Hall Financial Advisors LLC; Hammons General Dentistry; Healthy Start Nutrition; Marietta College; Marty’s Print Shop; Morrison, Incorporated; NFP (Biehl Hawn Insurance); Peoples Bank; Platinum Salon and Spa; Real Living McCarthy Real Estate; River City Dental Group; Rockstar Wellness, LLC; Smitty’s Pizza; Star of India Restaurant; The Original Pizza Place; The River City Runners and Walkers Club, especially Joe Corra; Top Drawer Furniture & Design Studio; Trademark Solutions; Washington State Community College; West Virginia University at Parkersburg; WMOA 1490 AM, 101.3 FM Radio.

We also thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals that provided services or supplies for the race: Rite Aid Pharmacy; members of the Marietta City Police Department and the Washington County Sheriff’s Department; the City of Marietta; the Ohio River Sternwheel Festival Queen Genevieve, Macie Westrick; Little

Miss Sternwheel, Alice Haynes; Little Mr. Sternwheel, Brandon Schilling; Captain J.J. Sands with the Valley Gem Sternwheeler; Haas Septic and Portable Toilets; and Warrens IGA. Thank you to the many Ohio River Sternwheel Festival Committee members and friends of the committee who volunteered at the race.

This 5K Run and Walk provides funding for the Ohio River Sternwheel Festival, which is offered free to the public. We will be hosting the 12th Annual 5K Run and Walk next year on Saturday, May 28, 2022.

We also look forward to seeing everyone at the next Ohio River Sternwheel Festival Sept. 10, 11, 12, 2021.

Ravenswood High School graduation information and awards

Jackson Newspapers

June 3, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/local/2021/06/03/ravenswood-high-school-class-2021-graduation-scholarships-awards/5253849001/>

Class of 2021

Motto: We survived everything

Flower: Red and White Roses

Colors: Red and Silver

Song: Fireball! by Brian Beck

Valedictorian: Cora Farra

Salutatorian: Houston Kessell

Class Officers

President: Noah Smithson

Vice President: Case Fletcher

Treasurer: Emalee Liptrap

Historian: Myna Spencer

Representatives: Savannah Bibbee, Seth Marra, Hannah Rhodes, Hollie Hord, Taylor Heath

Class Counselor: Shelly Updegrave

Class Sponsors

Mark Anderson

Gary Braham

Toni Burks

Leanna Gladden

Julie Speece

Nancy McCoy

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS (Award amounts may be subject to change based on tuition changes and funding)

Fairmont State University (Ms. Theresa Twigg)

Samantha Hines: Jed & Vicki Smith School Sch.: \$500

Glenville State College (Ms. Angelica Nichols)

Savannah Bibbee: Directors Scholarship: $\$1,000 * 4 = \$4,000$

Joseph Reynolds: Directors Scholarship: $\$1,000 * 4 = \$4,000$

Jamie Naylor: Directors Scholarship: $\$1,500 * 4 = \$6,000$

Alison Philpott: Directors Scholarship: $\$1,500 * 4 = \$6,000$

Jacob Mattox: Deans Scholarship: $\$2,000 * 4 = \$8,000$

Marshall University (Mr. Matthew Groves)

Jamie Naylor: Get Started Sch. (Level 3): $\$1,500 * 4 = \$6,000$

Alexandra Harvey: Get Started Sch. (Level 4): $\$1,250 * 4 = \$5,000$

Grant Thacker: A. Michael Perry, Imma Blake: $\$2,500 * 4 = \$10,000$

Ohio University (Ms. Toni Burks)

Cora Farra: Admission Promise: $\$2,000 * 4 = \$8,000$, Excellence Scholar: $\$5,500 * 4 = \$22,000$, Trustee Award: $\$3,500 * 4 = \$14,000$, $\$44,000$

Zoey Matthews: Ohio Commitment: $\$2,000 * 4 = \$8,000$, Ohio Trustee Award: $\$4,000 * 4 = \$16,000$, Ohio Excellence Scholar: $\$2,500 * 4 = \$10,000$, Ohio Admissions Promise: $\$2,000 * 4 = \$8,000$, $\$42,000$

WVU Potomac State College (Ms. Toni Burks)

Sarah Smith: Go First Sch.: $\$800 * 4 = \$3,200$

West Virginia Wesleyan College (Ms. Shelly Updegrave)

Brad Fint: Presidential Sch.: $\$17,000 * 4 = \$68,000$

Wesleyan Grant: $\$5,000 * 4 = \$20,000$, $\$88,000$

Emily Hunter: Presidential Sch.: $\$17,000 * 4 = \$68,000$, Mason Crickard Sch.: $\$1,000 * 4 = \$4,000$, $\$72,000$

Wheeling University (Ms. Shelly Updegrave)

Anna Hunt: High Honors Merit Sch.: $\$16,000 * 4 = \$64,000$, Women's Basketball Sch.: $\$6,600 * 4 = \$26,400$

West Virginia University (Susan Gerstell)

Mychal Boggs: Deans's Level 1 Sch.: $\$2,000 * 4 = \$8,000$, Sch. of Distinction (Level 1): $\$4,000 * 4 = \$16,000$, $\$24,000$

Houston Kessell: Sch. of Distinction (Level 1): $\$4,000 * 4 = \$16,000$

Emalee Liptrap: Deans's Level 2 Sch.: $\$1,500 * 4 = \$6,000$, Go First Level 2 with the Sch. of Distinction (Level 3): $\$2,500 * 4 = \$10,000$, $\$16,000$

Seth Marra: Deans's Level 2 Sch.: $\$1,500 * 4 = \$6,000$, Go First Level 2 with the Sch. of Distinction (Level 3): $\$2,500 * 4 = \$10,000$, $\$16,000$

Caleb Maxon: Go First Level 2 with the Sch. of Distinction (Level 3): $\$2,500 * 4 = \$10,000$

Jasmine Naylor: Go First Level 2 with the Sch. of Distinction (Level 3): $\$2,500 * 4 = \$10,000$

Savannah Vance: Go First Sch. (Level 5): $\$750 * 4 = \$3,000$

Gracie Yeager: G Belmont Berry Sch.: $\$1,000 * 4 = \$4,000$, Go First Sch. (Level 5):
 $\$750 * 4 = \$3,000$, $\$7,000$

West Virginia University at Parkersburg (Dr. Torie Jackson)

Skylar Deem: Presidential Sch.: $\$3,840 * 4 = \$15,360$ (amount varies based on programs)

Yellowjackets' Ella Hesson to run for Davis and Elkins

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 4, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/sports/local-sports/2021/06/yellowjackets-ella-hesson-to-run-for-de/>



WILLIAMSTOWN — The old proverb that goes the early bird gets the worm definitely worked out for Davis & Elkins head women's cross country/track and field coach Jason Pyles.

"Coach Pyles is one of the first coaches who ever contacted me," admitted Williamstown High School senior standout Ella Hesson, who had a celebration ceremony Thursday afternoon as she'll continue her running career for the Division II Senators of the Mountain East Conference.

Hesson, who won the Class A state cross country championship individual title each of her four years, made a visit to the campus this past fall.

"I was actually wanting to go out of state originally," Hesson said.

"I wasn't really looking at any West Virginia schools, but D&E was a beautiful campus, and it seems like there are really good coaches and teammates there and it kind of caught my eye."

Not just in cross country where WHS won four state titles, but the 'Jacket is also dominate on the track evidenced by the fact she is the WHS record holder in the 800, 1600, 3200 as well as helping set school marks in the 4x4 and 4x8.

"She's been a huge part of our cross country and track success," admitted WHS head girls track coach Zach Hall, whose squad didn't get to compete last year but has won single-A state titles during each of Hesson's seasons.

"She will do great things on and off the track in life, sets goals and usually completes the goals she sets."

Hesson already has more than three dozen credit hours going into college thanks to the West Virginia University at Parkersburg dual credit classes. She also took extra college classes while at Williamstown.

"I'll go into college being a sophomore and a half," said the 4.0 GPA student who is already in the nursing program. *"My mom is a nurse.*

"I know one girl now up there on the team, Madi Michels from Buffalo. I competed with her my freshman and sophomore years in cross country and track, and I know a couple of the freshmen coming in next year."

Although Hesson said she's competed in a couple of indoor track meets, that's something which will be a new experience for her.

"I haven't really talked about it with him," Hesson said of what track events she will compete in. *"I was interested in trying the steeplechase, but we haven't really talked about it a whole lot."*

Hesson finished the Class A, Region I meet on Wednesday night in St. Marys with wins in the 800, 1600 and 3200 along with anchoring the winning 4x8 unit.

At last month's Little Kanawha Conference championships, Hesson pulled off the same results but was challenged by Doddridge County sophomore Lexie Lamb, who she'll be competing against at the upcoming Class A state championship meet.

"She's definitely pushed me to be the best runner I can be, and I'm grateful for her pushing me," said the 'Jacket. *"I'm looking forward to the state meet to see what both of us can do.*

"For the team, all of us are wanting to win it again this year, and I think we can. We got a pretty good team, and everyone has worked pretty hard and we are looking strong. I'm just going to go out and run my races and see how it goes."

Hesson said although she loves both sports, she does favor cross country over track. She swept the 800, 1600 and 3200 races at the state meet during her sophomore campaign, which included besting Michels by three seconds in the 2-mile.

"The one that's most special, I guess, probably was the 3200 my sophomore year at state," she said. *"That was my first one and the first time I won an individual race at state. All of them have been really special for me and I'm grateful I've gotten the chance to do that."*

Something else she has been more than grateful for is all the backing the WHS teams receive.

"I definitely have a huge support system behind me," Hesson added. *"Pretty much all of Williamstown and my friends and family, and I got my coaches backing me up and trying to make me the best runner I can be. That definitely helps and I just push myself every day to try and get to where I want to be."*

Following the state track meet, the 'Jacket said she'll probably take a week off before getting back to running.

With her future career set, Hesson is ready to finish strong and enjoy the next chapter in her life.

"I am kind of nervous," she admitted. *"I mean I'm going away from home, not going to have any real friends that come with me, and I'll be out there by myself and I've always had my coaches and family helping me out.*

"It will definitely be hard, and I'll be nervous, but we're just going to go out there and see how it goes. I definitely don't think I've tapped into everything I got left. I

definitely feel like I have more potential in there. I expect to go to D&E, change up some things and see what I can do.”



April 2021

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Social Media Report


facebook

facebook.com/wvuparkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Fans (number of page likes): 7,508

WVU Parkersburg gained 54 fans in April 2021.


Top Posts



West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Published by Rebecca Lynn Rhodes · April 30 at 4:22 PM · 🌐



Looking back, Nursing Simulation Coordinator Dr. Stephanie Smith-Stout has seen the college grow its programs, facilities and community impact. 💙💛 This year, WVUP celebrates 60 years of offering life-changing opportunities. Hear how the college has shaped Dr. Smith-Stout's experience as a student-turned-instructor.

📺: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-KRTrSVC7o>



YOUTUBE.COM
WVUP Celebrates 60 Years | Stephanie Smith-Stout
Apply Now! <http://bit.ly/wvupAPPLY> Visit us on social media! Facebook-<http://bit.ly/WVUPFBTWI...>

1,214 People Reached	230 Engagements	Boost Post
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  34 2 Comments 18 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Rebecca Lynn Rhodes · April 8 at 1:12 PM · 🌐



Drago, the [Wood County Sheriff's Office - WV's K9 superhero](#), recently visited Lubeck Elementary School for a meet and greet and to educate the children on police dog handling. 🐶 The event was organized by Elementary Education student teacher Rachelle Hamilton to provide second-grade students a fun and outdoor learning opportunity. ⭐

📄: https://www.newsandsentinel.com/.../lubeck-elementary_/

📺: <https://www.wtap.com/video/...> See More



1,189
People Reached

58
Engagements

Boost Post

👍❤️ 28

4 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Rebecca Lynn Rhodes · April 16 at 12:00 PM · 🌐



We sat down with professor Justin Bosley and student Adam Hoschar of the Business, Accounting and Public Service Division as they shared how they came to #WVUParkersburg, started their own businesses and advice for those looking to start a degree and career. 💙💛



2,017
People Reached

451
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

👍❤️ 24

3 Comments 11 Shares



twitter.com/WVUParkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,329

WVU Parkersburg gained 8 followers in April 2021.

Top Tweets



WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Apr 7



We are [#WVUProud](#) of our Sigma Omega chapter of [@PHITHETAKAPPA!](#)
♥ The chapter and its officers, members and advisors were presented **8** awards during the recent [@OHRegionPTK](#) Awards Convention.

Read all about it at ow.ly/unLX50EiDDK.





WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Apr 9



Become a director, podcaster, producer or documentarian with our new Digital Media Production program! 🎥 Learn how we will train you on drone technology, broadcast switchers, live and studio audio production, stage lighting and more. Visit ow.ly/LnYQ50EkBbY.



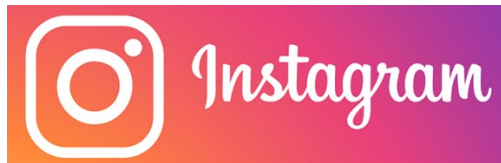


WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Apr 30



Become a Riverhawk! 🦅 Visit campus on May 10, from 3-7 p.m., for our after-hours Open Registration Event. You can apply, tour campus, register for classes, meet your program and connect with campus resources. Apply now at wvup.edu





[instagram.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.instagram.com/wvuparkersburg) (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,508

WVU Parkersburg gained 4 followers in April 2021.

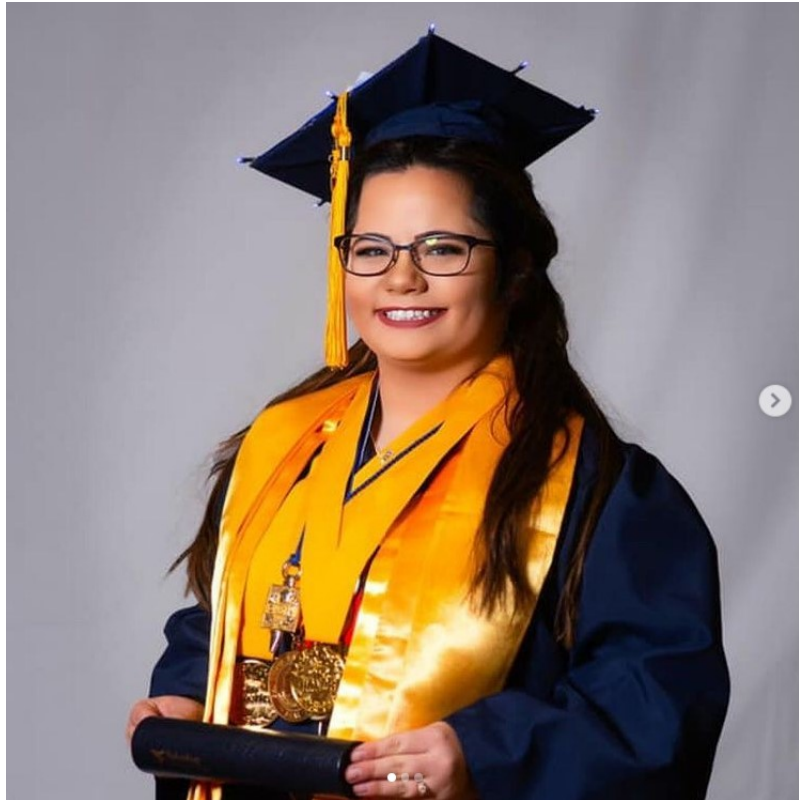
Top Posts

wvuparkersburg Ricky is excited to see more smiling faces on campus, so make sure you register for Summer and Fall 2021 classes! 📅 Priority registration begins today for current students and will begin April 12 for all new students. Make sure to meet with your advisor so they can release your Alternate Pin which allows you to register for classes.

Liked by **stevespencer** and 30 others


APRIL 5

Add a comment... [Post](#)




 **wwuparkersburg** ...


 **wwuparkersburg** Congratulations to our @phithetakappa Sigma Omega Chapter Honor Society for taking home [🏆] awards during the Ohio Regional Awards Convention! ❤️ The chapter, its members and advisors were recognized for building a strong and engaged group and academic excellence and leadership.

 Learn more at wwu.edu/news.

#WUParkersburg
#WUParkersburgProud #PTK
#CollegeLife

3w

 **phithetakappa** Congratulations! 🏆🏆

❤️ 💬 📌
Liked by  stevespencer and 29 others

APRIL 7

 Add a comment... Post




 **wwuparkersburg** ...

 **wwuparkersburg** We're sending a #RickyShoutout to freshman Anisa Hupp! 💙💛 Anisa is to be the first female Eagle Scout for Marietta BSA Troop 2107 G. Her Eagle Scout project will benefit state park wildlife as she will install box houses for bats, ducks and birds.

#WUParkersburgProud
#CommunityCollege #CollegeLife

6d

❤️ 💬 📌
Liked by  stevespencer and 24 others

6 DAYS AGO

 Add a comment... Post




[linkedin.com/school/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg](https://www.linkedin.com/school/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 6,257

WVU Parkersburg gained 46 followers in April 2021.

Top Posts

 **West Virginia University at Parkersburg**
6,261 followers
3w • 🌐

Drago, the Wood County Sheriff's Office - WV's K9 superhero, recently visited Lubeck Elementary School for a meet and greet and to educate the children on police dog handling. 🐕 The event was organized by Elementary Education student teacher Rachelle Hamilton to provide second-grade students a fun and outdoor learning opportunity. ⭐

📄 : <https://lnkd.in/deMVce8>

📄 : <https://lnkd.in/dHTgc9E>



👍❤️🌱 12



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,261 followers

2w • 🌐

Are you a high school student and want the promise of a job after college? 🏢
Apply to the Constellium Skilled Trades Scholarship Program! The scholarship program will provide students financial assistance to pursue an associate degree in Multi-Craft Technology or Reliability and Maintenance Technology with us, receiving hands-on training to prepare them for a 5-year employment commitment with Constellium after graduation.

🏠 Learn more and apply now at <http://ow.ly/97AK50EotGt>.



👍❤️ 7



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,261 followers

1w • 🌐

Mark your calendars for the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation's Give Local MOV event in support of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Foundation. The 24-hour event raised just under \$6,000 for the college last year. Let's go!



👉 7



April 2021

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Social Media Report

facebook

facebook.com/wvuparkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Fans (number of page likes): 7,597

WVU Parkersburg gained 89 fans in May 2021.

Top Posts

 **West Virginia University at Parkersburg**
Published by Hootsuite · May 25 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

Our hard-working RN students rock! 🎉 These first-semester students recently finished their last day of clinicals. We are so excited to see them grow in the Nursing profession and help serve our communities. ❤️ Learn more about our two-year Nursing program at <http://ow.ly/Ktf650EUGBH>.



 **Reach More People With This Post** ×
You could reach up to 680 people daily by boosting your post for \$10.

3,466 People Reached 831 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

 69 3 Comments 9 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Rebecca Lynn Rhodes · May 8 at 9:58 AM · 🌐



Congratulations to the Spring 2021 graduating class of WVU Parkersburg! 🧡💛 As you cross the stage today, know that you are moving forward - moving on to the next opportunity, moving on to create your own story. Thank you for letting us be a part of your big day, Riverhawks!

📺 Pstst...tune in this evening to watch the Spring 2021 commencement ceremony at youtube.com/wvuparkersburg.



Reach More People With This Post



You could reach up to 680 people daily by boosting your post for \$10.

3,250

People Reached

512

Engagements

Boost Post

👍❤️ 55

6 Comments 15 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Hootsuite · May 5 at 12:00 PM · 🌐



Digital Communication student Joseph Whipkey was just named [Parkersburg News and Sentinel's](#) Teen of the Week for his extraordinary talents in creating portraits of Star Wars and Marvel characters. 🌟 🎨 We are [#WVUProud](#) of our students and all the ways they shine! 📰 Visit <http://ow.ly/Pe4n50Efefo> to read about his inspirations.



1,791
People Reached

266
Engagements

Boost Post

39

8 Comments 5 Shares



twitter.com/WVUParkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,322

WVU Parkersburg lost 7 followers in May 2021.

Top Tweets



WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · May 25



Our hard-working RN students rock! 🌞 These first-semester students recently finished their last day of clinicals. We are so excited to see them grow in the Nursing profession and help serve our communities. ❤️ Learn more about our Nursing program at ow.ly/Ktf650EUGBH.





WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · May 24



Over **20** Early College students from across the MOV graduated with certificates and associate degrees this spring. ❤️ We are #WVUProud to see them achieve big!

👉 Visit ow.ly/5oCe50ETKN7 for a full list of student graduates.





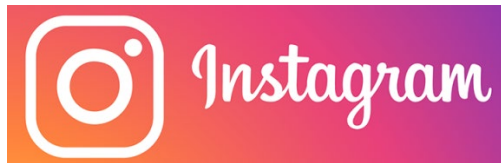
WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · May 31



The Veterans Corps and @wpkm963 present a special Memorial Day program honoring the men and women who gave it all. 🇺🇸 Head over to wpkmradio.com or tune your radio dial to 96.3 FM today, at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. or 7 p.m.

📺 Also streaming at youtu.be/ShlHChPT4n0.





[instagram.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.instagram.com/wvuparkersburg) (@wvuparkersburg)




Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,520

WVU Parkersburg gained 12 followers in May 2021.

Top Posts



 wvuparkersburg ...

 wvuparkersburg Our first-year RN students recently completed their clinicals and are ready to continue their studies in the Nursing field! We are #WVUProud of our students for choosing this incredible profession.   Become an RN today by visiting wvup.edu/nursing.


#CommunityCollege
#WVUParkersburg #Nursing
#CollegeLife

1w

 Liked by movchamber and 41 others

MAY 26

 Add a comment...

Post



wwuparkersburg
kirstenmagdalenab • Original Audio

wwuparkersburg Don't miss your chance to receive grants that will cover your tuition! File your FAFSA at fafsa.gov.

1w

Liked by unitedwaymov and 36 others

MAY 25

Add a comment...

Post



wwuparkersburg

wwuparkersburg Over 20 Riverhawks are recognized during this year's Honors Ceremony for their academic and personal achievements. 🥳 We could not be more #WVUParkersburg Proud. 📖 Visit [wwu.edu/virtual-honors-ceremony](https://www.wvu.edu/virtual-honors-ceremony) for the full list of honorees.

3w

Liked by mrs.oliviareeder and 22 others

MAY 11

Add a comment...

Post



[linkedin.com/school/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg](https://www.linkedin.com/school/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 6,259

WVU Parkersburg gained 2 followers in May 2021.

Top Posts

 **West Virginia University at Parkersburg**
6,260 followers
1w • 🌐

Our hard-working RN students rock! 🍌 These first-semester students recently finished their last day of clinicals. We are so excited to see them grow in the Nursing profession and help serve our communities. ❤️ Learn more about our two-year Nursing program at <http://ow.ly/bTDM50EUGBG>.



  25 • 4 comments



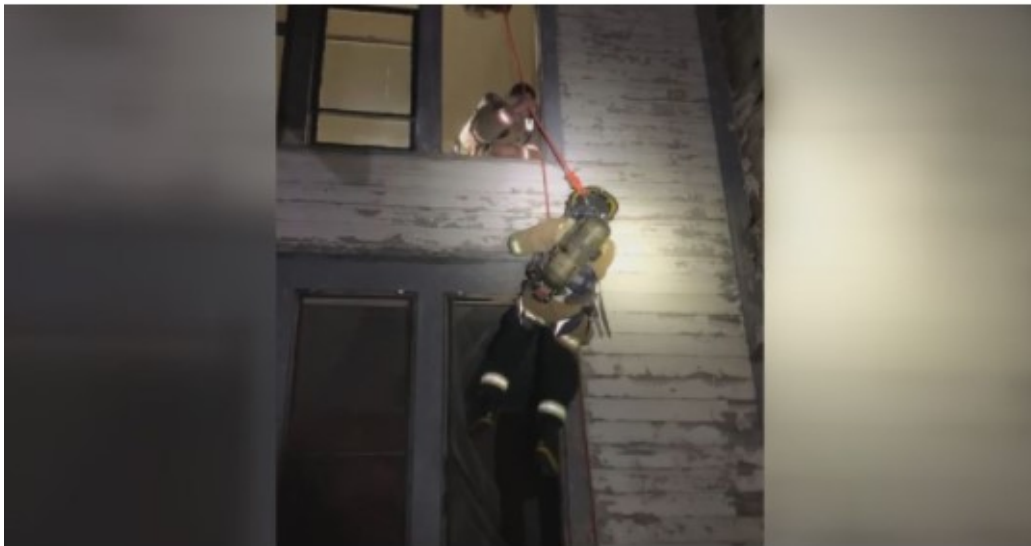
West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,260 followers

1w • 🌐

Early College student Emily Hadley can stand the heat! 🔥 She is now St. Marys Volunteer Fire Department's first female firefighter. 🧑‍🚒 "I know a lot of girls think, 'Oh, it's a male thing. I can't do it,' but never limit yourself and know that you can do it."

📺 WTAP Television : <http://ow.ly/BA5A50EXCEu>



Emily Hadley makes local firefighting history

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Congratulate a graduate! 🎓 Don't forget - you can stream the Spring 2021 Commencement Ceremony at <http://ow.ly/zEgm50EMGd5>. 📖 Read about the ceremony at <http://ow.ly/iQjT50EMGd4>.



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