



West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Board of Governors Meeting
Media Clips

June 5 – August 7, 2021

Parkersburg man's music resonates enough to net Nashville deal

The Parkesburg News and Sentinel

July 10, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/07/parkersburg-mans-music-resonates-enough-to-net-nashville-deal/>



WVU Parkersburg student Patrick Lawrence recently caught the attention of the country music industry and signed with a Nashville record label. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Family influence and the desire to create a unique style of music gave a Parkersburg resident the opportunity to sign with a Nashville record label.

At a young age, Patrick Lawrence developed a love of classic country and bluegrass thanks to his grandfather. As Lawrence got older, his musical tastes evolved and with the help of his stepfather and cousin, he reached what he describes as his lifelong dream.

“When I was a teenager, I started playing drums and from there, I learned how to songwrite and play the guitar when I was 16. I wanted to be a modern country singer at first, but I kind of developed my own style,” Lawrence said.

His style of music is referred to as outlaw country, a blend of bluegrass and classic country.

“That’s how I got into the bluegrass and outlaw country; over the years, I really loved the classic country style and I loved bluegrass. I wanted to do both, and it kind of

created my style," he said. "I write three styles — bluegrass, country and more of a blues style."



Patrick Lawrence performed at Bicentennial Park for an Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley event in June. Lawrence recently signed a record deal with a company in Nashville. (Photo by Candice Black)

Lawrence developed his tastes even further when he worked at a classic country radio station during his high school years. Beginning with a label called Country Roads Records, Lawrence's music caught the attention of Nashville Entertainment Weekly Records.

"I was sitting here in my home, making music and writing songs, just doing it for fun. I get this opportunity, and it's just kind of luck; I knew the right people at the right time," he said.

Several fellow musicians helped Lawrence along the way, but he said without the influence of his English teacher, Jon Felton, he wouldn't be where he is today.

The person who gave Lawrence the most inspiration and teaching is his stepfather.

"My stepfather Joe (Swick) probably taught me more on the guitar than anybody. ... He's a songwriter, Elvis impersonator, singer and published author. He's always been really big into entertainment. I really have to give him a lot of credit," Lawrence said.

In the coming months, Lawrence will be working with After Dark Studios in Georgia to get his music out and searching for band members. He wants to work on building his brand and possibly go on tour.

Over the years, Lawrence was able to continue to pursue his music career despite issues with his eyesight, but he's finding that his vision issues are less of an obstacle than he imagined.

"That was my big concern when I first got signed, (but) the guy didn't care," he said. "There are good people in this world who don't care; they want to get somewhere with their music, and they'll make it happen."

Another hurdle for Lawrence is finding people who want to play his style of music.

"They want to play a modern style; they want to play the same thing everybody else is playing," Lawrence said. "Most of my stuff is original."

Lawrence said there aren't a lot of people in the younger generation who want to play his style of music.

"People who play my style are older and don't want to travel. I understand that, but trying to find younger people who do, it's a challenge. They don't play that style or they want to have their own band," he said.

So far, Lawrence has a dedicated drummer but is still looking for more band members.

When he's not pursuing his music career, Lawrence is fulfilling his other lifelong dream by training to be a systems administrator with the company IC-CAP.

"In January, I got promoted to systems administrator in training, and in May, I got my first record deal; then in June, I got my second," he said. "My two dreams in life, I got. Either way, if one doesn't work out and the other does, I'm happy because I'm doing the two things in life I've wanted to do."

Lawrence also attended West Virginia University at Parkersburg and earned a board of governor's associate's degree and two certificates, one in business technology and the other in general education.

The big changes in his life this year have made Lawrence grateful for his life and his opportunities.

"I really love my life and I love my friends and family. I never saw myself being as happy as I am right now," he said.

People can follow Patrick Lawrence on social media for more information about him and his career.

WVU Parkersburg business degree program ranked as most affordable

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 5, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/06/wvu-parkersburg-business-degree-program-ranked-as-most-affordable/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration degree with a concentration in management and marketing was ranked No. 18 in the nation as a most affordable business management program by University HQ.

University HQ, an independent educational organization, gathers data from government sources, such as the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the university's tuition, admission, retention and graduation rates to determine rankings.

"We're delighted to be chosen and happily accept the recognition," Jeff Holland, WVU Parkersburg Business Accounting and Public Service Division chairperson, said. "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."

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 and identifying viable markets, among others.

West Virginia students entering the business administration certificate or associate degree program may be eligible for WV Invests. WV Invests is a *"last-dollar-in"* financial aid program covering remaining tuition and fee costs after all other federal and state grant awards are used for first-time students.

To view the complete rankings, go to <https://bit.ly/3wT0zzm>.

For more information about WVU Parkersburg's Business Administration program and concentrations, go to wvup.edu/business or contact the BAPS Administrative Assistant

Lauriel Rader at lauriel.rader@wvup.edu or 304-424-8289.

WVU-P Gets National Ranking for Affordability

The St. Marys Oracle

June 8, 2021

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has just achieved a number 18 national ranking for affordability for one of its programs.

University HQ gave that ranking to the college's Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration degree with a concentration in management and marketing.

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Questions about the program may be directed to wvup.edu/business or contact Lauriel Rader, BAPS administrative assistant, at lauriel.rader@wvup.edu or call 304.424.8289.

WVU-P Sets CSI for Teens

The St. Marys Oracle

June 8, 2021

Discover the clues, gather the evidence and solve the case. Teens interested in law enforcement and criminal investigating are invited to put their skills to the test and learn about the Criminal Justice profession during WVU-Parkersburg's Teen CSI Academy.

The college's criminal justice professors and leading area experts will guide students through hands-on experience in crime scene reconstruction, evidence processing, criminal profiling, preparing case trials and more during this summer program.

"The CSI Academy is an opportunity for those interested in law enforcement, detective work, investigation and the like to explore what their academic and post-college careers should be," said Logan Mace, Teen CSI Academy program coordinator.

"What we do is provide an immersive experience for students so they can fully understand their prospective academic and career choice. We do this through real-world scenarios and hands-on learning administered by our very own faculty and those with field experience."

Full activities will include:

- Photographing, mapping and report writing for a crime scene.
- Fingerprint identification
- Identifying blood evidence.
- Collecting trace evidence and footwear impressions.
- Criminal profiling techniques.
- The court process and testifying in court

The academy will take place Monday-Friday, July 12-16, from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. The cost is \$150 per student with lunch provided.

The academy is limited to the first 20 participants. The deadline to register is July 1. Applications may be downloaded at wvup.edu/teen-csi.

Questions may be directed to Logan Mace at logan.mace@wvup.edu or call 304.420.8606.

Fair seeks royalty contestants

The Wirt County Journal

June 8, 2021



Royalty from the Wirt County Fair's pageants will crown their successors at pageants on the opening night of the 2021 event. They included: Queen Kaitlyn Thompson, Princess Sophia Watson, Teen Queen Jackie Chevront, Little Mr. Elijah Smith and Little Miss Elynn Wyer. The fair was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

The Wirt County Fair is seeking contestant for its pageants.

The pageants will be held the opening night of the Wirt County Fair Wednesday, Aug. 4.

The royalty will reign over the 61st Wirt County Fair and participate in various parades, events and activities throughout the year. The Little Mister and Miss Pageant will kick

off the evening after opening ceremonies followed by the Princess, Teen Queen and Queen pageants.

The age ranges for the pageants are: Little Mr. & Miss, 5-8 years old; Princess, 9-12 years old; Teen Queen, 13-15 years old; and Queen, 16-21 years old. Pageant applications can be found online www.wirtcountyfair.com, picked up at Dick's Market, or by contacting the respective director.

They are due back in no later than June 30. Questions about the Little Mister and Miss Pageant may be directed to Jessica Shaffer.

Questions about the Princess, Teen Queen and Queen pageants may be directed to to Elizabeth Adams at elizabethadams926@gmail.com or 30.99.2172.

Anyone interested in donating to the Princess, Teen Queen or Queen prizes packages can contact Elizabeth Adams. Due to COVID-19 and financial concerns over the past year, the girls will not be out asking for donations as they have done in the past.

Queen Kaitlyn Thompson is a WVU Parkersburg Communication and Media Studies alumna.

WVU-P plans CSI for teens

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WVU Parkersburg's business program ranked as one of nation's most affordable

The Pennsboro News

June 9, 2021

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WVU Parkersburg board approves budget, College President Chris Gilmer reflects on pandemic changes

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 10, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/06/wvu-parkersburg-board-approves-budget/>



West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer speaks Wednesday at the first in-person meeting of the college's Board of Governors in over a year. The board passed an over \$21.4 million budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)

PARKERSBURG — The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors approved its over \$21.4 million budget for the upcoming fiscal year as enrollment remains strong.

The board returned Wednesday with its first in-person meeting in over a year in the college's activity center as WVU-P President Chris Gilmer told the board and other officials about the trend of things appearing to be returning more to normal, but keeping in mind that the effects of the pandemic will continue to last for awhile.

In commemorating his three-year anniversary as the college president, Gilmer said WVU-P is getting prepared *“to begin a new chapter, not quite post-COVID-19, but with the pandemic seeming to allow a new normal.”*

He talked about how the pandemic challenged the university, faculty, staff and students, and how everyone rose to the challenge to face it.

“We accomplished a lot before it hit,” Gilmer said. *“We will accomplish even more after it subsides.*

“We even accomplished a lot while it has been raging around us, if simply by enduring as a strong familial community ... I will reflect on the pandemic as the defining moment to which I was called to do my best, all day, every day, to keep you safe.”

The board approved the university’s \$21,404,225 budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The amount includes an over \$19 million operations budget and a grant budget of over \$1.5 million as well as carryover from the previous year.

“It occurred to me that we are approaching our second fiscal year since the beginning of the COVID era,” said Alice Harris, Executive Vice President of Finance & Administration. *“Nothing is the same as it was before in March 2020.”*

The cost to operate the university has shifted from facility operations and classroom supplies to investments to deliver online classes as well as educators to be able to conduct those classes and in cleaning supplies to sanitize their buildings and offices, she said.

“Despite everything that has changed, the university is financially strong and well positioned to be able to return to normal operations,” Harris said.

Through everything the university was able to complete a number of capital projects, including the renovation of the library, replacement of windows and doors adjacent to the courtyard, the creation of a recording studio, office renovations and more.

“We are still looking forward to a time when students will be coming back and making sure we have a welcoming facility,” Harris said.

Harris estimates the college will have a cash surplus of \$600,000 by the end of the fiscal year which she attributes to some COVID federal relief funds, but also their careful and conservative spending habits.

The grant budget includes the grants they know they are receiving. Other money may come in from other grants and the budget would be adjusted accordingly. Other possible COVID relief funds might be coming, but those will not be figured in until received by the university.

Harris said they are seeing a 7 percent decrease in tuition and fees, but the university already has COVID relief funds in hand from allocations already made that should make up for that.

Gilmer said the university has good indications for growing enrollment in the fall.

The three primary enrollment indicators for fall 2021 are all trending positively, he said, adding everyone needs to remain cautious as they change on a daily basis.

“We must remain vigilant to close the ground we still need to close between now and the beginning of the semester,” he said. “As of Friday, June 4, day-to-day comparisons between this enrollment cycle and the 2021 fall enrollment cycle showed a 23 percent increase in Early College, a 10 percent increase in new students, and a 3 percent increase in continuing students for an overall full-time equivalent enrollment increase of 3 percent.”

He hopes they will have strong enrollments in the fall as more face-to-face classes are planning to resume. Many students wait until late summer before they enroll for fall classes. The board already approved a measure that will see no tuition increase for the coming fiscal year.

“We built the budget for the upcoming fiscal year conservatively because colleges nationwide are still expecting significant negative enrollment and retention impacts caused by COVID-19,” Gilmer said. “We hope to buck that trend at WVU-P.”

Across the State

WV News

June 13, 2021

https://www.wvnews.com/across-the-state/article_49c72a9d-86fb-57a6-86fd-6014b8e21c73.html

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34 students earn honors at WVU-P

The Wirt County Journal
June 16, 2021

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

Named to the president's list for perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were:

Elizabeth: Curtis Browning, Paul Bunner, Deborah Darling, Christian Duskey, Lexis Hill, Jenna Mathess, Autumn McKenna, Sierra Runner, Shannon Stanley and Nicole Wood.

Palestine: Brooklyn Smith.

Named to the dean's list for 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were:

Leroy: Elijah Price and Moriah Cale, Reedy: Erica Ellison, Anna Errickson, Madison Marshall and Holly Terrell. Creston: Matthew White.

Elizabeth: Taylor Anderson, Maggie Bailey, Anastasia Brown, Ashton Cheuvront, Angelina Dotson, Haylee Exline, Beth Goodwin, CiAnna Murray, Nathan Murray, Madelynn Ojanpera-Lynch, Madison Richards and Shelby Simonton.

Palestine: Emily Shearlock, Erin Shearlock and Stacey Wyer.

Sandyville: Logan Powell.

14 graduate from WVU-P

Fourteen local students received certificates, associate and bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University at Parkersburg at the spring commencement.

Graduates who attained 3.5-4.0 averages earned academic honors, as follows: 3.50-3.749, Cum Laude; 3.75-3.99, Magna Cum Laude; and 4.0, Summa Cum Laude.

Local graduates were:

LeRoy: Krissa Scarberry, CAS, Child Development; Cheyenne Brown, AA, General Education.

Elizabeth: Paul Bunner, BAS, Criminal Justice, Magna Cum Laude; Haylee Exline, AAS, Legal Studies, Cum Laude; CiAnna Murray, CAS, General Education, Magna Cum Laude; Mika Parsons, CAS, AAS, Business Administration; Sierra Runner, CAS, General Education; Shannon Stanley, BAS, Supervisory Management; Amber Yoak, RBA.

Palestine: Dana Gupton, AAS, Technical Studies; Peyton Richards, CAS, Residential and Commercial Electricity; Casey Sims, BAS, Business Administration; Stacey Wyer, RBA, Summa Cum Laude. Walker: Mary Ellen Hunt, CAS, Criminal Justice.

Reedy: Samantha Paxton, AA, General Education, BA, Elementary Education.

Ten skilled trades scholarship recipients honored at signing event

WTAP-TV [video]

June 16, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/06/16/ten-skilled-trades-scholarship-recipients-honored-signing-event/>



RAVENSWOOD, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - "It means a lot to me. I've grown up in this town, my dad worked here, my great-grandpa worked here. It's just part of life here and I'm glad to be part of it," says Dalton Moore.

Moore is one of ten new scholarship recipients in the skilled trades program.

It is the second year for West Virginia University at Parkersburg doing this with Constellium.

"We're very excited. This is a moment of an industry partner and an education partner coming together to keep the brightest minds at West Virginia in West Virginia," says WVU-Parkersburg president, Dr. Chris Gilmer. "This is something that the chancellor believes in strongly. And we're very happy to be a part of doing it right here at West Virginia University at Parkersburg."

And it is a starting point to getting more skilled trade workers, and teaching them early on.

Sarah Tucker, chancellor of West Virginia Community and Technical College System says, "I think that this is a tremendous opportunity and WVU-Parkersburg is to be commended as is Constellium. Getting high school students going to college and into the workforce is something that we need to be doing all over the state. And this will be the model for the rest of the state."

Students get the chance at an associate of applied science degree in either multi-craft technology, or reliability and maintenance technology.

This program also helps with the growing need in more vocational workers to be available.

"It's a nation-wide issue," says Constellium CEO, Buddy Stemple. "We can't find skilled trades. So, we're going to have to develop them ourselves. And working with them to put together a program that really fits what we need them to do when they graduate. And they will get an associate degree out of it as well."

And these students will come out of the program debt-free.

"So, we know that the number one reason that students in West Virginia don't go to college is because of fear of the cost of college," says Tucker. "So, that this company is willing to stand up and say, 'We're taking that fear away from you, so that you can go.' Is huge."

Scholarship recipients include:

Cody Bartlett (*Spencer, W.Va.*)

Iann Barton (*Ravenswood, W.Va., Ravenswood HS*)

Tyler Casto (*Ravenswood, [W.Va.](#), Ravenswood HS*)

Christian Groves (*Ripley, W.Va., Ripley HS*)

Dalton Moore (*Ravenswood, [W.Va.](#), Ravenswood HS*)

Joseph Chambers (*Ravenswood, [W.Va.](#), Ravenswood HS*)

Case Fletcher (*Ravenswood, [W.Va.](#), Ravenswood HS*)

James Manley (*Ripley, [W.Va.](#), Ripley HS*)

James Riggs (*Elizabeth, W.Va., Wirt Co. HS*)

Benjamin Smith (*Evans, W.Va., RJTC Ripley HS*)

43 named to honors list at WVU Parkersburg

The Pennsboro News

June 16, 2021

Forty-three students from Ritchie County earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the spring semester.

Named to the president's list with perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were

Cairo: Valerie Bircher and Erik Miehrig.

Harrisville: Kathy Dober. Smithville: Nichole Tallhamer.

Named to the dean's list maintained for 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were:

Cairo: Jeremy Darnold, Chloe Elliot, Charity Hannah, Alex Hendrickson, Katrina Jones, Lance Nutter, and William Windom.

Ellenboro: Blaine Bowie, Chloe Campbell, Kristie Campbell, Caleb Kuffner, Amanda Mowery and Morgan Reilly.

Harrisville: Alexis Beck, Lily Butcher, Ashley Cox, Alexis Enoch, Chaslyn Jones, Alexander King, Zachary Knight, Katelyn Lambert, Haley Martin, Larissa McDonald, Taylor Osborne, Jillian Schimmel, Isaac Slater and Destinee Smith.

Pennsboro: Kaleb Cole, Presley Johnson, Anthony Rader, Hannah Ray, Alyssa Smith, Emma Stahlman, Samantha Waggoner, Dakota Wayne, Karissa Weekley, Kiarra Weekley and Ashley Mason.

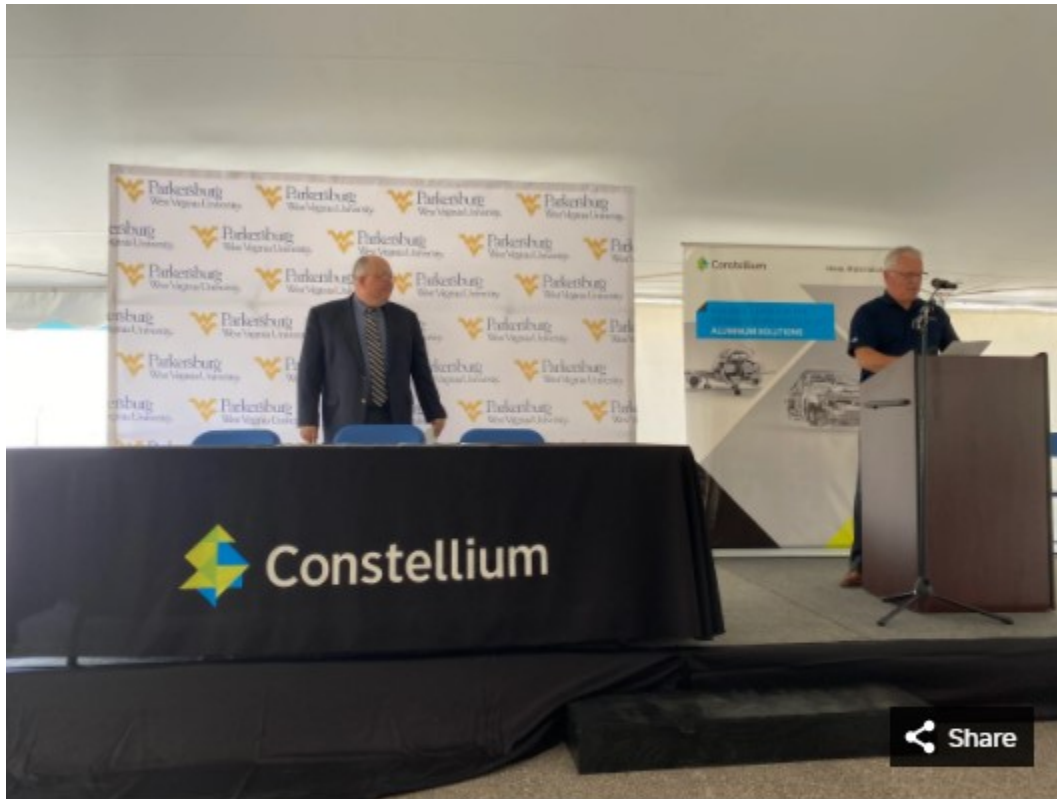
Petroleum: Clayton Wilson.

High School graduates receive scholarships at signing ceremony

Jackson Newspapers

June 16, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/picture-gallery/news/2021/06/16/constellium-and-wvu-parkersburg-select-new-recipients-scholarships/7719165002/>



Constellium CEO Buddy Stemple prepares to read the names of the scholarship recipients.

KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



Cody Bartlett received a scholarship.
KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



Ian Barton received a scholarship.
KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



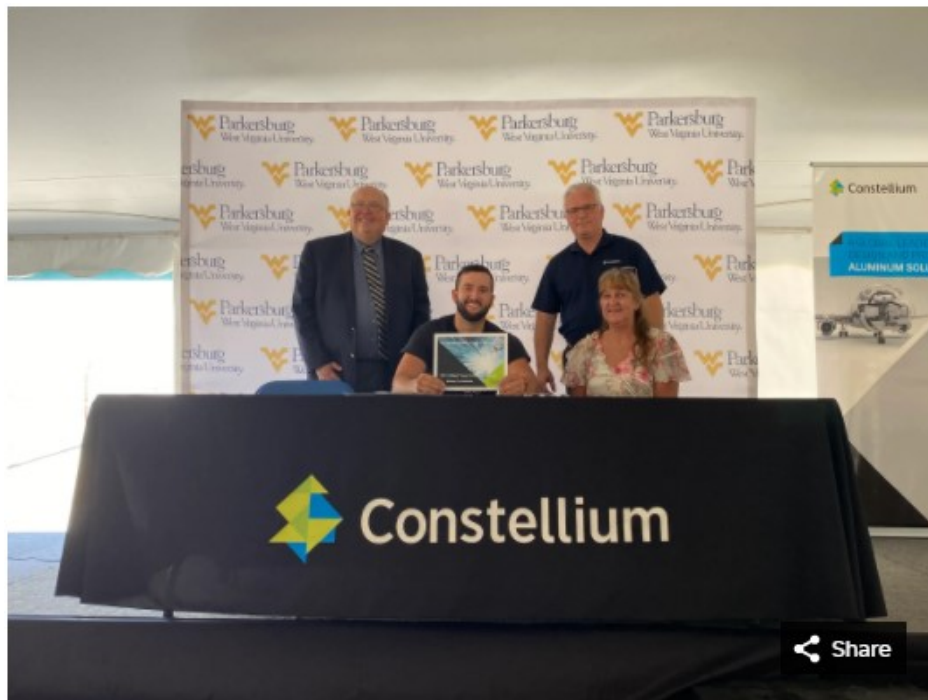
Dalton Moore received a scholarship.
KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



Tyler Casto received a scholarship.
KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



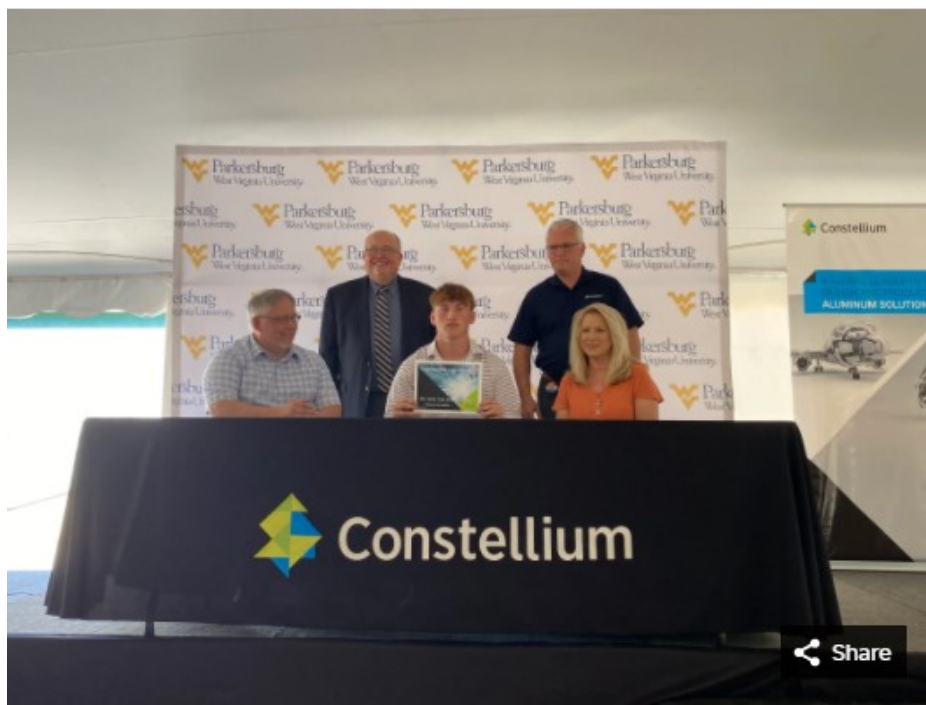
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KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



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KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



James Riggs received a scholarship.
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James Manley received a scholarship.
KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS



Eight of the 10 scholarship recipients were at the ceremony.
KATELYN WALTEMYER/JACKSON NEWSPAPERS

WVU-P, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport hope to land flight school

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 18, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/06/wvu-p-mid-ohio-valley-regional-airport-hope-to-land-flight-school/>



West Virginia University at Parkersburg Dean Senta Goudy, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport Manager Glen Kelly and Chad Crumbaker, WVU-P Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, appeared Thursday before the Wood County Commission to talk about WVU-P wanting to set up a flight school at the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport. Wood County Sheriff Steve Stephens and Wood County Clerk Mark Rhodes listen to the presentation. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)

PARKERSBURG — The Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport and West Virginia University at Parkersburg are looking at setting up a flight school at the airport.

Airport Manager Glen Kelly along with Chad Crumbaker, WVU-P Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and WVU-P Dean Senta Goudy appeared before the Wood County Commission on Thursday to discuss the idea.

The airport is now the second busiest in the state according to FAA figures, Kelly said, adding the airport is third in the state for economic impact. with around \$153 million brought into the area. The airport has been seeing increased use recently with Contour Airlines.

"I think we have a real opportunity to look into the future by adding a flight school with WVU-P," Kelly said.

The airport is also looking at establishing an A&P Mechanics program to teach people to work on aircraft engines, he said.

Kelly said airports across the state are seeing more opportunity for expansion and business development in the aviation industry which in turn will bring in new jobs. The Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport has around 1,300 acres.

“Our’s has not really been developed for the aviation industry,” Kelly said.

Some estimates say there will be a need for 110,000 additional pilots nationwide by 2028.

Having a Tier 1 flight school which is what most four-year colleges have, including Ohio University, can go to help train those pilots and get the necessary hours of flight training and allow students to apply for loans. Military personnel could receive this training through the GI Bill.

“That is what WVU-P could have,” Kelly said.

Airport officials have a spot at the airport they would like to put the proposed flight school, including Hanger 4 which is in need of a new roof. They want to expand it by 3,000 square feet to accommodate the flight school and the mechanic training. There is also talk of developing a parking lot and an access road to more easily reach the site.

“If we had the money today, we believe we could do the expansion and have the fencing done by January,” Kelly said.

The site would also need additional work to put in fiber optics and the necessary hookups to accommodate a flight simulator. Kelly estimates it would take \$1.5 million to do the work and \$125,000 for a flight simulator. They could also buy aircraft from the dealership planning to set up at the airport.

Goudy said the university loves the idea of working with the airport to bring a flight school to the area which resulted in a meeting between Kelly and WVU-P President Chris Gilmer.

“We are here to support our community,” Goudy said. *“We have been dreaming pretty hard with Glen.”*

She said a lot of work will have to be done, *“getting a lot of ‘i’s’ dotted and ‘t’s’ crossed”* as well as getting the necessary approvals from the state and beyond before

they would be able to make any kind of official commitment. However, the meeting Thursday was to show their support for the project.

"We think this would be amazing for our community and a real feather in our cap as well to offer these schools," Goudy said.

She highlighted the university's 60-year history in the community and its status as a two- and four-year school for a number of programs.

Some aircraft mechanic starting salaries are \$58,000 a year while other good paying jobs are available in the aircraft industry, she said, adding there were 168 such job openings within 100 miles of Parkersburg and if the education was available local people could fill those positions. There are also 67 pilot jobs available within the same area.

Crumbaker said WVU-P is looking at the possibility of building residence halls which they think would bring in students from a wider area which would benefit a potential flight school.

"There is a great opportunity there," he said. "It could really change the game."

In the mean time, officials would have to document the demand for trained individuals; receive approval from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Community and Technical College System as well as the FAA; develop an approved curriculum; create learning spaces and acquire teaching resources; recruit and hire instructors; and recruit and support students as they complete their education.

County officials said funds may come available through the state from the American Recovery Act that could help with this. The governor and the legislature would have access to the money to contribute to this.

"We want to chew on this a bit while you go out and find additional sources of income," Commission President Blair Couch said.

WVU Parkersburg, Constellium celebrate scholarship recipients

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 19, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/06/wvu-parkersburg-constellium-celebrate-scholarship-recipients/>

RAVENSWOOD — West Virginia University at Parkersburg and Constellium this week recognized 10 area students receiving scholarships to begin their skilled trades careers.

The Skilled Trades Scholarship Program, a collaboration between WVU-P and the aluminum product developer and manufacturer, is in its second year. Recipients may choose to complete an associate of applied science degree in multi-craft technology or reliability and maintenance technology offered through WVU-P. Students then commit to employment with Constellium for at least five years

“Constellium has faced the skilled trade shortage that most businesses across the country are challenged with,” Teresa Kerns, Constellium community relations coordinator, said in a news release. *“We decided to solve this problem by offering qualified students an opportunity to get an associate’s 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,” Kerns said.

Constellium and WVU-P honored the students with a ceremony Wednesday at Constellium that included messages from West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and West Virginia Community and Technical College System Chancellor Sarah Tucker.

The 10 area students selected for the scholarship program are:

MECHANICAL

- * Christian Groves, Ripley, Ripley High School
- * Cody Bartlett, Spencer, Roane County High School
- * Iann Barton, Ravenswood, Ravenswood High School
- * Dalton Moore, Ravenswood, Ravenswood High School

* Tyler Casto, Ravenswood, Ravenswood High School

ELECTRICAL

* Joseph Chambers, Ravenswood, Ravenswood High School

* Case Fletcher, Ravenswood, Ravenswood High School

* James Manley, Ripley, Ripley High School

* James Riggs, Elizabeth, Wirt County High School

* Benjamin Smith, Evans, Roane-Jackson Technical Center, Ripley High School

Scholarship criteria include 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 WVU-P for over 10 years through training and credentialing opportunities,” said Dean Michele Wilson, Office of Workforce and Economic Development at WVU-P. *“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.”*

WVU-P, Constellium celebrate scholarship recipients

The Marietta Times

June 19, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2021/06/wvu-p-constellium-celebrate-scholarship-recipients/>



Photo provided West Virginia University at Parkersburg and Constellium recognized local recipients of a skilled trades scholarship June 16 at the Ravenswood Facility. Pictured are; standing, from left; Constellium CEO Buddy Stemple, Cody Bartlett, James Riggs, Dalton Moore, Iann Barton, Tyler Casto, WVUP President Chris Gilmer and West Virginia Community and Technical College System Chancellor Sarah Tucker. Seated are, from left, James Manley, Joseph Chambers and Case Fletcher.

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WVU-P, Constellium celebrate scholarship recipients

National Cybersecurity News

June 19, 2021

<https://nationalcybersecuritynews.today/wvu-p-constellium-celebrate-scholarship-recipients-news-sports-jobs-education-technology-training/>

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Day of Action set for Monday

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 19, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/06/day-of-action-set-for-monday/>

PARKERSBURG — The Day of Action, a worldwide endeavor for people to help people, will be held Monday under the oversight of the United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Day of Action, sponsored by WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center, this year will involve 125 volunteers in 17 teams working at 12 places, said Stacy DeCicco, executive director of the United Way Alliance.

"It does bring the best out of people," she said.

The event was not held last year because of the pandemic, DeCicco said. However, things are looking better now, according to DeCicco.

"We decided back in March we would put it back on the calendar," she said.

The day starts around 9 a.m. The 17 teams and their work stations are:

- * Chemours, Depot Park, 618 Depot St., Belpre, Born Learning Trail
- * Dupont, YMCA of Parkersburg, 1800 30th St., Summer Camp cleanup, yardwork and painting
- * Kuraray, Habitat for Humanity, 1110 Lockwood St., Belpre, help build a Habitat home.
- * Thermo, Betsey Mills Club, 300 Fourth St., Marietta, painting, basement cleanout
- * United Bank, ReStore, 600 16th St., Vienna, sorting and deep clean
- * RPP, Blood Drive, Grand Cntrl Mall across from Hollister, break down, registration, waiting attendant
- * RPP, Consumer Credit Counseling, 2435 Dudley Ave., organizing storage boxes of files.
- * RPP, Salvation Army, 534 Fifth St., Parkersburg, landscaping and re-mulching of playground

- * WVU-P Students, Salvation Army, 534 Fifth St., landscaping and re-mulching of playground
- * WVU Medicine Camden Clark, O'Neill Senior Center, 331 Fourth St., Marietta, pressure wash outside of service center
- * WVU Medicine Camden Clark, Williamstown, Corner of Highland Avenue and Fifth Street, Armstrong Garden
- * WVU Medicine Camden Clark, MOVFH, 1030 George St., Parkersburg, painting project
- * WVU Medicine Camden Clark, Belpre Civitan Park, Blennerhassett and Civitan, painting and landscaping
- * CCCS, blood drive, Grand Central Mall across from Hollister, set up, registration, donor waiting attendant.
- * Grand Central Mall, The Arc of the MOV, 1917 Dudley Ave., Dudley location
- * Community Bank, The Arc of the MOV, 1917 Dudley Ave., Dudley location

Some groups wanted to participate, but employees are still working by remote, she said. For other organizations, it is difficult get out of the office, DeCicco said.

For the latter, Wesbanco wanted to participate and came up with a creative way to do so by organizing a month-long campaign to collect donations for Birthday Bags, DeCicco said. Birthday Bags are distributed at food pantries to families with a child having a birthday and contains the ingredients to make a cake, she said.

"It's a great project for organizations who want to get involved in a drive," DeCicco said.

While Camden Clark will have four teams, Chemours will be at Depot Park near Belpre High School for the installation of the trail and a free library.

The United Way and city officials will hold a ceremony for the new trail and library, sponsored by North Bend Wealth Management at 3 p.m. at the trail, DeCicco said.

"That was really neat for us, too," she said.

Roane County's Gaughan off to La Roche

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 19, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/sports/local-sports/2021/06/roane-countys-gaughan-off-to-la-roche/>

SPENCER — A year without softball only motivated Roane County center fielder Katie Gaughan.

The dynamic and diminutive Raider capped off her senior season with a school record 64 hits while posting a .647 batting average (64 of 99) with 51 runs scored and 49 stolen bases.

Earlier this spring, Gaughan decided to continue her career as a student-athlete for La Roche University and head softball coach Orié Gentile.

Gaughan broke the school record for hits previously held by Cassidy Taylor.

"The steals record was 54. That was my goal from the beginning of the year. Like other things, that's not how it worked out. The highest average was .657," noted Gaughan, who carried a 4.0 GPA, has some college credits through West Virginia University at Parkersburg and plans to major in English, have a specialty in professional writing and journalism as well as a minor in pre-law with hopes of one day going to law school.

"She's a really good defensive player," admitted Roane County boss Sam Salvucci. *"She made some fantastic catches this year. She made one there in the (Little Kanawha) Conference. She sort of caught it right before the wall and ran a mile to get it. She hustles and she takes it serious. She's a competitor."*

Salvucci recalled when Gaughan was in the eighth grade and how she broke her finger and hardly played in middle school.

"I saw her run and she was a right handed batter, and she throws right handed," Salvucci added.

"I saw her run. I said send her to the slapper camp at the University of Tennessee. We turned her around as a freshman and she's worked on it ever since and she's done a good job."

"She didn't hit right handed. She does not smile when we lose and she does not smile when she does not get on base. She's a tough little kid, but I think she found a really good fit at the small private college. He really wanted her."

Aside from visiting the Redhawks, the Raider also made visits to both Davis & Elkins and Wheeling University.

"My senior season, I didn't expect to play a full season at all," admitted Gaughan, who batted leadoff for the Raiders as a freshman when they won their only LKC title in 2018.

"I was just so excited last year and didn't want to get my hopes up for nothing again."

"I was so pleased when we had no quarantines and no breaks. We just got to play a full season with all of our girls. It was a blessing and I'm so glad that it worked out that way."

Gaughan said she used the recruiting service FieldLevel to help her find a place to play after high school.

"I uploaded some videos and a few weeks later he (Gentile) reached out to me with an offer," said the Raider. *"I had always wanted to go to school in Pittsburgh. My dad is from Weirton. I've been going there my whole life."*

"When I saw it was in Pittsburgh, I was just hooked. I had gotten some more offers and some more looks, but I never looked away from La Roche and I think that's where I wanted to go from the beginning."

At 5-foot-4, Gaughan's game is obviously not knocking the ball out of the park. Out of her 64 hits, she had one double and one triple.

"I'm not worried at all. It's something I'm looking forward to the most actually," Gaughan said of being a student-athlete at the next level. *"What I do the most is drag bunt. I'm a slapper, which means I hit from the left and move while hitting. So I drag bunt. I soft slap and I also hard slap, which is also called a power slap."*

The Raiders won 21 games this spring and once again reached the LKC tournament before being ousted in sectional play.

"I love center. I also like right and left," admitted Gaughan, who hopes to win a starting outfield job for the Redhawks and bat leadoff as a freshman. *"If I'm on the field I'm happy. I'd love the opportunity to start for Gentile. I will definitely work as hard as I*

can to prove to him I belong out there.”

Trailblazer: St. Marys VFD welcomes Hadley as first permanent female firefighter

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 19, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/06/trailblazer-st-marys-vfd-welcomes-hadley-as-first-permanent-female-firefighter/>



Emily Hadley, 18, of St. Marys, shows off her certification as she is the first female to hold a permanent position with the St. Marys Volunteer Fire Department. (Photo Provided)

ST. MARYS — Following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, a St. Marys woman became the first female firefighter to hold a permanent position at the St. Marys Volunteer Fire Department.

From the time she was little, Emily Hadley, 18, was influenced by her dad and grandpa who have collectively volunteered 50 years of their lives to be firefighters. Her interested rekindled after a career day presentation.

“For as long as I’ve been alive, they’ve both been on the department. As a little kid, I said I wanted to be a firefighter and then they did a career day at the high school. They were talking about it and it sparked my interest,” Hadley said.

About a month or two after the career day, Hadley put in her application to become a junior member in December 2019.

"It's really like being a normal member other than not going on active calls," she said.

When she turned 18 last year, Hadley became a probationary member and completed her certification which led to her accepting a permanent position in April.

She completed 132 hours of training and is now certified in firefighting, hazardous material operations, CPR and first aid and she completed a live burn component. Part of her training took place in Parkersburg where fires were simulated. When she came out of the building after helping to put the fires out, she was on cloud nine.

"It was something that I had never even thought I'd be able to do, I was really nervous about being able to do that," Hadley said. "I went out and I was happy as could be. That was the first adrenaline rush I got and I was like 'yep, this is for me.'"

As a female firefighter, Hadley said everyone she works with has accepted her and made sure she had the same opportunities as everybody else.

"At first, I wasn't sure if they would be as open to me as they would be helping a young guy (but) all of them have taken me under their wing and taught me everything they know so I can get just as good as they are," she said.

Being a part of the fire department also brought back a sense of community and family as Hadley grew up with a few of the members.

"A few of them I've known outside the department being family friends so it's an extra cushion of protection," she said. "It's like having a bunch of brothers, uncles and dads in a way of protecting and not belittling which is something I don't need to worry about."

Hadley plans to attend West Virginia University at Parkersburg in the fall to study nursing which stemmed from her love of helping people and the influence of her grandmother who was a midwife.

"I'm looking into labor and delivery. The thing I love to do the most is help people, that's where I got nursing and firefighting," she said.

With the healthcare classes and hands-on experience in the field, Hadley said studying nursing and firefighting will go hand in hand.

"I think it'll be a tremendous help. It's two worlds (coming) together for the better. I'll be getting into the medical training before I even start," Hadley said.

Hadley shared some words of encouragement for females who may want to pursue a career in a traditionally male-dominated field.

"It might seem like they have to try extra hard to do something a guy can do, but in reality if you think you're capable, you are capable," Hadley said. "There were times I was there and around six-foot guys who are putting on big gear but when you're doing the same thing and you're up there with them, it's really cool."

Across the State

The State Journal

June 21, 2021

https://www.wvnews.com/statejournal/news/top_story/across-the-state/article_2cb520a9-1950-5a54-8d8f-3c1351e592aa.html

PARKERSBURG

The Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport and West Virginia University at Parkersburg are looking at setting up a flight school at the airport.

Airport Manager Glen Kelly along with Chad Crumbaker, WVU-P provost/executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, and WVU-P Dean Senta Goudy appeared before the Wood County Commission on Thursday to discuss the idea.

The airport is now the second busiest in the state, according to FAA figures, Kelly said, adding the airport is third in the state for economic impact. with around \$153 million brought into the area. The airport has been seeing increased use recently with Contour Airlines.

"I think we have a real opportunity to look into the future by adding a flight school with WVU-P," Kelly said.

The airport is also looking at establishing an A&P Mechanics program to teach people to work on aircraft engines, he said.

Kelly said airports across the state are seeing more opportunity for expansion and business development in the aviation industry, which in turn will bring in new jobs. The Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport has around 1,300 acres.

“Ours has not really been developed for the aviation industry,” Kelly said.

Some estimates say there will be a need for 110,000 additional pilots nationwide by 2028.

Volunteers come out in droves to help with the United Way Alliance “Day of Action”

WTAP-TV [video]

June 21, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/06/21/volunteers-come-out-droves-help-with-united-way-alliance-day-action/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - The United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley holds its annual “Day of Action” for the MOV.

The non-profit came together with a plan to help improve the community.

Education, financial stability and health are some of the big concerns.

And they are achieving this with the help from multiple organizations.

This includes 120 people contributing in 17 separate volunteer teams.

“It’s an honor to be here to give back to the community that really got me started. I’m excited to do that,” says utilities environmental services operations manager, David Prather.

Some of the projects involve beautification of parks, and a blood drive with the American Red Cross.

“For them to actually take an extra step and do something beyond funding us, but actually engaging the community in something so life-saving and so life changing really means so much,” says American Red Cross executive director of the Ohio River Valley, Sharon Kesselring. “I can’t thank United Way enough for everything they’re doing in this regard

The United Way Alliance also unveiled a new “Born Learning Trail” at Depot Park in Belpre.

It’s in association with North Bend Wealth Management.

Some of the organizations volunteering today are WVU Medicine at Camden Clark, Chemours and students from WVU-Parkersburg to name a few.

Day of Action returns to Mid-Ohio Valley

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 22, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/06/day-of-action-returns-to-mid-ohio-valley/>

PARKERSBURG — The Day of Action is one of Stacy DeCicco’s favorite events, and the 2021 edition was even sweeter, since it didn’t happen at all last year.

“Today felt extra special to us, because to sit out last year and have to take it off the calendar was just really sad,” said DeCicco, executive director of the United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Like so many things, the 2020 Day of Action — in which United Ways coordinate community improvement projects around the world— was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. But on Monday, more than 140 volunteers from multiple area employers spread out to work at sites around Wood and Washington counties, from painting and cleaning out the basement of the Betsey Mills Club in Marietta to landscaping and re-mulching the playground at the Salvation Army of Parkersburg.

"Nobody comes out and gets some big, glamorous project," DeCicco said.

But the work they do is appreciated by folks like Patrice Pooler, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Valley Fellowship Home, which provides residential substance abuse recovery services to men and women, both with and without children. Employees of WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center repainted the community room that is used for meetings of 12-step programs and various gatherings.

"It's so incredible," Pooler said. "There's such a high level of gratitude to see the community show up. ... We're a house of miracles."

Employees of Chemours arrived at Depot Park in Belpre Monday morning to set up the United Way's Born Learning Trail, adding signage and activities around the park's track. Born Learning Trails are a United Way program and this was the first one in the area, DeCicco said.

The idea is to encourage families to be active together at the park, said Sara Hess, United Way community impact coordinator.

"It builds confidence as well as literacy," Hess said, noting the signs along the trail that suggest activities for families. "A lot of times, we find that you walk up to a park and it's the children off playing and the parents playing on their phones."

Grace Mousty, chemical engineering co-op at Chemours, enjoyed painting a hopscotch pattern at one station with some co-workers.

"It's awesome," she said. "It's nice to be a part of something that'll be here for a while."

As they have in years past, DeCicco said, the Chemours crew went above and beyond the call of duty, trimming weeds and cutting low-hanging branches from trees in the park.

"They did all sorts of things that were not on the original list, and they still finished early," she said, noting the group had plans to come back another day if rain cut their work short.

Recovery Point Parkersburg sent more than 20 of its clients to help at various sites, including reorganizing boxes of files at Consumer Credit Counseling Services, which provided a small crew of its own to work at a blood drive at the Grand Central Mall. Other participants included the mall, Community Bank, DuPont, Kuraray, Thermo

Fisher Scientific, United Bank and West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

WWUP Foundation to hold West Virginia Day Celebration

WTAP-TV

June 22, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/06/22/wwup-foundation-hold-west-virginia-day-celebration/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia Day takes place on June 20 each year, and was observed this year on June 21. The West Virginia University - Parkersburg Foundation, along with Downtown PKB, is marking the state's anniversary with a celebration on June 26.

The event will take place at the Oakland Mansion at 5:30 P.M. The mansion played an important role in the Civil War and has connections to the forming of West Virginia.

"It used to [belong to] James McNeill Stephenson. And his wife, Agnes, was the sister of Arthur I. Boreman, who was the first governor of the state of West Virginia," explained Dr. Torie Jackson, President and CEO of the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation and Vice President for Institutional Advancement at WWUP.

In addition, a number of officers stayed at the home during the Civil War, said Olivia Reeder, Director of Public Affairs at the Foundation.

Tickets are \$25 each and benefit the mansion and fund a number of upkeep projects. The event will include appetizers, a champagne toast, tours of the Oakland Mansion, and live music. With the exception of the tours, all events will take place outdoors.

There will also be a silent auction. Items will include gift baskets with a number of different themes. Downtown PKB's basket will include items from various downtown businesses. Other baskets will include a number of West Virginia-themed items.

Tickets can be purchased online or by emailing calling Reeder at (304) 424-8000 extension 471. Additional information about the event can be found on its [Facebook page](#).

70 Earn Honors at WWU-P

The St. Marys Oracle

June 23, 2021

Seventy local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the spring semester.

Named to the president's list with perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were:

Belmont: Cara Masters, Michelle Neff and Logan White St. Marys: Anthony Bowie, Sarah Bowie, Isabella Davis, Mara Eisenbarth, Jacob Elder, Mariah Evans, Lara Fetty, Brody Grimes, Emily Hadley, Anondae Hesson, Caraline Lancaster, Brandon Lawhon, Katie Lemon, Natalie Malone, Josey Moore, Logan Rice, Jadon Satterfield, Mallory Webb, Ethan Weikart and Kylie Wright.

Waverly: Lakyn Ankrom, Meredith Davis and Whitney Kiger.

Friendly: Erica Davis.

Named to the dean's list maintained for 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were:

Friendly: Garrytt Horner, St. Marys: Edgar Barker, Grant Barnhart, Jenna Barnhart, Olivia Birkhimer, Erika Becker, Jeffrey Bennett, Riley Boley, Bralynn Davis, Ethan Davis, Madison Eaton, James Evans, Sydni Hinton, Madeline Hilvers, William Houser, Jessica Lipscomb, Lacey McCullough, Waylon Moore, Teddi Northrop, Abigail Peckens, Emma Powell, Phillip Price, Stephanie Satterfield, Justin Scadden, Ryleigh Scovill and Madison Scott.

Waverly: Carson Miller, Patricia Miller, London Flores, Jacob Huggins, Veronica Huggins, Shannon O'Dell, Matthew Phillips, Lindsay Shafer, Ryan Wager, Amber Ward, and Morgan Wise. Friendly: Hadyn Brown, Hannah Dearth, Thomas Hill and Victoria Yost.

Newport: Lindsey Cross and Taylor Graham.

Six RCHS students earn certificates from WVU-P for spring semester

The Pennsboro News

June 23, 2021

Six students at Ritchie County High School earned their Certificate of Applied Science (CAS) in general education from West Virginia University at Parkersburg during the spring semester.

They were among the 25 students who achieved those honors at WVU-P.

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

To earn a CAS in general education, a student must successfully earn 30 credit hours from courses in math, science, English, fine arts and other designated areas of study with Six RCHS students earn certificates from WVU-P for spring semester a 2.0 or higher overall average.

Students also have the opportunity to earn an Associate in Arts degree in general education, by successfully completing 60 credit hours from those courses with a 2.0 or higher overall GPA.

"Students who take advantage of dual credit/Early College are able to fulfill needed general education courses while still experiencing the safety net of their high school environment and at a less expensive tuition," said Dr. Torie Jackson, vice president for institutional advancement. "At WVU-P, we are thrilled to partner with 11 high schools and vocational-technical centers to provide courses for students that enable them to expand opportunities and to realize that college may be the correct path for them."

WVU Parkersburg's Early College is open to all public school districts, private schools and homeschools in Pleasants, Doddridge, Jackson, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt and Wood counties in West Virginia and Washington County, Ohio.

RCHS students receiving their CAS were Kaleb Cole, Alexis Enoch, Madeline Hilvers, Gabrielle Jones, Katelyn Lambert and Dakota Wayne. Questions about the programs may be directed to wvup.edu/earlycollege or EarlyCollege@wvup.edu.

Teen CSI Academy offered

The Pennsboro News

June 23, 2021

Teens interested in law enforcement and criminal investigating are invited to put their skills to the test and learn about the Criminal Justice profession during WVU-Parkersburg's Teen CSI Academy.

The college's criminal justice professors and leading area experts will guide students through hands-on experience in crime scene reconstruction, evidence processing, criminal profiling, preparing case trials and more during this summer program.

"The CSI Academy is an opportunity for those interested in law enforcement, detective work, investigation and the like to explore what their academic and post-college careers should be," said Logan Mace, Teen CSI Academy program coordinator. "What we do is provide an immersive experience for students so they can fully understand their prospective academic and career choice."

Full activities will include:

- Photographing, mapping and report writing for a crime scene.
- Fingerprint identification
- Identifying blood evidence.
- Collecting trace evidence and footwear impressions.
- Criminal profiling techniques.
- The court process and testifying in court

The academy will take place Monday-Friday, July 12-16, from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. The cost is \$150 per student with lunch provided.

The academy is limited to the first 20 participants. The deadline to register is July 1. Applications may be downloaded at wvup.edu/teen-csi.

Questions may be directed to Logan Mace at logan.mace@wvup.edu or call 304.420.8606.

Episode 6.23.2021

Daily304

June 23, 2021

https://daily304.libsyn.com/daily304-episode6232021?es_p=13683986

Number One. West Virginia has seen a steady growth in technology companies calling the Mountain State home, creating a new kind of mountaineer explorer. Most recently, Boston-based DataRobot announced an expansion into West Virginia. The augmented intelligent company is opening an office, Vantage Ventures, in Morgantown.

DataRobot's CEO Dan Wright said he was convinced to open a DataRobot office in West Virginia after conversations with John Chambers, the former chairman and CEO of CISCO systems and the namesake for the John Chambers College of Business and Economics at West Virginia University.

DataRobot specializes in enterprise artificial intelligence, using computers to take data to develop strategies for businesses, healthcare insurance, banking and financial markets – a process called decision intelligence.

Number Two. As the Constellium Skilled Trade Scholarship program enters its second year, the Ravenswood facility and West Virginia University at Parkersburg are celebrating 10 new student recipients with a signing ceremony.

The Skilled Trade Scholarship program collaboration between Constellium and WVU Parkersburg provides financial assistance to selected high school graduates to help them earn an associate degree in Multi-Craft Technology or Reliability and Maintenance Technology. After students complete their degree, they are eligible to enter a five-year, full-time employment agreement with Constellium in Ravenswood.

"This is a great opportunity for students to earn a degree and start a skilled trade with us," said Buddy Stemple of Constellium Ravenswood. "We are always eager to train and recruit talent in our local communities and we thank West Virginia University at Parkersburg for their leadership and their long-term partnership with us. I would also like to thank the West Virginia Department of Commerce and our local leaders for their continued support and engagement."

Number Three. As the economy in West Virginia continues to re-open, the West Virginia Development Center is encouraging people to support small businesses through the Come-In, We're Open campaign.

“The Come-In, We’re Open message is an invitation for West Virginians to head out into their communities and visit the small businesses found there,” said WVSBCD Director Deborah Martin. “Throughout the pandemic, small business owners have adapted and persevered and continued to be the backbone of our economy. As West Virginia reopens, it is critical small businesses receive enough support to survive long-term.”

In addition to encouraging West Virginians to shop locally and visit storefronts, small business owners can also get involved in the campaign by displaying a “Come In, We’re Open” sign in their businesses, windows, posting to social media with #WeAreOpenWV.

College News

The Calhoun Chronicle

June 24, 2021

WVU-Parkersburg

West Virginia University at Parkersburg has announced its President’s List (4.0 grade point average) and Dean’s List (3.5 or higher GPA) for the Spring 2021 semester. Earning the President’s List from Calhoun were Hannah Stephens of Creston and Nicholas Bush of Grantsville. Earning the Dean’s List from Calhoun was Mackenzie Holbert of Arnoldsburg.

Jan Dils Walk4Vets to be held virtually

WTAP-TV

June 25, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/06/25/jan-dils-walk4vets-be-held-virtually/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Each year, Jan Dils Attorneys at Law hosts the Walk4Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K to benefit veterans. The event had to be canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is returning virtually this year.

Registration can be done online [here](#), and participants are asked to complete their walk or jog on their own or with family between July 3 and 10.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Transportation, We Have Your Six – Parkersburg Division, as well as a WVU Parkersburg Scholarship Program for Veteran Recipients.

This year, the law firm has committed to a fundraising goal of \$25,000 and will match up to \$12,500.

The firm hopes the event will be able to return to the traditional in-person format for 2022.

Those with additional questions are asked to call 1-877-VETERAN.

Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley holds Women in Leadership Conference

WTAP-TV [video]

June 25, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/06/25/chamber-commerce-mid-ohio-valley-holds-women-leadership-conference/>

VIENNA, W.Va. (WTAP) -The Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley held its first in-person event Friday since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chamber of Commerce held its 2021 Women in Leadership Conference at the Grand Point Conference Center.

Over 100 women from across the Mid-Ohio Valley took part in the event, which was all about women finding their voice.

The conference provided the attendees with a day of networking, speeches, quarter auctions, and vendor visits.

At the beginning of the conference, the chamber, in partnership with Riverview Credit Union, provided a \$1000 scholarship to a student who will attend WVU-Parkersburg in the fall. The winner was Emily Hadley, a 2021 graduate of St Marys High School.

During the event, the attendees heard from speakers: Ann Gramc, Dr. Priscilla Leavitt, and Sarah Farish.

Jill Parsons, the President, and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley says everyone was excited to attend the conference again in person.

"All day this morning, people have been stopping by going, I'm so excited to be in person, to see people in person, not just on a zoom call, not just on the phone or by email, but to actually be in person," Parson explained. "So, I think that opportunity we're so excited that the chamber has played a role in that."

University HQ says WVU Parkersburg is state's most affordable college

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

June 26, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/06/university-hq-says-wvu-parkersburg-is-states-most-affordable-college/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is again the most affordable college in West Virginia as ranked by University HQ.

"Once again, this rating demonstrates that high quality is not measured by high cost. Our programs are competitive in quality with any programs nationally at a comparably resourced university," President Chris Gilmer said. *"Our faculty and staff are top-notch, and we are committed to one major goal in all we do: student success."*

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

"Why spend thousands more dollars when you can earn a nationally accredited degree right here at home, and this year we are not raising tuition because of the challenges students and their families are facing due to the pandemic," Gilmer said. *"We wear this recognition as a badge of honor demonstrating that we put students first."*

WVU Parkersburg offers in-state and out-of-state tuition below the national average for 50 degree programs. Additionally, the university's tuition charges are capped, so any credits taken in excess of 12 credit hours per semester are offered at no additional charge.

Students may apply for financial aid to receive scholarships, federal grants and loans to help pay for tuition. Programs like WV Invests and WVUP Ascend also exist for students seeking certificates and associate degrees in eligible programs to help cover the cost of tuition and fees.

For high school students seeking a head start on their college career, WVU Parkersburg's Early College program can save parents up to \$23,760 in tuition. High school students may take college credits at a reduced rate of \$150 per course and have the potential to graduate high school with a certificate or associate degree.

Legislature Allocates \$100s of Millions in Special Session

The WV Daily News

June 26, 2021

<https://wvdn.com/18013/>

Governor Jim Justice called the West Virginia Legislature into session on Thursday, June 24, requesting \$250 million be allocated throughout the state government, including to education, tourism, and more.

"The special session call requests that the Legislature consider over \$250 million in supplementary appropriations that Gov. Justice has divided into over 20 different initiatives, among other considerations. A few of those initiatives include upgrades and expansions to several West Virginia State Parks, upgrades to the Elk River Trail, allocating initial funding to the Economic Development Authority's Closing Fund, upgrades to correctional facilities, replenishing the First Responders' Death Fund, and many others."

After the session, Senate Minority Leader and Greenbrier County rep Stephen Baldwin expressed frustration with the spending priorities.

"Frustrating day here at the capital," Baldwin said. " ... My frustration is out of \$250 million, nothing for broadband, nothing for flood mitigation, five years to the week of the great flood, nothing for our police. We are experiencing crises out there right now and we've got to get ahead of the curve on flood mitigation. We have a significant portion of our state that has no or very poor internet access, which is completely inadequate in today's modern society. ... Crime is on the rise and our police are having a really difficult time recruiting people and we proposed just spending a tiny bit to get them what they deserve."

Of the 21 passed bills in under 24 hours, the normal constitutional requirement of three readings suspended, only two bills did not concern appropriations. Instead, these dealt with alcohol sales and the cost of incarceration for counties.

The first updates the State Code of West Virginia (§60-3A-18), allowing retail licensees to sell alcohol at any time except “on Easter Sunday, Christmas Day between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.” Previously, the code forbade sales on Sundays until 1 p.m. Senator Jack Woodrum voted in favor, while Baldwin, Delegate Todd Longanacre, and Delegate Barry Bruce voted against.

The second froze the per diem rate counties pay for incarcerated inmates to the regional jails until July 1, 2022. The bill also requires the per diem cost in the future be calculated annually and from the previous three fiscal years of actual costs. All four Greenbrier County representatives voted in favor of its passage.

The legislature also confirmed Greg Thomas and Danielle Waltz to the Educational Broadcasting Authority, the governing body of West Virginia Public Broadcasting, drawing criticism from Baldwin.

“About the only thing we did accomplish also involved some high tension and that was confirming two people to serve on the educational broadcasting authority board that oversees West Virginia Public Broadcasting,” Baldwin said. “They’re political appointees. So we’re further politicizing public broadcasting.”

Of the supplemental appropriations requests made by Justice, both chambers of the legislature passed a handful of bills giving money to parks, emergency management, tourism, the Department of Transportation, education, and more:

– Division of Natural Resources – Capital Outlay – Parks – \$42,000,000 (From the above appropriation for Capital Outlay – Parks, \$30,000,000 is to be used for state park improvements, \$9,500,000 is to be used for state park tram replacement and repair, and \$2,500,000 is to be used for the Elk River Trail.) (S.B. 2002)

– Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Office of the Secretary – WV Fire and EMS Survivor Benefit ® – \$1,200,000 (S.B. 2003)

– DHS Division of Emergency Management – SIRN – \$5,000,000 (From the above appropriation for SIRN an amount not less than \$5,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security – Division of Emergency Management – West Virginia Interoperable Radio Project) (S.B. 2003)

– DHS Division of Emergency Management – Emergency Response Coordination Grants \$795,000 (S.B. 2003)

- DHS Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Correctional Units – Current Expenses ® – \$9,400,000 (S.B. 2003)
- DHS Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Correctional Units – Capital Outlay and Maintenance ® – \$22,500,000 (From the above appropriation for Capital Outlay and Maintenance, \$15,000,000 shall be used for Anthony Correctional Center.) (S.B. 2003)
- DHS Department of Commerce – West Virginia Development Office – Directed Transfer – \$30,000,000 (The above appropriation for Directed Transfer shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce, West Virginia Development Office, Development Office Promotion Fund.) (S.B. 2005)
- DHS Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Personal Services and Employee Benefits – \$200,000
- DHS Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Correctional Units – Huttonsville Correctional Center – \$75,000
- DHS Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Correctional Units – Salem Correctional Center – \$75,000
- DHS Division of Administrative Services – Personal Services and Employee Benefits – \$350,000
- Governor’s Office – Civil Contingent Fund – Civil Contingent Fund (R) – \$17,250,000 (S.B. 2006)
- Governor’s Office – Civil Contingent Fund – Local Economic Development Assistance – \$7,100,000 (S.B. 2006)
- Governor’s Office – Civil Contingent Fund – Local Economic Development Assistance – Surplus – \$1,403,161.56 (S.B. 2021)
- Governor’s Office – Civil Contingent Fund – Local Economic Development Assistance – Surplus – \$3,247,845.30 (S.B. 2021)
- Department of arts, culture, and history – Division of Culture and History – Capital Outlay and Maintenance – \$2,100,000 (The purpose of this supplemental appropriation bill is to increase an existing item of appropriation for the Department of Arts, Culture, and History, Division of Culture and History) (S.B. 2007)

- State Rail Authority (S.B. 2008)
- Department of Transportation (DOT) – State Rail Authority – Personal Services and Employee Benefits – \$361,627 (S.B. 2008)
- DOT State Rail Authority – Current Expenses – \$3,837,707 (S.B. 2008)
- DOT State Rail Authority – Other Assets – \$1,270,019 (S.B. 2008)
- DOT State Rail Authority – BRIM Premium – \$201,541 (S.B. 2008)
- DOT State Rail Authority – West Virginia Commuter Rail Access Fund – Current Expenses – \$750,000 (S.B. 2019) (\$3,550,000 shall be transferred to the State Rail Authority – Commuter Rail Access Fund. (S.B. 2008))
- Department of Education – State Board of Education – State Aid to Schools – \$1,752,591,362 This includes funding for Advanced Placement (\$670,151), Professional Educators (\$869,082,617), Service Personnel (\$291,835,429), Transportation (\$69,037,827), Professional Student Support Services (\$59,608,039), Teacher and Leader Induction (\$5,478,876), Total Basic State Aid (\$1,158,025,106), Public Employees’ Insurance Matching (\$206,938,256), Teachers’ Retirement System (\$60,784,000), Retirement Systems – Unfunded Liability – (\$302,844,000), and more. (S.B. 2009)
- State Board of Education – School Construction Fund – SBA Construction Grants – \$24,000,000 (S.B. 2010)
- Department of Health and Human resources (DHHR) – Division of Human Services – Salary and Benefits of Cabinet Secretary and Agency Heads – \$41,500
- DHHR Division of Human Services – James “Tiger” Morton Catastrophic Illness Fund – \$41,500
- West Virginia Tourism Office – Tourism – Development Opportunity Fund – \$5,000,000 (S.B. 2014)
- Department of Revenue – Tax Division – Capital Outlay and Maintenance- \$2,000,000 (S.B. 2015)
- Office of the Secretary – Revenue Shortfall Reserve Fund – Transfer – \$50,000,000 (S.B. 2016)

- Governor’s Office – Civil Contingent Fund – Milton Flood Wall – \$17,500,000 (S.B. 2017)
- Department of Commerce – West Virginia Tourism Office – Tourism – Brand Promotion – \$7,000,000 (S.B. 2017)
- Department of Commerce – West Virginia Development Office – Directed Transfer – \$1,000,000 (S.B. 2017)
- West Virginia Council for Community and Technical Education – \$3,000,000 (S.B. 2017)
- Mountwest Community and Technical College – \$97,340 (S.B. 2017)
- New River Community and Technical College – \$87,973 (S.B. 2017)
- Blue Ridge Community and Technical College – \$117,463 (S.B. 2017)
- West Virginia University at Parkersburg – \$154,789 (S.B. 2017)
- Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College – \$123,627 (S.B. 2017)
- West Virginia Northern Community and Technical College – \$109,287 (S.B. 2017)
- Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College – \$32,699 (S.B. 2017)
- BridgeValley Community and Technical College – \$121,482 (S.B. 2017)
- Higher Education Policy Commission – Administration – Control Account – Workforce Development Initiative – \$1,600,000 (S.B. 2017)
- West Virginia University – School of Medicine Medical School Fund – \$293,677 (Included ... is \$33,530 to be used for WVU School of Health Science – Eastern Division; \$225,846 to be used for the WVU – School of Health Sciences and \$34,301 to be used for the WVU School of Health Sciences – Charleston Division.) (S.B. 2017)
- West Virginia University – General Administrative Fund – \$16,600,000 (S.B. 2017)
- Marshall University School of Medicine – \$183,526 (S.B. 2017)
- Marshall University – General Administration Fund – \$9,700,000 (S.B. 2017)
- West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine – \$133,189 (S.B. 2017)
- Bluefield State College – \$95,748 (S.B. 2017)

- Concord University – \$157,146 (S.B. 2017)
- Glenville State College – \$96,704 (S.B. 2017)
- Shepherd University – \$190,257 (S.B. 2017)
- West Liberty University – \$136,540 (S.B. 2017)
- West Virginia State University – \$170,138 (S.B. 2017)
- Office of Technology – Chief Technology Officer Administration Fund – Current Expenses – \$2,000,000 (S.B. 2019)
- miscellaneous boards and commissions – National Coal Heritage Area Authority – Personal Services and Employee Benefits – \$25,000 (S.B. 2024)
- Senate Bill 2018 amended appropriations in Title II, section 9, [in the budget bill] for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, by reducing all appropriations from general revenue fund surplus accrued to \$0. (S.B. 2018)

Task force on education, workforce development holds inaugural meeting

The Charleston Gazette-Mail

June 27, 2021

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/education/task-force-on-education-workforce-development-holds-inaugural-meeting/article_2443e0ac-ae68-5349-978c-dc193a70f37d.html

The state's blue ribbon task force on developing post-secondary education opportunities for purposes of improving the workforce held its first meeting on Friday, discussing direction and assigning committee chairs in the process.

Formed through an executive order signed by Gov. Jim Justice earlier this month, the task force aims to provide increased and improved educational opportunities which would, in turn, provide employers with individuals possessing different skill sets.

Ann Urling, the governor's deputy chief of staff, is the chair of the task force and led the meeting, which featured nine attendees in person and six via videoconference.

Among those gathered at the Capitol was Sarah Tucker, the chancellor of both the the state Community and Technical College System and the Higher Education Policy

Commission. As members discussed the direction of the group, she emphasized the need for developing strong opportunities.

By 2030, according to Tucker, 60% of West Virginia residents must have some sort of post-secondary education in order to maintain the existing economy. Currently, only 42.6% of residents fit the criteria. The state's rate of high school graduates going on to attend college is 48.2%, roughly eight percentage points below the national average of 56.5%.

"The problem is more systemic than any one of us, I think, is capable of managing," Tucker said. "It's too big. We've got to find a way to work on this together."

Task force members from business backgrounds voiced their concerns with the current state of employment and finding employees.

Ray Burke Jr., president of Better Foods Inc., said the COVID-19 pandemic has further affected the employee pool and the hiring process, and that a reason needs to be found to motivate people to work and develop social skills.

"We are definitely in a system that is broken," Burke said. "I do believe that somehow we are losing the kids before they ever even get to the point where we can save them because of the fact that they really don't have a clue."

In addition to those previously mentioned, those in attendance Friday were Scott Adkins, acting executive director of WorkForce West Virginia; Clinton Burch, senior officer with the Department of Education's Office of Technical and Adult Education; Delegate Larry Pack, R-Kanawha; Maria Larry, executive director of Region 6 Workforce Development Board; Jeremiah Samples, deputy secretary of the Department of Health & Human Resources; and Casey Sacks, vice chancellor for the West Virginia Community and Technical College System.

In attendance through video conference was Peter Checkovich, president of Blue Ridge Community & Technical College; Chris Gilmer, president of WVU Parkersburg; Jake Hunt, executive director of Region 2 Workforce; Jack Rife, general counsel for the Department of Commerce; Tracy Miller, President of Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex; and Steve Cox, senior manager of human resources at Toyota West Virginia.

Secretary of Commerce Ed Gaunch was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Sen. Mike Maroney, R-Marshall, was issued a nameplate for the meeting but was not in attendance.

The task force's next meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. July 9.

34 earn honors at WVU-P

The Wirt County Journal
June 29, 2021

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

Named to the president's list with perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were:

Elizabeth: Curtis Browning, Paul Bunner, Deborah Darling, Christian Duskey, Lexis Hill, Jenna Mathess, Autumn McKenna, Sierra Runner, Shannon Stanley and Nicole Wood.

Palestine: Brooklyn Smith.

Students named to the dean's list for 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were:

Creston: Matthew White. Leroy: Moriah Cale and Elijah Price.

Elizabeth: Taylor Anderson, Maggie Bailey, Anastasia Brown, Ashton Chevront, Angelina Dotson, Haylee Exline, Beth Goodwin, CiAnna Murray, Nathan Murray, Madelynn Ojanpera-Lynch, Madison Richards and Shelby Simonton.

Palestine: Emily Shearlock, Erin Shearlock and Stacey Wyer.

Sandyville: Logan Powell, Reedy: Erica Ellison, Anna Errickson, Madison Marshall, Holly Terrell.

43 students receive spring academic honors from WVU-P

The Pennsboro News
June 30, 2021

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

Named to the president's list with perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were:

Cairo: Valerie Bircher and Erik Miehrig. Harrisville: Kathy Dober.

Smithville: Nichole Tallhamer.

Students named to the dean's list for 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were:

Cairo: Jeremy Darnold, Chloe Elliot, Charity Hannah, Alex Hendrickson, Katrina Jones, Lance Nutter and William Windom.

Ellenboro: Blaine Bowie, Chloe Campbell, Kristie Campbell, Caleb Kuffner, Amanda Mowery and Morgan Reilly.

Harrisville: Alexis Beck, Lily Butcher, Ashley Cox, Alexis Enoch, Chaslyn Jones, Alexander King, Zachary Knight, Katelyn Lambert, Haley Martin, Larissa McDonald, Taylor Osborne, Jillian Schimmel, Isaac Slater and Destinee Smith.

Pennsboro: Kaleb Cole, Presley Johnson, Anthony Rader, Hannah Ray, Alyssa Smith, Emma Stahlman, Samantha Waggoner, Dakota Wayne, Karissa Weekley, Kiarra Weekley and Ashley Mason.

Petroleum: Clayton Wilson.

Mural artist drawing inspiration from Parkersburg residents

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 1, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/07/mural-artist-drawing-inspiration-from-parkersburg-residents/>

PARKERSBURG — The arts community came together at Bicentennial Park on Wednesday afternoon to brainstorm design ideas for a mural to be displayed on the Actors Guild and Parkersburg Arts Center buildings later this year.

Organized by the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley through West Virginia University at Parkersburg in partnership with the Parkersburg Art Center and Downtown PKB, the GoodSpace & Lunch event had live music, artists crafting designs and community fellowship.

Artist Greta McLain from Minneapolis, Minn., collaborated with Jessie Siefert, director of the Art Center, and Senta Goudy with WVU-P to meet with residents and gain a sense of Parkersburg's history to incorporate into her design.

“She is going to let the people of Parkersburg design the mural. She has been meeting with various church groups, school groups and civic clubs for the past few days and now she’s going to meet with people who came to this event today,” Chris Gilmer, president of WVU-P, said. *“They’re giving their insight as to what they want the mural to look like.”*

McLain is the artistic director for Goodspace Murals, an organization with a mission of strengthening communities and *“bringing people together through art.”*



Patrick Lawrence is a WVU-Parkersburg student who recently signed a recording contract in Nashville. He performed at Bicentennial Park during the GoodSpace & Lunch event where people were asked to comment on what they love most about Parkersburg. That input will be used to design a mural which will be downtown. (Photo by Candice Black)

The goal is for the end product to be a large artpiece created by the hands of local people. With input from the community, McLain will come up with a concept and sketch out a map of what the painting will look like.

Pieces of canvas will be laid out and local volunteers will paint the design in a way similar to paint by number.

“The goal of it is to get as many people in the mix as possible, as many people participating as possible. It’s like the art of community organizing versus painting but we are professionals and muralists also,” McLain said. *“At the end of the day, you’ll get something that’s very vibrant. It will be figurative so you’ll be able to tell what it is but it will also be big and painterly. You can tell it’s handmade.”*

The project will take about three months to complete. With locals helping to make the mural come to life, Gilmer said it will give them a sense of ownership and pride for the arts in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

"We are all more invested in things that we take ownership of. We're committed to creating the culture in which everybody in the community, even people like me who can't draw a straight line, have an opportunity to share whatever artistic abilities or sensibilities we have," Gilmer said. "So far, the community is just showing out in a big way."

Being from another state, McClain said she will be able to see the community from a fresh perspective which will cause her to rely even more on community input.

"Part of the magic of not being from here is not coming in with any pre-conceived ideas of what the murals represent. That's why I'm here now just listening to people," she said.

McLain had never been to Parkersburg until this week, but she said she's impressed with the beauty and history of the town.

"I feel like it's rich in potential, it's rich in stories. There are so many people I have talked to who are really committed to the revitalization and the growth of Parkersburg," she said. "I've been surprised at how strong the arts actually are here (and) how they're positioned. I think they will be a big role in what's coming."

Civic Leaders Fellowship provides paid internships

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 1, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/07/civic-leaders-fellowship-provides-paid-internships/>



The 2021 Civic Leaders Fellowship students, a program of the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation & Regional Affiliates, are, first row, from left, Paige Lang, Krista Davis, Haleigh Robinson, Carissa Wetz, Abigail Werry, Isabella Rinard, Madison Miller and Nathaniel Windom. Back row, Bailey Harlow, Peyton Field, Luke Nelson, Karlie Rainer, Zoe Pingley, Samantha Williams, Cody Van Allen, Kyle Howard and Jordan Fanelli. Not pictured, Kayleigh Casto. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Eighteen students have returned to the Mid-Ohio Valley working in local nonprofits, businesses and government agencies this summer as a part of the Civic Leaders Fellowship Program offered by the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation & Regional Affiliates.

The seven-week program enters its 10th year of bringing local college students back to their hometowns to find meaningful paid work experiences and to make connections while contributing to their communities.

“It has been a pleasure to work with so many engaged, committed young leaders from the PACF’s service region,” said Alicia Beeson, Civic Leaders program director. *“Their visions for our communities are compelling, and I believe that we can work towards them together.”*

Students participating this year are:

Kayleigh Casto, second year Civic Leader, Fairmont State University. Communication Arts, placement WVU at Parkersburg Veterans Resource Center

* Krista Davis, first year Civic Leader, Davis and Elkins College. Nursing, placement Coplin Health Systems

* Jordan Fanelli, first year Civic Leader, West Virginia University. Law, placement Wood County Prosecutor

* Peyton Field, second year Civic Leader, West Virginia University. Speech/Language Pathology, placement Camden Clark Medical Center

* Bailey Harlow, second year Civic Leader, Capital University. Social Work, placement Washington Morgan Community Action

* Kyle Howard, first year Civic Leader, Marietta College. Environmental Engineering, placement Parkersburg Utility Board

* Paige Lang, first year Civic Leader, West Virginia University. Pharmacy, placement Cox Family Pharmacy.

* Madison Miller, second year Civic Leader, Marietta College. Biology, placement Washington County Health Department

* Luke Nelson, second year Civic Leader, Muskingum University. Accounting, placement Wark Accounting

* Zoe Pingley, first year Civic Leader, West Virginia University. Communication Sciences and Disorders, placement Wood County Society

* Karlie Rainer, first year Civic Leader, Ohio State University. Architecture, placement Marietta Main Street

* Isabella Rinard, first year Civic Leader, Marietta College. Elementary and Special Education, placement Boys and Girls Club of Washington County

* Hayleigh Robinson, second year Civic Leader, Wheeling University. Elementary Education, placement Boys and Girls Club of Parkersburg

* Cody Van Allen, first year Civic Leader, West Virginia University. Biomedical Engineering, placement Miller Prosthetics & Orthotics

* Abigail Werry, first year Civic Leader, Kent State University. Marketing, placement Entrepreneurship Program at Marietta College

* Carissa Wetz, first year Civic Leader, Marshall University. Early Childhood Education, placement The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley

* Samantha Williams, first year Civic Leader, West Virginia University. Environmental, soil and water sciences, placement Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

* Nathaniel Windom, first year Civic Leader, West Virginia University. Graphic Design, placement, Itech – Technology Solutions and Xerox agent

Through the Program, each Civic Leader also will spend their Mondays engaging with one another, learning about the community's needs and issues and exploring personal and professional development opportunities.

Second-year Civic Leaders spend their Mondays furthering their leadership studies, visiting area nonprofit organizations, assessing community needs, and learning about community grantmaking.

To learn more, visit the foundation's website, pacfwv.com/CLFP.

Downtown PKB Welcomes Goodspace Murals

Clutch MOV

July 5, 2021

<https://clutchmov.com/downtown-pkb-welcomes-goodspace-murals/>

Soon, the bare bricks of the downtown Parkersburg area will be brought to life with the broad brushstrokes reflecting a community purpose, cause, and effort. Parkersburg placemaking swung into full gear at The GoodSpace Murals and Lunch on June 30. Community members from across the town gathered to listen to local music and share ideas concerning the GoodSpace Murals that will eventually splash across the sides of The Art Center and The Actors Guild.

The project is a result of The Downtown Arts Collaborative – a series of arts groups in the Mid-Ohio Valley that is housed under WVU Parkersburg. For President Chris Gilmer, the arts are an important part of the community and one that he is hopeful to see expand throughout the Mid-Ohio Valley.

“Community is the most important word in ‘Community College.’ We have to be of and for the community we serve and it’s an honor to be. We can’t be a hidden gem or an underused resource, it’s our responsibility to step forward and not only feed the workforce development needs, but also the mission-oriented service,” President Gilmer said.

Greta McLain is the muralist bringing this opportunity to the community. She is the owner and artistic director of GoodSpace murals which has completed placemaking pieces all across the United States. Great painted her first mural at nine years old. After that, she decided that painting with her friends and bringing people together through art was the only thing that she wanted to do. After studying it in college, she formed a career by using it to create positive social change through GoodSpace.

“So I think it’s really important for us to feel like we have power in our communities and power in the direction that things are going. One of the things that I hear about, about shifts and the possibility or the threat of gentrification, is people feel like the development in the direction of their communities is out of their hands,” McLain said. “So there’s something really powerful about inviting everybody in and saying, ‘I want us all; we’re all going to paint together, we’re all going to talk together. Your voice is just as important as this other person’s voice and it is just important as this other person’s. We cannot be a community unless we’re all together, and then a mural can represent the power of the collective, and it can also show who actually lives here and be a way for people to feel like they’re telling their own stories.”



McLain developed three questions that she asked the community to answer while they were at the event:

- **What do you love about Parkersburg?**
- **What are your dreams/hopes for the future of Parkersburg? What would you like to see happen here?**
- **What would you like to change about Parkersburg?**

McLain developed these questions with Senta Goudy of WVU Parkersburg and Jessie Siefert of The Parkersburg Art Center. The team hoped that the questions would be simple enough to get straightforward answers, but profound enough to signal true feelings. The goal was to create a definition, a problem, and a solution from the answers to these questions.

“So the definition is what we love about Parkersburg and what Parkersburg is now. Then the challenge would be like, ‘what do we want to change?’ So then people can look around and do something that unites us: being able to critique our home, and not having somebody else critique our home. When we critique our own home, we’re saying we’re going to change,” McLain said.

The murals will be a completely community drive project down to the painting and installation. McLain believes in the power of communities coming together to complete these projects.

“We’re using an indirect mural technique called ‘the parachute cloth technique.’ And what we do is invite everyone to paint on a synthetic canvas, and then once it’s painted, we actually glue it up on the wall with a matte medium. So it’s kind of like paint on paint on paint, but it will get installed like permanent wallpaper. Then, we paint over the seams and we seal it, and at the end of the day it will have the appearance of being painted directly on the wall,” McLain said.



In placemaking, the design of public spaces hinges heavily on the use of local assets and talent to create spaces that feel like they belong to the community, often promoting health and well-being.

“It is a visual representation of the intangible and the tangible world that is around us and they’re things that people can unite around, and share a common vision around and this one is going to be especially important because it’s going to be one that’s not done for the community, it’s going to be one that is done by us. And we’re all more invested in the things that we feel like we own and participate in,” President Gilmer said.

Downtown PKB, another organization working toward creating intentional spaces in the Parkersburg area through strategic initiatives, is focusing on creating more public art in the downtown space.

“Anytime there’s a project like this, we want to be involved in helping them get the word out about it or helping them to try and fundraise for it whenever we can. This is activating the space and creating uniqueness. We see people down here all the time with our selfie stations interacting – guests from the hotel (The Blennerhassett) will come out and stand in front of that big banner over there and get their photo taken. It’s a placemaking activity, but it’s bringing back life,” Downtown PKB Executive Director Wendy Shriver said.

The project is slated to begin painting soon with the final installation happening with an anticipated finishing date of three months. For those interested in participating in

the process, the [Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley's Facebook page](#) will have the most up-to-date information.

WVU-P Veterans Corps participates in Freedom Fun Run 5K

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 9, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/07/wvu-p-veterans-corps-participates-in-freedom-fun-run-5k/>



From left are Kurt Klettner, Kenna Reynolds Warren, Billie Shutts, Bob Boyter, Megan Shearlock, Melody Shearlock, Darren Shearlock, Kayleigh Casto, Chris Birkhimer, Kristie Casto and Curtis Casto. The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Veterans Corps and campus members recently participated in the Jan Dils Walk 4 Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Veterans Corps and campus members recently participated in the Jan Dils Walk 4 Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K.

The virtual 5K allows participants to complete the 3.1-mile walk and run at their own pace and using a course of their choosing. The Veterans Corps chose the WVU-P Walking Trail, inviting campus and community members to accomplish the course together.

Participants included Bob Boyter, Chris Birkhimer, Curtis Casto, Kayleigh Casto, Kristie Casto, Kurt Klettner, Darren Shearlock, Megan Shearlock, Melody Shearlock, Billie Shutts and Kenna Reynolds Warren.

The Freedom Fun Run 5K is sponsored by Jan Dils Attorneys at Law with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting Operation Transportation, We Have Your Six and scholarships for WVU-P student veterans.

“We are proud to have the support of the community and organizations like Jan Dils, and in return, show our support through participation,” said Darren Shearlock, WVU-P veterans advocate. *“Last year, monies from the Freedom Fun Run provided nine student veterans with scholarships that they may have otherwise not received.”*



Chris Birkhimer leads the 5K runners and walkers for the Jan Dils Walk 4 Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K. The virtual event is still going on until the weekend. (Photo Provided)

Online registration for the Fun Run 5K will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 9. The cost to register is \$20, and participants must complete their course by July 10.

For more information on the Jan Dils Walk 4 Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K, contact Beverly Geiger at beverly@jandils.com or 304-428-8900 ext. 1335.

To learn more about WVU-P's veteran resources, contact Shearlock at darren.shearlock@wvup.edu or 304-424-8337.



Kayleigh Casto, left, and Kristie Casto, right, begin the second mile of the Jan Dils Walk 4 Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K. Kayleigh is currently a Parkersburg Area Community Foundation Civic Leader working with the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Veterans Resource Center. (Photo Provided)

Miss West Virginia USA and Miss West Virginia Teen USA crowned Sunday in Buckhannon

The Record Delta

July 12, 2021

<https://therecorddelta.com/article/miss-west-virginia-usa-and-miss-west-virginia-teen-usa-crowned-sunday-in-buckhannon>



BUCKHANNON — On Sunday evening, the lives of two young women were forever changed as they now begin to embark on their “Journey to the Crown” on the national competition stage.

The third and final night of the Miss West Virginia USA competition held in Buckhannon narrowed the contestants down to the top five competitors in the Miss and Teen divisions. Completing an active-wear phase, an evening gown presentation, and an on-stage question—one teen and one woman were crowned as the 2021 title holders who will go on to represent the Mountain State in the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants this fall.

Brylee Knotts, a senior from Grafton High School, was named Miss Teen West Virginia USA. She will be attending Fairmont State, studying Forensic Science. Knotts said she

is interested in crime and investigation, advocacy for teen mental health, and has the ambition of becoming an entrepreneur.

“I entered this pageant because I want to show the world a new, empowered me. In the last year, I had a lot of time to self reflect, identify my strengths, understand my struggles, and find who I truly am. I hope to encourage other young adults to spread their wings and express themselves in whatever way they choose,” Knotts expressed. She will advance to the Miss Teen USA pageant in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 4.

Parkersburg’s Alexis Bland was crowned Miss West Virginia USA on July 11. She is a graduate from WVU at Parkersburg, where she studied Business Administration. Bland is now a Real Estate Agent who reportedly loves traveling, singing and writing.

Bland expressed, “The Miss West Virginia USA title will allow me to educate young people about the importance of financial literacy and developing important life skills. I entered the pageant to promote positive change and leadership throughout my state. I hope to gain new responsibilities and self growth from this experience.” She will also compete in Tulsa on November 29, as she seeks the title of Miss USA.

Lakyn Campbell was 1st Runner Up in the Miss Teen West Virginia USA competition and will replace Knotts in the Miss Teen USA competition if she is unable to fulfill her duties for any reason. Sarah Lowjeski was 2nd Runner Up, while Leah Hinchee was the 3rd Runner Up and Emily Grace Anderson was the 4th Runner Up.

Should Bland be unable to fulfill her duties as Miss West Virginia USA, Krystian Leonard will step in as 1st Runner Up. Tamia Hardy was the 2nd Runner Up, while Lacey Russell took 3rd Runner Up, followed by 4th Runner Up Dominique Collins.

Congratulations to all the contestants and best wishes as they represent West Virginia in the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA competitions later this year.

Airport authority hears plan for WVUP program

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 14, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/07/airport-authority-hears-plan-for-wvup-program/>

WILLIAMSTOWN — The possibility of a flight school was discussed at the Wood County Airport Authority meeting Tuesday morning.

Working with West Virginia University at Parkersburg, airport manager Glen Kelly briefed the authority on the details of the proposed school which would be on the airport property with the educational content coming from the college.

The priority for the proposed program is to offer training for airframe and powerplant mechanics, which is a needed position for some West Virginia airports. For example, the Clarksburg airport alone has 200 airframe and powerplant mechanic positions available.

“This is certainly not only a great way to help the community and help promote future jobs acquisition here but place a lot of young people with good paying jobs in West Virginia,” Kelly said.

Last month, Kelly and administrators from WVU Parkersburg approached the Wood County Commission to discuss the opportunity and Kelly asked the commission for \$1.5 million to expand and refurbish one of the hangars on the airport property to be used for the potential program.

“It is in bad condition but by expanding it, we believe we will have the square footage requirement for an (airframe and powerplant mechanics) school,” Kelly said. *“This would be a perfect place for a computer lab or any flight simulators.”*

If it comes to fruition, the school wouldn't be a typical setup with semesters, Kelly said it would likely be a one-year study.

“These folks could be, within a year, working a good job,” he said.

If the commission doesn't approve the proposed \$1.5 million for the hangar expansion for the school, Kelly is hoping the commission will award the airport with a total of \$630,000 for some repairs to a hanger and the old terminal building.

“It's no additional construction, that's just to do the roof and renovation in hangar four, put the bathrooms back in service, (and fix) the roof and fiberoptics for the old terminal,” Kelly said.

The old terminal is used by for Civil Air Patrol meetings. A refurbishment of the former terminal and the hangar could mean more revenue for the airport.

“That would put it in line to be rented and would certainly increase the rent of hangar four,” Kelly said.

Wood County Schools holding S.T.E.A.M. camp for students at Blennerhassett Elementary School

WTAP-TV [video]

July 14, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/07/14/wood-county-schools-holding-steam-camp-students-blennerhassett-elementary-school/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Wood County Schools students are getting a chance at learning more about S.T.E.A.M.

Blennerhassett Elementary School's S.T.E.A.M. teacher, Lisa Smith says, "S.T.E.A.M. focuses on science, technology, engineering, art, and math. And it's essential to preparing students for the future and for the workforce."

Students are using 3-D printers, coding to fly drones and building robots.

These children are getting more engaged in S.T.E.A.M. Activities.

"And the first couple times that they realize that 'Oh, I understand how I can go from building this robot, to programming it, to telling it what to do, and then it does it.' And they get real excited about it. And that's the part that I really enjoy," says West Virginia University-Parkersburg S.T.E.M. Dean, Dr. Jared Gump.

This S.T.E.A.M. program is just designed to get students interested in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. But prepares them for the future workforce. Including jobs that have yet to be created.

“So, we’re giving them the basics of how to use science and technology and engineering,” says Smith. “And they’ll be able to apply those to new skills for the future for jobs of the future.”

And it’s something that many of these students want to continue to do.

“It’s really fun. And I think I want to do it again,” says Blennerhassett Elementary student, Hadley Dye.

Smith says that this steam camp focuses on NASA’s “Artemis Program.”

Which discusses sending the next man and the first woman to the moon and establish a lunar site.

WVU Parkersburg Participates in Walk 4 Vets Fundraiser

Clutch MOV

July 15, 2021

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-participates-in-walk-4-vets-fundraiser/>

The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Veterans Corps and campus members recently participated in the Jan Dils Walk 4 Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K.

The virtual 5K allows participants to complete the 3.1-mile walk and run at their own pace and using a course of their choosing. The Veterans Corps chose the WVU Parkersburg Walking Trail, inviting campus and community members to accomplish the course together.



Kayleigh Casto (left) and Kristie Casto (right) begin the second mile of the 5K. Kayleigh is currently a PACF Civic Leader working with the WVU Parkersburg Veterans Resource Center.

Participants included Bob Boyter, Chris, Birkhimer, Curtis Casto, Kayleigh Casto, Kristie Casto, Kurt Klettner, Darren Shearlock, Megan Shearlock, Melody Shearlock, Billie Shutts and Kenna Reynolds Warren.

The Freedom Fun Run 5K is sponsored by Jan Dils Attorneys at Law with 100% of proceeds benefiting Operation Transportation, We Have Your Six and scholarships for WVU Parkersburg student veterans.



Left to right: Kurt Klettner, Kenna Reynolds Warren, Billie Shutts, Bob Boyter, Megan Shearlock, Melody Shearlock, Darren Shearlock, Kayleigh Casto, Chris Birkhimer, Kristie Casto and Curtis Casto.

“We are proud to have the support of the community and organizations like Jan Dils, and in return, show our support through participation,” said Darren Shearlock, WVU Parkersburg veterans advocate. “Last year, monies from the Freedom Fun Run provided nine student veterans with scholarships that they may have otherwise not received.”

Online registration for the Fun Run 5K will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 9. The cost to register is \$20, and participants must complete their course by July 10.



Chris Birkhimer leads the 5K runners and walkers.

For more information on the Jan Dils Walk 4 Vets Freedom Fun Run 5K, contact Beverly Geiger at beverly@jandils.com or 304-428-8900 ext, 1335. To learn more about WVU Parkersburg's veteran resources, contact Veterans Advocate Darren Shearlock at darren.shearlock@wvup.edu or 304-424-8337.

Military Times salutes WVU Parkersburg for efforts to education veterans

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 19, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2021/07/military-times-salutes-wvu-parkersburg-for-efforts-to-educate-veterans/>

PARKERSBURG — Military Times has named WVU Parkersburg a “Best for Vets” career and technical college for the third year in a row. This time, the college earned the No. 7 ranking on the list.

More than 300 schools were considered, and Military Times evaluated schools' programs, cost and services for military veterans and their families. The organization also measured data from the U.S. Department of Education and Veterans Affairs and Defense.

“As a retired Army Master Sergeant, I am thrilled to be a part of a team that is continually recognized for helping veterans. WVU Parkersburg is ‘Best for Vets’ due to the work and generosity of our many community partners,” said Darren Shearlock, WVU Parkersburg veterans advocate.

WVU Parkersburg’s partners in education, such as the Jan Dils Foundation, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Marine Corps League, provide student veterans scholarships, giving them greater opportunities to succeed academically.

“Completing college is not always an easy task, but fortunately, U.S. service members and veterans are used to completing difficult tasks,” said Shearlock. *“If they can succeed in boot camp, overseas deployments and war, they can succeed in college. They only need the right tools and a little help.”*

As a veterans advocate, Shearlock helps students manage college credit transfers, secure financing through the GI Bill and apply for VA benefits. Through community and Foundation funds, WVU Parkersburg also offers veteran-based scholarships to help students pay for tuition and fees.

The WVU Parkersburg’s Veterans Resource Center provides veteran students and families with the tools to achieve academic success and transition to civilian life. This includes offering a student-run Veterans Corps that organizes extracurricular activities for members and community events to honor patriotic holidays.

Find the “Best for Vets” rankings at colleges.militarytimes.com.

To learn more about WVU Parkersburg’s veteran resources, contact Darren Shearlock at darren.shearlock@wwup.edu or 304-424-8337.

The WVU Parkersburg Foundation, the West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg, and the River Cities Symphony Hosts Grisha Krivchenia Concerts

Clutch MOV

July 19, 2021

<https://clutchmov.com/the-wvu-parkersburg-foundation-the-west-virginia-symphony-league-of-parkersburg-and-the-river-cities-symphony-hosts-grisha-krivchenia-concerts/>

The WVU Parkersburg Foundation in conjunction with The West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg, and The River Cities Symphony Orchestra will host acclaimed pianist Grisha Krivchenia at Larchmont in Marietta, Ohio at 6 p.m. on July 22 and at Oakland Estate on July 25 at 3 p.m. in Parkersburg, W.Va.

Lauded as “the coolest classical musician around” (Santa Fe Reporter) and “presiding over outstanding technique” (Bergisches Zeitung), Grisha Krivchenia is a versatile artist whose performances and original compositions enthrall audiences throughout the Northern Hemisphere. He enjoys a busy performance schedule, and his compositions are realized by professional ensembles worldwide. Recent premieres have taken place in Los Angeles, Seattle, and Bucharest.

“We are honored to have Grisha Krivchenia return to the Mid-Ohio Valley to play at the Oakland Estate to benefit the WVU Parkersburg Foundation and The West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg. He is an exciting performer,” said Becky Deem-McGinnis, WVU Parkersburg Foundation Board president.



Grisha completed his studies at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied piano with Sedmara Rutstein and composition with Jeffrey Mumford. In 2007, Grisha founded the music program at Spring Street International School in Friday Harbor. His solo piano and chamber music is published by Abundant Silence Publishing and CCC Music Company.

“It is always very special when somebody, born and raised in the area, returns to share their extraordinary talent. Grisha, as well as being a highly talented pianist of the classics, is also a talented composer,” said David Demberger, owner of Larchmont.

Grisha takes a special interest in using art to amplify voices that might otherwise go unheard. He writes music in collaboration with hospice patients, veterans, and recovering addicts and recently completed a song cycle based on interviews with Syrian refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

The concerts will benefit three local organizations: The WVU Parkersburg Foundation, River Cities Symphony Orchestra, and The West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg. For tickets, contact Olivia Reeder at 304-424-800 ext. 471.

Parkersburg resident signs with Nashville Entertainment Weekly Records

WTAP-TV [video]

July 20, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/07/20/parkersburg-resident-signs-with-nashville-entertainment-weekly-records/>



ON THE PHONE

PATRICK LAWRENCE

PARKERSBURG RESIDENT

PARKERSBURG RESIDENT SIGNS WITH NASHVILLE ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

wtap 5:07 86°

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PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - One Parkersburg resident is signed to a country record deal.

Patrick Lawrence is a Parkersburg resident signing with Nashville Entertainment Weekly Records.

Lawrence is a legally blind person with albinism and has found his calling with country and bluegrass music.

He says that he has always wanted a chance to play his music for people and get on the road with a band.

Lawrence also says that he has fallen in love with playing the guitar ever since he got his hands on the instrument as a teenager.

“When I was a teenager somebody gave me a guitar and as soon as I started learning that guitar I just knew that I wanted to do it for a living. It became my number one passion. And, for awhile, I didn’t think I would get anywhere. I just kind of started just playing by myself, putting videos on the internet. And just making recordings, putting them on YouTube and just for my friends and family to see. And, I kind of went being from just being doing my own thing for fun to being signed to a record company,” says Lawrence.

Lawrence is currently auditioning musicians for his touring band.

He says that he was coached on how to play guitar from family and his teachers at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind.

Lawrence says that some of his biggest musical influences are Buck Owens, Doyle Lawson, and Quicksilver amongst others.

Symphonies host Krivchenia concerts

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 21, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/07/symphonies-host-krivchenia-concerts/>

PARKERSBURG — The WVU Parkersburg Foundation with the West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg and the River Cities Symphony Orchestra will host acclaimed

pianist Grisha Krivchenia at 6 p.m. Thursday at Larchmont in Marietta and 3 p.m. Sunday at Oakland Estate in Parkersburg.

Lauded as *“the coolest classical musician around”* by the Santa Fe Reporter, Krivchenia is a versatile artist whose performances and original compositions enthrall audiences throughout the Northern Hemisphere. He enjoys a busy performance schedule and his compositions are performed by professional ensembles worldwide.

Recent premieres have taken place in Los Angeles, Seattle, and Bucharest.

“We are honored to have Grisha Krivchenia return to the Mid-Ohio Valley to play at the Oakland Estate to benefit the WVU Parkersburg Foundation and the West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg. He is an exciting performer,” Becky Deem-McGinnis, WVU Parkersburg Foundation Board president, said.

Krivchenia completed his studies at Oberlin Conservatory where he studied piano with Sedmara Rutstein and composition with Jeffrey Mumford. In 2007, Krivchenia founded the music program at Spring Street International School in Friday Harbor.

His solo piano and chamber music is published by Abundant Silence Publishing and CCC Music Co.

“It is always very special when somebody, born and raised in the area, returns to share their extraordinary talent. Grisha, as well as being a highly talented pianist of the classics, is also a talented composer,” said David Dernberger, owner of Larchmont.

The venues make the concerts special, Dernberger said. Both homes were built in the second quarter of the 19th century and have similar floor plans, he said.

The audience is limited to about 35 people at each concert because of the size of the double drawing rooms where the performances will be staged, Dernberger said.

“These are home concerts,” he said.

Dernberger characterizes the concerts as *“classical homes and classical music.”* Krivchenia will perform work by Bach, Schubert, Beethoven and Lizts, including Beethoven’s *“Sonata,”* *“Opus 110,”* Lizt’s *“Funerailles”* and original compositions.

The intimate nature of the settings will lend to the ambiance of the performances, Dernberger said.

Tickets are \$75 per person.

Grisha takes a special interest in using art to amplify voices that might otherwise go unheard. He writes music in collaboration with hospice patients, veterans, and recovering addicts and recently completed a song cycle based on interviews with Syrian refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

The concerts will benefit the WVU Parkersburg Foundation, River Cities Symphony Orchestra and the West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg. For tickets, contact Olivia Reeder at 304-424-800 ext. 471.

Symphonies host Krivchenia concerts

The Marietta Times

July 21, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2021/07/symphonies-host-krivchenia-concerts/>



Oakland and Larchmont are the stages for concerts by pianist Grisha Krivchenia, a Marietta native, at 6 p.m. Thursday at Larchmont in Marietta and 3 p.m. Sunday at Oakland Estate in Parkersburg.

PARKERSBURG — The WVU Parkersburg Foundation with the West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg and the River Cities Symphony Orchestra will host acclaimed pianist Grisha Krivchenia at 6 p.m. Thursday at Larchmont in Marietta and 3 p.m. Sunday at Oakland Estate in Parkersburg.

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The concerts will benefit the WVU Parkersburg Foundation, River Cities Symphony Orchestra and the West Virginia Symphony League of Parkersburg. For tickets, contact Olivia Reeder at 304-424-800 ext. 471.

WVU Parkersburg Announces President's and Dean's Scholars

Tyler Star News

July 21, 2021

<https://www.tylerstarnews.com/news/local-news/2021/07/21/wvu-parkersburg-announces-presidents-and-deans-scholars/>

Parkersburg, W.Va. (June 14, 2021) – West Virginia University at Parkersburg is pleased to announce its President's and Dean's scholars for the Spring 2021 semester.

Parkersburg, W.Va. (June 14, 2021) – West Virginia University at Parkersburg awarded certificates, associates and bachelor's degrees to May 2021 graduates.

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

President's Scholars:

Students on the President's List maintained a 4.0 grade point average while earning 12 or more hours of college credit. The scholars include:

TYLER COUNTY – Friendly: Erica Davis; Sistersville: Millicent Kehrer;

WETZEL COUNTY – New Martinsville: Breanne Carr; Paden City: Bradley Baker;

Dean's Scholars:

Students named to the Dean's List maintained a 3.5 grade point average while earning six or more hours of college credit. The scholars include:

TYLER COUNTY – Alma: Jacob Medley; Jordyn Potoczny; Friendly: Hadyn Brown; Hannah Dearth; Thomas Hill; Victoria Yost; Jacksonburg: Kelsi Vandruff.

Middlebourne: Breana Anderson; Jenna Brinkmeier; Landry Buchanan; Abigail Ebert; Aleeah Fletcher; Shayla Griffey; Ayden Hoover; Zoe Lemasters; Alisa Miller; Romana Rice; Abigail Rose; Briann Templeton; Lauren Templeton; Ryley Vandyne.

Sistersville: Audrey Dennis; Jocelyn Foltz; Kate Gorrell; Abigail Ice; Asia Keller; Abigail Kerns; Caleigh Phillips; Shauna Riggs; Isaac Rush; Brittney Strum; Madeline Tarnecki.

WETZEL COUNTY – New Martinsville: Telah King; Paxton Pierce; Hailey Lane.

West Virginia University-Parkersburg awarded \$100 thousand through Metallica Scholars Initiative

WTAP-TV [video]

July 22, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/07/22/west-virginia-university-parkersburg-awarded-100-thousand-through-metallica-scholars-initiative/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - The commuter college is receiving \$100 thousand through the “Metallica Scholars Initiative.”

Funded by Metallica’s All Within My Hands (AWMH) and led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Metallica Scholars Initiative was designed to directly support students while elevating the importance of career and

technical education. Metallica continues to use its global platform to speak out on the dignity of professional trades and community colleges that prepare students.

James Hetfield, Metallica's vocalist/guitarist and co-founder, said, "As a touring entity, we are in direct involvement with multiple essential career choices along our path. From electrical, professional driving, culinary, mechanical maintenance, public safety, logistical organizers. And that just scratches the surface. Those, along with a multitude of other technical careers, make our touring and our performances possible. We are passionate and grateful to these trades and tradespeople."

WVU-Parkersburg was selected as one of nine community college schools in the nation to earn this opportunity.

College president, Dr. Chris Gilmer, says that this is a chance to turn the page on providing more opportunities to their students.

He says that these sort of vocational jobs and trades will be highlighted because of this funding.

"The purpose of the Metallica Scholars Initiative is to increase the status of workforce and technical education. And to say once and for all, any job that you do with pride has equal nobility, that they're all equally important and that they have value. And this is a way for us to demonstrate tangibly to our students through extra financial resources that we'll be able to give to them. And we're preparing them for careers and that we are thinking that students at rural West Virginia get to have all the same opportunities that students in any other part of the country get to have," says Dr. Gilmer.

Dr. Gilmer says that the commuter school will be riding the lightning and having mandatory Metallica played on its college radio station.

Virtual Freedom Fun Run 5K reaches \$25K fundraising goal

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 22, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/07/virtual-freedom-fun-run-5k-reaches-25k-fundraising-goal/>

PARKERSBURG — The 2021 Virtual Freedom Fun Run 5K hosted by Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law and the Jan Dils Foundation has raised \$25,000.

The event attracted over 30 veterans and active duty service members. With the Virtual Freedom Fun Run 5K being virtually held, it increased the footprint for participation and had participants from Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, South Africa, Canada and Kuwait.

Race participants and sponsors raised \$9,075 and with a donation from Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law in the amount of \$15,925, the event reached its fundraising goal of \$25,000.

“We are honored by the participation and support we received throughout this event. This year’s event looked a little different as a Virtual event,” Jan Dils said. *“However, the support from the community, participants and sponsors was overwhelming. We certainly look forward to hosting our 2022 event next summer as we all gather together to support our veterans.”*

All of the funds raised will go to We Have Your Six, Operation Transportation, West Virginia University at Parkersburg and the WVU-P Scholarship for Veteran Recipients.

Race winners for the 2021 Virtual Freedom Fun Run 5k:

* Fastest time, male runners: first place, Alex Harris; second place, Ryan Vaillancourt; third place, Mathew Miller.

* Fastest time, female runners: first place, Katie Vickers; second place, Anna Vanderlaan; third place, Sara Stump.

* Fastest time, 15 & under female runners: first place, Aven Tacy.

* Fastest time, male walkers; first place, Brenis Phillips; second place, Robert Fehrenbacher; third place, Bob Heddleston.

* Fastest time, female walkers: first place, Sheila Dye; second place, Penny Elam; third place, Patty Metz.

* Top veteran female walker: Roxiann Price.

* Top veteran male walker: Brenis Phillips.

* Winners of fun photo awards: Best furry running partner, Mary Hetrick and her furry running partner, Teddy Graham; Best scenic race route, Devin Dye, Dolly Sods

Wilderness; most patriotic, Benjamin Stanley with a 4-mile ruck while stationed in Kuwait.

- * Best family fun runners: Cheryl Wingrove.
- * Best race recovery: Becki Nelson.
- * Overachiever Award: Pat Patterson with 13.1 miles

'I would like to give a huge thank you to our team members and volunteers who helped make this event a tremendous success," *Dils said*. "We are thankful for the generosity of our sponsors who made this event possible. Their donations will make an impact on our Veteran communities."

Four-star sponsors donating \$1,000 were Crown Florals and gifts, Dupont, Family Carpet, Locklear Media, Results Radio, United Bank, WCHS 8 and Fox 11, WTAP, WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center.

Three-star sponsors donating \$500 were: Bob Astorg CPA, Highmark West Virginia, Hughes Family Chiropractic, Kiger Insurance Agency and Wesbanco.

WVU-P hosts CSI Teen Academy with all-female class

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 23, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/07/wvu-p-hosts-csi-teen-academy-with-all-female-class/>



Participants in the CSI Teen Academy at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. Back row, from left, Olivia Whaley, Program Coordinator Andrew Walker, alumni Nathan Settle, WVU-P President Chris Gilmer, instructor Amy Strong, Madi Gainer, Julia Crone, Grace Sprout and Emily Sendling. Front row, Rayelee Chambers, Whitney Ferrebee, Emma Cross and Sophie Seckman. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — The Teen Academy at West Virginia University at Parkersburg immerses youth in real-world, hands-on education in a subject of which they are interested and helps them choose a career.

“Teen Academies are designed to be self-discovery. There’s often been pressure that teens are expected to have a concrete idea of their career. But, there’s often little room to explore and truly understand a degree and career path without the potential of major setbacks, wasted time, and money,” Program Coordinator Logan Mace said.

The Teen Academy features different career exploration opportunities. However, the students in the CSI Teen Academy are hallmarked by the characteristic of all being young women interested in the field.

The CSI Teen Academy allowed students to walk through a crime scene on the first day to see what it might actually look like if they entered the field. In addition, the program

featured forensic entomology where the instructors put a chicken outside and let it collect fly evidence. In a couple days, they experienced maggot activity and Criminal Justice Program Coordinator Andrew Walker was pleased that each student went outside to investigate it despite the smell.

“We put it on to break down the myths and find the realities of CSI, police work and solving crimes. We were fortunate to have nine very bright young ladies who came into the criminal justice class — a field that’s dominated, typically in the policing area, by men,” Walker said. *“So it’s nice to see young women interested in the field and interested in criminal justice. They all have an interest in crime scene work, police work, and criminal justice in general so it’s really cool to get them here, get them thinking about college and seeing what it is we do in our classes to give them that hands-on learning experience.”*



Emma Cross examines evidence in the CSI Teen Academy at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. (Photo Provided)

Emma Cross, a freshman at Liberty High School in Clarksburg and participant in the Teen Academy, enjoyed the capstone experience. It let the students understand what it’s like to work in the field through the experiential learning opportunities that Walker presented to them, she said.

Walker’s goal was to break down the barriers between the students and what college could be for them by allowing them to interact with college instructors in a college setting.

"I really like setting up the crime scene, like getting it all together was fun," Cross said. "I learned how different behavior could affect how someone commits a crime. After this, I definitely want to go into criminal justice."

The summer academies for teens give high school students a taste of college early, but this year's academy is especially meaningful because all nine participants are young women studying in a field that was not always a welcoming career field for women, WVU-P President Chris Gilmer said.

"Of course, we support all of our students and are proud of them regardless of their personal traits, but I am gratified to see this generation of young women breaking down unfair barriers that might have held their mothers or grandmothers back in their professions," he said. "Also, I am very proud for WVU-P to be a leader in breaking down those barriers."

WVU-P Gets \$100,00 Grant for Career, Technical Education

The Pleasants County Leader

July 24, 2021

West Virginia University Parkersburg was selected from a competitive field of community colleges across the country to receive \$100,000 to transform the future of students in the community.

Funded by Metallica's All Within My Hands (AWMH) and led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Metallica Scholars Initiative was designed to directly support students while elevating the importance of career and technical education.

Metallica continues to use its global platform to speak out on the dignity of professional trades and community colleges that prepare students.

The Metallica Scholars Initiative is in its third year and has improved the earning potential for students who become Metallica Scholars.

WVU-P will focus its efforts on students earning an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer information technology by offering tuition and textbook assistance and covering costs for students to take up to four industry-recognized certification exams.

The college's goal is to elevate students' credentialed skill sets by meeting industry standards, and raising the level of academic programs offered.

"Selection for the Metallica Scholars Initiative is further proof that WVU-Parkersburg is among the top tier of higher education institutions, not just locally and in West Virginia, but nationally as well," said President Dr. Chris Gilmer.

"Only nine colleges were selected this year from an amazing field of applicants nationwide, and we thank this iconic band, its foundation and our good friends at the AACC for their confidence in us."

He continued, "I have always said that students in rural areas deserve the same advantages as students who might come from more economic privilege, and, given the resources, our students can compete on an equal basis with anyone.

"These funds and the national prominence which comes with this award will help WVU-Parkersburg to continue to lift our students and the communities we serve to even greater heights of educational and career attainment. In this moment, we are indeed West Virginia and WVU-P Proud."

"We are proud to work with Metallica to advance the career and technical education provided by the nation's community colleges," said Walter G. Bumphus, AACC's president and CEO.

"Colleges across the country provide pathways to well-paying jobs through programs, services and training that lead to in-demand skills, certificates and degrees for students. These programs are responsive to the needs of local businesses and provide a pipeline of qualified workers to local industry.

"It's a win-win for our students WVU-P Gets \$100,000 Grant for Career, Technical Education and the local economy. For Metallica to continue to invest in these students and communities is a testament to the power of the workforce education community colleges provide and we are proud to do this work with them."

James Hetfield, Metallica's vocalist/guitarist and co-founder, said, "As a touring entity, we are in direct involvement with multiple essential career choices along our path.

"From electrical, professional driving, culinary, mechanical maintenance, public safety, logistical organizers. And that just scratches the surface. Those, along with a multitude of other technical careers, make our touring and our performances possible. We are

passionate and grateful to these trades and tradespeople.”

The heroes of the day

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 24, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/opinion/local-columns/2021/07/the-heroes-of-the-day/>

It's not every day a news item sparks both memories of riding around listening to music we weren't supposed to in high school, and thoughts on the future of higher education in this country. But last week, our newsroom got a press release from West Virginia University at Parkersburg that did both.

It was the word *"Metallica"* in the headline that caught my eye. *"WVU Parkersburg awarded \$100,000 for new Metallica Scholars Initiative."* What?

I knew there was a reason I like them. Members of Metallica are not known for their snobbery. In fact, they're known for, erm, thumbing their noses at those in the traditional social structure who have declared themselves superior because they have *"succeeded"* at *"the way things have always been."*

Now, they're putting their money where their mouths are and using their All Within My Hands foundation to partner with the American Association of Community Colleges to show they understand the value of the kinds of careers for which community colleges prepare students. It's refreshing. The band says it started the foundation to *"invest in the people and places that have supported the band."*

"As a touring entity, we are in direct involvement with multiple essential career choices along our path," said vocalist/guitarist James Hetfield. *"From electrical, professional driving, culinary, mechanical maintenance, public safety, logistical organizers. And that just scratches the surface. Those, along with a multitude of other technical careers, make our touring and our performances possible. We are passionate and grateful to these trades and tradespeople."*

Yes. Most of you have probably seen by now the social media admonition to take a look at the workers who were deemed essential during the pandemic and consider careers in those fields. Many of them require the kind of training one can get at a school like WVU-P.

These aren't just *"disposable heroes,"* or people for whom the goal is a prestigious title and *"nothing else matters."* *"One"* look at the kinds of jobs available to people credentialed through WVU-P's programs and a student might think *"I'll have a job 'wherever I may roam!'"* In fact, a student may find out that the *"holier than thou"* types are really just *"King Nothing,"* and be able to celebrate their good decision with a little *"whiskey in the jar."*

(It's best I don't attempt to shoehorn *"Enter Sandman"* or *"Fade to Black"* in here somewhere.)

At WVU-P, the money will be used to support students looking to earn an associate of applied science in computer information technology.

"Selection for the Metallica Scholars Initiative is further proof that WVU Parkersburg is among the top tier of higher education institutions, not just locally and in West Virginia, but nationally as well," said WVU-P President Dr. Chris Gilmer. *"Only nine colleges were selected this year from an amazing field of applicants nationwide, and we thank this iconic band, its foundation and our good friends at the AACC for their confidence in us."*

I never thought I'd consider Metallica in the same light as Dolly Parton when it comes to celebrities who decide to use their money to do something that will make a generational difference for families in places like rural Appalachia, but here we are.

Congratulations to WVU-P, for being chosen to receive the award. It is always nice to be reminded we have quality institutions preparing people for real-world careers right here at home — and that others are taking notice!

Local community colleges prepare for new school year with Covid

WTAP-TV

July 26, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/07/27/local-community-colleges-prepare-new-school-year-with-covid/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - With the academic year rapidly approaching, schools have decisions to make about their Covid protocol.

WTAP checked in with local community colleges about their plans.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg aka WVUP and Washington State Community College aka WSCC may look pretty empty now but it won't be the case for long.

It's something they've been preparing for over the summer.

WSCC President Dr. Vicky Wood said, "Over the summer we've actually renovated classrooms so that we could create larger spaces for students so that we can social distance a little easier."

While WSCC is building bigger rooms, WVUP is also playing with space, turning untraditional areas like the theater into classrooms.

Both are also installing new technology to ease remote learning.

WVUP President Chris Gilmer explained the Zoom rooms they've been "busily building" this summer, "Faculty will be teaching in this room but students all throughout our service area - for that year, some of our national programs, and students in many other states as well will be able to participate fully in class, using the Zoom and blackboard and other learning technologies."

While WVUP is equipped with virtual learning capabilities, Gilmer says he's not sure yet what format classes will be in.

"We're still figuring out if we will be at full capacity every student face to face in every class every day or if some of their classes might be a hybrid class where portions of them will be online but we are anticipating that every class will have the option to meet face to face."

Wood says almost all of WSCC courses will have an online component in case students can't come to class.

WSCC class formats will include in-person learning, online learning, hybrid learning, and a new kind.

Wood elaborated, "..., and we have this new option called high-flex, which a student is registering for a face to face class yet the faculty is in a high tech classroom, where they will be delivering their lecture virtually as well as in the classroom."

Both college presidents say they are confident that most of their classes will be able to accommodate for social distancing.

When it comes to masks, both encourage them.

Gilmer said, “We strongly recommend and ask people, particularly the unvaccinated to wear masks on our campuses but at the moment we don’t have the authority to mandate that.”

When it comes to vaccination rate among staff and students, neither keep record.

Wood said, “We have not formally asked our employees or students to report if they are vaccinated are not. We’re not going to do that. We’re just simply encouraging it.”

Gilmer points to privacy as his reasoning for not keeping track. He also states that the school has made free vaccinations available for a year.

Across the State

WV News

July 26, 2021

https://www.wvnews.com/statejournal/news/top_story/across-the-state/article_9f04e100-ebd8-11eb-bee2-b3615ebc9486.html

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WVU-P receives grant for career, technical education

The Wirt County Journal

July 28, 2021

West Virginia University-Parkersburg was selected from a competitive field of community colleges across the country to receive \$100,000 to transform the future of students in the community.

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“It’s a win-win for our students and the local economy. For Metallica to continue to invest in these students and communities is a testament to the power of the workforce education community colleges provide and we are proud to do this work with them.”

Harrisville Police Department welcomes Casto as new patrolman

The Pennsboro News

July 28, 2021



The Harrisville police force just got a little stronger as they have welcomed patrolman Bryan Casto to the department.

A native of St. Marys, Casto brings with him a combined nine years of police experience between the Sistersville and St. Marys police departments.

Casto graduated from the West Virginia State Police Academy in 2013 and credits his early exposure to law enforcement officials as a motivating factor in his career choice.

Along with nearly a decade of police work under his belt, Casto has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in crime scene investigation that he received from his time studying at WVUP.

"I think it's just a better opportunity for me and my family," Casto said when asked why he decided to make the move, "As far as scheduling and time, I think it's just a lot more family friendly."

Patrolman Casto officially joined the Harrisville Department June 30 and intends on assuming the role of Police Chief following the retirement of sitting Chief Mark Lamp later this year.

WVU-P Collaborative receives award

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 28, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/07/wvu-p-arts-collaborative-receives-award/>

PARKERSBURG — The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley has been recognized for community leadership during the 2021 Community Colleges of Appalachia Annual Awards virtual ceremony.

The collaborative received the Mark Ivester Innovation Award for designing and implementing a program to improve the culture of the areas it serves. Mark Ivester was the former North Georgia Technical College president and Board of Directors of the Community Colleges of Appalachia chair-elect who is remembered for leadership and student needs.

Sponsored by the Ross Foundation, the Arts Collaborative represents Mid-Ohio Valley artists, music, theater, history, art education, fine arts and cultural treasures and is a collaborative hub for its members.

"We believe that promoting a robust arts scene throughout our service area greatly enhances the quality of life for our students, employees and the community at

large,” said WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer. *“We thank the Community Colleges of Appalachia for the honor of this award, named in memory of a true leader in the community college community, and we recommit ourselves to deserving it every day.”*

Parkersburg and other cities across the nation have seen local revitalization due to art projects and creating community spaces for all peoples to enjoy. This includes murals, in-person and virtual performances and fostering accessibility and inclusion in the arts.

Members of the Arts Collaborative are the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, Artsbridge, Discovery World, Downtown PKB, Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, Henderson Hall, Historic Smoot Theatre, the Oil and Gas Museum, the Parkersburg Art Center, Schrader Youth Ballet, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra of Parkersburg and Wood County Society and Artbeat Studio.

WVU-P Arts Collaborative receives award

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

July 28, 2021

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Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley Recognized for Community Leadership

Clutch MOV

July 29, 2021

<https://clutchmov.com/arts-collaborative-of-the-mid-ohio-valley-recognized-for-community-leadership/>

WVU Parkersburg’s Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley was recently honored during the 2021 Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) Annual Awards virtual ceremony.

The Arts Collaborative received the Mark Ivester Innovation Award for designing and successfully implementing a program to improve the culture of the areas it serves. Dr. Ivester was the former North Georgia Technical College president and CCA Board of Directors Chair-Elect and is remembered for his legacy of leadership and putting student needs first.

Sponsored by the Ross Foundation, the Arts Collaborative is a community initiative to provide a wide representation of the Mid-Ohio Valley’s artists, music, theatre, history, art education, fine arts and cultural treasures and be a collaborative hub for its members.

“We believe that promoting a robust arts scene throughout our service area greatly enhances the quality of life for our students, employees and the community at large,” said WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer. “We thank the Community Colleges of Appalachia for the honor of this award, named in memory of a true leader in the community college community, and we recommit ourselves to deserving it every day.”

Cities across the nation, including Parkersburg, have seen local revitalization due to art projects and creating community spaces for all peoples to enjoy. This includes murals, in-person and virtual performances and fostering accessibility and inclusion in the arts.

Current members of the Arts Collaborative are the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, Artsbridge, Discovery World, Downtown PKB, Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, Henderson Hall, Historic Smoot Theatre, Oil and Gas Museum, Parkersburg Art Center, Schrader Youth Ballet, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra of Parkersburg and Wood County Society and Artbeat Studio.

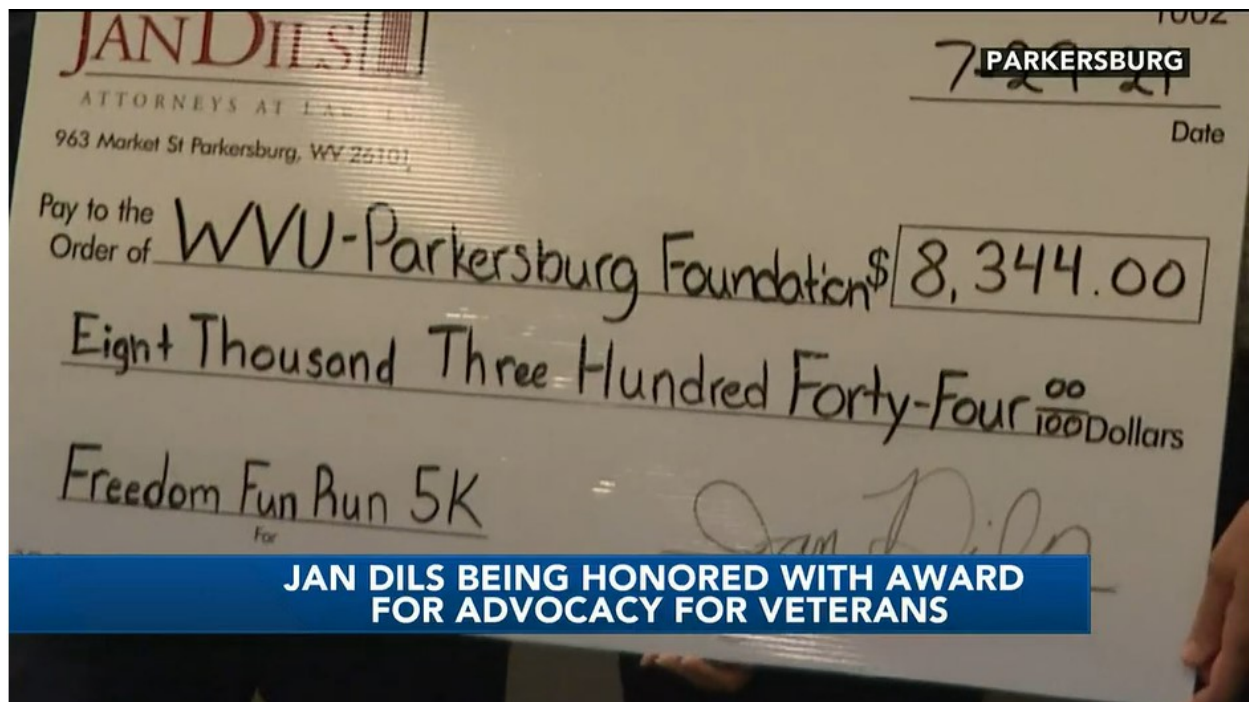
To stay up-to-date with the latest shows, exhibits, music and classes by visiting artsofthemov.wvup.edu or facebook.com/ArtsoftheMOV.

Jan Dils being honored with award for advocacy for veterans

WTAP-TV [video]

July 29, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/07/29/jan-dils-being-honored-with-award-advocacy-veterans/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - One prominent Parkersburg resident was surprised this morning with an award for her help to veterans.

The owner of [Jan Dils Attorney at Law](#) was providing three separate recipients with checks all making up \$25 thousand, for their involvement in this year's freedom fun run.

Each check totaled over eight thousand for the MOV Transit Authority, West Virginia University of Parkersburg Foundation, and "We Have Your Six."

The final organization, "We Have Your Six," then gave Dils the first-ever Golden Dog Tags award for her outstanding advocacy for veterans in the area.

An award that Dils says she is humbled and honored to receive.

"Giving back to our community is part of our core values here and part of our mission. To receive awards for that doesn't seem natural to us, but we are here just to give back. And our local veterans are our veterans that are out there in the United States, they have fought for us. The least we can do is to help support them in their time of need," says Dils.

Dils says that she is thankful to the people at "We Have Your Six" for making her the first winner of this award.

Episode 8.1.2021

Daily304

August 1, 2021

<https://daily304.libsyn.com/daily304-episode-812021>

Number One. Officials with the Port of West Virginia plan to build up their operation in Brooke County, bringing hundreds of jobs with it, and are looking for support from the state to reach their goal. Mitch Carmichael, cabinet secretary of the State Department of Economic Development, recently met with the leadership of the Port and toured their facilities along the Ohio River.

Frank Rosso, chief executive of Empire Diversified Energy, which oversees the Port, explained that with work being done to develop two ethane crackers in the region and the Port's proximity, as well as various modes of transportation, the company feels the site is perfect to serve as an inland public port operation.

Number Two. When it comes to enjoying the outdoors, West Virginia State Parks have it all. There's plenty of recreational activities and comfy amenities in some of the world's most awe-inspiring views. Each state park and forest is majestic in its own way, but there are some stand-outs when it comes to majestic sites.

Wander through the towering rock formations at Beartown State Park, discover natural wonders like Cathedral State Park, home to West Virginia's only remaining standing virgin hemlock, or camp out at Audra State Park where you can swim in the clear clean water of the Middle Fork River. Visit wvstateparks.com to learn more.

Number Three. West Virginia University at Parkersburg is one of nine schools nationwide who are the recipients of \$100,000 from Metallica's Scholars Initiative program. The Metallica Scholars Initiative is in its third year and is fundamentally improving the earning potential of students who become Metallica Scholars.

Each school intends to prioritize students interested in the skilled trades and those reconnecting in Advanced Manufacturing careers.

James Hetfield, front man for the heavy metal band, said, "As a touring entity, we are in direct involvement with multiple essential career choices along our path, including electrical, professional driving, culinary, mechanical maintenance, public safety and more. Those, along with a multitude of other technical careers, make our touring and our performances possible. We are passionate and grateful to these trades and tradespeople."

To date, Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation has provided \$4.1 in grants to career and technical education programs throughout the country.

WVU-P Waives Past-Due Tuition

The Pleasants County Leader
August 7, 2021

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is using funding from the American Recovery Plan Act to give students a second change, far beyond putting extra dollars in their pocket.

The college notified 245 students Thursday morning that their tuition balances were covered, and they no longer owe the institution money.

The benefit — \$230,397.57 dispersed to students' accounts — expunged the balance of students' accounts who had balances from the spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters.

“We are happy to announce our decision to utilize a portion of the proceeds from our ARPA funding to pay off the balances of student accounts for those semesters, said Alice Harris, executive vice president of finance and administration.

“We are so pleased to have this funding available to provide our students with a second chance at pursuing their dream of completing their college education.”

“There is no distance we will not go to provide a path to college completion for our students, and this is just one more example of our WVU-P Waives Past-Due Tuition commitment to student success,” said president Chris Gilmer.

This fall, all students who are charged regular tuition fees, with the exception of Early College students, will be eligible for additional relief funds.

The first of three fund disbursements for students who did not have a balance will begin being released as early as Sept. 10.

Per the ARPA, funding will be dispersed to students with the greatest financial need first; those who qualify for the PELL Grant after filling out the FAFSA will be among the first to receive funding.

No additional paperwork is needed to qualify for the funds, aside from the FAFSA.

“For many students, COVID is an obstacle that they were unable to overcome, which led many of them to stop pursuing a college degree.

“As a result of their withdrawal, many students had unpaid tuition and fee balances that jeopardized their ability to return to classes or obtain a college transcript. The administration of WVU-P has great compassion for the struggle all of our students have encountered during the pandemic,” Harris said.



June 2021

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Social Media Report



facebook.com/wvuparkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Fans (number of page likes): 7,532









WVU Parkersburg gained 24 fans in June 2021.

Top Posts

West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Published by Hootsuite · June 28 ·

Congratulations to our 6 faculty members who have been selected for promotions this academic year! 🎉 These promotions are recognition of their hard work and dedication to student success. #WVUParkersburgProud

Read the full story at <http://ow.ly/Atde50FjY2X>.

			
Christiane Calvert Assistant Professor of Child Development	Holly Dexter Assistant Professor of Accounting	Traci Dolan-Priestley Assistant Professor of English	Rebecca Duckworth Professor of Nursing
			
Dr. Uta Hempel Professor of Biology	Danielle Kelly Assistant Professor of English	Dr. Stephanie Smith-Stout Associate Professor of Nursing	Dr. Melissa Spivy Professor of Education

4,957 People Reached 1,487 Engagements ↑ +4.9x Higher Distribution Score [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️ 84 21 Comments 8 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Hootsuite · June 16 ·



WVU Parkersburg is celebrating 60 years of excellence in higher education! 🎓 We recently received Senate Resolution 48 recognizing the institution on its anniversary, greetings from WV Governor Jim Justice and proclamations from Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood County Commissions and Schools. 💙💛 We are #WVUProud to serve our communities and have such strong support in return.



1,466
People Reached

80
Engagements

Boost Post

38

3 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Hootsuite · June 4 ·



Ricky is ready to welcome you with open arms this Fall! 🦅 Become a Riverhawk and experience our one-on-one help in achieving your academic and personal goals. Get started at wvup.edu/future-students.



Send Message

2,491
People Reached

231
Engagements

Boost Again

Boosted on June 4
By Rebecca Lynn Rhodes

Completed

People Reached	1.1K	Messaging Conversation...	1
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[View Results](#)

25

12 Shares



twitter.com/WVUParkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,330

WVU Parkersburg gained 1 follower in June 2021.

Top Tweets

 **WVU Parkersburg** @WVUParkersburg · Jun 11 ⋮

CIT alumni and student Bill Minear and Trenton Hilbert  sit down to talk about their time at WVU Parkersburg, how they balance work, family and school and why they are [#WVUParkersburgProud](#).

: youtu.be/hSuOK2ux4lk



 1  2  4  



WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Jun 16

...

WVU Parkersburg is celebrating 60 years of excellence in higher education! 🎉 We recently received Senate Resolution 48 recognizing the institution on its anniversary, greetings from WV Governor Jim Justice and proclamations from our service counties for the occasion. ❤️💛





WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Jun 14

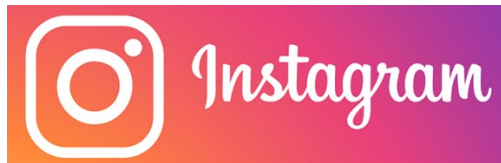


WVU Parkersburg is pleased to announce its Spring 2021 Graduates and President's and Dean's Scholars! 📖💛

Full list of Graduates [➔ wwup.edu/news/spring-20...](https://www.wvup.edu/news/spring-2021-graduates)

Full list of Scholars [➔ wwup.edu/news/wvu-parke...](https://www.wvup.edu/news/wvu-parke...)





[instagram.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.instagram.com/wvuparkersburg) (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,511

WVU Parkersburg gained 3 followers in June 2021.

Top Posts



wwuparkersburg

wwuparkersburg Almost Heaven, West Virginia 🇺🇸 🎵 🍷

#WestVirginiaDay #WVUParkersburg #CollegeLife

6w

[View Insights](#)

👍 🗨️ 📌




👤 Liked by stevespencer and 38 others

JUNE 20

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)




 wvuparkersburg ...

 wvuparkersburg President Gilmer loves his little buddy!  Ricky Riverhawk and Dr. Gilmer are #WVUProud to support our Early College program that allows high school students to earn dual credit and get a head start on their college careers.  Learn more at wvup.edu/earlycollege.

#CollegeLife #CommunityCollege
#WVUParkersburg #EarlyCollege


7w

[View Insights](#)



 Liked by [mrs.oliviareeder](#) and 30 others

JUNE 16

 Add a comment... [Post](#)



 wvuparkersburg ...

 wvuparkersburg We're #1! That's right - two years in a row, we've ranked top in the state for affordability. Save \$ and receive the same instruction as the other "big" schools.  Apply now at wvup.edu.


6w

[View Insights](#)

 Liked by [mrs.oliviareeder](#) and 27 others

JUNE 23

 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): 6,295









WVU Parkersburg gained 38 followers in June 2021.



Top Posts

 **West Virginia University at Parkersburg**
6,338 followers
1mo • 

Congratulations to our  faculty members who have been selected for promotions this academic year! 🎉 These promotions are recognition of their hard work and dedication to student success. [#WVUParkersburgProud](#)

 Read the full story at <http://ow.ly/RfvI50FjY2Y>.

			
Christiane Calvert Assistant Professor of Child Development	Holly Dexter Assistant Professor of Accounting	Traci Dolan-Priestley Assistant Professor of English	Rebecca Duckworth Professor of Nursing
			
Dr. Uta Hempel Professor of Biology	Danielle Kelly Assistant Professor of English	Dr. Stephanie Smith-Stout Associate Professor of Nursing	Dr. Melissa Spivy Professor of Education

  12 · 1 comment



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,338 followers

1mo • 🌐

Happy West Virginia Day! 🍷 Get out and explore what makes this state wild and wonderful.



👍❤️ 11 • 1 comment



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,338 followers

2mo • 🌐

Our Business Administration-Management and Marketing bachelor's degree has just ranked No. 18 in the nation as a most affordable Business Management program by University HQ! 🏆 The program focuses on how businesses create products and services, manage staff and profits, identify viable markets and more.

👉 Learn about the program and ranking at <http://ow.ly/llhO50EZZfS>.



🌐 🌱 10



July 2021

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Social Media Report

facebook

facebook.com/wvuparkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Fans (number of page likes): 7,551

WVU Parkersburg gained 19 fans in July 2021.

Top Posts

 **West Virginia University at Parkersburg**
Published by Hootsuite · July 13 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

Congratulations to alumna Alexis Bland on capturing the title of #MissWVUSA! 🥰👑👑 Alexis earned her degree in Business Administration and is now a full-time real estate agent and owner of Twisted Couture, a women's clothing boutique.
Good luck on the national stage, Alexis! #WVUProud



2,219 People Reached 181 Engagements ↑ +2.3x Higher Distribution Score [Boost Post](#)

  68 5 Comments 6 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Hootsuite · July 1 ·



On this day in 1971, WVU Parkersburg was then newly-named as Parkersburg Community College, becoming one of the state's first community colleges. 🇺🇸🇺🇸 Jeff Holland, Business, Accounting and Public Service chairperson, reflects on the college's past, present and future 🙌
<https://youtu.be/vzEIXH4GFVM>.



YOUTUBE.COM

WVUP Celebrates 60 Years | Jeff Holland

Apply Now! <http://bit.ly/wvupAPPLY> Visit us on social media! Facebook-<http://bit.ly/WVUPFBTWI...>

1,718
People Reached

244
Engagements

Boost Post

👍❤️ 53

10 Comments 8 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Hootsuite · July 22 at 1:00 PM ·



We are #WVUProud to announce that the college has received \$100,000 through the [Metallica All Within My Hands Foundation](#) to support our community's students in trade programs. WVU Parkersburg will focus its efforts on students earning a Computer Information Technology associate degree by offering tuition and textbook assistance and covering costs for students to take up to four industry-recognized certification exams.

Read all about it at <https://www.wvup.edu/.../wvu-parkersburg-awarded-100000.../>.



1,796
People Reached

123
Engagements

↑ +2.0x Higher
Distribution Score

Boost Post



twitter.com/WVUParkersburg (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,333

WVU Parkersburg gained 3 followers in July 2021.

Top Tweets



WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Jul 22



We are proud to announce WVUP has received \$100K through the [@Metallica](#) [@AWMHFoundation](#) to support our students earning a CIT associate degree by offering 💰 and 📖 assistance and allowing students to take certification exams. Read about it at wvup.edu/news.





WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Jul 27



We are honored to receive this year's Mark Ivester Innovation Award from the CCA for the Arts Collaborative of the MOV program! 🥳 The award is given to an organization that successfully improves the culture of the areas it serves.

Read all about it! ➡️ ow.ly/9yHt50FEJ3W





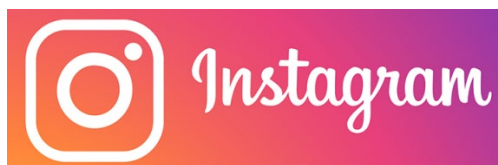
WVU Parkersburg @WVUParkersburg · Jul 15



Military Times has named WVU Parkersburg a “Best for Vets” career and technical college for the third year in a row. 🇺🇸 This time, the college earned the No. 7 ranking on the list out of 300 schools across the country.

👉 Learn more at ow.ly/iiRn50FwWdz.





[instagram.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.instagram.com/wvuparkersburg) (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,520

WVU Parkersburg gained 9 followers in July 2021.

Top Posts



wwuparkersburg

wwuparkersburg Congratulations to alumna Alexis Bland on capturing the title of @misswvusal! 🧡🧡 We are #WVUProud of you and cannot wait to see you take the national stage.

3w

thesaylifecoach Awesome! Congratulations, Queen! 🧡

3w Reply


View Insights

Liked by thatgirltoni_ and 81 others

JULY 13

Add a comment... Post




 **wwuparkersburg** ...

 **wwuparkersburg** If you're in @downtown_pkb, you might have noticed Mona, our Arts of the MOV digital sign. 😊 Mona is a beautiful addition thanks to our welding students like Creed Knight.

#wwuparkersburg #collegelife
#downtownpkb #communitycollege
#welding

1w

 **jennprice76** Wow, that's great! ❤️
1w Reply

[View Insights](#)




 Liked by stevespencer and 52 others


JULY 28

 Add a comment... [Post](#)



 **wwuparkersburg** ...

 **wwuparkersburg** Happy Fourth of July! ❤️ us ❤️
4w

 **maive130** 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 ❤️
4w Reply

[View Insights](#)



 Liked by mrs.oliviareeder and 31 others

JULY 4

 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): 6,332

WVU Parkersburg gained 37 followers in July 2021.

Top Posts



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,338 followers

3w •

Military Times has named WVU Parkersburg a "Best for Vets" career and technical college for the third year in a row. us This time, the college earned the No. 7 ranking on the list out of 300 schools across the country.

Learn what makes us a Top 10 school! 📌 Visit <https://lnkd.in/duprQ6k>.



13 • 1 comment



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,338 followers

3w • 🌐

Congratulations to alumna Alexis Bland on capturing the title of [#MissWVUSA!](#)

💖 📄 💖 Alexis earned her degree in Business Administration and is now a full-time real estate agent and owner of Twisted Couture, a women's clothing boutique.

Good luck on the national stage, Alexis! [#WVUProud](#)



👍 12



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,338 followers

2w • 🌐

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📖 Read all about it at <https://lnkd.in/dU4AVRv>.



👍 🗨️ 11 • 1 comment