



West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
Board of Governors Meeting

**Media Clips**

*August 7 – October 8, 2021*

## From Dropout to Dreams, With an Assist

A proposed \$62 billion federal investment would expand programs like Ascend in West Virginia.

Arnold Ventures

August 11, 2021

<https://www.arnoldventures.org/stories/from-dropout-to-dreams-with-an-assist>



Amber Ward, at the West Virginia University at Parkersburg campus, is the first person in her family to go to college. She is part of the university's Ascend program, which aims to replicate the success of the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs model at the City University at New York, shown in a previous controlled trial to nearly double three-year graduation rates. Such programs could benefit if President Biden's proposed \$62 billion Student Success Fund becomes reality. (:Luke Sharrett/For Arnold Ventures)

When Amber Ward was 16, she dropped out of high school. She grew up in rural West Virginia, and a high school diploma just wasn't that important to her compared to earning money. But the reality of joining the workforce without a diploma meant that Ward spent more than a decade bouncing from one low wage job to another, from a grocery store to an auto parts store, and she began to reconsider her path. She earned a GED in her 20s, and in her 30s she decided to make a major life change: She would go to college.

When she was accepted at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, she became the first person in her family to go to college.

It wasn't easy at first. She struggled to juggle her school work, hold a job, and care for her three children, ages 16, 15, and 9. The anxiety she has struggled with her entire life contributed to constant doubts about whether she'd be able to succeed. "I was scared that I would not be able to keep up with my classes," the now 37-year-old said. "I was scared that I would just fail."

But she found the college atmosphere to be extremely welcoming. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Her classes moved online a few months into her first semester, and she worried she would lose the support she had found on campus. But an advisor told her about a program coming to campus that would give her the support she needed to earn a degree.

Ward enrolled in the Accelerating Student Completion: Encouraging New Dreams (Ascend) program for the fall 2020 semester, the pilot year of the program at WVU Parkersburg. The program aims to replicate the successful evidence-backed [Accelerated Study in Associate Programs](#) (ASAP) model at the City University of New York (CUNY), which was [shown in a previous randomized controlled trial](#) to nearly double three-year graduation rates at the three largest CUNY community colleges. State college officials selected WVU Parkersburg alongside Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in Martinsburg to pilot the [\\$4.2 million program](#) in West Virginia last year. It is the kind of program that could benefit if President Biden's recently proposed \$62 billion Student Success Fund — a grant program to invest in scaling evidence-based programs to improve completion rates — becomes reality.

### **College Completion, Long-Term Earnings**

The model for the college completion program, which also has been replicated in Ohio, California, New York state, and Tennessee, requires full-time enrollment, and provides advising, financial assistance, and other support to students to help them complete their associate's degree and either transition to a four-year college or the workforce. While both pilots are replicating the ASAP model, this version — as in the other implementations — is adapted for the unique needs of the service area and student body. The West Virginia programs are occupationally focused, targeting majors that are in demand in the local economy.

The ultimate goal is to increase both college completion and long-term earnings: The national six-year completion rate is just over 60%. The likelihood of completion is especially low for students of color and students from low-income families.

“We know that those who start but don’t complete degrees face the worst outcomes in higher education,” said Michelle Dimino, education senior policy advisor with Third Way, a public policy think tank. “Students who leave college with debt and no degree are about three times more likely to default on their student loans.”

College completion programs like Ascend aim to make sure that more people who attend college earn a degree and graduate without the burdens of large amounts of debt.

Programs like this are expensive, and only a handful have rigorous evidence of increasing college graduation rates. The Biden Administration’s commitment to expanding these programs is in the American Families Plan that was introduced in April. The proposed \$62 billion Student Success Fund would have a special focus on colleges and universities that serve high numbers of low-income students.

Advocates say the first-of-its-kind federal funding would be transformative for higher education.

“We think of this as a sea change in federal higher education policy,” Dimino said. “It’s a fundamental shift from focusing on getting students to college to also focusing on getting students through college, and a recognition that we can do this by investing in these proven interventions that will help more students make it across the finish line to a degree.”

---

**Teen of the Week: Wirt County High School senior runs own business designing video game assets**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

August 7, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/08/teen-of-the-week-wirt-county-high-school-senior-runs-own-business-designing-video-game-assets/>



Bain has been loading up his schedule with dual credit courses through West Virginia University at Parkersburg. (Photo Provided)

ELIZABETH — Wirt County High School senior Nicholas Bain always finds himself busy throughout the day, from running his own business, having class schedules filled with dual credit courses, being involved with high school organizations, to playing saxophone in the high school’s marching band.

Bain is a member of numerous of groups at Wirt County, from being involved with Youth Leadership Association, Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA), and a math-based club called Mu Alpha Theta.

Bain said one of his favorite experiences was having a mock congress session with other students from West Virginia at the Capitol building in Charleston. As part of the FBLA’s “Youth in Government” program, Bain had to write a bill that would be voted on by his colleagues in congress.

Seeing a real-life event of someone dying from a cardiac arrest due to an automated external defibrillator not being available, Bain wrote a bill saying that AEDs should be available at every school sporting event and it was passed unanimously.

*“You get to present your bill in front of a bunch of other kids that also have bills and you have a mock legislative system in the Capitol. We have a youth governor, a youth speaker of the house that reads the bills. We have youth pages to run errands,”* Bain said.

Through FBLA, Bain has been running a business selling enhancing video game assets (models) to be used in other people’s video games or another form of entertainment.

According to Bain, an example would be a customer asking Bain to make them a tennis ball that resembles a grey ball. Bain would then add color and fine details like fur to make a fully detailed tennis ball.

*“I do game assets, I will take a 3D model and I texture it, so that it has color. Sometimes people are really good at modeling,”* Bain said. *“But they’re not artistically good at making it look like an object with wood, or metal. So I add textures on this one of those assets and then people use it.”*

While carrying a 4.0-grade point average, Bain has been loading up his schedule with dual credit courses through West Virginia University at Parkersburg in preparation for helping him earn his associate’s degree in the shortest amount of time possible once in college.

Some of the classes that Bain has taken include Spanish, history, art, sociology, and philosophy. Bain said that he will continue to have his schedule mostly filled with college classes for both his fall and spring semesters.



Wirt County High School senior Nicholas Bain is a member of numerous of groups, from being involved with Youth Leadership Association, Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA), and a math-based club called Mu Alpha Theta. (Photo Provided)

"I do have a pretty cohesive college plan. I should have probably around at least fortyish college credits already by the time that I graduate," Bain said. "That should give me a lot of the credits I need to go to a college to almost have an associate's degree, to save time and money because, through WVU-P, it's only \$50 per credit hour, which is a cheap price. I'm trying to take advantage of that."

Bain will now be entering his fourth year playing saxophone in the marching band. He originally started playing because his older brother played the saxophone and he later found more enjoyment of playing the instrument. Bain wasn't involved in the band until the current band director Bobby Davis opened his awareness of how important music can be and how fun it can be to play, Bain said.

"He increased my awareness of how important music can be and how fun it can be to play because I went from having no real professional music theory or any training," Bain said. "I like being able to play my part in music and hear it being a part of something greater. So just being able to be a part of something big is cool, especially because you can hear it. It's like working on a big project with people."

Our doors are open  
The Pennsboro News  
August 10, 2021



**Our doors are  
open.  
It's time  
to rediscover  
what's inside.**

**WVU**  
**PARKERSBURG**  
**PROUD**

WVU Parkersburg is celebrating 60 years as an integral part of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

It's time to rediscover what WVU Parkersburg can offer you including face-to-face classes for the fall 2021 semester.

*Come join us, register today for fall classes.*

304-424-8000  
[wvup.edu](http://wvup.edu)



**WVU Parkersburg expands special education specialization**

The Pennsboro News

August 10, 2021

Beginning this summer, West Virginia University at Parkersburg began offering a special education specialization to elementary education students and alumni.

The opportunity has now expanded and is being offered to anyone with a teaching degree.

During the July West Virginia Board of Education meeting, WVU-Parkersburg's special education specialization was approved to be offered to any other individuals with teaching degrees interested in getting the certificate.

Prior to that, WVU-P students and alumni were the only ones eligible for these courses.

"This is a great opportunity for current teachers to gain an additional certification in Multi-Categorical K-12 Special Education. I consider this a win for our students and teachers," said Dr. David Lancaster, education division chair and professor.

The certification is a total of 15 credit hours, with an additional 80 hours of field placement. Students who have completed the elementary Education program at WVU-P will need to take only nine credit hours, with 20 hours of field placement.

"There is a great need for special education teachers, so we're excited to be offering this certification to teachers, in order to fill those roles," Dr. Lancaster said.

Anyone interested in obtaining the certificate can sign up for classes for the fall semester.

Questions about the new special education specialization can be directed to Bobbi Marshall at [rmarsha7@wvup.edu](mailto:rmarsha7@wvup.edu) or 304.424.8000 ext. 442.

To discuss a future in the elementary education program, contact Dr. David Lancaster at [dlancas1@wvup.edu](mailto:dlancas1@wvup.edu).

---

Our doors are open  
The St. Marys Oracle  
August 10, 2021



**Our doors are  
open.  
It's time  
to rediscover  
what's inside.**

**WVU**  
**PARKERSBURG**  
**PROUD**

WVU Parkersburg is celebrating 60 years as an integral part of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

It's time to rediscover what WVU Parkersburg can offer you including face-to-face classes for the fall 2021 semester.

*Come join us, register today for fall classes.*

304-424-8000  
[wvup.edu](http://wvup.edu)

Ready to enroll?

The Wirt County Journal

August 10, 2021



**Ready to enroll?**  
**We can make sure you succeed.**

*It's time to rediscover what WVU Parkersburg can offer you including face-to-face classes, newly remodeled spaces, and a variety of student services.*

*As we celebrate our 60th birthday, we hope that you will join us for the next part of our long-standing history*

*Enroll today, register for fall classes now.*

**WVU**  
**PARKERSBURG**  
**PROUD**

304•424•8000 [wwup.edu](http://wwup.edu)

Our doors are open  
The Wirt County Journal  
August 10, 2021



**Our doors are  
open.  
It's time  
to rediscover  
what's inside.**

**WVU**  
**PARKERSBURG**  
**PROUD**

WVU Parkersburg is celebrating 60 years as an integral part of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

It's time to rediscover what WVU Parkersburg can offer you including face-to-face classes for the fall 2021 semester.

*Come join us, register today for fall classes.*

304-424-8000  
[wvup.edu](http://wvup.edu)

## WVUP discusses in person and possible online learning plans

The Marietta Times

August 11, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2021/08/wwup-discusses-in-person-and-possible-online-learning-plans/>



Photo by Brett Dunlap West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer addressed the university's Board of Governors on Tuesday to discuss plans to return in the fall in relation to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in West Virginia. In-person classes are scheduled to begin Monday at the college.

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is moving forward with plans to have in-person classes when the fall semester begins next week.

WVU-P President Chris Gilmer addressed the university's Board of Governors on Tuesday to discuss plans to return in the fall in relation to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in West Virginia which now has over 4,000 cases.

*"COVID-19 is not only a grievous infectious disease, even more infectious as it mutates into the delta variant and other variants," he said. "It has become a societal disease which has been made into a political and partisan culture war with science and public health pitted against individual freedoms."*

He asked the campus community to join with him in declaring that such a culture war is not welcome at WVU-P and that university officials will compromise during moments of

crisis which demonstrate that their concern for each other's health is greater than the concern for correctness, personal liberty or vindication.

*"We will welcome students back face-to-face for the first day of fall classes on Aug. 16," Gilmer said.*

The university is planning to incorporate more hybrid and online approaches into its instructional delivery than it did prior to the pandemic, while honoring the overwhelming request of students for face-to-face instruction, he said.

Gilmer is planning to soon release updated COVID-19 protocols which address the wearing of masks, vaccination, instructional plans, testing and other protocols for the fall semester.

Nationwide COVID cases have increased significantly, especially for children and teens, and hospitalizations are the highest they have been since February. The more severe delta variant now accounts for 93 percent of new U.S. cases.

*"We must be willing to change quickly with the times," Gilmer said. "There will be no single trigger which causes WVU-P to move back to full remote learning and full remote work assignments short of a federal, state, or local mandate to that effect; however, we are prepared to pivot in that direction if a confluence of events occurs which convinces the administration that such a move is necessary.*

*"The community can expect us to come down on the side of caution moving forward. Still, we are very excited to begin face-to-face instruction next Monday."*

WVU-P is in sound fiscal condition with significant cash reserves.

*"We are one of few colleges which did not downsize or furlough its workforce during the pandemic, and I am pleased to say that no employee of WVU-P has missed a paycheck because of COVID-19," Gilmer said.*

Through COVID stimulus funds, WVU-P has utilized \$230,000 to eliminate the debts owed to WVU-P by 245 students from spring 2020 through spring 2021, the main COVID-19 period.

*"In other words, we just made returning to college possible for 245 people," Gilmer said.*

**WVUP and Westbrook partner to raise awareness**

The Marietta Times

August 11, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2021/08/wvup-and-westbrook-partner-to-raise-awareness/>

PARKERSBURG –After being awarded the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Grant, Westbrook Health Services is partnering with West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s Veterans Resource Center to enhance awareness of available mental health services.

The Behavioral Health Clinic will be streamed on the college’s Facebook page on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 12:15 p.m.

*“As the WVU Parkersburg Veterans Advocate, I often liaison with other military resource providers, and when I see a service than may be of benefit to our students, I want the resource provider to let our students how they can access it,”* said Veterans Advocate Darren Shearlock.

Tim Leach, veteran and service coordinator at Westbrook Health Services, will be presenting on behavioral health services offered to the military personnel, veterans and their families. During his 25 years of military service, Leach served as a staff sergeant for the Army, in addition to spending time in the National Guard.

*“There’s several different behavioral health services that are a benefit to the community, if only they could access them. If the community doesn’t know about these services, it’s almost like they don’t exist,”* Shearlock said.

The clinic will offer behavioral health services including: mental health disorders, substance abuse, case management, therapy and doctor services. It is open to anyone interested in learning, but is particularly pertinent to those with military ties.

*“Currently in the United States, there are 22 military suicides a day. Part of that high number is due to lack of proper behavioral health treatments and substance abuse treatments. If we can get this information out there, so those services can be available, hopefully we can lower that suicide rate,”* Shearlock said.

For more information, please contact Darren Shearlock at [Darren.Shearlock@wvup.edu](mailto:Darren.Shearlock@wvup.edu) or 304-424-8337.

### WVU-P discusses return to class

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

August 11, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/08/wvu-p-discusses-return-to-class/>



Photo by Brett Dunlap West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer addressed the university's Board of Governors on Tuesday to discuss plans to return in the fall in relation to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in West Virginia. In-person classes are scheduled to begin Monday at the college.

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is moving forward with plans to have in-person classes when the fall semester begins next week.

WVU-P President Chris Gilmer addressed the university's Board of Governors on Tuesday to discuss plans to return in the fall in relation to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in West Virginia which now has over 4,000 cases.

*"COVID-19 is not only a grievous infectious disease, even more infectious as it mutates into the delta variant and other variants," he said. "It has become a societal disease which has been made into a political and partisan culture war with science and public health pitted against individual freedoms."*

He asked the campus community to join with him in declaring that such a culture war is not welcome at WVU-P and that university officials will compromise during moments of



crisis which demonstrate that their concern for each other's health is greater than the concern for correctness, personal liberty or vindication.

*"We will welcome students back face-to-face for the first day of fall classes on Aug. 16," Gilmer said.*

The university is planning to incorporate more hybrid and online approaches into its instructional delivery than it did prior to the pandemic, while honoring the overwhelming request of students for face-to-face instruction, he said.

Gilmer is planning to soon release updated COVID-19 protocols which address the wearing of masks, vaccination, instructional plans, testing and other protocols for the fall semester.

Nationwide COVID cases have increased significantly, especially for children and teens, and hospitalizations are the highest they have been since February. The more severe delta variant now accounts for 93 percent of new U.S. cases.

*"We must be willing to change quickly with the times," Gilmer said. "There will be no single trigger which causes WVU-P to move back to full remote learning and full remote work assignments short of a federal, state, or local mandate to that effect; however, we are prepared to pivot in that direction if a confluence of events occurs which convinces the administration that such a move is necessary.*

*"The community can expect us to come down on the side of caution moving forward. Still, we are very excited to begin face-to-face instruction next Monday."*

WVU-P is in sound fiscal condition with significant cash reserves.

*"We are one of few colleges which did not downsize or furlough its workforce during the pandemic, and I am pleased to say that no employee of WVU-P has missed a paycheck because of COVID-19," Gilmer said.*

Through COVID stimulus funds, WVU-P has utilized \$230,000 to eliminate the debts owed to WVU-P by 245 students from spring 2020 through spring 2021, the main COVID-19 period.

*"In other words, we just made returning to college possible for 245 people," Gilmer said.*

### **Parkersburg Art Center preschool class has openings**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

August 12, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/08/parkersburg-art-center-preschool-class-has-openings/>

PARKERSBURG — The ArtStart Preschool at the Parkersburg Art Center has openings in its Tuesday and Thursday afternoon class.

This is a mixed-age class of 3, 4 and 5 year olds and meets from 12:15-2:45 p.m. Aug. 24 through May 12.

For more information visit the website <https://www.parkersburgartcenter.org/artstart-preschool>, email [info@parkersburgartcenter.org](mailto:info@parkersburgartcenter.org) or call 304-485-3859.

The Parkersburg Art Center is located at 725 Market St. in downtown Parkersburg.

ArtStart combines a research-based Pre-K curriculum with an arts enrichment program that is designed to enhance the growth and development of the whole child. The preschool has small classes of no more than 12 students with two instructors. They also collaborate with West Virginia University at Parkersburg to bring in student assistants who are working toward their education degrees.

State curriculum standards as well as standards established by the National Association of Early Childhood are used as guidelines in the ArtStart program but the children set the tone and help guide the specifics of daily planning.

For learning to take root, activities must be hands-on and meaningful. Children in general, but especially young children, do not all learn through rote memorization or by completing worksheets. These types of activities turn off the brain. Hands-on experiences engage young minds and create memories that last. The ArtStart Preschool program offers this kind of freedom for personal, meaningful discovery within a structured environment.

---

## Arts Collaborative seeking videos for downtown display

WTAP-TV

August 12, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/08/12/arts-collaborative-seeking-videos-downtown-display/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - The Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley is seeking video submissions from area residents and others highlighting what it is they love about the local arts scene.

All videos should be eight seconds long. The winning submission will be displayed for the month of September on "Mona", the collaborative's LED digital sign at 8th Street and Market Street where participating organizations share information about upcoming events.

The sign has the capability to display digital videos, and the collaborative wanted to try that feature out. Nicole Guinn of the Parkersburg Chamber of Commerce created an ad that was displayed on the sign and the collaborative liked it so much they decided to seek out additional videos.

The videos are an opportunity for area residents to point out aspects of the arts in the Mid-Ohio Valley that they enjoy.

"Because we're celebrating the arts, we're asking, what is it about the arts in the Mid-Ohio Valley that you like? What do you celebrate?...It's our version of Tik-Tok," said Senta Goudy, Dean of WVUP's Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation.

Goudy noted that there are many artist in the Mid-Ohio Valley who work in a range of mediums, and they are encouraged to incorporate their artwork into their videos. And the contest is not just open to local residents. Those who may live outside the area but have taken part in the arts in the Mid-Ohio Valley are invited to submit, as well.

"I'm really excited to celebrate pop culture, and WVUP has had a pop culture conference for years, before COVID hit. We have a lot of people in our community who are doing anime and all kinds of other art forms besides what we might traditionally think. We're looking for ways to encourage people who are involved in some of those different art forms," Goudy said. "We want to celebrate art and artists, and showcase the creative talent we have here," she added.

The second-place finalist will receive two tickets to the Actors Guild's performance of Hallelujah Girls, and the third-place finalist will receive \$25 to apply to any Artsbridge class. Finalists will also be showcased on social media.

Videos must be submitted as MP4 files to [sgoudy4@wvup.edu](mailto:sgoudy4@wvup.edu), and are due by August 23 at 5 P.M.

---

### West Virginia University at Parkersburg to decide week to week on masks

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

August 13, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/08/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg-to-decide-week-to-week-on-masks/>

PARKERSBURG — As the number of active COVID-19 cases continues to increase in many counties, the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department plans to add testing opportunities in the areas it serves.

Meanwhile, West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer announced masks will be required indoors at the school's facilities when Wood or Jackson counties are rated as areas of "high" or "substantial" spread by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That follows the CDC's most recent recommendations.

Gilmer released a memo Thursday saying WVU-P "strongly encourages" the use of masks indoors and outdoors when groups of people congregate. There won't be a comprehensive mask mandate at this time, it said, but school officials will review the CDC map before the close of business each Friday and make a determination on face-covering protocol for the following week.

*"At present, any changes of mask protocols at any time will be made at one-week intervals, and WVU-P will be pleased to relax the mask protocols at any time that the public health guidance discussed herein allows,"* it said. The memo notes that as of Thursday, all counties in the school's primary service area are rated high or substantial, except for Ritchie County.

The CDC map measures similar statistics but has a different rating system than West Virginia's County Alert System Map.

On the state map, Ritchie is rated yellow, the second-lowest category measuring spread of the virus based on the percentage of tests coming back positive or number

of new cases per 100,000 individuals, as is Calhoun County. Doddridge and Wirt counties are green, the lowest level.

Wood, Jackson, Pleasants and Gilmer counties are orange, the second-highest level, while Wetzel County remains red, which is the highest. Tyler County is in the middle of the spectrum, on gold.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department offered COVID-testing events in Wood and Pleasants counties Thursday.

*"We've started to see a large increase in cases,"* said Carrie Brainard, threat preparedness coordinator, at a drive-through testing event near Bicentennial Park in downtown Parkersburg.

Hospitalizations have increased too, she said, but added there have not been reports locally of vaccinated individuals being hospitalized. Although fully vaccinated people can still become infected, their symptoms tend not to be as severe, Brainard said.

The MOVHD will offer free vaccinations from 3-6 p.m. today at Gabe's in the Park Shopping Center in Parkersburg.

Health officials also plan to review the state COVID map Fridays to determine where to set up testing events for the next week, Brainard said.

The number of active cases in West Virginia eclipsed 5,000 on Thursday after dropping below 1,000 last month, according to the West Virginia Bureau of Health and Human Resources. Since Wednesday's update, the state reported 505 new cases and the death of an 84-year-old Raleigh County woman, bringing the total fatalities attributed to COVID in the state to 2,975.

Active case totals in area counties (previous day) are: Calhoun, 11 (15); Doddridge, 12 (11); Gilmer, 33 (26); Jackson, 71 (61); Pleasants, 19 (16); Ritchie, 12 (10); Roane, 26 (22); Tyler, 27 (25); Wetzel, 125 (113); Wirt, 8 (9); Wood, 198 (192)."

---

**On the Mark: Fall sports, Bowden and more: Column**

Jackson Newspapers

August 12, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/opinion/columns/2021/08/12/fall-2021-sports-devilette-athletic-center-caydan-keeler-and-more/8116064002/>

**FALL SPORTS:** The fall sports calendar is certainly the busiest for West Virginia high schools.

There's golf, cross country, soccer, volleyball, football and cheer.

Teams in Jackson County are well underway with the final stage leading up to their 2021 seasons that will hopefully be a lot more normal than last.

Golf has already gotten started.

**ON THE LINKS:** The Ripley golf team is certainly missing some key links this season due to graduation.

One of those is Davis Haynes.

The talented Haynes, who competed earlier this month in the West Virginia State Amateur, is about to begin his college career.

Haynes will be playing at West Virginia Wesleyan.

In talking with Haynes the other day he is excited about getting the chance to play daily at the Stonewall Resort, the home course for Wesleyan golfers.

Haynes is an impressive young guy mature beyond his years.

**CUNNINGHAM RETURNS:** Sydni Cunningham was hoping for a great acrobatic and tumbling career at West Virginia Wesleyan.

Injuries took their toll on the one-time Ripley athlete.

So she has come back home to take classes at WVU-P and enter the coaching world.

Cunningham, who was a standout soccer player and part of a state championship relay team during her high school days, is the new assistant girls soccer coach at Ripley High.

She is assisting new head coach Jay Pierson.

In the season of 1980, Pierson was an outstanding defensive back for the Ripley Viking football team of the late Frank Marino to finish 9-1.

**NEW NAME:** I love talking with coaches about their sport and hearing the passion.

Chris Michael is one of those.

Now in his 11th season as the Devilette head volleyball coach, Michael enjoys talking about his team and the sport.

No one promotes the game any better than does Michael, who was an excellent basketball player in his day for Mick Price's Runnin' Red Devils.

---

### **COVID relief funding could help with student retention at WV colleges**

WV Metro News

August 15, 2021

<https://wvmetronews.com/2021/08/15/covid-relief-funding-could-help-with-student-retention-at-wv-colleges/>

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — Several universities across West Virginia plan to use funding from the American Rescue Plan to help struggling students recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Much of the funds will go toward paying off student account balances.

West Virginia State University announced earlier this month it is using more than \$816,000 in funding to help more than 2,900 students at the Institute campus.

Officials at West Virginia University will distribute \$27.2 million in emergency grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 for each eligible student.

To be eligible, a WVU student must be seeking a degree, be attending classes at least part-time and must have completed a 2021-22 FAFSA by Aug. 20. WVU has also set up an appeals process if someone's financial status has drastically changed since 2019.

About 245 students at WVU Parkersburg were informed that their tuition balances were covered and that they no longer owe the institution money.

WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer said in a statement, "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 commitment to student success."

Funding will be dispersed to students with the greatest financial need first.

Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, chancellor of the state Higher Education Policy Commission, told MetroNews institutions are stepping up in an effort to maintain student retention for the upcoming school year.

“They’re trying to think of ways to make things easier for their students and to encourage them to hopefully re-enroll this fall,” she said.

Student enrollment numbers at West Virginia higher education institutions are holding steady, according to Armstrong Tucker.

“I’ve been hearing that our first time freshman numbers are down. That’s not true at every institution. We aren’t really going to know that until a couple of weeks into the semester to know how many students come and stay,” she said.

WVSU Vice President and Chief of Staff Ericke Cage said in a news release last week students have faced tremendous pressure since the beginning of the pandemic.

“We did not want an unpaid balance owed to the university to be a reason that someone chose not to continue with their education,” Cage said.

Armstrong Tucker said they understand high school freshmen may be hesitant to enroll in the fall following an unprecedented year of virtual classes.

“We want to assure students that we’re doing everything we can to make sure that their college experience is as normal as possible while also being safe,” she said.

The HEPC also wants to remind students that the COVID-19 crisis will pass eventually.

“The pandemic is a moment in time. Going to college and planning for your future is going to last for your entire life,” Armstrong Tucker said.



WVU Parkersburg offers new simulator for surgical technology program; becomes first in state

WBOY-TV

August 16, 2021

<https://www.wboy.com/news/west-virginia/wvu-parkersburg-offers-new-simulator-for-surgical-technology-program-becomes-first-in-state/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is officially the first university in the Mountain State to offer a laparoscopic simulator to its surgical technology students.

The new simulator is a LapSim Laparoscopic Simulator made by Surgical Science – an educational virtual reality machine that prepares students for the operating room. With this simulator, students will become skilled in performing laparoscopic surgeries to better prepare them for performing in a real operating room. The machine gives them the practice they need to hold the camera steady and assist in the surgery.

“By practicing on the simulator, students will gain confidence before they ever step foot in a legitimate operating room. They’ll be practicing in a safe environment, where they’ll get immediate feedback with no repercussions,” said Amy West, surgical technology program director.

The machine is able to record students' progress, in addition to giving them tips on how to better improve. It also has the ability to record the surgery so that it can be watched again.

"Students like hands-on training, so I'm hoping this will attract them to our campus. They will have time allotted each week to practice on the simulator. Their practice will make them more attractive job candidates to potential employers," said West.

Students will be awarded with certification upon completion of all the modules on the simulator. These certificates include:

General Camera Navigation

LapSim Camera Navigation

LapSim OB Camera Navigation

LapSim Instrumentation Navigation

"If our students are prepared when they get to clinicals, the hospital is going to recognize that, and it will give them an upper hand for post-education placement," West said.

For more information regarding the simulator or the surgical technology program, contact Amy West at Amy.West@wvup.edu or by calling (304) 424-8655.

---

## **WVU Parkersburg offers new simulator for surgical technology program; becomes first in state**

August 16, 2021

Infodig

<https://infodig.site/wvu-parkersburg-offers-new-simulator-for-surgical-technology-program-becomes-first-in-state/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is officially the first university in the Mountain State to offer a laparoscopic simulator to its surgical technology students.

The new simulator is a LapSim Laparoscopic Simulator made by Surgical Science – an educational virtual reality machine that prepares students for the operating room. With this simulator, students will become skilled in performing laparoscopic surgeries to

better prepare them for performing in a real operating room. The machine gives them the practice they need to hold the camera steady and assist in the surgery.

“By practicing on the simulator, students will gain confidence before they ever step foot in a legitimate operating room. They’ll be practicing in a safe environment, where they’ll get immediate feedback with no repercussions,” said Amy West, surgical technology program director.

The machine is able to record students’ progress, in addition to giving them tips on how to better improve. It also has the ability to record the surgery so that it can be watched again.

“Students like hands-on training, so I’m hoping this will attract them to our campus. They will have time allotted each week to practice on the simulator. Their practice will make them more attractive job candidates to potential employers,” said West.

Students will be awarded with certification upon completion of all the modules on the simulator. These certificates include:

General Camera Navigation

LapSim Camera Navigation

LapSim OB Camera Navigation

LapSim Instrumentation Navigation

“If our students are prepared when they get to clinicals, the hospital is going to recognize that, and it will give them an upper hand for post-education placement,” West said.

For more information regarding the simulator or the surgical technology program, contact Amy West at [Amy.West@wvup.edu](mailto:Amy.West@wvup.edu) or by calling (304) 424-8655.

---

## WVU Parkersburg offers new simulator for surgical technology program; becomes first in state

Torchsec

August 16, 2021

<https://www.torchsec.net/wvu-parkersburg-offers-new-simulator-for-surgical-technology-program-becomes-first-in-state/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is officially the first university in the Mountain State to offer a laparoscopic simulator to its surgical technology students.

The new simulator is a LapSim Laparoscopic Simulator made by Surgical Science – an educational virtual reality machine that prepares students for the operating room. With this simulator, students will become skilled in performing laparoscopic surgeries to better prepare them for performing in a real operating room. The machine gives them the practice they need to hold the camera steady and assist in the surgery.

“By practicing on the simulator, students will gain confidence before they ever step foot in a legitimate operating room. They’ll be practicing in a safe environment, where they’ll get immediate feedback with no repercussions,” said Amy West, surgical technology program director.

The machine is able to record students' progress, in addition to giving them tips on how to better improve. It also has the ability to record the surgery so that it can be watched again.

"Students like hands-on training, so I'm hoping this will attract them to our campus. They will have time allotted each week to practice on the simulator. Their practice will make them more attractive job candidates to potential employers," said West.

Students will be awarded with certification upon completion of all the modules on the simulator. These certificates include:

General Camera Navigation

LapSim Camera Navigation

LapSim OB Camera Navigation

LapSim Instrumentation Navigation

"If our students are prepared when they get to clinicals, the hospital is going to recognize that, and it will give them an upper hand for post-education placement," West said.

For more information regarding the simulator or the surgical technology program, contact Amy West at [Amy.West@wvup.edu](mailto:Amy.West@wvup.edu) or by calling (304) 424-8655.

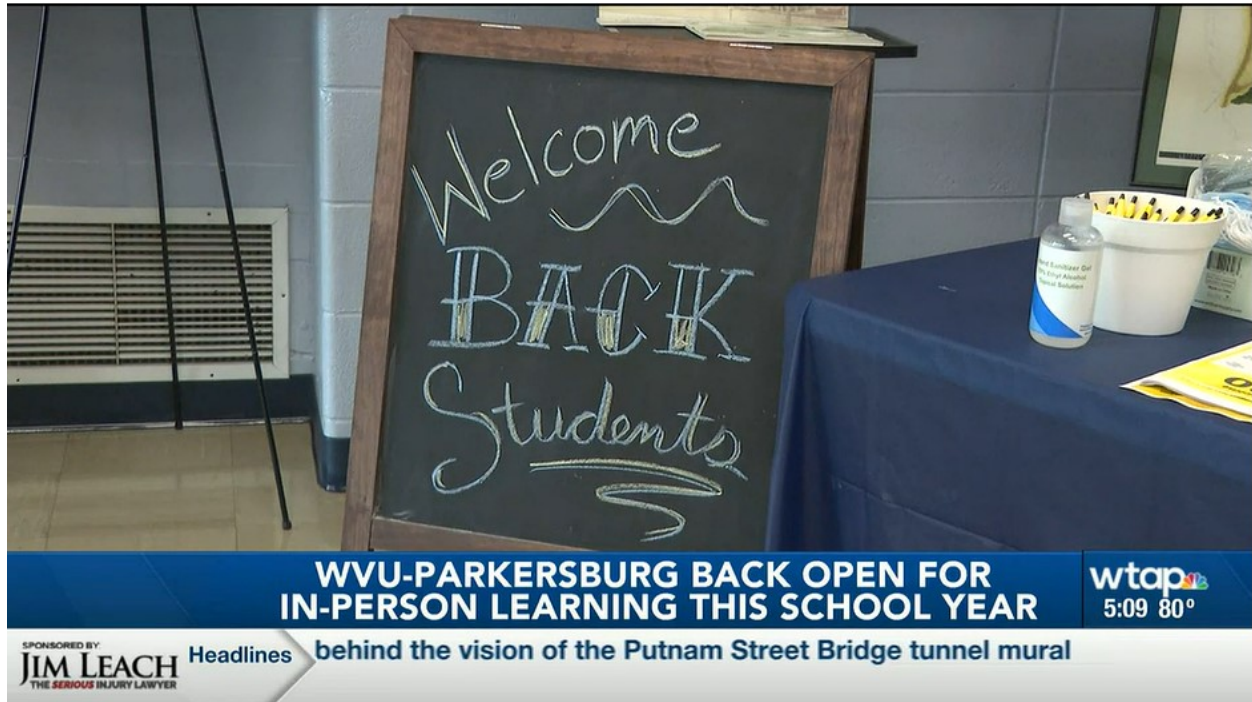
---

WVU-Parkersburg back open for in-person learning this school year

WTAP-TV [video]

August 16, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/08/16/wvu-parkersburg-back-open-in-person-learning-this-school-year/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - Students at West Virginia University at Parkersburg are also starting Monday.

WVU-P is excited to have mostly in-person learning again.

It's something college president, Dr. Chris Gilmer, says is a step in the right direction.

"I've spent most of this day greeting students as they come in the front door. And I feel the joy and the enthusiasm that they have for coming back face-to-face. For some of them this is their first day of college. Something that they've looked forward to for their whole lives. And it means everything that we're able to open the doors and welcome them back face-to-face for the first day of college," says Dr. Gilmer.

The community college is using a "conditional mask requirement" as of now.

Each week, the school will be looking at the COVID-19 maps to see the status of both Wood and Jackson counties.

Officials encourage their staff and faculty to get the vaccine, and are following the same guidelines for sanitizing and social distancing since the start.

---

### School Staffs Prepare for Return Of Students Thursday

The St. Marys Oracle

August 18, 2021



Tyler Satterfield, Pleasants County's Teacher of the Year, received the award from Jared Moncman, vice president of Pleasants County Bank which sponsors it. Satterfield is a second grade teacher at St. Marys Elementary School is a an alumnus of WVU Parkersburg's Elementary Education program.

---

## WVU-P, Westbrook Combine For Mental Health Services

The Pleasants County Leader

August 21, 2021

After being awarded a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Grant, Westbrook Health Services is partnering with West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Veterans Resource Center to enhance awareness of available mental health services.

The Behavioral Health Clinic will be streamed on the college's Facebook page Thursday, Sept. 2, at 12:15 p.m.

"As the WVU-Parkersburg veterans' advocate, I often liaison with other military resource providers, and when I see a service than may be of benefit to our students, I want the resource provider to let our students how they can access it," said Darren Shearlock.

Tim Leach, veteran and service coordinator at Westbrook Health Services, will present behavioral health services offered to the military personnel, veterans and their families.

During his 25 years of military service, Leach served as a staff sergeant in the Army, in addition to spending time in the National Guard.

"There are several different behavioral health services that are a benefit to the community, if only they could access them. If the community doesn't know about these services, it's almost like they don't exist," Shearlock said.

The clinic will offer behavioral health services including: mental health disorders, substance abuse, case management, therapy and doctor services.

It is open to anyone interested in learning, but is particularly pertinent to those with military ties.

"Currently in the U. S., there are 22 military suicides a day. Part of that high number is due to lack of proper behavioral health treatments and substance abuse treatments. If we can get this information out there, so those services can be available, hopefully we can lower that suicide rate," Shearlock said.

Questions may be directed to Darren Shearlock at Darren. Shearlock@wvup.edu or 304.424.8337.



## WVU-P Offers Special Ed Specialization

The Pleasants County Leader

August 21, 2021

Beginning in Summer 2021, West Virginia University at Parkersburg began offering a special education specialization to elementary education students and alumni this summer.

The opportunity has now expanded and is being offered to anyone with a teaching degree.

During the July West Virginia Board of Education meeting, WVU-Parkersburg's special education specialization was approved to be offered to any other individuals with teaching degrees interested in getting the certificate.

Prior to that, WVU-P students and alumni were the only ones eligible for these courses.

"This is a great opportunity for current teachers to gain an additional certification in Multi-Categorical K-12 Special Education. I consider this a win for our students and teachers," said Dr. David Lancaster, education division chair and professor.

The certification is a total of 15 credit hours, with an additional 80 hours of field placement.

Students who have completed the elementary Education program at WVU-P will need to take only nine credit hours, with 20 hours of field placement.

"There is a great need for special education teachers, so we're excited to be offering this certification to teachers, in order to fill those roles," Dr. Lancaster said.

Anyone interested in obtaining the certificate can sign up for classes for the fall semester.

Questions about the new special education specialization can be directed to Bobbi Marshall at [rmarsha7@wvup.edu](mailto:rmarsha7@wvup.edu) or 304.424.8000 ext. 442.

To discuss a future in the elementary education program, contact Dr. David Lancaster at [dlancas1@wvup.edu](mailto:dlancas1@wvup.edu) or 304.424.8314.

**Teen of the Week: Radford University freshman Owen Tidd pursues turning love of dance into a career**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

August 21, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/08/teen-of-the-week-radford-university-freshman-owen-tidd-pursues-turning-love-of-dance-into-a-career/>



Incoming Radford University freshman Owen Tidd holds a pose backstage during practice. Tidd has been a member of the Mid-Ohio Valley Ballet Academy of Fine Arts for the past 13 years. (Photo Provided)

COOLVILLE — From performing classical ballet as a member of the Mid-Ohio Valley Ballet Academy of Fine Arts, to building woodworking projects, to even learning how to weld as a hobby, incoming Radford University freshman Owen Tidd has no trouble keeping himself busy along with his school work.

*“I’ve been dancing for 13 years before going into college. I love woodworking,”* Tidd said. *“Working with my hands interests me. It’s something I can use to make things at home with it.”*

Tidd said he was 6 years old when he became interested in dance after attending his older sister’s dance lesson because it looked fun. Tidd started dancing shortly after, quickly falling in love with the activity.

*“I would always go to the waiting room with my older sister. She would get to put on her tap shoes and stomp around,”* Tidd said. *“Once I started doing it, I realized it was*

*actually quite fun. The more that I did it, the more I fell in love with it. The harder it got, the more challenging it was, but the more fun it got."*

Learning how to dance different styles including tap, jazz, post- modern and contemporary, Tidd said his favorite style to dance for the company has been classical ballet.



While being homeschooled, Owen Tidd earned a degree in applied science and a welding certificate from West Virginia University at Parkersburg this past spring. (Photo Provided)

When dancing classical ballet, Tidd has to follow specific rules, from having to be in the correct position, technique and coordination while following a structured format. But Tidd also said that once he knows the routine, he can put his own spin on it.

*"There is an etiquette that you have to use, specific rules that you have to follow in it. It's a discipline that you have to have in the class. It is very structured and I enjoy that,"* Tidd said. *"But it's also very freeing. Once you know the steps you have to do, you can put your own artistry into it."*

Performing in multiple roles for the company during his time, such as "Pinocchio," Laurie in "Little Women" and the Beast in "Beauty and the Beast," Tidd said his favorite role is the Prince in the "The Nutcracker" production during Christmas.

Tidd has helped the company build set scenery, do tech work and has been a helper in the younger kids' class for three years.

Being homeschooled for his entire life, Tidd started taking college courses at West Virginia University at Parkersburg during his sophomore year based on the recommendation of his mother/teacher to get as many credits as possible with core classes to streamline his college experience.

Tidd ended up taking courses in art, choir, English and math. Tidd said his favorite experience at WVU-P was taking part in the college's welding program.

Having a friend in the welding department and interested in learning another trade for fun, not a career, Tidd signed up for the program. In addition to graduating with honors from high school, Tidd earned a degree in applied science and a welding certificate.

*"I started going to WVU-P as a part-time student to get some college credits beforehand. I started welding down there. I ended up graduating high school with a certificate in welding and 36 credits to go into college with, which is pretty interesting,"* Tidd said. *"My mom had that plan of her kids going to community college beforehand to get as many credits as we could knock out some of those core classes that we have to have. Just to sort of streamline our college experience."*

Tidd also said switching from homeschool to college classroom wasn't that big of an issue to get adjusted to. The majority of college students have similar freedom as homeschool students and, he said, that it would have been harder for him to get adjusted if he went to a high school classroom.

When not dancing or doing classwork, one of Tidd's favorite hobbies is woodworking. Picking up the hobby just four years ago, Tidd started by making basic projects, but is now able to remake all the furniture in his bedroom, like a bed, a dresser and a shelf. He even built a tiny house for his mother on his family's property.

"It's really just a hobby. I've done a few projects for people that have offered me to pay them to fix their dresser or to do whatever for them. But it's really mostly just a personal thing," Tidd said.

Tidd will attend Radford University in Virginia where he will pursue a bachelor's in fine arts in dance with hopes of becoming a dance teacher while traveling the world. To help with tuition, Tidd has earned a \$9,000 scholarship in Highlander Distinction and a \$1,500 dance scholarship in the Radford Honors College.

**Arts Collaborative celebrates at Bicentennial Park**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

August 26, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/08/arts-collaborative-celebrates-at-bicentennial-park/>

PARKERSBURG — From shopping at the farmer’s market and art booths, participating in craft making and enjoying country music, residents had plenty to do at the last Summer Arts Celebration hosted by the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley Wednesday at Bicentennial Park.

Hosting a celebration once a month since this June, Summer Arts is where partners of the Arts Collaborative have arts, crafts, a farmers market and live music while letting attendees know what type of organizations are there and any upcoming events.

August’s theme was *“A Little Bit Country.”*

*“We did an event in June here, we had so many people come out and enjoy the arts and get to know what all the different organizations are doing. We decided to do it once a month.”* Senta Goudy, dean of the WVU Parkersburg Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation, said. *“We think of downtown as an arts and entertainment district. So we’re really promoting that with all of our members.”*

Partners of the Arts Collaborative include Arts of the Mid-Ohio Valley, Artsbridge, Actors Guild of Parkersburg, Downtown PKB, Parkersburg Art Center, West Virginia University of Parkersburg, Blue Rose Coffee, Crystal Cafe and Ritchey Family Farms.

Goudy said WVU Parkersburg was the convener of the celebration, and used its students to help promote the event and all other members as well.

*“At a time when there hasn’t been a lot of activity in downtown Parkersburg with eople working from home, I think it’s great to have people come out and see things that the nonprofits and WVU Parkersburg are doing. We always want to make sure that we’re supporting local businesses,”* Lindsey Piersol, executive director of Wood County Development Authority, said.

---

## Collaborative celebrates at Bicentennial Park

The Marietta Times

August 26, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2021/08/collaborative-celebrates-at-bicentennial-park/>

PARKERSBURG — From shopping at the farmer’s market and art booths, participating in craft making and enjoying country music, residents had plenty to do at the last Summer Arts Celebration hosted by the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley Wednesday at Bicentennial Park.

Hosting a celebration once a month since this June, Summer Arts is where partners of the Arts Collaborative have arts, crafts, a farmers market and live music while letting attendees know what type of organizations are there and any upcoming events.

August’s theme was *“A Little Bit Country.”*

*“We did an event in June here, we had so many people come out and enjoy the arts and get to know what all the different organizations are doing. We decided to do it once a month.”* Senta Goudy, dean of the WVU Parkersburg Center for Civic Engagement and Innovation, said. *“We think of downtown as an arts and entertainment district. So we’re really promoting that with all of our members.”*

Partners of the Arts Collaborative include Arts of the Mid-Ohio Valley, Artsbridge, Actors Guild of Parkersburg, Downtown PKB, Parkersburg Art Center, West Virginia University of Parkersburg, Blue Rose Coffee, Crystal Cafe and Ritchey Family Farms.

Goudy said WVU Parkersburg was the convener of the celebration, and used its students to help promote the event and all other members as well.

*“At a time when there hasn’t been a lot of activity in downtown Parkersburg with eople working from home, I think it’s great to have people come out and see things that the nonprofits and WVU Parkersburg are doing. We always want to make sure that we’re supporting local businesses,”* Lindsey Piersol, executive director of Wood County Development Authority, said.

---

## Expo at Henderson Hall highlights history

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

August 30, 2021

[https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/08/expo-at-henderson-hall-highlights-history/?fbclid=IwAR0ocTxqP0zzm0Y7AOK-XPk3Q14DuGiagclWGkGceLw2ViM8DYON\\_OmwDis](https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/08/expo-at-henderson-hall-highlights-history/?fbclid=IwAR0ocTxqP0zzm0Y7AOK-XPk3Q14DuGiagclWGkGceLw2ViM8DYON_OmwDis)



Nevaeh Jones, 13, feeds alpaca and llamas at the Henderson Hall History and Art Expo on Saturday. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

WILLIAMSTOWN — Not everyone is aware how rich in history the Mid-Ohio Valley is. Not just one building here or there, or just one cemetery, but every inch of the ground community members regularly tread.

In an effort to change that, Randy Modesitt, director of Henderson Hall, decided to call other local historians and hold an expedition at Henderson Hall, showcasing not only the Hall's history, but that of both sides of the river and outlying counties as well.

Booths with artifacts, tents with speakers and live demonstrations were available all throughout Henderson Hall's grounds Saturday.

*"I hope to see this event continue to grow,"* said Modesitt.

When people think of history, they might also think of art, so teaming up with Henderson Hall was Artsbridge, which set up an art walk at the event with local vendors so people could learn and shop.

*"There partnerships have been years in the making, and I am so glad to be able to be here and see it finally come to life."* said Modesitt.

He said he hopes expanding the local knowledge of history could also encourage more area tourism.

*"Today we were able to offer music, art and history all in one place, and more events like this is a goal I would love to see accomplished,"* he said. *"I believe this event has the potential to grow into something special."*

Among topics guest speakers covered were the Indigenous People of the area, the Adena and their burial mounds. The Adena lived across a large span of land over 2,000 years ago, and some of their artifacts can still be found today, although most of their footprint on the land is visible in their mounds that can be seen throughout West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, according to Jerrel Anderson, a member of the West Virginia and Ohio Archaeological Societies.

There are even two unexcavated mounds at Henderson Hall.

As for the art side of the event, there were live demonstrations of glass blowing, wood carving and blacksmithing. Visitors could also see live alpaca and llamas and learn about how their wool can be used to make socks, toys or other goods.

There were a total of 30 vendors, all with different skills to offer, selling their handmade items and connecting with the community.

*"My whole family works to create things for our shop,"* said Tom Breen of CET Creations.

Breen said the pandemic helped kick off their love of crafting, because they had extra time to spend together as a family.

*"Prior to the pandemic, my son and I had started a class and using the makerspace with WVUP, then we took a woodworking class together at WoodCraft and found that doing projects together was just something we enjoyed."*

According to Diane McDonald, the program coordinator with Artsbridge, who worked with Modesitt to organize the event partnership, combined art and history events are definitely something they plan to continue pursuing.



## WVU-Parkersburg going mostly virtual until further notice

WTAP-TV [video]

September 3, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/09/03/wvu-parkersburg-going-mostly-virtual-until-further-notice/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Due to increasing COVID cases in the counties the commuter college serves, West Virginia University at Parkersburg is moving to temporarily go mostly virtual.

The official day in which this will be upheld will be on the Tuesday after labor day (Sept. 7).

College officials say that many of the classes will be switching to online courses for the time being for the safety of students and faculty.

There will be some limitations taken for students coming to campus. Whether it be for one-on-one meetings, technical classes, and using school resources.

“We’re allowing students to continue to come to campus to use internet. Our counseling services and other student services in the library if they need. Faculty will still be able to come to campus to use instructional technology. So, really we’re trying to minimize the flow of people coming on to and off of campus at any given time to

minimize the possibility of COVID exposure,” says WVU-Parkersburg president, Dr. Chris Gilmer.

President Gilmer says that the school will be monitoring COVID-19 activity in the area during the temporary remote learning.

---

### Teen of the Week: Parkersburg Catholic High School senior finds code for success in robotics

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

September 4, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/09/teen-of-the-week-parkersburg-catholic-high-school-senior-finds-code-for-success-in-robotics/>



Parkersburg Catholic High School senior Paul Teltscher has been a key member of the robotics program offered through Wood County Schools Technical Center. (Photo by Tyler Bennett)

PARKERSBURG — Being interested in technology ever since he was little, it has been no surprise that Parkersburg Catholic High School senior Paul Teltscher has been a key member of the robotics program offered through Wood County Schools Technical Center.

As part of Dark Side Robotics, Teltscher said not only has the program helped him with the engineering, programming, and building of robots, he has grown to be a team leader and team player in working with his classmates.

*“There’s also a lot of networking that goes on, I may have a great idea, but that’s worth squat if I can’t communicate it properly with someone else,”* Teltscher said. *“You have to be able to communicate with others. So there’s really a lot of communication skills, along with the obvious computer science and mechanical engineering that goes into that.”*

So far during this school year, Teltscher said he and his teammates have been designing a robot that is supposed to intake foam balls that will be shot through targets as high as a basketball hoop.

*“It’s difficult to be able to intake the ball without getting jammed, then to spin up flywheels that will shoot the ball, and have the correct trajectory every time,”* Teltscher said. *“So there’s a lot of programming and mechanical engineering that goes into doing that.”*



Parkersburg Catholic High School senior Paul Teltscher carries a 4.0-grade point average into his senior year. Teltscher said he plans to run for class president for this school year. (Photo by Tyler Bennett)

The program also competes in three or four competitions a year, Teltscher and teammates design a robot based on game specifications that were given for the

competitions. At each competition the team will have to work together with two other teams, forming an alliance to compete against another alliance in competition.

In past competitions, Teltscher said the team had more of a defensive role, running around and being a disruptive force against the other alliance. Despite being their first year competing as a team, they were able to compete at the national level as well.

Teltscher hopes for this year they can be a bigger contribution for an alliance, scoring points instead of being in a strictly defensive role.

*“We bring our robot and have to strategize on how we’re going to interact with other teams on the field to score power cells or you can also have a defensive strategy. Two years ago our robot wasn’t very good. So all we could basically do was run around and be a disruptive force. We did that very well and we actually got to the national level doing that,”* Teltscher said. *“This year, we hope to be a bigger contribution to the game, to actually score points and not just stop the other team.”*

Carrying a 4.0-grade point average into his senior year, Teltscher has been involved with the Interact Club and a representative on Student Council. Teltscher said he plans to run for class president for this school year.



Parkersburg Catholic High School senior Paul Teltscher works on designs that will be 3-D printed. (Photo Provided)

When having free time during school, Teltscher is usually seen working with the school's 3D printers designing and printing key chains of the class mascot Bigfoot for other students.

Along with attending classes at Parkersburg Catholic, Teltscher has also been taking college courses at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for two years now taking chemistry, biology, English and speech, Teltscher said his favorite course so far was a programming course last spring.

*"I took a programming course, which I'd absolutely loved. I didn't think I was going to fall in love with that. Before that every time I tried programming," Teltscher said. "I absolutely failed at it. Then I had a great teacher and I really enjoyed it."*

While unsure of where he will be attending college next year, Teltscher said he plans to major in either chemical engineering or computer science, but could double major in both if he wants to.

Along with being a member of the Catholic soccer team for three years and being named a captain for this season, Teltscher is also an accomplished singer and has been a member of the Smooth Theatre Boys Ensemble since the sixth grade as a bass. Teltscher said singing quickly became one of his favorite things to do when not in school.

*"In sixth grade, my mother said 'Hey we know you can sing a little bit and there's a children's choir at the Smoot. You want to join that?' I said I don't really have the time but it sounds interesting. So I decided to do it," Teltscher said. "Within two weeks I fell in love with it. So I've been doing that ever since and anytime I have a conflict between singing and doing something else, I always choose the choir. It's really what I love to do."*

An altar server at St. Margaret Mary Church in Parkersburg, Teltscher was a counselor at Camp Echo over the summer. Camp Echo is a summer camp hosted by The Wood County Society for adults with special needs.

---

**Brenda Lucas: Community news for Saturday, Sept. 4**

The Herald-Dispatch

September 4, 2021

[https://www.herald-dispatch.com/features\\_entertainment/brenda-lucas-community-news-for-saturday-sept-4/article\\_0b397955-8f0b-539f-8a51-e8e731d80fd3.html](https://www.herald-dispatch.com/features_entertainment/brenda-lucas-community-news-for-saturday-sept-4/article_0b397955-8f0b-539f-8a51-e8e731d80fd3.html)

SCHOLAR: Donnell Reed, of Huntington, was named to the dean's list for the summer 2021 season at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. Students named to this list must maintain a 3.5 grade point average while earning six or more hours of college credit.

---

**WVU-P shifts to online classes as Wood County tops 900 cases**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

September 4, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/09/wvu-p-shifts-to-online-classes-as-wood-county-tops-900-cases/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg will shift much of its instruction fully online starting Tuesday in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The decision comes as Wood County climbs toward 900 active cases of the virus and most area counties are classified as red, representing the highest level of spread on West Virginia's County Alert System map.

Remote work assignments are being implemented for more WVU-P employees in an effort to minimize the number of people on campus, according to a statement from college President Chris Gilmer.

*"While most of WVU-P's students and many of our employees are young, and while the rate of severe illness and death is significantly lower for young people without co-occurring health problems, we are seeing serious illness and death even among young and healthy people," Gilmer said. "Young and healthy people can actively spread the disease among themselves and to older and more vulnerable colleagues, family members and the public."*

Faculty members will be able to use Zoom rooms and other campus-based tools for instruction, and may still meet with individual students and very small groups of students on campus.

Students will be able to come to the campus to use computer labs, internet, counseling services and other needed services. Some limited exceptions will be made to allow face-to-face instruction in technical programs and labs for which there are not viable online alternatives.

According to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' daily coronavirus update, the number of active cases in Wood County rose from 799 Thursday to 863 Friday.

Double-digit increases were also recorded in Calhoun, 148 (118); Doddridge, 78 (54); Jackson, 179 (157); Ritchie, 103 (89); and Wetzel, 338 (326), counties.

Other area county totals (previous day) were Gilmer, 45 (42); Pleasants, 80 (72); Roane, 140 (140); Tyler, 182 (174); and Wirt, 58 (49).

The DHHR reported seven additional deaths since Thursday's update. They ranged in age from a 36-year-old Marshall County woman to a 101-year-old Braxton County woman.

*"Today's news of additional losses is a heartbreaking reminder of the threat this virus presents," DHHR Cabinet Secretary Bill J. Crouch said. "Vaccines are safe and effective, and if you are eligible, please do your part to end the pandemic by scheduling a COVID vaccine."*

---

### Community & Technical colleges to again make flat budget request

WV Metro News

September 5, 2021

<https://wvmetronews.com/2021/09/05/community-technical-colleges-to-again-make-flat-budget-request/>

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — The state's Council for Community and Technical Colleges has approved a budget request for next fiscal year of \$79.9 million, the same as the current fiscal year.

Higher Education Chancellor Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker said the Justice administration asked that the request not change.

"As per the past several years, we've been asked to keep our budget flat this year and we have done that," Tucker said at last week's council meeting. "We're not asking for any increases."

Gov. Jim Justice proposed and the legislature agreed to use surplus funds for some of the community and technical colleges in the current budget year. Tucker said they'll ask that be changed back to the way it was before.

"For most of the institutions 1.5% of their budgets were put into surplus revenue, to be funded out of surplus revenue. We're requesting basically that the 1.5% go back to general revenue," Tucker said.

The \$79.9 million request is made up of \$15.7 million to operate several community and technical college programs including the free tuition providing by the West Virginia Invests Grant Program, which is a \$7 million request.

The remaining part of the request, \$64.1 million is the total proposed budgets from various community and technical colleges ranging from the low \$2.1 million from Eastern West Virginia CTC to a high of \$10.3 million from WVU at Parkersburg.

Gov. Justice will propose the budget to state lawmakers in next year's session and lawmakers will eventually vote on the new spending plan that will take effect July 1, 2022.

---

#### **4 graduate from WVU-P**

The Wirt County Journal  
September 8, 2021

Four local students were among the August 2021 graduates who received certificates, associate and bachelor's degrees.

Graduates who attained 3.5 to 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: Jeremy Kerby of Elizabeth, RBA, and Penny Shrader of Elizabeth, AAS, Business Administration, Cum Laude; Emily Shearlock of Palestine, B. S., Nursing; and Anna Errickson of Reedy, B. S. Nursing.

---



### WVUP Summer dean's list includes 3 county students

The Pennsboro News

September 8, 2021

Three students from Ritchie County were named to the dean's list at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the summer 2021 semester. Honored were Valerie Bircher of Cairo, Shannon Reilly of Ellenboro and Creed Knight and Hannah Ray of Pennsboro. To achieve that honor, students must maintain a 3.5 average while earning six or more hours of college credit.

---

### "It's more than a date": teachers discuss 9/11 with students

WTAP-TV [video]

September 9, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/09/09/its-more-than-date-teachers-discuss-911-with-students/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Wood County Superintendent of Schools William Hosaflook previously was principal at Ripley High School. On September 11, 2001, he was a new teacher there, when word came of the attacks on America.

"A student came in and asked, 'did you hear that an airplane crashed into the Twin Towers?'" , Hosaflook recalled this week. "At that point, we immediately turned on the television and just sat there in silence. It was a very emotional time."

Many of today's teachers were, themselves, students that day. And, in explaining 9/11 and its impact on their lives, they focus on the emotions they-and their own teachers-felt when they heard the news.

"It's important to take that emotional side of it and try to show important it was," says teacher Ashley Smith. "It's not just a date, it means something more."

"We use music to tie in," fellow teacher Jessica Snider adds, "because many artists have reflected on the events afterwards, and continue to inspire."

Smith and Snider are both teachers at Parkersburg South High School. Smith was an elementary school student on 9/11. Snider was a student at WVU-Parkersburg.

The 20th anniversary comes after the end of American involvement in Afghanistan: a military action that was a direct result of the attacks.

Says Smith: "It's a unique time, because they'll be able to say, 'this is what happened today, as directly connected to this event that happened 20 years ago.'"

And the teachers try to reflect on the worldwide impact. For the past two decades, terrorist attacks have also happened in major international cities.

"There is global impact of terrorism," says Snider, "because they are our allies and work to fight terrorism on their shores."

These teachers, and others, are in a unique situation. They're teaching history that, indirectly, they were a part of.

---

### **Brenda Lucas: Community news for Thursday, Sept. 9**

The Herald-Dispatch

September 9, 2021

[https://www.herald-dispatch.com/features\\_entertainment/brenda-lucas-community-news-for-thursday-sept-9/article\\_fb4caf4d-53f6-57ad-856e-36ea69abef44.html](https://www.herald-dispatch.com/features_entertainment/brenda-lucas-community-news-for-thursday-sept-9/article_fb4caf4d-53f6-57ad-856e-36ea69abef44.html)

LISTED: Five Mason County residents were named to the dean's list for the summer season at West Virginia University Parkersburg. They are Brad Chattin of Leon, who also graduated with a BAS in supervisory management, and Nena Hunt, also of Leon; Joshua Petry of Mason; Bryton Grate of New Haven; and Kinneson Leslie of Point Pleasant. To qualify for this list, students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average while earning six or more hours of college credit.

---

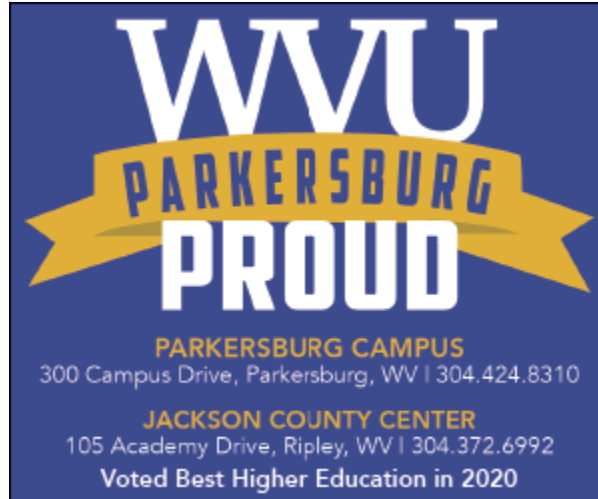
### **WVU-P recognizes Sept. 11 with virtual ceremony**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

September 11, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/09/wvu-p-recognizes-sept-11-with-virtual-ceremony/>

PARKERSBURG — Members of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg community came together virtually Friday to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

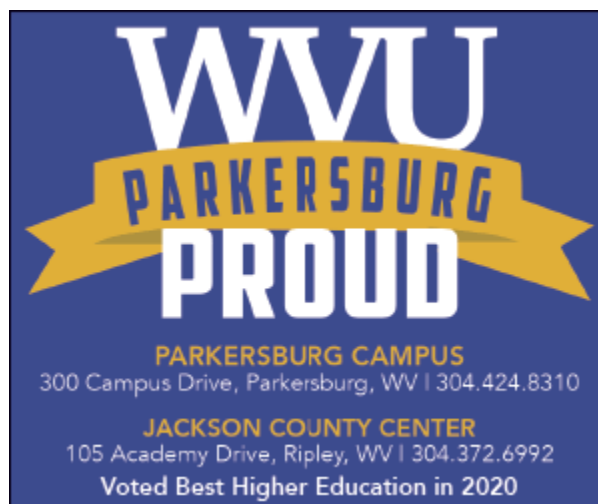


This was the second year the anniversary was marked virtually as most classes are being held online due to COVID-19.

It was done by WVU-P's veterans advocate and former staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Darren Shearlock.

He provided a historical context of the attacks.

*"This year marks the 20th anniversary of those unprovoked attacks on Sept, 11, 2001. It's a day that will ever stick in my mind, and in the mind of most Americans of my generation,"* Shearlock said.



*"Nevertheless, for many younger Americans, September 11 is not a current event, but a historical one. One that many Americans may actually be too young to remember. Therefore, I feel it is our duty to remind each other and the younger generation of what happened that fateful day,"* he said.

*"All those times were and are difficult, we must never give up faith if we are to retain our God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Then it is up to us to fight for them. One of the most noble and appropriate ways which we can accomplish is to never forget. We should never forget the innocent victims. Never forget those who died. Never forget the patriots who train and fight for our freedom. We should also never forget how that fight got started,"* he said.

Hijacked airliners on Sept. 11 were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane, believed to be headed for the U.S. Capitol, crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pa., when passengers learned of the other attacks and attempted to retake control. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks.

---

### **Parkersburg residents welcome to help with downtown mural**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

September 16, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/09/parkersburg-residents-welcome-to-help-with-downtown-mural/>

PARKERSBURG — Area residents are invited to lend a hand in beautifying downtown Parkersburg by participating in the creation of its latest mural.

Based on discussions with community members this summer, Greta McClain, owner and artistic director of GoodSpace Murals, has completed a design for the work, entitled *"The Parkersburg Connector."*

It will adorn the exterior wall of the Parkersburg Art Center facing Eighth Street, said Jessie Siefert, managing director/education director for the art center.

McClain and company will be in town for three weeks working on the project, and there will be multiple opportunities for residents to join in at painting party events.

*"It's just incredible,"* said Senta Goudy, dean of West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Center for Civic Engagement and coordinator of the project for the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley. *"The community was the inspiration for her design. And now we want them to come in and be a part of actually creating it."*

The first session is slated for 4-7:30 p.m. Saturday in the art center parking lot. There will be pizza provided and music by DJ Casey Powell. Folks will be given a 5-by-5

square and instructions on how to paint it. The materials will gradually be applied to the wall.

*"You're going to start to see the design develop on the wall as she does it," Goudy said.*

No artistic experience is required to participate.

*"And even if they're hesitant to paint, they might just want to come and see this process," Siefert said. "It's just going to be a party in our parking lot."*

Although the event is outdoors, Siefert said it's recommended that people wear masks due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

*"We are going to try to spread the groups out over a large area so we aren't too close to one another," she said.*

Other painting parties are scheduled for 4-6 p.m. Tuesday at the Actors Guild Annex, 720 Market St., and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 24 at Bicentennial Park.

---

## The community is being called to help paint large mural

WTAP-TV [video]

September 17, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/09/18/community-is-being-called-help-paint-large-mural/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - Saturday will mark the start of a collaborative art project in downtown Parkersburg. This time, however, it's not just being left up to the professionals.

There's a side of the Parkersburg Art Center that might just look like brown bricks right now but the hope is, with the help of the public, eventually it'll be covered by a massive mural. By massive, think about 40 by 25 feet.

It's a mission being led by the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley. Two leaders of the project say the goal is to get the community more involved in local art projects.

How Saturday will work is simple. Pieces of fabric will be laid out on tables with a paint by number design for you to follow. On top of art, there will be music and refreshments.

Senta Goudy and Jessie Siefert of the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley said, "Our goal is to have hundreds of hands in the paint."

Goudy and Siefert say they hope locals feel represented by the art. Both the arts collaborative as well as lead artist Greta McClain of GoodSpace Murals made sure to get public input for the project in advance for this reason. They not only set up public meetings to discuss it, but also reached out to community groups like historical societies, Zion Baptist's church's congregation, civic leaders, and more.

Saturday's event will be hosted at the Parkersburg Art Center parking lot between 4 PM and 7:30 PM.

Two other paint parties are also scheduled. The second will be held next Tuesday at the Actor's Guild Annex from 4 PM to 6 PM. The third will be held next Friday at Bicentennial Park from 11 AM to 1 PM.

Professional artists will fill in the details between and after the parties.

---

## Teen of the Week: Parkersburg High School senior seeks dram job in marine biology

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

September 18, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/09/teen-of-the-week-parkersburg-high-school-senior-seeks-dream-job-in-marine-biology/>



Riley Smith, center, plays soccer at Stadium Field, the Parkersburg High School home field. (Photo Provided)

VIENNA — Eighteen-year-old Riley Smith was born in Dayton, Ohio, and raised in Vienna. Today, he attends school at Parkersburg High School, as a senior.

*“I’ve maintained a 4.0 or higher throughout high school,”* said Smith.

In his junior year, Smith took three Advanced Placement classes, 11 Honors courses and a dual-credit Psychology and Sociology course from West Virginia University at Parkersburg. In his senior year, Smith is taking AP Government, and AP Literature which will earn him college credit at WVU-P.

*“My favorite subjects in school are my art and science classes,”* he said.

Last year, his favorite course was herpetology, a branch of zoology that studies reptiles and amphibians. This year, Smith is enjoying his community service class. In this class he assists the student service center by giving new students tours and helping receive students for scheduling or meetings.

*“I’ve always been interested in soccer and marine life,”* Smith explained.

After high school, Smith plans to attend Ohio University, where he will study marine biology.

“I’m planning on majoring in marine freshwater environmental biology, with plans to attend graduate school for a masters degree or PHD in marine biology,” stated Smith.

He said his dream job is doing something in marine biology that involves preserving the ocean.

“I hope to one day be able to help preserve the ocean, and marine wildlife all over the world,” said Smith. “I want to be able to work with and study all these different types of animals, and how they interact with one another, and us. My dream is to have a family and house on the coast, where I can wake up knowing I’m going to my dream job and work as a marine biologist.”

Smith has worked as a lifeguard and swim coach for three years at the Greenmont Racquet and Swim Club and is certified in AED, CPR and first aid. He said he really enjoys working with all of the swimmers and the Greenmont pool swim team.

*“One of my favorite things is when it finally ‘clicks’ for the kids and they can swim a little ways without having one of us hold them up,” explained Smith. “They get so proud of themselves, which makes it more enjoyable for us as teachers.”*

During his spare time, Smith volunteers. He has volunteered with the Vienna Public Library, by shelving books and cleaning. During the holiday season, he volunteers with the Salvation Army and was a part of the Red Kettle campaign to help raise money for charity.

When he isn’t volunteering Smith enjoys listening to rap music and watching Disney and action movies. He also enjoys spending time with his brother Reece, his friends, his two cats Cosmo and Duffy and playing soccer.

While at PHS Smith has been a part of the swim and soccer teams. Smith is starting left back for the varsity soccer team this year.

“I’m a three-year letterman and a team captain this year,” said Smith. “I was voted best defensive player my freshman year, and outstanding player my junior year.”

Smith was also selected for the all region team in his junior year.

“I was super honored when I found out I was a captain for the soccer team this season,” he said. “I try to be a good role model for my teammates, doing my best to



exemplify good sportsmanship, character, hard work, trustworthiness, respect and discipline.”



From left, Riley Smith, Director of the Jackson Middle School Olympics and Choir teacher Kristen Allodi, and Kendal Dominick, 17, at Jackson Middle School during the JMS Olympics. (Photo Provided)

**“Paint party” bring community together**

WTAP-TV [video]

September 19, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/09/19/paint-party-brings-community-together/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - The installment of a new mural downtown will help bring beauty to our community and bring our community closer together.

“This is your chance to come and get your hand in the mix,” Greta McClain, artist and organizer said, “...to ensure that Parkersburg looks more and more like us.”

The mural will be installed on the side of the Parkersburg Arts Center.

It’s a work of art that is by the people, for the people.

McClain has been spearheading projects like this one, across the country, for 15 years with her company, GoodSpace Murals.

It’s essentially a giant “paint by numbers,” painted on canvases that will be finished by professional artists and adhered to the side of the building.

“The Arts Center is a total jewel and gem in West Virginia, and this is a way to kind of showcase the magic inside these walls, on the outside of the building,” McClain added.

Today was the first “Paint Party,” a time when volunteers could add to the mural.

Community members of all ages came out to make their mark.

Two other “Paint Parties” are scheduled for Tuesday evening, from 4 to 6, at the Actors Guild annex and Friday, from 11 to 1 in the afternoon, at Bicentennial Commons.

Masks and social distancing are encouraged.

Jessie Siefert of the PAC added, “We want people to see themselves represented in Parkersburg.”

---

### Parkersburg author writes novel set amid pandemic

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

September 27, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/09/parkersburg-author-writes-novel-set-amid-pandemic/>



“Thirteen Months” is Stephen Hupp’s seventh book. It was released on Sept. 19. (Image Provided)

PARKERSBURG — The pandemic was the inspiration for a book written by a Parkersburg author.

“*Thirteen Months*” is the stories of several fictional characters who cope with issues during the COVID-19 pandemic including relations with people of color and the

volatile political atmosphere from January 2020 to January 2021, Stephen Hupp, director of libraries at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, said.

*"I got write about this," he said. "I truly had to."*

*"Thirteen Months"* is Hupp's seventh book and is available through Amazon. The 450-page novel is \$25 for paperback and \$2.99 as a Kindle ebook.

*"The period January 2020 to January 2021 proved tumultuous for humanity, with pandemic, volatile political climate and calls for social justice," he said. "'Thirteen Months' presents how all this affected the lives of a diverse group of men and women."*

Self-published, *"Thirteen Months"* includes characters from his previous books, he said.

Among the characters are: Lucy Wilson, an African American woman; Danny Fox, a Native American and small businessman; the farmer Coby Eckarp; construction worker Art Zeck; the academic Kat Tiffen; and NASCAR driver Marty Dodd.

Marty Dodd was a character in *"Born to the Breed"* and Kat Tiffen was a character in *"Wings in the Night"* and the sequel *"Daughter of the Valley."*

*"We see how they manage to survive extraordinary circumstances," Hupp said.*

In addition to *"Born to the Breed," "Wings in the Night"* and *"Daughter of the Valley,"* his previous endeavors were *"Of Gods and Spirits," "On a Sunday in May"* and *"The Czar of Wheeling."* *"The Czar of Wheeling"* was about the real-life Big Bill Lias, who controlled the vice rackets in the Northern Panhandle city.

Hupp said his next project, among other ideas, will be an adaptation of the legend of Faust, but is set in Appalachia. In the tale, the scholarly Faust makes a deal with the devil through Mephistopheles, but at the end of 24 years, Faust's soul becomes Satan's and he is enslaved for eternity.

*"I got a couple of ideas," he said.*

---

## Watch for the Rhodes Family on 'Family Feud'

Yahoo! News

September 25, 2021

[https://news.yahoo.com/watch-rhodes-family-family-feud-040100870.html?fr=sycsrp\\_catchall](https://news.yahoo.com/watch-rhodes-family-family-feud-040100870.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall)

Sep. 25—It was kind of like art-imitating-life-imitating-game show.

That's how Peggy Sue Cochran recalls that daytrip and lunch in Charleston from a couple of years back, when she told her cousins they were really there to audition for "Family Feud."

In fact, it was pretty much like the game show itself, the way the responses came in.

And the survey says:

"You're nuts, Peggy Sue."

"Yeah ... right."

"NOW, you tell us."

And the No. 1 answer:

"Of course, we'll do it."

Then, everyone laughed. Then, everyone went out and nailed it.

"It was funny, how we just went along, " she said.

Let's play the 'Feud'

You can see how they continue to get along as returning champions during Monday's show, which will air locally on The CW /Direct TV. Check your listings for times.

The team is competing as the "Rhodes Family, " in honor of the two brothers who were patriarchs on one side of the tree.

Cochran was joined by daughter Carly Lemley, a dentist who has her own practice in Morgantown.

Another cousin on the team, Rhonda Rhodes, teaches second grade at Terra Alta /East Preston School.

Shannon Rhodes, a cousin who also teaches at Mineral Wells Elementary School, rounded out the team with her daughter, Rebecca Rhodes.

Rebecca is a communications specialist at WVU-Parkersburg, her alma mater. She also plays country and old-time fiddle, as generations of her family have done.

The Charleston auditions were held before the pandemic hit.

In those contagion-free days, the family was told it would soon jet to Los Angeles for its appearance.

COVID-19 changed the itinerary. Months passed during quarantining and shutdowns. The Rhodes Family was finally in the running this past May, as the show's season was drawing down.

Tapings were shifted to the Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, where the West Virginia contingent went in hot.

Color-coordinated blue and gold outfits, as a nod to WVU. Pom-poms of the same color scheme, since some of the team cheered in school.

Even a West-by-God-Virginia coonskin cap, which served as a talisman from the mountains for Cochran.

"We wanted to have fun with it, but we also wanted to represent our state well, " she said...

And survey said ... they're not sayin'

"We did OK, " she said.

That said, though, what is the "Family Feud " fate of this particular family from the hills and hollows of the place where Harvey was born?

Cochran made just like that Charleston daytrip, in her response.

"Can't tell ya."

And the survey said "coy, " for Rhonda Rhodes, the teacher from Terra Alta.

"I can't wait to see how we do."

## Teen of the Week: Parkersburg High School senior finds calling after injury

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

September 25, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/09/teen-of-the-week-parkersburg-high-school-senior-finds-calling-after-injury/>



Kendal Domenick, captain of the Big Reds Girls Soccer Team, at Parkersburg High School. (Photo Provided)

VIENNA — Seventeen-year-old Kendal Domenick was born and raised in Vienna. She is a senior at Parkersburg High School and has a 4.25 GPA as an Early College student at WVU Parkersburg.

*"I work hard for my grades and have taken college prep and dual credit classes to earn college credits while here at PHS,"* Domenick, a member of the National Honor Society, said.

She volunteers in the community, in school and tutors students who need help. She volunteers outside of school with the Salvation Army, by helping with the holiday kettle drive. She also visits elementary schools to read to the students.

She started gymnastics at the age of 3, which led her to cheerleading. Gymnastics helped her excel as a cheerleader, Domenick said.

Domenick is a three-sport athlete. She is on the cheerleading, track and soccer teams.

"I love leading the cheers for football and basketball on the sidelines," she said. "I also love tumbling and performing and representing the Big Reds."

Domenick became interested in track in grade school at Neale Elementary. She enjoys hurdles, sprints and relay races.

"Track is a team sport, but so much of it is individual," she said. "When we won the state championship this past spring, we were all so happy for all the hard work we put in."

This year, Domenick is the captain of the Big Reds Girls Soccer team. She started playing soccer when she was 2.

"I was honored to be chosen captain of the soccer team. I take the duties seriously and want to be there for my teammates," she said. "Being a leader is really important to me and I want to represent my team and PHS on and off the field the best that I can."

On Sept. 3, 2019, Domenick tore her ACL. She was playing in a soccer game against Riverside at PHS.

*"I was defending a girl who had the ball, and my right leg was locked out when I planted my foot to stop the ball," she said. "She hit my left shoulder and my knee popped to the outside and I fell to the ground."*

Domenick said that she had to sit out for a few minutes to make sure she was healthy enough to play and she eventually went back in the game.

*"After 10 minutes or so of being in the game, I knew something wasn't right and I went to shoot the ball with my left foot, with my right foot as my plant foot," she said. "I collapsed immediately to the ground as my knee gave out once again."*

The next morning, she had an MRI taken of her knee, this confirmed that she had a fully torn ACL, partially torn meniscus and a grade one MCL tear.

"After I tore my ACL, I was absolutely crushed knowing that I would have to miss the rest of my sophomore year of sports," she said.

That night, Domenick told her family that she would be back to play in the first game of her junior season, and she did 11 months later.

"The mental side of it was very challenging and frustrating on many days and nights," she said. "I had setbacks, but I learned from every single one of them."



Domenick attributes her recovery to the support of her family, friends, therapists, her surgeon Dr. William Post and her positivity.

“I knew it was all about my perspective on it, and if I stayed positive and set my mind to it, I could do it,” she said. “It taught me that you never know how quickly something can be taken away from you, so to play every game like it’s my last.”

Although the recovery was hard work, and mentally draining for Domenick, she was thankful for the experience.

*“The injury made me stronger mentally and physically, and I’m thankful I went through that and can help people who may be going through a similar thing,”* she said.

Among her many dreams is becoming a physical therapist. Her 11 months in recovery after her ACL tear helped her realize her passion.

The team at Mountain River Physical Therapy that worked with her during her therapy also helped her realize this.

*“Joe Leaman, (team leader at Mountain River), is one of my biggest role models, and my interest in physical therapy originally came from him,”* she said.

She also dreams of becoming a college athlete. She hasn’t decided if she wants to play soccer, run track or be a dual-sport athlete.

*“I’m excited to enjoy my senior year and I’m looking forward to what the future holds for me in college and sports, and working toward my physical therapy degree to help others as I get older,”* she said. *“One day, I hope to get married and have a family of my own and enjoy my career and family. I’m excited to help people overcome their injuries to be back to playing sports or living their best lives.”*

---

OPEN Task Force luncheon held to discuss equity and diversity at WVU-Parkersburg  
WTAP-TV [video]

September 29, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/09/29/open-task-force-luncheon-held-discuss-equity-diversity-wvu-parkersburg/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Officials and students from West Virginia University at Parkersburg hold a luncheon at Blennerhassett Hotel with the Chancellor of Higher Education in West Virginia.

The luncheon was a part of the commuter college's "OPEN task force."

The group is a collection of school officials, from President Dr. Chris Gilmer to Dr. Steven Smith.

And features students of different races, ages and genders.

"And I wanted a really diverse group. Diverse in race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, first-generation status, differently-able people. All to come together and have an informational session. The chancellor's committed to breaking down barriers. But she needs to hear what those barriers are," says Gilmer.

Gilmer says that he wanted the chancellor to see how the group is taking steps to making the school a more diverse campus for all people.

“Student success is the center of everything we do in the community college system. We want to make sure that all of our students are successful. The only way that we can know how to make sure all of our students are successful is to hear from them about what’s causing them to be unsuccessful and to stomp out of the system,” says chancellor, Sarah Tucker.

Dr. Gilmer says that it is important to bring the student voice to the forefront of the conversation when talking about diversity and equity, including traditional and non-traditional students.

---

### WVU Parkersburg professor wins award for short film

WTAP-TV [video]

September 29, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/09/29/wvu-parkersburg-professor-wins-award-short-film/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Just in time for Halloween, a clever and creepy West Virginia short film is gaining international attention.

The last time we spoke to Adam Stover, he had just won first place in the 2020 Los Angeles Motion Picture Festival for best feature screenplay. Today, Stover, an adjunct professor of English and Theatre Arts at WVU Parkersburg is back with another film and another prestigious award. “Pinpricks” is an animated short film inspired by West

Virginia graphic novelist Jason Pell's work of the same name. It recently was chosen as the winning animated film in the "clever and creepy" category at the San Francisco Independent Film Festival. While it may be getting international attention, the project was homegrown.

"The text that it comes from... the actors in the film... the music... all that stuff was created by West Virginia people and people largely from the Charleston area," Stover said.

"Pinpricks" will be shown outdoors in Charleston on October 15th as part of the West Virginia International Film Festival.

"To be able to have it out to the public where they can see it is great," said Stover.

In the future, Stover says he would like to develop a feature film, either based on "Pinpricks," or another original story.

---

### **First Friday to be held tonight in downtown Marietta**

The Marietta Times

October 1, 2021

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/2021/10/first-friday-to-be-held-tonight-in-downtown-marietta/>

Marietta Main Street with sponsor WVU Parkersburg will celebrate their October First Friday event, Falling for Marietta in downtown Marietta from 5-9 p.m. today.

At the Armory, WVU Parkersburg will host its WVUP Wired Tour featuring band The Worst in Me, a group of high schoolers who will perform Metallica songs in honor of the university's new partnership with the Metallica Scholars Initiative.

Artsbridge and the United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley will host Kid Central at the Armory, with rock painting, bracelet making and more.

Featured events of the evening include American Flags & Poles celebrating its 25 anniversary with Randy Shrider providing music, giveaways and more.

Marietta Adventure Company will host the Student Pioneers of Music Therapy from Marietta College for performances. DORA establishments will be in effect from 5-10 p.m.

Many stores in downtown Marietta will be open late and featuring sales, samples, pop-ups, fall menus and more.

---

### **Art Center sets ArtOberfest for Oct. 16**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

October 6, 2021

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2021/10/art-center-sets-artoberfest-for-oct-16/>

PARKERSBURG — The Parkersburg Art Center will be closing two blocks of Market Street on Oct. 16 for its annual ArtOberfest event.

The event will be 6 to 10 p.m. in the 700 and 800 blocks of Market Street and will be hosted by the art center and Downtown PKB.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted at the entrance. Social distancing and mask-wearing are recommended.

ArtOberfest is an outdoor art fair held under the red umbrellas and Edison lights on Market Street. There will be live music from The Actors Guild *“Elf the Musical”* cast, Mandy and Chad Stevens and Jesse DeBarr, Back Porch Alibi, and Levi Westfall and Hannah Miller.

Downtown restaurants including Unity Cafe, The Cocktail Bar, Crystal Cafe and Parkersburg Brewing Co. will be food vendors along with the Jimmy Avocado and Philippines Best food trucks.

Other activities taking place during ArtOberfest will include Chalk the Block, traditional art demonstrations, art vendors, a beer garden, and the unveiling of the GoodSpace mural.

Sponsors include Bill Bailey Insurance, United Bank, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Artsbridge, Discount Pool Supply, and Parkersburg Brewing Co.

---

## Follow the money: Ravenswood to spend \$15k on economic impact study for future projects

Jackson Newspapers

October 6, 2021

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/2021/10/06/ravenswood-city-council-pushes-ahead-marina-and-sports-complex-projects-economic-study/6013643001/>

RAVENSWOOD — City council unanimously agreed to enter a \$15,000 contract Tuesday for West Virginia University at Parkersburg to complete an economic impact study for the Sandy Creek marina and the city's future sports complex.

From now until January the project coordinator, along with two student researchers who are Jackson County natives, will gather data on the areas related to the project. Once completed, they will apply the data to the Department of Tourism's tax development application, which is due in spring 2022.

Here are some things the study will examine.

- Ravenswood's demographics
- Cost of the proposed infrastructure
- Social and economic benefits
- Job creation

The college's Dean of Civic Engagement Senta Goudy shared that the study will be a months-long venture. Bob Newell, the Sandy Creek project consultant, asked Goudy if she'd be interested in conducting the study — she couldn't say yes fast enough.

"It's just a refreshing thing to see in our state that something progressive is happening, something that's going to build and something that's very positive," Goudy, the project coordinator, said.

Goudy spends a chunk of her time at work helping not-for-profit businesses in the mid-Ohio Valley. She's spent the past two years focusing on Wood County, and she's hoping this project with Ravenswood will increase engagement at the Jackson County branch of the college.

This study is crucial because it'll open doors for state and federal funds to help finance the projects, which will determine how much the city will tie to bonds.

"No pressure," Goudy said with a laugh. "I don't feel any pressure at all."

*Thank you for being a reader! It's your support that makes community stories like this possible.*

Ravenswood Mayor Josh Miller has his eyes on the \$3 billion Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) said in July that West Virginia is eligible for through the American Rescue Plan Act, with \$750 million of that proposed to go toward tourism, travel and outdoor recreation grants. Miller said if Ravenswood doesn't qualify for that funding, he doesn't know who would.

To break ground on the sports complex, the city will need to relocate its sewer system. Currently, the city has sewer lagoons on the proposed complex site on Washington Street across the road from the Riverfront Park and next to the Sandy Creek marina site.

"We're moving an entire lagoon system and building the future of Ravenswood and this region on top of it," Miller said.

Goudy said she plans on giving brief presentations throughout the project at city council meetings to keep council members and the public up-to-date with the project's status.

---

## WVU-Parkersburg program has new technology for students

WTAP-TV [video]

October 7, 2021

<https://www.wtap.com/2021/10/07/wvu-parkersburg-nursing-program-has-new-technology-students/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg is featuring some new technology within its surgical technology program.

The surgical technology program is showcasing their new laparoscopic simulator, or "LAPSIM" for short.

This inclusion of this new technology makes the university the first surgical technology program to get the simulator in the state of West Virginia.

Students say this technology will better prepare them for their future professions in surgical technology.

"For all of us in my class, it is our first year. And so, we have that first semester of experience before clinicals of working on the LAPSIM with the laparoscopic simulator with the camera. So, we have learned to 'drive the camera,' is what it's called in surgery, before other schools who may not have the equipment here in West Virginia



wouldn't have that advantage of knowing of how to use the camera during the laparoscopic procedure," says surgical technical program student, Cayleigh Ketterman.

Medical experts say that the laparoscopic surgeries are less invasive than other types of surgery.

---



September 2021

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Social Media Report


# facebook

[facebook.com/wvuparkersburg](https://facebook.com/wvuparkersburg) (@wvuparkersburg)





Fans (number of page likes): 7,601

WVU Parkersburg gained 14 fans in September 2021.

## Top Posts

 West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
Published by Hootsuite · September 8 · 🌐



We are #WVUProud to announce the Fall 2021 student teacher candidates, teacher residents and Clinical Teachers of Record! 🍎 These students will be placed in regional county schools to receive education training in the field to apply strategies and skills learned directly to the classroom.  
Read all about it! 📄 : <http://ow.ly/4CSy50G6e9m>



4,806  
People Reached

729  
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

  58

1 Comment 7 Shares



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Hootsuite - September 13 at 1:00 PM

...

Kudos to Dr. Alicia Beeson, Danielle, Kelly, Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz and Joyce Stover for recently having their works published or recognized during state and national writing competitions. 🍷  
According to Dr. Kolankiewicz, perseverance is the key to success.

"Sticking in the game and not giving up, even when my work was rejected, is what makes success possible," Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz said. "For every accepted magazine, there are ten 'no' responses. A lot of success is based on continuing to try and improve at all stages of your writing life, even if you don't get the feedback you want."

Read about our faculty's recognitions at <http://ow.ly/nr7h30rTPo9>.



Dr. Alicia Beeson



Danielle Kelly



Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz



Joyce Stover



3,630  
People Reached

531  
Engagements

Boost Post

41

3 Comments 6 Shares



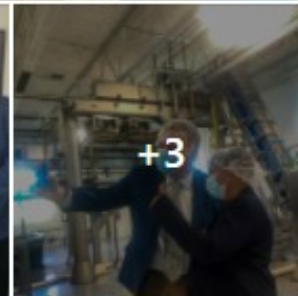
West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Published by Hootsuite · September 30 at 12:01 PM · 🌐

...

Yesterday, [Mister Bee Potato Chips](#) gave WVU Parkersburg and special guests from the [Community and Technical College System of West Virginia](#) a behind-the-scenes tour of its facilities. 🍟 For its collaboration with the Riverhawk Farm, WVU Parkersburg student Joseph Whipkey presented an artistic rendering of Chip, the farm's mascot, to Mister Bee's owner Mary Anne Ketelsen.

👉 Not to mention, WVCTCS Chancellor Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Vice Chancellor Chris Treadway and Director of Workforce & Economic Development Tiffany Ellis-Williams went home with a bag of delicious BBQ chips, fresh off the press.



3,314  
People Reached

200  
Engagements

Boost Post

👍❤️ 24

2 Shares



[twitter.com/WVUParkersburg](https://twitter.com/WVUParkersburg) (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,328

WVU Parkersburg gained 6 followers in September 2021.

---

### Top Tweets



**WVU Parkersburg** @WVUParkersburg · Sep 15



WVUP's Sigma Omega chapter of [@PHITHETAKAPPA](#) is seeking outstanding students to apply for four state and national academic teams and receive \$ scholarships.

Contact [mbutler1@wvup.edu](mailto:mbutler1@wvup.edu) for complete details on how to apply.



**PHI THETA KAPPA**  
HONOR SOCIETY





**WVU Parkersburg** @WVUParkersburg · Sep 10



Early College student Paul Teltscher is the @NewsandSentinel's Teen of the Week! ★ Paul is a star on the soccer field, an accomplished singer and key member of Dark Side Robotics. 🖥️

📖 Read all about his accomplishments at [ow.ly/Vmze50G7K61](https://ow.ly/Vmze50G7K61).





**WVU Parkersburg** @WVUParkersburg · Sep 13



Kudos to English faculty Dr. Alicia Beeson, Danielle Kelly, Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz and Joyce Stover for their recent accomplishments of being nationally and state recognized for certain written works. 📖 Read all about it at [wvup.edu/news/west-virg...](http://wvup.edu/news/west-virg...)



Dr. Alicia Beeson



Danielle Kelly



Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz



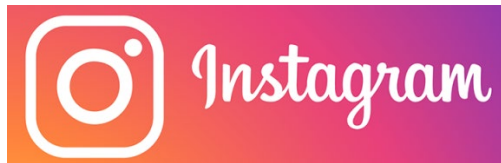
1



2







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

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,553

WVU Parkersburg gained 53 followers in September 2021.

### Top Posts



**wvuparkersburg** ...

**wvuparkersburg** 12 student teachers, teacher residents and Clinical Teachers of Record are heading to classrooms this Fall to practice their skills in the field, teaching in schools across the Mid-Ohio Valley region. 🍎 Congratulations, students! We are #WVUProud of you.

4w

[View Insights](#)


👍 🗨️ 📌


👤 Liked by **stevespencer** and **47 others**

SEPTEMBER 9

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)



 **wwuparkersburg** ...

 **wwuparkersburg** The Riverhawks have spoken! You want to see Count Ricky this Halloween. 🎃

#WVUParkersburg #CollegeLife  
#CommunityCollege

3w

[View Insights](#)

👍 🗨️ 📌 🏷️

🇺🇸 Liked by artsofthemov and 30 others

SEPTEMBER 17

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)



 **wwuparkersburg** ...

 **wwuparkersburg** Early College student Riley Smith is a star on and off the green. ⭐ He is a volunteer for the @viennapubliclibrary and #SalvationArmy and lifeguard.

Because of his love for the water, Riley will be attending Ohio University to study marine biology. We are

[View Insights](#)

👍 🗨️ 📌 🏷️

🇺🇸 Liked by artsofthemov and 20 others

SEPTEMBER 29

😊 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): 6,300

WVU Parkersburg gained 41 followers in September 2021.

### Top Posts

**West Virginia University at Parkersburg**  
6,417 followers  
1w • 🌐

Yesterday, Mister Bee Potato Chips gave WVU Parkersburg and special guests from the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia a behind-the-scenes tour of its facilities. 🍟 For its collaboration with the Riverhawk Farm, WVU Parkersburg student Joseph Whipkey presented an artistic rendering of Chip, the farm's mascot, to Mister Bee's owner Mary Anne Ketelsen.

👉 Not to mention, WVCTCS Chancellor Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Vice Chancellor Chris Treadway and Director of Workforce & Economic Development Tiffany Ellis-Williams went home with a bag of delicious BBQ chips, fresh off the press.

👍❤️ 15 • 1 comment



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,417 followers

1 mo • 🌐

We are #WVUProud to announce the Fall 2021 student teacher candidates, teacher residents and Clinical Teachers of Record! 🍎 These students will be placed in regional county schools to receive education training in the field to apply strategies and skills learned directly to the classroom.

Read all about it! 📄 : <http://ow.ly/5ScF50G6e9n>



👍❤️ 10



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

6,417 followers

3w • 🌐

Kudos to Dr. Alicia Beeson, Danielle, Kelly, Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz and Joyce Stover for recently having their works published or recognized during state and national writing competitions. 🏆 According to Dr. Kolankiewicz, perseverance is the key to success.

"Sticking in the game and not giving up, even when my work was rejected, is what makes success possible," Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz said. "For every accepted magazine, there are ten 'no' responses. A lot of success is based on continuing to try and improve at all stages of your writing life, even if you don't get the feedback you want."

📖 Read about our faculty's recognitions at <http://ow.ly/nr7h30rTPo9>.



Dr. Alicia Beeson



Danielle Kelly



Dr. Sandra Kolankiewicz



Joyce Stover



👍👎 9 • 1 comment