



West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Board of Governors Meeting

**Media Clips**

*March 5 – April 8, 2022*

## WVU Parkersburg Nursing and Health Sciences Division awarded \$690,000 through Gov. Justice's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program

The West Virginia Daily News

April 4, 2022

<https://wvdn.com/30801/>

Parkersburg, (W.Va.)– WVU Parkersburg's Nursing and Health Sciences Division was awarded \$690,000 through West Virginia Governor Jim Justice's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program.

The program is designed to address the state's nursing shortage and will fund nursing program expansion projects at colleges, universities, schools of nursing and career technical education centers across West Virginia.

With this award, the WVU Parkersburg Nursing and Health Sciences Division plans to offer an accelerated LPN to RN program. The investment is expected to support up to 20 to 30 new nursing students.

"The Nursing Workforce Expansion Grant award is a transformational opportunity for WVU Parkersburg," said Kathy Frum, WVU Parkersburg Nursing and Health Sciences Division dean. "This grant would allow the program to provide an accelerated pathway for LPNs to complete an RN degree, increase the number of nursing students accepted into the program and support recruitment and retention efforts for qualified nursing students."

She continued, "The grant monies will facilitate improvements to the existing ADN program. The division plans to collaborate with pipeline program for health care careers, provide excellent support for students and recruit and retain qualified nursing faculty."

The nursing program expansion awards are administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System. Twenty-six funded projects across the state were announced by Gov. Justice on March 17. Approved projects were required to be focused on increasing enrollment in pre-licensure nursing programs through innovative approaches focused on timely degree completion and licensure for graduates.

"We are tremendously grateful to Gov. Justice for providing this historic funding to support the expansion of nursing education programs across West Virginia," said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, West Virginia's Chancellor of Higher Education. "Through

these new projects, our postsecondary education community will be better positioned to help shore up West Virginia’s nursing workforce – which, in turn, will help support our nurses working tirelessly on the front lines right now.”

Governor Justice announced the West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program in December 2021 by dedicating \$48 million to support new and expanded initiatives that will train new nurses, fully fund the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program, value nurses already practicing in the state, and recruit nurses into West Virginia.

“I echo the chancellor’s gratitude to Governor Justice for this funding,” said WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer. “We know how transformative this programming will be for the Mid-Ohio Valley.”

### **About WVU Parkersburg**

West Virginia University at Parkersburg, established in 1961, is a life-changing institution for the students and communities it serves. The college offers over 50 degree programs, workforce development, short-term career training programs and community education classes. WVU Parkersburg is also the only community and technical college in West Virginia to offer bachelor’s degrees, and it is home to WPKM 96.3 FM, the first community college radio station in the state.

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**By the Numbers**

The Pennsboro News

March 30, 2022

# **BY THE NUMBERS**

## **1**

The college's rank in W. Va.  
for most affordable colleges

## **75**

The percentage of students  
who graduate debt free

## **50**

The number of programs  
available to study

## **\$4309**

The number of dollars  
saved annually by attending

 **Parkersburg**  
West Virginia University

304.424.8310 | [wwup.edu](http://wwup.edu)



**FROM THE  
CLASSROOM  
TO THE TRACK,  
GOOD LUCK FROM  
WVU PARKERSBURG!**

**Small Business Center Moves**

The Pleasants County Leader

March 5, 2022

The West Virginia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has relocated its regional center to West Virginia University-Parkersburg on Market in Downtown Parkersburg.

“This partnership with WVU Parkersburg and the Small Business Development Center illustrates our commitment to support the community’s economic development and foster entrepreneurship in the Mid-Ohio Valley,” said WVU Parkersburg president Dr. Chris Gilmer.

“Having the SBDC downtown will increase accessibility to their coach, workshops and training programs.”

The SBDC is a statewide network that provides tools, training and connections for successfully starting and growing a small business. It plays a vital role in West Virginia’s economic development initiatives by:

- Assisting entrepreneurs in every stage of the business cycle, from prospective entrepreneurs to mature businesses looking for growth opportunities and more.
- Working with firms in all industry sectors.
- Being a member of a nationwide network of Small Business Development Centers that share resources in our mission to start and grow small businesses.
- Following the Baldrige Principles of performance excellence in achieving accreditation by America’s SBDC, as required by congressional mandate. Those principles include managing for innovation, entrepreneurship, customer-driven excellence, integrity, visionary leadership, creating value, agility, societal responsibility and a focus on the future.

Marsa Myers, SBDC coach, serves the Mid-Ohio Valley and can help the small businesses from her offices at WVU-P on Market, 414 Market St., Parkersburg. She can be reached via e-mail at [marsa.c.myers@wv.gov](mailto:marsa.c.myers@wv.gov).

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## WVU-Parkersburg hosting display to show Women’s History during March

WTAP-TV [video]

March 7, 2022

<https://www.wtap.com/2022/03/07/wvu-parkersburg-hosting-display-show-womens-history-during-march/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg is celebrating Women’s History Month.

The college wants to educate people about the women of the past and present who have made an impact.

The idea for the display comes from the school’s “OPEN Task Force,” and the display is put together by marketing and communications department intern, Autumn McKenna.

Women like Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks will be honored. And also, some members of the task force are submitting women who have had an influence on them.

“The project is sponsored by the “OPEN Task Force.” And each member of the OPEN Task Force has to somehow been influenced by a strong woman. So, we ask them who the woman in their life was that influenced them the most,” says alumni relations and career services executive director, Nancy Harris.

The display will have four different editions throughout the month that will switch off each week.

The first will be “pioneers,” the second will be “contemporaries,” third is women in leadership roles at WVU-P and the last week will be women who impact them.

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### International Women’s Day looks to reset bias on female norms this year

WTAP-TV [video]

March 8, 2022

<https://www.wtap.com/2022/03/08/international-womens-day-looks-reset-bias-female-norms-this-year/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg English assistant professor Dr. Alicia Matheny-Beeson, who has a PhD in women’s studies, says that today is all about female empowerment and connectivity.

This year’s theme will be about getting rid of bias regarding gender norms involving women.

“Particularly related to women in the workplace, women as mothers and as parents. And just trying to eliminate the bias as much as possible so that women can be viewed as equal to men. And we made a lot of progress in that area but I think there’s still

subtle ways in which that bias still exists so we can still work to address it," says Beeson.

Beeson says that a great way to celebrate this day is by coming together with other women, learning about a woman who has made an impact, and showing appreciation to women in your life.

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### **Small Business Center relocates**

The Wirt County Journal

March 9, 2022

The West Virginia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has relocated its regional center to West Virginia University-Parkersburg on Market in Downtown Parkersburg.

"This partnership with WVU Parkersburg and the Small Business Development Center illustrates our commitment to support the community's economic development and foster entrepreneurship in the Mid-Ohio Valley," said WVU Parkersburg president Dr. Chris Gilmer.

"Having the SBDC downtown will increase accessibility to their coach, workshops and training programs."

The SBDC is a statewide network that provides tools, training and connections for successfully starting and growing a small business. It plays a vital role in West Virginia's economic development initiatives by:

- Assisting entrepreneurs in every stage of the business cycle, from prospective entrepreneurs to mature businesses looking for growth opportunities and more.
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Marsa Myers, SBDC coach, serves the Mid-Ohio Valley and can help the small businesses from her offices at WVU-P on Market, 414 Market St., Parkersburg. She can be reached via e-mail at [marsa.c.myers@wv.gov](mailto:marsa.c.myers@wv.gov).

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## **WVU Parkersburg student receives paid internship on local film production**

WTRF

March 9, 2022

<https://www.wtrf.com/news/west-virginia-headlines/wvu-parkersburg-student-receives-paid-internship-on-local-film-production/>

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTRF) Film production is becoming more attainable for students at WVU Parkersburg, especially for Digital Communications student Thomas Hearn.

Hearn received a paid internship at a local film production as a sound recordist and assistant sound engineer.

“I feel very proud of myself for attaining the internship, and I am excited to see what I can accomplish,” Hearn said. “I am still as ‘hungry’ or driven as I was before I applied for the position. I am sure it will all settle in during filming, or afterward, once I have finished production.”

The film, written and produced by Brian Bennett of Marietta, Ohio, is called “Precognito” and will be filmed in both Marietta and Parkersburg, W. Va.

The film is an original story about young adults playing a mysterious game in a psych ward that leads to many revelations throughout the movie.

“I applied for the position due to my love for production and my need to improve my resume for my future communications/media career. I hope to gain professional work experience, mainly experience working on a team media project like “Precognito.” I also want to network with other people who share similar interests to me.” said Hearn.

After graduation, Hearn plans on attending graduate school to enhance his knowledge of communication and media.

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**West Virginia University at Parkersburg announces tuition increase**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 10, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/business/2022/03/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg-announces-tuition-increase/>

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg will be increasing its tuition for the first time in a couple of years.

Throughout the pandemic over the last couple of years, the college has not raised tuition costs to help students manage the costs of continuing their education when a lot of classes were being done virtually or limited in-person contact.

This school year, the university has returned to in-person classes with precautions taken to deal with the continuing COVID pandemic.

In a item approved this week by the Board of Governors, the in-state rate will raise for Associate level students 4.87 percent and the Baccalaureate rate will raise 4.89 percent. The out-of-state rate for Associate students will raise 4.97 percent and the Baccalaureate rate will raise 4.92 percent.

The increases amount to an increase of \$8 per credit hour for in-state Associate Degree students going from \$160 to \$168 a credit hour and \$11 per credit hour for Baccalaureate Degree students going from \$221 to \$232 per credit hour. Out-of-state students will see an increase of \$18 for Associate Degree students and \$19 per credit hour for Baccalaureate Degree students.

In-state Associate Degree students will have a \$2,066 tuition rate per semester while Baccalaureate Degree students will have a \$2,834 tuition rate per semester (which includes the \$50 fee charge which did not go up). Out-of-state Associate Degree students will have a \$4,562 tuition rate per semester while Baccalaureate Degree students will have a \$4,862 tuition rate per semester.

President Chris Gilmer said the majority of students at WVU-P pay the in-state rate, whether they live in West Virginia, Ohio or take classes online with very few having to pay the actual out-of-state rate.

*“WVU-P was recognized earlier this year by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top five southern regional colleges for students graduating with the lowest student debt, so we take maintaining the affordability of college for our students very*

seriously,” he said. “As is the case at the gas pumps, grocery store check-out lines, and electric meters, inflation and supply chain issues are hitting higher education hard.

*“WVU-P is not immune, and we have held the line for two years in recognition of the fiscal challenges the pandemic has imposed on so many of our students.”*

Gilmer said this small increase was being sought now so the university would not have to do a larger increase later if the need would arise. Sometimes schools have had to make large increases all at once, 10 to 20 percent, which in turn could be harmful to students, he said.

*“We are doing this so it will not be a significant impact to our students,”* Gilmer said of a small controlled increase.

This will allow the university to pursue new academic and workforce programs and continue to enhance existing programs in support of the workforce needs of the Mid-Ohio Valley while still placing no significant hardship on their students, he said.

*“It is important to note that any student receiving a full financial aid package will still have more than enough funding available to cover the full tuition and fees costs of attending WVU-P without having to borrow any money,”* Gilmer added.

The increase is expected to raise around \$360,000 based on current enrollment numbers.

Gilmer said they are seeing indications they might have increased enrollment in the fall.

*“We are being proactive in building out programs,”* he said.

The university has around \$19 million in cash reserves, which would almost cover an entire year’s budget. Even with the inflation being seen, the university is expecting to be able to maintain its current employment levels.

*“We are in strong financial shape,”* he said.

Gilmer also announced this week to the Board of Governors the university is also beginning to relax some of its COVID protocols. They are continuing to follow local and state health recommendations. Mask use is encouraged but not mandatory at the university now and contact tracing will only involve cases on campus.

The change was *“appropriate due to a more positive trajectory of the virus and prevailing state and national trends, and the administration undertook this revision as this Board outlined,”* Gilmer said.

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### **WVU-Parkersburg student earns paid film internship**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 12, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/03/wvu-parkersburg-student-earns-paid-film-internship/>

PARKERSBURG — A student at West Virginia University at Parkersburg in the Digital Communications major has received a paid internship on a local film production.

Thomas Hearn will be a sound recordist and assistant sound engineer on *“Precognito”* written and produced by Brian Bennett of Marietta. The production will take place in Marietta and Parkersburg.

*“Precognito”* is an original story that puts the viewer in a third-person point-of-view of young adults playing a mysterious game in a psych ward that leads to many revelations throughout the movie.

*“I feel very proud of myself for attaining the internship, and I am excited to see what I can accomplish,”* Hearn said. *“I am still as ‘hungry’ or driven as I was before I applied for the position. I am sure it will all settle in during filming, or afterward, once I have finished production.”*

Hearn said he applied for the position for his love of production and a need to improve his resume for his future communications and media career.

*“I hope to gain professional work experience, mainly experience working on a team media project like ‘Precognito,’”* he said. *“I also want to network with other people who share similar interests to me.”*

Hearn plans on finishing undergraduate school with a bachelor of applied science in Communication and Media Studies. After graduation, he plans on attending graduate school to enhance his knowledge of communications and media.

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**Federal spending bill includes Mid-Ohio Valley projects**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 12, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2022/03/federal-spending-bill-includes-mid-ohio-valley-projects/>

PARKERSBURG — A \$1.5 trillion government spending package recently approved by the U.S. Senate includes more than \$241 million directed to West Virginia, including multiple projects in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

*“I am thrilled to see this money heading directly to West Virginia,”* said U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., in a press release. *“This funding is heading to schools, universities, hospitals and towns to improve broadband, spur economic development, expand infrastructure — especially water and wastewater infrastructure — and keep our communities safe.”*

Two separate allocations are noted for sewer improvement and expansion in the Marrtown Road area just outside of Parkersburg — \$3.2 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and \$2.5 million to the Parkersburg Utility Board.

PUB Manager Eric Bennett said he expects the funds to go toward two projects that were originally part of the same effort to extend sewer service just west of U.S. 50.

*“It’s all the Marrtown area,”* he said.

Design work for the Hill Avenue portion, which would serve roughly 25 customers, is complete, while there’s only a general layout for the Marrtown work, Bennett said. That would serve about 50 residential customers, plus some businesses, he said.

Once more information is known about how and when the funding is distributed, it should get the projects moving, Bennett said.

The Southern Jackson County Public Service District is in line for \$2,158,000 for upgrades to its wastewater treatment system. General Manager Karl Vielhaber said the district has been approved for a low-interest loan of up to \$15 million for the work. The federal funds could help if escalating prices cause bids to come in over budget or reduce the amount of time it takes to pay back the loan, he said.

*“We’re hoping we can come in within budget, because we’ve estimated very high,”* Vielhaber said.

The improvements will further reduce the levels of contaminants in water once it leaves the treatment system, he said.

*“We’ll be producing water at the quality of just about drinking water,”* Vielhaber said.

The bill includes \$570,000 through the Small Business Administration for an agribusiness program at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. It would be used to enhance the farm where the school grows potatoes and provides some non-credit agricultural and economic development training, said Torie Jackson, WVU-Parkersburg’s chief operating officer.

*“We are looking at doing some work to restore the farm so that it’s more productive,”* she said.

In addition, WVUP hopes to develop an agribusiness degree program, Jackson said.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., also voted for the bill. In addition to the West Virginia projects, he said it includes \$13.6 billion in aid for the people of Ukraine as Russia continues to invade the neighboring nation.

*“I look forward to seeing President Biden sign this legislation into law and will continue working to get our fiscal house in order while supporting West Virginian and American priorities,”* Manchin said in a press release.

Manchin and Capito also noted the legislation includes a renewal of the Violence Against Women Act.

Evan Bevins can be reached at [ebevins@newsandsentinel.com](mailto:ebevins@newsandsentinel.com).

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Local Funds in the 2022 Omnibus Spending Package:

- \* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Marrtown sanitary sewer extension — \$3,200,000
- \* City of Ripley, wastewater treatment plant improvements — \$3,000,000
- \* Parkersburg Utility Board, Marrtown Road sewer improvements — \$2,500,000
- \* Southern Jackson County Public Service District, wastewater treatment system upgrade — \$2,158,000
- \* City of Ravenswood, pump station improvement — \$2,000,000
- \* WVU Parkersburg, Agribusiness Development Accelerator — \$570,000

\* Pleasants County Development Authority, St. Marys Business Park — \$473,000

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## Capito Secures \$241 Million in Congressionally Directed Spending for West Virginia

The West Virginia Daily News

March 12, 2022

<https://wvdm.com/29090/>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), a leader on the Senate Appropriations Committee, tonight voted in favor of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations omnibus package, which included \$241,135,000 she secured in direct spending measures across West Virginia. Senator Capito requested the funding through the reinstated Congressionally Directed Spending process.

“I am thrilled to see this money heading directly to West Virginia,” Senator Capito said. “I respect this new process, and worked with the Appropriations Committee to ensure transparency and accountability in my requests on behalf of West Virginians. This funding is heading to schools, universities, hospitals, and towns to improve broadband, spur economic development, expand infrastructure—especially water and wastewater infrastructure—and keep our communities safe. Although the appropriations process has taken longer than usual this year, we finally crossed the finish line with today’s passage. Now that the omnibus package has passed, I look forward to the president signing this into law and seeing firsthand the benefits these funds will have in West Virginians’ day-to-day lives.”

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration

Rural Development- Distance Learning, Telemedicine & Broadband Program (DLT)

Distance Learning – West Virginia University – \$328,000

Dual Enrollment Hub Sites – Shepherd University – \$111,000

Distance Learning – Pocahontas County Board of Education – \$462,000

Rural Community Facilities Program

Safety Complex Stair Replacement – Town of Anmoore – \$55,000

Subcommittee on Commerce, Science, and Justice

Department of Commerce; National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST);  
Scientific and Technical Research Services

Advanced Biomedical Instrumentation and Research Training – University of Charleston  
– \$385,000

Procurement of Technology and Equipment to Respond to Opioid and Violence  
Epidemics in WV – West Virginia University – \$705,000

Department of Justice; Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); COPS Law  
Enforcement Technology

NIBIN Database Entry Terminal Procurement – City of Huntington – \$218,000

New Police Station Technology – City of Milton Police Department – \$33,000

Police Cruiser Equipment Update – City of Milton Police Department – \$118,000

Granville K9 Wandering and Criminal Detection Program – Granville Police Department  
– \$150,000

Charleston Eyes & Ears Police Technology Initiative – City of Charleston – \$750,000

Wheeling Law Enforcement Technology Program – City of Wheeling – \$1,001,000

Shepherd University Campus Security Upgrades – Shepherd University Police  
Department – \$4,000,000

Department of Justice; Office of Justice Programs (OJP); State and Local Law  
Enforcement Assistance; Byrne Discretionary

Development of a Crisis Intervention Team in Charleston – City of Charleston –  
\$1,000,000

Procurement of Vehicular Evidence Detection Equipment – City of Huntington – \$2,000

Charleston Drug Market Intervention Initiative – City of Charleston – \$300,000

Marshall University Law Enforcement Training Center in Forensic Sciences – Marshall  
University – \$1,750,000

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); Safety, Security and Mission  
Services

Spacecraft Development Facility – West Virginia University – \$800,000



Update Technology at the Challenger Learning Center and Support Seasonal Educational Programming – Wheeling University Challenger Learning Center – \$3,000,000

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Corps of Engineers; Construction

Marriott Sanitary Sewer Extension, Section 219 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – \$3,200,000

Shepherdstown System Improvements, Section 571 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – \$1,668,000

Wheeling Elm Run Flash Flooding, Section 219 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – \$546,000

Corps of Engineers; Operations and Maintenance

Kanawha River Locks and Dams – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District – \$6,900,000

Department of Energy; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Development of an Electric Vehicle Associate's Degree Curriculum Standards and Educational Materials for Automotive Educators and Technicians Nationwide – West Virginia University – \$1,000,000

Department of Energy; Office of Fossil Energy

Mercer County Gas Line Extension – Development Authority of Mercer County – \$2,959,000

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Small Business Administration

Outdoor Industry Softlines Prototyping Textiles Lab – New River Gorge Regional Development Authority – \$1,500,000

FASTER WV – Advantage Valley – \$300,000

Marshall University Aerospace Manufacturing Training – Marshall University – \$1,000,000

West Virginia University's Agribusiness Development Accelerator – West Virginia University Parkersburg – \$570,000

Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants

Emergency Operations Center Facility Project – WV Division of Emergency Management – \$955,000

WV Water Treatment Plant Auxiliary Power Project – WV Division of Emergency Management – \$708,000

Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

National Park Service; Historic Preservation Fund

Charles Washington's Home, National Register of Historic Places, Rehabilitation and Revitalization, Save America's Treasures – West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office – \$500,000

Cottrill Building, National Register of Historic Places, Rehabilitation and Revitalization, Save America's Treasures – West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office – \$500,000

Wheeling Centre Market Preservation, National Register of Historic Places, Rehabilitation and Revitalization, Save America's Treasures – West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office – \$150,000

Environmental Protection Agency; Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Hodgesville PSD Water System Improvements – Hodgesville Public Service District – \$4,037,000

Alderson Water System Rehabilitation and Extension Project – Town of Alderson – \$2,000,000

Burnsville Lake Water Supply Line Improvements – Town of Burnsville – \$4,800,000

Burnsville Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation Project – Town of Burnsville – \$669,000

Canaan Valley Public Service District Water Plant – Canaan Valley Public Service District – \$8,000,000

City of Follansbee Wastewater System Improvements Project – City of Follansbee – \$10,269,000

City of Weirton Water Treatment Capacity Project – City of Weirton – \$22,470,000

Clarksburg Water Board Distribution System Improvements – Clarksburg Water Board – \$6,880,000

Faulkner Road Water Line Extension to Bowden – Midland Public Service District – \$2,000,000

Grafton Wastewater Systems Improvement Project – City of Grafton – \$3,000,000

Greenbrier County Phase II Waterline Extension – Greenbrier County Public Service District No 2 – \$1,500,000

Kanawha County Commission for Leatherwood Water Project – Kanawha County Commission – \$5,230,000

Kermit Rehabilitation of Water Treatment Facility – Town of Kermit – \$2,747,000

Marmet Sanitary/Storm Separation Project: Maryland Ave Overflow Abatement – Town of Marmet – \$860,000

McDowell sanitary septic and sewage service project – DigDeep Right to Water Project – \$495,000

Meadow Bridge Distribution System Upgrade and Extension – Town of Meadow Bridge – \$1,000,000

Monumental Public Service District Waterline Expansion – Monumental Public Service District – \$283,000

Nettie Leivasy Water System Improvements Project – Nettie Leivasy Public Service District – \$4,020,000

Nitro Stormwater and Sewer Upgrade Project – City of Nitro – \$2,888,000

Oceana Wastewater Collection System Upgrades – Town of Oceana – \$1,444,000

Parkersburg Marrtown Road Sewer Improvements – Parkersburg Utility Board – \$2,500,000

Parsons Sanitary Sewer System Compliance – City of Parsons – \$1,600,000

Preston County PSD 1 Water Treatment Plant and Water Line Upgrades – Preston County PSD 1 – \$646,000

Ravenswood Pump Station Improvement – City of Ravenswood – \$2,000,000

Ripley Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – City of Ripley – \$3,000,000

Rowlesburg Sanitary Sewer System Upgrade – Town of Rowlesburg – \$7,578,000

Salt Rock Sewer Phase II Pump Station Upgrade Project – Salt Rock Sewer Public Service District (SRSPSD) – \$1,416,000

Southern Jackson County Wastewater Treatment System Upgrade – Southern Jackson County Public Service District – \$2,158,000

Worthington Water Service Upgrade Project – Town of Worthington – \$1,000,000

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Department of Labor; Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

Workforce development initiative, including equipment and curriculum development – City of Charleston – \$500,000

Apprenticeship initiative – Marshall University – \$4,500,000

Training program, including equipment and curriculum – West Virginia Community and Technical College System – \$300,000

Health and Human Services; Health Resources and Services Administration

Medical education facilities and equipment – Bluefield State College – \$300,000

Electronic medical records initiative – Cabell Huntington Hospital Foundation – \$267,000

Clinical imaging equipment – Charleston Area Medical Center – \$5,000,000

Intensive Care Unit equipment – Charleston Area Medical Center – \$5,000,000

Simulation center facilities and equipment – Charleston Area Medical Center – \$6,000,000

Ohio Valley Medical Center facilities and equipment – City of Wheeling – \$500,000

Health workforce initiative – Concord University – \$850,000

School of Nursing facilities and equipment – Concord University – \$1,600,000

Oncology Infusion Center – Mon Health Preston Memorial Hospital – \$580,000

Medical complex facilities and equipment – New River Health Association – \$5,000,000

Cancer Infusion Center facilities and equipment – Thomas Health System – \$495,000

Imaging equipment – Thomas Health System – \$5,500,000

St. Francis Hospital facilities and equipment – Thomas Health System – \$1,200,000

Nursing program equipment – University of Charleston – \$786,000

Clinic expansion – West Virginia Health Right – \$4,000,000

Telehealth initiative – West Virginia University – \$262,000

Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families

Center on foster care studies – Marshall University – \$1,000,000

Health and Human Services; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Mental health and substance use prevention and treatment services, including outreach and wraparound services – City of Charleston – \$300,000

School-based mental and behavioral health services – Community Care of West Virginia – \$1,250,000

Expansion of recovery services, including training and technical assistance – Marshall University – \$4,961,000

Trauma awareness and substance use prevention services – The Martinsburg Initiative – \$500,000

Department of Education, Higher Education

Cyber security center, including technology and equipment – Marshall University – \$1,500,000

Agriculture equipment and supplies – Potomac State College of WVU – \$92,000

Equipment and technology upgrades – Shepherd University – \$36,000

Student services – Shepherd University – \$70,000

Technology and equipment to improve broadband access – Shepherd University – \$135,000

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development

Department of Transportation; Airport Improvement Program

General Aviation Apron Construction and Rehabilitation – Yeager Airport (CRW) – \$3,121,000

Taxiway Echo Expansion – Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport (MRB) – \$850,000

Clarksburg Airport (CKB) – \$5,000,000

Mingo County Airport Access Road – Appalachian Regional Airport (EBD) – \$3,300,000

Department of Transportation; Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement

Weirton Frontier Crossings Project – City of Weirton – \$1,000,000

Department of Housing and Urban Development; Economic Development Initiative

Appalachia Service Project Rural Home Repair – Appalachia Service Project – \$400,000

Ascend WV Morgantown Working Space – West Virginia University – \$850,000

The Barkers Creek Industrial Park Power Expansion – Wyoming County Economic Development Authority – \$835,000

Beech Bottom Industrial Park Water Infrastructure Expansion – Village of Beech Bottom – \$1,957,000

Blighted, Abandoned, and Dilapidated Buildings Upgrade & Removal Fund – Braxton County Commission – \$500,000

Charleston Low Barrier Shelter – City of Charleston – \$1,000,000

City Center Business Improvement District—Opportunity Zone – Charleston Urban Renewal Authority – \$600,000

Coal Heritage Discovery Facility – National Coal Heritage Area Authority – \$415,000

Combating WV Food Deserts through Economic Development and Mobile Markets – West Virginia University – \$990,000

Crites Industrial Park – Hardy County Rural Development Authority – \$2,268,000

Design Report for Ronceverte Railroad Bridge Restoration – City of Ronceverte – \$100,000

Elkins Building Redevelopment – Woodlands Development Group – \$1,750,000

Fairmont Regional Tech Hub – Fairmont Community Development Partnership, Inc. – \$1,000,000

Fire Sprinkler System at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center – Keith Albee Performing Arts Center, Inc. – \$250,000

Hazel’s House of Hope – Morgantown Community Resources – \$1,194,000

Lonnie Gunter, Jr. Center for Culture & History – RiffRaff Arts Collective – \$637,000

Mount Hope Community Improvements – City of Mount Hope – \$788,000

Mount Hope Facilities Upgrade – City of Mount Hope – \$2,393,000

Mountaineer Recovery Village— Phase 1 – Semper Liberi – \$1,500,000

Phase II of the Amphitheatre at Sam Michaels Park – Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission – \$925,000

Revive Downtown Charles Town Project – City of Charles Town – \$250,000

Shepherd University East Loop: Environmental Remediation and Demolition – Shepherd University – \$1,475,000

Shepherd University East Loop: Gateway Entrance – Shepherd University – \$936,000

Smithers Integrated Trail System – City of Smithers – \$4,688,000

St. Marys Business Park – Pleasants County Development Authority – \$473,000

The Barkers Creek Industrial Park, Access Bridge – Wyoming County Economic Development Authority – \$850,000

Thomas Multi-Use Co-Working and Small Business Center – Woodlands Development Group – \$622,000

Wheeling Artisan Center Upgrade – City of Wheeling – \$1,000,000

Wheeling Food Hub – Grow Ohio Valley, Inc. – \$620,000

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### Fraction Packed: Fairplains Elementary School students get tasty math lesson

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 17, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/03/fraction-packed-fairplains-elementary-school-students-get-tasty-math-lesson/>



Third grade teacher Amanda Sponseller gave opening instructions Wednesday at the Fairplains Fraction Cooking Show. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Third graders at Fairplains Elementary School gained real-world experience Wednesday by learning to use fractions and measurements to make M&M cookies during the Fairplains Fraction Cooking Show.

The event was more than a learning experience, it also was a bonding opportunity between children and parents.

Brittany Sheppard, a third-grade teacher, said, *“In third grade, we introduce fractions, and so we thought that cooking is a great way to help students use those fractions that they have been learning about and especially apply it to real-life skills that they need.”*

Another goal of the event is to bring the parents and families involved with the school, Sheppard said.



Sheppard, in her first year as a third-grade instructor, said that she wanted to help keep the tradition the school was trying to build with this event going. She also said that the kids look forward to the fraction cooking show, and that the younger students cannot wait to get into third grade so they can also participate in this event.

Sheppard said they found a recipe that worked for them perfectly, with dry ingredients put in a mason jar so the students and parents could finish making their cookies when they got home.

Here's how to fill the ingredients into the jar so one can make the cookies at home:

- \* Step 1: add 1 1/3 cups of flour.
- \* Step 2: add 1 teaspoon baking powder.
- \* Step 3: add 1 teaspoon of baking soda.
- \* Step 4: add 1/4 teaspoon of salt.
- \* Step 5: add 1 cup of oats into the jar.
- \* Step 6: add 1/3 cup of M&Ms.
- \* Step 7: add 2/3 cup of chocolate chips.
- \* Step 8: add 1/2 cup of brown sugar.
- \* Step 9: add 1/2 cup of white sugar.

All students were also given the book *"Kid Chef Every Day"* by Colleen Kennedy.

*Teachers Brittany Sheppard and Amanda Sponseller are graduates of the WVU Parkersburg Elementary Education program.*

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## Gov. Justice announces nearly \$23 million to support up to 600 new nursing students at education programs across the state

Office of the Governor

March 17, 2022

<https://governor.wv.gov/News/press-releases/2022/Pages/Governor-Justice-announces-nearly-23-million-to-support-up-to-600-new-nursing-students-at-education-programs-across-WV.aspx>

**CHARLESTON, WV** – Gov. Jim Justice announced today that nearly \$23 million in grant funding has been awarded to 26 nursing education programs at colleges, universities, schools of nursing, and career technical education centers across West Virginia. These awards, which are expected to support up to 600 new nursing students, are part of the West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program, first [announced by Gov. Justice in December 2021](#) as a multifaceted approach to train and retain nurses in and attract nurses to the Mountain State.

“We continue to do as much as we possibly can to support future and current nurses whose commitment to the well-being of their fellow West Virginians is unmatched,” Gov Justice said. “This initiative represents a truly historic investment in our state’s nursing workforce, and I am thrilled that these funds are already on their way to strengthen education programs across the state.”

Gov. Justice has dedicated \$48 million for the [West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program](#) to support new and expanded initiatives that will train new nurses, fully fund the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program, value nurses already practicing in the state, and recruit nurses into West Virginia.

The nursing education programs receiving funding through this announcement are:

### RN Programs

Alderson Broaddus University

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

Bluefield State College

Davis & Elkins College

Fairmont State University

New River Community & Technical College  
Shepherd University  
Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College  
St. Mary's School of Nursing  
University of Charleston  
West Liberty University  
West Virginia Junior College  
West Virginia Northern Community College  
West Virginia State University  
West Virginia University  
West Virginia University Institute of Technology  
West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
Wheeling University

**LPN Programs**

Boone Career and Technical Center  
John D. Rockefeller Career Center  
Med Care Training Center  
Mingo Extended Learning Center  
New River Community & Technical College

**New Programs**

BridgeValley Community & Technical College  
Concord University  
Marshall University & Glenville State University joint program

The nursing program expansion awards are administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System. Funded projects were required to be focused on increasing enrollment in pre-licensure nursing programs through innovative approaches focused on timely degree completion and licensure for graduates.

“We are tremendously grateful to Gov. Justice for providing this historic funding to support the expansion of nursing education programs across West Virginia,” said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, West Virginia’s Chancellor of Higher Education. “Through these new projects, our postsecondary education community will be better positioned to help shore up West Virginia’s nursing workforce – which, in turn, will help support our nurses working tirelessly on the front lines right now.”

The West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Initiative builds upon Gov. Justice’s successful Save Our Care program, which he made possible with an initial \$58 million in payments to hospitals intended to help them retain and hire staff.

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### **Justice announces \$23 million to support nursing education programs**

WDTV

March 17, 2022

<https://www.wdtv.com/2022/03/17/justice-announces-23-million-support-nursing-education-programs/>

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va (WDTV) - Gov. Jim Justice announced Thursday that nearly \$23 million in grant funding has been awarded to 26 nursing education programs at colleges, universities, schools of nursing, and career technical education centers across West Virginia.

These awards, which are expected to support up to 600 new nursing students, are part of the West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program, first announced by Gov. Justice in December 2021 as a multifaceted approach to train and retain nurses in and attract nurses to the Mountain State.

“We continue to do as much as we possibly can to support future and current nurses whose commitment to the well-being of their fellow West Virginians is unmatched,” Gov Justice said. “This initiative represents a truly historic investment in our state’s

nursing workforce, and I am thrilled that these funds are already on their way to strengthen education programs across the state.”

Gov. Justice has dedicated \$48 million for the West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program to support new and expanded initiatives that will train new nurses, fully fund the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program, value nurses already practicing in the state, and recruit nurses into West Virginia.

The nursing education programs receiving funding through this announcement are:

RN Programs

Alderson Broaddus University

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

Bluefield State College

Davis & Elkins College

Fairmont State University

New River Community & Technical College

Shepherd University

Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College

St. Mary’s School of Nursing

University of Charleston

West Liberty University

West Virginia Junior College

West Virginia Northern Community College

West Virginia State University

West Virginia University

West Virginia University Institute of Technology

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Wheeling University

## LPN Programs

Boone Career and Technical Center

John D. Rockefeller Career Center

Med Care Training Center

Mingo Extended Learning Center

New River Community & Technical College

## New Programs

BridgeValley Community & Technical College

Concord University

Marshall University & Glenville State University joint program

The nursing program expansion awards are administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System.

Funded projects were required to be focused on increasing enrollment in pre-licensure nursing programs through innovative approaches focused on timely degree completion and licensure for graduates.

“We are tremendously grateful to Gov. Justice for providing this historic funding to support the expansion of nursing education programs across West Virginia,” said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, West Virginia’s Chancellor of Higher Education. “Through these new projects, our postsecondary education community will be better positioned to help shore up West Virginia’s nursing workforce – which, in turn, will help support our nurses working tirelessly on the front lines right now.”

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**Marina and animal control, particularly cats, main topics at Ravenswood City Council**

Jackson Newspapers

March 17, 2022

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/story/news/local/2022/03/17/great-bend-marina-and-recreation-complex-animal-control-cats-ravenswood-wv-city-council-march-15/7080351001/>

The Ravenswood Police Department increased by one with the swearing in of Trenton Lanier at the Ravenswood City Council meeting on March 15.

Lanier thanked his family for their support and the mayor and the city police department for giving him the opportunity to serve.

The potential effect of the Great Bend Marina and Recreation Complex to the city of Ravenswood will be substantial according to an economic impact study conducted by West Virginia University at Parkersburg and D. Byers and Associates.

“Ravenswood is in a unique position,” Senta Goudy, who was involved with the study, said. “The location along the Ohio River makes it ideal for the increased recreational appeal that other river cities are experiencing.”

The three focus areas of the study were direct economic activity, health and wellness of the community and economic development.

Access to many other places to visit, including trails and wildlife refuge, within 100 miles give Ravenswood another advantage according to Goudy.

Goudy also pointed out that there are challenges ahead as well. Hotels, restaurants and access to downtown from the marina will be key to economic success. Marietta, Ohio, a successful river city, has numerous hotels, bed & breakfasts, restaurants and retail shops a short distance from its marina.

According to the study, the potential annual economic impact could be \$190,000 from direct marina and harbor revenue. From boating travel and tourism, income could reach \$760,000 if the downtown is also developed.

A great portion of the two-and-a-half-hour council meeting focused on the issue of animal control in the city, particularly cats.

Teresa Hager spoke to council about her role as the Jackson County humane officer.

“The contract that the city has with the county is for dogs only,” she explained. “The \$200 given to support that comes from dog tax payments. The shelter does not accept feral cats in general, only domesticated ones.”

Councilman Steve Tucker asked several questions regarding what everyone commonly called ‘the cat situation,’ including the potential with the new animal shelter which is scheduled to be constructed this year.

“We will be able to handle more animals, including cats,” Hager said. “But we will still not take ferals.”

When asked what the solution to the great number of cats in the city was, Hager said the Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program was the only way to control the population.

“Operation Fancy Free is the best option,” she said. “They are a non-profit organization that will spay and neuter for free. They have done thousands of these since starting a few years ago.”

Danny Mitchell, the city’s ordinance officer, said the issue he hears most complaints about is cats, either owned or strays, tearing up lawns and flower beds.

“TNR is great, but it doesn’t solve this problem,” he said. “That’s why I’m asking for some changes in the animal ordinance. I know they may not be easily enforceable, but they still need to be in there.”

Although not the first reading of the ordinance amendment, as required by law, the major proposed changes were discussed briefly.

Mayor Miller stated that there was one item he was adamantly in favor of removing when the ordinance is under consideration.

“I think we all agree that euthanizing must be taken from the ordinance,” he said.

Other changes Mitchell would like to see include limiting ownership to two cats per household, keeping cats on owner’s property, disallowing keeping cat colonies and tethering of cats.

The next step council will take is offering Operation Fancy Free a chance to speak on the issue of cat population control.



As in past meetings, the American Rescue Plan Act funds were addressed. Chief uses of the funds are in the areas of infrastructure, public health, negative economic impact of COVID, and water and sewage.

Two requests from the Ravenswood Senior Center pool manger, DeDe Saffer, and Changa Engle, director of Jackson County Commission on Aging, were discussed in detail.

“We are in great need of a heating and cooling replacement,” said Saffer. “And our showers need upgraded. We won’t need to change any of the plumbing, just the showers.”

Council approved up to \$20,000 for replacement of the heating and cooling system by Steers Heating and Cooling and up to \$15,000 for shower replacement from Hardman’s.

Also approved was \$10,000 for a shop local incentive program, along with \$250,000 to the sewer fund.

“The ARPA funds are allowed to backfill revenue losses and we have had a deficit in that fund for years,” he said.

When asked why the city is ‘upside down’ with these funds, Mayor Miller said the answer was simple, “Our rates are too low, and we’ll be addressing that soon.”

One of the last items on the agenda will potentially impact the opioid crisis facing the area. A memorandum of understanding with West Virginia First was approved. This addresses the allocation of funds from the expected settlement of the state’s class action lawsuit against the manufacturers and distributors of opioids.

A small percentage of the settlement will come directly to cities and counties, with the majority allocated to districts. Jackson County will be part of the Ohio River Valley District. Ravenswood’s direct settlement payment is projected to be between \$85,000 and \$95,000.

The next meeting of Ravenswood City Council will be Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. at the municipal complex.

## Disney College Program accepts West Virginia University at Parkersburg student

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 19, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/03/disney-college-program-accepts-west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg-student/>



Hayley Hufford, a WVU Parkersburg elementary education student, has been accepted into the Disney College Program. She hopes to be a cast member at the Haunted Mansion ride or merchandise store. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — A WVU Parkersburg Elementary Education student has been accepted into the Disney College Program.

Hayley Hufford is heading to the Happiest Place on Earth to be a part of a program that will run from July to February. While she has not been assigned an official role, she hopes to be a cast member at the Haunted Mansion ride or merchandise store.

*"I am very excited and proud of myself for getting accepted," Hufford said. "I have dreamt about going for years now. My grandma has always made sure the family had a love for Disney. My first unofficial trip to Walt Disney World was at eight months old, and as I am older, we go every two to three years."*

The Disney College Program is a paid internship of the Walt Disney Co., allowing students to become a part of Disney's culture and earn college credit at Disney parks and resorts through a combination of on-the-job experience, job shadowing and seminars. The program will provide Hufford a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on

experience, meet people from across the world and participate in personal and career development.

*"I am hoping to improve my people skills," Hufford said. "I am also hoping to learn more about other cultures. The Walt Disney Company hires many individuals from different countries. This is one of the best things about Disney — the way the company promotes inclusion and offers opportunities for us to learn the correct way to celebrate other countries and cultures."*

Hufford is a freshman in the WVU Parkersburg Elementary Education program with plans to graduate from the college in 2027 with her bachelor's. After graduation, she hopes to teach second or third grade.

Dean David Lancaster of the WVU Parkersburg Division of Education made sure Hufford knew the entire division is supportive of her decision.

*"Our division is proud to have a student offered this wonderful opportunity, thanks to the Disney College Program," said Lancaster. "We wish Hayley the very best as she begins this exciting journey."*

For more information on the WVU Parkersburg Elementary Education program, visit [wwup.edu/education](http://wwup.edu/education).

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## Teen of the Week: Parkersburg's Katie Daley has admiration for 4-H

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 19, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/03/teen-of-the-week-parkersburgs-katie-daley-has-admiration-for-4-h/>



Katie Daley received the first place Keep West Virginia Beautiful award from the Department of Environmental Protection. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Katie Daley, a senior at Parkersburg South High School, said she was born into 4-H.

*"I was pretty much born into 4-H. I have been a member of the Lubeck Lucky Clovers club all my life," she said. "I joined the Wood County Teen Leaders club when I was 12. This year, I joined the state teen council."*

Daley said she is thankful for the many opportunities she has received through 4-H.

*"I have been able to sit in on legislative sessions, attend national summits, and meet people from all over the world," she said.*

She said in the summer of 2019, she was able to go to six or seven different camps through 4-H.

*"At state camps, they have a saying, '4-H friends are forever friends,'" she said. "While I can't attest to it forever, I can say that they at least last 17 years."*

Daley said her mother has pictures of her and her older sister, Emma Daley, as toddlers playing at state camps with some of the friends they still have to this day.

*"I have learned so many things in 4-H. It has shaped me into the person I am today," she said. "I have learned leadership and communication skills, and how to be ready for anything that may happen."*

Daley said she learns something new at each camp or activity that she goes to. She said she has also learned friendship bracelet making, cooking, and playing board and card games. She said there are plenty of different special interest clubs for almost any activity.

*"No matter who you are, you can find something you like to do in 4-H," she said.*

Daley is the student body president at PSHS and wasn't expecting to win when she ran for the position.

*"It's a huge honor. I ran on a whim and never thought I would win," she said. "The fact that people voted for me and trust that I will make good choices on their behalf genuinely baffles me."*

Daley said she jokingly talked about running with her friends at first, but the idea grew on her the more they talked about it. She said her biggest role as student body president is probably running student council meetings. She said as the president, she is in every council committee and attends meetings almost every day.

*"It's a lot of work, but I have come to enjoy how busy I am," she said.*

Daley said she took gymnastics from an early age. When she was in middle school, she said she tried out for the cheer team because she knew some of the other girls who were on it, and is now a member of the high school team.

*"From there, I fell in love with cheer," she said. "I love the rush of performing or competing. I also like how there's always something new to be working towards."*

After graduation, Daley said she plans to attend school at West Virginia University. She said she is interested in studying world languages, because she feels as if it would be the best major to prepare her for the career she wants to pursue in the future.

*"I want to teach English as a second language in a foreign country," she said. "It's always been something I have been interested in."*

Daley said she volunteers during the summer with her 4-H groups and does community service through school clubs like student council and S.T.A.R.S., a community service club that stands for Super Teens Achieve Regional Success.

*"I volunteer to give back to my community and meet new people," she said. "I always end up having fun."*

In her spare time, Daley likes spending time with her family, friends, her two cats, Carrie and Hotdog, and her dog Spencer. She also enjoys reading, crafting and playing board and card games.

*Daley is a WVU Parkersburg Early College student.*

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### **Justice provides nursing education programs with financial boost**

MetroNews

March 21, 2022

<https://wvmetronews.com/2022/03/21/justice-provides-nursing-education-programs-with-financial-boost/>

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — Nearly \$23 million in grant funding has been awarded to 26 nursing education programs at colleges, universities, schools of nursing and career technical education centers across West Virginia.

The University of Charleston is part of that funding and is set to receive \$964,850. UC President Marty Roth told MetroNews Monday the investment is expected to support up to 20 new nursing students at UC's Charleston and Beckley campuses.

The awards will support up to 600 new nursing students in total statewide who are part of the West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program.

The program was first announced by Gov. Jim Justice in Dec. 2021 in hopes of addressing the state's nursing shortage by training and retaining nurses in the Mountain State.

With the funding, UC plans to expand its current Associate Degree in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs. The money will be used, in part, to host high school boot camps to generate awareness and excitement in joining the nursing profession and provide students with new virtual reality technology to enhance their clinical skills.

“We’ll be bringing them to campus, giving them an opportunity to meet with our nursing faculty, take some classes and most importantly, utilize some state-of-the-art simulation equipment to really excite them about the opportunities there are in the nursing profession,” Roth said.

Overall, UC will be able to attract, enroll and better prepare more students to enter the nursing profession.

Gov. Justice said during Monday’s coronavirus media briefing there is a critical need to recruit and retain nurses in the state at this time.

“There’s no question about that, but in addition to that, if you can spin this thing around to where it’s an economic driver for West Virginia at the same time, it’s a win-win,” he said.

Roth said UC has seen the challenges in the nursing field over the last few years.

“One of the biggest challenges today is finding enough qualified nurses. In fact, most of the hospitals have unused hospital beds not because there’s a lack of patients or demand for their services, but simply they don’t have enough staffing,” he said.

Another award recipient is the West Virginia University School of Nursing. The school will receive \$2 million and will use that to expand their existing Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at multiple campuses, including Morgantown, Beckley, Bridgeport and Keyser. Two separate \$1 million awards will be provided.

Admission will be expanded at WVU’s newest campus in Bridgeport through a partnership with United Hospital Center. The first cohort of 24 will be admitted this September.

WVU School of Nursing Dean Tara Hulseley said they wouldn’t be able to follow through without the funding from the governor’s office.

“We’ve had budget cuts because of COVID and we didn’t have the resources to really focus on what we really need to,” Hulseley said. “I think COVID kind of gave folks a bad taste in what nursing is and it’s not like that. Nursing is a wonderful profession and is highly rewarding.”

State Health Department Officer Dr. Ayne Amjad said during Monday’s coronavirus media briefing nurses are a critical need to the hospitals.

“They’re there 24 hours a day. Without them, the hospitals really couldn’t run, so investing in getting more nurses into West Virginia with education, recruitment and retention has always been a need,” Amjad said.

The investment is also expected to support 20 new nursing students at the WVU Beckley campus.

The nursing program expansion awards are administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System.

The nursing education programs receiving funding through this announcement are:

### **RN Programs**

Alderson Broaddus University

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

Bluefield State College

Davis & Elkins College

Fairmont State University

New River Community & Technical College

Shepherd University

Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College

St. Mary’s School of Nursing

University of Charleston

West Liberty University

West Virginia Junior College

West Virginia Northern Community College

West Virginia State University

West Virginia University

West Virginia University Institute of Technology

West Virginia University at Parkersburg



Wheeling University

### **LPN Programs**

Boone Career and Technical Center

John D. Rockefeller Career Center

Med Care Training Center

Mingo Extended Learning Center

New River Community & Technical College

### **New Programs**

BridgeValley Community & Technical College

Concord University

Marshall University & Glenville State University joint program

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### **MOVTI council meets Thursday**

The Pennsboro News

March 23, 2022

The Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute (MOVTI) administrative council met Thursday for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Council members approved to enter into a one-year data service agreement with Suddenlink for 10 Gbps for \$953.28 a month. Suddenlink was chosen by a bidding process. Frontier was the only other bid.

Council members approved the meeting minutes of the Feb. 17 meeting. Council members also approved financial reports and the bills totaling \$65,312.40. They also approved two supplements, one being a simulated workplace for the graphic design program (\$1,200) and mini grants for the carpentry and C.E.M. Technologies programs (\$7,549) for a total of \$8,749.

Additional internship locations were also approved during the meeting. Approved locations include Sistersville Tank Works (Sistersville) and Creed Collins Elementary School (Pennsboro).

Council approved two transportation requests including transporting students by bus April 6 to the Washington County Career Center and transporting the automotive/diesel program students by bus April 25 to Hino Truck Plant (Mineral Wells).

Council also approved one volunteer. It was approved that Holly Martin, WVU-P Biology (Early College) instructor, to volunteer with health programs.

The next meeting of MOVTI administrative council will be Thursday, April 21, at 9 a.m.

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### Senior at SMHS Receives New Teaching Scholarship

The St. Marys Oracle

March 23, 2022



**Natalie Malone**

Natalie Faith Malone, a senior at St. Marys High School, will receive West Virginia's newest, most prestigious scholarship – the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program.

The scholarship helps recent high school graduates pursue rewarding careers as West Virginia teachers in math, science, elementary education or special education.

Natalie is planning to attend Fairmont State University in the fall to pursue a degree in elementary education. The Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program is a

competitive scholarship for recent high school graduates with a passion for teaching and a history of high academic achievement, community service, and active involvement in extracurricular activities while in high school.

Recipients will receive \$10,000 per year for up to four years (up to the cost of tuition and fees, room and board, and other approved educational expenses). Natalie will receive a total of Senior at SMHS Receives New Teaching Scholarship Natalie Malone \$40,000 in scholarship money.

Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars must agree to teach in a West Virginia public school in an area of critical need (math, science, elementary education, or special education) for five years after graduating from college.

“St. Marys High School is proud of Natalie Malone and wishes her the best in her career of education,” said guidance counselor Laura Rinard.

Natalie is the daughter of Jessica and Ryan Malone of Belmont.

Natalie is a two-year member of West Virginia University at Parkersburg Early College Program, National Honors Society and MuAlpha Theta, Science Honorary, and will graduate with high honors (4.0+ average) in May.

In addition to her high academic achievements, she is a member of SMHS marching band and the 2021- 22 Field Commander.

“Please join us in congratulating Natalie Malone on the amazing accomplishment that recognizes her hard work through the last four years at St. Marys High School,” Rinard added.

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### **Downtown PKB announces summer concerts**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 23, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/03/downtown-pkb-announces-summer-concerts/>

PARKERSBURG — Downtown PKB has announced the 2022 schedule for the popular Point Park Concerts on the River series.

This summer’s entertainment will spotlight tribute bands that are sure to get the crowd tapping their toes to the music, Amanda Stevens, executive director of Downtown PKB,

said. Concerts are held 8-10 p.m. on the first Fridays in June, July and August at the stage at Point Park.

During the pandemic, Downtown PKB didn't hold the concerts as a precaution. The pandemic also caused the cancellations of other Downtown PKB events including the Taste of Parkersburg and the Downtown Throwdown BBQ and Brewfest.

The 2022 lineup is:

- \* Sounds of Summer, a Beach Boys tribute band, on June 3.
- \* High Noon, a tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd and southern rock and roll, on July 1.
- \* REO Survivor, a tribute to REO Speedwagon and Survivor, on Aug. 5.

Admission is free to the Point Park Concerts on the River. The concerts, organized by Downtown PKB, draw more than 2,500 people.

In the event of rain, the back-up venue for the concert series is the auditorium at Parkersburg High School.

Downtown PKB will again this year offer reserved seating for concert patrons, Stevens said. Chairs will go on sale online beginning March 29 through the Downtown PKB website, [downtownpkb.com](http://downtownpkb.com), on a first-come first-serve basis for \$65 each.

The title sponsor for this year's Concerts on the River is Discovery World on Market. Other sponsors include First Neighborhood Bank, WVU-Parkersburg, United Bank, WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center, the Ross Foundation, CAS Cable and the City of Parkersburg.

Businesses looking for an advertising opportunity can become a sponsor of this year's Point Park Concerts on the River by contacting Stevens at [amanda@downtownpkb.com](mailto:amanda@downtownpkb.com) or call (304) 865-0522.

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**MOVTI council meets**

The Pleasants County Leader

March 26, 2022

The Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute (MOVTI) administrative council met Thursday for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Council members approved to enter into a one-year data service agreement with Suddenlink for 10 Gbps for \$953.28 a month. Suddenlink was chosen by a bidding process. Frontier was the only other bid.

Council members approved the meeting minutes of the Feb. 17 meeting. Council members also approved financial reports and the bills totaling \$65,312.40. They also approved two supplements, one being a simulated workplace for the graphic design program (\$1,200) and mini grants for the carpentry and C.E.M. Technologies programs (\$7,549) for a total of \$8,749.

Additional internship locations were also approved during the meeting. Approved locations include Sistersville Tank Works (Sistersville) and Creed Collins Elementary School (Pensboro).

Council approved two transportation requests including transporting students by bus April 6 to the Washington County Career Center and transporting the automotive/diesel program students by bus April 25 to Hino Truck Plant (Mineral Wells).

Council also approved one volunteer. It was approved that Holly Martin, WVU-P Biology (Early College) instructor, to volunteer with health programs.

The next meeting of MOVTI administrative council will be Thursday, April 21, at 9 a.m.

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**Four finalists announced in Wood County Schools superintendent search**

WTAP-TV

March 25, 2022

<https://www.wtap.com/2022/03/25/four-finalists-announced-wood-county-schools-superintendent-search/>

PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - According to a news release, the Wood County Board of Education has announced four finalists in the search for a new Wood County Schools superintendent.

The four finalists are Richard Duncan, Michael Fling, Walter Saunders, and Christie Willis.

The board conducted interviews on March 25, behind closed doors, with five candidates for the position. Those candidates were selected from a pool of eight applicants.

The four finalists will participate in a community forum at 6 p.m. Monday, March 28, at Wood County Technical Center in south Parkersburg.

The Wood County Board of Education is expected to announce and vote Tuesday, March 29, on its choice for superintendent. The meeting will be held at Jefferson Elementary Center.

Both the public forum and the regularly scheduled meeting will be streamed online via Zoom.

The four finalists and their biographies are as follows:

Walter Saunders of Wheeling, [W.Va.](#), is Director of Federal Programs and Assessment for Ohio County Schools, [W.Va.](#) Saunders has a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from West Liberty State College and a master's in educational leadership from West Virginia University. He has 26 years experience in education.

Christie Willis of Vienna, [W.Va.](#), is Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Accountability for Wood County Schools, [W.Va.](#) She has a bachelor's in elementary education from West Virginia University at Parkersburg, a master's in educational leadership from West Virginia University, and certification in learning disabilities and mental impairments from Ohio Valley University. She has 24 years experience in education.

Richard Duncan of Reedy, [W.Va.](#), is Superintendent of Schools for Roane County Schools, [W.Va.](#) He has a bachelor's in aerospace engineering, a master's in finance, and a doctorate in mechanical and aerospace engineering, all from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He has a masters's in leadership studies (principalship) and certification in secondary education, both from Marshall University, [W.Va.](#) He has 10 years experience in education.

Michael Fling of Belleville, [W.Va.](#), is Assistant Superintendent of Support Services for Wood County Schools, [W.Va.](#) He has a bachelor's in arts and music education from Glenville State College, a master's of arts and educational leadership from West

Virginia University, and a superintendent endorsement from Wheeling Jesuit University. He has 30 years experience in education.

Board members will not be commenting on any of the candidates or the process at this time.

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## West Virginia Symphony Orchestra Announces Mozart: Requiem Featuring Area Choruses on April 2

The WV Symphony Orchestra

March 25, 2022

<https://wvsymphony.org/pressreleases/west-virginia-symphony-orchestra-announces-mozart-requiem-featuring-area-choruses-on-april-2>

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (3/25/22) – The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) continues the Elliot Foundation Symphonic Series with *Mozart: Requiem* on Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clay Center in Charleston.

Music director Lawrence Loh will lead the orchestra through the evening's program that begins with *Symphony No. 2 in D Major* by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. Bologne (1745-1799) was born in the French colony of Guadeloupe before moving to France at the age of 7. Throughout his life, Bologne, who is sometimes referred to as the "Black Mozart", was a talented composer, athlete, and warrior of the French Revolution.

The program continues with Brahms's *Variation on a Theme of Haydn*, while the evening ends with an epic performance of Mozart's *Requiem* featuring guest vocalists Ava Pine, Elizabeth Baer, Scott Ramsey, and Evan Boyer. Joining the orchestra and vocalists on stage will be the WV Symphony Chorus, the Fairmont State University and Community Chorus, the West Virginia University Chorus, the WV State University Choir, and the WVU Parkersburg Chorus.

"We couldn't be more excited to have so many voices joining the orchestra on stage on April 2," said WVSO President Joe Tackett. "It is sure to be an evening to remember ending with an epic presentation of Mozart's classic."

*Mozart: Requiem* will be held on Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 pm at the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in WV and is made possible with support from the Elliot Foundation. Tickets for the Charleston performance start at \$12 and are available at [wvsymphony.org](https://wvsymphony.org), by visiting the Clay Center Box Office, or by calling 304.561.3570.

In order to maintain the health and safety of the WWSO's patrons, musicians, and staff, for all patrons over the age of 2, masks will be required to be worn for the duration of the concert, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, the WWSO asks that attendees try to maintain a distance between others while in common spaces, such as the Ticketing Lobby, Grand Lobby, bathrooms, etc. The WWSO encourages all eligible individuals to get vaccinated to reduce the potential of unknowingly spreading COVID-19.

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### Teen of the Week: Parkersburg South's Brandon Holliday has passion for bowling, exotic cars

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 26, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/03/teen-of-the-week-parkersburg-souths-brandon-holliday-has-passion-for-bowling-exotic-cars/>



Brandon Holliday sits in a Pagani Huayara BC Macchina Volante in Columbus. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — Brandon Holliday, Parkersburg South High School senior, started bowling at an early age.

*"I started bowling when I was 5 and just stuck with it," said Holliday. "My friends and family are big into bowling, so that encouraged me to bowl as well."*



Holliday is a member of the bowling club at PSHS. He said over the past four years he has come to enjoy the sport more and its competitive side.

*"I've been a varsity bowler for Parkersburg South all four years and we won the West Virginia State Championship my freshman and sophomore year,"* he said. *"We won the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship my junior year and we're going for our third consecutive state championship Sunday, March 27, at Pike Street Lanes."*

Holliday said he is thankful for the opportunities that bowling has brought to him. He said he enjoys the people he has met, the laughs he has had and the trips he has gone on because of bowling.

Holliday also participates in weight lifting. He started in his sophomore year of high school and now takes a weight lifting class in the morning at school.

*"I enjoy feeling healthy and being active, and benefiting myself,"* he said.

Holliday works at the Piggly Wiggly in south Parkersburg. He said he started working at the age of 15, in order to get a head start.

*"Working at the Piggly Wiggly is fun. I've learned a lot in different aspects relating to the job,"* he said. *"I've been able to talk to many different people that I've never spoken too before and I also actually enjoy my job because my friends come in and hangout while I'm working."*

Holliday doesn't have any current plans to go to college, but said he may be interested in going to West Virginia University at Parkersburg for a business degree.

*"Business and finance, I've become interested in those topics due to the owners of high end luxury cars that I've spoken to and have become acquaintances with,"* he said.

He said he is heavily interested in exotic cars like the Lamborghini, Ferrari and McLaren.

*"I have had a dream since eighth grade to own a Lamborghini in my life and become financially free, and enjoy life to the fullest and help out friends, family and the community later in life,"* he said. *"I would also like to start a family."*

Holliday enjoys volunteering when he gets the chance. He volunteers to read to first graders at Blennerhassett Elementary School, as a water stop for the Parkersburg News and Sentinel half marathon, and at the First Presbyterian Church in Parkersburg.

“Volunteering to read to the school kids was fun, and enjoyable to be in that atmosphere with the kids and my friends who also volunteered,” he said. “Volunteering at the marathon is fun and enjoyable, and helping out my church just makes me feel good because it’s helping improve and make our church better.”

In his spare time, Holiday enjoys doing car related activities, bowling, and hanging out with friends. He also likes investing in cryptocurrency and the stock market.

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### **Belleville woman’s book advocates for abandoned bunnies**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 26, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/03/belleville-womans-book-advocates-for-abandoned-bunnies/>



TylerAnn Townsend with her daughter, Hallie, and rabbit Jerry Lee. Townsend wrote and illustrated the children’s book “The Easter Bunny Rejects” to raise awareness of the abandonment of rabbits given as pets during Easter. She will hold a book signing noon-2 p.m. April 2 at J&M’s Book Store in Parkersburg. (Photo Provided)

**BELLEVILLE** — A Belleville woman wrote a children’s book to raise awareness of the plight of rabbits given as pets for Easter, only to be tossed aside when the novelty wanes.

TylerAnn Townsend, 28, said she was inspired to write *"The Easter Bunny Rejects"* by her pet rabbit, Jerry Lee, that she adopted from the Humane Society of Parkersburg 10 years ago.

*"He'll be 11 this year,"* she said.

Always a soft spot in her heart for small animals like rabbits, humane shelters see an increase in bunny rabbits after Easter, Townsend said. The rabbits end up at shelters when the novelty as pets wear off, she said.

*"Most of the time that doesn't work out well for the rabbit,"* she said.

Tame rabbits are dropped off or abandoned at humane shelters and rural areas, Townsend said. While they are cared for in the shelters, rabbits are easily scared by the barking dogs, she said.

Her work is appreciated by the HSOP, according to board president Gary McIntyre.

*"TylerAnne is a great foster for us with rabbits and small dogs,"* McIntyre said.

She gives rabbits a home in her basement and waits for when someone will adopt one.

*"I call them my Easter bunny rejects,"* Townsend said.

Townsend has fostered and found homes for 56 rabbits and 34 guinea pigs since 2016.

*"And that's not even all of them that come to the shelter,"* Townsend said.

Fifty-two rabbits were surrendered last year and 41 were after Easter at the shelter, McIntyre said.

*"I cannot guarantee there is a direct correlation, but I do believe there is,"* he said.

Townsend, who works for the Bureau of Fiscal Service, keeps the rabbits in cages in her basement. Husband, Kyle, was aware of her affinity for small animals before they were married, she said.

*"He kind of knew what he was getting into,"* Townsend said.

She also has six Guinea pigs, four of which may be pregnant, one for sure.

*"I'm kind of like a maternity ward,"* Townsend said.

“The Easter Bunny Rejects” was written and illustrated by Townsend, who has a degree in elementary education from West Virginia University at Parkersburg. It was published through Amazon where it is available for \$12.99, \$4.99 for Kindle.

The book was written to raise awareness of the problem, Townsend said.

“*The Easter Bunny Rejects*” chronicles the story of a rabbit from abandonment to adoption.

“*Every spring thousands of bunnies become Easter Bunny Rejects as they are surrendered to animal shelters for various reasons,*” the book says. “*Follow along the story of one little bunny as he journeys from a colorful basket to his forever home.*”

Townsend will have a book signing from noon to 2 p.m. April 2 at J&M’s Book Store in Parkersburg where the book is on sale. In addition to Amazon and J&M’s, “*The Easter Bunny Rejects*” also is available at Back to Basics Log Cabin in Belpre and Ritchie Community Pharmacy in Harrisville.

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### **Wood County BOE announces superintendent candidate finalists**

The Marietta Times

March 26, 2022

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2022/03/wood-county-boe-announces-superintendent-candidate-finalists/>

PARKERSBURG — Wood County Schools Board of Education held a special meeting Friday to interview five superintendent candidates.

A press release from Wood County Schools said the board elected to select four candidates as finalists: Richard Duncan, Michael Fling, Walter Saunders and Christie Willis, with a final public forum on Monday and the board’s final decision scheduled for Tuesday.

The release gave a short biography of each candidate.

– Duncan, of Reedy, is the Superintendent of Schools for Roane County Schools. He has a bachelor’s in aerospace engineering, a master’s in finance, and a doctorate in mechanical and aerospace engineering, all from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He has a master’s in leadership studies (principalship) and certification in secondary education, both from Marshall University. He has 10 years of experience in education.

– Fling, of Belleville, is the Assistant Superintendent of Support Services for Wood County Schools. He has a bachelor’s in arts and music education from Glenville State College, a master’s of arts and educational leadership from West Virginia University, and a superintendent endorsement from Wheeling Jesuit University. He has 30 years of experience in education.

– Saunders, of Wheeling, is the Director of Federal Programs and Assessment for Ohio County Schools. He has a bachelor’s degree in mathematics education from West Liberty State College and a master’s in educational leadership from West Virginia University. He has 26 years of experience in education.

– Willis, of Vienna, is the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Accountability for Wood County Schools. She has a bachelor’s in elementary education from WVU-P, a master’s in educational leadership from WVU, and certification in learning disabilities and mental impairments from Ohio Valley University. She has 24 years of experience in education.

The school board will hold two meetings next week. The first meeting will be a public forum and will take place at 6 p.m. Monday at the Wood County Technical Center at 1515 Blizzard Drive in Parkersburg. The second meeting will be a regularly scheduled board meeting that will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Jefferson Elementary Center at 1103 Plum Street in Parkersburg. Both meetings will be open to the public and will be streamed online.

At the public forum Monday, the four finalists will be given the opportunity to address the public and answer questions from community members.

At the regular board meeting Tuesday, the board is expected to announce and vote on its choice for superintendent. The new superintendent will take the place of current Superintendent Will Hosaflook, who recently accepted a superintendent position with Jackson County Schools and will begin July 1.

The meeting will also include a presentation on online payments, and recognition for all-state choir students, the Parkersburg South High School swim team and the Marietta Times Regional Spelling Bee winner.

## Green Bandana Initiative looks to address student mental health

WTAP-TV [video]

March 28, 2022

<https://www.wtap.com/2022/03/28/green-bandana-initiative-looks-address-student-mental-health/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - An initiative by the “West Virginia Advisory Council of Students” wants to help student’s with their mental health.

The “Green Bandana Initiative” is a project designed to bring awareness to mental health issues, bring in trainings and help students to address mental health issues.

The initiative will be provided to colleges across West Virginia, including West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Officials say they will try to help with any student mental health concerns.

“We also know that statistics show around one in four individuals has a diagnosable mental illness. And so, it’s common problems that we see in society. Folks aren’t aware of the help that’s out there or the ways to address that and professionals aren’t always on hand. And so, giving students time to talk about that and understand it and really focus on the solutions that are out there can be really helpful,” says criminal justice program coordinator, Andrew Walker.

Schools officials say that this initiative will be helpful to address the stigma and myths that come with mental illness.

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### **WV SBDC relocates**

The Pennsboro News

March 30, 2022

The West Virginia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has relocated its regional center to West Virginia University-Parkersburg on Market in Downtown Parkersburg.

“This partnership with WVU Parkersburg and the Small Business Development Center illustrates our commitment to support the community’s economic development and foster entrepreneurship in the Mid-Ohio Valley,” said WVU Parkersburg president Dr. Chris Gilmer.

“Having the SBDC downtown will increase accessibility to their coach, workshops and training programs.”

The SBDC is a statewide network that provides tools, training and connections for successfully starting and growing a small business. It plays a vital role in West Virginia’s economic development initiatives by:

- Assisting entrepreneurs in every stage of the business cycle, from prospective entrepreneurs to mature businesses looking for growth opportunities and more.
- Working with firms in all industry sectors.
- Being a member of a nationwide network of Small Business Development Centers that share resources in our mission to start and grow small businesses.
- Following the Baldrige Principles of performance excellence in achieving accreditation by America’s SBDC, as required by congressional mandate. Those principles include managing for innovation, entrepreneurship, customer-driven excellence, integrity, visionary leadership, creating value, agility, societal responsibility and a focus on the future.

Marsa Myers, SBDC coach, serves the Mid-Ohio Valley and will be available to help the small businesses downtown and across the seven-county region.

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## Willis chosen as Wood Co. superintendent

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 1, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/znewsletter-sunday/2022/04/willis-chosen-as-wood-co-superintendent-2/>



File photo Christie Willis, the Wood County Schools Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Assessment, shown here in January 2021, was chosen to be the new Wood County Schools superintendent Tuesday at the Wood County Schools Board of Education meeting.

PARKERSBURG — In a 4-1 vote Tuesday, the Wood County Schools Board of Education hired Christie Willis, the district’s Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Assessment, to be the new superintendent of schools.

Board members Justin Raber, Judy Johnson, Ron Tice and Debbie Hendershot voting in favor of hiring Willis, while Rick Olcott voted against.

Willis will serve a two-year term, at a salary of \$150,000 per contract year. There will be further negotiations between the board and Willis about other things in her contract package.

In a press release from Michael Erb the communications coordinator for the school district, he said, “Willis was selected from among four finalists being considered for the position and a pool of eight applicants.

The vote followed a public forum Monday where the four finalists introduced themselves to community members and answered questions from the public.”



In other matters, the board recognized the All-State Choir students, the 2022 Parkersburg South High School state championship swim team, and Chloe Leshar of Edison Middle School, the winner of the Marietta Times Regional Spelling Bee.

- The PSHS swim team members recognized were:

Jackson Dearth

Josh Leavitt

Landon Fowler

Ryan Richardson

Andrew Kirk

Anthony Ott

Maddox Rader

Quade Harris

Connor Roberts

Head Coach – Ryan Radcliff

Assistant Coach – Don Bailey

Assistant Coach – Jim Pursley

The All-State Choir members recognized were:

- WVMEA All -State Choir –

Isaiah Albertus – PSHS

Cami Derenberger – PSHS

Bailey Holcomb – PSHS

Gwenyth Knapp – PSHS

Harper Lawrence – PHS

Josh Leavitt – PSHS

Ashlyn Limer – PSHS

Mason Rice – PSHS

Jackson Wingrove – PSHS

- WVACDA Junior Honor Choir

Bryar Greene – PSHS

Ethan Perry – PSHS

Jordan Riddle – PSHS

Connor Roberts – PSHS

Corissa Snider – PSHS

Ty Street – PSHS

Hanna Vaught – PSHS

Isabella Wolfe – PSHS

- WVACDA High School Honor Choir

Isaiah Albertus – PSHS

Kelly Bargeloh – PSHS

Sarah Childers – PSHS

Cami Derenberger – PSHS

Gwenyth Knapp – PSHS

Harper Lawrence – PHS

Ashlyn Limer – PSHS

Tessa Prunty – PSHS

- ACDA Southern Region Choirs – Students from 11 States

Isaiah Albertus – PSHS

Ty Street – PSHS

Briauna Stump – PSHS

Willis a WVU Parkersburg alumna.

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## Meet Wood County schools' next superintendent

WTAP-TV [video]

April 1, 2022

<https://www.wtap.com/2022/04/02/meet-wood-county-schools-next-superintendent/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - Christie Willis, Wood County schools' Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Accountability has officially been chosen as the system's next superintendent.

She tells us the moment she found out she was chosen was surreal.

Willis is a long-time educator, having served in the field for 24 years. Throughout that time, she's been in both teaching and administrative roles, from being a principal, an assistant principal, a special ed teacher, among other positions.

She went to WVUP, has a degree in elementary education, and has multiple certifications in special education.

Willis said, "It wasn't so much about being superintendent. It was about making a difference in education and, moving up through the administrative ranks, this was a natural next step."

Willis said she's excited to serve the community she grew up in.

She will officially step into the position on July 1st of this year.

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### **Committee announces Wood County Schools Teacher of the Year finalists**

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 2, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/04/committee-announces-wood-county-schools-teacher-of-the-year-finalists/>

PARKERSBURG — The five finalists for the 2023 Wood County Schools Teacher of the Year were announced on Friday by a committee.

This year's finalists are:

- \* Linda Hindman of Parkersburg High School.
- \* Jessica Farner-Linville of Jackson Middle School
- \* Holmes Marty of Blennerhassett Middle School
- \* Michelle Swisher of Parkersburg High School
- \* Samuel Vincent of Parkersburg High School

The finalists were selected by the committee from a pool of 32 applicants from schools throughout the district. Nearly 200 nominations were submitted by students, parents, educators and residents.

The Teacher of the Year committee is comprised of representatives from the county teacher associations, the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley, West Virginia University at Parkersburg and the two most recent Teachers of the Year. Sara B. Klesel of Parkersburg South High School was the 2022 Wood County Teacher of the Year and Lisa Smith of Blennerhassett Elementary School is the 2021 recipient.

The 2023 finalists were selected based on their qualifications, applications and essay answers.

All five finalists will be interviewed Monday by the committee and the 2023 Wood County Schools Teacher of the Year will be announced at the April 12 Wood County Board of Education meeting.

The 2023 Wood County Schools Teacher of the Year will represent the district in the 2023 West Virginia Teacher of the Year competition.

The state Teacher of the Year will be announced in September.

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### Wood County native prepares for new role as school superintendent

WV Metro News

April 3, 2022

<https://wvmetronews.com/2022/04/03/wood-county-native-prepares-for-new-role-as-school-superintendent/>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va.** — Incoming Wood County Schools Superintendent Christie Willis says she wants to provide “continuity” when she begins leading her hometown school district.

“I am excited to represent Wood County Schools because I am a product of the system,” Willis told MetroNews.

Willis started out as a student, went on to serve in various teaching roles and will now become the district’s next superintendent. She currently serves as the assistant superintendent of learning and assessment.

As a native of Wood County, Willis said she brings a unique perspective to the job. She graduated from Parkersburg South High School in 1994 and then served in various teaching roles since then.

“I need all aspects of my background to do this job,” Willis said. “I’ve been a substitute teacher, a specialist, a special ed teacher, a regular ed teacher, a building administrator and a central office administrator. I have a lot of experience to reflect upon.”

Willis’ love for education came from her parents who also attended Parkersburg South.

“It was very important for them that I got a Wood County Schools education, so even as a child, they instilled in me the importance of education and how stellar this school system was,” she said.

Willis was named to the job last week. She will replace Will Hosaflook who is leaving to become the superintendent of Jackson County Schools in July.

There are very few changes Willis will bring to the table, given her close working relationship with Hosaflook. She said she plans to instill the same values and continue making Wood County a great place to go to school.

“We have well established goals. We have a well established direction. I just want to continue where he laid the foundation to move the county forward,” Willis said.

The transition comes during a time when COVID-19 cases are on the decline, vaccinations are up and virtual learning is becoming a thing of the past.

Willis said one of her main goals is to keep students and teachers in the classroom this fall.

“I’m hoping that we can continue in-person learning,” she said. “I feel that we have a very solid plan in place. I know that if something were to happen and we need to go back to a different structure, I would know what to do.”

Willis was one of four finalists who met with the public during a special board meeting last week at the Wood County Technical Center. The other candidates were Richard Duncan, superintendent of Roane County Schools; Michael Fling, assistant superintendent of support services for Wood County Schools; and Walter Saunders, assessment and federal programs director for Ohio County Schools.

The Wood County Board of Education plans to approve Willis’ contract at its April 12 meeting.

Willis’ first day on the job is July 1.

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### WVU Parkersburg Nursing, Health Sciences Division awarded \$690,000 by NWEP

The Record Delta

April 4, 2022

<https://therecorddelta.com/article/wvu-parkersburg-nursing-health-sciences-division-awarded-690000-by-nwep>

**PARKERSBURG** — WVU Parkersburg’s Nursing and Health Sciences Division was awarded \$690,000 through West Virginia Governor Jim Justice’s Nursing Workforce Expansion Program.

The program is designed to address the state’s nursing shortage and will fund nursing program expansion projects at colleges, universities, schools of nursing and career technical education centers across West Virginia.

With this award, the WVU Parkersburg Nursing and Health Sciences Division plans to offer an accelerated LPN to RN program. The investment is expected to support up to 20 to 30 new nursing students.

“The Nursing Workforce Expansion Grant award is a transformational opportunity for WVU Parkersburg,” said Kathy Frum, WVU Parkersburg Nursing and Health Sciences Division dean. “This grant would allow the program to provide an accelerated pathway for LPNs to complete an RN degree, increase the number of nursing students accepted into the program and support recruitment and retention efforts for qualified nursing students.”

She continued, “The grant monies will facilitate improvements to the existing ADN program. The division plans to collaborate with pipeline program for health care careers, provide excellent support for students and recruit and retain qualified nursing faculty.”

The nursing program expansion awards are administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System. Twenty-six funded projects across the state were announced by Gov. Justice on March 17. Approved projects were required to be focused on increasing enrollment in pre-licensure nursing programs through innovative approaches focused on timely degree completion and licensure for graduates.

“We are tremendously grateful to Gov. Justice for providing this historic funding to support the expansion of nursing education programs across West Virginia,” said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, West Virginia’s Chancellor of Higher Education. “Through these new projects, our postsecondary education community will be better positioned to help shore up West Virginia’s nursing workforce – which, in turn, will help support our nurses working tirelessly on the front lines right now.”

Governor Justice announced the West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program in December 2021 by dedicating \$48 million to support new and expanded initiatives that will train new nurses, fully fund the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program, value nurses already practicing in the state, and recruit nurses into West Virginia.

“I echo the chancellor’s gratitude to Governor Justice for this funding,” said WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer. “We know how transformative this programming will be for the Mid-Ohio Valley.”

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## WVU-Parkersburg receives over \$1 million in grants for agriculture program

WTAP-TV [video]

April 5, 2022

<https://www.wtap.com/app/2022/04/05/wvu-parkersburg-receives-over-1-million-grants-agriculture-program/>



PARKERSBURG, [W.Va.](#) (WTAP) - West Virginia University at Parkersburg is receiving significant grants to help the agriculture department.

The commuter college is receiving \$500 thousand from the college’s board of governors, and more than half a million dollars is coming from a congressional grant from the state level.

The college is looking to add the funds to the farm area of its school. And renovate both the soil and facilities of the area.

“The new agro facility that we will be building will have a shop to make the farm more operational. To be able to work on equipment, as well as teach students in the future.



We will also have classrooms in those buildings and offices,” says agriculture director, John Riggs.

The school says that this new program will allow for new facilities for students to learn in a better environment and get a more diverse major option.

“So, this is going to provide great opportunities for those future generations that are going to be able to stay into the agriculture business. And not only be able to do it for themselves and their family but to be able to do this as a business also,” says facilities vice president and chief of staff, Brady Whipkey.

Officials with the program say that the renovations should be complete by next year.

The college would like to thank senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito.

As well as Mary Ann Ketelsen of Mister Bee’s potato chips.

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## W.Va. funds to help restore Oil and Gas Museum ceilings

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

April 6, 2022

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2022/04/w-va-funds-to-help-restore-oil-and-gas-museum-ceilings/>



From left, Senta Goudy, dean of West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Center for Civic Engagement and a member of the Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association board; state Delegate Vernon Criss, R-Wood; WVU-P President Chris Gilmer; and association President Paul Hoblitzell talked Tuesday at the Oil and Gas Museum in downtown Parkersburg. Above them is a section of rusted tin ceiling the association plans to replace with the help of \$20,000 in state funding. (Photo by Evan Bevins)

PARKERSBURG — The Oil and Gas Museum is getting help from the state in repairing its tin ceilings.

The ceilings have been in the building for more than 100 years, said Paul Hoblitzell, president of the board of the Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association that operates the museum. But seed stored on the second floor years ago got down into cracks and caused moisture to collect, leading to rust and deterioration.

The board recently accepted a \$30,000 bid from American Star Painting of Marietta to repair an estimated 500 square feet of the ceilings. The work is expected to begin in a few weeks.

*"It'll reduce our cleaning requirements,"* Hoblitzell said, noting that past cleaning and painting of other ceiling sections resulted in *"a lot better word of mouth."*

The ceiling throughout the first floor of the 119 Third St. building is original, Hoblitzell said. Sections that are too damaged to be repaired will be replaced with matching segments from other floors in the building, so they will remain period-accurate, he said.



State Delegate Vernon Criss, R-Wood; West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer; and Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association President Paul Hoblitzell talked Tuesday at the Oil and Gas Museum in downtown Parkersburg. (Photo by Evan Bevins)

The state of West Virginia's Local Economic Development Fund is covering \$20,000 of the cost. Delegate Vernon Criss, R-Wood, submitted the request to the governor's office, and it was approved, with the money disbursed to the Wood County Commission.

*"We're like the ears and eyes at the local level,"* Criss said while visiting the museum Tuesday.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is also looking to assist the museum as it can in this and future endeavors.

Senta Goudy, dean of the college's Center for Civic Engagement, serves on the association's board, and the museum is part of the Arts Collaborative of the Mid-Ohio Valley, convened by WVU-P.

*"We're looking for some other funding to help"* with the ceiling initiative, she said.



Senta Goudy, dean of West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Center for Civic Engagement and a member of the Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association board; and board President Paul Hoblitzell looked over historical photos at the museum Tuesday. The museum and WVU-P are looking to build a partnership to assist and preserve the museum while presenting educational opportunities for students. (Photo by Evan Bevins)

The partnership is intended to assist and preserve the museum while presenting educational opportunities for WVU-P's students, said college President Chris Gilmer.

*"WVU-P feels that this will provide a learning laboratory for our students,"* he said, adding it's part of the school's commitment to building up downtown Parkersburg.

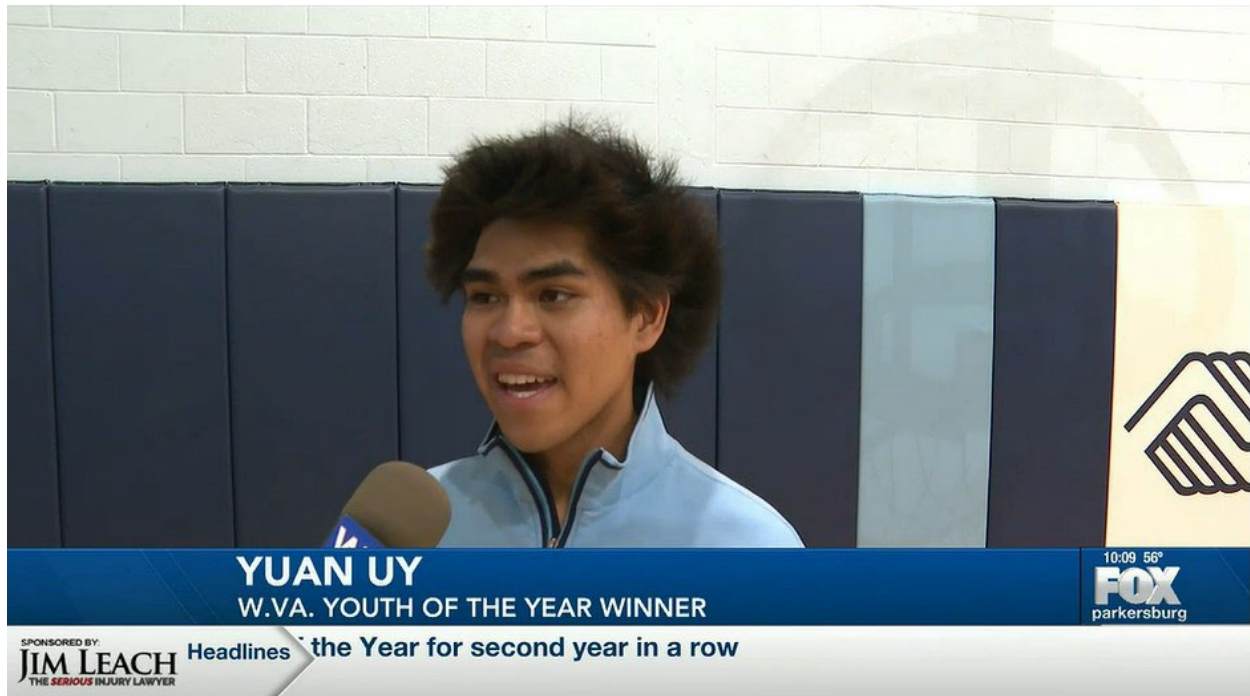
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Yuan Uy wins W.Va. Youth of the Year for second year in a row

WTAP-TV [video]

April 6, 2022

<https://www.wtap.com/2022/04/06/yuan-uy-wins-wva-youth-year-second-year-row/>



PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP) - One accomplished high school student is receiving a significant award for the second year in a row.

Yuan Uy is the winner of the West Virginia Youth of the Year for the second year in a row.

The Parkersburg high school senior is an accomplished teen with a 4.6 GPA as of last quarter, has three jobs, is a part of the high school rowing team and the PHS mascot.

Uy is receiving \$2 thousand in scholarship funds from winning the award. And the internet service provider is giving Uy another \$45 hundred to his scholarship funds.

“Youth like Yuan are just awesome. They’re going to be the leaders of tomorrow. And him going to school and us being able to help him reach his dreams are great but holding three jobs and everything that he’s got going on I mean what an impressive young man,” says Suddenlink regional market engagement vice president, Bob Lillie.

Uy says he is appreciative of the funds and is happy to be a part of the boys and girls club.

“As a club kid, the Boys and Girls Club is an amazing institution and organization I think every kid should experience. Because they have the facility, they have the help that you have. You have mentors here to help you and guide you. So, it’s just an amazing organization. I’m very happy to represent them for the whole state of West Virginia and for the Midwest,” says Uy.

Uy will be heading to regionals at some point in the near future.

Uy also has been accepted to 27 different colleges that he applied to.

*Yuan Uy is a WVU Parkersburg Early College student who has applied to graduate with his Certificate of Applied Science in General Education as he has completed the required courses for this degree.*

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March 2022

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Social Media Report

# facebook


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

Fans (number of page likes): 7,776

WVU Parkersburg gained 43 fans in March 2022.

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## Top Posts



 **West Virginia University at Parkersburg**  
March 15 at 11:01 AM · 🌐

We are #WVUProud of Elementary Education student Hayley Hufford who has been accepted into the Disney College Program for July 2022 - February 2023! 🎉 Her internship will consist of on-the-job experience, job shadowing and seminars.

"I am very excited and proud of myself for getting accepted. I have dreamt about going for years now," Hufford said.

👉 Read more about the Disney College Program and Hayley's role at <http://ow.ly/9sPk50ljBoj>. 🎬  
To learn about the Elementary Education program and career opportunities, visit <http://ow.ly/Tc4o50ljBoh>.




  Christopher Gilmer, Senta Goudy and 28 others

3 Comments 2 Shares







 West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
March 24 at 3:00 PM · 🌐

Congratulations to the Sigma Omega chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society! 🎉

- 🌟 They received the Catch a Shining Star Award and were the second runner-up in regional college projects!
- 🌟 Chapter member Allison Ezell was also recognized for serving as the 2021-2022 Ohio Regional PTK president.

👉 Read more at <http://ow.ly/KlcR50lpaO9>



  Christopher Gilmer, Pamela Wright Santer and 19 others      2 Comments 1 Share



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

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg's account): 1,346

WVU Parkersburg gained 10 followers in March 2022.

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### Top Tweets

 **WVU Parkersburg** @WVUParkersburg · Mar 24 ⋮


Congratulations to the Sigma Omega chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society! 🎉

★ They received many awards and recognition at the PTK Ohio Region Awards Convention, including the Catch a Shining Star Award!

👉 Read more at [wvup.edu/news](http://wvup.edu/news)




💬 1    ↻    ❤️ 4    📤    ☰

 **WVU Parkersburg** @WVUParkersburg · Mar 9

We are #WVUProud of Digital Communication student Thomas Hearn who has received a paid internship on the film production "Precognito!" 🎬 He will serve as a sound recordist and assistant sound engineer.

➡ Read more about the film and Thomas' role at [ow.ly/pWUb50IeZBy](https://ow.ly/pWUb50IeZBy).



🗨️ 1   🔄   ❤️ 6   📌   📺



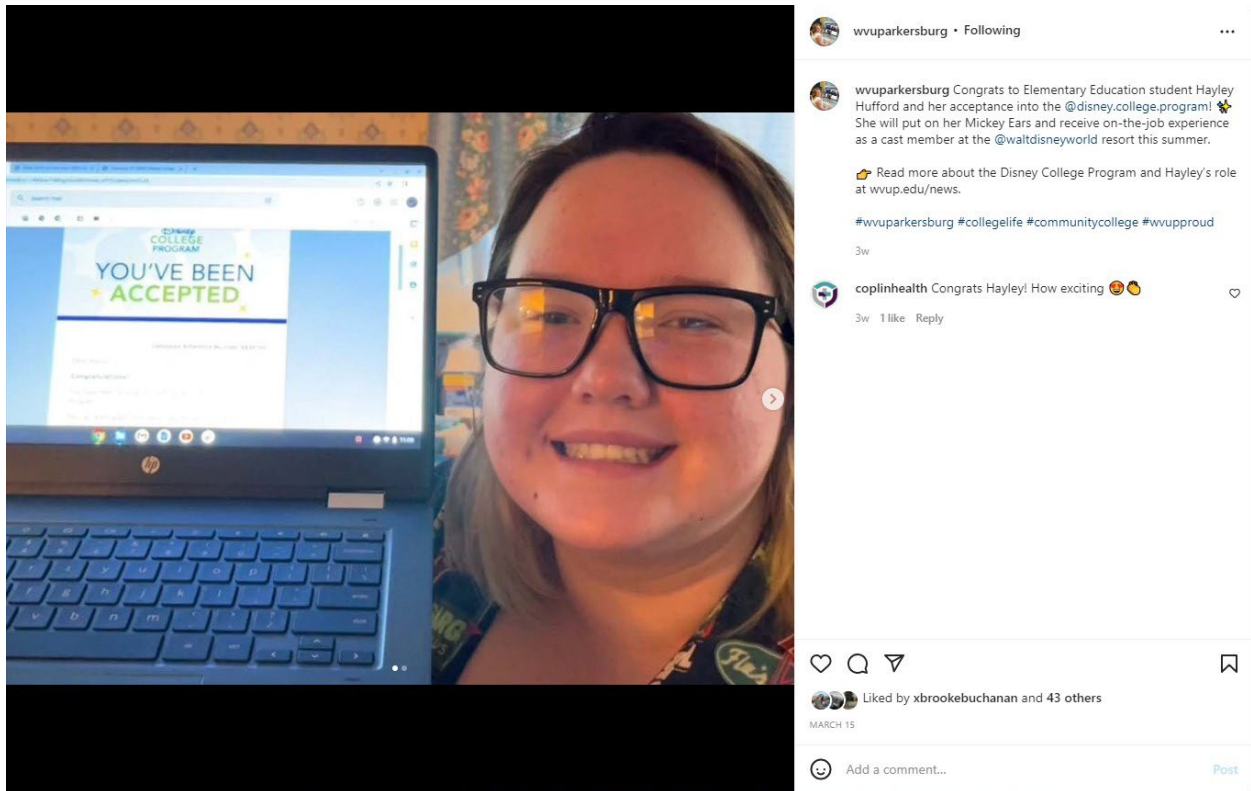


[instagram.com/wvuparkersburg](https://www.instagram.com/wvuparkersburg) (@wvuparkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg’s account): 1,644

WVU Parkersburg gained 36 followers in March 2022.

### Top Posts



wwuparkersburg • Following

wwuparkersburg Congrats to Elementary Education student Hayley Hufford and her acceptance into the @disney.college.program! ✨ She will put on her Mickey Ears and receive on-the-job experience as a cast member at the @waltdisneyworld resort this summer.

📖 Read more about the Disney College Program and Hayley's role at [wvup.edu/news](http://wvup.edu/news).

#wvuparkersburg #collegelife #communitycollege #wvuproud

3w

coplinhealth Congrats Hayley! How exciting 🎉🎉


3w 1 like Reply


Liked by xbrookebuchanan and 43 others

MARCH 15

Add a comment... Post




 **wvuparkersburg** • Following ...


 **wvuparkersburg** Student Hailey Sams did an awesome job capturing Ricky's likeness in her drawing! 🦉 Show us your Ricky art. 📩 DM us to be featured on our Stories.

#CollegeLife #WVUParkersburg #CommunityCollege


4w

 **christy.justice.33** Wow awesome work! ♥


4w Reply

 **psams4548** Great job! ♥

4w 1 like Reply

 **jamgjanice** ❤️ Congratulations, Hailey! ♥


4w 1 like Reply

 **sarah\_bowie1** aaayyyyy go @hailey.sams103 ♥


4w 2 likes Reply

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♥ 🔍 📌 🔖

 Liked by itsnotjose20 and 33 others

MARCH 4

 Add a comment... Post



wwuparkersburg • Following

wwuparkersburg Instagram Takeover Alert Hello, Riverhawks! My name is Nathan Hale, and I am a Drafting major at WVU Parkersburg. In addition to being a student, I am a new dad and enjoy working out and hanging out with my friends. After graduating with my Drafting degree, I hope to continue my education and get my bachelor's degree in Supervisory Management. I hope you join my day!

#RiverhawkTakeover #WVUPLife #WVUParkersburg #CollegeLife #CommunityCollege

2w

❤️ 🔍 📌

Liked by itsnotjose20 and 16 others

MARCH 22

😊 Add a comment... Post



# LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/school/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg](https://linkedin.com/school/west-virginia-university-at-parkersburg)

Followers (number of people following WVU Parkersburg’s account): 6,622

WVU Parkersburg gained 22 followers in March 2022.

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## Top Posts

West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
6,622 followers  
1w • 🌐

WVU Parkersburg students, faculty, staff and community members are taking part in the West Virginia Green Bandana Initiative. ❤️ Today, they are participating in Youth Mental Health First Aid training and will receive green bandanas that, when displayed on their backpacks or elsewhere, signal to other students that they are open to talking and are a source of support.



 Justin Bosley, MBA, and 10 others

1 share

West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
6,622 followers  
1mo · 🌐

We are #WVUProud of Digital Communication student Thomas Hearn who has received a paid internship on the local film production "Precognito!" 🎬 He will aid producer Brian Bennett as a sound recordist and assistant sound engineer.

"I applied for the position due to my love for production and my need to improve my resume for my future communications/media career," Hearn said. "I hope to gain professional work experience, mainly experience working on a team media project like 'Precognito.' I also want to network with other people who share similar interests to me."

👉 Read more about the film and Thomas' role at <http://ow.ly/EwnX50leZOn>. 🖥️  
To learn about the Digital Communication program and career opportunities, visit <http://ow.ly/zFt850leZOm>.



👤 Stephanie Plant and 8 others

1 comment

**West Virginia University at Parkersburg**  
6,622 followers  
1w • 🌐

WVU Parkersburg is now enrolling for Fall 2022! 🎓 Choose from over 50 degree programs, including Drafting, Elementary Education, Surgical Technology and Digital Media Production.

Start your application at [wvup.edu/future-students](http://wvup.edu/future-students). 💙💛 Be sure to check out the personal supports, financial aid options and campus resources that make WVU Parkersburg a premiere college in the Mid-Ohio Valley.



👤 Justin Bosley, MBA, and 6 others