



# Eastern-in-

# the-News



## COMMENCEMENT DRAWS 300 AT EASTERN AS WV'S FIRST LADY KEYNOTES

Moorefield – May 22, 2013 — “Knowledge is a powerful gift that no one can take from us, and today each of you should be proud of the achievements and knowledge you have gained,” class Commencement speaker Krista Thorn told her fellow graduates at a college ceremony May 11 in Moorefield.

Some 300 students, friends, family and college staff joined that morning in admiring applause as Eastern WV Community and Technical College awarded a record 115 certificates and associate degrees to 91 individual Eastern graduates, some of whom earned more than one diploma.



Eastern's graduates at Commencement, 2013. [\[Click to enlarge.\]](#)

Keynote speaker and WV First Lady Joanne Jaeger Tomblin commended President Charles ‘Chuck’ Terrell and Eastern’s faculty and staff for the great “strides that you have made during your existence.” Since 2010, she noted, the percentage of Eastern’s degree and certificate completers has increased by more than 200-percent.

“Your school is an inspiration to community and technical colleges in West Virginia,” said Tomblin, who also serves as president of Southern WV Community and Technical College. Harold Michael Scholarship

Terrell thanked Summit Community Bank for sponsoring the expenses of this year’s Commencement, and Eastern Board of Governors Chair Rob Tissue announced the establishment of a Leadership Scholarship in honor of Harold K. Michael, “to be awarded annually to a second-year student who displays excellent academic achievement and leadership in regards to either the Student Government Association and/or Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society.”

Michael represented Hardy and Pendleton counties in the WV House of Delegates for a generation, and played a driving and paramount role in Eastern’s creation in 1999. “Eastern’s

success was, and is, built on Delegate Michael's leadership and commitment to higher education," Tissue said, "and we will be ever grateful for his contributions." Student speaker Thorn gave thanks, on behalf of her graduating class, to "the wonderful staff at Eastern. Eastern has taught me many things over the past two years. The first thing I discovered is that I have the potential to accomplish more than I ever thought I was capable of.



**Krista Thorn, graduating student speaker at Commencement May 11, 2013**

"Thank you for caring about our future and our goals." And quoting Proverbs, she noted, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed."

#### **Tomblin's Keynote**

In the keynote address, President Tomblin assured this year's graduates that "today, you've earned the right to celebrate," and acknowledged that they were "crossing the finish line in a race that many people never complete, and one that some never even take the time to enter."

Conveying pride and congratulations for their accomplishments from Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, and from "all West Virginians," she pointed out that "we're counting on you, because the commitment you made to your own education is not just important to you, it is important to all of us. You are our state's future."

Tomblin urged the graduates to be unafraid "to express what you think" and "to speak up," to "follow your heart and intuition," to "have the convictions to take on tough challenges and the dedication to see projects through."

Robert 'Buck' Eagle, Eastern's Dean for Academics and Student Services, listens.

A successful life requires an ongoing commitment to lifelong learning and staying open to life's possibilities, the First Lady said, which "will take you to endless places. And don't ever believe that West Virginia doesn't have opportunity — you need to find it, and be the one to make a difference.

#### **Character and Integrity**

Extolling the virtues of honesty, truth-telling and fairness, she emphasized, It is that character and value only you can earn. Those with integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear," for integrity

is not what we do, as much as what we are.”



**WV First Lady Tomblin Keynotes at Commencement May 11, 2013.**

Peggy Hawse, Senator Joe Manchin’s local representative, delivered remarks and brought congratulations on his behalf. Recalling the long odds 14 years ago against Eastern’s creation, she admonished, “When someone tells you can’t do something, don’t listen to them.”

Congratulating the college’s graduates, faculty and staff on their accomplishments, the Senator’s letter urged everyone to “never be finished accomplishing goals or helping others, for today is just a new beginning. My challenge for all of you is to do your part, to make a positive impact in your lives, to help your fellow citizens and your great state to become better each and every day.

“And I urge you,” Hawse read, “to never stop learning from this day forward.”

Eastern’s President Terrell also thanked numerous community organizations and individuals who have made important donations to Eastern’s Foundation or scholarship funds over the past year, including Voiture 1623 of the Hardy County Forty-and-Eight, the American Woodmark Foundation, Hardy Telecommunications, The Mathews Trust in Capon Ridge, Shell Energy, Oscar and Dixie Bean, Sherry Becker-Gorby, Ward and Wilma Malcolm and Joe Kapp.

They all “committed to make investments in our future, for students, by creating opportunities at Eastern WV Community and Technical College,” Terrell said.

For more information about Eastern’s financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College’s website: “[www.easternwv.edu](http://www.easternwv.edu)”.

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, and fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.