DEVELOPMENTAL STEEL BRINGS CARIBBEAN STEEL DRUM RHYTHMS TO EASTERN FOR DIVERSITY LEARNING

Moorefield — **Jan. 30** — Thanks to enthusiastic responses from students in past semesters, Eastern WV Community and Technical College will again present Developmental Steel— a unique experience and event for students. On Thursday, February 7, Jerome Frederick, an "Edutainer," and the creator of Developmental Steel, will again lead an interactive steel drum presentation, guiding participants through a personal and group exploration of fun, communication, diversity and teamwork.

To accommodate students' busy schedules, the College has scheduled three sessions that day for Frederick's presentation at Eastern's Moorefield Center:

- Session 1: 10:00 am—11:00 am
- Session 2: 2:00 pm—3:00 pm
- Session 3: 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

Creator Frederick engages students to identify the kinds of skills and attitudes required for a successful team performance of steel drum music. **The goal:** *understanding and respecting each other's individuality, and working together to bring out each person's maximal best.*

"Our students have really enjoyed Jerome's presentation in past semesters," said Amy Crites, Eastern's Student Services Specialist. "Many have never experienced the dramatic effect that the steel drum sound has on listeners. And they quickly get into the spirit of fun and teamwork needed to make beautiful music."

The students say that they "love the music," so much so that at student request, Frederick agreed to extend his evening presentation (Session 3) by an hour. "They take pleasure in learning how to make harmonies on the professional instruments that Jerome brings with him," Sites noted, "and they are amazed that by the end of the session they play a song collectively."

The Learners Support Services department has asked all instructors to encourage students to participate in student activities, and for Developmental Steel, each instructor may decide to offer extra credit for those who attend. As with other college activities, participating students earn a "punch" on their Student Activity card. After 10 activity "punches," they win rewards.

A Diversity for Equity grant from the WV Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and the Community and Technical College System, through their joint Social Justice Program, makes this program possible. With an expectation of inclusion, these grants aim to support activities that prepare students "to live and work in a diverse world" where "education is essential, investment is necessary, and collaboration is paramount."

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".

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.