

FREE SUMMER MATH BOOTCAMP BOOSTS COLLEGE PLACEMENT MATH SCORES

Moorefield – June 24, 2013 - To many first-year college students, math often presents a stumbling block. Since 2007, test scores at West Virginia's ten community and technical colleges have placed more than 65-percent of first-year students into developmental (remedial) classes. Of those who took developmental math, only a little more than half earned a passing grade — results that denied almost 50-percent of first-year students entry to college-level math.

To boost student success in those preliminary classes, and so raise the number of students admitted to college math, a local community college is bringing back its Summer Math Bootcamp.

"Bootcamp will run Monday-Friday, July 8 - 19, and Monday and Tuesday, July 29 and 30, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm," said Vera Shockey, who teaches and coordinates Hardy County Adult Basic Education at Eastern WV Community and Technical College, and serves as Boot Camp 'Sergeant'.

"The classes are free to anyone who wants or needs the review." For more information, or to register, call Shockey, or Eastern's Workforce Education department at 304-434-8000, or toll-free: 877-982-2322.

Eastern recommends the classes for anyone who will start college this fall and who will need to take a math placement test. "It's also very good for folks who have already taken Accuplacer and who want to improve their scores, and for those who want to be successful in Math 90 or Math 91 (developmental Basic Mathematics)," Shockey pointed out.

Basic Subjects Covered

"Folks who are preparing to take the GED high school equivalency test will benefit a lot too."

The Bootcamp will cover math foundations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), order of operations, fractions, decimals, percents, signed numbers, algebra equations and basic geometry, Shockley noted. The activities will consist of classroom learning, homework assignments and online practice, and students must complete a minimum of 40 classroom and online hours combined.

"Last year, all 10 Boot Camp learners completed the course," she said. "And they achieved an average progress of 3 grade levels." Nine students took part in Boot Camp last year to prepare for college entrance, while one was studying for the GED test.

One Bootcamp graduate improved her math so much that her test scores afterwards placed her directly into a college math course without the need for any developmental classes.

"Last year's class was very successful. Throughout the year, I've had students come up to me and tell me how much the class has helped them," Shockey said. "Don't let the 'Bootcamp' name scare you — yes the class is thorough, and it's also very relaxed. We have fun.

"It's not that adults don't know how to do math," Shockey explained. "Usually, it's just been a long time since they've used what they were taught in elementary and middle school, such as multiplication tables, long division, and fractions.

"And once they review these basics, they really take off with math."

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.