



Eastern-in-the-News



EASTERN OFFERS MORE TO LEARNERS WITH NEW PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

Moorefield, WV – March 16 -Amidst its second year of full and independent accreditation—and nearing the close of its first decade of operation—Eastern WV Community and Technical College, though still a young institution, bears many concrete signs of successful growth, practical expansion and ongoing innovation.

Last summer, the college relocated its Moorefield headquarters to a brand new campus that features state-of-the-art classrooms, versatile science labs and computerized resource rooms. A modern center of learning and light, its tall and spacious windows offer sweeping, sunny views of the South Branch Valley and surrounding mountainsides, and of the smooth ribbon of new highway—the Corridor H artery—curling below.

Complementing Eastern’s new academic building, the college has also opened a new Technology Center, located at the Grant County Industrial Park in Petersburg, and dedicated mostly to hands-on technical training. That 17,500 square-foot facility currently houses Eastern’s Automotive Technology program, that offers students a two-year associate degree, a one-year college certificate, and shorter-term sequences of specific skill sets—the only such program in the state.

“We’re really proud of this program,” said Grover Duling, Eastern’s Associate Dean for Career Studies and WorkForce Education. “Under Doug Swick’s leadership, it’s earning a strong reputation for high-quality. One of our students hired on at a local dealership after only one semester. So he’s already working for a good wage, and he’s able to stay on in the program to get his degree at the same time.”

One-of-a-Kind

“And because it is one-of-a-kind—because we’re the only college in West Virginia that offers an independent associate degree program in Auto Tech,” he noted, “Eastern sees

an opportunity to open up enrollment to students from all across the state.”

As its physical plant and capacity continue to grow, Eastern is also expanding its academic offerings. Enrollment in the Auto Tech program more than tripled last fall, and some 230 individuals attended an informational meeting this past January to learn about a new Wind Energy Technology Training program, now under fast-track development at the college, Duling said.

Later this month—starting March 29 with a two-credit ‘Introduction to Wind Energy Technology’ class—that program will also lodge at Eastern’s new Tech Center in Petersburg.

“That two-week Intro class will introduce learners—adults, recent high school graduates, and including raw beginners—to basic concepts and practices vital to wind turbine maintenance, repair and troubleshooting,” said Duling. “They can take these classes during the afternoon or the evening—whatever is best for their schedules—and it will give them a chance to see if they want to seize the opportunity to train for these exciting new technical careers.”

(For information about the introductory wind technology course, and the Wind Energy Technology Training program, contact Ward Malcolm, at 877-982-2322.)

Popular Programs Continue

As it adds to and expands its course catalog, the college also retains other popular degree programs, even as it continually updates and renews them. These familiar degree and certificate options include Business Management, Early Childhood Development, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Individualized Career Studies and Administrative Support Technology.

Eastern’s Workforce Education department also offers a wide range of courses, classes and workshops, including specialized training for recession-resistant healthcare

occupations. Ranging in length from 11 to 34 weeks, these intensive programs provide training for in-demand work as medical assistants, pharmacy career track, phlebotomists, and medical billers and coders.

In addition, as a part of its Community and Continuing Education programs, this spring the Workforce Education department has scheduled a series of trainings in Microsoft Excel software for three user-levels—beginners, intermediate and advanced—at the college’s Moorefield Center. And all around the Potomac Highlands, in Eastern’s access centers and at other locations in Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, the programs will offer dozens of workshop classes, in subjects ranging from FaceBook for Businesses and various computer applications, to self-defense, digital photography, jewelry-making, personal finance, food-handling,

advanced care planning, living with diabetes, woodcrafts, basket-weaving, tin-punching, fly-tying and tap dancing.

For more information about Eastern’s financial aid opportunities, programs of study and workforce 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, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 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.