



# Eastern-in-the-News



## EASTERN TAPS 8 STUDENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Moorefield – May 13, 2010 - Eight students at Eastern WV Community and Technical College took part in a special academic ceremony at the college's Moorefield center April 27, as Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, officially inducted them into Eastern's Beta Nu Lambda chapter. An eighth inductee could not attend the event.

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of two-year college students, according to Deb Backus, Eastern's Academic Program Director for General Education & Instruction and co-advisor to the local honor society chapter. "And it also provides opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership and service programming," she said.



**Eastern Inducts Eight Into National Honor Society: Eight students at Eastern WV Community and Technical College this spring earned induction into the local Beta Nu Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.**

**FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Debra Backus, academic program director for general education and instruction, and staff advisor to PTK; Ronda Everett, Capon Bridge; Cleta Crosco, Moorefield; Holly Cowie, Romney; Camille Artayet, Moorefield;**

**BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Debra Lemons, Mathias; Freda Lough, Maysville; Theda May, Moorefield; Curtis Hakala, faculty advisor to PTK; and Dave Jones, Eastern's student support services counselor.**

At the ceremony, Eastern's Dean for Academics and Student Services, gave the keynote address. Noting that the economic pressures of international globalization has taken away some of America's "competitive edge" in the world, Robert 'Buck' Eagle pointed out that "futures and fortunes will be determined in the battleground of higher education."

Even though "42 of the 50 top-rated colleges in the world are in the United States," he said, "in 2010, 50-percent of PhD's granted by American schools will be earned by foreigners," as will 75-percent of all science degrees.

"This is a dismal and disturbing picture," Eagle warned, "that should frighten us all."

And then, identifying "a silver lining in these dark clouds," the Dean pointed to the new honor society inductees. "You are the silver lining," he said.

"Your attitudes toward study and self-discipline, and your intellectual development and academic achievements, are our very best natural resources."

Three of this spring's new honorees are studying Early Childhood Development at Eastern, and two of them, Rhonda Everett of Capon Bridge, and Debra Lemons, of Moorefield, intend to continue their studies towards a four-year degree in Early Education.

Everett, who will likely graduate with an associate degree in the fall of 2011, is already taking the first class towards the elementary education bachelor's degree this spring.

Lemons, who plans to graduate next December, also said she wants to take further classes towards the bachelor's degree at Eastern.

Romney's Holly Cowie will graduate with an associate in arts degree this spring. She also plans to continue her studies at Eastern in the fall towards a degree in Early Education.

On schedule to graduate in 2011 with an associate degree in Early Childhood

Education, Cleta Crosco, of Moorefield, plans to set up her own day care business. "Down the road," she said, she wants "to work with foster care and orphans, where I can set up a facility so that when the court takes children from their parents, they come to me until the parents straighten out. And for the orphans, I'll try to find families for them."

Freda Lough, of Maysville, a pre-nursing student at Eastern, is applying for the college's nursing program, to start this August. At the same time, she is studying towards an associate arts degree.

Graduating later this month with an associate in arts degree, Theda May, of Moorefield, is planning to go on for a four-year degree in sociology and human services.

Also of Moorefield, Camille Artayet will graduate with two degrees — the associate in arts and the associate in science — next fall.

Kimbra Chirchirillo, currently registered as a candidate for the associate in arts degree, said that she is thinking about shifting her major to business, accounting, computers or math. "Once I get my degree," she said, "I'd really like to work here at Eastern full-time." She currently tutors part-time at the college, and serves as an evening coordinator at the Moorefield center.

Dave Jones, Eastern's student support services counselor, and Curtis Hakala, the college's instructor and coordinator for developmental education (English), also serve as co-advisors to the honor society chapter.

For more information about Eastern's programs of study and workforce and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College's website: "www.eastern.wvnet.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.