



# Eastern-in-the-News



## EASTERN'S DEB BACKUS NAMED 2010 'OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR'

Moorefield, WV — Nov. 8 — At a statewide awards banquet early this month, Petersburg's Debra Backus received recognition as a '2010 Outstanding Contributor to Community College Education'. The West Virginia Community College Association (WVCCA) honored Backus at its annual fall conference, in Martinsburg November 4, for the "consistent dedication to quality, integrity and service" that drives her "transformative leadership," said Charles Terrell, President of Eastern WV Community and Technical College.

"As Academic Program Director for General Education and Instruction," he noted in prepared remarks, "Backus impacts the life of virtually every student" at the college.



Petersburg's Debra Backus received a '2010 Outstanding Contributor to Community College Education' at a statewide educators conference November 4.

Backus joined Eastern's staff in the summer of 2002, after three years as Program Coordinator of Head Start for the Eastern Allegheny Council for Human

Services (EACHS) in Petersburg. During her more than eight years at the college, she has played a key role shaping many aspects of academic planning and policy.

Among other contributions, Backus has developed and implemented learning programs, hired teachers, advised students, scheduled and taught classes, managed grants and served on a variety of college policy committees.

"Whatever the challenge before her," President Terrell pointed out, "Deb consistently and unfailingly answers the call." And in every area of her work, he added, "students, faculty and staff alike recognize Deb's acute focus and discerning intelligence."

### Many-Sided Contributions

In addition to her administrative duties and committee contributions, Backus's service to the college includes five years as faculty advisor to Beta Nu Lambda — Eastern's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa national student honor society for two-year colleges — and three years as an Eastern Classified Staff Council officer (first as Treasurer and now Vice-chair).

As her most recent major contribution to the Eastern community, Backus steered the college's new associate degree nursing program through the state's long and detailed planning and approval process. This past March, the WV Board of Examiners granted provisional accreditation to the program, and Eastern's first class of nursing students are now entering their third month of training in Moorefield.

"Deb Backus's dedicated service and many-sided contributions to Eastern will change our community for the better for

decades to come,” President Terrell emphasized.

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.eastern.wvnet.edu](http://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.