



Eastern-in-the-News



104 DIPLOMAS SET NEW RECORD AT EASTERN'S COMMENCEMENT

Moorefield – May 9, 2012 - Ninety individual graduates reaped the rewards of their months and years of college study at Eastern WV Community and Technical College's third annual Commencement May 5. Held at the Moorefield Middle School for spring 2012 and fall 2011 graduates the ceremony conferred a record 104 diplomas total.

Keynote speaker Michael Simmons suggested that at this "pivot point in life," the graduates should decide between a "path of certainty," and "a path of faith."

Simmons, a young, serial, award-winning entrepreneur, and an international expert on entrepreneurship education, told the crowd of over 200 well-wishers that he credits "following that path of faith" for his own success.

"This is the path of envisioning and following your ideal future regardless of where you are currently," Simmons said. "It is the path of saying, 'I have no idea how I get to what I want, but I believe it's possible, and I will move toward it today, not tomorrow'".



Simmons, bestselling author of [The Student Success Manifesto](#), and founder and owner of a profitable and growing entrepreneur education company with over \$1-million in revenue, pointed out that he has overcome many difficult personal obstacles and hardships in life.

He emphasized that he owes his current "freedom to choose what I do, when I do it, how I do it, and where I do it" to his decision to follow the path of faith. And he left his listeners with a mantra for that path that he heard many years ago from "a very wise person — your President, Chuck Terrell, whom I greatly admire: 'Somehow, someway, someday'."

In Eastern's spring 2012 graduate speaker Melissa Shank's road up to this pivotal occasion, faith has played a big role as well. Singing in church with her "Praise and Worship Team" for many years gave her a beginning confidence, when she eventually registered at Eastern, to speak up and later take a leading role in her college classes.

Shank credited Eastern with having "really impacted my life in the last several years — and it's been a positive impact." Her college experience has changed her from a "shy and reserved" person to one who volunteers to go first in classroom presentations. "And Eastern has done so much more for me.

"Being here has allowed me to meet new people, explore and discuss options for my future that I otherwise may not have been able to do," she said. "I took full advantage of all the classes that I could in order to better myself for the road ahead. And I love that the staff knows me by name, so I'm not just some number on a piece of paper or in the computer."

Her involvement in extra-curricular activities such as Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, "has helped me feel good about myself. In fact," she emphasized, "Eastern has given me the confidence that I'll need to continue on throughout my life."

Shank offered the assembled friends and families her own mantra for the road ahead: "You will only get out what you put in. I believe that to be true."

Eastern President Charles 'Chuck' Terrell led the ceremony, and together with Dean for Academics and Student Services, Robert "'Buck" Eagle, offered congratulations to each of the graduating students as he handed them their diplomas.

Pastor Christopher L. Whetzel of Moorefield's Believers Victory Center offered the convocation and benediction, and Keyser's Krissy Heavener inspired the gathering with a soaring rendition of the national anthem. The award-winning Petersburg Jazz/Brass Band provided delightful musical background themes throughout the morning.

Students earning diplomas at Eastern included (* denotes with honors):

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Fall 2011

GRANT COUNTY

Associate in Applied Science: Business Management

Stacey C. Heavner, Maysville; and Pamela D. Moreland*, Petersburg

Associate in Applied Science: Occupational Development in Child Development Specialist

Michelle A. Sites, Petersburg

Associate in Arts

Karen J. Hedrick*, Tabitha J. Hitt*, and Monika Taylor*, all of Petersburg; Judy W. Iman*, Dorcas; Jennifer L. Long, Maysville; Gail M. Shockey, Dorcas;

Associate in Science

Marty L. Berg, Tabitha J. Hitt*, and Monika Taylor*, all of Petersburg; Judy W. Iman*, and Gail M. Shockey, both of Dorcas; and Jennifer L. Long, Maysville

Certificate: Business Management

Stacy L. Vance* Dorcas

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

Associate in Applied Science: Board of Governors: Hector G. Baeza, Jr. *, Shanks; and Bettina L. Lewis, Augusta

Associate in Applied Science: Occupational Development in Child Development Specialist
Sara E. Hurt*, Romney;

Certificate: Automotive Technology

Joshua R. Whetzel, Capon Bridge

Certificate: Wind Technology

Harth L. Clem*, Augusta

HARDY COUNTY

Associate in Applied Science: Automotive Technology

Nathan S. Shoemaker, Baker

Associate in Applied Science: Business Management

Erica D. Davy, Moorefield;

Associate in Applied Science: Early Childhood Development

Cleta V. Crosco*, Moorefield

Associate in Applied Science: Information Technology

William E. Baldwin*, Moorefield

Associate in Applied Science: Occupational Development in Child Development Specialist

Sarah E. Leatherman, Old Fields

Associate in Arts

Michael P. Bennett, Lost City; Brittany M. Bush*, Moorefield; Cheryl R. Lantz, Old Fields; and Taryn N. Whetzel, Fisher

Associate in Science

Brittany M. Bush*, Moorefield;

Certificate: Administrative Support Technology

Rebecca L. Mayle, Moorefield

Certificate: Business Management

James C. Davis, Baker

Certificate: Technical Studies Industrial Equipment Maintenance

Lawrence E. Wolfe, Old Fields

MINERAL COUNTY

Associate in Arts

Theresa S. Warnick, Elk Garden

PENDLETON COUNTY

Associate in Arts

Kaiulani A. Moats, Franklin;

MARYLAND

Associate in Applied Science: Occupational Development in Multi-Craft Technician

Thomas M. Marple*, Swanton, MD

Spring 2012

GRANT COUNTY

Associate in Applied Science: Board of Governors

Dreama M. Kelly*, Arthur

Associate in Applied Science: Business Management

Kristi N. Dunsmore, and Carla J. Iman, both of Petersburg

Associate in Applied Science: Information Technology

Cindy L. Alt, and Glenn E. Alt, III, both of Petersburg

Sandra A. Bowen, Maysville

Certificate: Automotive Technology

Wade N. Berg, Maysville

Certificate: Business Management

Daniel J. Nesslerodt, Petersburg

Certificate: Computer Applications Specialist

Sandra A. Bowen, Maysville

Certificate: Technical Studies Medical Assistant

Samantha M. Wilson, Petersburg

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

Associate in Applied Science: Board of Governors

Joyce A. Combs*, Romney

Associate in Applied Science: Business Management

John A. Royal Levels

Associate in Applied Science: Early Childhood Development

Patteen A. Ritter*, Springfield

Associate in Applied Science: Wind Energy Technology

Harth L. Clem*, Augusta

Certificate: Automotive Technology

Matthew T. Dolly, Burlington

Daniel H. Veach, Purgitsville

Certificate: Electromechanical Technology

Charles A. Reynolds*, Romney

HARDY COUNTY

Associate in Applied Science: Board of Governors

Linda L. Cerami, Baker

Associate in Applied Science: Business Management

Amanda D. Cavey, Moorefield

Whitney D. Helman*, Moorefield

Phillip M. Howell*, Moorefield

Associate in Applied Science: Wind Energy Technology

Joshua K. Whitaker*, Moorefield

Associate in Arts

Melissa A. Shank*, Wardensville

Certificate: Administrative Support Technology

Brandi N. Malcolm-Martinez*, Moorefield

Certificate: Information Technology

Ray A. Taylor, Moorefield

Certificate: Technical Studies Medical Assistant

Danielle A. Bockey, Wardensville

Sasha N. Lavitchka, Moorefield

Brandi N. Malcolm-Martinez*, Moorefield

Jessica D. Wratford, Moorefield

Certificate: Wind Energy Technology

Ethan W. Reynolds, Moorefield

Jeffrey A. Thorne*, Moorefield

PENDLETON COUNTY

Certificate: Technical Studies Medical Assistant

Danielle N. Hoover, Moyers

Ashley N. Martin, Franklin

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