



Eastern-in-the-News



\$40-THOUSAND DOMINION GRANT TO FUND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM AT EASTERN

Moorefield — Aug. 30 — Representatives from the Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Richmond-based Dominion Resources, presented a \$40-thousand Higher Educational Partnership Grant to a local community college during a brief ceremony in Moorefield, Monday morning, August 29. The grant will fund the development of a broad-reaching Entrepreneurship Initiative at Eastern WV Community and Technical College.

“This world has become smaller,” said Robert C. Orndorff, Managing Director, WV and Exploration & Production, Local Affairs, Government Affairs, for Dominion Resource Services. “An opportunity to give money to this school, to make your world a smaller place, where you can have the same opportunities that someone may have that may live in a New York City, or that may live in Philadelphia, or Washington D.C., and to bring it right here in Hardy County, it’s a real pleasure for us to do that.

“So congratulations,” he said, “well-done and well-deserved.”

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Terrell, who, accepted the grant as Eastern’s President, emphasized that the funds would support activities to benefit residents in all six counties of the college’s Potomac Highlands service district. As part of Eastern’s mission, he said, the college will “develop a plan, courses, support services, and resources to encourage our students to consider becoming entrepreneurs right here in the Potomac Highlands.”

Entrepreneurship Everywhere

The grant-funded project will lead to a new Entrepreneurship Learning Program, accessible to the whole community through Eastern’s Workforce Education Department. As part of this program, the College plans to hire an Entrepreneurship Facilitator/Coach who will develop Entrepreneurship Modules that all Eastern students in any major may profit from.

“After all, small business opportunities are available whether a student majors in Business, Early Childhood Development, IT or Auto Tech,” said Seyed Mirkhani, Eastern’s Academic Program Director for Business Technologies. “Someone might want to start his or her own child day-care business, or a computer troubleshooting shop, or an auto repair service. And if so, the entrepreneurial skills they can acquire through an Entrepreneurship Learning Program will prove very valuable.”

The Dominion Foundation planned to award some \$1-million in higher educational partnership grants throughout Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and in targeted localities in New England, Maryland and North Carolina, according to its website. “The response from the educational community was overwhelming,” noted Sharon Wilson Seaton, a Community Affairs & Educational Representative with the Foundation. “We received nearly \$7 million in requests from institutions in all of the ten eligible states. As you can imagine, the evaluation process was extremely competitive.”

Community Outreach

Eastern’s proposal also includes the creation of an E-commerce Incubator at the college’s Moorefield Center, and a student outreach program to small businesses throughout

the Potomac Highlands. “Partnering with the local Chambers of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center, we would send small teams of students to any small business that wants the service, to explore possible computerized and technological strategies in a variety of key business areas, aimed at improving efficiency and profitability for that specific business,” said Mirkhani.



FROM LEFT: Peggy Hawse, Senator Joe Manchin’s regional representative; Grady Bradfield, member, Eastern Foundation Board of Directors; Rob Tissue, vice-chair, Eastern’s Board of Governors;; M. T., Eastern Student Representative to the B.O.G.; Douglas S. Lambert, member, Eastern B.O.G., and Superintendent, Pendleton County Schools; Dr. Charles Terrell, Eastern President; Rich Ford, Director F & H Station III Mt. Storm (NedPower Wind Farm); Delegate Harold Michael (District 47); and Robert C. Orndorff, Managing Director, WV and Exploration & Production, Local Affairs, Government Affairs, Dominion Resource Services.

To guide students and other entrepreneurial learners in the Potomac Highlands, Eastern will also establish a Virtual Entrepreneurship Board of Advisors “to include entrepreneurs not only from the Potomac Highlands, but from other parts of the country as well,” said President Terrell, “and connect with them virtually, through technology.”

District 47 Delegate Harold Michael applauded the grant as another step in Eastern’s growth and development. “I think of all the things that have occurred out here — the parking lot being full, all the classes that we have in the various communities — all those things help this college achieve its mission: to reach as many people as we can with classes that are affordable and accessible, and certainly flexible.”

Peggy Hawse, former Executive Dean at the college and now Senator Joe Manchin’s regional representative, focused on the most important element of the grant award. “I thank you, the students,” she said, “because you make it happen.”

Through a different office last month, Dominion Power, together with Shell Wind Energy, its partner at the NedPower Wind Farm on Mt. Storm, awarded Eastern two \$2-thousand gifts towards the purchase of safety equipment for students in the college’s Wind Energy Turbine Technology training program.

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.

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