

'CELEBRATE THE FAMILY' FOR COUNSELORS & SOCIAL WORKERS JUNE 14-16

Moorefield — **May 25, 2012** — Today's youth culture is technology-rich and consumer-driven. Many students bring to their classrooms, as to other areas of activity, a push-button expectation of easy success with little need of effort. More frightening, today's schoolchildren often feel a deep disconnect with the goals of education and with how learning will help them build towards a positive future.

During the weekend of June 14 through June 16, a local partnership of organizations will bring to the Potomac Highlands "Celebrate the Family," a rich and diverse set of presentations designed to inform professionals in several areas of youth development and counseling.

The event will feature a special FREE Parents Night, Thursday, June 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, with door prizes, food, fun and special tips to "Celebrate the Family."

The three-day conference will provide social work and counseling CEUs, STARS credits, and teach hands-on knowledge and skills for immediate clinical and professional use. For more information, and to register, please call the Workforce Education Department at Eastern WV Community and Technical College: 304-434-8000; or toll-free: 877-982-2322.

Minds & Attitudes

Several leading professionals will headline "Celebrate the Family" presentations to cover issues of family nutrition, youth counseling, poverty, and autism.

With "Meet Generation NeXt," Dr. Mark Taylor offers strategies to connect the minds and attitudes of today's students with what society will expect from them as adults. His approaches seek to make use of the very technologies and devices that might otherwise appear as distractions form serious classroom study. In addition, his "Counseling Generation NeXt" session will guide social workers and other professionals in how to reach the upcoming youth through their own traits and preferences.

In "The Impact of Nutrition on the Young Mind," Catherine Vandermer, MS, RD, LD, will review current nutrition guidelines for pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood. She will show the effect of nutrition on growth, brain development, and children's behavior. Her workshop will offer many valuable, readily accessible and free resources that clients can use in planning and meeting their family's nutritional needs.

Poverty/Survival

Peggy Hawse, a certified and experienced Ruby Payne trainer, will lead a dynamic session about the effects of poverty on learning, work habits, and decision-making. Understanding how a poverty/survival mentality can distract and divert clients from seemingly realistic opportunities for growth and advancement, will provide great insight to professionals. They can then translate that insight into real benefits for their economically disadvantaged clients.

As the prevalence of autism has skyrocketed over the past three decades, professionals have needed to add to their counseling repertoire an understanding of the variety of autism learning disorders. *Kent Moreno, a Behavior Analyst who serves as an education specialist at*

Marshall University, will present an overview of that spectrum of disorders, together with the diverse therapies and strategies for assisting afflicted individuals to succeed.

And for additional views on new insights towards effective family counseling, Dr. Tom Linger will present "Background Tools and Considerations."

Space for the event is limited, so make your reservations as early as possible.