



# Eastern-in-the-News



## THREE LOCAL WOMEN EARN 'NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT' SCHOLARSHIPS

**Moorefield, WV – Aug. 27, 2009** - Stacey Heavner of Maysville, Judy Iman of Dorcas, and Cleta Crosco of Moorefield have won the 'Non-Traditional Student Scholarships' for fall semester studies at Eastern WV Community and Technical College, Amanda Sites, Eastern's Director of Financial Aid, announced last week.

"Eastern's scholarship committee reviewed the applicants' course and grade history at the college, if applicable, together with their submitted written narratives, personal history and personal goals," Sites said, "including their reasons for attending college and why this scholarship was so important to them."

The college defines a "non-traditional student" as anyone at least 24 years old who has a high school or GED diploma. This year's recipients include one full-time student (12 or more credit hours), one half-time (6-8 hours) and one 3/4-time (9-11 hours).

### **Move Up The Ladder**

Starting as a receptionist, and earning promotions up to fiscal assistant, and then to her current job as executive assistant, Maysville's Stacey Heavner has worked at the Region 8 Planning and Development Council in Petersburg for 15 years. "I've been able to move up the ladder," she said, "and I'd like to stay." She'd also like to continue building her career.

"So if an opportunity might come along here for an administrative position, I'd like to be ready when it comes." To prepare for that advancement, Heavner decided she needed to upgrade her skills.

"My going up the ladder further depends on whether I further my education," she noted.

So in August of 2001, 14 years after graduating from Petersburg High School, as fall semester approached at Eastern WV Community and Technical College, she registered in her first college class. "I knew that if I wanted an administrative position, I would need to have a college background."

As a fulltime worker with children and grandchildren, until this fall Heavner has had time to enroll only in one class each semester. "But the closer I get to my degree in Business Management, the more excited I get about finishing. And when I spoke to counselors at Eastern this time, they said that if I took two classes for the semester, I could apply for financial aid."

When she finishes this fall semester, Heavner will need only five more classes to complete her Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Business Management. "The boys seem awfully proud that mom's going to school," she said.

"Eastern has been the best thing for this area," Heavner emphasized. "And I say that not only as student, but as citizen of the area and as an employee of the regional developmental authority. I hope the college continues to grow."

### **Giving Back**

As a surgical technician at Grant Memorial Hospital, Judy Iman's 40-hour work schedule often requires that she take "evening call." While some might find that kind of duty too demanding, it has only encouraged Iman's goal of becoming a

registered nurse. "It will allow me to give back to my community," she said.

That aspiration led her to Eastern. "For one thing, it's close by, and that makes it easier for me," she noted. "Also, I knew of students attending classes at Eastern, and they had great things to say about the college."

A 1986 graduate of Petersburg High School, and now living in Dorcas, Iman is currently taking a fulltime course load of 13 credit-hours at Eastern. "We are very lucky to have this community college available to us," she said.

#### **Needs Degree**

Moorefield's Cleta Crosco works at the chicken plant there. "I clean with the big hoses, and I work the third shift. But I thought there would be something more for me out there."

Living in a neighborhood filled with children, Crosco "wanted my own daycare business, with employees working for me, and I know you need a degree to do that." So last year she enrolled at Eastern for training in both the business and the childcare aspects of running a daycare center.

"I'm taking Accounting this semester, plus my last math class, and then I have to take my Child Care, Development, and Psychology," she noted. "Because I have to know the systems: what happens to a child if they're abused, and how can I detect if they've been abused or not? Suppose something's wrong and they can't tell me? How can I detect it?"

Crosco graduated from Moorefield High School in 1988. Twenty years later, mother to three children now 19, 13 and 9, she started college. "My major is Early Childhood Development," she said. Currently on a three-quarters time class schedule, "I'm taking night classes this coming semester, so I can get in more subjects.

"Eventually, I want to work with DHR and start a facility here for orphans

and foster care. I want to take care of the children before they get into trouble."

Crosco is Eastern's only repeat "non-traditional student" scholarship winner from last year.

#### **Jobs of the Future**

In an Op-ed column for the Washington Post earlier this summer, President Obama noted the importance of non-traditional students to a recovering economy, and the essential role of community colleges in providing "Americans of all ages a chance to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to compete for the jobs of the future.

"In an economy where jobs requiring at least an associate's degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience," the President emphasized, "it's never been more essential to continue education and training after high school."

For more information about Eastern's financial aid opportunities, programs of study and workforce 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.