



# The Student Connection

WELCOME BACK!

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## What does the future hold for Eastern? And what is President Obama's Plan for education?

These are good questions and with the economic crisis this nation is experiencing; no one really knows what the future holds for us. As a young institution barely out of the nest, I can't help from feeling optimistic about where we are in this juncture of our short history. This past year has brought many positive changes and additions to Eastern. During this time, we were granted full accreditation as an institution by the Higher Learning Commission, we re-established the Nursing Program through an agreement with Southern, we opened a Technology Center, and we received funding from the West Virginia Development Office to provide utilities to our new facility under construction. In addition, our fall and spring enrollments have increased and we have been able to provide new services to our citizens of our six-county district. We have been awarded an ABE Grant from the WV Department of Education and we now have two locations available. Our Workforce Development Department has provided many short term training programs especially in the area of health care. We are anticipating receiving a significant grant to purchase state of the art educational trainers and equipment for the Automotive Tech Program and possibly funding to expand the Technology Center.

In spite of the down-turn in the economy, we are looking and working toward the future. We will prepare for the worst and hope for the best! We are exploring potential new career technical programs in wind energy, diesel mechanics, truck driving, green technology and electrical engineering technology. In academics, we hope to have an agreement in place with WVU-Parkersburg in the near future to offer a four-year elementary education program available here on the Eastern campus.

With challenges come opportunities. As of this writing, it appears that Congress will be increasing Pell Grants by \$500 through the Congressional Stimulus Package. This initiative may provide the opportunity for students who are struggling financially to stay in school thus making education more possible for our students. In addition, this federal program will provide funding for colleges to fix-up crumbling, old buildings which are badly in need of repair. Eastern is fortunate in this area since we will be moving into our brand new facility for fall classes of 2009. This new campus will not only be an attractive and permanent new facility for us, but we can proudly lay claim that we are not just a community college, but we are officially the "community's" college.

*Robert Sisk, President*

President Barack Obama has made fixing the economy his top priority. Workforce education and training figure into his plan as being very important. Although the new administration will have to develop the details, the President's proposals provide a general blueprint for community colleges' role in the plan. Obama has proposed creating a Community College Partnership Program that would provide grants to analyze the types of skills and technical education in demand from students and local industries, implement new associate degrees for emerging industries and reward colleges that graduate more students and increase the number of community college students transferring to four-year institutions.

Obama also wants to encourage states to develop programs to help more students prepare for college-level work. He said he would propose \$25 million in matching funds to states that voluntarily develop assessment programs, which allow high school students—mostly 11th grade—to determine if they are ready for college academics.

Obama also proposed using community colleges to provide access to basic information technology skills, which are needed for many jobs. He said he would provide federal grants to community colleges to make their on-campus computer facilities into community resources for training local workers. The grants would help defray the costs of keeping computer labs open longer and on weekends and better staffed.

New energy and jobs in the emerging industry were also part of his plan. He wants to increase funding for federal workforce training and direct those programs to incorporate green technologies training.

In addition, to help more students to go to college, Obama has proposed a tax credit that he says would basically make tuition at community college free for most people. The fully refundable credit would ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is free. With tuition and fees at community colleges averaging \$2,100, the American Opportunity Tax Credit will eliminate tuition expenses entirely for lower-income and middle-income families.

As with all Presidential proposals, it awaits convincing Congress of the merits of idea. Only time will tell about the success of such a proposal.

# FAFSA RENEWAL WORKSHOP



Are you planning to enroll full time during the fall 2009 semester? Will you have your 2008 income taxes completed fairly early? If so, you may want to take advantage of our Help Sessions for Financial Aid. According to Amanda Sites, Eastern's Financial Aid Director, "These sessions are really geared towards both new and returning students who are interested in attending Eastern full time in the fall semester. We are offering these sessions

in February so that we can catch students who may be eligible for a WV Higher Education Grant, since the deadline for this program is March 1."

The sessions are scheduled for:

Monday, February 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Monday, February 26th at 4:30 p.m.

Students who are interested in attending one of the sessions are being asked to contact Patty Goldizen in room 138 to register. Walk-ins will be accepted.

Each student will need to bring with them their completed 2008 income taxes, W-2s, and their FAFSA PIN, and if the student is a dependent, the same information is needed from their parents, with the exception of the PIN.

## Scholarship Opportunities

### WV Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship Program

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or resident alien;
- Must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time student in an engineering, science or technology program leading to a certificate, associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible institution in WV;
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale from high school or after completing two semesters of coursework at an institution of higher education;
- Must be willing to work in the field of engineering, science or technology in WV on year for each year the scholarship is received; and
- Must be willing to repay the scholarship with interest if he/she fails to fulfill the requirement.

For an application, please see Dave Jones in room 112. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2009 for full consideration.

### GED/EDP Literacy Scholarship

- Must be a resident of the state of West Virginia;
- Must be an EDP or GED Graduate with a score of 250 prior to Jan 1, 2002 or 2500 after Jan 1, 2002;
- Must complete twelve or more semester hours and maintain a 2.0 grade point average;
- Must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Must have passed the GED test or completed the EDP Program by March 1.

For an application, please see Dave Jones in room 112. Applications must be received by March 1.



Do you have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average? Have you completed 12 college level credit hours (excluding developmental courses)? If so, Phi Theta Kappa wants YOU! See Debbie Backus in room 122 for an application.

## Library Services for Students

Eastern provides students with access to library services through partnerships with Southern WV Community and Technical College and the local libraries throughout the six county service district. Students may access electronic resources through internet access or request materials through interlibrary loan services. EWWCTC pro-

vides the following library services:

**Electronic Databases:** InfoTrac—Contact the Academic Services Coordinator at the Harco Complex at 304-434-8000 or 877-982-2322 to obtain password information. Interlibrary loans through the following public libraries: Hardy County, Grant County including Mt. Top

Library, Pendleton County, Keyser-Mineral County, Hampshire County and Five Rivers Public Library. Details regarding services and access are posted on the Eastern website, "For Students" section or at <http://www.eastern.wvnet.edu/Services/library.html>



## Assessment at Eastern: Required Assessment Testing For Graduating Students

All students graduating with an associate degree or certificate are required to participate in the general education assessment testing program. Depending on the program of study, students are required to complete the MAPP and/or the WorkKeys Testing Series. Students will be notified via mail as to which test(s) they are required to

complete.

MAPP evaluates a student's proficiency in critical thinking, reading, writing and mathematics. Results from the testing will be used to determine how much Eastern students are learning as a result of completing general education courses and provide the College with information to improve student learning and the general edu-

cation curriculum. The WorkKeys Testing Series evaluates students' proficiency in essential skills required for success in the workplace. Students required to participate in testing will receive detailed information by mail regarding test procedures, times and locations. Testing will be conducted during assessment week (March 10-12, 2009). If you have any questions, contact Monica See in Learner Support.

## Eastern Student Reminders

1. Students are reminded that Eastern is now processing all student data via your generated student ID number. The only time a student will use their social security number is for financial aid and ordering textbooks. So, it is vitally important that you memorize your Student ID or carry a copy with you!
2. ID cards for 2nd Semester may be picked up at the front desk by seeing Donna Southerly or one of the Evening Coordinators.
3. Please update important student information like: changes in addresses, marital status, phone numbers including cell numbers, and email addresses. Also, it is important to check on your declaration of major, transferring of all records to Eastern like transcripts, etc. which are vital in helping you to prepare for graduation from one of our certificate or associate programs. Please keep deadlines in mind for application for graduation, etc. For example, the deadline for Fall Graduation is May 1, 2009.
4. Relay for Life Volleyball Tournament is scheduled for March 28,29, on Saturday and Sunday at Moorefield Middle School. The entry fee is \$75 per team. Please contact Monica See at 434-8000, ext. 235 or [msee1@eastern.wvnet.edu](mailto:msee1@eastern.wvnet.edu).

## EASTERN WV COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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304-434-8000 or 877-982-2322  
[www.eastern.wvnet.edu](http://www.eastern.wvnet.edu)

Newsletter comments, suggestions or submissions can be sent to Dave Jones at [davidj@eastern.wvnet.edu](mailto:davidj@eastern.wvnet.edu)

**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA ON HOW TO MAKE THE COLLEGE BETTER OR DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT THE COLLEGE?**

If so, tell your Student Government Representatives about it! Email them at their new address: [ewvctcsga@yahoo.com](mailto:ewvctcsga@yahoo.com)

"It's not what happens to you that determines how far you will go in life, it is how you handle what happens to you!"

By Zig Ziglar



## IMPORTANT DATES

January 20—Eastern Classes Begin

January 20-23 Add/Drop Week

March 10-15 Assessment Week

March 13 Mid-Semester Reports Due (1st 8 weeks completed)

March 23 Classes resume

April 1 Registration for Summer 2009 and Fall 2009 Begins

April 9 Last Day To Withdraw with a Grade of "W"

May 1 Deadline for Graduation for Fall 2009

## NEED HELP WITH CLASSES?

**FREE DROP-IN TUTORING IS AVAILABLE NOW!**

**Drop in on Mondays 12:30-3:30 p.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays**

**from 12:30-3:30 p.m. in room 137 for assistance with Basic Math, Introductory and College Algebra.**

**English & Reading Assistance: Drop-in to Rm. 135 on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:30 p.m. & Thursdays from 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Monday—Thursday: See Vera Shockey in Room 216 for assistance in Basic Math, Reading, or English.**