



The Student Connection

WELCOME BACK!

Volume 9, Issue 1

A Learner Support Services Publication

January/February 2008

Students: Your Help Is Needed!

Read on to find out how you can impact Eastern's future

As a student enrolled at Eastern WV Community & Technical College you may have heard someone mention that Eastern is seeking accreditation and at that moment it may not have meant much to you. As far as any real changes to you or the way you are taking classes you would not notice any major or specific changes, however by receiving full independent accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education Eastern will have the freedom to expand program offerings and pursue services that may not be available to us under the present circumstances.

What is the present circumstance? Presently EWVCTC is a public funded community and technical college established by the West Virginia legislature in 1999. It is one of ten community & technical colleges operating under the West Virginia Council on Community & Technical College System. It has an eleven member Board of Governor's which functions in the capacity of the governing body. Eastern runs many of its programs and services through our host institution, Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College in Logan, WV. Examples of services run through Southern are the student financial aid services and student enrollment and registration. Eastern is fortunate to have such a well established and successful host institution willing to assist us with these services until which time we may be granted full accreditation and will be able to provide those services ourself. Since its inception Eastern has been working toward full accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission which is a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Eastern was granted full candidacy in the fall of 2006. Since that time the employees of Eastern have been working diligently on preparing an Institutional Self Study which is an essential part of the application process for accreditation with NCA. In April of 2008 an evaluation team of trained peers will visit Eastern and examine the self-evaluation materials, review documents and interview faculty, staff, board members and students. Upon completion of this process a recommendation will be made by the team as to the status of accreditation of Eastern. At that time Eastern WV Community & Technical College could be granted Initial Accreditation Status or Continued Candidacy. The staff and Board of

Governors of Eastern have made a commitment to seek full accreditation on this visit. They have put in many hours of hard work preparing the self study and getting ready for the Higher Learner Commission visitation. Hard work pays off and I am confident we can meet our goal. Work with us and enjoy our future success.

Robert Sisk, Interim President

April 28-30, 2008 will be a very important time for Eastern WV Community & Technical College. This is the time period we will have a review team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). For months, Eastern staff has been working on writing a self-study document and collecting data for this review team. This effort has been moving forward at the same time as the college personnel have been performing their college duties.

If the HLC approves our request for independent accreditation, we will no longer be viewed, or processing, as a branch of Southern WV Community College. This would allow Eastern to operate under its own policies and procedures. It would also allow Eastern to apply for additional financial aid programs to help our students.

During the time the HLC Review Team will be at Eastern, they will be meeting with different groups – i.e. faculty, staff, students, administrators, Board members, and individuals from the community. To prepare for the HLC visit, a “mock” visit will be set up in the next month or so to go through the process. Students will be notified when a time and location is determined to meet with the reviewer. This will be a very beneficial meeting for students to get a better understanding of the process and the types of questions that will be asked by the reviewers. Please be looking for the announcements and try to attend the student meeting.

This is a critical step in the continuing evolution of Eastern and we want everyone to be a part of this process.

Robert Eagle, Dean of Academics and Student Services





Need Cash for Class?

Are you planning to enroll full time during the fall 2008 semester? Will you have your 2007 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:

Wednesday, February 13– drop in anytime between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Thursday, February 21– drop in anytime between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Both sessions will be held in room 154. 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 2007 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 Cindy Drumm in room 112. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2008 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 Cindy Drumm 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.

Your Participation in the Assessment Process

The College routinely conducts a number of assessment activities to determine how well our courses and programs support student learning. These assessment activities may be in the form of tests, surveys or class assignments. Your participation helps us determine how your skills and abilities have grown through your experiences at Eastern. For

example, surveying alumni helps us learn how effective Eastern is at preparing students for their chosen careers after graduation. Your responses to tests and surveys are confidential. Assessment results are reported only as summaries of all combined students' responses or scores. Individual students' survey responses or test results will never

be reported inappropriately in assessment reports. Your participation in assessment activities is very important to the College. Because of your participation, we are able to improve programs and services to better serve the residents of the Potomac Highlands.



Assessment at Eastern: Recent Adoption of MAPP as Test of General Ed Curriculum

Eastern has adopted Educational Testing Service's (ETS) "Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress" (MAPP) to assess the general education curriculum. After reviewing several general education assessment tools, Eastern faculty and academic administrators concluded that MAPP would best meet the assessment needs at Eastern. The

MAPP will be used in place of the Academic Profile Test.

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 stu-

dent learning and the general education curriculum.

Beginning in the spring 2008 semester, students graduating with an associate degree will be required to complete the MAPP test. Eligible students will receive detailed testing information by mail regarding test procedures. Testing will be conducted during assessment week (March 10 – 14).

Celebrate **DIVERSITY** With Us

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in celebration of Black History Month, Eastern will be offering diversity awareness activities throughout the months of January and February. These activities are free to all Eastern students and staff and are also open to the public.

January 24– Movie Night: Martin Luther King: The Man and the Dream, 4:30 p.m. and then again at 6:00 p.m. in room 133. Snacks and Drinks will be provided.

January 31–Movie Night: Martin Luther King: The Man and the Dream, 4:30 p.m. and then again at 6:00 p.m. in room 133. Snacks and Drinks will be provided.

January 28 through February 15–What Does Diversity Mean to You? Essay and Art Contest, open to all High School and College Students. Contest details and rules will be posted in Eastern's Resource Center and can be obtained from Cindy Drumm in room 112 or by emailing her at cdrumm@eastern.wvnet.edu. The Contest is sponsored by Learner Support Services and prizes will be awarded.



EASTERN WV COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

1929 State Road 55
Moorefield, WV 26836
304-434-8000 or 877-982-2322
www.eastern.wvnet.edu

Newsletter comments, suggestions or submissions can be sent to Cindy Drumm at cdrumm@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

"We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams."

~Jimmy Carter



New Year's Resolutions

- To graduate and become better organized. Patricia Combs, Student
- To keep my resolutions! Daniel Silver, Staff writer
- To get a 4.0 next semester. Amy Wimer, Student
- I pray for the whole world to grow closer to God in everything we do and to be able to accomplish what he has for us to be doing. I pray we all receive the help we need to accomplish our goals in life. Theresa Turben, Student
- To save money this year! Amanda Sites, Financial Aid Director
- To be better organized. Patty Goldizen, LSS Coordinator
- Better grades in college and to pass everything. Jessica Funk, Student
- To complete my Bachelor's Degree. Tammy Carr, Payroll Representative
- To stop taking on worries that I have no control over, change back into the carefree mentality of youth and live life to the fullest! Dreama Kelly, Executive Secretary to the President
- To eat to support a healthier diet and lifestyle and to exercise. Grover Duling, Associate Dean for Career Studies and Academic Services
- To watch my weight and stay organized. Malyndia Sager, Student
- To maintain a sense of humor and to go to Mexico! Sharon Gott, Developmental Ed Coordinator and Math Faculty Member
- To only do one job! Monica See, Associate Director of Admissions
- Not to make any more resolutions because I could never keep the previous ones. Robert Eagle, Dean for Academic and Student Services

IMPORTANT DATES

January 14–Eastern Classes Begin

January 14–SGA Meeting at 4:30 in room 133. All Students are welcome to attend.

January 14–18 Add/Drop Week

January 21– Martin Luther King Holiday–College closed

January 24–Movie Night: Martin Luther King: The Man and the Dream, 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in room 133

January 31–Movie Night: Martin Luther King: The Man and the Dream, 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in room 133