



The Student Connection

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Special points of interest:

- Student Government Projects
- Mirkhani named Outstanding Contributor
- Course Evaluation Surveys
- Building Update

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

- Calendar of Events
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Eastern Earns Accreditation: By Daniel Silver (Eastern Staff Writer)

Eastern WV Community and Technical College received formal accreditation as an independent, free-standing community and technical college according to Bob Sisk, the college's interim President.

"I am delighted to inform you of the Commission's action and to congratulate you on this significant achievement," noted Sylvia Manning, President of the Higher Learning Commission, in a letter to Sisk dated October 8, 2008.

The HLC serves as the agency that evaluates and accredits degree-granting colleges and universities on behalf of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which includes over 8,500 public and private schools in 19 states. For current students, and for those thinking about registering at Eastern, the college's new status provides assurance about the quality of Eastern's programs and instructors. It also increases transferability of Eastern's credits to other colleges and

universities throughout West Virginia.

Accreditation also tells employers that job applicants who present Eastern credits on their records, or who have earned Eastern skill set merit, certificates and diplomas, enter the workplace prepared with up-to-date knowledge and skills required at a college "on a level with other institutions of recognized quality that meet the national standards set by the federal Department of Education," said Scott Sherman, Chair of Eastern's Board of Governors. "Gaining accreditation only four years after it first applied as a candidate for such distinction is unusual achievement for any college," noted Sherry Becker-Gorby, Eastern's Associate Dean for Academics and Student Services. "Good Leadership from our board and administration, great faculty and a committed staff made this happen," she said. "And the support of our community and students demonstrated to the commission that Eastern provides quality educational

services and is valued by its community.

"Commitment to our mission is at the core of what we do and how we operate."

For Sharon Gott, Eastern's first full-time faculty member who teaches math and serves as the Coordinator for Developmental Education, "Accreditation confirms the quality of college-level training going on here. It validates all the hard work the faculty and staff have devoted to this community."

Eastern's students also felt gratified that their college earned full accreditation. As Valerie Riggelman, a third semester Early Childhood Development major and President of Eastern's SGA, said, "Accreditation means that as students we can look forward to growing opportunities at Eastern, with more courses and programming. And now the college can hold its own graduation ceremonies right here in the Potomac Highlands."



Eastern's Mirkhani Named "Outstanding Contributor for 2008"

At its annual conference this October in Wheeling, the West Virginia Community College Association presented Eastern's Seyed Mirkhani with a 2008 Outstanding Contributor Award.

Seyed, as he is known around campus, is the Academic Program Director for Business Technologies at Eastern. In his eighth year at the college, Seyed is very soft-spoken, upbeat, and always willing to help students to succeed. His dedication to the college and his

ability to listen and to focus on students' needs has led him to play a key role in the development of Eastern's growing catalog of on-line classes.

"Many of our students have full-time jobs and take care of families," Mirkhani said, "and several years ago it became clear to us that our community was expressing a need for additional flexible programming. So, the internet seemed like a perfect format for many of them to do their coursework at the time and place that is

most convenient for them."

President Sisk describes Seyed best by saying: "For many students, Seyed represents their first point of contact with the college, and one that few will forget. He treats them all with grace and respect, recognizing each student as an individual who possesses a learning capacity and success potential eager for expression."

We congratulate Seyed for being named this year's Outstanding Contributor at Eastern!

SEMESTER EXAMS COMING UP SOON!

What is the best advice when preparing to take your semester exams?

1. Allow yourself plenty of prep-time for your exams.
2. Predict test questions and use your study time wisely.
3. Form a study group with some other dedicated students from your class.
4. Get plenty of rest the night before the exam.
5. Try and relax and do your very best!

Need Extra Help for Math Classes Before Your Semester Exams?

Free Tutoring Services are Available:

Walk-In Tutoring: Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30-3:30

Tuesdays 2:00-5:00

Room 137

English & Math Tutoring: See Vera Shockey in Rm 216

Monday thru Thursday

The West Virginia Bowl is Coming

No, it isn't a January Football Bowl game. We are planning a West Virginia Bowl similar to the Constitution Bowl with the help of SGA. We are hoping to hold the event some time in March or April 2009. Look for sign up sheets sometime after classes begin for the Spring Semester 2009.

Student Government Association Projects:

During the fall, the Student Government Association of Eastern utilizes student, staff, and public support for several projects designed to help promote good-will in the community. This year, they decided to undertake several worthwhile activities:

SGA Food Drive

The Food Drive for non-perishable food items was conducted from October 28th through November 14th, 2008. The SGA requested that students and staff contribute non-perishable food items to help to restock the Inter-Faith Food Pantry. This organization uses this food to help the needy throughout the area. A considerable amount of food was donated and collected for this SGA project and they would like to thank everyone who contributed to this great cause. June Hencke, supervisor for the Inter-Faith Food Pantry, wanted to thank everyone for their generous donations of food items. She said, "These items will allow us to replenish our shelves and permit us to

serve all of those less fortunate families of the area."

SGA Sponsors "Support our Troops"

The SGA is currently sponsoring a "Support our Troops" Drive and is collecting donations of food items and personal hygiene (travel sizes) items to be sent to our troops overseas. If you would like to contribute, please bring your donations into the college at Harco. The SGA has boxes available outside the night desk for your convenience. There is a list of the types of items needed and most preferred by our troops located on these boxes. Please help out this worthy project and help us to send some things to our troops not available to them over there. Collections are being taken through mid-December.

"Holiday Mail for Heroes"

The SGA is also sponsoring "Holiday Mail for Heroes" which is a part of the national project to collect and distrib-

ute one million pieces of holiday mail for our wounded service members as well as veterans and their families. "As we enter this holiday season, it's time to celebrate with family and friends and to remember the tens of thousands of men and women who serve our nation in harm's way and those recovering in military and veteran's hospitals," said Army Colonel Norvell V. Coots, Commander, Walter Reed Health Care System. All holiday cards should be mailed to: **Holiday mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20791. All cards should be post-marked no later than December 10th!**

Please try and help out by sending a card to a member of the armed forces to acknowledge their sacrifices. The holiday season is a very difficult time for our recovering wounded service members and veterans. Many do not have extended families to visit them and they would appreciate receiving your card or letter. Thanks for all of your assistance in helping the SGA to make their projects successful.

Course Evaluation Surveys:

"Your Opinion Can Make a Difference"

The College routinely conducts a number of surveys or other evaluation activities to determine how well courses and programs support student learning. During the last few weeks of the semester, you will

be asked to complete a "Course Evaluation Survey." This is your opportunity to share suggestions, praise and concerns about your classroom experiences at Eastern. Your participation helps us identify our strengths and areas where we may need to improve. Your responses are confidential. Survey

results are reported only as summaries of all combined students' responses or scores. Your participation in the evaluation survey is very important to the College. With your participation, we are able to improve programs and services to better serve the residents of the Potomac Highlands.

Our New Building Update

The new building which will house Eastern WV Community and Technical College is finished and ready for students, but must await the completion of sewer and water. It was originally hoped that the "move" to the new building might have taken place this past summer, but several unforeseen obsta-



cles prevented this from happening.

First, there were some construction delays and next, the uncertainty about completion of the sewer and water part of the project. If all goes well with design changes and actual construction, it could be com-

pleted by March 2009. It is indeed a very beautiful facility overlooking the town of Moorefield, WV just off Corridor H. Moving to this new location into a new building and adding the recent full accreditation status will help to give Eastern and its students their own identity. It will become a very special time to be a student at Eastern WV Community and Technical College!

**EASTERN WV COMMUNITY &
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

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The Student Connection is looking for students who are interested in submitting an article for the Spring newsletter and welcomes additional ideas and suggestions. These items should be submitted to Dave Jones, davidj@eastern.wvnet.edu

**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE
HOLIDAY SEASON!**

READI Is Available for Eastern Students

Have you ever thought about taking a course online? Are you concerned about whether online courses are a good fit for you? Do you wonder if you have adequate computer skills? If you want answers to these questions and others related to becoming a successful student, READI may be able to help you.

READI is an interactive, web-based evaluation which assesses your student success and can help you to decide if online learning is right for you. READI evaluations include: preferred learning style, self-motivation and self discipline, time management skills, reading comprehension, technology skills and typing speed and accuracy.

READI is available to Eastern Students at no charge. If you would like to complete the READI assessment, contact Dave Jones, Student Services Counselor at 434-8000.

**“Finals Brunch
For Students”**

Waffles, juice & coffee will be provided in the Resource Center for students on December 8,9, & 12th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Good luck with finals!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 3	Registration for Spring 2009 begins	Jan 7	Last date for pre-registered students to pay tuition
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving Holiday–No classes		
Dec 1	Classes resume	Jan 9	Registration will end for Spring 2009
Dec 8-12	Final Exams for Eastern courses	Jan 9	Drop for non-payment
		Jan 19	Martin Luther King Holiday College Closed
Dec 16	Final Grades due by 12:00 noon	Jan 20	Classes begin
Dec 24-Jan 2	Holiday Break– College closed	Jan 20-23	Add/Drop period and late registration