



# The Student Connection

Volume 11, Issue 6

A Student Support Services Department Publication

November/December 2009

### *Special points of interest:*

Student Government Projects

Constitution Bowl Results

Course Evaluation Surveys

Paving Update

### **ATTENTION STUDENTS!**

**Calendar of Events**

**Student Reminders**

**Finals Snacks**

**Tutoring Available**

### **Inside this issue:**

*Constitution Bowl Results* 2

*West Virginia Bowl* 2

*SGA Projects* 3

*Course Evaluations* 3

*Paving Update* 3

*Student Reminders* 4

*Calendar of Events* 4

## **Community Colleges To Test A New Accountability System**

While Congress considers an unprecedented \$9 billion in new funding for community colleges in exchange for improved graduation rates, higher education advocates are already working on a new accountability system that will help colleges improve their programs and graduate more students on time and at a lower cost.

The project is being funded with \$1 million in grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Lumina Foundation for Education.

With more than 11 million students attending the nation's 1,200 community colleges, coupled with surging enrollment rates prompted by the recession, many education leaders are concerned about the success of those students and how many will actually go on to earn a degree or credential. Without an accepted accountability system that aligns with the multiple missions of community colleges, measuring progress is difficult, according to officials from

the Gates Foundation and other organizations.

According to federal data, college completion rates for two-year degrees (those who enrolled in two-year colleges and completed their degree within three years) are just 28 percent overall, 26 percent for Hispanics and just 23 percent for African-Americans. There is currently no universal system in place to help college leaders and funders understand how to improve the success of community college students.

"Community colleges recognize that it is time we focus on success and not just access for our students," said George Boggs, President of the American Association of Community Colleges.

"Community colleges must do whatever is necessary to help students obtain the degrees, credentials and training they need to be successful in life and be able to document that success in a meaningful way." Hillary Pennington, director of education and postsecondary success for the Gates Foundation,

says "Our goal is to help more students complete college." "Colleges need accountability systems that will help students maintain, and even accelerate, their effort toward a degree."

A two year pilot project will result in the creation of a voluntary accountability system to be piloted by 20 community colleges by 2011.

The new voluntary accountability system will help community colleges meet President Barack Obama's challenge of boosting community college graduates by 5 million by 2020 by establishing common performance measurements necessary to evaluate an institution's effectiveness. It will help provide feedback on programs and services to which officials should direct resources and will allow them to benchmark each individual college's progress against others. The new measures would also help assure lawmakers and the public that funding for this project is money well spent!



# EASTERN CONSTITUTION BOWL HELD

Eastern held the 5th Annual Constitution Bowl on September 17th at the new campus complex. The Bowl consisted of a game-show format where teams of students were asked questions relating to the United States Constitution. A good crowd was on hand to enjoy learning more about this historic document.

Ben Franklin (a.k.a. Robert Eagle) was the host and moderator for the event. The judges for the contest were Mr. Terry Hulver (former social studies

teacher at East Hardy High) and Mrs. Judy Ball (local State Farm Insurance Agent) who returned for their 2nd season of decision-making.

Three teams participated in the contest and literally amazed the crowd with their knowledge about the Constitution. The winners of the Bowl was Team 1 consisting of Kim Chirchirillo, Valerie Riggelman, Tiffani Reynolds, and Jorge del Torre. 2nd place was taken by Team 3 represented by Spring Brittingham, Jon

Nelson, and Ronald Vance. A close 3rd place was taken by Team 2 comprised of Caleb Feaster, Tyler Sites, and Gidget Yarworth-Sweeney.

All teams were well prepared for the contest and enjoyed the competition. All participants did a wonderful job representing the student body of Eastern in this annual event. It is hoped that even more students will participate in next year's event!

## 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 from 12:00-3:00, Tuesdays from 11:00-4:00, Wednesdays 12:00-2:00, and Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 (check in Resource Center)

English & Math Tutoring: See Vera Shockey in Rm 207

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 2010. Look for sign up sheets sometime after classes begin for the Spring Semester 2010.

## 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 will be conducted from November 2nd through December 18th, 2009. The SGA has requested that students and staff contribute non-perishable food items to help to restock the Inter-Faith Food Pantry of Moorefield and Petersburg. This organization uses this food to help the needy throughout the area. It is hoped that a considerable amount of food will be donated and collected for this SGA project and they would like to thank everyone who wishes to contribute to this great cause.

### SGA Toy Drive for 2009

The SGA will sponsor a “toy”

**drive for underprivileged children of the area beginning on November 18th through December 18th.**

### SGA Tail-Gate Party held on November 18th

A “Tail-Gate” Party for students was held out on the front walk of the Eastern Building from 11:00-2:00 on Wednesday, November 18th. Hotdogs, chips, cookies, and drinks were served by SGA officers Michele Turner, President and Valerie Riggelman, Vice-President to all student attending classes that day. Students were very appreciative of this student government activity.

### “Holiday Mail for Heroes”

The SGA is also sponsoring “Holiday Mail for Heroes” which is a part of the national project to collect and distribute 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 (Paving)

Students were greeted for Fall classes 2009 with a new facility to house Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College. However, the road leading to our new building remained unpaved. Yes, it was a stone-based road which became very dusty and rough as time progressed into first



semester. However, Eastern’s Administration and the Board of Directors were determined to get the road paved before winter arrived.

Teaming up with the West Virginia Division of Highways and Belt Construction, the new road was graded and prepared for paving in late October. By the third week of November, Belt

Construction had successfully paved our new road including the painted lines.

Students are elated to have not only a new building, but a first-class road leading them to it.

We would like to thank the Eastern Administration and Board for a job well done!

**EASTERN WV COMMUNITY &  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

316 Eastern Drive  
Moorefield, WV 26836

Phone: 304-434-8000 or toll free at 877-982-2322

Fax: 304-434-7000

Website: [www.easternwv.edu](http://www.easternwv.edu)

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](mailto:davidj@eastern.wvnet.edu)

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

**Eastern Student Reminders:**

1. Students are reminded that Eastern is now processing all student data via your generated student ID number. New Photo ID's were taken this past fall and will continue to be taken for new students entering Eastern for the Spring Semester 2010. It is important to carry this ID with you when you are coming to the Eastern campus.
2. 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 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.

**“Finals Snacks  
For Students”**

Snacks including crackers, chips, cookies & drinks will be provided upstairs in the break area on December 14,15, & 16th for all students. Good luck with finals!

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Nov 2	Registration for Spring 2010 begins	Jan 6	Last date for pre-registered students to pay tuition
Nov 23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday–No classes	Jan 8	Registration will end for Spring 2010
Nov. 30	Classes resume	Jan 8	Drop for non-payment
Dec 14-18	Final Exams for Eastern courses	Jan 18	Martin Luther King Holiday College Closed
Dec 22	Final Grades due by 12:00 noon	Jan 19	Classes begin
Dec 23-Jan 3	Holiday Break– College closed	Jan 19-22	Add/Drop period and late registration