



The Student Connection

WELCOME BACK!

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Meeting scheduled on wind energy jobs by Eastern And New Challenges Faced by Community Colleges

(From The Cumberland Times-News, January 10, 2010 by Daniel Silver, Eastern Staff Writer) Moorefield, WV.

Along the wind-swept, mountain ridges of the Allegheny Front, have you ever seen the towering turbines blossoming like gigantic trilliums, or enormous walking irises? Have you heard much about Wind Energy? Are you aware that the industry is taking root and growing swiftly in the Potomac Highlands and surrounding regions?

Like any blooming patch, these steel and fiberglass gardens need careful tending—and to qualify for those high-wage, trouble-shooting jobs, wind farm tenders need special technical skills.

At an open Community Wind Energy Jobs Meeting set for Jan. 20, representatives from Eastern WV Community & Technical College will talk about those special skills, and explain how local residents can acquire them in a new training program close to home.

“Some of those jobs are already here, and we know that many more are coming to our area,” said Ward Malcolm, developer and lead faculty of Eastern’s new Wind Energy Turbine Technology program. Malcolm will head up the informal meeting, scheduled at Moorefield’s South Branch Inn from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and he emphasized that anyone with any interest in the field — man or woman — is welcome to attend and get information and ask questions.

\$17/Hour Plus Benefits

“With some 450 wind turbines currently producing energy or under construction in our four-state area, and another 502 turbines proposed or now involved in the permitting process,” he said “industry managers in this region foresee a need for some 60 new turbine service technicians every year.”

Entry-level wind turbine service technicians start at around \$17 per hour with comprehensive benefits included, according to wind energy experts and published help-wanted ads. We’ll talk about the kinds of work experience or previous learning folks should have for this training,” Malcolm said, “and for those who don’t already have it, how we can help them to get it.”

For more information about Eastern’s Wind Energy Jobs Meeting, its wind energy turbine technology training program, or financial aid opportunities, call (304) 434-8000 or call toll-free 877-982-2322.



Colleges Squeezed as Enrollments Rise and Resources Shrink:

In 2009, colleges large and small were being squeezed between sharply increasing enrollments and significant reductions in financial resources. Some colleges were capping enrollments, undermining their open-access mission. Others resorted to holding classes late at night or on weekends. Colleges, in short, were bursting at the seams and being asked to do more with less. “The financial strain that our colleges are experiencing cannot be overemphasized” according to George Boggs, President of the American Association of Community Colleges. A study by the Education Policy Center at the University of Alabama found that despite unprecedented praise and attention, community colleges faced deep mid-year budget cuts. Even though the Obama Administration’s Recovery and Relief Act of 2009 — the stimulus package — provided billions of dollars in relief to states, many have continued to have budget cuts. In West Virginia, Governor Manchin has proposed budget cuts to higher education including community colleges, but it is uncertain at this time to ascertain the gravity of such cuts.

Obama Moves To Reshape College Financial Aid System:

While Obama’s health-care goals have commanded most of the attention from lawmakers and the media in 2009, his **higher education proposals** were almost as ambitious. The President wants to transform the financial aid system for millions of students while greatly expanding the federal role on paying for higher education. At the center of his efforts are plans to expand the Pell Grant program for low-income students, making it an entitlement akin to Medicare and Social Security. Key to the effort is a consolidation of student lending that would give the U.S. Department of Education control of the system. The plan also gradually increases the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,731 a year to \$5,500. The House has passed the plan, while the Senate has yet to take it up. Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, told The Washington Post, “the president’s administration plans for improving financial aid are the most fundamental rewriting of federal student aid policy in some 35 years.” According to Hartle, “these are very big changes!”



FAFSA RENEWAL WORKSHOP

Are you planning to enroll full time during the fall 2010 semester? Will you have your 2009 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 early 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." All workshops will be in Room 204: Jan. 26 (4:30-5:30 p.m.), Jan. 29 (10:00-11:00 a.m.), Feb. 2 (4:30-5:30 p.m.), Feb. 10 (2:00-3:00 p.m.), Feb. 19 (9-10 a.m.), Feb. 23 (4:30-5:30 p.m.), March 3 (2-3 p.m.), Mar. 12 (9-10 a.m.), Mar. 16 (4:30-5:30 p.m.), Mar. 24 (4:30-5:30 p.m.), Apr. 9 (9-10 a.m.), Apr. 13 (4:30-5:30 p.m.), Apr. 21 (4:30-5:30 p.m.), and Apr. 30 (9-10 a.m.).

To register, Contact Patty Goldizen at 304-434-8000, ext. 261.

Each student will need to bring with them their completed 2009 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, see the counselor in room 101 C. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2010 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 the counselor in room 101C. 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 202 D 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. EWVCTC pro-

vides the following library services:

Electronic Databases: InfoTrac—Contact the Academic Services Coordinator at the Eastern 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, Under Student Services section, Eastern Library Services 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 March/April, 2010. If you have any questions, contact Monica See in Learner Support.

Eastern Student Reminders

- 1. Student accounts and ID's:** Please use your Student ID and Password on our website at least once per month to avoid having it disabled. Log on to the Eastern website (www.eastern.wvnet.edu) Click on Student Services first, drop down to Transcripts, click on Transcripts and follow the directions carefully.
- 2. Student Photo-ID's** will be taken beginning on Tuesday, January 19th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and continuing Wednesday, and Thursday at the same time of 4:00-8:00 p.m. On Friday, ID's will be taken from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Beginning on Monday, January 25th, the photo sessions will

resume and continue each day from 4:00-8:00 p.m., except Fridays which will be scheduled for 12:00-3:00 p.m. The Monday-Friday schedule will continue until further notice!

- 3. Please remember to check out the Eastern Community and Technical College Facebook Page and to become a fan.** We will be posting announcements and events of importance up there for everyone to see.

Plan on checking it out soon!

- 4. Good luck and have a great semester!**

EASTERN WV COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

316 Eastern Drive
Moorefield, WV 26836
304-434-8000 or 877-982-2322
www.eastern.wvnet.edu

Newsletter comments, suggestions or submissions can be sent to Dave Jones at 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

"WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF YOUR ROPE, TIE A KNOT IN IT AND HANG ON TIGHT —"

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



NEED HELP WITH CLASSES?

FREE DROP-IN TUTORING IS AVAILABLE NOW!

Drop in on Mondays 12:00-4:00 p.m. & Tuesdays 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & Thursdays from 11:00-2:30 p.m. in the Resource Center for assistance with Basic Math, Introductory and College Algebra. English & Reading Assistance: Drop-in to Rm. 102a on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. & Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday: See Vera Shockey in Room 207 in ABE for assistance in Basic Math, Reading, or English.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 19—Eastern Classes Begin
January 19-22 Add/Drop Week
March 8-15 Assessment Week
March 15-19 Spring Break
March 22 Classes resume

April 1 Registration for Summer 2010 and Fall 2010 Begins
April 9 Last Day To Withdraw with a Grade of "W"
May 1 Deadline for Graduation for Fall 2010
May 10-14 Semester Exams