



# Eastern-in-the-News



## STUDENT LOAN BILL PASSES CONGRESS IN TIME FOR FALL REGISTRATION AT EASTERN

**Moorefield — July 3, 2012** — In a burst of bipartisan patriotism just in time for the 4th of July, Congress has passed the student loan bill. So now, interest rates on Stafford student loans won't double from the current low rates of 3.4-percent. That's good news for everyone thinking about registering for college this coming fall semester.

At Eastern WV Community and Technical College, financial aid advisors will work with all new and returning students to secure the best possible student aid package available. In addition to low-interest loans, aid includes grants, scholarships and work-study plans, depending on individual qualifications and family income.

"At Eastern, our working conviction is that everybody who wants to go to college deserves that chance," said Amanda Sites, Eastern's Director for Financial Aid, "and we pledge to work with every individual applicant to make sure that she or he gets every bit of financial aid possible."

Registration for fall semester is open at Eastern, and the college is looking forward to another semester of rising enrollment. "For several years running, now, we've set record fall enrollments," noted President Charles 'Chuck' Terrell.

"And we believe it's not a coincidence that our graduating classes have grown steadily each year as well, because empowering students to earn a college credential, a certificate or a diploma — having them succeed and complete their college program — is one of Eastern's vital goals."

Eastern continues to build a reputation as the go-to college especially for students who like individual attention from faculty, staff and administrators.

In her 2012 commencement address last May, Eastern's graduate speaker, Melissa Shank, emphasized, "I love that the staff knows me by name, so I'm not just some number on a piece of paper or in the computer."

"Eastern staff and teachers believe that our success as educators depends in good measure on our ability to know our students individually," said Deb Backus, Eastern's Academic Program Director for General Education & Instruction. "We like to understand where they come from and what they want, what their goals are in school and in life."

In addition to a full range of courses and majors, the college offers a strong tutoring program, with in-person tutors and online resources, at both regularly scheduled hours and by special appointment. "Whenever our students feel that they might benefit from individual help and attention, it's always available for them," Backus said.

Eastern also caters to adult students who might have been out of school for some while, and who have gained skills and knowledge through their life and work experience. "The WV Board of Governors Adult Completion Degree allows students to convert life experience and job training to college credit where appropriate," noted Amy Crites, Eastern's Student Services Specialist.

Through this statewide program, adult students with a diverse range of life and educational experiences may put together a foundation of academic courses with credits earned through prior learning experiences to set up an individually-tailored associate degree program. As such, the Board of Governors A.A.S. is just one of Eastern's programs designed to graduate students who are prepared to become active and socially responsible members of their communities and in their workplaces.

For more information about Eastern's financial aid opportunities, registration, programs of study, workforce training and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College's website: "[www.easternwv.edu](http://www.easternwv.edu)".

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, and fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.