



West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

Higher Education
News Clippings

Week of March 15, 2009

March 18, 2009

Education Experts to Visit the Capitol Friday

Panel of higher education experts to discuss the future as part of Higher Education Day

CHARLESTON -- A panel of experts will visit the state's Capitol this Friday to discuss the future of higher education in West Virginia. The forum is part of this year's Chancellor's Lecture Series. The event begins at 1 p.m. in the State Theater of the Cultural Center on the State Capitol Complex, and is free and open to the public.

Panelists include Dr. Thomas Layzell, former president of the Kentucky Council of Postsecondary Education; Richard Novak, senior vice president of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges' Ingram Center for Public Trusteeship and Governance; and Dr. Clifford Trump, former chancellor of the State College System of West Virginia.

Dr. Brian Noland, chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), will host the series. He hopes the public forum will generate new, fresh ideas to help address both the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in West Virginia.

"The Chancellor's Lecture Series enables us to bring in speakers who can help us improve the state's higher education system," said Noland. "I'm particularly pleased that for the event on Friday we were able to assemble a group of such highly regarded panelists to discuss the future of postsecondary education from both national and state vantage points. I encourage anyone with an interest in education in West Virginia to attend and participate in the dialogue."

The Chancellor's Lecture Series is part of the activities planned for Higher Education Day at the Legislature, hosted by Noland and Jim Skidmore, chancellor of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (CTCE). Higher Education Day is designed to salute West Virginia's higher education institutions and to inform potential students, policymakers and the general public about postsecondary educational opportunities.

College and university displays will be available from 9 a.m. to noon in the Upper Rotunda of the State Capitol. Each institution will distribute information and have representatives on hand to answer questions.

Participating institutions will include Alderson-Broaddus College, Appalachian Bible College, Bethany College, Bluefield State College, Blue Ridge CTC, CTC of WVU Institute of Technology, Concord University, Davis & Elkins College, Eastern West Virginia CTC, Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, Marshall CTC, Marshall University, Mountain State University, New River CTC, Ohio Valley University, Pierpont CTC, Potomac State College of West Virginia University, Shepherd University, Southern West Virginia CTC, University of Charleston, West Liberty State College, West

Virginia Northern Community College, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia State CTC, West Virginia State University, West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Wheeling Jesuit University. The HEPC's Division of Science and Research, Office of Financial Aid and Outreach Services, West Virginia GEAR UP, and West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing (WVNET) also will have displays.

At 10 a.m. in the Governor's Reception Room, Governor Joe Manchin III will present Noland, Skidmore, and the college and university presidents with a proclamation declaring March 20, 2009, as Higher Education Day. Similar ceremonies will take place in the House and Senate chambers later in the morning.



March 15, 2009

Campus Buzz

Legislators: Keep your PROMISE

By Karen Snyder

WEST VIRGINIA STATE LEGISLATORS are considering two bills that will again limit the number of students who receive the PROMISE Scholarship, as well as the amount of aid the scholarship will offer.

The first bill would cap the amount each student receives at \$4,500 per year. The second would revoke the scholarships of students who are convicted of two or more violations regarding the illegal possession of alcohol, narcotics or prescription drugs.

Though I agree with repercussions for students who consistently engage in illegal behavior, both pieces of legislation are signs of the times.

The PROMISE Scholarship is facing extinction. It's a plan the state has been working on since the scholarship's victor, Gov. Bob Wise, left office.

Year after year, legislators raised academic requirements to limit the number of students eligible. It slowly defeated the program's purpose, which was to provide higher education to in-state students who couldn't afford college otherwise — the same students who may not have top-notch grade point averages and standardized test scores.

Its second purpose was to encourage students to remain in West Virginia after graduation. In that vein, the state even considered making the PROMISE a forgivable loan, one that would only be repaid if a student chose to leave the state within a given period of time.

Sadly, the Legislature now considers two more bills that are inevitably steps to put the scholarship to rest — for good.

The reasons make sense: The economy is failing. Higher education is becoming more and more expensive. And eventually, funding won't cover the costs.

But the arguments to keep the PROMISE are just as convincing: To survive a failing economy, students need a degree and a better paying job — even if that means leaving their home state. Higher education is becoming more expensive, so there should be more efforts made to give scholarships to deserving students. With the proposed cap, PROMISE would no longer pay for a year's worth of tuition and mandatory fees at WVU, which currently stands at \$5,100, said Brian Hoover, assistant director for financial aid and scholarships.

According to Hoover, there are currently more than 4,100 PROMISE scholars enrolled at WVU, the most expensive public school in the state. And the staff of the

Scholars Office has logical concerns that the cap would cause students to look elsewhere for a college education.

Perhaps the state should consider alternatives to capping the aid given to students.

My suggestion? Lower the academic requirements to a more attainable goal for low-income students and make the scholarship need-based.

Problem solved. PROMISE kept.

KAREN SNYDER is a senior journalism student at WVU. She can be reached at campuslife@dominionpost.com.

March 17, 2009

WVU still hasn't signed contract with new president

By The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- More than 10 days after it picked him as its new president, West Virginia University has yet to sign a contract with James P. Clements.

Clements, the provost at Maryland's Towson University, won the job March 6. It came open last summer when former President Mike Garrison resigned over a master's degree scandal involving Gov. Joe Manchin's daughter.

WVU spokesman Dan Kim said Tuesday a few details are still being worked out, but the contract may be available within a week. It will be posted on the university's Web site when it's available.

Clements takes over June 30 from interim President Peter Magrath, who has served since last July.

The Board of Governors agreed to pay Clements \$450,000 a year, about \$195,000 more than Garrison.



March 15, 2009

WVU opens a Washington, D.C., office Offers a place to meet lawmakers, and hold meetings

BY CASSIE SHANER The Dominion Post

A new office in Washington, D.C., will help improve relationships with legislators and federal agencies to boost research at WVU, officials said this week.

Curt Peterson, vice president of research and economic development for WVU and president of the WVU Research Corp., said the Office for Congressional and Federal Relations has been operational for about a month. It's located in the Hall of the States, a 225,000-square-foot complex that houses offices for more than 100 states, schools and organizations.

WVU's single office is only big enough for a few people to meet, but Peterson said it's in a suite of offices operated by Cornell University that includes access to larger conference rooms and printing and copying services.

WVU will pay about \$7,000 a year to lease the space, which is just a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol building.

"It's a great location, and it's a great facility for conferences and meetings," interim WVU President C. Peter Magrath said at a Faculty Senate meeting Monday. "It will strengthen our efforts to work with our delegation."

Peterson said the office will be available to all WVU employees who are in town to attend meetings, hearings and testimony on federal agency issues, such as climate change or other important research topics of interest to WVU.

Magrath said it will be available to faculty, too, but Peterson said it will primarily be used by Mary Bowman, coordinator of legislative affairs for the WVU Research Corp.

"She spends the most time in D.C. and on congressional relations," Peterson said.

WVU has no plans to hire someone to staff the office fulltime. However, Peterson said he plans to meet with WVU President-elect James P. Clements to determine how to make efficient use of the space.

"If WVU intends to be a major player in solving important societal issues, we have to have a presence in D.C.," Peterson said. "That's what we intend to do."

Magrath and Jay Cole, Magrath's interim chief of staff, both took a leave of absence from the College Board — a national nonprofit membership association composed of more than 5,400 schools, colleges and universities, and located in Washington, D.C. — to come to WVU temporarily.

Cole served as director of federal policy for the College Board, while Magrath worked as a senior presidential adviser.

Magrath said last week that he plans to return to that post after Clements takes over on June 30, and WVU spokesman Dan Kim said Cole will likely do the same. He will not work at WVU's research office, Kim said.

"Jay has been a strong advocate for WVU having an office in D.C., since it will provide us with a home base at the nation's capital, making it easier for us to work effectively with the West Virginia legislative delegation, federal agencies and on grant opportunities," Kim said. "But there are no plans for him to have an office there himself."

News and Sentinel

Parkersburg

March 15, 2009

EDITORIAL

WVU-P School needs to look ahead

With Gov. Joe Manchin now involved in the contract dispute between West Virginia University and West Virginia University at Parkersburg, we have no doubt the situation will soon be resolved.

However, we question why the situation got to this point and why it is taking the governor's intervention to push for a resolution.

We also wonder what long-term ramifications this will have for WVU-P.

During a WVU-P Board of Governors meeting last Wednesday evening, it was announced that despite several attempts locally, WVU has not contacted the Parkersburg campus about renewing its affiliation for the upcoming year.

The existing contract expires June 30.

Apparently, WVU has ignored every communication by WVU-P administrators and board members, including e-mails, calls, letters-and even a visit to Morgantown by WVU-P Board Chairman Joe Campbell-about the situation.

This puts the school in an extremely difficult position. There is no question WVU-P has benefited from its relationship with the state's flagship university. Since the link, attendance is higher now than at anytime in the school's history. The school now offers both two- and four-year degrees in many fields, allowing area students to receive a quality education while staying closer to home, thus making college affordable for many who otherwise would be unable to attend.

The question becomes, then, could WVU-P keep the status quo or expand without being under West Virginia University's umbrella? The answer probably is yes. According to WVU-P spokeswoman Connie Dziagwa, none of WVU-P's two- or four-year programs would be lost.

"Those programs are ours, not WVU's," she said.

The name, however, is not. How would losing the WVU affiliation-and name-affect enrollment in the future?

The WVU-P has come a long way in the past decade. If forced, we feel it could stand on its own two legs. However, it will take a longer than between now and June 30 to strengthen those legs.

We appreciate Manchin's becoming involved in this matter and hope his involvement pushes the people in Morgantown to quick action. However, WVU-P officials need to

know if this is going to be a long-term relationship, or if this problem is going to reappear everytime a new contract is due.

If this is going to be a continuing problem, WVU-P's administrators and board of directors may need to start planning for the school's future-possibly without WVU.



March 19, 2009 10:29 pm

Senator opposes community-technical merger

By Mannix Porterfield, REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

CHARLESTON — A move is afoot in the Senate to merge community and technical colleges at WVU Tech and West Virginia State under a single umbrella, prompting opposition by freshman Sen. Bill Laird.

Laird voiced criticism when SB536 appeared and was subsequently approved by the Senate Education Committee.

His opposition was couched in what he perceives as potential harm to WVU Tech in his 11th District.

"It's certainly not in the long-term interests of WVU Tech," Laird, D-Fayette, said Thursday, noting the measure also would affect the community and technical college at West Virginia State.

"There's been a tremendous amount of instability at that institution in the last 10 years," he said of the Montgomery institution.

"I think we have a tendency to want to redefine higher education in West Virginia periodically. I think the shifts in terms of state mandates have resulted in a very unstable environment and, in fact, contributed to the declining enrollment at that institution."

Under the bill, the two community colleges would be combined with a common board to govern them, along with a single president.

"This would be done with the belief that perhaps there could be more coordination in the programs regionally," Laird said.

"I think a lot of this occurred at Tech, resulting from, first, being a branch campus at West Virginia University, and then it became a division of WVU."

Not long ago, the legislative auditor's office criticized Tech for passing out residential waivers, saying the idea failed to generate an anticipated upswing in student registration.

Laird said the sensible approach, as he views higher education, is to have the two programs — the four-year school and the community-technical college — complement each other rather than function with separate missions on a common campus.

Laird said he is contemplating a bill providing for reunification of the community-technical college with the four-year school.

That way, he said, a bridge would be devised to span the two schools.

MCTC, Marshall go separate ways

CHRISTIAN ALEXANDERSEN, The Herald-Dispatch

HUNTINGTON -- Marshall Community & Technical College will be making several changes from its name to its online course structure following its Board of Governors approval of a separation agreement with Marshall University on Friday morning.

The board voted unanimously for the agreement at its monthly meeting in Cabell Hall in Huntington.

Marshall's Board of Governors approved the agreement at its meeting March 12, but declined to release details until MCTC approved it as well.

According to agreement, MCTC has agreed to remove any reference to Marshall University and John Marshall and change their name by July 1, 2010. The community and technical college has reserved the branding acronym "MCTC."

"There's a lot of emotion associated with our name change," said MCTC President Keith Cotroneo. "We wanted to support the university's desire and now we're moving forward."

Though the board expressed concerns about changing the name, Sue Richardson, chairwoman of the MCTC board, said "Marshall was Marshall long before we came along."

"It is in the best interest of both Marshall University and the CTC to have a separate identity," said Bill Bissett, Marshall's chief of staff. "With both institutions having different missions and prospective students ... having a clear understanding of these two separate institutions is important."

"It's great to see this process reach an ending point, and we will continue to work with them as the deadlines approach," Bissett added.

Cotroneo compared MCTC's future efforts to change its name to that of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in Martinsburg, W.Va. West Virginia State Community and Technical College is also going through the process of changing its name, following 2008 legislation that made each community and technical college separate from its parent university.

Cotroneo said he expects to follow Blue Ridge's lead and set up meetings to work with the faculty, students and different members of the community to come up with a new name. MCTC is also considering using a consultant to come up with a new name and to set up the community meetings.

Unsure about how far the limitations of using anything copyrighted by the university, the MCTC board is considering changing or modifying the school's colors.

Richardson said the agreement was "not what the university wanted to have and not what (MCTC) wanted to have." The agreement, Richardson said, was a compromise with both entities benefiting.

MCTC will continue to use the Community and Technical College Building and are now given unrestricted use of Hodges Hall, both on Marshall University's campus. The community and technical college will continue to use Cabell Hall, located at the intersection of 20th Street and 7th Avenue, the adjacent parking area and the parking lot across the street.

Jeff Porter, MCTC's chairman of the Finance and Facilities Committee, said the university has deeded vacant property located at 2124 5th Avenue to the MCTC board. The university has also agreed to pay MCTC \$3.5 million over 10 years for several properties along 5th Avenue.

Bissett said Marshall has not announced their plans for the property.

Richardson said MCTC is still studying possible locations for its own facility. She said MCTC's efforts have been considerable during the process.

For the fiscal year 2010, MCTC has agreed to pay the university approximately \$108,750 per semester for 725 full-time, on-campus students for use of their recreation center. Full-time Marshall and MCTC students will be assessed at the same rates for the duration of the 30-year bond.

MCTC students are expected to pay \$150 per semester for use of the recreation center.

Both institutions have agreed to allow the university to retain all fees from MCTC students who used E-Courses on MU On-Line during the fall and spring semesters in 2008 and 2009. MCTC, however, will be assessing all its own fees for E-Courses in the future, Richardson said.

The joint agreement comes after a bill was passed by the state Legislature in 2008 , forcing academically and administratively linked universities and community & technical colleges to work out a separation plan.

Cotroneo said he's pleased with the agreement and believes each institution came to a compromise.

"Overall I think the agreement is balanced," Cotroneo said. "Given our circumstance, it's fair."

Highlights from the agreement

Here are highlights of the settlement terms between Marshall University and Marshall Community & Technical College. To read more terms, go to www.herald-dispatch.com.

NAME CHANGE: MCTC will be required to remove Marshall from all of its existing property and advertising by July 1, 2010. Any new advertising or signage may no longer use the Marshall name.

PROPERTY ASSETS: Marshall University will give property in the 2000 block of 5th Avenue to MCTC, then purchase the property for \$3.5 million, which will be paid over 10

years. MCTC will keep Cabell Hall, located at 7th Avenue and 20th Street and a lot at 2124 5th Avenue, which is between McDonald's and Wendy's.

RECREATION CENTER FEE: For the fiscal year 2010, MCTC has agreed to pay the university approximately \$108,750 per semester for 725 full-time, on-campus students for use of MU's recreation center. Full-time Marshall and MCTC students will be assessed at the same rates for the duration of the 30-year bond that was issued to pay for construction of the new center.

MCTC students are expected to pay \$150 per semester for use of the recreation center.

SERVICE AGREEMENT: MCTC will pay Marshall \$3,285,000 for administrative and support services for fiscal year 2009. After that, Marshall will invoice MCTC for use of these services on a monthly basis.

E-COURSES: The university will retain all fees from MCTC students who used E-Courses on MU On-Line during the fall and spring semesters in 2008 and 2009. MCTC, however, will assess all its own fees for E-Courses in the future.

NEW SPACE: Additional office and instructional space will be honored until MCTC has relocated. The current MCTC building and Hodges Hall will be available for continued use.



March 18, 2009

Three finalists for FSU presidency selected Series of forums slated next week

By Katie Wilson, Times West Virginian

FAIRMONT — And it's down to three.

On Tuesday, Fairmont State University's presidential search committee announced the three finalists selected for the school's top job.

"I am pleased to report that three outstanding finalists have been selected," said Andy Kniceley, chairman of the Presidential Search Committee and chairman of the FSU Board of Governors.

The three finalists come from around the country.

They are:

- Dr. Charles F. Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, professor of economics and finance and university honors faculty at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in Pembroke, N.C.
- Dr. Sharon Davidson Hoffman, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Clayton State University in Morrow, Ga.
- Dr. Thomas L. Krepel, assistant to the president of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill.

A subcommittee of the Presidential Search Committee and FSU Interim President Charles J. McClain interviewed five semifinalists at the Pittsburgh Airport Hotel on March 13 and 14.

Kniceley is enthusiastic about all three candidates, explaining he believes all three would be able to lead FSU into the future.

"We are extremely excited in regard to the quality of the three finalists that we have selected — any one of which is more than capable to lead Fairmont State University to greater excellence," Kniceley said.

The three will appear at FSU's main campus for a series of forums next week. Hoffman will arrive on Tuesday, Harrington on Wednesday and Krepel on Thursday.

All forums will take place in the third-floor conference area of the Falcon Center. The schedule will be as follows:

- 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Community and alumni.

- 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. FSU classified and non-classified staff.
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Presidential search committee and FSU Board of Governors.
- 1:15 - 2 p.m. FSU students.
- 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. FSU faculty.

On Friday, March 27, the presidential search committee will meet at 10 a.m. to make a recommendation to the board of governors, who will meet at noon. The BOG will vote to authorize Kniceley to negotiate a contract with the selected candidate pending approval of the Higher Education Policy Commission. As it did with the West Virginia University presidential search, the HEPC will schedule an emergency meeting to act on the board of governors' request for approval.

Fairmont State's presidential search began July when former President Dan Bradley left to become the president of Indiana State University.

Early in the search process, the FSU governing board chose the Parker Executive Search firm to assist with the search process.

McClain has served as the interim president since August.

For more information about the FSU presidential search, the university has a Web site dedicated to the search process at www.fairmontstate.edu/presidentialsearch.

March 19, 2009

Chemical Alliance Zone Looks to Grow With Small Businesses

Story by Ann Ali

The Chemical Alliance Zone and a coalition of partners, including Marshall University, West Virginia University, the INNOVA Commercialization Group and the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center, expect to unveil this week a strategic plan for technology-based economic development.

CHARLESTON -- For years, when people thought about the chemical industry, the image that popped into mind was one of big companies with big facilities employing hundreds if not thousands of people.

But these days, the image is changing.

In addition to trying to court large corporations, the Chemical Alliance Zone is working with a plethora of other organizations and agencies to foster more small businesses and entrepreneurial endeavors in West Virginia's chemical industry.

To further that goal, CAZ and a coalition of partners, including Marshall University, West Virginia University, the INNOVA Commercialization Group and the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center, are expected to unveil March 19 a strategic plan for technology-based economic development, according to Kevin DiGregorio, CAZ's executive director.

"We're more than just the chemical industry," he said.

DiGregorio also said the group has been busy with the West Virginia Coalition for Technology-Based Economic Development, or TechConnect West Virginia.

"The word coalition is real," he said.

DiGregorio said the nonprofit organization, which was created in 1999 to combine efforts to support the state's chemical industry, recently extended the zone to reach up to New Martinsville.

"We work statewide anyway, but it really helps the people there with some tax incentives," he said. "There's two facilities there we try to market — the PPG Natrium Plant and Bayer Material Science New Martinsville Industrial Park."

The collaborative of citizens, labor leaders, educators, government officials, chemical executives and business leaders claims to be responsible for more than 10,000 direct jobs and more than 45,500 indirect jobs in the state.

DiGregorio said the CAZ constantly works with the West Virginia Development Office and the Charleston Area Alliance to court chemical companies. He said he's going to a chemical trade show in Munich, Germany, in May.

"We have low energy cost, we have a citizenry that accepts the chemical industry, we have public officials who are very accessible and who work well with the chemical industry, and we have facilities like at DuPont in Belle and PPG in New Martinsville," DiGregorio said. "A big advantage is the available land and so forth, so somebody who wants to build a chemical plant — they don't have to erect roads.

"All the facilities are there. They can share costs, and those companies work with us very well; we are all looking for investments."

The CAZ's Biotechnology and Allied Sciences Incubation Center currently has five companies looking to get a foot in the state's door. And it is always on the lookout for additional companies to work with, DiGregorio said.

"I was on the phone today with a couple of folks about a potential investment," said. "It may never come to pass, but these things happen all the time."

DiGregorio said he tends to look at the economic situation as a half-full glass.

"The half full, as weird as it sounds, is it does give you potential for maybe some funding to do some things," he said. "Long-term jobs need to be in technology. It's not just the stimulus, it's also in terms of long-term energy research, and we're hoping those kinds of things might provide us an opportunity to do things that will help revitalize the high-tech industry in the Kanawha Valley and really, the state."

He said the chemical industry has declined and shrunk over the years in West Virginia along with the nation, and all a person can do is make the best of a situation.

"The big winner recently has been Kureha, which moved into the DuPont Belle site," DiGregorio said. "We continue to work with the Development Office and others for development potential.

"It's kind of a long-term game when you're doing this."

DiGregorio said while West Virginia is a geographically diverse state, it can be bridged.

"There are a lot of mountains to climb to get from the Eastern Panhandle to Huntington, but one of the good things is we all know each other and see each other at the same meetings," he said. It's all about communications and relationships. "That goes a long way to getting things done and collaborating."