A total of 388 WVNCC students were provisionally graduated during commencement exercises on May 9 in WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling. The graduates earned 434 degrees or certificates because some of them received more than one degree or certificate.

The commencement's main address was delivered by Joe Eddy, president and chief executive officer of Eagle Manufacturing Co. in Wellsburg.

Valedictorian for the class of 2014 is Hayley Argentine of Richmond, OH. Prior to her remarks, Argentine was given the Donald D. Nemanich and Sarah O. Bodkin Academic Excellence Award. The award is given by the faculty at Northern to honor the memory of two of their colleagues who died at early ages, leaving a legacy of classroom excellence.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to David Hanes, of Sherrard, a 2002 Northern graduate who now is director of information technology at WVNCC.

Other speakers included Sigourney Kokosinski, of Wellsburg, Student Government Association president, who offered greetings on behalf of students, and Kathy Herrington, professor of psychology, sociology and human services, and president of the Faculty Assembly, who brought greetings on behalf of faculty. President Olshinsky provided the welcome and introductions. Dr. Riley, VPAA, and Dr. Darrell Cummings, president of the WVNCC Board of Governors, conferred degrees and certificates.

Daughter of Todd and Sandy Argentine, the valedictorian graduated with an associate of applied science degree in radiography. The 2011 graduate of Edison High School attended the University of Akron for a year before enrolling at WVNCC with the goal of becoming a radiologic technologist. She consistently made President’s List academic honors during her career at Northern.

Argentine is a member of Who’s Who Among American College Students and also is a member of the West Virginia Society of Radiologic Technologists. She says she spends her leisure time with family and friends.

Hanes graduated from Union Local High School in 1989, said he was not ready for college and instead entered the U.S. Air Force where he worked in computer operations. In 1992, he joined IBM in La Jolla, CA, and from 1993-97 worked for General Bottlers in Toledo, OH.

The distinguished alumnus then returned to the Ohio Valley, working in computer operations for Uniscribe Professional Services in Warwood from 1998-99. After graduating from Northern, where he was named to Phi Theta Kappa, the academic honorary for two-year institutions, and to “Who’s Who,” he joined the college's computer operations staff in 2003. For a year prior to that, he served as a counselor at the Children’s Home of Wheeling.

As a volunteer, Hanes has worked with Wheeling Catholic Elementary School, helping to set up and maintain its computer networks, and with Macedonia Baptist churches teaching computer usage. Also, he is an advisor for the WVNCC Computer Club. David admits that he will help “anyone who asks” who has a computer challenge.
Cap & Gown Winners
The WVNCC Institutional Research department held a drawing and gave away two complete cap and gown packages as part of its incentive for students to complete their graduating student survey.

According to Pam Woods, director of institutional research, in order to be eligible graduates had to complete their graduating student survey by April 30 and enter all their contact information. The drawing was held on May 1.

The two winners were Brittany Batton from the New Martinsville campus and Natasha Kowalczyk from the Weirton campus. Woods said, “Both graduates were very grateful for the opportunity and pleased with the outcome. This is the second year that the IR department has held this drawing and both years were very successful and we are planning on doing this again next year.”

Thank you to everyone for making Commencement 2014 a Success!

1. Lisa Ingram takes a moment to hug her daughter Lyndsey after receiving her diploma. 2. Officer Faldowski and Ida Williams help the students prepare for their commencement walk. 3. Hilary Curto takes a moment from photographing students to congratulate her best friend Megan Fox.
Radiologic Partnership Strengthened

Officials from Northern and Ohio Valley Medical Center at the end of April signed a strengthened agreement in a unique initiative that grants college credit as part of a hospital-based radiology program.

The partnership allows for awarding of an Associate in Applied Science degree in the Radiologic Technology Degree Completion program at WVNCC.

Dr. Riley, VPAA, explained students who successfully complete the OVMC certification program and complete Northern’s college coursework then are awarded the AAS degree and become eligible to sit for the National Registry Examination.

“This articulation agreement provides a degree option to students wishing to enter this field where jobs are in high demand,” Dr. Riley said. She pointed out the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, indicates that employment for radiologic technologists is expected to grow faster than average through the year 2016.

Radiologic technologists use various kinds of imaging techniques for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Use of ultrasound, computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging are common procedures such technologists employ.

President Olshinsky said, “The health sciences continue to expand and job growth in our area has remained positive. This agreement provides yet another opportunity for students in this field, and we are pleased to cement further WVNCC’s relationship with OVMC.”

Along with the Radiologic Technology Degree Completion program, WVNCC also offers a full program that leads to the awarding of an AAS degree in radiography.

Nursing Students Honored

Two WVNCC nursing students, Ashley Smith and Lisa Anderson, have been given the East Ohio Regional Hospital Auxiliary Award.

According to Rita Berry, professor of nursing at Northern, the students applied for the award by submitting a portfolio to the auxiliary of the Martins Ferry-based hospital.

The auxiliary invites “any student who completed a clinical, mentored or preceptored experience at East Ohio Regional Hospital to submit a portfolio in order to be considered for this award.”

The award is a monetary award, according to the auxiliary, which also states, “We intend to recognize a student or students that demonstrate a passion for healthcare, a professional attitude, and a strong work ethic while maintaining academic success throughout their clinical experience at East Ohio Regional Hospital.”

Cost Effective

WVNCC has made it much easier for West Virginia high school students to take college courses: they can take a three-credit-hour college course for just $75 under new rules for early enrollment classes that take effect in the fall 2014 semester. That’s a savings of more than $100 as stipulated under previous guidelines.

Approval for the dramatic changes in