The Weirton, Wheeling and New Martinsville campuses were closed on Tuesday, Aug. 18, so that the College could hold internal meetings during its annual All-College Day event. Faculty and staff gathered on the Wheeling campus for a full day of informational and training sessions.

After new employees were introduced by Peggy Carmichael, chief human resources officer, and a short video was presented by Bob DeFrancis, dean of community relations, colleagues were given the State of the College by President Riley. In addition, updates were given by Drs. Carry DeAtley on academic affairs and David Shahan on economic and workforce development.

Those gathered also were briefed on safety and security issues at the College and on the new plans for orientation for students by CJ Farnsworth. Budget information was presented by CFO Steve Lippiello and more than a dozen College employees presented a detailed look at issues involving how to deal with interpersonal violence on and off campus. Accomplishments relating to the Higher Learning Commission visit, taking the pledge at the end of the day to offer the best customer service to our students that we can.
the Enrollments Management Council, and the WVOASIS project were discussed.

The day ended with a customer service training exercise facilitated by Kelli Jo McNemar, West Virginia Campus Compact director.

5. Strategizing ideas, clockwise from left, Darryl Clausell, Russell Edwards, Curt Hippensteel, Joe Remias, Dr. Shahan, David Raveaux and Karri Mulhern.

6. Brainstorming during the end of day training session, from left, Natalie Taylor, Dawn Barcus, Debbie Wayt, Jenna Derrico and Kimmy Locy.

7. Working on the group project during the training session, from left, Tami Becker and Ida Williams.

8. Faculty come up with their training session plans, clockwise from left, Crystal Harbert, Pam Sharma, Jennifer Kriechbaum, Charles Rogerson, Chana Baker, Jennifer Lantz, Meredith Wycherley, Rita Berry, Missy Stephens, Misty Kahl and Delilah Ryan.

Welcome Back

A Message from the President

The beginning of a new academic year is a cause for celebration, and I always look forward to welcoming new and returning students to West Virginia Northern’s three campuses. All of our students are important to us and faculty and staff at WVNCC have been working diligently to provide excellence in the classroom and assistance in becoming acclimated to college life.

I know a college career can be fraught with uncertainties, but our students need to know there are programs and procedures in place to help them. Our tutoring center is committed to assisting students in countless ways. We will aid students in sharpening study skills and will provide tips for test-taking. Our counselors and faculty advisors are pledged to guide students in scheduling and financial aid; we have people dedicated to working with veterans as well as those in career services. Students with disabilities can receive information to help them in their academic endeavors. Student government opportunities abound.

These things are important aspects of a college student’s environment. But, please students don’t forget to have some fun as well. Our student activities department has a year’s worth of entertaining, engaging, and stimulating events planned so that your time beyond the classroom is enjoyable.

I urge our students to pay close attention to their email, text messages, and the website and its student portal so that they can take advantage of a well-rounded education at West Virginia Northern. Welcome to the 2015-16 Fall semester!
Faculty Enrichment Day
Following All-College Day, Faculty Enrichment Day was held Aug. 19. The morning was spent in the B&O Building with faculty attending workshops taught by WVNCC employees; Social Media / Webpage: Hilary Curto; Advising/Early Alert: CJ Farnsworth and an introduction to the new TEAL Lab: Lucy Kefauver.

Faculty then were treated to lunch with nationally known speaker Dr. Joe Martin. Dr. Martin provides a powerful and practical message to encourage teachers to be great and inspire students.

The afternoon followed with more workshops in the EC building. Getting to Know Your Students: Marian Grubor. Veterans / Early Entrance: Natalie Taylor and Dawn Barcus.

WVNCC Receives Southwestern Grant
The foundations at Northern and Pierpont Community and Technical College, Fairmont, recently were awarded $250,000 each from Texas-Dr. Joe Martin talks to WVNCC faculty at Faculty Enrichment Day.

Kevin Serig, student disabilities counselor at the College, left, discusses the new partnership with Ed Nolan, director of operations at Northwood Health Systems.

other, after Serig determined such a need existed at Northern.

After a decade of service, Serig left West Virginia Vocational Rehabilitation Services two years ago to take the counselor position at Northern. He said he came to WVNCC no stranger to the needs of students in the Ohio Valley but, he explained, he did not expect to see the volume of students whose mental health issues led them to his office door.

Serig said, “Unfortunately, these changes are taking a toll on students.” He said research confirms one in four young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 has a diagnosable mental illness. According to the National Alliance of Mental Illness, more than 25 percent of college students have been diagnosed or treated by a professional for a mental health condition within the past year. It is expected these numbers will continue to rise, Serig said.

Alarmed by these statistics and the students showing up at his office door, Serig decided something needed to be done. With the problem identified, he focused on formulating a solution. After reaching out to social work colleagues at Northwood Health Systems, the partnership was developed and details formulated on exactly how WVNCC students could be referred, seamlessly, to NHS regardless of insurance coverage or financial hardship.

In addition, the partnership with Northwood led to awarding of a WVNCC Foundation grant that will allow students suffering from mental health issues to have immediate access to intervention, deterring the kind of escalation and exacerbation that could interfere with degree completion, Serig explained.

“I want our students to know, when things get tough, they are not alone,” Serig said. There is someone they can go to who will support them without judgment.”

WVNCC & Northwood Partner
Northern and Northwood Health Systems have partnered to provide WVNCC students in need with services to put them back on the path to mental wellness.

The partnership was developed by Kevin Serig, student disabilities counselor, working with Northwood’s Ed Nolan, director of operations, and

Kevin Serig, student disabilities counselor at the College, left, discusses the new partnership with Ed Nolan, director of operations at Northwood Health Systems.

Dr. Joe Martin talks to WVNCC faculty at Faculty Enrichment Day.

CJ Farnsworth, WVNCC’s director of academic student support services, who is Serig’s supervisor, said, “Kevin was quick to connect student retention and success with mental health and wellness. The complicated lives and diverse social dynamics of college students today make it difficult for many students to cope with the competing demands, tough decisions and personal challenges they face while pursuing a college degree.”

Farnsworth added, “Gone are the days when high school graduates scooted off to a liberal arts college to become well-rounded individuals and ‘sow their oats’ on mom and dad’s dime. Changes in the economy and workforce are redefining post-secondary education,” she said.

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WVNCC Ranked Again

For the fourth consecutive year, Northern has been cited by the federal government as one of the most affordable colleges in America. WVNCC’s net price is the second lowest among the four two-year institutions from the state that earned spots on the 2015 list.

WVNCC once again made the national College Affordability and Transparency Center list compiled by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System used by the U.S. Department of Education. Northern’s ranking was on the list of public, two-year institutions of higher learning with the lowest net prices. A total of 95 institutions from throughout the U.S. were listed. The 2015 list was announced July 1. The other West Virginia two-year colleges on the lowest list were Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Moorefield; Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Williamson; and Bridgeamount Community and Technical College in Montgomery.

“The value of a West Virginia Northern education is in our quality programs offered with great flexibility for the student but affordability has been and always will be a top priority,” Dr. Riley, Northern’s president, said. “Our Board of Governors and administration for many years have worked together diligently to keep costs as low as possible and this recognition bears that out,” Dr. Riley added.

Institutions with the highest tuition and highest net price and those with the lowest tuition and lowest net price are detailed on the 2015 list. WVNCC ranked as number 50, with a net price of $3,546 on the list of 95 institutions with the lowest net prices. Last year, WVNCC was listed at number 66 with a net price of $3,727. The new list ranked Eastern at number 42 with a net price of $3,321; Southern at 68 with a net price of $3,905 and Bridgeamount, at the very bottom of the list at 95, with a net price of $4,287. These numbers compare to the 2015 national average of a $7,316 net price.

Janet Fike, vice president of student services at Northern, said the lists are generated with the following criteria: tuition includes the tuition and required fees as reported to IPEDS by the institution and net prices includes the cost of attendance minus grant and scholarship aid as reported to and calculated by IPEDS. Fike said the lists that show the highest are the top 5 percent while the lists for the lowest are the bottom 10 percent.

“Northern colleagues are very pleased that our institution has been so consistent that it has been cited for four years in a row,” Fike said, explaining the most affordable listings shows “the college clearly is maintaining and strengthening the processes that help our students with financial aid, grants and scholarships.”

Dr. Sharma Selected as Facilitator

Dr. Pam Sharma, division chair for liberal arts, communication, social sciences and science, and professor for physics/mathematics, has been selected as one of 10 persons statewide to serve as a facilitator for an online teaching and learning program.

Dr. Sharma was selected to be a Statewide Online Quality Matters (QM) Facilitator for Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR) to online course design. The QM program is designed to assure quality in online course design using a Rubric based on best practices in online teaching and learning, current research, and experi-

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Dr. Sharma said that for her to better understand the online teaching and learning environment, “I completed a doctorate in Instructional Technology and Distance Education in 2006. In 2004, working as one of the WebCT training consultants under Title III Strengthening Institution Programs, I trained the faculty, staff and students in LMS based online learning. At the completion of the grant, I worked as Instructional Designer and Distance Education Coordinator and was instrumental in laying the groundwork for offering courses and programs online.

She said she continues “to develop online courses to address the needs of transient students and our local student, serve as peer reviewer, subject matter expert, and team leader/master review on internal and external review of online courses, and to make contributions to the field of online teaching and learning by making presentations at national and international conferences.”

### Training Class

A 10-week class to prepare students to become a certified Residential Building Inspector will be held at the Wheeling campus. According to Dr. David Shahan, vice president of economic and workforce development at the college, the 60-hour class will meet from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 1 to Dec. 10, in Room 405, B&O Building. He said the class is designed to prepare students to successfully pass the International Code Council examination to become a certified Residential Building Inspector (one-two family dwellings.)

Shahan said the class will include lectures, laboratory training and field trips and is a non-credit class offered by the Continuing Education department at WVNCC. Instructional materials needed include the textbook “International Residential Code Book (2012) (One-Two Family Dwellings)” ISBN number 978-160-983-0427 and a standard calculator.

To register for the class, visit the service center at one of Northern’s three campuses in Wheeling, Weirton or New Martinsville. Cost is $400 and payment must be made when registering.
2015 WVNCC Foundation Golf Outing

Just a few of the memories of this yearly successful and fun event!

Thanks to all those who participated!