

*Payton, Shannon - 2011
Yesenczki, Becky - 2011*

Community service and voluntarism are key words to the two women singled out for their outstanding contributions to community college education at West Virginia Northern Community College.

Both Rebecca Yesenczki, Wheeling campus administrative associate in the registrar's office, and Shannon Payton, Northern's student activities director, have been instrumental in forging the college's outreach activities, and they've made a positive difference in the lives of students and their colleagues as well.

For the past 10 years, one of the roles "Becky" Yesenczki served was as liaison to the Wheeling Campus Friends of the College organization. Becky has coordinated meetings and activities of the Wheeling Friends group during the past decade but, with a recent change in duties, has relinquished her role there. This has prompted much praise for her past hard work.

She particularly focused on the Wheeling Friends' annual dinner which has raised thousands of dollars for scholarships and other activities that help students.

Becky, who has an associate degree from Northern and a bachelor of science in organization leadership from Mountain State University, currently is working on her master's degree through Marshall University. She joined Northern as a clerk typist in 1984 and has worked in several capacities ever since, including in the offices of financial aid, counseling, campus dean, and as campus coordinator.

In addition, Becky is a 2010 graduate of the Leadership Wheeling program. She's married and is the mother of two grown children.

Shannon Payton is a graduate of West Liberty State College with a bachelor of arts degree, with additional study at West Virginia University, and has been employed at Northern for five years. Her office coordinates the college's community service component.

Under her watch, WVNCC has received national and local attention because of its outreach efforts. For the past 17 years consecutively, Northern has been honored as the top college in the nation for the number of letters sent to servicemen and women during the December holiday season. Also, WVNCC has been named consistently to the President's Higher Education Honor Roll for community service, one of only two institutions in the state to receive this award since the program began.

Shannon has coordinated the Students in Service program with Campus Compact for two years and has spearheaded Northern's participation in an array of community events, including the United Way Day of Caring, Martin Luther King Day commemorative activities, food drives, and events for Easter Seals.

She has been the captain for the WVNCC Relay for Life team for three years, raising more than \$10,000 during that time for the American Cancer Society. Shannon is married and is the mother of two young daughters.