

Reinventing WVU



In February 2016 WVU reached a new milestone, becoming an R1 or “highest research activity” institution according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Alongside just 115 other universities — like Yale, Duke and Johns Hopkins — WVU is now a nationally recognized player in the world of top-level research.

In an interview with the Washington Post, President Gee said the new level of research prominence will help recruit top faculty and students in even greater numbers.

And Vice President for Research Fred L. King underscored that point. “In the past few months, we have witnessed the impact that the work of our faculty, staff and students can have on the world and the universe,” he said. “I think of WVU as covering the spectrum of research from very, very basic to very, very applied. We don’t do one thing. We do many things.”

In his 2016 State of the University address held in March, Gee outlined several areas where WVU will be focusing in the coming years — from reinventing education, by tripling the number of

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MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB



Assistant Vice President Sabrina Cave talking with families during Spring Family Weekend.



Dear Mountaineer Parents Club members,

Campus is buzzing with students finishing up their spring semester classes. For some, their upcoming Commencement in May is consuming their thoughts. Others are thinking: summer. No matter where your student is in that cycle, I hope you have found the Mountaineer Parents Club helpful.

As the semester wraps up, we are actually looking forward to summer and next fall.

During Spring Family Weekend, we held our first Parent Advisory Board meeting and welcomed in and out-of-state families to provide feedback and be our “sounding board” for information. Does this sound like something you might be interested in doing? Let me know!

We also are looking forward to Summer Send-offs! These events are hosted by local Mountaineer Parents Clubs. These are great events to get to know WVU families and students in your community. WVU administrators, faculty, staff and student leaders attend send-offs to share news about the University. We will be giving away a \$200 textbook giftcard to the Barnes & Noble Bookstore to a student who attends. And there are other great giveaways.

We need YOU! We are looking for new Club Chairs. We want to energize and grow the number of in and out-of-state Clubs to better support WVU families and students. It’s not a hard job; we will be offering training on campus and in your hometowns. Please consider this role. I look forward to hearing from you at parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

It’s also never too early to plan for Fall Family Weekend. Mark your calendars for October 7-9, 2016. This is a special weekend designed for you and your students to enjoy campus life together. Plan now to attend.

West Virginia University cares about our families and their students, and we are fortunate to have parents like you involved. Not only do you contribute to the overall well-being and success of your students, but you are critical to our institution.

Thanks for all that you do.

Let’s Go!



Sabrina M. Cave, Assistant Vice President

Calendar of Events

May 2-6
Final Exam Week

May 7
Residence Halls Close at 5:00 p.m.

May 13-15
Commencement

August 13
Move-in Day

August 17
First Day of Classes

September 5
Labor Day Recess

October 7-9
Fall Family Weekend

October 9
Fall Ring Day Ceremony

November 18
Residence Halls Close at 7:00 p.m.

November 21-25
Thanksgiving Break

November 27
Residence Halls Open at Noon



President E. Gordon Gee greets families at the Spring Family Weekend Welcome Reception.

Construction and Commencement



WVU is conducting a \$15 million renovation project to modernize everything from bathrooms to locker rooms and training facilities at the Coliseum. At the end of construction, our facility will have double the bathroom fixtures, widened and remodeled concourses, new concession areas with a larger food and drink selection and a whole lot more.

But as families prepare for 2016 graduation ceremonies, this work may cause logistical challenges on campus. Here's what you need to know to ensure your student's big day is the highlight of their academic career.

At the Coliseum

- /// Graduates should check in approximately one hour prior to the start of their ceremony. Please do not arrive earlier as this may impact previous ceremonies.
- /// Graduates must line up at the Basketball Practice Facility before entering.
- /// The Gold Gate will be blocked and open only as an emergency exit.
- /// Guests may enter through the Blue, Red or Green gates.
- /// Seating will be plentiful, but restrooms inside the Coliseum will be closed. Alternative bathroom facilities will be located around the Coliseum and near the Basketball Practice Facility.

Around Campus

- /// Our alternative viewing site, with live broadcasts for Saturday and Sunday events, will be at the Creative Arts Center.
- /// Live ceremonies may be viewed remotely online at webcast.wvu.edu.
- /// Look for Commencement Volunteers in WVU T-shirts if you have questions. Volunteers will be stationed at Information Kiosks at the Coliseum and Creative Arts Center.
- /// Download the WVU Guidebook app from your smartphone app store to easily view schedules, maps, directions, checklists and resources for navigating WVU events and outreach programs.

Learn more about renovations at the Coliseum at wvusports.com/coliseum. 🏡

Reinventing WVU

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math and science teachers the University currently produces, to devoting even more resources to the state's health issues. On the financial front, Gee announced that WVU is working on ways to spark an immediate reversal in West Virginia's economy.

"As our recent achievements show, West Virginia University is on an upward trajectory," Gee said. "Our momentum gives us the power to lift our entire state. Our land-grant heritage deeds us the moral obligation to do so." 🏡

WVU Collegiate Recovery Program

Many of us know a friend or loved one who has battled addiction. The toll addiction takes is often devastating. West Virginia University is developing a new Collegiate Recovery program for students who are in recovery from alcohol, drugs and other addictions.

Substance abuse is a leading public health issue, especially in West Virginia. Part of WVU's role as a leader in our state includes providing a supportive environment for recovering students. Creating a way for them to bond with other students in recovery provides a connection they need for a positive college experience.

Collegiate recovery programs are designed to be student-driven, so students will help define what type of programs, resources and activities will help with their own recovery. WVU's program will include a vast array of experiential programs through WELLWVU and Adventure WV.

A dedicated director who is a licensed psychologist and addiction specialist will oversee all programing. Because having a designated space on campus is beneficial for students in recovery, WVU is looking into providing such a space.

The goal is to provide an environment that embraces recovery so students can continue their academic, social, spiritual, physical and emotional development.

For more information please call **304-293-2547** or visit recovery.wvu.edu. 🏡

Summertime and the Living is Easy

While some students will be taking it easy this summer, others are putting the summer months to work for them.

During the spring semester each year, our students begin to look ahead at available options. Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences: undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/summer-undergraduate-research-experience, and Summer Study Abroad Programs: studyabroad.wvu.edu/summer are popular choices and typically accept applications through mid-spring. Summer sessions provide a great time to focus on these career-readiness and resume building opportunities.

If a student is looking to earn some money for the upcoming school year, summer jobs and paid internships are a great way to earn not only money but experience. A variety of internship programs also have early spring application processes while others accept students into early summer. Students can work with Career Services or faculty within their major on internships that can help them in their area of study. Students may also be able to earn credit for internships they complete.

There is also the option of summer school courses. Summer school can serve a variety of purposes. For students who are trying to get back on track in a sequence of courses, or complete a minor, summers can provide a quick way to “catch up.” For students who want to focus on a specific class that might be a challenge, summer allows this time without the distraction of carrying a full load. The flexibility of online or on-campus and 3, 6, 8, 9 or 12 week classes allows students the ability to take a class and still have some downtime: summer.wvu.edu.

Summer sessions can also offer students who may be struggling a chance to raise a GPA that might be needed to get back in good standing academically. Many scholarship

programs also allow students the chance to use summer sessions to meet GPA or course requirements for renewal of fall and spring scholarships. The new WVU Summer Success program is focused on working with these students and offers an array of benefits including smaller class sizes and a reduced tuition and housing cost: academicsuccess.wvu.edu/other-programs/summer-success-program. 📖

Reminders for the Summer Months:

Summer is also a time when students need to assure they have everything in place for the upcoming school year as well. We will be messaging your students these and other important reminders so assure they continue to **check their MIX account over the summer** as well. Here are a few to keep in mind:

- **Month of June** – Incoming students and parents should attend New Student Orientation
- **June 6** – Annual student health insurance opt out waiver becomes available
- **Early July** – Fall 2016 bills become available on students' STAR accounts
- **July 27** – Student health insurance opt out deadline for those covered under a comparable student health insurance policy
- **July 27** – Fall 2016 bills are due in full or must be enrolled in a monthly payment plan

LaunchLab Receives Donation from Huntington Bank

Student entrepreneurs in WVU's LaunchLab will receive actual startup money for their ventures thanks to a generous commitment from Huntington Bank.

Huntington is donating \$150,000 to create a seed funding program within the LaunchLab, a comprehensive one-stop center that provides support for innovative entrepreneurs.

“Huntington has a deep commitment to small businesses; it makes sense for our bank to contribute to the unique success of the University's LaunchLab,” said Chad Prather, Morgantown community president and commercial region manager for Huntington Bank.

“Huntington Bank is proud to be a part of the region served so well by WVU. The next generation of entrepreneurs will benefit from the University's specialized resources, gaining significant skills and real-life business experience. The students are receiving the opportunity to create new jobs. The startup companies will be a catalyst for economic development throughout our state,” Prather said.

Under the new seed funding program, students will work with LaunchLab advisers and mentors to learn successful business strategies for their startup companies. 📖

A Foundation for Success



An education at WVU is about more than getting a degree. It's about ensuring that our students gain the critical skills they need — through active learning, information literacy and civic engagement — to be successful in a complex and evolving world.

In order to fulfill the University's goals of creating well-rounded students, linking the courses that students take at WVU and instilling in students a permanent connection to learning and education, WVU approved a new general education program in May 2014.

The new requirements, called the General Education Foundations, took effect in the 2016-2017 academic year, replacing the previous General Education Curriculum (GEC). 🍀

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

GEF requirements include seven broad areas with an eighth requirement of nine hours. Students will complete between 31 and 37 GEF credits depending on major.

- /// **The Writing Requirement** has been rescinded and replaced with writing and communication skills requirements determined by the student's degree-granting college or school.
- /// **New first-year students** entering in the fall 2016 term or after will automatically be enrolled under GEF.
- /// **Continuing students** will remain under the current GEC unless, in consultation with the student's adviser and dean, they decide to update their catalog year.
- /// **Returning students** will come back under the catalog from when they originally matriculated to WVU if the catalog is no more than seven years old. In consultation with their adviser and dean, they may also decide to adopt the new requirements.
- /// **First-year seminars and capstone courses** are still required for graduation, but are not part of the new general education program.

For more on the GEF visit registrar.wvu.edu/gef.

Did You Know?



125 Years of Women at WVU

On April 5 the Centenary Time Capsule in Woodburn Circle was unearthed. It was buried in 1991 in conjunction with the centennial anniversary of WVU's first woman graduate, Harriet Lyon. New artifacts representing the women in each time period will be added until the bicentennial celebration in 2091. womensgenderstudies.wvu.edu/125th-anniversary

New SGA Leaders

Julie "Jules" Merow, a junior Public Relations major and Honors College student from Morgantown and Mac McIntyre, a senior Political Science major and Honors College student from Bridgeport, were elected as the 2016-17 SGA president and vice president.



New LGBTQ Center

WVU has launched a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) center. It will be housed on the Downtown campus in Hodges Hall. Cris Mayo, a nationally known scholar of gender and sexuality, will assume her role as director on July 1, 2016.

New Mountaineer Mascot

Troy Clemons, a senior Sport Management major from Maxwell, West Virginia, began his term as the 2016-17 WVU Mountaineer Mascot on April 22, when current Mountaineer Michael Garcia passed the rifle on to him in a formal ceremony. Clemons' first official appearance took place at the Gold-Blue Spring Game on April 23 at the Greenbrier Sports Performance Center in White Sulphur Springs.

12th Annual Blue and Gold Mine Sale

This year's Blue and Gold Mine Sale will offer great deals on everything from clothing to furniture to small appliances. Due to construction at the stadium, the sale will be held at the Ruby Community Center at Mylan Park on Saturday, May 14 from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. The center is located at 500 Mylan Park Lane, Morgantown, WV. All proceeds are donated to the local United Way. bluegoldmine.wvu.edu

ACCESS WVU Early College Program

Each semester, high school juniors and seniors have the opportunity to enroll in college courses completely online, on WVU's main campus or onsite in participating high schools. Students have the potential to begin their journey toward a college degree, at a reduced cost, while having the support they need to succeed. To find out more about the courses offered, requirements, and applying, visit k12.wvu.edu/Access.

WVU Libraries

There are a total of eight WVU libraries, including the Downtown Campus Library, Evansdale Library, Health Sciences Library, Law Library, West Virginia and Regional History Center, Health Sciences Library (Charleston), the Mary F. Shipper Library at Potomac State College in Keyser and the Vining Library at the WVU Institute of Technology. lib.wvu.edu/about/news





Making Dreams Come True

by Hilary Kinney

Before enrolling at WVU, freshman Allison Zalesky was interested in the marketing strategies of the Coca-Cola Company.

As a finance and marketing major in the College of Business and Economics, she has the support and opportunities she needs to make her goal of working for Coca-Cola's financial department a reality.

Zalesky is a private scholarship recipient, member of the Honors College, and co-founder of the new DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) organization on campus. DECA, an international association of high school and college students and teachers, focuses on marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance and hospitality.

She served as the president of DECA at University High School in Morgantown for two years.

Michael Walsh, chair and associate professor of marketing in the College of Business and Economics, knew of her high school involvement with DECA and encouraged her to start a chapter at WVU.

"As a freshman, I didn't know anyone. But Dr. Walsh asked me to speak about my DECA experience in front of a crowd of 300 students," Zalesky said of her first few days at WVU.

This marked the beginning of a new project and challenge. The team is now preparing to send eight students to compete in Washington, D.C., at the international level. "DECA helps students get real-world experience through competition," Zalesky said. "And it gives students an idea of what the workforce is like in business-related fields."

She keeps a busy schedule with a part-time job, managing her schoolwork and leading the DECA chapter. Because of this, Zalesky recognizes and is thankful for the hard work of those who went before her, individuals who have made scholarships available to students like her.

Zalesky is a recipient of the A.K. Robinson scholarship and the Jose V. Sartarelli scholarship, awarded to one freshman each year who demonstrates excellent leadership skills and academic achievement.

In addition to the financial aid they provide, Zalesky believes scholarships have an inherent value. "They are a great networking tool, and it's been great to get to know others who have been able to succeed," Zalesky said.

Thanks to the support of professors and generous donors and her own passion to succeed, Zalesky is having a full undergraduate experience and preparing for her future success. 🍀

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Gift Creates Awards and Supports Lectures



A generous gift to WVU from Professor Emeritus Joginder Nath will establish an annual awards program for Honors College students and continue the Nath Lecture Series.

The donation will enable two cash awards to be given each year to outstanding seniors in the Honors College in honor of Dr. Nath and his wife, Charlotte.

Nath retired in 2009 after serving as a professor of genetics at WVU for 43 years. He helped to start the genetics and developmental biology program at WVU, and served many years as chair of the department. Nath also served on the WVU Honors Council.

“I felt that students who work hard for four years deserve to be recognized and honored,” Nath said. “The award is for academic excellence, but extracurricular activities will also be taken into account.” 

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations and Mountaineer Parents Club. Funding for this newsletter is provided in part by the Susan B. Hardesty Parents Club Endowment. Letters and suggestions are welcome. Send mail to: **Editor, Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter, PO Box 6240, Morgantown, WV 26506** or parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

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