

Office of  
Advanced  
Programs

# The College Connection

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2010

Creating a College-Going  
Culture in WCPS



Inside this issue:

Early Awareness	1
Website of the Month	1
College of the Month	1
School Spotlight	2

## WVU Facts

Location  
Morgantown, WV

Mascot  
Mountaineers

Undergraduate  
enrollment  
21,720

Students Receiving Aid  
68%

Out-of-State Students  
47%

Middle 50% SAT  
Reading 460—560  
Math 480—580

www.wvu.edu  
collegeportraits.org

## From Kindergarten to College

Children begin to see themselves as "college material" as early as kindergarten, and by the time they reach high school, most students have already made up their minds about whether or not they are going to college. Elementary and middle schools play a critical role in nurturing students' college aspirations.

Educators across the country are recognizing the value of promoting a K-12 college-going culture and have developed some easy-to-replicate ideas:

- ▶ Hang college banners in the cafeteria or gym.
- ▶ Name the tables in the cafeteria after colleges.

- ▶ Post motivational slogans such as "You CAN go to college" or "Where are YOU going to college?" around the school.

- ▶ Mention a school mascot on the morning announcements and play "name that university."

- ▶ Have students with siblings in college announce the school they attend.

- ▶ Highlight a "university of the week" on the morning announcements.

- ▶ Have students dress up to reflect future careers and identify related college majors.

Activities such as these help students see college as a concrete reality that is within their reach.

KnowHow2GO.org

### Website of the Month

KnowHow2GO, a site for middle and high school students, identifies four basic steps to college:

- Be a pain.
- Push yourself.
- Find the right fit.
- Put your hands on some cash.

Articles, videos, and useful links stress the importance of rigorous coursework (Get Tough!) and provide information on why college is important and who can help students get there. Check it out!

## College of the Month

Take a doctoral degree-granting research university, place it in a rugged mountain setting ideal for hiking and kayaking, mix in the excitement of Big East football and basketball, and what do you get? West

Virginia University, located less than 150 miles from Hagerstown. Recognized for its research programs in forensic science, nanotechnology, alternative energy, and neuroscience, WVU is also known



for its die-hard sports fans and their rendition of "Country Roads" after home victories. Go, 'Neers!

**Office of  
Advanced  
Programs**

*Supervisor of Advanced Programs*  
Jessica Reinhard  
766-2922

*College Readiness Specialist*  
Lori Parks-Murphy  
766-8721

Providing world class educational  
opportunities for all students

[www.wcboe.k12.md.us](http://www.wcboe.k12.md.us)



# The College Connection

## School Spotlight: BES

Boonsboro Elementary School held a college alma mater door decorating contest with over 50 staff members participating. The staff voted for the top five best decorated doors, and those five staff members received a \$5 gift card to Sheetz. BES plans to incorporate a college-going culture activity each marking period. Thanks to Principal Scott Woods for sharing the winning photos below.



**Board of Education  
of Washington County**



Wayne D. Ridenour, President  
Justin M. Hartings, Vice President

**Members**

Paul W. Bailey  
Donna L. Brightman  
RuthAnne Callahan  
W. Edward Forrest  
William H. Staley

The Board of Education of Washington County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs to Washington County Public School System students.

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Elizabeth M. Morgan, Ph.D.

**Deputy Superintendent**  
Boyd Michael

**Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum, School Administration  
and Improvement**  
Donna Hanlin

**Assistant Superintendent for  
Student and Staff Support**  
Michael Markoe, Ed.D.

**Director for Curriculum  
and Instruction**  
Clyde Harrell, Ed.D.

**Director for Secondary Education**  
David Reeder, Ed.D.

**Director for Elementary Education**  
Jill Burkhart

