

## Adult Literacy Program Now Available Statewide

*Contributed by Keith Spears of the Department of Education and the Arts.*

### **West Virginia adults with reading disabilities can now receive help through the free and confidential Adult Literacy Program.**

The new statewide effort, sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, Workforce Investment Board Region II, and Literacy West Virginia, is focused at sites such as Division of Motor Vehicle branch offices, public libraries, and Workforce Investment Boards. The program will make reading assistance more available to thousands of West Virginians.

“People who need help with their communication skills will have increased access to resources,” said Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary of Education and the Arts. “All adults need to be literate. This is a way to help people improve their lives.”

The Adult Literacy Program provides training for specific needs, i.e., assistance in passing the Commercial Drivers License exam, GED preparation, and reading comprehension. The training is one-on-one with meeting times and locations based on individual needs.

“Currently, 20 percent of adult West Virginians read below a fourth grade level,” says Pam Bryan, Regional Technical Assistant of Literacy West Virginia, a volunteer organization located at RESA III in Dunbar. “Only one in 10 of those reading-deficient adults will ever seek assistance.”

The Adult Literacy Program has been created to increase access to assistance for those with low literacy

levels, and will be completely confidential. “Adults can learn to read and write at their own pace without embarrassment,” said Goodwin.

**For more concerning the Adult Literacy Program, contact Robin Taylor at 304-558-2440 or via e-mail at [rtaylor@wvosea.org](mailto:rtaylor@wvosea.org).**

**For more on Literacy West Virginia, contact Pam Bryan at 800-257-3723 ext. 212 or via email at [pambryan2001@yahoo.com](mailto:pambryan2001@yahoo.com).**



## State Aviation Resources Used to Rescue Siblings in Monongalia National Forest

*Edited/reprinted from [Quotes, Notes, and Anecdotes](#) (March 2007), the Department of Administration's newsletter ([www.state.wv.us/scripts/admin/newsletter.cfm](http://www.state.wv.us/scripts/admin/newsletter.cfm)).*

Last month, the State Aviation Division assisted in the rescue of two teenage siblings who were reported missing in the Monongalia National Forest in Webster County.

At approximately 6:00 A.M. on February 12, 2007, the State Police Section of the Aviation Division received a request to assist in the search for the missing teens, ages 17 and 19, both of Upper Glade, West Virginia. The teenagers, who were reported missing at midnight to the Webster County Sheriff's Department on February 11, 2007, had abandoned their vehicle on Williams River Road to travel on foot after it became trapped in the snow.

**A search attempt with vehicles occurred; however, due to poor road conditions and lack of accessibility, the State Aviation Division was contacted to assist. Sgt. Shawn Colbert and Sgt. Shawn Coleman, helicopter pilots from the State Police Section, flew the State Bell 407 helicopter and located the missing teens. The Division of Natural Resources had also patrolled the Scenic Highway, State Route 150, in an attempt to locate the brother and sister.** Fortunately, when located and rescued, neither teen appeared to have any serious injuries.

The State of West Virginia is one of 48 other states that owns and operates state aircraft. Its purpose is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of State government by providing safe, secure, reliable, and professional air transportation, using both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

## DD Council Says Put People First

The West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council is a State entity comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities, interested individuals, and State agency representatives. The Council's goal is to ensure that State citizens with developmental disabilities receive the support and opportunities needed for them to achieve independence, productivity, self-determination, integration, and inclusion into the community in which they choose to live.

Among its many endeavors is its *People First Language* policy. *People First Language* means referring first to the **person** rather than the disability – for example, saying “a student with a developmental disability” rather than a “developmentally disabled student.” Putting the person first places the focus on the person (or group of people), rather than the disability, and the Council encourages everyone to write and speak in this manner.

The Council's full policy is available at [www.wvddc.org/policy\\_pfl.html](http://www.wvddc.org/policy_pfl.html).

**Congrats! The Developmental Disabilities Council celebrated 35 years of existence on March 6, 2007!**

### New Voter Registration Program for Persons with Disabilities

## ‘Here to Be Heard’ Program Begins in WV

Contributed by Ben Beakes of the Secretary of State's Office.

Secretary of State Betty Ireland and the West Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (WVARF) have introduced the *Here to be Heard: Voter Registration for West Virginians with Disabilities* campaign. In partnership with WVARF, the Secretary of State's Office will hold voter registration drives at over 30 WVARF locations, beginning April 2 in Morgantown and continuing through May 23, ending in Huntington.

**“The loudest voice an individual can have on election day is his vote,” Ireland said, “so I’m very excited about our partnership with WVARF and what this program will mean for people with disabilities – giving them a voice through their right to vote.”**

Tim Morris, President of WVARF, says he, too, is excited that clients at community rehabilitation programs can take advantage of such a great opportunity. “As has been said, democracy does not guarantee equality, only equality of opportunity,” Morris said. “The *Here to be Heard* campaign will not only serve as a voter registration drive, but also as an opportunity and educational awareness effort to get West Virginians with disabilities involved in the election process.”

Ireland points out that we have achieved many voting milestones for our citizens with disabilities, including the new accessible electronic voting machines that were used for the first time in the 2006 elections. “We heard many wonderful success stories after the elections last year about people with certain disabilities who had voted independently and in complete privacy for the first time on the new voting machines.”

The WVARF leadership approached Ireland with the idea of the *Here to be Heard* campaign and requested her participation in the project. “Secretary Ireland became involved immediately,” Morris said. “She has long been very attentive to the needs of our citizens with disabilities. Now, working as partners, we believe we can give a voice to those waiting and wanting to be heard.”

Dates, times, and locations: [www.wvsos.com/pressoffice/032607WVARFSchedule.pdf](http://www.wvsos.com/pressoffice/032607WVARFSchedule.pdf)

## Penalties in Place for Teen Cell Use While Driving

During the 2007 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 412 was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Joe Manchin. This bill amends *West Virginia Code* § 17B-2-3a, which deals with Graduated Drivers License requirements.

The original law prohibited the use of cell phones while driving for holders of either level one instruction permits or level two intermediate driver's licenses who are under the age of 18, except if contacting a 9-1-1 system. In the new legislation, the prohibition still applies to both levels; however, specific penalties for offenses have been added (see bolded information below).

The bill specifically amends both § 17B-2-3a (c) (2) (F) and § 17B-2-3a (d) (2) (G) to include the following language:

**... A person violating the provisions of this paragraph is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall for the first offense be fined twenty-five dollars; for a second offense be fined fifty dollars; and for a third or subsequent offense be fined seventy-five dollars.**

In addition to the criminal penalties, those convicted also face the Division of Motor Vehicles' administrative penalties, i.e., two convictions for ANY traffic violations and the individual's license is revoked until age 18.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that up to 30% of all crashes are caused by driver distraction. While the law refers only to those with instruction permits and level 2 license holders, **it's a good idea for everyone – not just teens – to refrain from using cell phones while driving.**

For questions, contact your local law enforcement agency, and remember:

**HANDS-FREE  
ISN'T RISK-FREE**

## HEPC Announces Internationalizing Higher Ed Grant Winners

*Edited from a press release contributed by Joyce Daniels of the Higher Education Policy Commission.*

Six West Virginia public colleges and universities received a total of \$90,000 in grant money to develop or expand international education initiatives in order to improve the global literacy of their students. Dr. Brian Noland, chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), announced that Concord University, Fairmont State University, Marshall Community and Technical College, Shepherd University, West Virginia State University, and West Virginia University each received Commission grant awards of up to \$15,000.

“These grants will help our colleges and universities to better prepare their graduates for an increasingly globalized 21st Century by integrating international experiences and perspectives into the university curriculum,” said Noland.

The grant awards are part of the Commission’s continuing emphasis on internationalizing higher education in West Virginia.

Dr. Bruce Flack, Director of Academic Affairs for the Commission, points to several other recent accomplishments, including a conference for internationalizing the higher education curriculum in April 2006, the establishment of the Consortium for Internationalizing Higher Education in May 2006, and a workshop on funding sources and grantsmanship for internationalizing higher education in November 2006. “These accomplishments are just the beginning of an unprecedented State-level effort to develop and enhance the international dimension of our colleges and universities in West Virginia,” stated Flack.

According to Clark Egnor, Executive Director of Marshall University’s Center for International Programs and the Chair for the Consortium for Internationalizing Higher Education in West Virginia, the

grants will be a welcome opportunity for the colleges and universities who are faced with the challenge of internationalizing their courses, departments, colleges, and campuses in an environment of scarce financial resources.

Says Egnor, “... there is a greater need in West Virginia than other regions of our country for an education that prepares college students to be functional in an increasingly globalized economy. These grants and other support from the HEPC will help higher education in West Virginia rise to this challenge.”

The six winning applications were chosen from proposals submitted by the majority of the 21 public colleges and universities in West Virginia. Below is a summary of each winning program:

### INTERNATIONALIZING HIGHER EDUC. GRANT WINNER SUMMARIES

**CONCORD UNIVERSITY:** The Concord project will seek to increase international student enrollment by 30% over Fall 2006 by establishing three new overseas admissions agents in Indonesia and Turkey, and solidifying an existing articulation agreement with a Japanese junior college. Concord will strengthen its foundation to internationalize its campus and integrate the increased international student diversity by revising its mission statement to include an international focus and complete an analysis of the current course inventory to identify how present international content in its curriculum may be enhanced and what new courses may be developed.

**FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY:** The FSU project includes collaboration with Pierpont Community and Technical College to increase overall international student enrollment at both schools by 10%, targeting Nepal, India, and China with specific strategies, while incorporating the increased international student diversity into its curriculum. Grant funding and the increased funds gained from out-of-state tuition will be used to develop an international student-friendly website and send teams of faculty and personnel from Admissions and Recruiting to high schools and universities to develop cooperative, inter-institutional relationships in the target countries.

**MARSHALL COMM./TECH. COLLEGE:** The Marshall C&T College project seeks to develop a dual-degree program in Information Technology with Shanghai University of Electric Power in Shanghai, China. The project will promote joint activities between the two institutions, including student exchange, teacher/scholarly exchange, exchange of academic resources, cooperation in scientific study and research and joint holding of academic conferences. The project also seeks to develop an articulation with Bachelor Degree programs at Marshall University to enable graduates from the China-based associate dual-degree program to study on the Marshall campus.

**SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY:** The Shepherd project seeks to develop a collaborative agreement with a college in Jamaica to offer up to 10 of their students each year the opportunity to gain international teaching experience through a new international teaching practicum. Shepherd faculty will accompany their students on a two-week teaching trip to Jamaica in December 2008. Students will hold a fund-raiser, “A Night in Jamaica,” including Jamaican food and music during the Fall 2007 semester, with proceeds used for travel costs.

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY:** The WVSU project will improve capacity for student exchange programs by sending staff from the Admissions, Student Services, and Financial Aid to training workshops on study abroad advising and international students issues related to visas and recruitment. The project begins the establishment of an on-campus English as a second language program to serve as an entry point for matriculating international students into full-time degree programs and will generate revenue to cover international student recruitment costs.

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY:** The WVU project will develop a specialized curriculum to help prospective undergraduate and graduate international students adjust to life in West Virginia. The project will target international students who study in the Intensive English Program and will offer content-based courses to help the them become familiar with the West Virginia culture and history before they matriculate into the university. The course will include trips to significant cultural and historical places in West Virginia, guest speakers, and visits to K-12 schools.

*You are the answer to storm water pollution!*

## When It Rains ... It Drains

*Each time it rains, the water that runs directly into our streams, lakes, and rivers carries with it pollutants such as detergents, oils, chemicals, and trash. By following a few simple steps, we can greatly reduce the contaminants that "muddy up" our water.*

*This article is edited and reprinted from the Department of Environmental Protection's website ([www.wvdep.org/alt.cfm?asid=103](http://www.wvdep.org/alt.cfm?asid=103)).*

*Photo by Jane Fouty.*



Here are ten simple things that every homeowner can do to reduce the amount of pollutants that are carried into West Virginia's streams, lakes, and rivers.

1. Never dump anything down a storm drain or drainage ditch. **The storm drain system conveys storm water directly to a creek or stream, without any treatment.**
2. Properly dispose of all trash, rubbish, and garbage. Trash left in your yard or on the street eventually ends up in the closest creek or stream.
3. Place cigarette butts in the proper receptacle – don't throw them on the ground.
4. Recycle used motor oil. Find out if your local community or gas station will accept used motor oil and take it there. **Whatever you do, never dump motor oil, gasoline, or solvents down a storm drain!**
5. Wash your car in the grass, or take it to a commercial car wash. Your car has oils and greases that wash off and then flow into the storm drains, polluting the nearby water body. **Commercial car washes have special procedures for treating the water that washes off your car.**
6. Clean up after your pet. Place pet waste in a trash receptacle or flush down the toilet. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that will wash into our streams and rivers when it rains.
7. Use fertilizers and pesticides only when needed. Fertilizers promote algae growth in our waterways. When using fertilizers, follow application instructions and do not apply if rain is forecasted.
8. Compost yard and grass clippings. Don't allow your grass clippings to blow into the street or curb.
9. Check your vehicles for leaks and repair them!
10. **Tell a friend or neighbor about how to prevent storm water pollution. Get involved in a local community watershed organization.**

**Pollution prevented today will protect our drinking water supply tomorrow. For more, visit the Division of Water and Waste Management at [www.wvdep.org/item.cfm?ssid=11](http://www.wvdep.org/item.cfm?ssid=11).**

## Pencil In ...



Whether you routinely **travel on State business** or are just the occasional trip maker, you should take time to review the State's travel regulations. They're available at the Travel Management website: [www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/Travel/TMRegs.htm](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/Travel/TMRegs.htm).



Anyone concerned about the recent **pet food recall** can find information at the following web-sites:



**Menu Foods:**  
[www.menufoods.com/recall/](http://www.menufoods.com/recall/)

**American Veterinary Medical Association:**  
[www.avma.org/aa/menufoodsrecall/default.asp](http://www.avma.org/aa/menufoodsrecall/default.asp)



The **Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary's Office** has moved to Building 1, Room W-400. Phone/fax numbers remain the same.



**You're never a loser until you quit trying.**

Mike Ditka

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