



Eastern West Virginia  
Community & Technical College

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **GOVERNOR TO KEYNOTE EASTERN'S NEW HOME GROUNDBREAKING**

As Eastern WV Community and Technical College begins its seventh September offering college classes to learners in the Potomac Highlands, Governor Joe Manchin will visit Moorefield to launch the college towards a grand new stage in its growth. As keynote speaker, Manchin will headline the official groundbreaking ceremony for the college's new campus building, Friday, October 12.

Festivities begin at 1:00 pm on the construction site alongside Corridor H (new WV route 55), two miles east of town. Peggy Hawse, chair of Eastern's Board of Governors, will emcee the event, and the college's president, Robert Sisk, will also speak. Petersburg High School's junior ROTC, under the direction of Sergeant Lyal D. Shreve, will present the colors, and junior Leslie Henke will sing the national anthem.

Inviting the public to attend the brief ceremony, Sisk noted, "It's a very significant day for Eastern, because this first building of our own will provide a new permanency for our students, staff and educational mission. And as we continue to grow under the leadership of West Virginia's community and technical college system, as we provide programs of higher education and workforce training designed to meet our district's needs, we remain focused along with the Governor on energizing the economic development not only of our local region, but of the entire state as well."

Established in 1999 by the state legislature as an independent, freestanding community and technical college, Eastern offers a variety of career-oriented associate degrees, and other credit and non-credit programs of learning, for adults who might have been away from formal schooling for some time, as well as for recent high school graduates. "Over the years, in keeping with the legislature's original vision, we have provided flexible, accessible and affordable college classes and workforce training for the families and employers in our six-county district," said Robert 'Buck' Eagle, Eastern's Dean for Academic and Student Services.

#### **Personal Attention**

To make the best use of available resources, to control costs, and to keep tuition as low as possible for its learners, Eastern harnesses new technologies, such as online courses and real-time video distance classes, to optimize its learning strategies. "Many of our students hold fulltime jobs, and take care of their families," Eagle pointed out, "and they can't all attend college on a traditional classroom schedule. So they value the convenience and the option of taking many courses from their homes, or workplaces, or public libraries.

"And because of their very busy lives, they often rely on the close, personal attention and support that Eastern has become famous for," he said, "and without which many of our most successful students would never have taken even that first baby step of registration." And according to many students, that special, one-to-one emphasis on student success, made possible by the college's local, onsite administration and staff, its

community focus, and skilled, dedicated faculty, has become Eastern's hallmark, and its growing tradition.

By making college learning accessible in learner-friendly formats, Eagle explained, Eastern has set strong foundations for increasing the district's and the state's college-going rate, despite periodic changes in its administrative leadership and shifts in prevailing governmental tides.

"You know, not until the seventh day of his mission, when Joshua marched around the gates of Jericho seven times, did the fierce walls of that city crumble. Now, as Eastern begins our seventh September, we shall witness the walls of our new home rise up solid, and stand firm," Eagle noted, "harboring modern classrooms, up-to-date laboratories, and accessible resource centers."

He might also have quoted the prophetic biblical mystic Eliphaz, who promised his friend, the often-assailed, though virtuous Job, "He will deliver you from six troubles, and in seven, there, shall no evil touch you."

For more information about Eastern's financial aid opportunities, programs of study and workforce and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College's website: "[www.eastern.wvnet.edu](http://www.eastern.wvnet.edu)".

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.