



Eastern West Virginia
Community & Technical College

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 26, 2007

Submitted by and contact:

Daniel Silver, Eastern staff writer

304-434-8000 or 877-982-2322: ext. 248

MANCHIN PROMISES TO BUILD ON SUCCESS WITH EDUCATION AS KEY

With more than 19 thousand new jobs created, and over four billion dollars of new investment, the West Virginia economy has reached its highest level in history during the last three years, Governor Joe Manchin asserted last month. “The economy is in the best shape it’s ever been,” Manchin told WV Radio Network’s Amanda Mangan, news director at WQZK, FM 94.1, noting that the current peak performance also included the state’s lowest unemployment level on record.

Interviewed in Moorefield after keynoting the groundbreaking for Eastern WV Community and Technical College’s new, permanent home October 12th, the governor promised not to let the pride he felt in the state’s success slow him down. “I’m just tickled to death, but whenever you think you’ve arrived,” he cautioned, “the journey just begins.”

Eastern’s new site commands a spectacular view of lush green mountains overlooking newly opened segments of Corridor H, and from that brilliant pinnacle Manchin’s view of the road ahead opened before him.

Emphasizing “the difference between accomplishing a mission and having a vision far into the future,” the governor linked the budding local community and technical college to a growing regional productivity and prosperity grounded in technical knowledge and skills.

“There’s not a person today that can compete at the level they need to, for the quality of life they probably desire, unless they have additional skills,” he said. Pointing to an important difference between today’s job market and that of earlier times, Manchin recalled that decades ago students who dropped out of school at 16 could readily find factory or mining jobs. But now, he noted, “That’s not good enough.”

Today those miners and factory workers “all have additional associate degrees or higher degrees, and the workforce is much choosier today, and management can take it’s time and choose the best and brightest in every field of work.” Both adult learners and recent high school graduates must acquire new skills and knowledge, the governor said, “to earn the quality of life they need.”

With sloping stretches of new highway ranging and curving below, Manchin predicted that the progress and completion of Corridor H will “open up this entire beautiful area of West Virginia.” New jobs and opportunities will spring up, he reasoned, and “as we transform—and we will transform—the work changes, the technology age comes in, and the informational age, and we will change with that.”

That development will also bring “people looking for the quality of life we offer in West Virginia. But they’ll only come if we can guarantee that we have the workforce,” he said, and “that’s what we’re doing today in breaking ground for this new school.”

And though still a new school, Eastern has already established a tradition of providing close, personal support for student success, “from the top administrators, to the

admissions, financial aid and academic counselors,” Robert ‘Buck’ Eagle, the college’s Dean for Academic and Student Services, commented later. “And that’s our secret, our key to empowering learners who might never have seen college as even a remote possibility.”

Local educators understand local needs, Eagle pointed out, and an on-site administration and staff provides a level of learning support that lets “even students who have had previous problems in school achieve success in college by acquiring the skills and knowledge they need to compete in the 21st century workplace.”

Both men agreed that attracting quality jobs requires a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. “With the quality of education we’re able to produce,” Manchin affirmed, “and will be able to produce, we’ll be able to guarantee that happens.”

Insisting that “the commitments we make to the state of West Virginia today should have that vision,” the governor foresaw further successes ahead. “There’s so much more for us to do in this state, and we have an awful lot to offer. And,” he pledged, “we’re going to make it happen.”

For more information about Eastern’s financial aid opportunities, programs of study and learner support services, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College’s website: “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.