

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Submitted by and contact:

Daniel Silver, Eastern staff writer

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

**ART & ESSAY CONTEST HONORS KING AND CELEBRATES DIVERSITY**

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and in celebration of American diversity, Eastern WV Community and Technical College is sponsoring an Art and Essay Contest for students in the Potomac Highlands. “We’re holding separate contests for two age-groups,” said Cindy Drumm, Eastern’s student services Counselor. “And our theme is: ‘What Diversity Means to Me’.”

The college invites all Potomac Highland students from grades nine through twelve, including home-schooled students, and all current Eastern students, to submit an essay and/or piece of artwork on that theme.

“Students can choose any artistic medium, or combination of media, they wish, including original photographs,” Drumm noted. No art submission should exceed 18 by 24 inches in size, she said, and no essay should exceed 750 words. Students may submit one entry in each category, but no more than one art submission and one essay.

Interested students should submit their entries by 5:00 pm, February 15 to Cindy Drumm, (room 112) at Eastern WV Community and Technical College, 1929 State Road 55, Moorefield, WV 26836. The college will convene a panel of judges to choose and announce three prize-winners in each category at the end of the month.

For more information, check Eastern’s website, [www.eastern.wvnet.edu](http://www.eastern.wvnet.edu), or call the college at 434-8000, or toll-free: 877-982-2322.

Eastern’s contest dovetails with President George W. Bush’s proclamation of February as National African American History Month. This year, the president specifically honored scholar, newsman and teacher Carter G. Woodson, who mined coal as a teenager in Fayette County, WV to help make family ends meet, and went on to earn a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. In his proclamation last Tuesday, Bush praised Woodson’s “dedication to educating Americans about cultural diversity....

“Our Nation is now stronger and more hopeful,” the president said, “because generations of leaders like him have worked to help America live up to its promise of equality and the great truth that all of God’s children are created equal.”

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.