

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2008

Submitted by and contact: Daniel Silver, Eastern staff writer
304-434-8000 or 877-982-2322: ext. 248

WORKSHOPS OFFER ‘PAINLESS’ COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID PROCEDURES

Anyone thinking about attending college next fall can find out how to complete and file the basic forms for financial aid at free workshops this month in Moorefield. Amanda Sites, Director for Financial Aid at Eastern WV Community and Technical College, will lead learner-friendly, step-by-step community information sessions Wednesday afternoon, February 13, from 1:00 – 3:00, and Thursday evening, February 21, from 5:00 – 7:00, at the college’s Moorefield center.

“We’re especially aiming at students who have already filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in the past, and who need to renew it,” Sites said, “but we won’t turn anyone away. You don’t even have to be an Eastern student to take part.” All current PROMISE and West Virginia grant recipients, and all other students currently enrolled in any West Virginia college or university must renew the FAFSA this year no later than March 1.

For more information, and to register, call Patty Goldizen at 434-8000, or toll-free: 877-982-2322. “Although walk-ins are also welcome, we’re asking folks to pre-register beforehand, so we’ll have an idea of how many spaces we’ll need to reserve,” said Goldizen.

“Filing and renewing are not hard to do, and it’s very efficient and easy to do it online,” Sites noted. “But the forms usually contain at least one or two changes to watch out for, and whether students choose to file it electronically or through the mail, we can walk you through the entire process painlessly.” All renewing students must bring their FAFSA PIN number, as well as their 2007 federal income tax returns and W-2 forms.

Sites emphasized that at the workshops, students planning to enroll fulltime in the fall can also complete the application for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant.

New students should attend the February 21 workshop if possible, she said. “Also, new students who qualify as dependents whether newly filing or renewing the FAFSA, must also bring their parents’ 2007 federal tax returns and W-2 forms.” Only students under the age of 23, unmarried and with no children can qualify as dependents.

“Almost everyone who thinks about attending college next fall will need to apply for financial aid,” said Sites, noting that “some 80-percent of fulltime college undergraduates currently receive some form of financial aid.”

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.