

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 12, 2008

Submitted by and contact:

Daniel Silver, Eastern staff writer

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

**EASTERN'S AMY CRITES OFFERS CUSTOMIZED WORKFORCE TRAINING**

The three major candidates still in the running for this November's presidential elections—Senators Clinton, Obama and McCain—have all highlighted the tough challenges posed by the global economy to American workers.

“We shouldn't be playing catch-up with the world,” says Senator Clinton, who believes “that every American should have access to lifelong learning opportunities.” To increase access to the American Dream, she told a college audience in New Hampshire, she wants to “strengthen community colleges” who “offer some of the most important, cutting-edge, worker training opportunities in America.”

Recognizing that today's Americans must compete with high-skilled workers across the globe, Senator Obama told a workers' group that he proposes to “make long-term investments in education, training, and workforce development.”

And because of job outsourcing to every corner of the world, Senator McCain noted in early March, “many people find themselves at the end of their productive life.” His solution: “We should go to our community colleges and have them design and implement job training and education programs.”

**Eastern's Workforce Success**

With all the presidential contenders reaching near agreement on at least this one issue, it's a favorable time for Amy Crites to start her new job. This past January, the Workforce Education unit at Eastern WV Community and Technical College appointed her Manager for Contracted Training Services.

“Eastern has a strong and successful record providing worker training programs designed to the specific needs of individual businesses and employers,” Crites said.

For many years, she pointed out, area businesses and industries of every stripe and size have taken advantage of the college's expertise in developing customized programs for managers and employees—from simple workshops and workforce trainings through college-credit skill sets, certificates and degrees—and in identifying and managing available grants to fund them.

“I will reach out to businesses and individuals in our region—large and small, high-tech or low—to learn about their workplace training needs,” Crites emphasized, “to discover with them opportunities for growth through training and educational development, and to foster productive partnerships for building a more knowledgeable and more deeply skilled workforce.”

**Improved Productivity**

Crites comes to Eastern after ten years as a healthcare administrator and technician for both Hahn Medical Practices in Romney and the Hampshire County Health Department. “Her work experience has given Amy a solid understanding of business operations, including an ability to identify opportunities for improved productivity through employee training and organizational growth,” noted Sherry Watts, Eastern's Associate Dean for Workforce Education, and Crites' immediate supervisor. “Her

previous success at finding sources of grant funding that match client needs will greatly enhance our ability to serve our local businesses and industries.”

A graduate of Moorefield High School, Crites earned a Bachelor of Science at Shepherd University, graduating with Cum Laude honors. She and husband Ashley Crites, also of Moorefield, now reside in Burlington, and are expecting their first child in May.

“We know that both Governor Manchin and the WV legislature have recognized the importance of workforce training and development to growing prosperity in our region and our state,” Crites said. “And they’re giving us the resources and the tools to make it happen.”

For more information about Eastern’s Workforce Education program, financial aid opportunities, other programs of study and learner support services, 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.