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PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENT STREAMLINE EASTERN'S COMMAND

As construction crews lay the foundation for Eastern WV Community and Technical College's new headquarters off Corridor H just east of Moorefield, the college's administrative structure is also undergoing renovation. After Bob Sisk took charge of the college as interim president last July, he streamlined the senior leadership team by combining the duties of the academics dean with those of the learner support dean. Then he named Robert G. "Buck" Eagle, Jr., Eastern's former Director for Financial Aid, as the new Dean for Academic and Learner Support Services.

At the same time, Sisk appointed Grover G. Duling as Associate Dean for Career Studies and Academic Services. Both men take native pride in their Potomac Highland roots—Eagle in Mineral County, and Duling in Grant—and both have spent most of their adult lives as educators.

"To this new position, Buck Eagle brings 23 years of outstanding experience and merit in West Virginia higher education," Sisk emphasized, "as well as a deep understanding of Eastern's mission and culture, and extensive community activity and involvement. He is exactly the right person for this job at this moment."

Duling also offers an exceptional background in local technical education, Sisk noted, including 19 years as Dean of Students at South Branch Career and Technical Center in Petersburg.

Can-Do Approach

"Eastern is extremely fortunate that Grover agreed to postpone his retirement and accept this new challenge. We will not find anyone who can demonstrate the same professional dedication, superior achievement record, can-do approach and thorough know-how in technical education that he has shown over the past two decades," said Sisk, who, as Director of South Branch before joining Eastern, worked closely with Duling during that time.

Eagle, who now will supervise all of Eastern's academic and support services to students, identified several priorities for immediate action. "First and foremost, we will reinforce our tradition of one-on-one attention to each individual student," Eagle said. "Larger institutions just don't have that luxury of being able to offer the same degree of personal support that we do. Because we're small, and because we're community oriented, we can go the extra yard, and that's the beauty of the community college: we not only say the right words about personal touch, we actually provide it."

The college also aims to "expand and further strengthen our current offerings," Eagle pointed out, "even as we focus on developing new learning programs geared to the interests and needs of Eastern students as they prepare for the job market of the 21st century." He will also lead Eastern's efforts to "advance our assessment methods for the instruction we do offer, to make sure that the course content continues to meet learner needs and expectations."

As Associate Dean for Career Studies and Academics, Duling will directly supervise and support Eastern's academic and technical programs of study. "I feel that I know the culture of this area, having been a part of it for so many years," he said.

State-of-the-Art

"And I believe that Eastern needs to support the community we serve with as many educational opportunities as possible, because we need to prepare for the economic and job growth that will come over the next decade. The only question is: who will take those jobs and manage that growth? In my view," Duling affirmed, "it should be folks who call this region home, not colonists from northern Virginia and D.C.

"So our citizens need to prepare themselves with state-of-the-art knowledge and skills. And in a nutshell," he said, "that's the core of Eastern's mission."

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".

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.