

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LEARN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE THIS MARCH AT EASTERN

Pepsi ran an imaginatively silent pre-game Super Bowl ad last month called “Bob’s House,” in which two men identified a deaf friend’s household as the only one in the neighborhood that did not respond to loud blasts on the car horn. Fans who watched the clip (on the web at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffrq6cUoE5A) also learned a bit about the special ways deaf people communicate.

Now, in two separate evening classes, sponsored by Eastern WV Community and Technical College’s Community Connections series, Moorefield’s Amanda Runions will teach the American Sign Language alphabet to all who wish to learn the language of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Starting March 6, the beginner’s level “Basic American Sign Language” will meet in Baker every Thursday in March, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, in Eastern’s access center at East Hardy High School.

For those who already have mastered some basics, Runions will also offer a four-session intermediate level class. “American Sign Language 2” will meet Tuesday evenings starting March 4, also from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, in Eastern’s Moorefield center at the HARCO Complex, one-half mile east of town.

Space is limited. To register, and for more information about specific times and locations, call Lacey Ball at 434-8000, or toll free: (877) 982-2322. Be certain to ask about other Community and Continuing Education opportunities available at Eastern.

In the beginners’ class, participants will learn basic conversational skills and common words using sign, and other ways the non-hearing use body language.

Learners in the intermediate level will focus on improving their skills, including how to sign phrases instead of mostly single words. “But they should take a basic class before they move up to the intermediate,” Runions said.

Runions, a practitioner of sign for six years, serves as the Hardy County Board of Education’s sign language interpreter, and teaches an after-school program in sign to children. “Their parents tell me how wonderful it is,” she said, “and one little girl’s dad says he sees her signing all the time.” And she emphasized that all ages are welcome at both classes.

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.