



## *For Immediate Release*

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### **You Are Invited to BridgeValley Community and Technical College's Capital City Pumpkin Drop**

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BridgeValley Community and Technical College's Capital City Pumpkin Drop returns, area schools invited to participate

If Charleston pumpkins could talk, they would probably say "Geronimo!"

After a year hiatus, the 22nd annual Capital City Pumpkin Drop, hosted by BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BVCTC), is back and battier (er, better) than ever!

On Thursday, October 21, students from area elementary, middle and high schools will send their pumpkins soaring through the skies in the hopes that they will hit the designated target. The trick? Students participating in the event must engineer a protective layer to ensure their precious pumpkins can pull through and stay intact, despite the drop.

The treat? Those who see their pumpkins survive the precipitous plummet will win something even better than candy: they will win cash. If multiple pumpkins survive from that school category, the one that lands closest to the bulls-eye wins the top prize. First, second and third prizes will be awarded to elementary, middle and high school categories and the top pumpkin that survives and lands closest to the bull's eye will be named "Grand Slam Pumpkin" regardless of school category. Prizes will also be awarded to the "Most Creative Design" and the "Most Sustainable Design."

Even if a pumpkin turns into a goopy and ghoulish mess, said Michelle Wicks, BVCTC's director of Outreach, the event has always been a great way to get kids and teens into the Halloween spirit.

"This event is always a scream," Wicks said. "We're glad to be back after missing last year due to COVID-19, and we can't wait to see what kind of ingenious ideas our community comes up with this time around. It's going to be a blast!"

Pumpkin drop participants and spectators can catch the event at the Appalachian Power Park. School check-in begins at 8 a.m., followed by the Opening Ceremony at 8:30 a.m. The pumpkin drop competition begins at 9 a.m. and the Awards Ceremony will wrap up the event starting at approximately 1 p.m. COVID-19 restrictions will be in place, and everyone at the event is required to wear a mask at all times, regardless of vaccination status. Only two people per drop will be allowed to

participate at any given time.

Schools that wish to participate must register here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/tbG5seY7mg>

#### About the Capital City Pumpkin Drop

The Education Alliance began the Capital City Pumpkin Drop in 1998 to create an innovative spin on how students learn critical math and science skills. In its 21st year, 44 schools with students in 4th-12th grades have designed enclosures to protect their pumpkins from damage as they drop them from bucket trucks provided by Appalachian Power volunteers and students in BridgeValley's lineman program.

The pumpkin should hit the bull's eye on the ground and stay intact during impact. The "surviving" pumpkins that land closest to the target are the winning entries. Prizes are awarded to first, second and third-place schools in high school, middle school, and elementary school categories. The top pumpkin regardless of the category is named the Grand Slam Pumpkin. Prizes are also awarded for Most Creative Design and for Most Sustainable Design.

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#### About BridgeValley Community and Technical College

BridgeValley Community and Technical College promotes student success, prepares a skilled workforce, and builds tomorrow's leaders by providing access to quality higher education. BridgeValley Community and Technical College will be the college of opportunity for a diverse learner population, offering leading-edge technology, innovative ideas, and dynamic service to our students and our communities. BridgeValley Community and Technical College serves a six-county region including Fayette, Raleigh, Nicholas, Clay, Putnam and Kanawha counties. The college operates two campuses in Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of the new Advanced Technology Center. BridgeValley Community and Technical College is a public institution of higher education independently accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and a member of the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia.