



For Immediate Release

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**BridgeValley Community & Technical College Fills Utility
Line Service Training Program for Summer and Fall, Works
to
Enroll Additional Cohorts**

*Students have the opportunity to work for partnering companies while
earning certificates*

(South Charleston, W. VA) - Despite these unprecedented times, the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Utility Line Service Training Program successfully recruited and has nearly filled its incoming cohorts quickly for both summer, beginning June 29 in Montgomery, WV, and fall, beginning September 14 in Huntington, WV. Available spots in the January 2021 class are also filling rapidly. BridgeValley is here to serve the community and train for tomorrow, as the college works to register additional cohorts as demand increases.

Capped at 15 students, classes allow professors to offer individualized attention and to get to know students prior to recommending them for job offerings to determine the best fit for both the student and the potential employer. Since launching in 2017, the program has maintained an impressive 100% job placement rate for students upon completion.

The 24 week, non-credit program consists of 8 weeks of training in the classroom, followed by 16 weeks of hands on, on the job training with one of BridgeValley's nine different sponsoring partner companies, as available, to gain experience. As a 'Learn and Earn' program, the Utility Line Service Training Program allows students to take courses while being employed concurrently through a cooperative education (co-op) experience. Approved sponsoring companies, including Pike Electric, Lee Construction, 5-Star Electric, Nichols Construction, CST Utilities, River City Electric, Team Fishel, AEP, and Davis H. Elliot, are reimbursed 50% of the student's salary by the state of West Virginia, which includes an enticing \$16-\$24 hourly wage plus per diem.

Upon completion of the 640-contact hour program, students have a solid understanding and experience in Pole Climbing with fall protection, pole-top rescue, aerial lift rescue, operation of a material handler bucket truck, operation of a digger derrick, rigging, chain saw safety, rope knots and slings, CDL Class A Pintle Hook, OSHA 30, First Aid and CPR, Heavy Equipment , and single and three-phase transformers.

Many employers apply hours worked to achieve the certificate of completion at BridgeValley directly toward the 8,000 hour apprenticeship requirement, which, once obtained, students are able to bring the journeyman credential back to BridgeValley and complete online courses to receive their occupational development degree.

For more information about the program or classes, please contact Heather Williamson at heather.williamson@bridgevalley.edu





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.

For more information about BridgeValley Community and Technical College financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education and events, call (304) 205-6600 or; or check the College's website:

<http://www.bridgevalley.edu>

