



For Immediate Release

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BridgeValley Community & Technical College Plans for Fall 2020 Semester

*Faculty and staff work to ensure seamless continuity
of education for BridgeValley students*

South Charleston, W.Va - Despite college campus closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, BridgeValley Community & Technical College (BridgeValley) remains resilient through these unprecedented times to ensure students continue to receive a high quality education, no matter the medium of delivery.

Through the uncertainty surrounding the Fall 2020 semester, BridgeValley faculty and staff have put in countless hours of planning to provide students a sense of normalcy in receiving their education. To the best of their ability, taking into consideration ever changing conditions, BridgeValley plans to deliver all Fall 2020 courses seamlessly. To err on the side of caution, BridgeValley announces the following new fall timeline:

- August 10th - Classes Begin
- November 12th - Last day of Classes
- November 13th -19th - Finals
- November 23rd - Grades Due

BridgeValley intends to supplement this timeline with late start to courses that will run the last ten weeks of the semester, beginning just after Labor Day. The vast majority of classes will start August 10, with the summer term being shortened by one week to avoid overlapping terms. "We have charted a path by which we can continue to service our students, allow them to find new opportunities and progress to meaningful employment," said Dr. Eunice Bellinger, President of BridgeValley. "We are on a path that will allow for the safe delivery of content and services no matter how the future of the pandemic evolves."

Given current conditions, a majority of courses offered will use virtual meeting platforms supported by BridgeValley to meet for class sessions rather than in person. Faculty members will determine which meeting tool is best for their individual courses. During the coming summer months, BridgeValley plans to make significant investments in technology and training for both students and faculty to make this time of transition as pleasant and productive as possible, including a series of training and orientation sessions to instill students' confidence in the technology and ensure they are comfortable using these new learning tools.

In order to make the transition as smooth as possible and avoid confusion, BridgeValley has established a descriptive, consistent list of course types:

- Virtual Remote: Courses will meet at published times using supported virtual meeting platforms.
- Hybrid: Courses requiring physical meetings will be listed as hybrid. Faculty and facilities staff will work together to create learning environments that minimize the risk of virus transfer.
- Courses and programs that require in-person sessions for labs, hands on applied learning, and clinical rotations will be conducted in ways that best satisfy the personal safety requirements of all involved. Each of these programs have unique requirements and necessitate solutions tailored specifically to those needs.

Faculty and staff at BridgeValley want to assure that students receive the best possible care. Academic advising has increased capacity, and faculty and staff are creating new tools and ways for students to connect with them. Students are urged to reach out with questions, concerns, and suggestions for how BridgeValley can be better at serving and assuring the continuity of their journey to complete their degree.

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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.

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>