



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Jennifer Aries
925-784-0574
jennifer@25comm.com

BridgeValley and Industry Partners Launch Early College Cooperative

(Montgomery, WV) - BridgeValley Community and Technical College, Kanawha County Schools, and their industry partners, have launched the Kanawha Valley Early College Cooperative, with a formal partnership agreement. Providing more students with access to college sooner, BridgeValley Community and Technical College is launching the Kanawha Valley Early College Cooperative on Monday, October 28.

The cooperative is developed through a \$200,000 grant through the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to pilot an early college model spanning middle school through the completion of an associate degree.

"The early college model has shown tremendous success in increasing the number of students who matriculate from high school to college after graduation," said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, chancellor of the West Virginia Community and Technical College System. "Congratulations to BridgeValley and Kanawha County Schools, and I hope this can become a model for community colleges across the state. Our thanks to the Benedum Foundation for its support."

"The Kanawha County School System is excited to enter into this partnership with BridgeValley Community and Technical College," said Dr. Ronald Duerring, superintendent of the Kanawha County Schools. "This will serve many students in Kanawha County by offering another pathway in their education. Students will graduate with a high school diploma and a two year associates degree. It is a momentous occasion when two educational institutions like BridgeValley Community and Technical College and Kanawha County Schools come together for the good of our students and their future."

Through the new program, BridgeValley will develop the scope and sequence for initial degree programs including a suite of transfer programs in advanced

manufacturing, cyber security and nursing; establish a middle school outreach program that will launch in January 2020 and develop a summer bridge program to engage incoming students with learning skills, development activities and career exploration programs. BridgeValley will recruit 25 students to be part of the first cohort beginning in fall 2020, and 50 students to participate in the second cohort beginning in fall 2021.



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>