

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

April 4, 2025

The two hundred thirty first meeting of the West Virginia University Board of Governors was held on April 4, 2025 in Morgantown, WV, in person and via zoom webinar. Board members in attendance/participating via zoom included Chair Richard Pill and members Charles Capito, Bray Cary, Dr. Lesley Cottrell, Elmer Coppoolse, Kevin Craig, Michael D'Annunzio, Dr. Patrice Harris, Rusty Hutson, Susan Lavenski, Charlie Long, Paul Mattox, Shirley Robinson, Steve Ruby, Frankie Tack, and Robert Reynolds. Board member Alan Larrick was absent and excused.

Other participants included:

President, E. Gordon Gee;

General Counsel, Stephanie Taylor;

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Paul Kreider;

Interim Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing,

Heather Richardson;

Vice President and Executive Dean of Health Sciences, Clay Marsh;

Deputy General Counsel and Associate Vice President. Gary Furbee;

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Paula Congelio;

Senior Associate Vice President for Finance, Barbara Weiss;

Associate General Counsel, Kylie Barnhart;

Associate Vice President, Government Relations and Collaboration,

Travis Mollohan;

Associate Provost for Budget, Facilities and Strategic Initiatives,

Mark Gavin;

Dean of Students, Corey Farris;

Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment, Louis Slimak;

Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Evan Widders;

Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, Erin Newmeyer;

Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of Management

Information Systems, Brad Price;

Milan Puskar Dean of the Chambers College of Business and

Economics, Joshua Hall;

Executive Officer and Assistant Board Secretary, Jennifer Fisher;

Director of News Communications, Shauna Johnson; and

Special Assistant to the Board of Governors, Valerie Lopez.

For the Student Government Associate Report, Charlie Long was joined by Abigail Browning, Susie Rick, Logan Price, Colin Street and Ro Jones;

For the Classified Staff Report, Shirley Robinson was joined by Thea Browne, Member-At-Large, Staff Council and Sarah Seime, Ex-Officio Member, Staff Council;

Members of the Press also attended.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Pill at 10:00 a.m.

A roll call was taken to determine who was in attendance and a quorum established.

### **PROVOST'S REPORT**

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Paul Kreider offered the following updates:

#### **Retention**

I want to start off today with some really exciting positive news on the retention front – and you all are some of the first to hear it.

Our Fall-24 to Spring-25 first-time freshmen retention rate is projected at 93.8%, which is an increase of almost one percent from last year – and our highest fall to spring retention rate ever. Bear in mind this is different from our fall-to-fall freshman retention rate (which was over 83% and also a record high).

A high fall-to-spring retention rate like this is a good indicator that students are generally happy with their college experience – that they're getting the support they need and are more likely to stay enrolled for their sophomore year.

Particularly notable was a 97% rate in the Statler College and a rise in first-generation student retention of over one point.

Much of the credit for these overall retention numbers is due to the good work of our dedicated academic advisers and faculty – who are committed to the success of our students, both in and beyond the classroom.

### HLC Visit

Our student success efforts were just one of the many things we were able to highlight earlier this week during the Higher Learning Commission's accreditation site team visit.

It was a busy couple of days filled with small-group and open forum meetings with the site team. The team met with folks in student life, enrollment management, university leadership, our academic deans, research team, undergraduate and graduate council members, faculty, staff, and students. There were specific meetings related to each criterion of the self-study report, a range of short topical meetings, as well as open forums for faculty, staff and students.

Thanks to those of you who participated in discussions with the team and to our campus community who engaged in the forums.

All-in-all, the visit was a success, and the team thanked us for our engagement and openness during the discussions.

The visiting team will finalize their report to the HLC over the next few weeks. WVU will receive that report to correct any errors of fact. That corrected report is then reviewed by the HLC's Institutional Action Committee before being approved finally by the HLC's Board of Governors. WVU should receive its final evaluation from the HLC sometime this summer.

### Day at the Capitol

Spring semester is also the time when we are able to showcase our best and brightest in front of lawmakers in Charleston. Late last month 65 WVU students representing the Morgantown and Beckley campuses participated in Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol.

The event provides students the opportunity to present their original scholarly works during a poster session and to talk with legislators about their findings. This year, students were mentored by faculty from the Statler College of Engineering and

Mineral Resources, College of Applied Human Sciences; College of Creative Arts and Media; Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Eberly College of Arts and Sciences; and the Health Sciences schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy and Public Health.

### Celebrations / Awards

I'd like to also highlight the national recognition that our Office of Undergraduate Research received in March. The national Council on Undergraduate Research honored the WVU office with its "Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments" – an award that pays tribute to exemplary programs that provide high quality and collaborative research experiences for undergraduates.

Our Office of Undergraduate Research was established in 2015 and has continued to promote a strong undergraduate research culture and provide excellent opportunities for student engagement. They enhance the student experience through programs like the Research Apprenticeship Program and the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, as well as one-on-one mentoring.

We know their work has significant impact on the lives and long-term success of our students, and they are so well deserving of this recognition.

WVU is also rolling out its annual faculty awards from the Office of the Provost.

Late last month, we announced this year's honorees for the Nicholas Evans Awards for Advising Excellence. The 2025 recipients of the Nicholas Evans Faculty Advising Excellence Award include faculty advisers Nettie Freshour in the Davis College and Rebekah Dunaway in the Eberly College and primary role advisers Marilyn Munzer in the Statler College and Semoa DeSousa-Brown in the Eberly College. This year, we also added the first recipient of the New Adviser Award, which goes to Jenna Edwards in the Davis College.

Just this week, we also announced the winners of the Caperton and Heebink faculty awards.

Julie Hicks Patrick – a professor of psychology in the Eberly College – is the 2024-2025 recipient of the Caperton Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Writing.

Joshua Meadows –a service assistant professor in the Chambers College’s Department of Management Information Systems and Supply Chain – is the recipient of the Ethel and Gerry Heebink Award for Distinguished Beginning State Service.

And Lori Hostuttler – University librarian and director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center – is the recipient of the Ethel and Gerry Heebink Award for Distinguished Extended State Service.

We have more awards to announce in the coming weeks and look forward to celebrating everyone at the annual awards ceremony at the Blaney House in mid-April.

Next week, the University will also be celebrating Graduate Student Appreciation Week with a series of fun events, activities and giveaways for all WVU graduate and professional students. The Office of Graduate Education and Life – along with partners from around campus – is offering free professional headshots, snacks and swag stations, and workshops with the Purpose Center and Collegiate Recovery Center.

The week will wrap up with the Three-Minute Thesis Competition Grand Finale, during which 10 finalists will present their doctoral research topic and its significance in three minutes using a single PowerPoint slide.

We look forward to an exciting week celebrating our students.

And speaking of looking forward....

Our academic deans and program leaders have been looking ahead to the future and developing innovative curriculum.

On the consent agenda for your review and approval are two new proposed programs we are excited to highlight for you today. We believe both of these programs – which have been developed by the Chambers College – will be enrollment drivers for years to come.

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics undergraduate program will focus on identifying how artificial intelligence and data analytics tools are used, developed, deployed, evaluated and maintained in organizations.

The Master of Science in AI Marketing will offer graduate students an opportunity to learn how artificial intelligence can be adopted to solve marketing problems.

We believe that both of these forward-looking programs will fill a void in higher-education and the need for AI-related talents in the workforce.

With us today to share a bit about these programs are Brad Price, chair and associate professor of the Department of Management Information Systems and Supply Chain, and Joshua Hall, Milan Puskar Dean of the Chambers College of Business and Economics.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Charlie Long, the student representative presented his report to the full board, which presentation is attached hereto and made a part hereof, by reference.

## **CLASSIFIED STAFF REPORT**

Shirley Robinson, the classified staff representative presented her report to the full board, which presentation is attached hereto and made a part hereof, by reference.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Pill requested a motion to move Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code Sections 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9), and (b)(12) to discuss:

- a. Potential strategic initiatives relating to academic and administrative priorities; legislative or regulatory matters; personnel matters; other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University;

- b. Matters relating to internal Board of Governors operations; and,
- c. A confidential and privileged report by General Counsel.

The motion was made by Kevin Craig, seconded by Elmer Coppoolse, and passed. Following Executive Session, Elmer Coppoolse moved that the board rise from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Kevin Craig and passed.

### **DISCUSSIONS EMANATING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF ANY**

Chair Pill reported that no actions resulted from today's Executive Session discussions.

### **APRIL 3, 2025 FINANCE AND FACILITIES AND REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Kevin Craig, chair of this committee, made the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday there was a meeting of Finance and Facilities and Revitalization Committee.

We met in Executive Session to discuss: Potential strategic initiatives relating to academic, administrative, and athletic priorities; 2. Personnel matters; 3. Potential and ongoing corporate partnerships; 4. Other deliberative matters involving commercial competition; and 5. Confidential, deliberative, and preliminary matters involving or affecting the University's budget for the current and upcoming academic year, including potential cost-saving and revenue generation strategies related to future budget years.

No actions or votes were taken during Executive Session.

The Finance and Facilities and Revitalization committee continues to prioritize opportunities and resources that support students, faculty, and staff by advancing the critical and purposeful programs and work that bring needed and valued solutions to real-life problems within the pillars of education, healthcare and prosperity.

The Committee reviewed and discussed detailed and draft financial analyses of the current and future budget including projected expenses, potential cost savings, and increases in revenue generation. These deliberative and confidential discussions remain key as the University considers competing priorities and strategically plans for the financial future of WVU.

After a productive afternoon, the Finance and Facilities and Revitalization committee adjourned.

That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

### **APRIL 3, 2025 STRATEGIC PLANS AND INITIATIVES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Elmer Coppoolse, chair of this committee, made the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, there was a meeting of the Strategic Plans and Initiatives committee.

In public session, we heard an update and presentation on the newly formed Office of Innovation & Commercialization. Erienne Olesh, Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Commercialization, and Ryan Watson, Executive Director of Intellectual Property and Licensing & Senior Associate General Counsel, provided the Strategic Initiatives Committee with an overview of the Office of Innovation and Commercialization. This unit, launched in Fall 2024, consolidates the efforts of the former Office of Technology Transfer and the Office of Faculty and Student Innovation.

We then met in Executive Session. During Executive Session, under authority in West Virginia Code Sections 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9), and (b)(12) to discuss:



1. Potential strategic initiatives relating to academic and administrative priorities;
2. personnel matters;
3. potential and ongoing corporate partnerships;
4. matters relating to intellectual property;
5. other deliberative matters involving commercial competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the University; and
6. a confidential, preliminary, and strategic priorities associated with enrollment and retention.

No actions or votes were taken during executive session.

After a productive afternoon the Strategic Plans and Initiatives committee adjourned.

That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

#### **APRIL 4, 2025 DIVISIONAL CAMPUS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Paul Mattox, chair of this committee, made the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your Divisional Campus Committee met this morning in Public Sessions.

The board was excited to hear from Jerry Wallace, Campus President of WVU Potomac State College and T. Ramon Stuart, Campus President of WVU Institute of Technology – both of whom provided an overview of each divisional campus, including relevant updates covering various areas of interest.

Mr. Chairman, everyone enjoyed hearing from these dynamic campus leaders, and this concludes my report. Thank you.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Gee offered the following remarks:

We have so much to celebrate as we near the end of the academic year here at West Virginia University.

Last week, we marked our eighth annual Day of Giving, and I am so thankful for the generosity of everyone who made investments in the future of West Virginia University. Our supporters donated a record \$46.2 million this year. More than 10,300 gifts were made during the 24-hour online fundraising event held across the University system, also a new record. The \$46.2 million figure tops 2024's Day of Giving record of \$30.4 million raised from more than 8,500 gifts. More than 1,300 of those making gifts Wednesday self-identified as first-time donors.

Donor support is critical as we continue to evolve into a modern land-grant institution, one that provides a high-quality, affordable education to our students while supporting them as they find their purpose. Mountaineer Nation always shows up to support West Virginia University, and we are grateful.

As a land-grant institution, our University always shows up for our state and world with solutions to real-world problems.

For that reason, I am excited that we are partnering with RAND to turn world-class research into practical solutions for evolving job markets. Launching this year, the innovative collaboration will leverage our R1 research capacity with analysis and expertise from RAND, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization that has informed policymaking at all levels of government for nearly eight decades. The project will identify workforce trends and solutions, with a specific focus on apprenticeships, stackable credentials and career pathways, and career technical education.

This partnership will allow us to expand our extensive efforts in workforce development and position on as a national leader. Working with RAND, our faculty and student researchers will develop and implement policy recommendations to enhance state and national workforce strategies. The goal is to address shifts in the labor market, technological challenges, and training deficiencies. RAND officials will join us this month at Focus Forward, a free statewide conference focusing on West Virginia's economy.

That is just one of many important events coming up for our community. We are entering an exciting time, with year-end awards and Commencement around the corner.

I had a wonderful visit to Washington, D.C., last week to speak to the Public Relations Society of America's Counselors to Higher Education.

On campus, the coming weeks will be especially meaningful to me as my time as University president draws to an end. As we focus on the future of West Virginia University, I am providing President Benson with any help I can during his transition into leadership. I know he will do a great job, and he will benefit from our engaged Mountaineer family, who understand West Virginia University's mission and help us to succeed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kevin Craig moved that the board approve the minutes for February 20, 2025 and February 21, 2025 regular meetings. This motion was seconded by Paul Mattox and passed.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

There were no questions or concerns expressed by any board member pertaining to the Information Items contained within today's agenda.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Pill called for any discussion of today's Consent Agenda items and asked whether any items needed to be pulled for a separate discussion/vote.

There being no such request made, Kevin Craig moved that today's Consent Agenda be approved. This motion was seconded by Robert Reynolds and passed.

Thereupon, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

**1. Board of Governors Nominating Committee Appointments**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the following composition for a nominating committee to formulate/present a slate of officers for vote by the full board during the June 13, 2025 regular meeting: Kevin Craig as chair, with the following members: Charles Capito, Bray Cary, Dr. Lesley Cottrell, and Shirley Robinson.

**2. Approval of a new online Certificate in Digital Health in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of an online Certificate in Digital Health in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

**3. Approval of a new online Certificate in Midstream Petroleum Engineering in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of an online Certificate in Midstream Petroleum Engineering in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

**4. Approval of a new online MS degree in AI Marketing in the John Chambers College of Business and Economics**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the creation of an online MS degree in AI Marketing in the John Chambers College of Business and Economics.

- 5. Approval of New Program: AAS, PSC Radiology Technology**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new program in Radiology Technology, WVU Potomac State
- 6. Approval of New Program: BS in Applied AI and Data Analytics, in the John Chambers College of Business and Economics**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new program in Applied AI and Data Analytics
- 7. Approval of New Program: BSF Forest Resources and Conservation**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new program in Forest Resources and Conservation, WVU
- 8. Approval of New Program: AS, PSC Engineering, WVU Potomac State**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new program in Engineering, WVU Potomac State
- 9. Approval of New Program: AS, PSC Pre-Engineering, WVU Potomac State**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve the creation of a new program in Pre-Engineering, WVU Potomac State
- 10. University Police Department (UPD) Relocation to Chestnut Ridge Research Building (CRRB)**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve project budget for UPD Relocation project, as presented.
- 11. Brooke Tower – Replace Water and Wastewater Piping and Refurbish Restrooms (Budget Increase)**  
Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve project budget increase for Brooke Tower - Piping and Restrooms, as presented.

**12. Deferred Maintenance (Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Reallocation of a Portion of the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant)**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approve a Resolution Authorizing Reallocation of a Portion of the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant.

**13. Appointment to County Extension Committees**

Resolved: That the West Virginia University Board of Governors approves the nominees and alternates for positions on the County Extension Service Committees in West Virginia, as presented.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND  
ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Pill announced that the next planned board meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2025. There being no further business to come before the board Elmer Coppoolse moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kevin Craig and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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Robert Reynolds, Secretary





# 2024-2025 Administration





**Charlie Long**  
Student Body President



**Abigail Browning**  
Student Body Vice President



**Susie Risk**  
Chief of Staff



**Logan Pierce**  
Legislative Affairs



**Colin Street**  
Incoming President



**Ro Jones**  
Incoming Vice President

# President's Priorities

- Overall: Promoting safety, enjoyment, and energy on the Morgantown campus of West Virginia University
- Safety: Well-being is included in this, as well.
  - Tackling student loneliness
- Enjoyment: Another powerful driver of community and solution to loneliness.
  - WVU Arts Alliance
- Energy: Rebuilding morale in the aftermath of academic transformation. The future is bright!
  - First Day Complete
- You will **S.E.E.** what we mean.

# Loneliness Research Insights

- 69% of respondents had a positive view of group work in class
- 55% of respondents sometimes or rarely feel connected to others. This matches up quite well with the loneliness statistics.
- Respondents indicated that professors who made an effort to engage with the class and promote peer-to-peer interaction were among their favorites. 77% of respondents said their favorite class included peer-to-peer interaction activities.
- Respondents indicated that group assignments were at their best when they were accomplished within the class period and when the work was divided evenly among peers.

# WVU Arts Alliance









# Vice President's Priorities

- Fall Safety Fair
- Nolan Burch Vigil and Greek Engagement
- Health Sciences Campus Accessibility Survey





# EXECUTIVE BRANCH Highlights

- Internal Senates Mixers
- “Universities United” with Federal Representatives
- Big XII on the Hill
- Flood Relief in Partnership with WVU ROOTS
- Share a Swipe
- Grace Shelter Drive
- East End Village Town Hall



# STUDENT ASSEMBLY Highlights

- Naloxone Training with WELLWVU
- Rail Trail Cleanup
- Trunk or Treat
- Big XII Conference
- Safety Walks
- Partnership with Shining Minds Program
- Voter Registration Drives





# State Legislative Advocacy

- **WV House Bill 2737-** Establish the Higher Education Health and Aid Grant
- Would facilitate funding to establish food pantries on college campuses statewide to address student food insecurity
- **Nearly 50%** of WVU students reported some level of food insecurity on the Fall 2023 National College Health Assessment Survey administered by the American College Health Association
- **Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program**
- 25 high school seniors or recent graduates are supplied a \$10,000 per year in return for a commitment to teach in an area of 'critical need' in WV for at least five years after graduation.
- Attempted to work towards expanding the number of applicants accepted
- Would help to combat teacher shortages and burnout that the state currently faces.



# Colin and Ro's Priorities

# **Classified Staff of West Virginia University**

**West Virginia University Board of Governors  
April 4, 2025**





## Did you know.....?

Staff Council promotes a positive work environment for all Classified Employees through effectively advocating for our peers in the University's decision-making process. WVU Staff Council was created to provide the classified staff employees of West Virginia University a means of conveying their concerns on employee-employer relations. This council was formed with recognition that all matters at WVU are governed by state law, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, and University Rules.

## What is a **CLASSIFIED** employee?

**"Classified employee" means a regular full-time or regular part-time employee who:**

- Does not meet the duties test for exempt status under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act;
- Was a classified employee as of January 1, 2017, unless otherwise deemed a Non-Classified employee
- Do not qualify as a Non-Classified Employee

# Classified Hourly Structure Effective June 24, 2024

- **Administrative/Managerial**
- **Clerical/Secretarial**
- **Paraprofessional/Technician**
- **Physical Plant/Maintenance/Service**
- **Professional/Non-Teaching**

Classified Hourly Structure			
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Midpoint</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
6-9	\$14.00	\$14.60	\$17.52
10	\$14.00	\$14.87	\$17.84
11	\$14.00	\$15.76	\$18.90
12	\$14.00	\$16.75	\$20.10
13	\$14.24	\$17.79	\$21.36
14	\$16.13	\$18.94	\$22.72
15	\$17.21	\$20.16	\$24.20
16	\$18.37	\$21.94	\$26.68
17	\$19.63	\$23.43	\$28.48
18	\$22.47	\$25.02	\$30.42
19	\$24.04	\$28.65	\$34.82
20	\$25.78	\$31.25	\$38..46
21	\$25.78	\$33.52	\$41.25



# Let's Celebrate "Having A Good Day!"

\$13.00



\$14.00

# Salary Increases for Classified Staff

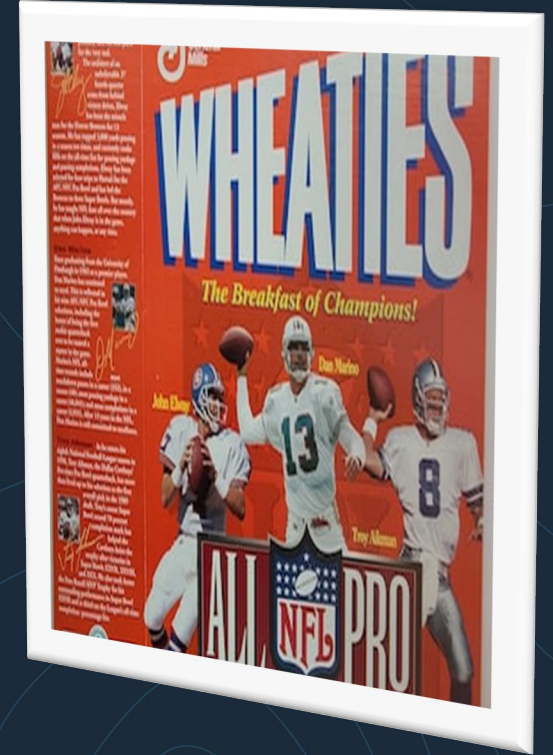
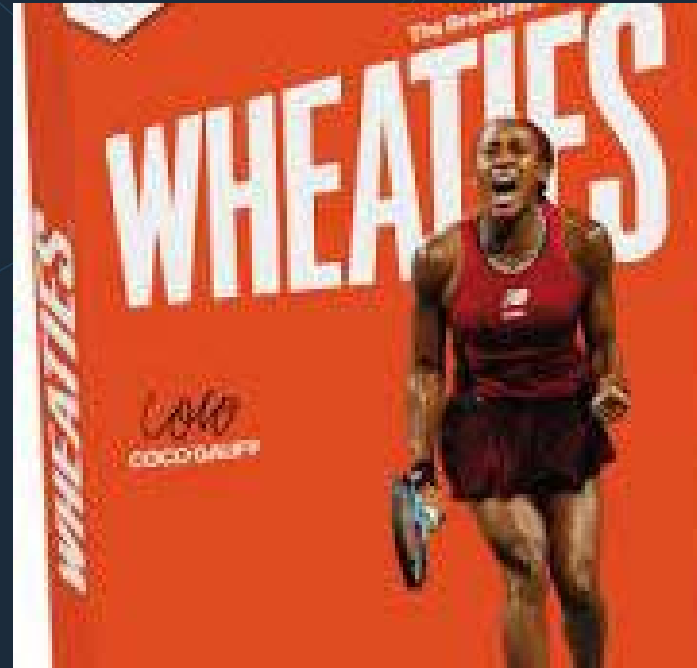
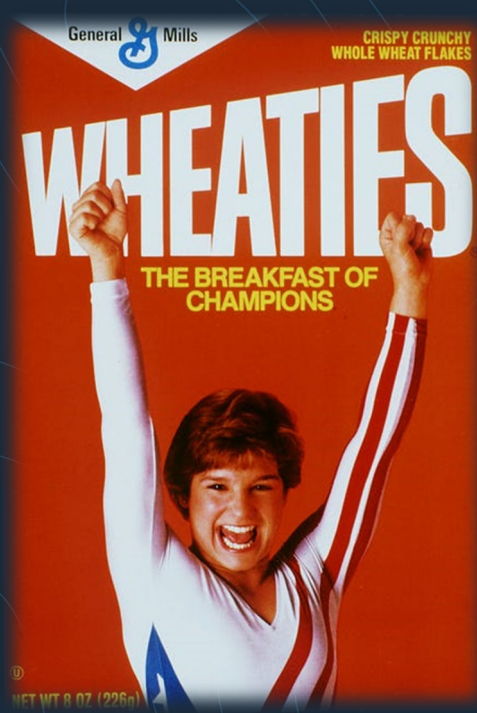
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***BETTER***

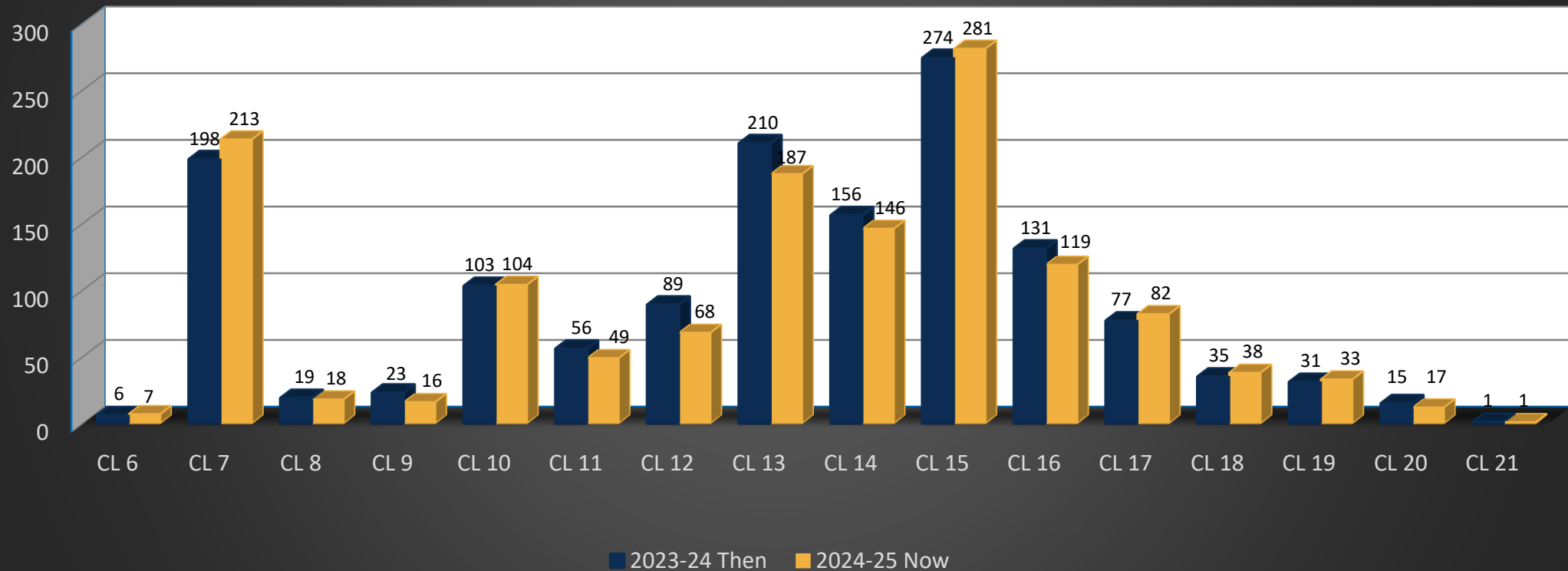


**BEST! (YES)**



Still a Champions Breakfast!

# Number of classified staff by pay grade







## Classified Staff per Campus

WVU Keyser 39 (42\*) Down 3

WVU Beckley 50 (59\*) Down 9

HSC 226 (217\*) Up 9

HSC Charleston 13 (14\*) Down 1

WVU Main 1,046 (1,092\*) Down 46

2024-25 Now

\* 2023-24 Then



# LET'S BRAINSTORM!

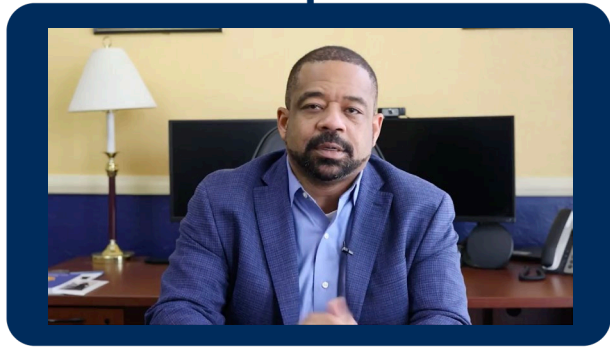


- ❖ Classified Staff numbers are down
- ❖ Salaries are low

As we each take part of the problem, **We** can come up with a **solution.**

We are working on the **problem** to bring about a **positive** change.





**WVU TECH**

**POTOMAC STATE**



## Classified Staff by numbers

- Average age of classified staff 48  
compared to last FY '24 – 49
- Longest years of service 52  
compared to last FY '24 – 51

# Staff Council Initiatives

- Tuition Scholarships for Classified Staff
- Hearts and Hands Fund
- Red Cross Blood Drive Sponsorship
- Annual Coat/Clothing Drive (Partnered w/SGA)
- Employee/Veteran Spotlight
- STAAF (*Service-Training-Appreciation-Advocacy- Fellowship*)\*  
\*(Adopted from Baylor University by permission)
- Hidden Gems
- Years of Service Certificates
- Classified Staff Emeritus Award





# STAFF TESTIMONIALS

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The Staff Council Scholarship Program has been instrumental in my professional growth by covering the costs to further my education. This support has enabled me to enhance my skills, stay updated with industry trends, and confidently tackle more complex tasks, making me a more valuable team member. I am excited to share that I will be graduating in May, which is a significant milestone in my educational journey.

On a personal level, the program has broadened my intellectual horizons and inspired me to pursue higher goals. The sense of achievement from completing challenging coursework has been incredibly fulfilling, fostering a culture of continuous learning and excellence. As a result of this experience, I plan to enter a master's program this fall marking another significant milestone in my educational journey.

Thank you, West Virginia University!

Lisa Verlinden  
Program Coordinator, Honors College





At 44 years old, I finally decided to enroll in college to pursue a Regent's Bachelor of Arts degree. Prior to registering, I had always thought college was expensive and financially out of reach for me. The scholarship has made it enticing to continue pursuing a degree. I have spoken to several staff members to promote the benefits of attending college. My son is attending college at WVU Tech and is currently a sophomore. My daughter will be attending as well beginning this spring. I will continue my education through WVU Tech or WVU as I start a new job in Morgantown this May.

Gregg Peters

Trades Specialist Lead II

TECH Facilities Planning and Management





After putting my three boys through college, my youngest son told me that he wanted me to finish my degree. He said I put myself on hold to make sure they got their education, and it was my turn now. I found that I could finish in a short period of time and decided it was time to do this for myself. I was able to get several of the classes paid for with the scholarship.

I recently talked with a friend about finishing her degree and gave her the information for the scholarship. I highly recommend anybody that wants to complete their degree to take full advantage of the opportunities while working for the university. This scholarship is very helpful in obtaining those goals.

Jeanette Farris  
Student Financial Services Manager  
WVU Potomac State

**AS WE STILL** Continue to move forward,  
Let's continue to be ...

**H**ardworking. **O**btainable. **P**assionate. **E**ffective.

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# CLASSIFIED STAFF'S MOTTO

Determined to see a change

Working together STILL WORKS...

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On behalf of the 1,046-  
classified staff at  
West Virginia University,  
**THANK YOU!**