



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Crystal Berry
crystal@25comm.com
660-988-2490

BridgeValley Community and Technical College Student Services Staff Attend WVASPA

(South Charleston, WV) Members of the BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BVCTC) student services staff recently traveled to Canaan Valley, WV for the annual West Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators (WVASPA) conference, where six BVCTC staff shared presentations on programs available at BridgeValley. The West Virginia State Student Affairs and Student Services Professional organization services public and private colleges and universities.

“This conference allows us to share with our colleagues across the state all of the great work we are doing at BridgeValley,” said Jame McDougle, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement / Dean of Students. Carla Blankenbuehler, Assistant Dean of Students / Director of Counseling Services said the conference is a great opportunity to network and share ideas with other colleges and universities from all over the state.

BridgeValley was represented by nine staff members, including:

- Spencer Poling, Director of Accessibility and Student Support Services
- Carla Blankenbuehler, Assistant Dean of Students / Director of Counseling Services
- Renee Lester, Director of Career Services and Freshman Advising
- Mindy Adkins, Student Services Specialist – TANF
- Misi Lair, Director of Veteran and Military Affairs
- Tina Spaulding, Director of Student Success
- Mike Kute, Peer Recovery Specialist
- Sara Price, Coordinator for Student Engagement
- James McDougle, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement / Dean of Students

To close the conference, the WVASPA Board presented competitive awards to those who were nominated by their peers. This year, Carla Blankenbuehler,

nominated by James McDougale, was presented with the “Mid-Level Professional” award. This award goes to student affairs professionals who have more than five years of experience and excel in the field.

Criteria for the award include innovation in program development and implementation, presentations at conferences, publication research, and effective service to their institution. Blankenbueler has been in higher education for almost 17 years, 11 of those at BridgeValley. “Carla has been vital to the student services team by implementing new services, researching best practices for disability services, financial aid, and counseling services,” said McDougale.

It was later announced that Spencer Poling, Director of Accessibility and Student Support Services, was nominated and elected to serve on the 2021-2022 WVASPA Board as a member-at-large.

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 was founded on March 20, 2014, and serves a seven-county region including Fayette, Kanawha, Clay, Putnam, Cabell, Mason, and Wayne counties. The college operates two campuses in Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of the 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.