



For Immediate Release

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BridgeValley's Women Empowerment Initiative Starts On Campus
College launching book discussion to enrich faculty and staff engagement in the initiative

Montgomery, WV - As part of BridgeValley Community and Technical College's initiative to empower women across West Virginia, the college will hold a series of events - both open to the public and internal - to drive home the need that people can accomplish their goals, including those that may seem unreachable.

Not only is BridgeValley, in partnership with WVFree, kicking off its Women and Empowerment initiative with a "Lunch and Learn" session featuring Freedom Rider Joan Browning on Wednesday, October 23, but the college will host a small monthly staff and faculty discussion group during student engagement hour (12:15 to 1 p.m.) beginning October 15 and running through the end of the year.

With books provided by the BridgeValley Foundation, faculty and staff will read and discuss *Fearless: Women's Journeys to Self-Empowerment*, a collection of essays, poems and stories edited by Cat Pleska. Discussions will be lead by Associate Professor and Chair of English and Humanities Dr. Calisa Pierce who hopes that through reading the book, which focuses on women's experiences in Appalachia, a forum will be created for understanding diverse viewpoints and experiences without the promotion of any particular agenda.

In the coming months, BridgeValley hopes to open the book discussion to the community, inviting them to a safe space where ideas can be shared by all gender identities with the intention of creating a deeper understanding of issues affecting other populations.

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>