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BridgeValley Community and Technical College Hosts Exhibit to Promote Disability Awareness

South Charleston, W.Va. — BridgeValley Community and Technical College will host the Ability Exhibit on March 22-24, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the college's South Charleston Campus with support from the WV Division of Rehabilitation.

The Ability Exhibit is a traveling, interactive display designed to impart knowledge about disability issues and to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities. The exhibit is made up of ten interactive stations using a multi-media approach to promote respect, comfort, and awareness when engaging with people with disabilities. Stations include Person First Language, Quiz Yourself: "Ability IQ", and Universal Design. The Ability Exhibit encourages participants to become allies for inclusion.

In the years since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans have made great progress in the way they think about and treat people with disabilities. These laws require that people with disabilities have equal access to employment, education, goods, and services. But, what they cannot require are appropriate communication, comfort level, and inclusive practices when interacting with those individuals.

Funding has been provided by WV Division of Rehabilitation, and it is sponsored by *"Allies for Inclusion: People who see themselves as equal to those with and without disabilities...committed to eliminating negative attitudes, stereotypes, and oppressive behaviors."*

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