



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **BridgeValley Begins Second Year as a Multi-Campus Institution**

On August 17, BridgeValley Community and Technical College welcomed over 2,000 students in Montgomery, South Charleston, and on-line, beginning its second full year as a multi-campus entity.

Dr. Jo Harris, President, at the annual opening convocation for all employees, summarized the many changes and accomplishments during the first year of operation and highlighted goals and initiatives for the new academic year.

“Students and employees experienced so many changes—in course titles and numbers, general education requirements and assessment, program titles, the college ‘brand,’ and administrative and academic structure,” noted Harris.

Many “points of pride” were emphasized, including the opening of the Advanced Technology Center/Toyota Hall, excellent licensure pass rates of graduates in the Nursing and Dental Hygiene programs, nine national top-ten placements of business students at the annual Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference in Chicago, the designation as a “Military Friendly College,” the implementation of the College Central Network Portal that matches graduates with employers, the establishment of student success centers and freshmen advising centers on each campus, the attainment of accreditation to admit international students, Bridging the Gap consortium grant accomplishments, and specialized program accreditation reviews that resulted in continuation of that “hallmark of quality” for civil, electrical, mechanical and drafting/design engineering technology; medical laboratory technology; veterinary technology; and nursing programs.

Harris announced several new initiatives for 2015-2016: roll-out of state-of-the-art Telepresence Access Classrooms that will provide quality course connections between campuses; new academic programs (Industrial Pipeline Design, Machine Tool Technology, Healthcare Management, Diagnostic Medical Sonography); equipment acquisitions for health and technology programs, including installation of a unique Process Training Unit in partnership with Rockwell International and Endress-Hauser; increased on-line course and program options; increased dual-campus offerings and workforce development training in the six-county region; establishment of an Alumni

Association; and BridgeValley Foundation projects, including the Amazon Smile program and the capital campaign.

“The dedicated faculty and staff at BridgeValley have undergone so many changes, yet that feeling of excitement and motivation is definitely ‘in the air’ as we begin this second year,” stated Dr. Harris. “We will focus on continuous improvement in service, efficiencies, and relationships with our internal and external partners as we build our new college.”

BridgeValley Community and Technical College, formed in 2014 with the merger of Bridgemont and Kanawha Valley Community and Technical Colleges, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. With campuses in Montgomery and South Charleston, the service region for the multi-campus consolidated institution includes Fayette, Kanawha, Clay, Putnam, Nicholas, and Raleigh counties.

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