



For Immediate Release

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BridgeValley Community and Technical College Receives Grant from U.S. Department of Commerce

(South Charleston, WV) - BridgeValley Community and Technical College is the recipient of a \$749,000 grant from U.S. Department of Commerce, matching a previous grant from ARC Power and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), for a total of \$1.5 million to develop a training center that will administer programs to meet the needs of a community impacted by the declining use of coal.

"The facility BridgeValley is developing and programs we plan on offering and expanding through these grants will advance economic development in the Upper Kanawha Valley," said BridgeValley President Dr. Eunice Bellinger. "We are happy to have this opportunity to better serve our community and future BridgeValley students."

According to Jeff Wyco, Vice President of workforce and economic development and Advanced Technology Center operations at BridgeValley, the funding will be used to establish the Workforce Construction, Telecommunications and Energy (CCE) Training Center in Montgomery and, along with BridgeValley's Advanced Technology Center in South Charleston, will support BridgeValley's Horizontal Directional Drilling, expanded Utility Line Service, Heavy Equipment, Commercial Driver's License, Data and Fiber Cabling, expanded Gas Measurement and HVAC, Building Automation and Energy Management programs.

"BridgeValley Community and Technical College plays a critical role in helping students gain the skills that local businesses need to grow and thrive," said EDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs Dennis Alvord. "The new BridgeValley Construction, Telecommunications and Energy Workforce Training Center will provide job-based skills training in numerous trades based on the documented needs of the industry in this region."

Funds are awarded through the EDA's Assistance to Coal Communities (ACC) program, which awards grants through a competitive process that assist communities impacted by the declining use of coal. Grants are provided to organizations whose activities and programs support

economic diversification, job creation, capital investment, workforce development and re-employment opportunities.

The new facility is expected to train and place more than 200 students within its first three years, and over 1,800 in its first nine years. The center, made possible through regional planning efforts, brings together public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap that will strengthen the local West Virginia economy, support private capital investment and create jobs.

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"](http://www.bridgevalley.edu)