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**BridgeValley Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Drew Over 150 Participants
and Raised More than \$15,000**

South Charleston, W.Va. — BridgeValley’s Oral Cancer Foundation 5K Walk/Run for Awareness attracted over 180 participants and raised more than \$12,000. Aside from fundraising, the event served to raise awareness in the community about a form of cancer that is on the rise in America.

This year alone, approximately 48,250 Americans will be diagnosed with oral cancer. However, when found early, oral cancers have an 80 to 90% survival rate. Unfortunately, the majority are found as late stage cancers, and this accounts for the very high death rate of about 45% at five years from diagnosis.

“Oral cancer is an ideal cancer to identify early by screening, because it is frequently preceded by an identifiable pre-malignant lesion, said Melissa France, BridgeValley Dental Hygiene Professor. “When detected early, oral cancers have a very high survival rate and this event is important to encourage people to get checked.”

As part of the day’s event, the BridgeValley Dental Hygiene students and professors were on hand to assist with and conduct oral cancer screenings free of charge. Along with the cancer screenings, participants received information about general dental health and complimentary toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss to promote proper dental hygiene.

Sponsors include BridgeValley Community and Technical College, Waterpik, Lilly, OralID, Vitamix, BrickStreet Insurance, Dolan & Kalaskey Orthodontics, Childrens Dentistry, Lorena Surber DDS, Nagy & Majestro DDS, David Broyles of Calvin Broyles Jewelers, WV Dental Hygienist Association, Robert Pollard MD, Sololosky & Weaver DDS, John W McGehee Jr DDS, Lester Raines Honda, Michael Tupta DDS, Mountain State Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Robert L Campbell Jr DDS, Richard Newhart DDS, Panucci & Jackfert Orthodontics, Sami Ghareeb DDS, Dr John and Pam Kuyk, Chapman & Puderbaugh DDS, and Seth Flohr.

BridgeValley Community and Technical College was founded on March 20, 2014 and serves a six-county region including Fayette, Raleigh, Nicholas, Clay, Putnam and Kanawha counties. The college operates campuses in both Montgomery and South Charleston, as well as the new Advanced Technology Center.

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