

BridgeValley Community & Technical College

Student Services

“Putting Students First”

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Increasing Retention through Partnership

This semester is moving along and before you know it winter break will be here! In the meantime, I would like to encourage everyone to take an active role in retention. There are several ways that faculty and staff can work together to increase a student’s plausibility of being successful here at BridgeValley.

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1. **Encourage students to take full advantage of the many services we offer at BridgeValley.** Counseling and disability services, the student success center, and peer coaches are great resources to assist students with concerns such as substance abuse, academic support, life skills and so much more!
2. **Submit an early alert to retention services.** Early alert is an extra step that faculty can assist the student with receiving the appropriate assistance.
3. **Get involved!** Student life and SGA work together to provide several campus/community events throughout the year. Encourage your students to attend these events and join them! Statistics show that students who are engaged have a higher chance of being successful than those who are not. Many of you may be club advisors, but for those of you who are not, I challenge you to show up to these events and support the students who are there as well! This also will build a sense of pride for everyone!

BridgeValley has seen an increase in first time full time retention rates over the last couple of years and we want to keep the momentum going! If you have any suggestions or would like to discuss current or new ideas, please reach out to me at any time.

James McDougle - Dean of Students

Student Services Mission Statement

The Office of Student Services provides a variety of assistance to foster the educational and personal growth of all students. To complement the College’s mission, the Office of Student Services provides resources through student engagement; academic support; counseling, disability, and career services; veterans affairs; as well as service to the community at large.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE EARLY ALERT SYSTEM

To ensure that every student takes full advantage of the educational opportunities, BVCTC has implemented an Early Alert retention program.

Through the Early Alert system, students are identified through referrals from the faculty and staff to provide customized services for those students early in the semester.

The Early Alert Process helps students who are struggling academically, personally, or consistently absent or late for class.

The Coordinator of Retention will contact student(s) to discuss issues that may require attention and resources to support them. Students are provided information towards creating a success plan which may include:

- Making an appointment with the Instructor
- Meeting with a tutor in the Student Success Center
- Accessing BrainFuse online
- Meeting with a Peer Coach
- Participating in the Miner's Path to Success
- If needed, meeting with the Director of Counseling
- If needed, meeting with the Disabilities Counselor

We encourage you to submit an Early Alert through your MyBridge account as soon as you see a student who is struggling with their course work.

If you have any questions, please contact Connie Keiffer, Coordinator of Retention and Freshman Advising on 734-6618.

Veterans Affairs Workshop and Training

The Office of Veterans Affairs will be holding a training for faculty on October 17th and 25th. These workshops will be broadcasted to both campuses. The workshops will cover tips on teaching veteran students, policy and rules update dealing with advising, identifying students with PTSD, and question and answer time.

October 17, 2016 = 3:00 – 4:00, Davis Hall 305, Main Hall 307

October 25, 2016 = 12:00 – 1:00, Davis Hall 506, Main Hall 321

For more information, please contact Misi Lair at 304-734-6620 or Misi.Lair@BridgeValley.edu

What is a Peer Coach?

A Peer Coach at BridgeValley is someone who is there to help BridgeValley students. We help by answering questions a student might have, we show students how to navigate online classes, talk with them about our experiences at BridgeValley and offer them guidance. We also cheer them on and encourage them when they feel like giving up.

One of the best ways a Peer Coach helps BridgeValley students is through Miner's Path to Success meetings. Through these meetings, students perform a self-assessment of their strengths, abilities and goals. They then select the BridgeValley resources available to them that will help them reach their goals. After completing the self-assessment, the Peer Coach will connect the student to the resources they need.

Through follow up meetings, the student and Peer Coach will customize their needs and assistance to further the student's successful achievement. College is hard and our students need someone on their side that understands what they are working hard to accomplish and the Student Success Peer Coaches are that someone.

If anyone has questions or concerns and aren't sure where to start, we are located in Room 032C on the South Charleston campus, and room 402 Davis Hall in Montgomery.

BridgeValley Peer Coaches:



My name Diann Simmons, the Lead Peer Coach. I worked as an LPN for 12 years before deciding to change my career and go back to college at the age of 43. I graduated from BridgeValley in 2014 with a Board of Governors Degree and soon after, I began working as a Peer Coach. This December I will graduate from Marshall University with my Regents Bachelor of Arts and I am very excited about that!



My name is Trevor Veltri, I have been a part of the Peer Coach program since it was introduced in 2014. I am a BridgeValley Alumni, where I majored in Gerontology, and will graduate in December 2016 with a Bachelors of Health Science. The Peer Coach program has not only been beneficial to those students we serve, but also opened up communication throughout the campus



My name is Miranda Deal. I began my journey in higher education at Kanawha Valley CTC in the fall of 2011. I was honored to be in the first graduating class of BridgeValley CTC in the spring of 2014 with an Associate's in General Education. I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at WV State University.

Currently, I work at BridgeValley as a Student Success Peer Coach where I serve as your, the student's, voice among the faculty and staff. If you have any questions, you can stop by and see me on the Montgomery campus in Room 402. I look forward to hearing from you!



My name is Christopher Boggess and I have been a student at BridgeValley since Fall of 2014. I am a Criminal Justice major and also pursuing a Skill Set in Forensic Science. In the Spring 2016, I was elected President of the Student Government Association. Less than two months later, I became the newest edition of the Student Success Peer Coaches team. I have never enjoyed any job I have ever held as much as I do being a Peer Coach. Helping students has been very fulfilling and I look forward to each and every day that I get the honor of being a Peer Coach!

Peer Coach and Mentoring Program

The Student Success Peer Coaches are having quite an impact with students this year. Coaches assist students with several aspects in the enrollment process and will continue to provide support throughout the semester. Whether it is working with them to complete their financial aid forms or assistance in ordering books, they help to make the enrollment process easier for students and build a connection from the beginning. Coaches are also planning several events throughout the year that will be designed to engage students in campus and also to help make students aware of their services. These programs have assisted with student engagement and retention.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The department of Student Services would like to invite Faculty, Staff, and Students to any of the following events listed below:

October 6	Career Services Information Booth	SC
October 8	Symphony Series – Wizard of Oz	
October 10-12	Midterm Madness	SC/MC
October 13	Career Services Infor Booth	MC
October 17	Faculty Veterans Affairs Workshop	SC/MC
October 17	Domestic Violence Awareness	SC
October 18	Backpacks to Briefcases	SC
October 18	Domestic Violence Awareness	SC
October 20	Backpacks to Briefcases	MC
October 21	Family Fun Night	SC
October 22	Symphony Series – Guest Conductor Keitaro Harada	
October 24	Domestic Violence Awareness	MC
October 24	Tutor Rewards Program Begins	
October 24	Depression Screening	MC
October 25	Depression Screening	SC
October 25	Domestic Violence Awareness	MC
October 27	Boo Bash	SC/MC

Legend:

SC: South Charleston Campus

MC: Montgomery Campus



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