



Alumni Newsletter



Casey K. Sacks, Ph.D.
Acting President
BridgeValley Community and
Technical College

President's Corner

Hello, and thank you for reading the first edition of our Alumni Newsletter. I am Casey and I am the newly appointed acting President at BridgeValley Community and Technical College. I want to take this opportunity to first thank you for your ongoing support of this incredible college. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated alumni group. I have been particularly impressed by those of you who have reached out to hire current BridgeValley students. When our graduates hire our current students it really speaks to the quality of our programs. We so appreciate you reaching out to current students to give them opportunities with your businesses. We are looking forward to a great fall semester. We do still have several courses online but are shifting to face-to-face instruction in the midst of what has been a very unique year with the covid pandemic. Our students and faculty have been terrific with drive-through graduations and virtual celebrations. We all look forward to a time when we can return to some of the tradition and interactions that make BridgeValley such a wonderful community. It's support from alumni like you who continue to talk about the good experiences you had here at the college that reinforce that tradition. Please keep sending us your friends and neighbors so we can help our whole community get the skills they need to get into good paying jobs or get classes they need to transfer to a bachelor's degree program. I look forward to meeting you.
Casey



Alumni Spotlight

Deb Harris, 2014 Graduate of BridgeValley

Job Title: Lead Transition Agent

Employer: Jobs and Hope West Virginia

Major: AS Behavioral Health, Peer Support, and General Education

Why did you choose to attend BridgeValley?

I had a friend who attended and encouraged me to apply, and they had the major I was interested in.

How did BridgeValley prepare you for the workforce?

Part of my last semester required me to do a 200-hour practicum in an approved Behavioral Health Care facility. This gave me practical, hands-on experience in the workplace.

What advice do you have for students considering community college?

I always recommend community college for anyone but especially non-traditional students like myself who have other responsibilities to juggle. The community college atmosphere was welcoming, encouraging, and an overall positive experience for me. The faculty and staff provided a hands-on approach that made me feel as though I mattered. I can't say enough about the people at BridgeValley—they truly are the most caring and compassionate group of people I have encountered in higher education.

Can you talk a little bit about your work with Jobs and Hope, specifically during the pandemic?

Jobs and Hope is Governor Justice's initiative program that was created to help eliminate barriers to career employment and offer free training and educational opportunities to individuals in recovery from substance abuse or with past justice involvement. Currently, the program serves approximately 2,000 participants statewide. Our team is dedicated, innovative, and their forward thinking is making a difference in the lives of West Virginians. I am proud to be part of this team and this program.

Fun facts about you?

I am married to my husband Phil, and we have four children, ages 19, 13, 11, and 4. We also have a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. When we aren't at soccer or tennis practice, you can find us on the Greenbrier River hiking or fishing or skiing at Snowshoe. I was recognized by the YWCA in 2020 as a Woman of Achievement and was presented with the Empowerment Award. This award recognizes a woman who, with the help of a YWCA program, becomes empowered and enabled to pursue economic, education, and professional goals.

BridgeValley's Mission

BridgeValley Community and Technical College promotes student success, prepares a skilled workforce, and builds tomorrow's leaders by providing access to quality education.

Featured Major



MEET THE MAJORS



DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Sonographers play a key role in the healthcare team. They are highly skilled professionals that provide diagnostic techniques under the supervision of a licensed physician. BridgeValley offers the following learning specialties in sonography:

- General: Abdomen, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Small Parts
- Vascular Technology



DEGREE TYPE: Associate in Applied Science

ACCREDITATIONS:

Committee on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs
Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

WV INVESTS: Eligible

DEPARTMENT CHAIR:

Kim Shamblin
Kim.shamblin@bridgevalley.edu
304-205-6669

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Hospitals
- Outpatient Care Centers
- Offices of physicians
- Medical and diagnostic labs
- Research, Applications & Sales

JOB DEMAND:

- 12% (much faster than average)
- Sonography is a dynamic profession that has grown significantly over the past 20 years. With rapidly developing new technologies and increased use of diagnostic ultrasound procedures, growth is projected to continue in the future with employment opportunities for qualified sonographers in both rural and urban areas nationwide

Ready to find your path at BridgeValley? Contact us!

Admissions@bridgevalley.edu // (304) 205-6600



Kim Shamblin (right) with sonography graduate Hollie Walker (left)

Faculty Spotlight

Kim Shamblin, Assistant Professor/Sonography Department Chair

My career in Medical Imaging started over 30 years ago with my primary focus in sonography. My experience in sonography includes abdomen, obstetrics, gynecology, breast, vascular, and cardiac specialties. I have worked in research trials for renal artery and carotid artery stents with the University of Washington in Seattle. I am registered with the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) as a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) in obstetrics and gynecology, abdomen, and breast; a Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT); and a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS). I am also a Registered Radiologic (R) and Computed Tomography (CT) Technologist with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). I earned a master's degree in Public Health with the University of New England (CEPH accredited) and a master's certificate in Healthcare Corporate Compliance from George Washington University.

My experience in higher education began as a clinical instructor. After being invited to a meeting at BridgeValley in 2013 regarding the development of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program, I decided to apply and was hired to develop the new program. Once hired, I learned that there was only \$2,000 available to develop a sonography lab, so I became a grant writer and was elated to secure the funds to develop the lab. The program was accredited before the first group of students graduated. The 7th cohort of students will start this fall. Due to a national shortage of echocardiographers, more grants and funding were secured, and the cardiac sonography program was developed with a new high-tech lab on the Montgomery campus. The first cohort of cardiac students will graduate in December. A recent meeting at a local healthcare facility was exciting as they announced the desire to hire all 12 students!

I am thrilled to be able to give back to my profession and the community and grateful that BridgeValley has provided this opportunity, as well as the Community and Technical

College System of West Virginia for providing the necessary funding. During our recent accreditation review, the site visitors were impressed with all our resources. The sonography programs continue to grow, as we had 80 fall applicants for the 24 seats (DMS & Cardiac). We are blessed with excellent clinical partners, physicians, and faculty that make it all possible: Dr. Ali AbuRahma, Dr. Byron Calhoun, Dr. Lavinia Mitulescu, Misty Farmer, Kay Hanson, Dr. Traci Fox, Gay Wood, and new hire Markie Blackburn.

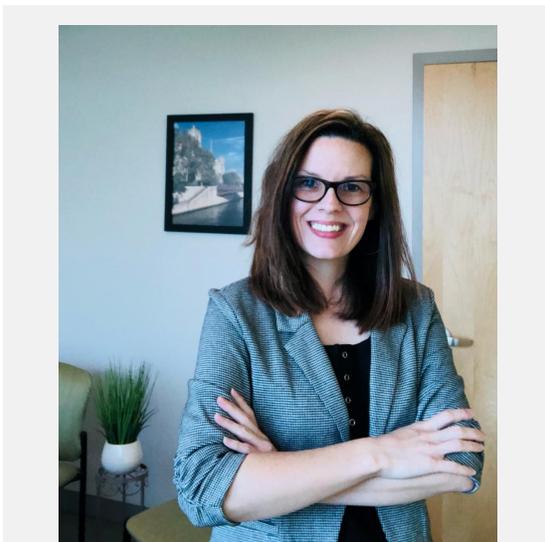
Alumni Engagement

Join us for BridgeValley Night at the WV Power Park on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. The game will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. Network with former classmates, faculty, and staff while enjoying an evening of baseball and fireworks!

To claim your FREE ticket to the game, please e-mail Alicia.syner@bridgevalley.edu or call 304.205.6746 prior to September 10.



Meet the Office of Advancement Team



Alicia Syner, MA
Executive Director of the
BridgeValley Foundation

BridgeValley Class of '08

Kay Cook
Public Relations Specialist



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