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BridgeValley Dental Hygiene Celebrates 40 Years

Montgomery, W.Va. – Through five institutional name changes and four decades, the Dental Hygiene program at BridgeValley Community Technical College in Montgomery has been committed to excellence in dental hygiene education. The associate degree program has served as the source for dental hygiene practitioners in the southern region of West Virginia since the program's inception in 1975.

To celebrate this milestone, the department hosted local practitioners and alumni for a continuing education event on Friday, August 21. Dentsply Professional Division and Shirley Branum, RDH, MBA presented a hands -on clinical course in the morning utilizing the BridgeValley Dental Hygiene clinic facility. The afternoon course, "Medical Emergencies Prepare for the Worst/Work for the Best," was presented by Dr. Michelle Klenk, Dental Hygiene Department Chair

The highlight of the event was welcoming back 16 members of the Class of 1975. Their stories shared during the celebration luncheon inspired and motivated alumni, faculty and current students in attendance. Traveling from as far away as California, the classmates gathered once again in Montgomery to celebrate their careers and accomplishments. They completed their reunion with a weekend of rafting and ziplining in the New River Gorge.

BridgeValley's Dental Hygiene program is located on the Montgomery campus occupying the 6th floor of Davis Hall. The program has limited enrollment with a competitive admission process. Information regarding program admission and curriculum can be accessed via www.bridgevalley.edu.

As an integral component of the curriculum, students provide free preventive and therapeutic dental hygiene care to patients in a supervised on-campus clinic. Appointments may be made by calling 304-734-6651.

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 two campuses in Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of the new Advanced Technology Center. BridgeValley awards one-year certificates and two-year associate degrees in many fields including civil, mechanical and electrical engineering technology, business and health management, nursing, dental hygiene, business technology, medical assisting, diesel technology, computer information technology, and welding.

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