



## *For Immediate Release*

Media Contact:  
Crystal Berry  
[crystal@25comm.com](mailto:crystal@25comm.com)  
660-988-2490

### **BridgeValley Community and Technical College's honor society chapter awarded prescription drug mitigation education grant opportunity**

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**(South Charleston, WV)** BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BVCTC) received a grant that will fund an education and training program at the two-year institution from West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute (WV DII), a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to reducing drug-related harm in the Mountain State.

WV DII's SmartRx© University Outreach Mini-Grant sponsors the education and training for West Virginian college students and aims to reduce prescription misuse and the likelihood of addiction. Organizations that choose to apply and implement this program must have at least 5 members that agree to become certified as SmartRx University Trainers and deliver the SmartRx University Student Program on their campus. BVCTC's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) students will learn about prescription drug safety and the physical, social and legal consequences of its misuse.

"The PTK students exemplify not just excellence in scholarship, but the willingness and desire to help others and make a difference," said BVCTC's Assistant Dean of Students and PTK chapter co-advisor Carla Blankenbuehler. "They are eager to get involved and be a part of the solution in their communities and in their student body."

"Anytime the college can receive support to combat drug-related harm in our community it is an opportunity to create positive change," said BVCTC President Dr. Casey Sacks. "We have incredible leaders working on this initiative and are confident that it will be a great project for our students."

"Not only has our state experienced over a 50 percent increase in drug overdoses in 2020, nationwide, but 16 percent of college students have also reported misusing prescription stimulants," said WV DII President Dr. Susan Bissett. "This mini-grant

opportunity is designed to educate and build awareness around college student prescription misuse and to prevent overdoses.”

For more information about the WV DII’s SmartRx© University Outreach Mini-Grant Opportunity, visit [www.wvdii.org/college](http://www.wvdii.org/college).

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#### 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 was founded on March 20, 2014, and serves a seven-county region including Fayette, Kanawha, Clay, Putnam, Cabell, Mason, and Wayne counties. The college operates two campuses in Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of the 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.