



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Crystal Berry
crystal@25comm.com
660-988-249

BridgeValley Community and Technical College Commencement and Parade Update

South Charleston, WV -- BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BVCTC) will recognize 2020-2021 graduates via a pair of events, including a drive-thru graduation parade on May 8, 2021 at 11 a.m. and a virtual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m.

The class of 2021 will consist of 370 graduates*, 160 of whom will graduate with honors. There were 388 total applications for 358 associate degrees and 30 certificates.

"We are embarking on a phenomenal commencement for 2021. Our graduates have faced the nearly impossible and overcame educational challenges that would, in fact, change their life's path," said BVCTC President Dr. Eunice Bellinger. "Shifting and pivoting modalities during a pandemic in the middle of their college career might be devastating to some, but our graduates withstood the storm and came out owning their story and success. We cherish our graduates and wish them the best as they move to the next chapter in their lives."

Students graduating in the classes of Summer 2020, December 2020 and May 2021 are all invited to participate and celebrate their success at BVCTC. On May 8, 2021 at 11 a.m., graduates will participate in a graduation parade of cars beginning at B2000 and travel down to the Advanced Technology Center (Toyota Hall) at the South Charleston campus. Friends and family are invited to line the Tech Park to watch the parade in a socially distanced manner. A photo booth will be available to snap a photo. All local and state COVID-19 guidelines will be followed for the event.

"The graduation parade allows our students to celebrate with their friends and family in an outside atmosphere where people can socially distance and follow local and state COVID-19 guidelines," said Associate Vice President for Student Engagement James McDougle.

Students will receive their tassel, graduate yard sign, and BVCTC diploma cover when they arrive for the parade. The Office of Student Life will be handing out boxes to graduates as they arrive at the parade route with materials to decorate their cars for the event. The best-decorated vehicles will be awarded prizes.

The second and culminating event will be the virtual commencement ceremony,

scheduled for May 15, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. It will be live-streamed and available for download on the BVCTC homepage at bridgevalley.edu. The virtual event will include elements of a traditional graduation ceremony, including a welcome message from the BVCTC president, greetings from the board of governors chair and faculty senate chair, and conferring of degrees.

“Commencement is such a special event. We can’t wait to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our graduates,” McDougle said.

For more information about commencement, follow announcements on BridgeValley CTC Facebook page [@BVCTC](https://www.facebook.com/BVCTC) .

**Spring semester graduates are candidates until final grades are reviewed and program completion is confirmed.*

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 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 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.

For more information about BridgeValley Community and Technical College financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education and events, call [\(304\) 205-6600](tel:3042056600) or; or check the College's website: <http://www.bridgevalley.edu>