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BridgeValley Financial Aid Manager Receives National Excellence Award

(South Charleston, WV) - BridgeValley Community and Technical College Financial Aid Manager Bonnie Edwards has been selected as the recipient of a 2019 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award.

"I am honored to receive the NISOD Excellence Award," said Edwards. "Many students are not able to afford college if it was not for financial aid funding. I work diligently at my job, as the financial aid manager at BridgeValley CTC because I know that I am directly assisting students as they complete the steps required to get the needed funding to be able to afford college."

Each year, NISOD's Excellence Awards recognize men and women who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. In 1989, in connection with a University of Texas at Austin national study of teaching excellence, NISOD hosted its first ceremony honoring NISOD Excellence Award recipients. The response to that ceremony was so positive that NISOD began what has become the largest and most inspiring gathering that recognizes the contributions and achievements of community and technical college faculty, administrators, and staff.

"Bonnie is an integral part of our financial aid team at BridgeValley," said Dr. Eunice Bellinger, President of BridgeValley CTC. "She goes above and beyond to guide our students through the financial aid process, helping them receive the funding they need in order to attend college. She is a deserving recipient of an NISOD Excellence Award and we're pleased she has chosen BridgeValley as her home."

A nine year veteran of BridgeValley's financial aid office, Edwards does her best to ensure the college can provide as many students as possible with the guidance they need to complete the enrollment process. Previously, she has volunteered with the

statewide Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops held across West Virginia to help assist students in completing the FAFSA application necessary to apply for federal financial aid.

"I also find time to participate in some of the campus activities so our students get to see me as part of their college experience and not just in terms of financial aid processing," Edwards said. "As a college graduate myself, I know from personal experience the financial aid process can be very confusing. It is my job to help these students complete this process in a way that they can understand. I work hard at my job, not for any recognition, but for the knowledge that I am part of the college team that his helping to make a difference in many of our students' lives. Receiving this award shows me that all my hard work has been noticed and appreciated by others."

Excellence Award recipients will be celebrated during NISOD's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, May 25-28, in Austin, Texas. During the Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration, held in conjunction with NISOD's annual conference, each Excellence Award recipient receives a specially cast, pewter medallion hung on a burnt-orange ribbon. The names, titles, and colleges of all Excellence Award recipients are included in a special booklet that features congratulatory ads from many of the recipients' colleges. In addition, presentations at the conference involving Excellence Award recipients are indicated in the Conference Program with a special icon.

"Recognizing those individuals who have contributed to student success and their colleges' mission is something we look forward to doing each year," said Dr. Edward J. Leach, NISOD's Executive Director. "The extraordinary work of these men and women includes not only what they do for their students and colleagues, but what they do for the communities in which they live and work. We're honored to be able to play a part in celebrating their achievements."

About NISOD

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) is a membership organization committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges. For community and technical colleges that want to make the most of their professional development dollars, NISOD provides budget-friendly, high-quality, and faculty-focused programs and resources. For over 40 years, NISOD's customer-focused approach has helped align our wide array of benefits with the needs of our members, which explains why the American Association of Community Colleges named NISOD "The country's leading provider of professional development for community college faculty, staff, and administrators." For more information about NISOD, visit www.nisod.org.

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 or; or check the College's website: "http://www.bridgevalley.edu"