



For Immediate Release

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BridgeValley Instructor Headed to Brazil

Professor Machele Kindle to present at 6th SEMTEC Symposium

(Montgomery, WV) - In a collaboration with Faculdade de Tecnologia do Estado de São Paulo (FATEC), BridgeValley Community and Technical College Professor Machele Kindle and Brazilian colleague Osvaldo Succi will present at the 6th SEMTEC Symposium at Centro Paula Souza University in Brazil August 8-9. The presentation, "Collaborative Virtual Internationalization: A qualitative perspective from a project between Faculdade de Tecnologia do Estado de São Paulo and BridgeValley Community and Technical College," discusses the new, Collaborative Online Intercultural Learning (COIL) virtual exchange program between the two colleges, which provides an international experience to students of both schools.

"The paper is an overview of the program we're putting together," said Kindle. "It provides background about COIL, what Osvaldo is doing in Brazil and our joint effort. We're introducing BridgeValley on an international scale to our colleagues. By being there, I can meet them and plan face-to-face what we're going to be doing this semester for our students."

As the only community college in West Virginia offering the COIL experience, BridgeValley students participating in COIL will receive a distance education component in existing courses in collaboration with a class offered at another institution. For example, Kindle will teach a physical science course and partner with an IT class at FATEC to extract and interpret temperature data relating to climate change.

Throughout the semester, the IT class will extract data from a database, while the science class will learn how to graph the data to determine what it means when temperatures continue to rise. The program goes beyond the standard learning experience and provides interaction between classes and cultures.

"[COIL] is great exposure for our students," said Kindle. "Some of our students don't have an opportunity to travel. This is a way through that barrier to get exposure and allow them to interact with a new culture to get experience and add to their resume."

Visit bridgevalley.edu/coil for additional information on BridgeValley's COIL program.

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>