



For Immediate Release

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**BridgeValley Student Jessie Spears Named
2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar**

(Montgomery, WV) - BridgeValley Community and Technical College student Jessie Spears has been selected as a 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar. Spears, a member of BridgeValley's Alpha Tau Lambda chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, was one of 207 Phi Theta Kappa scholars selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. She was chosen by a panel of independent judges for her outstanding academic achievement, community service and leadership potential.

"We're thrilled for Jessie to have received this scholarship," said Carla Blankenbuehler, co-advisor for the honor society. "As the most active chapter in our region, BridgeValley's Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Tau Lambda members participate in a number of community service activities, including the current Honors in Action project for the Duval PK-8 School in Lincoln County. Success achieved by PTK members has helped students, like Jessie, gain the skills they need to become leaders on campus and off campus and wherever their future takes them."

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in an associate degree program. Nearly 900 applications were received this year and the funds provided by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation not only aid in the completion of a degree, but give students the opportunity to engage in PTK programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in their communities.

"Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers," said Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Executive Director Dr. Monica Marlowe. "The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn't an obstacle to achieving their academic goals."

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. PTK is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations. For more information, visit ptk.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>