



PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

FALL 2022

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of north central
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A MESSAGE

From the President

Greetings from Pierpont Community & Technical College!

Welcome to the first *Pierpont Network* newsletter of the academic year!

First and foremost, please allow me to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Dr. Kathleen Nelson, and I am the new interim president of Pierpont Community & Technical College.

"Throughout my first few weeks at Pierpont, I have noticed the incredible effort and passion that my colleagues put into their work."

DR. KATHLEEN NELSON

Throughout my first few weeks at Pierpont, I have noticed the incredible effort and passion that my colleagues put into their work. They take great pride in providing a quality, affordable, comprehensive education that works for everyone.

As we embark on a new academic year, our goal is to show our students and this community that we are a strong and viable institution. We will be here for the

long-haul providing students with a top-notch education that will prepare them for a brighter future.

We take great pride in ensuring that our students feel welcomed into our learning community. They, along with our community partners, will see a renewed sense of belonging and an emphasis upon caring for and respecting one another.

We will continue to provide this community with programs that meet the job demand of our growing area. With programs ranging from veterinary technology to aviation maintenance, we provide West Virginia's workforce with the most qualified graduates in their fields.

We are this community's college, and we will continue to bring a brighter future to North Central West Virginia!

We are Pierpont Strong!

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Nelson
Interim President

ON THE COVER Pierpont Vet Tech student giving this pup some much needed attention.



New Interim President, Dr. Kathleen Nelson, along with Provost Michael Waide are pictured with some of Pierpont's Board of Governors members.

PIERPONT ANNOUNCES

Dr. Kathleen Nelson as Interim President

Pierpont Community & Technical College held a ceremony on July 6 to announce the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Nelson as its new interim president and welcome her to the institution.

"The board believes that Dr. Nelson will be a great fit for the interim president," said David Hinkle, chairman of Pierpont's Board of Governors. "With all of her experience and her vision for the college, she will be instrumental in leading us into our new chapter."

Dr. Nelson retired as President of Lake Superior College (LSC) in Duluth, Minnesota, having served in this capacity for 13 years. Following her retirement, she served as a Higher Education consultant with the Higher Learning Commission on regional accreditation issues including work with institutions seeking accreditation, revision of the AQIP pathway, fact-finding review for an institution with significant accreditation issue complaints, and several special assignments relating to individual institutions.

Dr. Nelson joined The Registry in 2019 and served as an interim president at Glenville State University in West Virginia during 2019-2020.

Dr. Nelson's career includes secondary and post-secondary instruction, counseling and administration in student services and academic affairs. Mentoring and coaching higher education leaders have always been important aspects of her career and personal life.

Dr. Nelson has held various leadership roles in the Minnesota State higher education system, including her role as co-chair with the state's Chancellor of the 44-member Leadership Council and founding chair of the Minnesota OnLine Council (the state's online council consortium). Her work with continuous quality improvement processes led to the college's participation in the Higher Learning Commission's Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) accreditation system. This work and the college's recognition as a leader in online learning have distinguished LSC within higher education circles.

Dr. Nelson served as a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for 18 years, served on several HLC committees (Readers' Panel, Review Committee, Team Chair Corps, Facilitator Corps for AQIP) worked with all of the Commission's pathway programs, served on the board of trustees for seven years, served as the Board's Chair and as a representative to the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (CRAC). She also served as a special assignment consultant following her official retirement from LSC.

Dr. Nelson has been recognized twice by the statewide college student association as its "President of the Year," received the Sam Solon Lifetime Legislative Service award from community leaders and received recognition as one of the region's "Women in Leadership" award winners.

Dr. Nelson earned an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas, an M.A. in Educational Psychology/Counseling from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and a B.A. in Speech Communication/Theater Arts and English Education from Hamline University. ■

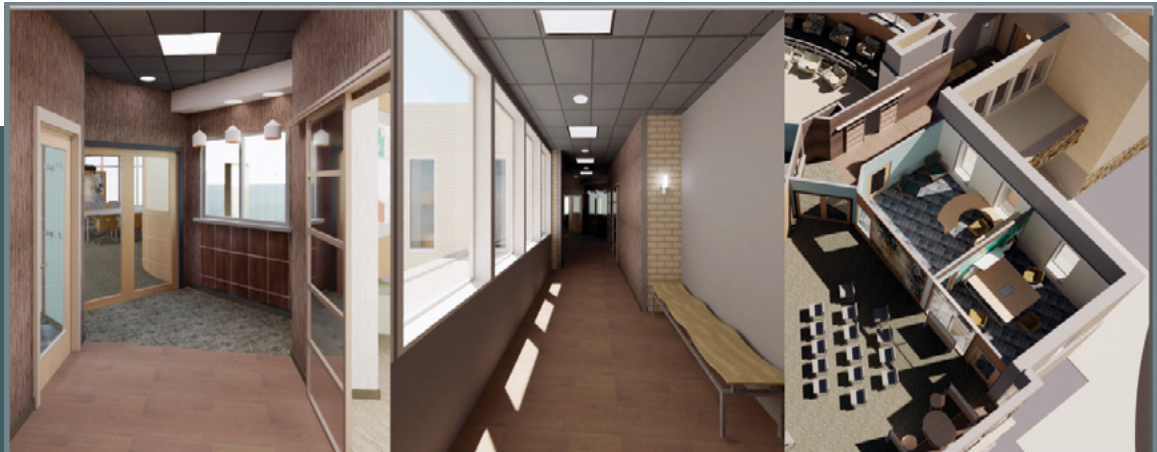
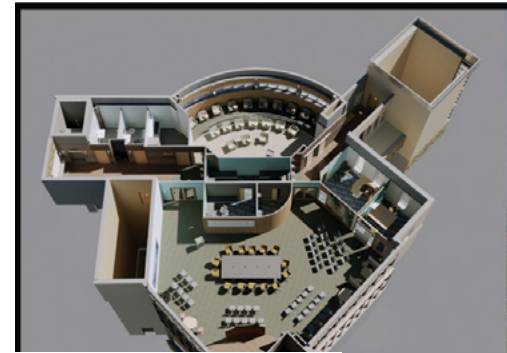
"With all of her experience and her vision for the college, she will be instrumental in leading us into our new chapter."

DAVID HINKLE, Pierpont Board of Governors' chairman



PIERPONT PROFESSOR RECEIVES

International Award for Interior Design





Award winner, Applied Design Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator Rachel Beach, teaching her class about interior design. Part of the portfolio that Beach turned in as part of her award winning submission.

Pierpont Community & Technical College assistant professor Rachel Beach, recently received an international award and recognition for her work in interior design.

Beach, the program coordinator of Pierpont's applied design program was awarded an honorable mention placement at the international 2021 LIV Hospitality Design Awards competition.

"[This award] helps validate all of the hard work I have put in throughout my career," said Beach. "Being recognized with an award like this after 30 years of hard work is an incredible feeling."

The LIV Design Awards is an international competition that recognizes excellence in hospitality architecture, interior design and guest experiences on a global scale. During the 2021 competition, there were more than 400 submissions from 41 different countries around the world.

Beach was awarded for her proposed design of the third floor of Pierpont's Advanced Technology Center in Fairmont.

"Earlier this year, at the request of our former interim president, I designed a project for the yet-to-be-completed floor of the ATC building on the campus of Pierpont," said Beach. "I used the collaboratorium design concept that was implemented in a few regions in the United States and many more in Europe."

The proposed space would be utilized in a multitude of

ways. The design gives the institution the flexibility to use it as needed.

"I wanted to design a space that was multifaceted and flexible," said Beach. "I used the elements of collaboratorium design to answer the wide range of challenges in the higher education environment."

Pierpont's applied design program has two concentrations, interior design and fashion merchandising. While in the program, students learn a range of skills, including the ones used by Beach in her proposal.

"Designs are always changing and evolving," said Beach. "We teach our students the skills they need to become successful interior designers. That includes a multitude of design styles that help them adapt to the changing style popularities throughout the world. That's why I encourage my students to become lifelong learners and hope they will continue their design education as they grow in their professions."

"Pierpont's faculty are top notch in their respective disciplines and industry," said Pierpont Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Michael Paul Waide. "Ms. Beach's work speaks for itself and represents Pierpont's commitment to providing quality instruction and training through our skilled, experienced instructors."

To learn more about Pierpont's Applied Design program, visit pierpont.edu. ■


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RACHEL BEACH,
Applied Design program coordinator



VET TECH PROGRAM

**Meeting the Needs of
North Central West Virginia**



Pierpont Vet Tech students learning to administer a shot to a live animal.

Veterinary technicians play a major role in the health care of your beloved pet. They are the sidekick to the veterinarian, and some may even say that they are just as important.

But, over the last several years, there has been a growing need for qualified veterinary technicians in West Virginia, with many veterinary clinics and hospitals looking to local colleges for answers.

THAT'S WHERE PIERPONT COMES IN.

Pierpont Community & Technical College's Veterinary Technology (vet tech) program, which is designed to prepare students for careers in the dynamic field of veterinary medicine as veterinary technicians, is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (CVTEA). It trains the next generation of vet techs to work in all aspects of animal health, disease and welfare.

"The veterinary technician is a vital resource to any veterinary facility," says Anna Romano, assistant professor and program coordinator of Pierpont's Veterinary Technology program. "Technicians work hand in hand with veterinarians to care for the health and welfare of all animals."

The vet tech program, which has been serving the Fairmont community for decades, has built a reputation of providing students with a high-quality education. Previously ranked among one of the top 30 veterinary technology programs in the country, it prepares students to hit the ground running when they begin their exciting careers as veterinary technicians.

"Graduates with an Associate Degree in Veterinary Technology have endless possibilities in the field of veterinary medicine," said Romano. "While most technicians are employed in small animal veterinary practices, there are endless opportunities in fields like emergency medicine, exotic animals, farm animals, zoos, research facilities and so much more. Wherever there is a need for a veterinarian, there will be a veterinary technician (or several) there to assist them!"

Career opportunities can even come in all shapes and sizes.

"While most technicians are employed in small animal veterinary practices, there are endless opportunities in fields like emergency medicine, exotic animals, farm animals, zoos, research facilities and so much more."

ANNA ROMANO,
assistant professor and program coordinator of
Veterinary Technology program

(continued on page 8)



Pierpont Vet Tech Program Coordinator, Anna Romano, teaching students the basics of administering a shot.

"I once had a student that worked within an elephant sanctuary and one of our most recent graduates just sent me a picture of her working with a porcupine. You never know what adventures await!"

In recent years, the vet tech program has become more and more essential to the state of West Virginia. Along with the major shortage of qualified veterinary technicians in the state, there is expected to be significant job growth in the field.

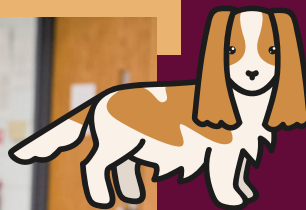
"According to the Department of Labor, the projected growth for veterinary technologists and technicians will be faster than the average career path," said Dr. Michael Waide, provost and vice president of academic affairs at Pierpont. "There is expected to be a 15% increase in jobs over the next seven or so years."

"The field of veterinary technology is rapidly growing," adds Romano. "There almost isn't a facility that is not in need of more technicians."

The Pierpont vet tech program is meeting job demands by creating a curriculum that provides the quality and hands-on training that the veterinary medicine industry desperately needs.

"Our students are trained in all areas of veterinary practice, including anesthesia, surgical assisting, patient treatment and care or any other duty needed for animal care. We are preparing our graduates to work in any veterinary medicine scenario."

And with the expected growth, Pierpont has continued to show the importance of this program to the community. Last summer, a nearly \$2 million investment was announced that creates a brand new,



PET WASH!

Every academic semester, Pierpont's vet tech program hosts several pet washing events on campus to help raise money for the program. This gives students some real-life experience with washing dogs, along with nail trimming and ear cleaning. All cats and dogs are welcome! Pet washing dates are posted on Pierpont's official social media pages.

   @PIERPONTCTC

Stay on the lookout for dates beginning in September.



state-of-the-art facility to house the vet tech program at the site of the former Clarksburg Eye Center.

Remodeling of the facility, located on the same block as Pierpont's Gaston Caperton Center, includes updates to the existing building to create classrooms and hands-on learning spaces for students. This will include all new kennels to house the animals cared for by the program.

"The vet tech program, with its new state-of-the-art center, will be there to meet the needs of the industry, preparing a skilled and qualified workforce for veterinarians and clinics throughout our area and West Virginia," said Dr. Waide.

The facility is expected to be completed by January and will be modeled like a modern veterinary hospital.

As the job demands of North Central West Virginia keep evolving, Pierpont will continue to evolve with it. By providing highly skilled workers, Pierpont continues to give its graduates, like those in vet tech, the opportunity to move this community into a brighter future. ■

Pierpont Aviation Hosts Senator Joe Manchin

AT HARRISON COUNTY CHAMBER EVENT

Pierpont Community & Technical College hosted the annual Harrison County Chamber of Commerce dinner on August 22 at its aviation maintenance hangar. During the event, guests heard from the United States Senator from West Virginia, Joe Manchin.

"It was an absolute honor to have Senator Manchin here to discuss the growth of the aviation industry in North Central West Virginia," said Dr. Kathleen Nelson, interim president of Pierpont. "To be able to show him how important this industry and our [Aviation Maintenance] program is to our economy was an incredible experience."

Manchin spoke on a variety of topics including the Inflation Reduction Act and energy independence. Arguably the most important topic of the night, however, was the growth expected in the aviation industry in North Central West Virginia.

"It's great to be back home and see all the great things that are happening in North Central West Virginia, and Clarksburg is just a dynamic area, and Harrison County all the

leaders here are doing so much trying to bring people together," Manchin told Joe Lint of WBOY News. "To see all the exciting things happening at the airport, new terminal it's going to be tremendous, it's going to be a gateway airport for us, and also then when you see Pierpont and what they are going to do an expansion as far as providing more students opportunities to have a profession in the aviation industry."

Pierpont's Aviation Maintenance program continues to provide qualified and well-trained workers to the aviation industry, which has become essential to the state.

"As the aviation industry grows, our program will

grow right along with it," said Nelson. "We are providing the best workers in the industry and moving this great state forward."

During the event, the Harrison County Chamber handed out awards to local community leaders for distinguished service. Pierpont's Board of Governors Vice Chair, Lisa Lang, was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Chamber. ■

"To see all the exciting things happening at the airport ... it's going to be tremendous ... then when you see Pierpont and what they are going to do as far as providing more students opportunities to have a profession in the aviation industry."

SENATOR JOE MANCHIN

Manchin quote courtesy of Joe Lint of WBOY News. The full article can be found on their website WBOY.com.



Amanda Stevens, owner of A&K Clothing, stands proudly in front of her shop at the Middletown Commons.

“When I was younger, I always told my parents I was going to be a teacher,” said Stevens. “But as I got older, I gravitated more towards clothing. One major way to express your personality is through your clothes!”

Once she decided to pursue her passion, she began looking for a degree program that could turn those passions into a career. That’s where she found Pierpont’s Applied Design program.

“I was drawn to the exclusivity and smaller classes that the [Applied Design] program offered,” said Stevens. “I loved how you’re able to learn while working side-by-side with your professor.”

“As a student, Amanda was focused and driven with a strong passion for fashion design and the consumer sciences,” adds Beach. “Amanda has taken her success in college and continued on in her professional path. We are very proud of her accomplishments and future endeavors in the fashion industry.”

In February 2021, Stevens decided to take her education and create her very own clothing line. That was where A&K Clothing was born. Beginning as an online and pop-up shop, A&K Clothing rose to popularity shortly after its inception. Stevens, along with her fiancé Kyle Thompson, became regulars at local events where many of their unique items were offered.

After only a year of online sales and pop-up events, A&K grew to the point where expansion was needed.

“I started A&K Clothing online in February 2021 and we continued to grow through the rest of that year by doing pop up events,” said Stevens. “We then invested enough to open a permanent storefront.”

The A&K Clothing storefront, located at the Middletown Commons in Fairmont, offers a variety of options, including handmade bleached apparel, name brand denim, affordable high-end boutique items and exclusive designs that you can’t get anywhere else.

“What separates our store from other boutiques is that half of my products are exclusively made by me that you won’t find anywhere other than A&K Clothing,” said Stevens. “We also carry items from three women-owned small businesses that also make their products! We want to support other local businesses as much as we possibly can.”

To check out A&K Clothing, you can visit their storefront located at the Middletown Commons in Fairmont in suite 153 or find them online. ■

🌐 A-K-CLOTHING-BOUTIQUE.MYSHOPIFY.COM

f @AKCLOTHINGEST2021

PIERPONT ALUM PAVES

A Path in Fashion

Clothing is so much more than just the outfits we put on every morning. For many, it’s a life-long passion that few are lucky enough to make their career. Luckily for those in North Central West Virginia, Pierpont Community & Technical College offers a unique program that gives students the tools to be a success in the fashion industry.

Pierpont’s Applied Design program, which offers concentrations in fashion merchandising and interior design, gives students the opportunity to be creative, while teaching them the ins-and-outs of the design industry.

“The fashion merchandising concentration covers a broad and evolving dynamic field,” said Rachel Beach, assistant professor and program coordinator of Pierpont’s Applied Design program. “[The program] offers courses that prepare students to understand the nuances within the business side of fashion and retail, while also involving visual marketing tools.”

Throughout the course of the program, many students learn what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur. Amanda Stevens, a 2014 graduate of the fashion merchandising concentration, was no exception.

CLASSIFIED STAFF

Employee of the Year

Jillian Sole has been selected as the recipient of the Pierpont Community & Technical College's 2022 Classified Staff Council Employee of the Year Award.

This award is presented annually to a classified staff employee member who demonstrates exceptional initiative, integrity and ability to work alongside students and colleagues.

Sole, who is assistant director of financial aid at Pierpont, has been an integral part of the growth of the institution over the last several years. Since joining the financial aid staff, Pierpont has continuously had the highest funds awarded to students through the West Virginia Invests Grant.

Sole is also the Classified Staff Council's Board of Governors' representative, giving a voice to the classified staff members that affect the entire institution.

"Jill approaches her work in the financial aid division of our Student Services area with passion and a profound work ethic," said Dr. Michael Waide, provost at Pierpont. "In everything she does, she keeps the student in mind and advocates on their behalf."

"What I do here at Pierpont makes a difference to our students and I enjoy being part of that."

JILLIAN SOLE, assistant director of financial aid, classified staff council employee of the year

How do you feel about receiving this award?

I am extremely appreciative of receiving this award. Pierpont has gone through some troubled times this past year, with lots of uncertainty, and I was able to represent the classified staff members and Pierpont as a member of the Board of Governors. However, this was not a task I completed on my own, and thanks to coworkers, I was able to gain the knowledge to truly represent the institution with facts and data.

I am truly thankful to all who assisted me in representing the classified staff and Pierpont!

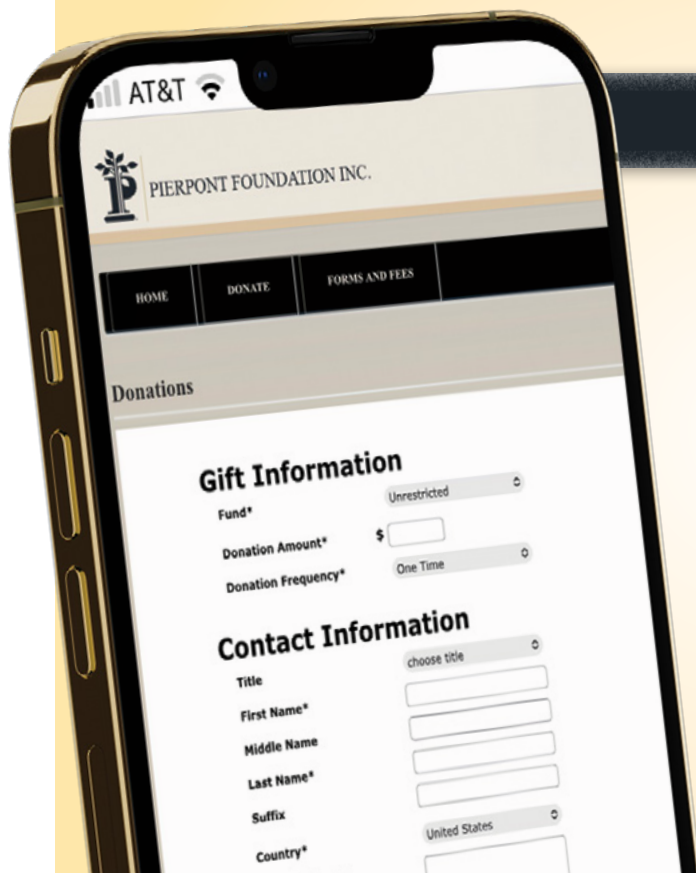
What is your philosophy for work?

My philosophy for work is to always be reliable to my coworkers, students and to myself. I'm student focused and being able to assist students in achieving their goals is truly a highlight of my work.

What do you enjoy most about working at Pierpont?

What I enjoy most about working at Pierpont is the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. What I do here at Pierpont makes a difference to our students and I enjoy being part of that. Since joining Pierpont, I also completed my bachelor's degree. That is something I would've never attempted if I was not working here. ■





DID YOU KNOW?

The Pierpont Foundation Inc. accepts online contributions to support Pierpont students, faculty, and staff.

The Pierpont Foundation incorporated in 2014 with the express mission of providing funding to support the college's mission. Pierpont Community & Technical College provides accessible, responsive, education that works for North Central West Virginia.

Contributions can be made online or mailed to the address below.

PIERPONTFOUNDATION.ORG/DONATIONS

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