



PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE **SPRING 2022**

NETWORK

LEARN & EARN

Earn money for
college and connect
with employers PG.6

PG.3 **WORKFORCE**
\$150,000 grant
to assist students
with disabilities

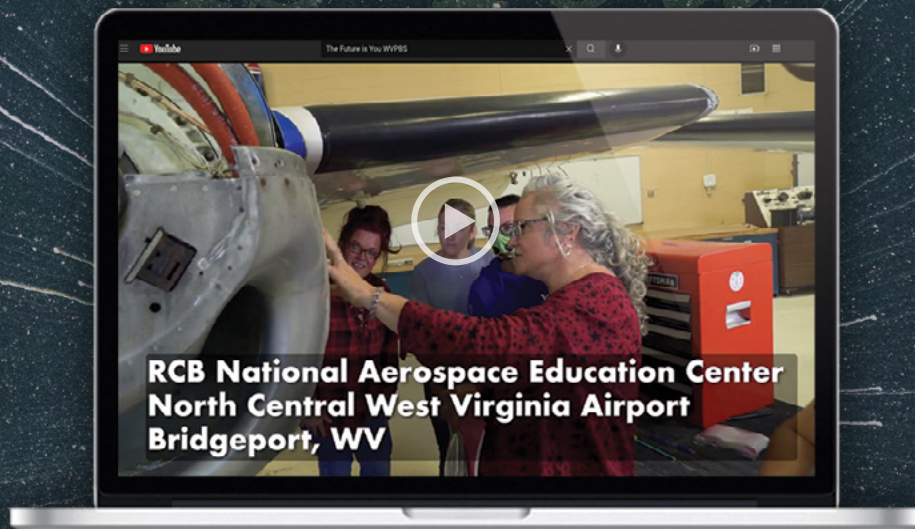
PG.4 **HEALTHCARE**
New programs
serve growing
healthcare industry

PG.9 **VETERAN STARTUPS**

PG.10 **LIBRARY ACCESS**

PG.12 **OPEN HOUSES**

The Future is You



Pierpont Community & Technical College's aviation maintenance program has been featured in a new collaborative special on West Virginia PBS called "The Future is You".

Hosted by West Virginia native and WVU and MIT graduate, Emily Calandrelli, the program focuses on an effort to encourage West Virginians, particularly females, to explore careers in the aviation industry.

"It's all about featuring women in aviation throughout the state, the education opportunities that are right here in West Virginia, and also the job opportunities that you can get right here in West Virginia after you get that education and training," Calandrelli told NPR.

The special features an interview with Pierpont aviation maintenance

instructor, Cynthia Rodina.

"We are very proud of the contribution the ladies in our program and aviation community make to encourage women considering aviation technology careers," added Dr. Brad Gilbert, Pierpont's director of aviation technology. "We currently have several women in our aviation technology program, and we hope this project will demonstrate to the women in West Virginia that there are excellent employment opportunities available for them at the North Central West Virginia Airport."

"The Future is You" special premiered this fall and can be found on the WVPBS YouTube page.

 **WATCH TODAY!**

ON THE COVER Pierpont student receiving hands on training in the petroleum technology program, one of the most popular Learn and Earn programs.

PIERPONT RAPID INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES EDUCATION (PRIDE):

\$150,000 Benedum Grant To Assist Students with Disabilities

Pierpont Community & Technical College received a \$150,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation that will establish a new workforce program for students with intellectual disabilities in a 13-county region the college serves.

The Pierpont Rapid Intellectual Disabilities Education (PRIDE) program is modeled after a successful vocational advancement and skill training program currently offered through Houston Community College in Texas. The program will allow Pierpont to provide postsecondary transition programming and comprehensive support services to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Students in Pierpont's 13-county service region who are ages 18-25 will be eligible for the program. Those counties include Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Doddridge, Harrison, Taylor, Barbour, Lewis, Gilmer, Calhoun, Braxton, Upshur and Randolph.

"The program objective is to allow those with intellectual disabilities to obtain meaningful credentials, employment and independence," said Lyla Grandstaff, Pierpont's Student Services vice president and the grant's principal investigator. "Historically, the education, employment and independent living outcomes for individuals with intellectual disabilities have been discouraging. We want to

help students become self-reliant and to contribute to their communities in new ways."

The program will enroll 10 to 12 students in the first cohort, which will be offered starting in the fall 2022 semester. The program aims to graduate at least 80 percent of the students in the pilot program and transition them into the workforce. The program will focus on retail, childcare, teacher assistants, dining/food services, culinary arts, and healthcare-patient escort.

Students will complete occupation-specific classes and worksite education/training and gain knowledge and skills to prepare for employment in a chosen occupation. Classes will also work to improve students' communication, human relations, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

The funds will be utilized to hire personnel, training, supplies, travel and curriculum design. Pierpont will work with local high schools and disability organizations to identify students. All students will receive laptops to enhance learning and will receive one-on-one assistance from a program director. ■

ABOUT THE PRIDE PROGRAM

10-12

students will be enrolled
in the first cohort

FALL '22

program start

GOAL:

graduate at least 80% of
the students in the pilot
program and transition
them into the workforce

The program will focus on:

- » RETAIL
- » CHILDCARE
- » TEACHER ASST.
- » DINING/FOOD SERVICES
- » CULINARY ARTS
- » HEALTHCARE-PATIENT ESCORT

"We want to help students become self-reliant and to contribute to their communities in new ways."

LYLA GRANDSTAFF, Student Services vice president



PIERPONT ADOPTS

New Programs to Serve Growing Healthcare Industry

Employment in healthcare occupations is projected to grow 16 percent from 2020 to 2030, said Amy Cunningham, the interim dean of the School of Health Sciences at Pierpont Community & Technical College.

“As the population continues to age and the healthcare industry grows, so does the need for trained healthcare professionals,” Cunningham said.

Pierpont has created two new programs in the healthcare arena, a Medical Billing and Coding Certificate of Applied Science and Electronic Health Record Specialist Advanced Skill Set, while also revising its Licensed Practical Nurse program curriculum.

“Healthcare professionals will always be vital to the country’s infrastructure,” Cunningham said. “Students who pursue a health science program will enjoy job security.”

Medical Billing and Coding is considered the backbone of the healthcare revenue cycle that ensures healthcare providers are compensated in a timely fashion for services provided to patients.

Electronic Health Record (EHR) Specialists are instrumental in ensuring the accuracy and efficacy of the

electronic health record. The federal Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Mandate requires healthcare providers to convert all medical charts to a digital format. Thanks to the EMR, trained EHR professionals are in high demand, with huge growth in the profession projected over the coming years.

“LPNs are in high demand and are able to perform many of the same duties of a Registered Nurse,” Cunningham said.

The healthcare industry is expected to rapidly grow in West Virginia and across the United States. This allows students to choose where they want to live and work. Working in a healthcare career is also a rewarding

career, Cunningham said.

“A hallmark of Pierpont is the ability to craft and develop programs that meet the needs of our workforce economy and industries,” said Pierpont Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost Michael Waide. “The innovation or reimagination of these programs showcases

“Healthcare professionals will always be vital to the country’s infrastructure. Students who pursue a health science program will enjoy job security.”

AMY CUNNINGHAM,
interim dean of the School of Health Sciences

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At right: Pierpont's new state-of-the-art ambulance simulator was installed at the Gaston Caperton Center in Clarksburg. (Photo courtesy of WVNews)
Far right: The finished product of the new state-of-the-art ambulance simulator.
Below: A Pierpont Radiologic Technology student receives realistic, on-the-job training at Pierpont.



PIERPONT RECEIVES \$50,000 Grant for Ambulance Simulator

Pierpont Community & Technical College received a \$50,000 West Virginia Advance Grant for its emergency medical services (EMS) program and installed a state-of-the-art ambulance simulator at Pierpont's Gaston Caperton Center in Clarksburg.

The simulator will be utilized by students pursuing their degrees in the emergency medical services certificate and associates degree.

"Having this new simulator will bring new life to our EMS program," said John Hitchens, program coordinator of Pierpont's EMS program. "Our students deserve to have the most state-of-the-art equipment to train and to learn and to bring the best care possible to the people of North Central West Virginia."

Installation of the new simulator began in mind-December on the second floor of the Gaston Caperton Center, and it is in full operation this semester.

"We were thrilled to unveil this new simulator to our students this spring," said Amy Cunningham, interim dean of the School of Health Sciences. "This is another step into creating quality and affordable healthcare education that meets the job demands of our region."

This is one of the many upgrades Pierpont has made to its campuses this year. In Clarksburg, Pierpont acquired sole ownership of the Caperton Center and purchased a building to house its veterinary technology program. With the addition of the simulator, Pierpont has invested more than \$2 million dollars in downtown Clarksburg.

"This new equipment is another significant investment into our downtown Clarksburg campus," said Dr. Anthony Hancock, interim president of Pierpont. "We are this community's college, and we want to show that we are invested in the future of this region." ■

Pierpont's rapid response to meet the health care industry's needs for a skilled and qualified workforce in North Central West Virginia."

Students who complete these programs may start careers in outpatient clinics, doctor's offices, dental practices, hospitals, and rehab hospitals. These careers also allow for professionals to work as consultants, and most medical coders now work at home.

"These programs offer comprehensive training for students to join the rapidly growing healthcare industry," Cunningham said. "These short-term options will offer Pierpont's student population specialized training to serve our growing workforce needs while enjoying a rewarding career." ■

"We are this community's college, and we want to show that we are invested in the future of this region."

DR. ANTHONY HANCOCK,
interim president of Pierpont



LEARN & EARN

Pierpont student receiving hands on training in the petroleum technology program, one of the most popular programs for Learn and Earn.



GOING TO COLLEGE CAN BE FINANCIALLY TAXING FOR MANY WEST VIRGINIANS. AT THE SAME TIME, BUSINESSES IN THE STATE OFTEN STRUGGLE TO FIND QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES.

The West Virginia Learn & Earn program helps students to earn money for college and connect with employers to gain valuable experience and future employment. At the same time, the program provides employers a financial benefit for hiring interns who they can then train to be a part of their workforce.

“This program is unique to West Virginia as a state-funded workforce initiative,” said Nancy Ligus, director of Workforce, Continuing Education, and Economic Development at Pierpont Community & Technical College. “It engages employers to collaborate with West Virginia community and technical colleges to attract talent and fill high-demand occupations, essentially building a pipeline for the workforce which supports economic development regionally and statewide.”

The West Virginia Legislature created the Learn & Earn program several years ago to assist students and employers. Pierpont Community & Technical College has had about 20-plus students participate in the program over the last three years mostly in the aviation, petroleum, and information technology programs.

“One of the top challenges employers have is hiring qualified workers,” Ligus said. “Though this partnership, business and industry can affect the curriculum, skills, and certifications within the college’s technical programs and prepare students to enter and advance their careers.”

Employers receive a 50 percent reimbursed wage match for qualified projects, which lowers their labor cost during the internship period. Students not only receive a competitive wage, but as a temporary employee of their host

“This is ‘real world’ experience they can put on their resumes, which gives them an advantage over other applicants.”

NANCY LIGUS,
director of Workforce, Continuing Education,
and Economic Development

(continued on page 8)

company, they receive valuable on-the-job experience and the opportunity to apply the skills they are learning.

“This is ‘real world’ experience they can put on their resume, which gives them an advantage over other applicants moving forward,” Ligus said.

The program focuses on information technology, healthcare, manufacturing, and energy, although other industries have participated based on high-demand occupations.

Many of the companies hire these students once the internship ends. Students also get insight of the day to day job duties they can expect working in their field of study and learn about other career paths open to them as future employees.

“If a student is willing and able, we can find an opportunity for them,” Ligus said.

Learn & Earn was designed specifically for West Virginia community colleges, including Pierpont, to train a high-quality workforce.

“Our goal is to be first choice in workforce development in our region and such a distinctive program gives us an edge,” Ligus said. ■

Pierpont students practicing their welding skills at Pierpont’s ATC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WV LEARN & EARN PROGRAM, CONTACT:

NANCY LIGUS

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Continuing Education, and
Economic Development
Pierpont C&TC

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PIERPONT TO RECEIVE

\$200,000 to Work with Veteran Entrepreneurs

STARTUP
TRAINING
RESOURCES TO
INSPIRE
VETERAN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Pierpont Community & Technical College will receive \$200,000 over the next two years to help veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs adapt their businesses to the current operating environment.

The funding will come from Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), which the US Small Business Administration named as one of only eight Tier 1 grantees, selected as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's \$100 million Community Navigator Pilot Program. As Tier 1 partner, the IVMF was awarded a \$5 million grant to participate in this novel program.

"Syracuse University awarded Pierpont the \$200,000 as a sub-grant because our institution is nationally recognized as a leader in working with veterans," said Pierpont's Vice President of Student Services Lyla Grandstaff. "The funding will be used to assist veterans plan businesses, network and find financing pathways."

Pierpont will be offering the Startup Training Resources To Inspire Veteran Entrepreneurship (STRIVE) program. The STRIVE program is part of a landmark initiative that transforms veterans and military family members into entrepreneurs.

Delivered by Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families' (IVMF), STRIVE leverages networks and education resources in local communities to support and advance veteran-owned businesses.

STRIVE is a local three-phase program for veterans with a budding business. The program helps to identify, overcome and mitigate challenges for the new venture to pave the way for veteran business ownership success.

"The STRIVE program aims to open the door to economic opportunity for veterans, Guard members and reservists by developing their competencies in creating and sustaining an entrepreneurial venture," Grandstaff said.

Veterans face an array of barriers in attempting to launch businesses, including a fragmented ecosystem, capital readiness, difficulty navigating resources, certification process hurdles, and lack of assistance from medical and disability service providers.

The STRIVE program offers a unique solution that provides a navigation and support mechanism to strengthen the ecosystem, nurture entrepreneurial aspirations, and sustain growth and success. ■

"Syracuse University awarded Pierpont the \$200,000 as a sub-grant because our institution is nationally recognized as a leader in working with veterans."

LYLA GRANDSTAFF
Vice President of Student Services

PIERPONT PARTNERS WITH

Marion County Public Library to Benefit Students



Pierpont Interim President Dr. Anthony Hancock and Larissa Cason, director of the Marion County Library, sign a memorandum of understanding that provides Pierpont students with access to the library.

Pierpont Community & Technical College signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Marion County Public Library to benefit its students and the local community.

Pierpont and the library held a joint ceremony in December to commemorate the signing of the new partnership.

“While this unique partnership extends the quality resources Pierpont provides students, the collaboration with Marion County Public Library truly embodies Pierpont’s presence,” said Dr. Michael Waide, provost and vice president of academic affairs at Pierpont. “We are the community’s college and through these vital partnerships we let folks know Pierpont is a college of choice for the region!”

“This [MOU] solidifies the relationship between these two important community partners,” said Larissa Cason, Marion County Public Library director. “It gives us a formal avenue to the students of Pierpont and allows us to enrich their educational experience by providing them a variety of services.”

The Marion County Public Library, located in downtown Fairmont, has been serving the educational needs of the Fairmont community for many years.

“Over the years, we have offered support for K-12 in Marion County,” said Cason. “And this deal with Pierpont will increase our ability to serve the people in Marion County and their educational needs.”

The agreement provides library access for all Pierpont students.

Marion County Public Library will provide Pierpont students with library cards, which will grant them access to all the library’s resources. Along with a textbook repository, the library will provide students with general library services, access to Wi-Fi and online and in-person librarian support.

Currently, Pierpont is utilizing a robust, comprehensive online library that is in collaboration with the West Virginia Community & Technical College System. The online library offers Pierpont students, faculty and staff access to Ebsco, which is used for academic research. Pierpont will still provide access to that resource.

“We are so proud of the online library that we have been able to provide our students over the last few years,” said Interim President Anthony Hancock. “Combining both the online and in-person libraries will give our students a complete and comprehensive library system.” ■

“This deal with Pierpont will increase our ability to serve the people in Marion County and their educational needs.”

LARISSA CASON
Marion County Public
Library director

PIERPONT FOUNDATION INC.

Kicks Off the Giving Season with Generous Donations

The Pierpont Foundation Inc. is fully operational and accepts gifts to support Pierpont students, faculty, and staff.

The Foundation kicked off the giving season in November with a generous \$25,000 contribution from the Mike Ross Family Foundation Inc. to support scholarships and student emergency funds and \$30,000 and \$25,000 anonymous pledges for scholarships for students who have need.

"We appreciate and are so thankful for the Mike Ross Family Foundation Inc.'s generosity on Giving Tuesday, as well as our anonymous donors," said Foundation Director Julie Cryser.

Ross, a West Virginia businessman and philanthropist, and his family founded the Mike Ross Family Foundation. A native of Coalton, WV, Ross has more than 50 years of experience in oil and natural gas production and served as a state senator and WV House of Delegates member.

Two of the gifts were made on Giving Tuesday and marked the

first major gifts to the Pierpont Foundation since it began operating as an independent foundation. The Pierpont Foundation operated utilizing a fiscal sponsor but separated its assets from that sponsor in October.

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, with a nationally ranked culinary program and an aviation program in the heart of the state's aviation industry, as well as many other ranked and high-quality programs.

"We are excited about the opportunities for the local community to support our students and programs," Cryser said. "Pierpont offers new high school graduates and non-traditional students an excellent education and trains the area's workforce for a global, fast-paced market." ■

Donate online!

Contributions can be made to the Pierpont Foundation online at **PIERPONTFOUNDATION.ORG/DONATIONS**

Donations may also be mailed to:
Pierpont Foundation
500 Galliher Drive
Fairmont, WV 26554

NEW POSITIONS

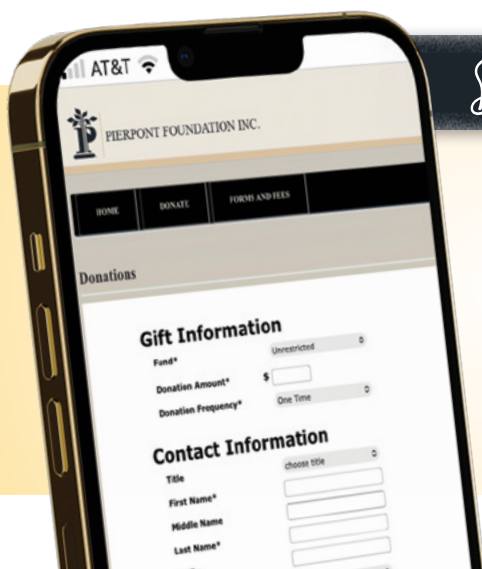
Hired



Mrs. Cyndee Sensibaugh retired in January from her position as executive assistant to the president after 13 years at Pierpont. **Amanda Hawkinberry** has been promoted to the position of executive assistant to the president from her position as administrative assistant, senior, for Academic Affairs. Hawkinberry has served Pierpont in various positions for more than seven years.



Skye Feather has been hired as the new administrative assistant for Academic Affairs. Feather has been with Pierpont for more than two years, previously serving as an admissions advisor.



JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Pierpont is hosting an open house for future and prospective students at its Advanced Technology Center (500 Galliher Dr. Fairmont) on Saturday, April 2. The event will focus on programs, financial aid and what makes Pierpont a great investment in your future. Sign up at pierpont.edu/showcase.



DON'T MISS A THING!

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