



FALL 2023

PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

NETWORK MAGAZINE

PIERPONT'S AVIATION
PROGRAM RECEIVES
\$25 MILLION FOR A
NEW FACILITY

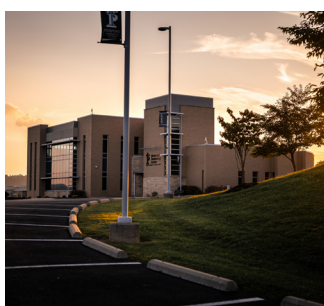
WELCOMING
DR. MILAN HAYWARD,
FOURTH PRESIDENT
OF PIERPONT

\$22K

RAISED FOR
INAUGURAL
DAY OF GIVING

HEALTH SCIENCES

MEETING THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF
NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA



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School of HEALTH SCIENCES

Meeting the Healthcare Needs of North Central West Virginia

The School of Health Sciences at Pierpont Community and Technical College provides students the opportunity to receive the hands-on training needed to make an impact in their local communities. Through one- and two-year academic programs, students can find a program that aligns with their interests.

“Every one of our programs are in demand and offer students high salaries, job security, and job placement when they graduate,” said Amy Cunningham, Dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Students will find industry-standard equipment in the classrooms that provides hands-on experience and training, such as an ambulance simulator, medical simulation mannequins, and more. With small class sizes, students work alongside experienced faculty and are provided with one-on-one assistance.

“Our students have the ability to get to know faculty, and when they go out into the community we already have relationships with their clinical instructors and future employers as well,” said Dr. Andrea Wamsley-Barr, Program Director for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

As the demand for healthcare professionals increases in North Central West Virginia, Pierpont Community and Technical College is positioned to meet the growing needs of our communities. ■



Emergency Medical Services, A.A.S.
Health Sciences, A.A.S.
Medical Laboratory Technology, A.A.S.
Physical Therapist Assistant, A.A.S.
Health Information Technology, A.A.S.*

Radiologic Technology, A.A.S.
Respiratory Care, A.A.S.
Veterinary Technology, A.A.S.
Licensed Practical Nursing, C.A.S.

*Program available online



In June 2023, Pierpont Community and Technical College welcomed its fourth president, Dr. Milan Hayward. President Hayward comes to Pierpont from Virginia Western Community College where he served as Vice President of the School of Career and Corporate Training from 2016 to 2023.

We sat down with President Hayward to discuss his journey to Pierpont and what he is looking forward to as the college enters a new era of growth and innovation.

Interviewer (I): Hello, Milan, and thank you for doing this interview.

Dr. Milan Hayward (MH): Of course! Happy to do it.

I: Where are you from originally?

MH: I grew up in the heart of Northern Virginia on the outskirts of the Capital Beltway. My wife and I later raised our children in Warrenton, Virginia, on the outer edges of Northern Virginia.

I: Tell us about your career prior to joining us at Pierpont.

MH: After 10+ years in the private automotive service industry, it was my pleasure to teach at the same college where I earned my A.A.S. degree. Two years later, I became responsible for coordinating the Ford Motor Company college programs, and over time, I accepted additional community college leadership opportunities. I didn't plan to do anything but teach at the college, but I enjoyed the work, and one thing led to another.

Along the way, I studied adult learning and human resource development and combined that love with my practice in career, workforce, and technical education. About 17 years ago, I realized my calling as an adult educator in community college leadership. I've worked with and supported several community colleges and programs over the years, and Pierpont is the third community college I've had the privilege to serve as a full-time employee.

I: You have mentioned that you didn't like school growing up and even had stopped-out of high school at one point. Can you expand on that story?

MH: I was fortunate to have several caring teachers as a youth but eventually stopped out of high school in favor of entrepreneurialism. I

needed a change! I was a motivated, self-directed learner but did not value formal learning at that time for various reasons. Professionally speaking, those formative experiences motivate me to this day to develop learning opportunities intended for a variety of students, especially non-traditional and underserved learners.

I: Can you tell us about your time taking classes at a community college?

MH: With the encouragement of my then-girlfriend (now wife), I started taking classes to prepare for a new career field. Initially I took classes to learn the technical skills I needed for employment and had no intention of earning a college degree. However, after several years of working and part-time study, I decided to earn an Associate Degree in Automotive Technology.

Throughout my program, Program Head, Harvey Butler, served as an informal mentor to me and others. I'm grateful for his advice and encouragement, and I later acknowledged him in my doctoral dissertation introduction. The value and impact of teachers—especially community college faculty for our purposes—can't be overestimated.

It was an honor some years later to serve as faculty member alongside Harvey and learn to practice a similar care for students. Community colleges are an excellent choice for high school graduates. They are also an essential lifeline for adult learners with family responsibilities—like me—who need training and education that works for them.

I: Tell us about your leadership philosophy - Listening, Learning, and Loving - and how it came to be.

MH: I've enjoyed listening and learning from so many faculty, staff, students, and community friends

over the last several months. I'm impressed by the number of faculty and staff who love Pierpont, love the community, and recognize our best days as a college are ahead of us. I feel led to this college and believe this is a special moment in Pierpont history.

This group of dedicated friends and professionals can become unstoppable. No question about it. Our ability to fulfill our mission will depend on the strength of our workplace culture and the extent to which we work together. It's a tall order, but we're up for the challenge. It's not just about the what and why, but how.

I'm grateful for the patience and grace that has been offered to me and want everyone—team members and students especially—to feel similarly welcome at Pierpont. As I mentioned in August, upcoming planning efforts will allow us to be even more intentional about building an even stronger culture of inclusion and caring.

I: Finally, what would you like potential students to know about Pierpont?

MH: Pierpont's tagline – Education That Works – summarizes the college mission. I love it. The educational and training services we provide are intended to work for individuals, families, businesses, and our community. Everyone at Pierpont believes in that mission and is here to help our students achieve their educational and employment goals. There is plenty of assistance that makes Pierpont your most affordable option in the region. Please drop by one of our campuses and introduce yourself to us. We are the community's college, and we can't wait to meet you! ■

Stay update to date on the latest Pierpont news:

pierpont.edu/news/

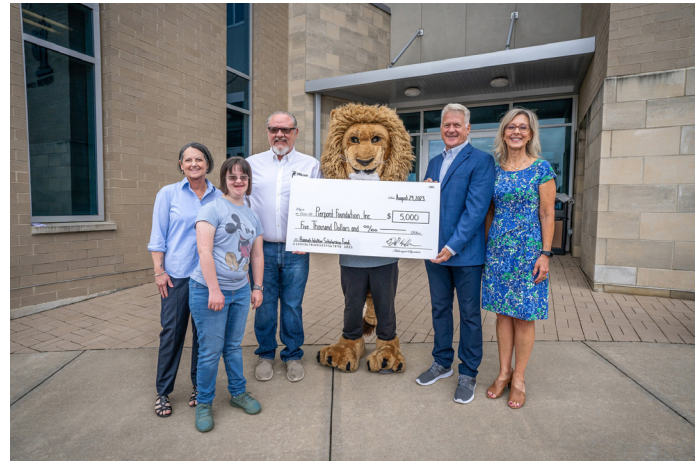
Pierpont Staff Join United Way in Preparation for 2023 Celebration of Lights

Members of Pierpont's campus community joined the Tygart Valley United Way and Rotary Club of South Fairmont in July to prepare light displays for the annual Celebration of Lights at Morris Park in August.

Over the last 16 years, crowds from West Virginia and beyond have enjoyed the festive displays placed throughout the 1.3-mile course. The Celebration of Lights began with only 20 displays, but now features over 500 light displays. Each year, the Celebration of Lights receives help from hundreds of volunteers to repair and organize the light displays for the new season.



Members of our campus community, accompanied by President Hayward, at Morris Park to prepare the light displays.



Members of the Walker Family, the Pierpont Foundation, and Monty.

Pierpont Foundation Receives \$5,000 Donation to Establish Scholarship Fund

In August, the Pierpont Foundation accepted a \$5,000 donation to establish the Hannah Walker Scholarship Fund, which will benefit students within Pierpont Community and Technical College's PRIDE Academy.

The PRIDE Academy is a transitional program that provides students with intellectual disabilities additional support in life skills training and opportunities to participate in job-related exploration.



Amy Cunningham

Cunningham Honored as Woman of Distinction

Pierpont's Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Amy Cunningham, has been honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Progressive Women's Association of Harrison County.

The award recognizes her professional achievements, as well as her impact on the community through volunteering and advocacy. Congratulations, Amy!

Remembering Former Pierpont President, Blair Montgomery

Pierpont remembers former President Blair Montgomery after he passed away on Friday, June 23, 2023.

Montgomery was selected as the first president of Pierpont Community and Technical College in 2004, a position he held for six years before retiring in 2010 after 36 years of combined service to Pierpont and Fairmont State College [University].

Montgomery was passionate about many things, especially education. Along with being a leader for Pierpont and Fairmont State, Montgomery served on the Marion County Board of Education, the Marion County Public Library, and RESA 7.

Monty, Pierpont's mascot, is affectionately named in honor of Montgomery and his contributions to the institution. Montgomery's leadership and compassion will long be remembered by the campus and community.



Blair Montgomery pictured with Monty.
Photo credit: Tammy Shriver, Times West Virginian



Members of the campus and community participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony, celebrating the new facility.

Veterinary Technology Center Holds Ribbon Cutting

In May, members of our campus and community gathered to celebrate the ribbon cutting of Pierpont's new Veterinary Technology Facility, located on the Clarksburg Campus.

The facility features state-of-the-art learning spaces to prepare graduates for careers as veterinary technicians in areas, such as small animal practice, herd health management, research, pharmaceutical sales, and more.

Aviation Maintenance Technology Program Hosts Summer Camp

Local middle school students were given a hands-on look into the aviation field with Pierpont's second-annual aviation summer camp.

Students were provided a tour of the facility and aircrafts, built power gliders, used flight simulator computer systems, and received instruction on aircraft flight theory.

The camp hosted students from Marion, Lewis, Harrison, Doddridge, and Taylor Counties.

Annual Trick-or-Treat Event Spreads Spooky Cheer to Community

Pierpont's annual Trick-or-Treat event welcomed hundreds of families to the Advanced Technology Center once again for an evening of spooky Halloween fun. The event hosted an estimated 300+ visitors that enjoyed decorated tables and hallways, clever costumes, and lots of candy and cheer.

Alumni Spotlight: Loving West Virginia

Evan Chapman '09, owner and operator of Loving WV, has turned his love for the Mountain State into a statewide phenomenon.

Originally from Weston, West Virginia, Chapman was born and raised within the Mountain State's borders, and he sees that as a point of pride. "There's a strong sense of community in this state," said Chapman. "Whenever you're in West Virginia, you know the people that you see at the grocery store are going to be the same people you are going to see in [our] store, and those same people are also going to be at your kids' graduation."

LOCAL BEGINNINGS

Chapman's journey began at Pierpont Community in and Technical College in 2007 where he pursued a degree in graphics technology from the School of Business, Aviation, and Technology. The small classes and hands-on learning environment located right in his backyard were appealing characteristics for Chapman. "One of the things that I was

looking for was to not be too terribly far from home."

As a student, Chapman developed the skills he would need to propel him to his future success. Through working with his instructors, like Dr. Kari Coffindaffer, he built the

“We’re putting a love that we have for the state and a love for these old buildings back into [Loving West Virginia]”

foundation for a brighter future while obtaining an affordable education.

“College is seen as an expensive investment, and it is to some extent, but I think that attending

Pierpont, where the cost of tuition is lower, is a good way to get your feet underneath you and try and figure out what it is you want to do for the rest of your life.”

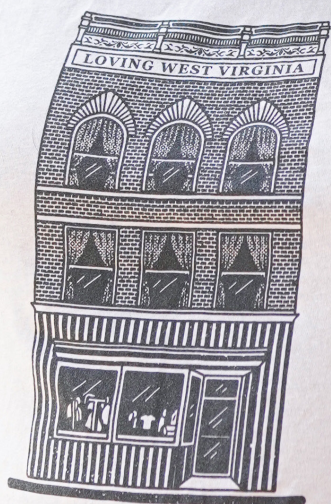
Upon graduating, Chapman pursued baccalaureate and master's degrees. In 2014, Chapman and his wife, Evan, moved to Silver Springs, Maryland, where he landed a job working for NPR.

While in Maryland, Chapman began to miss home, so he started shopping for shirts to represent his home state but could not quite find what he was looking for. So, he decided to make them.

“I was out of the state, looking for shirts to wear, and at the time there weren't very many options [specific to WV],” said Chapman. “They were either generic, cookie-cutter designs, or school-related, but there wasn't anything I felt like I was looking for. So, I came up with a couple of designs,

Evan Chapman '09

Owner, Loving WV



shared them on Facebook, and the response was very positive.” From there, Loving WV was born.

What began as a small online store with just a few designs quickly became a household name for anyone with a love for the state. The demand for his West Virginia-inspired designs grew rapidly.

“We started with just 50 shirts and now I think we’re up to 70 different shirt designs and probably over 100 sticker designs,” said Chapman.

COUNTRY ROADS, TAKE US HOME

As the company’s following began to grow, Chapman and his wife made the decision to return to West Virginia. As word spread of the unique designs, their social media following

grew rapidly and orders began to ship out across the United States and around the world (including Dubai and Australia). With the overwhelming success, their at-home setup just wasn’t cutting it.

“We outgrew where we were operating, so we began the search for something new to grow into,” said Chapman.

A NEW HOME

Expecting to find a small warehouse to place the business, Chapman stumbled upon a listing for a building in the heart of Downtown Fairmont.

“Fairmont was the perfect fit due to the existing connections I had with the college and family there,” said Chapman. “So, we bought the building on Main Street. No one had occupied it for the last four or five years. We never thought we would be able

to afford one of those really cool downtown buildings.”

The historic building, located at 219 Monroe Street in Fairmont, was home to the original Fairmont newspaper in the early 1900s. Since purchasing, Chapman and his team have done a complete overhaul, including painting the inside and outside, installing new electrical and plumbing systems, and placing a new HVAC system. The entire process has been journaled via their social media platforms.

“It’s becoming part of our brand,” said Chapman. “We’re putting a love that we have for the state and a love for these old buildings back into it.”

The Loving WV storefront is expected to open by December 2023. ■



Shop Loving WV:
lovingwv.com



LPN and Culinary Programs Receive National Rankings

Pierpont Community and Technical College's Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program was named the top LPN program in the State of West Virginia by Best Value Schools earlier this year.

Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Annette Arnett, was thrilled to receive the honor. "It gives me great pride to have our program recognized as the best in WV, and it reflects Pierpont's priority to providing a high-standard nursing program that is affordable for its students," she said. "The LPN program is the epitome of Pierpont's mission statement of providing an accessible, responsive, comprehensive education that works."

Pierpont's LPN program is a one-year certificate program that provides students with the opportunities to learn, train, and apply the knowledge needed to provide nursing care in their communities.

"Our program utilizes multiple modes of learning, including hands-on in-class work, clinical practicums and virtual experiences to enhance our students' comprehension of nursing," said Arnett.

"Our students graduate with the ability to successfully pass the NCLEX and go on to practice in a variety of clinical settings competently. The demand for LPNs remains high, and we are excited to deliver quality and affordable education to our students," said Amy Cunningham, Dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Best Value Schools has also ranked Pierpont's Food Service Management - Culinary Arts program fourth in the United States.

"For Pierpont's Culinary Arts program to again earn a top-five national ranking, I couldn't be more proud," said David Beighley, Dean of the School of General Education and Professional Studies. "This recognition is a testament to the phenomenal work of our food service management faculty and students, and the successes achieved by so many of our graduates within the food and hospitality industry."

Pierpont's culinary program received ranked as a top program in the United States for over six years.

"Our food service management faculty have worked hard over the years to foster exceptional programs, so to be recognized in the top five nationally is an honor," added Natalie Feltz, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of the food service management program.

In spring 2023, the program moved into a new facility, located at Middletown Commons in Whitehall, that provides students with even more opportunities to learn in state-of-the-art kitchens designed for culinary arts, pastry and baking arts, and nutrition and dietetics programs. ■

Pierpont in the News: **TASTY TUESDAY**

Discover delicious recipes prepared by students and faculty in our Culinary Academy!



Pierpont Night at the **BALLPARK**

Pictured: Pierpont CTC
President, Dr. Hayward,
and his wife, Lauren.





View more special moments from the evening by scanning here!



A new tradition begins.

Pierpont Community and Technical College's campus community gathered in July for an evening of fun, friends, and baseball at the Monongalia County Ballpark. The evening celebrated the inaugural "Pierpont Night at the Ballpark" event, a partnership with the West Virginia Black Bears. The event brought together more than 70 members of the campus community, including current and prospective students, faculty and staff, alumni and friends, and community members.

"This was a great way to show our community what Pierpont is all about," said Dr. Milan

Hayward, President of Pierpont Community and Technical College. "Our team wanted an event we could enjoy with our community, and I believe we knocked it out of the park."

Dr. Hayward was joined by several students, alumni, and Monty, Pierpont's mascot, to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Jarrett Neville, a student in the food service management program, sang the National Anthem.

The event was one of several held this year to engage the campus and share Pierpont pride with the community. ■

PIERPONT

MAKER CAMP

2023

This past summer, Pierpont Community and Technical College hosted its annual Maker Camp, a five-day summer camp designed to introduce local students to the world of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) and entrepreneurship.

Throughout the week, students tested their creativity and ingenuity by designing models for 3-D printing, crafting a model of the human hand, and building and programming robots. The group also visited Stockmeier Urethane and Aurora Flight Sciences to learn about the transfer of raw materials, quality assurance testing, research and development, and more.

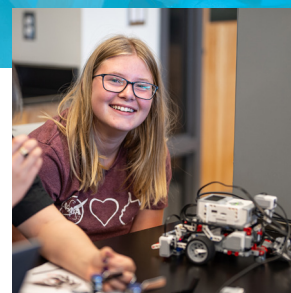
“We wanted our students to learn that robotics is becoming more prevalent in many careers, and they can be fun to work with,” said Glenna Pirner, Director of Pierpont’s Maker Camp. “The idea was to familiarize students with the basic concepts of robotics and how they can

utilize those skills to build careers in North Central West Virginia.”

On the final day of camp, with an audience of friends and family, the students put their robots to the test with an obstacle course. Each team was challenged with coding their robot to maneuver the obstacle course by calculating angles, assigning color recognition, and more.

“The students were given freedom in form and function of their final project design,” said Pirner. “We wanted our students to think outside the box, and pretty much everyone had to troubleshoot their robots in one way or another, which meant coming up with different ways to reach their goal.”

Certificates were awarded to each student for their creativity, determination, and leadership throughout the week. ■



Scan here for a full gallery of photos from the week.

Student Spotlights

A portrait of Hunter B., a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a white t-shirt with a pink and blue tie-dye pattern and the text "PIERPONT CSTC" on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and trees.

Hunter B.

*Physical Therapist
Assistant, A.A.S.*

"I chose Pierpont because it is cost-effective with many great programs to choose from. I love the small class sizes and professors that are always happy to help. After graduation I hope to work locally as a PTA. My advice to future students is to stay determined and focused. School isn't always easy, but your future self will be glad you didn't give up."

"After meeting with the instructors and touring the new facility, I felt very welcome and eager to learn from the talented chefs in the Food Service Management program at Pierpont Community and Technical College. The cooking labs are hands-on and exciting, and the kitchen promotes a great learning environment and a unique experience of learning from a professional chef. When you decide to commit to the program, do not give up! It is going to be a lot at first, but if you want it, pay attention and apply yourself. The chefs are there to help you succeed - trust in them, and believe in yourself."

A portrait of Ellis R., a man with short dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a white chef's coat and a black toque. The background is a blurred kitchen setting.

Ellis R.

*Nutrition and
Dietetics, A.A.S. &
Culinary Arts,
A.A.S.*

Pierpont's Aviation Program Receives \$25 Million to Build New Facility

The 70,000 square-foot facility will give Pierpont Community and Technical College's Aviation Maintenance Technology program a significant increase in space, allowing for an increase in annual enrollment from 130 to 200 students per year.

"The new building and increased capacity will allow Pierpont Community & Technical College to better serve the community and the economic interests of the aviation companies in North Central West Virginia," said Dr. Brad Gilbert, director of aviation at Pierpont. "We will also be better able to adapt to changes in course offerings and have space available for evening and weekend courses as the demand increases."

The proposed design features two high bay hangars, specialty labs for: turbine and reciprocating engine overhauls; flight controls; and hydraulics, lecture classrooms, and a learning resource and testing center. Pierpont's advanced welding program will also have space within the facility.



“Our Aviation Maintenance program has always been vital to the growth of West Virginia,” said Dr. Milan Hayward, President of Pierpont Community and Technical College. “As the state’s aviation industry grows, this new state-of-the-art facility allows Pierpont to provide even more highly-skilled and qualified graduates that are prepared to enter the workforce immediately.”

“The aviation industry in West Virginia expects to grow rapidly in the near future, with hundreds of new employees expected within the next five years,” added David Hinkle, Chair of Pierpont’s Board of Governors. “With the support

of the State of West Virginia, this facility will allow this program to flourish and provide the education and training needed to continue building industry.”

Pierpont’s Aviation Maintenance Technology program provides training in aircraft technology to prepare students to be qualified to take the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 147 tests.

Offering a two-year associate degree and one-year certificates, students learn to perform maintenance, remove and replace components, troubleshoot, and repair aircraft systems while

developing plans to analyze and develop solutions for aircraft problems using approved maintenance materials.

“Over the past 31 years, our graduates have provided dedicated service to the aviation industry as technicians, lead mechanics, crew chiefs, and administrators,” adds Gilbert. “Our graduates have been supporting the economic growth of this area since the program began, and it is great to see a new generation of students build upon that legacy.” ■

To learn more about Aviation Maintenance Technology at Pierpont, visit go.pierpont.edu/47vk1We.

Pictured: Members of Pierpont’s campus community and Board of Governors join Governor Justice and Baby Dog for a signing ceremony.



2023 Day of Giving

Thanks to generous donations, Pierpont Community and Technical College raised \$22,646 during the Inaugural Day of Giving fundraising event on April 4, 2023. The one-day event highlighted areas of need at the college, including: scholarships, student hardship, Pride Fund, President's Fund, and more. The campus community, as well as local business and industry partners, were among the donors. Thank you for supporting Pierpont Community and Technical College!

SAVE THE DATE
2024 Day of Giving | March 14

www.pierpont.edu/giving/



\$22K
Raised

32
Donors

17
New Donors



No matter how far you go, Pierpont Community and Technical College will always be your home.

Your connection to Pierpont does not end after graduation. You are joining a network of alumni making a difference in their communities, across the country, and around the world.

Update your information or connect with our Alumni Network:

www.pierpont.edu/alumni/

PierpontFoundation | (304) 247-9835

STAFF OF THE YEAR 2023

Each year, Pierpont Community and Technical College recognizes non-classified and classified staff who go above and beyond to support students, their colleagues, and the mission of the institution.

Congratulations to our 2023 Staff of the Year award recipients.



Classified Staff of the Year

MEMORI DOBBS

"My colleagues are among the best of the best, and while I feel like there were many folks more deserving than myself, I'm grateful they feel like they can always count on me for support and assistance. That's the goal.

Imagine yourself at 18 years old; naive, excited, scared, and not quite sure how to navigate the world. Serve each student the way you wish someone had served you.

I love watching our faculty and staff create innovative ways to foster student success. It's truly inspiring."



Non-Classified Staff of the Year

SKYE FEATHER

"I am humbled, honored, and at the same time excited to receive the award of Non-Classified Staff Employee of the Year. It is a great honor for me to be given recognition for the execution of services I provide for students, while working hand-in-hand with the multi-faceted employees of Pierpont. This award is a symbol of the blessings that I have received during my journey at Pierpont.

I'm in a position to help students reach their potential and work with them to have a positive impact on their educational experience and to help them succeed."



Pierpont Community & Technical College

500 Galliher Drive

Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

Give the gift of Pierpont pride.

Spread holiday cheer with our limited edition 2023 Pierpont ornament. Each ornament is hand-crafted by Appalachian Glass in Weston, West Virginia.

To purchase, call **(304) 247-9835**
or email **khypes@pierpont.edu**.

