



Spring 2004

# The Access Point

News of the West Virginia Access Center for Higher Education, Inc.

## Mark Your Calendar!

The Eleventh Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference is slated for **October 7–9, 2004** at Ohio University Southern Campus in Ironton, Ohio. Conference brochures will be mailed this spring, and an online registration option will again be available. Register early to take advantage of our early-bird rates!

## Honor an Outstanding Educator

Nominate a K–12 teacher, guidance counselor or administrator for a WVACHE Outstanding Educator Award! Nomination forms will be mailed soon and will also be available on the WVACHE Web site. Winners will be announced during the Eleventh Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference banquet.

## WVACHE Access Project Students, Staff, Director Interviewed for Nationwide PBS Documentary

Students and staff from Valley and Cameron High Schools as well as the WVACHE executive director were recently interviewed for a Public Broadcasting Service documentary.

*The Visionaries* is a nationally broadcast public television series that profiles the extraordinary work of people who are dedicating their lives and careers to the service of others. Each 30-minute documentary episode features “ordinary” individuals actively engaged in building homes, providing medical care, feeding the hungry, educating children and adults, creating economic opportunity and offering hope to people around the globe. The series is hosted by acclaimed actor Sam Waterston (*Law & Order*, *I’ll Fly Away* and *The Killing Fields*).

The *Visionaries* series is developing a documentary episode to showcase the five winners of the 2003 Innovations in American Government Award, one of which is the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education. As the first of eight replications of the OACHE’s award-winning Access program to encourage more Appalachian students to pursue higher education through high-school based Access Project grants, the WVACHE will be included in the OACHE’s segment of the documentary.

*The Visionaries* episode featuring the OACHE and WVACHE is anticipated to air in winter 2005. Check the OACHE Web site at [www.oache.org](http://www.oache.org) or the Visionaries Web site at [www.visionaries.org](http://www.visionaries.org) this fall to see when and where the program will appear in your area. ◀

## Access Project Spotlight: Cameron High School

Cameron High School (Cameron, W.Va.) is taking a proactive approach to encouraging more CHS students to go to college.

Now in the first year of its two-year WVACHE Access Project grant, CHS’s ACCESS (Acquisition of College and Career Education for Student Success) program provides numerous activities and resources to help students explore career options, become comfortable with the college environment and prepare for post-secondary education after high school.

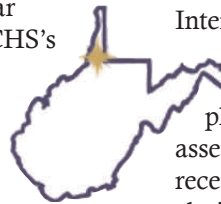
After only a year, CHS ACCESS Coordinator Linda Campbell is already seeing a change. “Our students are applying much earlier and to more schools,” she noted. Campbell anticipates that this year’s college-going rate will approach 80 percent, an impressive increase over the previous year’s rate of 57 percent.

The CHS ACCESS program has taken students to visit five colleges and universities, in addition to several college fairs. Other activi-

ties include workshops on completing the FAFSA and applying for the Promise Scholarship and West Virginia Higher Education Grant; administration of the Strong Interest Inventory to all juniors and seniors; and bulletin boards promoting college and publicizing seniors’ post-secondary plans. In addition, CHS held an award assembly at which all graduating seniors received T-shirts imprinted with their college choice.

In addition to the anticipated increase in the college-going rate, the ACCESS program is encouraging an increase in the average ACT and SAT composite scores of CHS students. The school also anticipates the number of seniors receiving the Promise Scholarship this year to be nearly double the number last year.

“The WVACHE program has motivated our students so much more than ever to think about and focus on college,” stated Campbell. “It’s fulfilling its purpose at Cameron High School.” ◀





*The Access Point* is a publication of the West Virginia Access Center for Higher Education, Inc. The WVACHE is funded by donations as well as grants from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

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[www.oache.org/wvache\\_home.htm](http://www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm)

## Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship Program Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the 2004–05 Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship. The scholarship, co-founded by attorney Becky Fillinger and book illustrator Henry Cole and sponsored by the Bluefield State College Foundation, was established to promote art studies in post-secondary education for students residing in West Virginia and the Appalachian Highlands of Virginia.



A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving student who is enrolled in a two- or four-year college or university arts program. The student must be a graduating high-school senior with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.

For more information about the 2004–05 Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship, contact Sarita A. Gattuso at 304-327-4096. To download the scholarship guidelines and application form, visit the WVACHE Web site at [www.oache.org/wvache\\_home.htm](http://www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm). ◀

## Postcards from the Field



Graduating seniors at Cameron High School (feature on page 1) were recognized at an award assembly in early May 2004. Each received a T-shirt identifying his/her chosen college or university. This and other activities in Cameron High School's WVACHE Access Project help motivate students to think about and prepare for college.

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