• More than 7,100 students enrolled during the fall 2009 term, the highest enrollment ever at the college.

• The Lumina Foundation featured WCCC in the fall issue and on the cover of its nationally circulated Focus magazine.

• 745 students graduated in May, making the class of 2009 the largest in college history.

• Dr. Kathleen Malloy, dean of health professions, received the Distinguished Nurse Award by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

• Three culinary arts/hospitality programs were named “exemplary” by the American Culinary Federation.

• The new facility for the WCCC New Kensington Center opened with record enrollment in January.

• WCCC bowler Tony Fairbanks won the NJCAA men’s bowling title in 2009.
President’s Message

This has been an unprecedented year for Westmoreland County Community College. As we enter our 40th year, WCCC has truly emerged as the college of first choice for students not only in Westmoreland County but also throughout the southwestern Pennsylvania region. As we began our fall term this year, the college surpassed its all-time enrollment record with 7,000 plus students. In many of our school districts in Westmoreland County, the percentage of postsecondary-bound graduates enrolled at WCCC was in excess of 20 percent. Also for the first time this year, the percentage of full-time students exceeded part-time students. Our education centers, both in-county and at our out-of-county locations in Greene, Indiana and Fayette, also experienced enrollment surges with a collective increase of 40 percent. The college’s mission to provide access to higher education opportunities is certainly validated by the growth of our student body.

Much of this growth can be attributed to the severe economic dislocations experienced by many this past year. The college was at the forefront of providing assistance and services to dislocated workers. Our “Just-in-Time Program” provided tuition-free education in short-term, high-priority job areas for more than 100 students. Many other students received training with federal and state assistance from the local Workforce Investment Board. The college continued to be a major contributor to the economic development of the area by providing well-trained graduates in areas such as nursing, computer technology, culinary arts and public service, as well as welding, machining and electronics. Additionally, the college’s workforce development department provided customized job training for many local employers.

As we entered the fourth year of our Achieving the Dream initiative, our commitment to student success has crystallized as a central focus of our pedagogical efforts and academic support services. Implementation of student success interventions such as a comprehensive developmental education program, student success cohorts, personal development courses and creative classroom strategies are beginning to yield results with improved retention and course completion. I firmly believe, as I stated in my inaugural address, that “access without success is a false hope, unrealized potential and vanquished dreams.” Our faculty, academic and student support staff, administrators and trustees are committed to access with success.

Despite challenging economic times, the WCCC Education Foundation has flourished this year along with the college. Debbie Woods, the new executive director of the foundation, has provided dynamic leadership in advancing the goals of the foundation. We are most appreciative of the generous support of friends, alumni, faculty, staff and corporate sponsors. In particular, I want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership for our two major fundraisers, the annual golf outing and the Chefs’ Table, for their extraordinary efforts. These events, along with our annual giving drive and special donations enabled the foundation to award $160,000 in scholarships for deserving students to begin or continue their education. Thank you all and we look forward to your continuing support.
WCCC’s new president Dr. Daniel Obara focused on student success

When college president Steven Ender left WCCC for a new position last February, the board of trustees turned to the man who had served for 13 years as the college’s vice president for academic affairs and student services, Dr. Daniel J. Obara. The board named Obara interim president in February and made the appointment official in April.

Throughout his extensive career in education, Obara has focused on helping students achieve success – as a teacher in the scholars program with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, as an assistant dean at the University of Pittsburgh where he pioneered the use of the College Level Examination Program Test for awarding college credit to nontraditional learners, and as the dean of instruction at the Community College of Allegheny County where he directed the development of a wide range of allied health career programs.

As the vice president for academic affairs and student services, Obara led initiatives to make WCCC more accessible to students, including the development of its distance education program of online and videoconferencing classes and the establishment of education centers in Greene, Indiana and Fayette counties. He also worked to establish and strengthen partnerships with area high schools, technology centers and four-year colleges and universities to ensure the seamless transfer of credits from the secondary schools to WCCC and onto the postsecondary institutions. Also during his tenure, 15 new academic programs were added to the curriculum which significantly expanded students’ opportunities to pursue degrees and certificates in the technology, business and health care fields.

Obara also led the college’s participation in Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national initiative aimed at helping students overcome achievement gaps to complete degrees or transfer to senior institutions. Major efforts of WCCC’s Achieving the Dream work have been the retooling of its developmental education program, the creation of a comprehensive orientation and intake process for first-time students, and the development of intervention strategies that enhance learning outcomes for students in WCCC’s most highly enrolled “gatekeeper” courses. This work was the basis for a five-year, $2 million U.S. Department of Education Title III “Strengthening Institutions” grant that WCCC received in September 2008.

As president, Obara continues to make student success a priority. Among his professional goals for the 2009-10 academic year, and in keeping with the college’s 2007-11 Strategic Plan, are providing WCCC students “with the highest quality of education at the most affordable price” and a “safe, comfortable and friendly environment that promotes learning, engagement and participation in student activities.”
**New Kensington Center opens**

In keeping with its 2007-11 Strategic Plan objective of making WCCC more accessible to underserved populations, the college relocated its Alle-Kiski Education Center from a 60-year old elementary school in need of repair on the outskirts of New Kensington to a newly constructed facility downtown on Fifth Avenue. When the WCCC New Kensington Education Center opened in January, 271 students were enrolled, marking the greatest number of semester registrations at any of WCCC’s previous centers in the Alle-Kiski Valley region.

The $6 million, 26,000-square-foot center houses six general classrooms, two computer classrooms, a computer lab, a distance learning classroom and a science lab, which is a new addition the former center lacked that greatly expanded course offerings. The facility, located in the heart of New Kensington along bus routes, also houses offices for PA CareerLink-Alle-Kiski, which provides reemployment and job training services.

At the center’s February 26 dedication event, New Kensington Councilman John Regoli Jr. said he liked the fact that the center is right across the street from subsidized housing. “People growing up there who never thought they’d have a chance at a college education have a building to look at every morning when they wake up as a reminder they can get an education,” Regoli said.

Enrollment growth has continued to skyrocket. In the fall 2009 term, 396 students enrolled, which is an increase of 182 students from fall 2008.

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**Institutional Effectiveness Plan to ensure student success**

Is WCCC fulfilling its mission and goals? Are WCCC students learning what they are supposed to learn and achieving success? The overarching goal of institutional effectiveness, which is one objective of WCCC’s 2007-11 Strategic Plan, is to answer those questions through a systematic process of ongoing assessment and improvement.

To facilitate this process, in January 2009 the college hired Dr. Nicole Reaves as associate vice president for academic affairs. She led development of the Institutional Effectiveness Plan which is a comprehensive, systematic, ongoing process for the collection, analysis and assessment of academic programs, academic support services and administrative departments. WCCC began implementation of the plan last year. Individual department assessment findings are shared with the college community on the new Institutional Effectiveness website – wccc.edu/e.
Engaging students and the community in the college

Research shows that students who are engaged with their faculty and other students are more likely to learn and stay in college until they achieve their academic goals. As an Achieving the Dream college focused on student success, WCCC adopted a goal to “encourage programming that values and promotes civility, diversity, personal and cultural awareness” as part of its 2007-11 Strategic Plan.

In February, WCCC, in collaboration with Seton Hill University and Saint Vincent College, hosted Elder Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., for a lecture that was attended by 750 college students, faculty and staff, as well as community members, making it one of the most well-attended events ever held on campus.

Last fall, a rescued Fulbright scholar pursuing religious studies at Chatham University visited the Youngwood campus to talk with students about his life, the importance of standing up for social justice and the current political climate in his native Zimbabwe.

The college’s Cultural Programming Committee and various student organizations collaborated to sponsor, at faculty request, smaller group presentations to students by regional experts in their professions.

WCCC’s Diversity Committee held Unity Week that featured presentations by a poet, a humorist who spoke on “Diversity According to South Park and the Family Guy,” and a singer-songwriter. The week culminated with WCCC students, faculty and staff participating in a communitywide Unity Rally held at St. Clair Park in Greensburg.

The college’s Community Choir, Orchestra and Band performed sell-out spring and holiday concerts while the WCCC Pavilion Players, our community theater troupe, staged productions of “Ladies in Retirement” and “Goldilocks and the Three Bears.”

Elder Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., addressed a crowd of 750 at WCCC.

To raise funds for the American Cancer Society at WCCC’s Relay for Life event, Dr. Tom Soltis, assistant professor of sociology, cut his pony-tail and shaved his head in front of a crowd of student and staff onlookers.
**Master Facilities Plan:**
*A roadmap for college growth*

With a growing student body, growing curriculum and growing faculty and staff population, the college hired JMZ Architects and Planners, a firm that specializes in community college planning, to conduct a space utilization study of all WCCC buildings and planning needs survey in 2009. Following data collection and a needs analysis, with input from students, faculty, staff and community leaders, JMZ and the college developed a 10-year master facilities plan that was adopted by the WCCC board of trustees in October.

The plan calls for extensive renovations in all Youngwood campus facilities, particularly Founders Hall, and comprises two phases. Phase I recommends the relocation of the technology and workforce training programs from the Business and Industry Center to an off-campus location. This will allow for expansion of those programs and contracted workforce training and provide temporary space for other college departments during renovations. The first phase will also include renovation of Founders Hall to create new areas for Student Services, the Computer Resource Center, college administration and faculty offices. The science labs would be upgraded and additional space would be created for the nursing program in Commissioners Hall. Recommendations for the Laurel Center include either extensive renovations or construction of a new facility.

During Phase II, renovations would continue in Founders Hall, creating new spaces for the Learning Resource Center, College Learning Center, Information Technology, Media Services, general classrooms and weight room, while the amphitheater and cafeteria would be upgraded. The art department and the Campus Children’s Center would be relocated into expanded and renovated areas in the Business and Industry Center. Additional space would be created for the culinary arts program and events in Commissioners Hall. Science Hall renovations would include practice rooms and offices for the music department and enclosure of the central courtyard to create a winter garden. The plan also calls for creating a secondary entrance to the campus from Armbrust Road and improvements to the campus grounds.

“The master plan is a living document that’s designed to be a roadmap for the college as it grows,” said Jean Stark, JMZ representative. “It’s not a prescriptive plan and in some cases the projects can be done in a different order, depending on the needs of the college.”

**“Pathways” for out-of-school youth offenders**

With a concern for the youth offenders passing through their courtrooms, the Westmoreland County Juvenile Court of Common Pleas and Juvenile Probation partnered with the college to provide an opportunity for local youth ages 17 to 21 to improve their academic skills and pursue higher education.

This partnership resulted in the development of a pilot project, first offered as the “Out-of-School Youth” program in 2007 and continued in the fall 2009 as the “Pathways Youth Program,” with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Community Services Block Grant through Westmoreland County Community Action. The Westmoreland/Fayette Workforce Investment Board provided additional funding.

“Pathways” enrolls juvenile offenders, referred from the juvenile court system and community service programs, and provides case management along with one-on-one mentoring by WCCC criminal justice students. Fifteen students were enrolled during the fall. One of the original program participants will graduate in May with an associate in arts degree and has been accepted at the University of Pittsburgh where he plans to pursue a degree in pharmacy.
Learning Centered.

Achieving the Dream and Title III grants help WCCC focus on student success

Helping students learn, persist and complete degrees is a key objective of the college’s Strategic Plan and the goal of Achieving the Dream, a national initiative in which WCCC has participated since 2006. During the 2008-09 academic year, as an Achieving the Dream college and with funding from a five-year, $2 million U.S. Department of Education Title III “Strengthening Institutions” grant, WCCC implemented several strategies to promote success, especially among academically underprepared students.

A key strategy was the restructuring of the developmental education program to provide a more comprehensive and integrated approach to help first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students develop the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in subsequent courses.

As part of the revamping of the developmental education program, the placement test and student test scores were evaluated and WCCC faculty-designed assessments were incorporated into the test to ensure that students were placed into appropriate math, reading, English and computer courses. Three additional personnel were hired as “student support services assistants” to administer the placement test, provide academic advising and register students for courses. The college changed its policy to require first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who placed into multiple developmental courses to take those courses in their first semester, along with a “Strategies for Academic Success” course.

Taking the Achieving the Dream strategies to scale across the college and improving the performance of all students is the overriding goal of WCCC’s Title III grant. Funds from this grant have allowed faculty and staff to increase their professional skills. A team of five faculty and staff attended the National Summer Institute on Learning Communities in Olympia, Washington where they created an action plan for developing, implementing and assessing the effectiveness of learning communities at WCCC.

As a result of the college’s Achieving the Dream and Title III initiatives and its focus on student learning and success, student retention has increased by 2 percent.

“A decade ago, WCCC embraced its mission of open access, but did not have a mission of student success,” said Dr. Carol Rush, vice president of academic affairs and student services.

“Today, the Achieving the Dream and Title III grant initiatives provide the human, computer and knowledge resources to allow the college to carry out its new mission and new vision as a ‘learning centered college focused on student success,” said Rush.

New programs enhance the curriculum

To meet the workforce demands of regional employers, WCCC approved new associate in applied science degree programs in Robotics Technology and Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Developed in cooperation with Carnegie Mellon University, the Robotics program will prepare graduates for immediate employment as robotics technicians in the defense, manufacturing and service fields. The degree also transfers into engineering technology bachelor’s degree programs at four-year institutions, such as California University of Pennsylvania. Graduates of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program are eligible to take the national certification exam and seek employment as sonographers in regional medical centers, hospitals, diagnostic centers, clinics and doctor’s offices.

With the hiring of additional staff, the college increased the capacity of institutional research, a goal of both the Title III grant and WCCC’s Strategic Plan. Software packages were purchased to supplement WCCC’s administrative database to increase collection and sharing of data. One software package generated a mid-term status report which alerted developmental education students regarding their progress. The student support services assistants, who were also notified of the student’s progress, contacted them and provided additional guidance, if needed.

Learning outcomes were standardized in the developmental studies courses and some “gatekeeper” courses (the most highly enrolled classes which are required for many programs of study) to ensure that full-time and part-time faculty were teaching the same objectives for their specific course.
A new Associate in Fine Arts degree program also debuted in 2009 to provide a curriculum that parallels the first two years of a baccalaureate program in fine arts and transfers to senior institutions.

“No other college in western Pennsylvania offers a comparable associate degree program in the fine arts, and with rising tuition costs, WCCC is a clear and affordable option to those seeking post-secondary education in this field,” said WCCC President Daniel J. Obara.

**Unemployed workers gain new skills through retraining programs**

As part of the college’s Strategic Plan goal of expanding community partnerships and workforce development opportunities, WCCC joined forces with the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Westmoreland/Fayette and PA CareerLink to conduct the Just-in-Time Workforce Development Program for Westmoreland and Fayette county unemployed workers in 2009. With federal funding provided by the WIB, the college conducted short-term skills training in state-designated high priority occupations including accounting, business, office administration, medical office administration, machining, computer numerical control and welding. The classes met for 16 weeks in the summer at the Youngwood campus and the New Kensington Center. Of the 87 graduates who earned certificates, 59 opted to continue and pursue associate in applied science degrees in their fields.

Twelve dislocated workers received free training in welding through the Just-in-Time Program.

Because of the success of Just-in-Time the college and the WIB partnered again in the fall to offer the Back-to-Work program. This program provided short-term skills training for the unemployed and under-employed in advanced manufacturing, electronic support technician and administrative support technician occupations. Twenty-one Westmoreland and Fayette county students enrolled in the program.

WCCC provided certified nurse aide training for 130 adults at three locations.

**Training the region’s workforce**

The college continued its nearly 40-year history as a major contributor to the economic and workforce development of the region by providing specialized skills training in a variety of capacities.

Elliott Company of Jeannette signed a $160,000 contract with WCCC – one of the largest ever – to provide Knowledge Management consulting services. The college's Business and Industry Center assisted Elliott Company in capturing the information, skills and knowledge of their employees who are nearing retirement age in order to develop a training curriculum.

With personal and home health care aides being one of the fastest growing occupations in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the college’s Continuing Education Division provided certified nurse aide training to 130 area residents, including 32 in Greene County and 12 on a contract training basis for Redstone Highlands Senior Living Communities.

Also in health care programming, 21 inactive nurses completed the RN Reactivation/Refresher class which allows them to pursue positions as staff nurses on medical-surgical units. Eight students completed the Pharmacy Technician program and passed the national certification exam. Pharmacy Technician is another position on the list of the U.S. Department of Labor's fastest growing occupations through 2018.

To prepare workers with the basic skills needed for entry-level jobs in southwestern Pennsylvania’s growing mining industry, WCCC conducted New Miner Training which was completed by 27 Greene and Washington county residents. The college’s Greene County Center will continue to offer this training according to employer demand.
With a $1,248,510 grant from the National Council on the Aging, WCCC administered the Senior Community Service Program which provided on-the-job training for 136 low-income older adults in Westmoreland, Greene and Cambria counties. Program participants, aged 60 and older, received training in clerical, computer, child care, dietary aide and cashier positions at nonprofit agencies.

In 2009, WCCC marked its 10th year as a partner in the Workforce and Economic Development Network of Pennsylvania (WEJnetPA) which provides funding for employee training to help the commonwealth and its businesses stay competitive. From WEJnet’s beginning in 1999 through 2009, WCCC distributed approximately $5.1 million to 398 companies who trained a total of 14,800 individuals. During the 2008-09 fiscal year, WCCC distributed $494,232 to 54 companies that trained 3,098 workers.

WCCC was one of four southwestern Pennsylvania community colleges to be featured in a WPXI-TV special on the economy, jobs, education and retraining which was broadcast in June. “The Great Pittsburgh Job Summit” presented the community colleges as part of the solution to the economic crisis because of the workforce training the institutions provide.

**Faculty helping faculty to improve teaching practices**

Through a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), last January WCCC hosted a team of educators from College of the Canyons, an NSF Regional Center for Excellence, to conduct three-day ‘Teaching Skills’ and facilitator workshops for 16 full- and part-time faculty. One workshop helped adjunct instructors develop more effective teaching practices while the other session focused on facilitator training to enable full-time faculty to conduct the program for other WCCC educators. The Teaching Skills workshop covered the basics of designing a good lesson, regardless of content, and allowed instructors to develop and give a “mini-lesson” and receive feedback from the participants and trainers.

Now a college-funded program, WCCC faculty trainers conducted the workshop for 12 instructors last fall. Assistant Professor of Biology Suzanne Kalup, who secured the grant and organized the activity, said the ultimate goal is to improve student performance.

“Ideally, we want to see an improvement in performance among the students enrolled in the classes taught by faculty who are implementing these teaching practices,” said Kalup.

**Simulation education – enhancing student learning**

The WCCC Health Professions Division has expanded the use of human patient simulators beyond nursing instruction and is using the SimMan technology in other disciplines. The SimMan human patient simulator, traditionally used to present health care scenarios to test nursing students’ clinical and decision-making skills, is now being incorporated into other disciplines. Students in English Professor Mike Hrick’s Technical Writing class observed a diabetes scenario in the Nursing Simulation Lab presented once using lay terminology and then repeated with medical terminology. The writing students had to document the scenarios and write a paper about the differences. This interdisciplinary use of the patient simulators was selected for presentation by WCCC faculty and staff at the Successful Teaching Conference held by the Institute for Community College Development, a SUNY Institute at Cornell University last fall and at the League for Innovations Conference in March 2010.

The Health Professions Division also hosted 18 educators and administrators from schools of nursing and health care organizations for a one-day workshop on incorporating patient simulators into the nursing curriculum or staff development training for nurses.
**Record enrollment growth**

The country's economic situation, the need for displaced workers to upgrade their job skills or retrain for new careers, and students recognizing the value of WCCC's quality education at an affordable cost were contributing factors to the college setting a new enrollment record this fall, surpassing 7,100 students.

WCCC’s previous highest enrollment, reached during the fall 1993 semester, was 6,874 students, with two-thirds of them attending part-time. Last fall, more than 50 percent were enrolled full-time, which marked the first time in college history that full-time students outnumbered part-time students. This growth in full-time students led to a record number of class registrations - nearly 25,000 - which exceeded the 1993 level by about 5,000 registrations and showed a 23.6 percent increase over last year.

WCCC’s seven education centers collectively experienced a 45 percent increase in enrollment and accounted for 20 percent of the total student population. Enrollment at the New Kensington Center doubled compared to the previous fall semester, making it WCCC’s largest center. Enrollment in online courses also grew 15 percent compared to the fall 2008 semester.

“The record enrollments at WCCC validate the critical role that the community college performs to provide affordable and accessible higher education opportunities during periods of economic distress,” said WCCC President Daniel J. Obara.

**Three Culinary/Hospitality programs named exemplary by national chefs’ association**

WCCC’s Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry and Restaurant/Culinary Management programs were named “exemplary programs” by The American Culinary Federation (ACF) Foundation Accrediting Commission, a specialized agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. To qualify as an exemplary program upon renewal of accreditation by the ACF, the program must have been in full compliance for the last two site visitation reports and have met the organization’s standards in the eight required areas.

WCCC, which enrolled 229 students in its eight culinary arts/hospitality programs in the fall 2009 term, is only one of 27 culinary schools in the United States and one of two in Pennsylvania to have achieved this recognition.

Graduates of these programs hold positions such as executive chefs, pastry chefs, food service directors, and product development directors throughout the United States at establishments including The Greenbrier Resort, White Sulfur Springs, West Virginia; Universal Studios and Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida; and locally at The Duquesne Club, Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, H.J. Heinz Corporation and Excela Health. Exemplary programs are noted on the ACF website listing of member culinary schools.

**Nursing program reaccredited**

Last March, the associate degree and diploma nursing programs were reaccredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission Inc. (NLNAC). The reaccreditation was awarded following the submission of a Self-Study Report completed by Ruth Irwin, director of the nursing program, and nursing faculty, a review of the WCCC nursing curriculum and a site visit by a team of NLNAC evaluators.

Nursing program reaccredited

Commending the WCCC faculty, administrators and students, the site evaluation team members cited the nursing program as “exemplary and innovative” during their verbal report.

“Earning accreditation indicates that the WCCC nursing programs have been measured against and met the highest national standards of quality in nursing education,” Irwin said. Accreditation also eases the transfer process for associate degree nursing graduates who enroll in bachelor’s degree nursing programs.

In May 2009, 141 students graduated from the college’s associate degree and diploma nursing programs conducted at the Youngwood campus and the WCCC Greene County and Indiana County education centers.
**Success Driven.**

**Class of 2009 marks most WCCC graduates ever**

In May, the college awarded degrees, diplomas and certificates to 745 graduates, making the class of 2009 the largest ever in WCCC history. Among the nursing graduates were father and son – James Jellison and James Jellison Jr. – who were the first parent and child to earn WCCC degrees in the same major and the same year. WCCC’s Volunteer Firefighter Tuition Waiver Program enabled the men, both members of the Lloydsville Volunteer Fire Department, to attend college and fulfill their aspirations for careers in nursing.

**WCCC featured in national magazine**

Because of the college’s work to help students succeed through the Achieving the Dream initiative, the Lumina Foundation selected WCCC to be featured in its Focus magazine, which has a national circulation of 30,000 readers. The September issue focused on adult learners and highlighted Dr. Carol Rush, vice president for academic affairs and student services, who leads the WCCC Achieving the Dream effort; welding student Bradley Barclay; and graduates Tim Edwards, who is pictured on the cover, and Jan Perkins.

**WCCC Achievers**

Dr. Kathleen Malloy, dean of health professions, received the 2009 Distinguished Nurse Award by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. The award, the highest given by the organization, recognizes a Pennsylvania State Nurses Association member who has demonstrated leadership characteristics, and rendered distinguished service to the nursing profession and whose contributions and accomplishments are of significance throughout the Commonwealth. The eight allied health programs, which Malloy oversees, enrolled 1,760 students this fall.

**Dr. Kathleen Malloy received the 2009 Nurse of the Year Award from Kim Hitchings, chair of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association Awards Committee.**
Associate Professor Cindy Komarinski is one of eight culinary professionals from across the United States recently selected to serve as an apprenticeship regional trainer by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation (ACFEF), the accrediting organization for WCCC’s culinary arts and baking and pastry apprenticeship programs. She will visit apprenticeship sites across the country to provide guidance on how to implement new initiatives resulting from a $481,200 U.S. Department of Labor grant awarded to ACFEF.

Nominated by one of his students and selected by his peers, Dr. Kevin Kopper, assistant professor of history, received the WCCC Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009. Since joining the WCCC faculty in 2006, Kopper has taken an active leadership role within the college, participating on the Academic Affairs, Staff Development and Achieving the Dream-Gatekeeper Course committees.

WCCC students earn state honors

Katelyn Nowicki and Alexandra Zeleznik received Pennsylvania All-Academic Team Awards from the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges in March. Prior to graduating with an associate in arts degree in May, Nowicki served as president of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the national honor society for two-year colleges, while working as a peer tutor and volunteering for the Westmoreland Humane Society and the American Heart Association. She transferred to Indiana University of Pennsylvania to pursue bachelor’s degrees in journalism and business.

Zeleznik earned an associate in arts degree and was also a member of PTK and the National Society of Leadership and Success while she attended WCCC. She is continuing her education with the ultimate goal of a career in medicine.

Both students received full-tuition scholarships to attend the Pennsylvania state system university of their choice.

Dental Hygiene students Stacy Fox and Jamie LeJohn earned second-place among 50 entrants for their table clinic presentation, “Celiac Attack,” at the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists’ Association statewide meeting in November. The students each received a $75 cash prize to help defray the cost of their trip.

WCCC athletes among the best in the nation

For the second time in three years, a WCCC bowler captured the national men’s bowling title. Sophomore Tony Fairbanks won the 2009 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Bowling Championship by finishing with a 681 score, which tied him for first place.

The women’s basketball team finished the 2008-09 season with a seventh place national ranking in the NJCAA. Hoopster Jamie Henry led the nation in rebounds and set a new NJCAA record for the most rebounds per game with 35.

The women’s softball team competed against 87 teams in the nation to win one of eight playoff berths in the NJCAA Division III World Series. Although the team had to settle for an eighth place finish, the women earned a spot in college history by being the only team to compete in three national tournaments in consecutive years.
Municipal Police Officers’ Training Academy celebrates 30 years

The WCCC Municipal Police Officers Training Academy marked its 30th anniversary in 2009. The 11-month academy has graduated more than 650 cadets since the program began in 1979. Graduates have served communities in the region as police officers, supervisors, detectives, SWAT team members and chiefs. Due to demand, WCCC will operate a full-time study training program, in addition to the part-time academy, in 2010.

WCCC Phi Theta Kappa Chapter earns national recognition

The national Phi Theta Kappa organization recognized WCCC’s chapter with the Pinnacle Award in December for increasing its membership by 20 percent over last year. As part of the award, the college will receive four scholarships to pay the $45 membership fee for WCCC students who otherwise could not afford to join the organization. WCCC’s PTK chapter has approximately 400 active members and is one of the leading chapters in the Middle States region.

WCCC named to 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Because of the efforts of WCCC student clubs to help the members of their communities, the college was named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Community service projects included an outreach project where WCCC dental hygiene students visited elementary schools to teach proper oral hygiene to children; a free “Family Fest” evening that taught core character values to 200 children through interactive games; American Red Cross blood drives; an American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, sponsored by the Student Government Association, which raised $2,000; and a dog show that raised $300 for the Westmoreland County Humane Society. This is the third consecutive year WCCC has earned this national recognition.

Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Charles Mance, vice president for Information Technology at California University of Pennsylvania, received the college’s 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award at commencement in May. Mance, a 1977 data processing graduate, went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in information science and telecommunications, respectively, from the University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate in communications from Robert Morris University.
2008-09 Operating Budget

Expenditures $31,481,268

- Student Services $3,368,751
- Facilities $3,833,063
- Institutional Support $4,991,955
- Academic Support $3,044,214
- Transfers $78,406
- Instruction $15,693,162
- Reserves $471,717

Revenues $31,481,268

- Tuition & Fees $14,619,723
- State Subsidy $12,308,265
- WCCC Foundation $126,029
- Restricted Projects $1,879,615
- Other $476,769

2008-09 Capital Budget

Expenditures $5,743,500

- Facilities $760,993
- Instructional Equipment $499,510
- Information Technology $645,706
- Leases $276,465
- Debt Service $3,492,506
- Reserves $68,920

Revenues $5,743,500

- State Subsidy $2,231,563
- Other $290,725
- Transfers $420,049
- WCCC Foundation $123,819
- Restricted Projects $380,133

Fall 2009 Credit Student Profile

- Average age .............................................. 26
- Female ...................................................... 64%
- Male ......................................................... 36%
- Full-time ..................................................... 51.6%
- Part-time ..................................................... 48.4%
- Enrolled in career programs ......................... 4,560
- Enrolled in transfer programs ....................... 1,681
- Non-degree-seeking ................................... 801

Percentage of Postsecondary Bound High School Graduates at WCCC

Fall 2009:

- Westmoreland County ................................. 17.7%
- 597 of 3,364 college-bound students (1.4% increase)

- Fayette County ........................................... 8.1%
- 70 of 866 college-bound students (2.1% increase)

- Greene County ......................................... 5.1%
- 12 of 235 college-bound students (1.5% increase)

- Indiana County ......................................... 5.8%
- 36 of 616 college-bound students (1.1% increase)
Foundation grant secures needed equipment for new program

In February, the WCCC Education Foundation secured a $200,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to support the college’s new Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. The grant helped to pay for the sonography equipment required for the students’ clinical practice. During the program’s initial semester in the fall, 36 students were enrolled and another 27 students were completing pre-admission program requirements.

Scholarships to financially help students achieve their goals

When the fall 2009 semester began, 162 students had all or part of their tuition costs covered by scholarships awarded by the college and the WCCC Education Foundation. With funds secured from individual, community group and business donors, along with college tuition waivers, scholarships totaling $226,000 were awarded to new and returning students at a foundation-sponsored reception attended by 225 students, their families and scholarship donors. President’s Scholarships, which cover full-tuition and fees for students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their Westmoreland County high schools, were awarded to 13 students from nine county high schools. Trustees’ Scholarships, which cover full-tuition for two years (pending satisfactory academic performance), were awarded to 44 students from 19 Westmoreland County high schools and career and technology centers.

Foundation events raise funds for student scholarships

The WCCC Education Foundation hosted two very successful fundraisers in 2009. The Scholarship Golf Classic, held at Westmoreland Country Club, secured sponsorships from 70 businesses, organizations and individuals. The event attracted 141 golfers and raised $44,900 for student scholarships.

The Chef’s Table – Contemporary Wine Regions, a gourmet dining event produced by the college’s culinary arts/hospitality students and faculty, drew 233 guests. The event, which included its signature educational sessions, silent auction, online auction and gourmet pastry auction, raised $22,950 in scholarships for students enrolled in WCCC’s eight culinary arts and hospitality programs.

Mini-grants support innovative faculty and staff projects

For the third year, the WCCC Education Foundation awarded grants to support diverse faculty and staff projects. Funds allowed the nursing department to conduct a seminar for nursing school and hospital administrators on incorporating patient simulators into their training curriculum. Licenses for web-based tutorials were purchased with grant funds which gave students and faculty access to 25,000 titles covering a variety of computer-software programs in a video on-demand format. A grant for a plant diversification project allowed the horticulture faculty and students to increase the number of species and varieties of trees and shrubs on campus and expand the learning environment for horticulture and biology students. The foundation also supported the “Careers in the Visual Arts Symposium” which invited students, along with their teachers and parents, from 19 high schools and career and technology centers to the college to meet with art professionals and explore the broad range of career opportunities in the field.

Foundation board welcomes new members

In 2009, the WCCC Education Foundation board of directors welcomed the following new members:

- James Bendel, Greensburg, retired development officer, Saint Vincent College
- William K. Cox, Jeannette, vice president & general counsel, Elliott Company
- Dr. Nancy Davis, Waynesburg, workforce development coordinator/Greene County, WCCC
- Ruth Tolbert, Greensburg, assistant secretary, Allegheny Energy, Inc.
- Nancy Wright-Longo, Mt. Pleasant, chief operations manager, Chestnut Hills Dental

Alumni Association honors successful graduates

The WCCC Alumni Association, at a recognition dinner held in April, presented awards to six successful alumni:

- 2009 Leadership Award
  Michael Huss, Fire Science Technology, C’84, director of public safety, City of Pittsburgh

- 2009 Alumni Award of Excellence
  Karen Anne Craig, Drafting & Design, C’79, assistant engineer of breakthrough technology, Kennametal, Latrobe
  Tammy Fuchs, Baking & Pastry, C’97, chef, Rolling Rock Club, Ligonier

- 2009 Alumni Honor Award
  Larry Talmadge, Business, C’95, vice president of retirement services, Concordia Lutheran Ministries

- 2009 Alumni Community Service Award
  Nancy Boyer, Human Services, C’88, program coordinator, Head Start, Westmoreland County Community Action

- 2009 Alumni Spirit Award
  Lavina Payne, Early Childhood Education, C’97, WCCC part-time instructor and doctoral candidate
The Westmoreland County Community College Education Foundation in 2009 conducted the fifth annual campaign for giving. Through the annual campaign and annual events, the foundation raised more than $660,075 to benefit the programs and students of WCCC.

We extend our thanks to our donors for their generosity and support.

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<th>Commissioner’s Circle - $1,000 - $2,499</th>
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WCCC improves the quality of life of everyone we touch through education, training and cultural enrichment.

VISION
WCCC is a learning-centered college focused on student success, a catalyst for economic growth, a leader in workforce development, and a hub for cultural and artistic experiences.

VALUES
WCCC has a framework of cultures and values that embraces:

- Commitment to Teaching and Learning
- Accountability
- Diversity
- Collaboration and Cooperation
- Social Responsibility
- Integrity
- Innovation

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