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ROCKEFELLER SAYS COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGES PLAY VITAL ROLE IN WV



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senator Jay Rockefeller today said that West Virginia Community and Technical Colleges are a critical part of job and skills preparation for adults in West Virginia. Rockefeller also praised the colleges' efforts to bring a cross section of representatives to Washington, D.C. to explore new training options so they can be eligible for more federal grants.

"The leadership of West Virginia's community and technical colleges is an excellent group of educational visionaries who want the same thing as I do: to create new opportunities for our state's workers. Coming to D.C. to learn about opportunities for grants and funding is a smart effort and I am working closely with all of these schools to find new possibilities for funds," said Rockefeller. "With budgets tighter than ever, it's important to find new, creative ways of funding. Our community colleges play a vital role in making sure our workforce is properly trained. I am committed to working with all of our community colleges to see them grow and succeed."

The ten West Virginia Community and Technical Colleges attending the Federal Opportunities Seminar include: Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in Martinsburg; Bridgemont Community and Technical College in Montgomery; Eastern Community and Technical College in Moorefield; Kanawha Valley

Community and Technical College in Institute; Mountwest Community and Technical College in Huntington; New River Community and Technical College in Beckley; Pierpont Community and Technical College in Fairmont; Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College in Logan; West Virginia Northern Community College in Wheeling; and, West Virginia University at Parkersburg. For 2011, 24,563 West Virginians were enrolled at community and technical colleges across the state.

Background

In April, Senator Rockefeller held a roundtable discussion with federal representatives, community and technical colleges, K-12 leaders, vocational training centers and labor about collaborating to provide training that includes the emerging skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Rockefeller's roundtable included Johan Uvin, U.S. deputy assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, and Pamela Brown from the National Science Foundation. Other leaders from the United States Department of Education, the National Science Foundation and West Virginia Community and Technical College presidents also attended.