



Bluefield State UNIVERSISS

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR



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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Big Blue Family,

Over the past year, the Division of Student Affairs has worked hard to collaborate with our university partners to effectively serve our students and also demonstrate to our student scholars how much we care about them. I was proud with the results and also the team in Student Affairs and how we worked together to support each other across departments.

We are so pleased of the past year's accomplishments, many of which you will read about in this year's report. Some of the stand outs include the reestablishment of the Office of Career Services to provide our students support with their career goals, our Qualify of Residence Life survey results that demonstrate improvements in many areas of the living and learning experience, and the rebirth of the Student Health Fair. Much was accomplished this academic year!

Student success remains our most important goal. We define success in terms of students succeeding throughout their academic journey, persisting through challenges, graduating, and leaving Bluefield well prepared for employment, graduate or professional school, and to be productive citizens in their communities. Through our extracurricular and curricular programs, we hope to instill a habit of leadership and service, and are making plans to improve these efforts moving forward.

On behalf of my colleagues working in Student Affairs, I want to thank you for your collaboration and support. Our students are at the core of all we do, and our commitment is to supporting their scholarly and career pursuits. Working together, we will continue to build a better Bluefield State. **GO BIG BLUE!**

Sincerely,

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Ron Shidemantle Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students

DIVISION PROFILE

The Division of Student Affairs consists of numerous functional departments and programs, each of which provides a variety of student support, service, and educational programing for the university community. The staff members are dedicated professionals known for their passion for supporting students and commitment to programs and services that positively affect student development.

This annual report is compiled by division leadership and highlights progress and success that have been made throughout the division over the past year. We hope that this summary information will communicate a division committed to retention, assessment, continuous improvement, and a culture that reflects our core university values of excellence, community, diversity, and growth.





DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS

CAREER SERVICES

Rebekah Hatch, Director 314 Conley Hall careers@bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4540 bluefieldstate.edu/careers

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER

Dr. Cravor Jones, Director 305 Conley Hall counseling@bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4444 bluefieldstate.edu/counseling

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Carolyn Kirby, Director 110 Brown Gilbert Basic Science Building asc@bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4098 bluefieldstate.edu/asc

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

Zachary Carlisle, Director 1st Floor Medical Education Center Residence Hall housing@bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4088 bluefieldstate.edu/housing

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Anne Pelchar, Director 203 Harris Jefferson Student Center studentactivities @bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4323 bluefieldstate.edu/activities

STUDENT RETENTION

Dr. Tamara Ferguson 308 Conley Hall retention@bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4160 bluefieldstate.edu/retention

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

Sherri Williams, Director 210 Ned E. Shott Physical Education Building bsuhealthcenter@bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4170 bluefieldstate.edu/health

STUDENT CONDUCT

Dean of Students Office 312 Conley Hall deanofstudents @bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4401 bluefieldstate.edu/conduct

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Dean of Students Office 312 Conley Hall deanofstudents @bluefieldstate.edu 304.327.4401 bluefieldstate.edu/orientation

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Gabe Nesmith, President – 2022-2023 118 Harris Jefferson Student Center 304.327.4185 bluefieldstate.edu/sga

CARE TEAM

Ron Shidemantle (Chairperson) Zachary Carlisle Jane Charnock Dr. Tamara Ferguson Dr. Cravor Jones Carolyn Kirby Jessica McDaniel Sherri Williams



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Rebekah Hatch attended the annual National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) professionals conference. The annual conference is the countries premier career services training program that provides for educational programs, networking and community building opportunities.
- Student Affairs staff attended the annual WVHEPC Student Success Summit in July. "Creating a Career Ready West Virginia" was this year's conference theme that included sessions on first generation student success and best practices in retention programming.
- Zack Carlisle, Ron Shidemantle, and Title IX Coordinator Jane Charnock attended the October WVHEPC Title IX Investigator Training and Practical Skills Certification Course. Staff received ATIXA certification and learned best practices related to current sexual assault and harassment prevention protocol and standards on college campuses.
- Jessica McDaniel attended the Advising Matters professional conference at Virginia Tech in March. The 13th Annual Advising Matters conference theme in 2023 was "Designing Successful Student Experiences through Academic and Career Advising."
- Sherri Williams attended the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) Reproductive Health and Family program at Glade Springs in April.
- Anne Pelchar attended the ACSD Student Affairs professional conference in June. Educational programs attended included general training support for many campus life areas including student activities programming, intramurals, and general retention initiatives.
- Jake Laney was certified in 2022 as an AFAA Group Fitness Instructor. This certification allows Jake to teach group fitness classes such as yoga, bootcamp, cycling, and HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training).
- Dr. Cravor Jones attended the West Virginia Collegiate Suicide Prevention Conference at Marshall University in March and received training in CAMS (Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality).
- Jessica McDaniel attended Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) workshops presented by Pressley Ridge Social Service Agency at the Erma Byrd Higher Education Center in February. ACEs training includes professional development education on all types of abuse and neglect, such as parental substance abuse, incarceration and domestic violence.



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- The Office of Career Services was reestablished on campus in 2023 with the hiring of a new Director, and a new
 mission for the program. Career Services will be providing students with career planning and placement
 services, including advising, counseling, assessment, and career programs to support students professional
 goals after graduation.
- The Quality of Residence Life assessment was completed in November with strong results including the following highlights:
 - 94% of residence hall students reported that on-campus housing enhanced their ability to meet other people
 - 90% of residence hall students reported that on-campus housing helped them understand the consequents of alcohol use and abuse
 - 95% of residence hall students reported that on-campus housing rules and regulations were clearly communicate
- The Bluefield State Fitness Center received equipment updates in the spring semester with the addition of two
 (2) new treadmills, three (3) adjustable benches, and three (3) sets of new dumbbells.
- The Big Blue Bucks Discount Program was created to provide students and employees discounts to local community businesses. Thus far there have been ten (10) local establishments that have entered the program to encourage students, faculty, and staff to eat, shop, and enjoy entertainment locally in southern West Virginia.
- The New Student Orientation assessment was completed by student attendees throughout the summer with strong results including the following highlights:
 - 95% of those attending the program reported that they gained skills and knowledge to help them be academically successful
 - 94% of those attending the program reported feeling better prepared to start their first semester at BSU
 - 97% of those attending the program reported feeling confident that they made the right decision to attend BSU
- Members of the Student Government Association met with the Bluefield City Manager Cecil Marson and community leaders to support initiatives to improve the BSU residential and commuter student experience. Ongoing discussions related to student transportation, off-campus housing options, campus and neighborhood improvements, and community service projects were discussed as part of a comprehensive plan and future collaborations with SGA leadership
- New policy and protocol for on campus Emotional Support Animals was established. The new standards address supporting students with disabilities who may face additional hurdles to be successful at BSU.



UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER

MISSION

The mission of the Counseling Center is to provide services and programs that support students as they fulfill their academic, career, and personal goals. The Counseling Center offers students a caring environment for scheduling classes, serving mental health needs by assisting in the resolution of personal conflicts, and developing good study skills.

- Provided programs for the Green Bandana Initiative, a statewide mental health awareness and training campaign aimed at encouraging students to receive peer-level mental health training. With support from the SGA, the Counseling Center provided QPR (Question, Persuade, & Refer) Training in February 2023 to community members, bringing about increased awareness of the importance of mental health.
- Hired Megan Hicks as the new Peer Recovery Support staff member who assists individual students with education and ongoing engagement in recovering from substance abuse disorders.
- Partnered with the West Virginia Collegiate Recovery Program (WVCRN) in the "Be The One" overdose
 prevention initiative with the installation of fentanyl test strip boxes in the Medical Education Center Residence
 Hall. This is the second year the University Counseling Center has partnered with the WVCRN to support opioid
 overdose prevention.
- Collaborated with the Student Health Center Staff to provide sexual assault prevention educational programs in the MEC Residence Hall in April 2023.





ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

MISSION

The mission of the Academic Success Center is to provide academic support services to all students to obtain high academic achievement, retention, completion, and graduation success. The staff provide oversight of the campus academic advising and support software, comprehensive tutoring services, the academic recovery program, accommodations for documented disabilities, skills & educational workshops, and manages computer and writing lab services.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Coordinated the use of tutor.com to thirty-five (35) student users throughout the academic year. Eighty-nine
 percent of those who used the free online service this year for class support were successful in passing the
 course with a C or higher and did not receive a low mid-term grade alert.
- Submitted the first departmental Council for Advancement & Standards in Higher Education (CAS) Program Review and Self-Assessment within the Division of Student Affairs. Recommendations and action plans have been developed for each of the twelve (12) general standards to be implemented for departmental and related programming improvement over the next academic year.
- Completed thirty-five (35) skills and educational workshops for students throughout the academic year on multiple topics including Essay Writing, Test Taking Strategies, and Success Strategies for Online Classes.

CLASS ALERTS
AUTOMATED (BANNER): 2655
FACULTY RAISED: 3685ACADEMIC RECOVERY
FALL 2022: 61
SPRING 2023: 71TUTORING SESSIONS
FALL SEMESTER: 539
SPRING SEMESTER: 305ADA SERVICES
DISABILITY INDICATED: 64
RECEIVED SERVICES: 18



STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

MISSION

The mission of the Student Health Center is to promote the lifelong health and well-being of students through highquality, caring, accessible, and timely primary health care, medical resources, and educational programming.

- Reestablished the Student Health Fair event after several years of inactivity. There were 211 participants and 55 vendors in attendance at the program held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Educational and promotional materials were provided in many important areas including student mental health, in additional to free medical screenings for students.
- Collaborated with the University Counseling Center Staff to provide sexual assault prevention educational
 programs in the MEC Residence Hall in April 2023, and organized alcohol education programs with a focus on
 supporting community standards with the residence hall student population.
- Certified seventy-one (71) members of the university community at ten (10) CPR Classes throughout the academic year. The Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) emergency procedure will help those students and staff who are certified assist in restoring blood circulation and breathing in a person who is in cardiac arrest.
- Installed three (3) new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the MEC Residence Hall for student safety and emergency purposes. The AEDs are used to assist individuals with medical emergencies specifically in cardiac arrest.





OFFICE OF STUDENT RETENTION

MISSION

The Office of Student Retention focuses on developing innovative, data-driven approaches to improve retention across campus with programs and services to students who need extra guidance and support. The staff reviews data, collaborates with community members, and works on policy and institutional strategies to improve retention and persistence rates.

- The Office of Student Retention worked with the Student Success Committee to develop a comprehensive strategy with recommendations to support students. Specific strategies include:
 - Developing an onboarding strategy;
 - Building a first year advising structure;
 - Using the advising structure to facilitate a comprehensive intervention strategy;
 - Developing a comprehensive year-long program intentionally designed to foster the personal and academic transformation of students admitted with restrictions;
 - Developing mentoring pathways for under-represented and under-resourced (high-risk) students;
 - Improve success rates in gateway courses and lower-level with historically high DFW rates;
 - Transition students who are not progressing in their intended major;
- Peer Mentors focused on several initiatives to support student retention priorities, including assisting students with FAFSA applications, holding study groups during final examination periods, and tutoring students with coursework.
- Emerging Leaders Institute student members organized a trip to the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthplace and childhood home in Atlanta, Georgia, along with visiting the King Museum and Ebenezer Baptist Church.





HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

MISSION

The Office of Housing & Residence Life focuses on providing a safe, nurturing living and learning environment that is conducive to academic achievement and personal growth. Students will be exposed to an interactive experience and environment that promotes learning and success, along with hands-on opportunities to develop community with fellow residents designed to make their college experience meaningful.

- Occupancy is showing a 22% increase from last year, with 241 residence hall students for the fall 2022 semester. After reaching capacity in the Medical Education Center Residence Hall & Campus Cottages, forty-three (43) students were housed at both the Bluefield University residence hall and the Quality Inn.
- The annual Quality of Residence Life survey doubled the participation and completion rate this year (from 35 in 2021 to 101 in 2022). Students continue to respond positively to Resident Assistant performance, programming, and community standards in the survey.
- Resident Assistant staff completed a record sixty-four (64) student programs throughout the academic year. Some of the many successful efforts included programs on study tips, student finance, and time management tips for BSU residence hall students.



BLUEFIELD STATE EST. 1895 UNIVERSITY

MISSION – Student Conduct

The Mission of the Student Conduct program is to promote the peaceful pursuit of intellectual and advanced learning opportunities by providing effective and timely coordination of the adjudication of student conduct matters. Administrative conduct hearing officers receive reports of alleged misconduct, ensure an appropriate hearing process as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, and maintain student disciplinary records.

STUDENT CONDUCT & CARE TEAM PROGRAMS

MISSION – CARE Team

The CARE Team (Crisis, Assessment, Response and Education) supports student health and well-being by helping students navigate the challenges that can arise throughout their college career. The interdisciplinary group of professional staff members focuses on best practices to connect students experiencing difficulties or whose behavior is raising concerns within the University community to both on-campus and off-campus resources, and to retain and support students during their time at Bluefield State.

- The Division of Student Affairs has upgraded the offerings of online student and employee education and training with Vector Solutions, an industry leader in on-line higher education and training courses. The new course catalog will educate the BSU community on important topics, as well as assist in the compliance of state and federal regulations. New courses include:
 - Active Shooter: Run, Hide, Fight
 - Alcohol Awareness for Students
 - Campus SaVE Act
 - Drug Awareness and Abuse
 - Title IX and Sexual Harassment
 - Clery Act Overview
- The Student Handbook and website pages were updated with many new sections including the General University Complaint Process and Reporting a Student Concern to the University CARE Team.



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

MISSION

New Student Orientation (NSO) at Bluefield State aims to welcome and support new students and their families as they transition to the university community by building positive and meaningful connections between students, faculty, staff, and administrators. NSO and the related programs (Summer B-State Back, Winter Orientation, and Welcome Week) are designed to offer a comprehensive student experience that introduces educational, social, community, and personal resources to facilitate the success and retention of new students.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Introduced the new Student Honor Contract to the 2022 Matriculation Ceremony on Friday, August 4, 2022. The new contract establishes expectations for students including standards related to academic integrity and class attendance. All new student signed the contract after the keynote speech from Chancellor Garry Moore.
- The B-State Back New Student Orientation program won the 2023 SGA Campus Program of the Year Award at the annual University Banquet on April 20, 2023. The Program was chosen by the SGA Selection Committee in part due to the positive survey results from new students indicating a high level of satisfaction with their orientation experience.
- ntal

Created the New 2023 Online Orientation Program. The new program replicates the in-person morning
session with a video presentation followed by an educational quiz to test new students on key departmen
highlights and relevant new student policies.

JUNE 16, 2023: 59 JUNE 23, 2023: 34 JULY 8, 2023: 41 JULY 14, 2023: 30

TOTAL NEW STUDENTS: 339

JULY 21, 2023: 26 JULY 28, 2023: 15 AUGUST 4, 2023: 53 **ONLINE PROGRAM: 81**

TOTAL PARENTS & GUESTS: 268



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

MISSION

The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as elected representatives of the student body that work to support a vibrant and active student life, annually help support and fund recognized student clubs & organizations, select students as representatives on various university wide committees, and support positive campus traditions.

- Held the annual public Swearing-In Ceremony for SGA President Elect Gabriel Nesmith on Thursday, September 29, 2022. President Capehart, Provost Lewis, and Dean Shidemantle participated in the formal oath and ceremony to welcome the new SGA President, followed by a reception for the university community.
- Sponsored a dinner for former Congressman Nick Rahall and Congressman Peter Smith during the Congress
 to Campus program on November 3, 2022. SGA hosted the dinner during the two-day campus visit to
 support students attending the program that provided insight into leadership skills, information about
 pathways to becoming Congressional Staff persons, and opportunities for paid internships.
- Voted in April 2023 to support the Class of 2023 Gift with a Street Clock commemorating the new University status and the first class ever to be awarded University degrees on the Hill.
- Traveled to the West Virginia State Capitol in March to speak with elected members of the State Senate and House to advocate for Senate Bill 602. This legislation is designed to support important two-year associate degree programs for students at the university. This was the first time in many years BSU student leaders organized and advocated for university legislative initiatives in Charleston.
- Established the new SGA Dining Services Committee and met with members of the Aramark Staff in November to provide voice for the students with the goal of improving meals for BSU students.
- Supported the Annual Hamilton Hatter Scholarship Luncheon during Black History Month, hosted the Annual SGA Easter Egg Hunt Program, Coordinated the Fall & Spring Pizza with the Provost programs, supported Homecoming 2022 festivities, and sent two (2) representatives to the West Virginia Student Leadership Conference in May.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

MISSION

The Student Activities office works to provide services to help students enhance and enrich their own social, cultural, and physical development. In alignment with the mission of the Division of Student Affairs, staff seek to assist students gain as much as possible from a "total college experience" that is conducive to academic achievement.

- Hired a new Assistant Director of Student Activities to provide direct support for multiple student programs including daily management of the Fitness Center & Natatorium Swimming Pool facilities, intramural & wellness programs, the new outdoor adventure activities, and reestablishing a national Fraternity & Sorority Life on campus.
- Coordinated Black History Month 2023 with programs including an HBCU History panel, the Annual Hamilton Hatter Scholarship Luncheon, an NPHC Meet the Greeks event, and a Community Church Service opportunity.
- Established the new Campus Activities Board (CAB). The student group assists the staff in planning and coordinating programs and events for the campus community. The group assisted with eighteen (18) events throughout the academic year including the Roaring 20s Party, Blue's Birthday Bash, the annual Big Blue Bingo, Bowling Night, and the Grill on the Hill.
- Reinvigorated the Intramurals program with several activities including Dodgeball, Teqball, Spikeball, Kickball, Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Flag Football, and a World Cup Soccer Tournament.
- Supported the reactivation of three (3) national collegiate fraternal organizations the Beta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the Alpha Tau Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, and the Zeta Sigma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. National Panhellenic Conference and North American Interfraternity Conference organization undergraduate affiliation interest has been organized for new groups on campus in the future.



CAREER SERVICES

MISSION

The mission of the Office of Career Services is to educate, empower, and support students to embrace their unique strengths and aspirations, to develop as professionals, gain valuable experience, and achieve their career goals.

- Hired a new Director of Career Services in January to provide day-to-day management of the program with new position description and mission. The oversight of comprehensive career planning and placement services, including advising, counseling, assessment, and career programs has been established as new goals and focus areas for the office.
- Hosted the Annual BSU Career Fair on March 21, 2023 in the Ned E. Shott Physical Education Building. Ninety-one (91) top regional employers from multiple states including, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington D.C. and Virginia were in attendance, including the Volvo Corporation, Commercial Metals Company, Form Energy, American Healthcare, LLC., and the U.S. Department of Energy. Three hundred and nineteen (319) students attended the fair from all majors to meet employers for internship and full-time employment opportunities. The Academic Success Center also sponsored a resume writing workshop for student attendees.
- Developed a new campus student employment page on the Career Services website that provides for a comprehensive listing of all employment opportunities available to students with both federal work study and regular student employment (RSE) in numerous university departments.
- Started the process of providing *Handshake* career software to the Bluefield State Community. The software
 is an online recruiting platform for higher education students and alumni that when fully implemented will
 streamline and simplify the recruitment process for the Big Blue Community.
- Obtained new funding for the Project Success Paid Internship program. The purpose of the program is to
 provide students with meaningful work experience and increase their career opportunities upon graduation.
 On average twenty-two (22) students will be eligible for internship programs annually.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs in partnership with our colleagues in Academic Affairs, and hosted by the Student Government Association, the Annual Bluefield State University Awards Program recognizes students, staff, and recognized student organizations for achievement and excellence during the academic year. The 2022-2023 Academic Year event was held on Friday, April 20, 2023 at the Clover Club in Bluefield, West Virginia.

SGA Senator of the Year	Shane Timmons
Faculty Member of the Year	James Quesenberry, Criminal Justice
SGA Blue Star Staff Member of the Year	Christina Nunley, Admissions Counselor
Outstanding Administrator of the Year	Jane Charnock, Deputy General Counsel
Executive Officer of the Year Award	Ethan Hill, Student Association of Radiographers
Outstanding RSO of the Year Award	Robotics Club
Outstanding RSO Advisor of the Year Award	Vanessa Godfrey, Radiologic Technology
Campus Program of the Year	B-State Bound, Division of Student Affairs
Nathan Cook Bracket Leadership Award	Gabe Nesmith
William Ross Leadership Award	Michelle Lawson



MISSION STATEMENT

The Division of Student Affairs is dedicated to helping our students achieve academic success by supporting a community of scholars with exceptional co-curricular opportunities that enhance the mission of the University.

As educators, we provide services, programs, and support to enrich and complement the quality of student life, promote service to the community, champion positive school spirit, and encourage responsible citizenship as a way of life. The Student Affairs mission complements the institution's mission and vision, with a commitment to student retention, learning and success.





UNIVERSITY HYMN

Once again thy name we raise, in accents loud and clear Sing we ever more thy praise, Bluefield our school so dear High upon thy Terraced Hill, We see thee strong and true And our hearts with courage fill, our School, Old Gold and Blue.

Upward through the years, we'll climb while ever lifting thee Thy precepts always, in mind honor and loyalty Men may come and men may go, and passing through the gate Feel within their hearts a glow, for thee dear Bluefield State.

Words & Music by Eugene Jones '38