



Welcome Back Students!
We are glad "YOU" are here! So, we are grilling just for "YOU!"

**A Collaborative Event for "OUR" Students
held on Wednesday, September 4, 2019,
11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**



Bluefield State College



The "Welcome Back Students" luncheon was bigger and better, the third time around, as students, faculty, staff, and administrators lined up in the Erma Byrd Higher Education Center Atrium to participate in this year's event.

The spirit of camaraderie that filled the atrium left an overwhelming feeling of "community" amongst all faculty, staff, administrators, and students at the complex. Furthermore, that same spirit can be identified in the following participant comments:

Please have more of these events! It is really nice! I drive for one hour to get here; and, it was great to have another food option!" ~Taylor Morgan, Nursing Student, Bluefield State College

I think this is great for the students and the faculty to be able to meet students from the different schools here at the complex. ~Alberto Razo, Instructional Specialist/Educational Counselor, New River Community and Technical College

The "Welcome Back Students" luncheon was a huge success! In fact, the only thing that could be considered a negative is that we ran out of hotdogs! We went through 160 hotdogs in less than two hours! And, a more optimistic person would probably describe that as a good thing as it points to the amount of foot traffic the event created. I loved seeing students, faculty, and staff socializing in our atrium. It created a great atmosphere filled with smiles, laughter, and the opportunity to exhale. ~Joseph Richmond, Building Supervisor, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center & Allied Health Wing





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The following are additional participant comments:

I think this is a great opportunity for all of our students to come together! And, it is also an opportunity for New River Community and Technical College students to explore the Erma Byrd Center!
~Tracy Evans, Director, Enrollment Services, New River Community and Technical College

I think this is cool! It feels more like a community rather than a college or university!
~Bailey Presley, English Literature Student, Concord University

I was super nervous about coming back to school at my age; but, the professors at the Center are great! The staff, in general, are easy to work with, especially Dr. Susan Williams, whom helped me with my schedule. Dr. Williams has been available to assist with anything I needed. **~Ashleigh Martin, Elementary Education Student, Concord University**

Please have more of this and on different days! This is great! **~Sierra McClamb, Nursing Student, Bluefield State College**

It's nice! I have a two hour break in between classes so this works! I want to mention that Dr. Susan Williams worked very hard to get all of my classes here at the Erma Byrd Center. And, since starting my classes at the Erma Byrd Center, Sgt. Teresa Spears has been the most helpful! **~Holly Lawson, Social Work Student, Concord University**

This is great! The students were very excited! It is great to have this on this campus for the students. **~Sally Sale, Visiting Instructor of Associate Degree Nursing, Bluefield State College**





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This was fun; and, I got to go out and play with freshman students before we ate! It was really fun! This was nice!
~Nick Kostenko, Recreation & Tourism Management Student, Concord University

I had a lot of preconceived notions about what college would be like (i.e., scary, intimidating, and impossible); but, the Erma Byrd Center has an atmosphere of "family." Everyone is friendly; and, here to help with whatever needs you may have!
~Gillian Cochran, Elementary Education Student, Concord University

I love it! It's a great way to get people to interact and make new friends! ~Caleb Lilly, Computer IT Specialist Student,
New River Community and Technical College

I think that this event is a nice way to start the year off as one family!
~Steve Garlow, Manager, Information Systems, New River Community and Technical College

A great event that adds to the collegiate atmosphere of cooperation between the four campuses. This event leveled the playing field between administrators, faculty, staff, and students; and, created a supportive community of scholars to jumpstart the semester. The food was delicious. ~Dr. Joycie Wawiye, Professor of Biology, New River Community and Technical College

A very well organized event! A good time was had by all! ~Keith Lilly, Instructor of History, Concord University





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This event is a wonderful way to begin the school term; and, to welcome students to the complex! Having events at the Erma Byrd Center, such as this, puts our students more at ease especially for those new to the Center. Kudos to continued collaboration in making this cookout happen! ~Linda Birchfield-Modad, Administrative Services, Marshall University Graduate College Regional Operations

*Lovely event – thoughtful and well planned. An excellent way to promote collaboration and community.
~Dr. Angela Strickland, PTA Program Director, New River Community and Technical College*

*I love it! I tell everyone if you don't know exactly what you want to major in, come to the Erma Byrd Center to get the experience!
~Jamie Wood, Elementary Education Student, Concord University*

*It's nice to look forward to something like this other than classes.
~Chloe Anderson, Nursing Student, Bluefield State College*

An awesome event bringing together all campuses at the complex including faculty, staff and students. This promotes a supportive front for all. ~Dr. Kelli A. White, Assistant Professor of Social Services, New River Community and Technical College

*Please have many, many more of these events! This was great!
~Alexandria McDaniel, Nursing Student, Bluefield State College*





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A special "Thank You!" to the following contributors:

***West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission**

***Bluefield State College**

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Dr. Susan Williams, Director, CU at Beckley

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***Erma Byrd Center**

Joseph Richmond, Grill Master

Ryan Pyatt, Grill Master

Sgt. Teresa Spears, Security America Site Supervisor

~Document created September 6, 2019, by Lisa Moten, Director, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center & Allied Health Wing

