

**GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
*Pioneer Update*  
**YOUR BIWEEKLY UPDATE ON GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
*A COMMUNICATION TO ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ABOUT EVENTS AND PEOPLE IN THE NEWS*

---



## **Alumni Spotlight**

Lorrie (Wilson) Smith '95 was recently appointed as West Virginia's Workforce Resiliency Officer by Governor Jim Justice.

Lorrie has dedicated 24 years focusing on job training and education in West Virginia. Prior to her appointment, she was the Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Center for Professional Development and managed and developed Jobs & Hope WV.

Jobs & Hope WV was developed in 2019 to give West Virginians with barriers an opportunity to eliminate barriers, obtain career training and ultimately



*Glenville State University First Lady Virginia "Gigi" Manchin*

## **GSU Mourns Loss of First Lady**

The Glenville State University campus community is mourning the loss of First Lady Virginia "Gigi" Manchin. She passed away in the early morning of Wednesday, July 13.

"My wife was a vibrant presence on campus and she loved doing things for our students, faculty, staff, and the community. Our family is heartbroken over her passing and she will be sorely missed, not only by me, but by all who came into contact with her," said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin.

Gigi's obituary is available by [clicking here](#). Her family would appreciate contributions to the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship. Donations can be made through the Glenville State University Foundation by [clicking here](#) and choosing the "Virginia 'Gigi' Manchin Memorial Scholarship" in the scholarship designation drop-down menu.

---

secure meaningful employment. To date, over 1,900 Jobs & Hope participants who entered the program without work now have a job, and 300 West Virginians have graduated from the program and achieved career employment.

While a student at Glenville State, she was a member of the cheerleading team, and in 1995 she earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. After her graduation from GSU, she obtained her master's degree in business from Missouri State University.

Originally of Frametown, West Virginia, Lorrie and her husband Okey, who played football for the Glenville State from 1990-1991, currently reside in Gassaway, West Virginia and their daughter Peyton is a current student at GSU majoring in education. In her spare time, she enjoys riding and showing horses as well as camping and taking ATV adventures with her family. She has also served as a youth cheerleading coach for 13 years.

When asked what Glenville State meant to her, she said, "I loved everything about my time at GSC! I think the size of a school like Glenville allows there to be a real family feeling which helps students feel involved and gives them a better chance



## **Glenville State University to Support Workforce Development and Life-Long Learning**

A new division at Glenville State University – Workforce and Life-Long Learning – is being launched to address workforce readiness needs and provide life enrichment opportunities.

Dr. Mark Sarver, Associate Professor of Business, has been appointed as the Workforce Learning Experience Manager to oversee the new area. In addition to managing the division and its work, he will focus on assisting the academic departments at Glenville State in developing or continuing their advisory boards. The advisory boards are made up of community members and employers and help faculty members to stay current and develop curriculum that is responsive to what the community is seeking. They also help increase the number of students who can obtain work-based learning experiences that better align with in-demand industries.

Sarver's own research has examined factors that contribute to successful economic development in rural Appalachian communities. "The way individuals and businesses adapt to the changing marketplace requires higher education to provide non-traditional training opportunities to meet that demand. Glenville State University is working to provide those opportunities," he said.

"The objective of creating the Workforce and Life-Long Learning division is to create economic prosperity for individuals, businesses, and our community. Being a good

of success. Everyone cares for each other and wants to see success from individuals and the school."

We are pleased to feature Lorrie in this week's Alumni Spotlight and proud to call her an alumna of Glenville State University.

community partner is one of Glenville State's main values, and we see this venture as an important part of that campus/community exchange," said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin.

Sarver added that he will be reaching out to the Glenville State campus community and the community at large for input on life-long learning and enrichment opportunities that they would like to see offered. He hopes to see a variety of offerings in the future, from courses leading to certificates to short workshops and instructional lectures.

For more information, visit [workforce.glenville.edu](https://workforce.glenville.edu) or contact Sarver at [Mark.Sarver@glenville.edu](mailto:Mark.Sarver@glenville.edu) or call (304) 462-6257.



*Glenville State University's Dean of Student Success and Retention Trae Sprague '12*

## **Sprague Among 2022 Generation Next Honorees**

Glenville State University graduate and Dean of Student Success and Retention Trae Sprague '12 has been named to the 2022 class of Generation Next: 40 Under 40 honorees.

Sprague and the other honorees were recognized at a ceremony on June 16.

"I feel very fortunate but also humbled to be recognized with this award, as I realize how lucky I have been to have great colleagues and mentors surrounding me along the way. I would not be here without the team," Sprague said.

"We are extremely proud of Trae for this recognition. He is in a key role for us because student retention is an important element, and we want only the best for the students who choose Glenville State as their home. As a former student and Glenville graduate, he understands our students better and it provides tremendous insight in developing programs and working with students to make Glenville State the best it can be for our family of students," said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin.

As the Dean of Student Success and Retention, Sprague says a surprisingly favorite part of his duties has been analyzing the data of retention. "I enjoy the data analytics. Taking national and regional trends and comparing it to what we are finding here at GSU. By doing this, I am gaining a new perspective on the next generation of students and increasing my understanding of their barriers and needs," he said.

Originally from Parkersburg, West Virginia, Sprague graduated from Glenville State with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree in Physical Education in 2012. In August of that year, he joined the Office of Admissions as an Admissions Counselor. Sprague then became the Supervisor of Student Life and Intramural Sports within the Office of Student Life in 2016 before shifting to the Director of Residence Life in August 2019. He received his Master of Science in Education from Fort Hays State University in 2019 and was selected as the 2020 Glenville State University Staff Employee of the Year.

During his time at Glenville State as a student, Sprague was a member of the Men's Golf Team, a member of the inaugural Baseball Club, and served as a Resident Assistant. After he graduated, he became the head coach of the Men's Golf Team from 2012 - 2015.

Sprague also received GSU's prestigious Montrose Award in 2012. The Frank Montrose Award was established in 1952 and is presented during Homecoming to a graduate of the preceding class who was not only an outstanding athlete but also a scholar, a leader, and a person of high moral character.

"I have been inspired by countless people in my life including teachers, coaches, family, friends, co-workers, supervisors, etc. All of the people who have challenged my thinking and beliefs have led me to who I am today. I recognize that we all are not as fortunate to have good mentors and opportunities in our lives, so I am motivated to help open doors and keep the door open for others," Sprague added.

The 40 Under 40 recognition was created 17 years ago to celebrate the state's outstanding professionals who make a difference on the job and in their communities. The recognition is presented by *The State Journal*.

---



*Representatives from Aramark Collegiate Hospitality and Glenville State University pose with a presentation check for dining renovations at Glenville State. Pictured (l-r) Alicia Gaul, Lisa Smarr, Brett Ridgway, Rita Hedrick Helmick, and Bert Jedamski '93.*

## **Dining Services Upgrades Coming to Glenville State**

In August 2021, Glenville State University renewed its campus food services contract with Aramark Collegiate Hospitality, extending the partnership for the next 15 years.

Last month, Glenville State received \$1.5 million from Aramark to renovate and upgrade the cafeteria and snack bar areas inside the Mollohan Campus Community Center. The renovations include updates to the cafeteria serving and dining room areas, an updated grill, and an express convenience store area. The upgrades also include the addition of a national brand – Freshens – which bills itself as a "fresh casual" restaurant offering made to order food crafted with fresh ingredients. Work has been ongoing throughout the summer and is expected to be completed for the beginning of the fall semester.

A "We Proudly Serve" Starbucks coffee shop will be opening this fall as well. The coffee shop is located on the main floor of Louis Bennett Hall, adjacent to the Pioneer Campus Store.



*Construction crews continue renovation work at Glenville State University in the Mollohan Campus Community Center snack bar area.*

"From the cafeteria and snack bar to the new Starbucks, these renovations will provide a better dining experience for everyone. We are pleased to see this investment in our campus coming together and I look forward to seeing the new spaces completed. We appreciate our Aramark partners for their work in making this happen," said Glenville State University President, Dr. Mark A. Manchin.

"Our goal is to continue driving student retention and the overall student experience at the institution. In addition, we want to see our students excel inside and outside the classroom and we feel that food is a big component in that success. Furthermore, we would like to continue to drive and support the Glenville State University mission, vision, and strategic plan. We look forward in continuing to strengthen our relationship at Glenville State and continuing to help drive the success of the institution. Our future is very bright and we look forward in celebrating the success of the college over the next 15 years," said Aramark Collegiate Hospitality District Manager, Brett Ridgway.

"I'm very grateful to our campus Physical Plant employees and the other contractors who have been working tirelessly this summer. They've battled supply chain issues and delays to keep these renovations on track so things will be ready for our students. We have a talented, dedicated workforce and I really appreciate them," said Glenville State University Vice President of Administration, Rita Hedrick-Helmick.

---



## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Keep in touch with us so we can keep in touch with you!**

Have you moved recently? Married? Gotten a new email address? Received a promotion or taken a new career path? Added a new bundle of joy to your family? Celebrated a milestone anniversary? Been honored with an award or accolade?

We want to know what is happening with our GSU alumni and their families.

[Click here](#) to submit your update.



### **THE GIVING CORNER**

*Click the gift icon to make a donation of your own and join the Giving Corner.*

Maier Foundation, Inc. - \$20,000 for the Maier Foundation Scholarship

Steven "Mike" Shaver - \$10,000 for the President's Circle

Tom & Jerry, Inc. dba Zaferatos Real Estate & Appraisal - \$5,000 for PAC Women's Basketball

Minigh Family Dentistry of Glenville - \$2,750 for PAC Women's Basketball and Pioneer Fund

Jackson Kelly PLLC - \$2,500 for PAC Women's Basketball

Sue Ann (Stalnaker) Charles '71 - \$2,000 for the Robert F. Kidd Library and Swimming Pool

Gary '90 and Shellie Williams - \$1,500 for Public Safety

Neil "Doug" '83 and Teri Patterson - \$1,000 for the Alumni House

The Estate of Howard Burk - \$843.05 for the Howard Burk Scholarship

Minigh Family Dentistry of Shinnston - \$750 for the Minigh Family Scholarship

Richard Campbell - \$500 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Ernie and Tracy Dellatorre - \$500 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

WV Tech Music Alumni - \$475 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Ronald "Ron" '71 and Janie Duncan - \$350 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship and GSU Athletic Trainer Scholarship

Bill and Jeanne Fink - \$300 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Jesse F. Skiles '87 - \$257 for the Jesse Skiles Scholarship

Hartman Hartman Cosco - \$250 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Professor Emeritus John '73 and Cheryl McKinney - \$250 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Raymond Hepp - \$229.65 for the Bob "Hooks" and Peggy Hardman Scholarship

Fred and Clara Ellis - \$200 for the Steven and Lynn Kee Diversity Scholarship

Patricia "Patty" (Hardman) Hall - \$200 for the Bob "Hooks" and Peggy Hardman Scholarship

Professor Emeritus Harry Rich - \$200 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Mack '64 and Thelma (Wilson) '64 Samples - \$175 for the Alumni House

The Estate of Harry '37 and Dora (Morgan) '53 Heflin - \$155 for the Harry B. and Dora Morgan Heflin Scholarship

Wendy Carr & the Harrison County School Nurses - \$150 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Christine Machel - \$150 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Roger and Betty Jo (Lewis) '58 Alexander - \$100 for the Pioneer Fund

Mary Katherine Eller - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Mr. Joseph and Secretary Kathleen Goodwin - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship



Billy and Sandra Gumm - \$100 for the Pioneer Fund

Thomas "Tom" and Donna Humphreys - \$100 for the Bob "Hooks" and Peggy Hardman Scholarship

David "Dave" and Jessica "Jessie" (Moss) '09 Hutchison - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Gregory '85 and Karen (Scott) '85 Knopp - \$100 for the Pioneer Fund

Sharon Lake - \$100 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Manuel and Paula Llana - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Miriam (McQuain) Looker - \$100 for the Pioneer Fund

Charles and Ruth Martyn - \$100 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Hester (Reed) McDonald '59 - \$100 for the Pioneer Fund

Dr. Gary and Athena '17 Morris - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Kathleen "Kathy" and Michael Nelson - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Oliverio, II - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Michael and Judith Sofka - \$100 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

James "Bob" '57 and Wyene (Bush) '57 Turner - \$100 for the Bob "Hooks" and Peggy Hardman Scholarship

ZMM, Inc. - \$100 for the Steven and Lynn Kee Diversity Scholarship

Thomas "Tom" Coates '78 - \$50 for the Pioneer Fund

John and JoAnn Cosco - \$50 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Gary and Stella (Scott) '76 Moon - \$50 for the Bob "Hooks" and Peggy Hardman Scholarship

Clint '63 and Mary (Osburn) '66 Mullens - \$50 for the Alumni House

Michael and Janice Murphy - \$50 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Joseph and Nancy (Harris) '54 Palmer - \$50 for the Pioneer Fund

Ms. Donna Peduto - \$50 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Kip Price - \$50 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Harriett (Shortley) Sherwood '67 - \$50 for the Pioneer Fund

Woodrow "Woody" '76 and Mary (Nugen) '75 Wilson - \$50 for the Pioneer Fund

Mr. Paul and Ronalda Winkie - \$50 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Anthony Simms - \$45 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Lee Ann Lykens - \$40 for the Harry Rich Scholarship

Mr. Rocky and Medina Poole - \$25 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

David '96 and Christy (Hays) Rich - \$25 for the Harry Rich Scholarship and PAC Women's Basketball

Dr. Marjorie Stewart - \$25 for PAC Cheerleading

Cody Moore '18 - \$20 for the Virginia "Gigi" Manchin Memorial Scholarship

Phillip and Karen (Fish) '71 Gibson - \$15 for the Pioneer Fund

---

**OUR  
MISSION**

*Glenville State University prepares and inspires students to be thoughtful, productive, engaged, and responsible citizens who contribute to the well-being of their community, state, nation, and world.*



*This e-mail account is not monitored. Please do not reply to this message.*

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Glenville State University](#)  
200 High St., Glenville, WV 26351