



An Open Letter to GSC Alumni and Friends

Dear Alumni and Friends of Glenville State College,

I am sending this letter in my capacity as President, but more importantly, as a concerned citizen of central West Virginia. After reviewing both the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education's proposed funding formulas, it is clear that both will seriously undermine Glenville State College's financial position and increase our vulnerability for closure. This would be disastrous as Glenville State College provides a vital and necessary educational and economic service to the state and more specifically central West Virginia. Many of the students that attend Glenville State come from some of West Virginia's most impoverished counties. More than 60% of Glenville's enrollment includes those most at-risk, including first-generation, non-traditional age, ethnically diverse, and those underprepared for college level work. Glenville State's economic impact on the local economy of about \$28 million as reported by the West Virginia Bureau of Business and Economic Research (2016) makes

GSC's current state appropriation of approximately \$5.8 million a tremendous financial investment in the region and state.

While both proposed funding models promote increased state funding and supposed equity and fairness in "per-student" funding across all West Virginia institutions, it does not take into consideration important factors such as the higher tuition and fees charged by these institutions, Glenville's unique and rural location, the impoverished counties and at-risk students we serve and their inability to sustain further tuition increases, and the educational and economic gap that will exist in central West Virginia without Glenville State College as a higher education option.

While state funding was severely reduced the past ten years, all institutions made up for the lost funding through increased tuition and fees and room and board charges (50-75% increases). While several of the institutions represented on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission have proposed an increase to their state appropriation of approximately \$10 million dollars (5-29% increase in state appropriation), there has been no corresponding proposal to decrease tuition and fees and other costs for students and families. This simply does not make sense and is unfair considering the number of families and students financially at-risk at all state institutions. Glenville State College is the only state institution to decrease tuition and many fees and charges the last two years making it one of the most affordable in the state. Leaving Glenville State out of any substantive state funding increase damages us financially when we can least afford it.

Sincerely,



Tracy L. Pellett, Ed.D., President Glenville State College

Contact Your West Virginia Lawmakers

Alumni and friends of Glenville State College are encouraged to contact local lawmakers to voice their support for GSC and urge legislators to establish equitable funding for all West Virginia higher education institutions. Mountain State residents can [click here](#) to see a list of House members and [here](#) to see a list of Senators and how to contact them. Additionally, you may also wish to contact the following state leaders:

WV Governor Jim Justice – (304) 558-2000

Senate President Mitch Carmichael – (304) 357-7801; mitch.carmichael@wvsenate.gov

Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw – (304) 340-3210; roger.hanshaw@wvhouse.gov

House Education Committee Chairman Paul Espinosa – (304) 340-3265;
paul.espinosa@wvhouse.gov

Senate Education Committee Chairman Kenny Mann – (304) 357-7849;
kenny.mann@wvsenate.gov

You may wish to use the following script in your call or email:

"Hello, my name is _____. I oppose the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education's proposed funding formula. Almost every school listed gets nearly a million dollars or more while Glenville State College gets \$40,000. Glenville State is critical to keeping central WV alive and educating students that need it most. I urge Governor Justice to come up with a more equitable plan."



Questions for President Pellett

If you have questions for Dr. Pellett regarding the proposed funding formulas, please send them to President@glenville.edu.



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