

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pioneer Update

Glenville State University Newsletter for Alumni & Friends | March 2026

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Jessica (Fiber) Knox '18 is currently a fifth grade teacher in the Tyler County (WV) school system. She has been



Glenville State University representatives pose for a photo with Del. Lori Dittman inside the WV House of Delegates chamber on February 10. | WV Legislative Photo by Perry Bennett

Glenville State Visits W.Va. Statehouse

employed there since graduating from Glenville State in 2018 but, she also has another title – Mrs. West Virginia American 2025!

The Sistersville, West Virginia native came to Glenville State to study early and special education. She was also a member of the cheerleading team and Chi Zeta Pi sorority.

In addition to her degree from GSU, Jessica also holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction plus 30 additional credit hours from Salem University.

On being crowned Mrs. West Virginia American, Jessica says that it is more just than a title to her – it is a full-circle moment of faith, perseverance, and growth. She says that the journey has stretched, strengthened, and reminded her of the power of believing in oneself even when the path feels uncertain. She adds, “Carrying this crown means honoring my roots, my family, and the state I love so deeply. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve, to lead with heart, and to use my voice to encourage others to step confidently into who they were created to be.”

In her spare time, Jessica enjoys spending time outdoors and hiking in the beautiful hills of West Virginia, being a sports mom, reading, and watching crime documentaries. Jessica is also deeply committed to advocating for the visually impaired, as both she and her son were born with bilateral congenital cataracts.

She and her husband, Tyler, have been married for seven years and have two beautiful children, Addie and Asher. They reside in Middlebourne, West Virginia.

When asked what Glenville State means to her, Jessica said, “Glenville State means

A delegation of Glenville State University students, faculty, staff, alumni, and administrators traveled to the West Virginia statehouse on February 10 for GSU Day at the Capitol. The day was originally scheduled for the last week in January, but was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Throughout the day, University representatives met with lawmakers and capitol staffers to discuss academic programs, various learning opportunities, and student success initiatives. The day highlighted the economic impact Glenville State has, as well as the University's role in strengthening West Virginia.

Members of the GSU Student Government Association who were present took part in a guided tour of the capitol and later attended a Q&A session with WV Supreme Court Justices Thomas H. Ewing '01 and Gerald M. Titus, II, followed by a visit to the WV Culture Center. A Glenville State delegation was also present for a proclamation presentation from the Governor's Office, which was delivered by Thomas McCaffery, Governor Patrick Morrisey's Chief of Staff. Glenville State University was also recognized with special citations by both the House of Delegates and Senate.

GSU Day at the Capitol concluded with an evening reception for alumni, friends, and lawmakers at the Woman's Club of Charleston.

“Our Day at the Capitol is a powerful reminder of the role Glenville State University plays in shaping the future of West Virginia,” said Dr. Mark A. Manchin, President of Glenville State University. “When our students, faculty, and staff engage directly with lawmakers and state leaders, they are demonstrating the value of investing in accessible, career-focused education that strengthens our workforce and uplifts our rural communities. We are proud to showcase how Glenville continues to prepare career-ready graduates who are committed to serving and leading in the Mountain State.”

Alumni Awards Banquet is April 25

The 2026 Glenville State University Alumni Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 25. Attendees will gather in the third floor pre-function area of the Mollohan Campus Community Center from 5:00-6:00 PM for a social hour prior to dinner in the Ballroom.

The names of those alumni being honored will be announced soon.

Tickets for the banquet and social hour are \$25.00 each and, for planning purposes, reservations are required. Call (304) 462-6116 or e-mail at Dustin.Crutchfield@glenville.edu for more information and to make your banquet reservations.

You may also purchase tickets online [here](#).

community, growth, and lifelong connection to me. My time there shaped who I am today, both personally and professionally. Being involved in cheerleading taught me teamwork, leadership, and school pride, while Chi Zeta Pi sorority gave me lasting friendships, service opportunities, and a strong sense of belonging. Glensville State will always feel like home, and I'm proud to be an alumna."

We are pleased to feature Jessica in this month's Alumni Spotlight and are proud to call her an alumna.

Percussion Ensemble is April 16-18

The annual Glensville State University Percussion Ensemble will be held on Thursday, April 16, Friday, April 17, and Saturday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Glensville State's Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

Tickets officially go on sale on Monday, March 2, but *Pioneer Update* recipients have access to [online ticket sales](#) a day early!

General admission tickets are \$10. Current GSU students are admitted to the Thursday, April 16 performance for free, but must still call (304) 462-6340 to reserve a ticket. For more information or to reserve tickets via phone, contact the GSU Department of Fine Arts at (304) 462-6340 between 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday-Friday.



Show Your Pioneer Spirit!



Glensville State License Plate

Glensville State University alumni, friends, employees, and students who reside in West Virginia are now able to submit a preliminary interest application for a special Glensville State University license plate! Preliminary interest applications are being accepted through August 3, 2026.

These plates will be actual specialty license plates created and issued by the West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. When the University receives the first 100 preliminary interest applications, final design and production of the license plate will begin. There are no restrictions on the number of special plates you may obtain.

Those interested in submitting a preliminary interest application for a special GSU license plate should visit www.glenville.edu/alumni/license-plates to learn more and download an application form.



Glenville State Celebrates 154 Years, Holds Successful Founders Day of Giving

Last month, Glenville State University celebrated the 154th anniversary of its founding and held another successful Day of Giving Campaign, raising over \$1 million from over 1,000 donors.

During the 2026 Founders Day of Giving campaign, fundraising took place throughout the week leading up to February 19 – the anniversary of Glenville State’s founding.

Donations supported multiple projects across campus, including each academic department and athletic team, scholarship funds, alumni and student projects, the Pioneer Fund, and the President’s Circle. Specific projects included Alumni Center renovations, the Pioneer Pantry, theater, education abroad, and many more.

“I can’t thank our alumni and friends, faculty, staff, and students enough for stepping up and supporting our annual Founders Day of Giving. This is a true reflection of what makes Glenville State University so special – everyone coming together to celebrate our great institution while helping to meet our fundraising goals. We are so grateful for everyone who made this day possible and appreciate each and every gift. I want to especially thank the Morris Family Foundation for their generous \$500,000 match that was in place for Founders Day,” said Vice President of Advancement, David Hutchison.

As part of the celebration, students, faculty, and staff also came together in the Mollohan Campus Community Center on February 19 for a Founders Day Celebration where they enjoyed cupcakes, took photos, and wrote thank you notes to donors. There were also several items of historical significance on display in the Robert F. Kidd Library. That display was made up of items from GSU’s Archive and helped show what the Lighthouse on the Hill was like in 1872.

[Click here](#) to see photos from Founders Day at GSU.



(l-r) Maurena Lopez, Connie Stout O'Dell, and Judy Prine at the 2026 SECA Conference.

Connie Stout O'Dell Honored with Outstanding SECA Member Award

Connie Stout O'Dell '90, Glenville State University's Dean of Teacher Education, was presented with the Outstanding Member Award from the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) during their 2026 conference, which was held in Huntsville, Alabama in January.

"I am truly humbled to have received this award from the Southern Early Childhood Association. SECA is an association that is dedicated to strengthening the early childhood profession and being recognized by this amazing group of leaders was such an honor. I'm grateful for the commitment that SECA has for early care and education and thankful to be a part of it," Stout O'Dell said.

"Connie has demonstrated exceptional dedication and outstanding service to the Southern Early Childhood Association through her unwavering commitment to advancing the mission of the organization and strengthening the early childhood profession. Her leadership is reflected in the power of professional collaboration with colleagues and her students at Glenville State University. What an honor to present the SECA 2026 Outstanding Member Award to her with the SECA Operations Manager, Maurena Lopez," said Judy Prine, SECA's current President.

The Outstanding Member Award is presented each year by the SECA Board of Directors to recognize a SECA member who has contributed significantly to the organization, has a record of service to the organization, demonstrated a commitment to the mission of the organization as evidenced through their personal and professional experiences, and has been recognized by their colleagues as a leader in the field of early childhood education through their service to children and families in the South.

For more information about SECA, visit their website at www.seca.info.



Items that were purchased with the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Grant - including several Nikon Forestry Pro II Laser Rangefinders and bark thickness gauges - on display in the forestry classroom inside the Department of Land Resources.

Department of Land Resources Benefits from Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Grant

Glenville State University's Department of Land Resources has received a Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund grant to purchase modern forestry field instruments that will strengthen student training in forest measurements, timber inventory, and applied natural resource education.

The funds were used to purchase equipment for hands-on learning - including additional hypsometers/clinometers for measuring tree height, and bark thickness gauges to improve the accuracy of inside-bark diameter calculations and volume estimates. These tools expand the Department's ability to equip more students during field exercises and support growing enrollment.

The equipment will be integrated across Forest Technology, Natural Resource Management, and Wildlife Management courses, giving students additional opportunities to practice standard forestry measurement techniques and produce more accurate height, diameter, and volume estimates during labs and field exercises.

"This grant provides our students with the tools needed to make accurate tree measurements in the field and apply those skills in forest inventory," said Dr. Rico Gazal, Professor in the Department of Land Resources.

Braxton County Outdoorsman Brad Shreve Ranks 15th at National Turkey Calling Championships

From *Braxton News* (February 20, 2026)

Braxton County outdoorsman Brad Shreve '20 placed 15th out of 52 competitors in the Senior Open Division at the National Wild Turkey Federation Grand National Calling Championships in Nashville, Tennessee.

Shreve qualified for the national event after winning first place in the West Virginia State Calling Contest's State Resident Open Division in late 2025. The annual NWTF competition requires participants to replicate the sounds of a wild turkey, with judges scoring callers on realism, tone, cadence, and rhythm.

A lifelong outdoorsman, Shreve began using mouth calls as a child. He spends the spring turkey season practicing the yelps, cuts, clucks, and purrs used in both hunting and competitive calling.

In addition to competing, Shreve owns and operates Spit 'N Drum Custom Calls, a small business where he designs and builds handmade turkey mouth calls. He is also an active member of Wayside Church, where he assists with youth programs and other community initiatives.

Shreve often spends hunting season with his wife, Katlyn. Information regarding his custom equipment is available through the Spit 'N Drum Custom Calls Facebook page.



PIONEER ATHLETICS

Check out these game schedules and come out to support the Pioneers!



Interested in Joining the Pioneer Athletic Club?

As a member, you directly support Pioneer student-athletes through scholarship. Annual Pioneer Athletic Club membership gives you exclusive access to premium areas at Morris Stadium and the Waco Center, where you will have a bird's eye view of the football field and McPherson Court.

[Click here](#) to learn more about membership benefits and how to enroll.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 2 - Percussion Ensemble Tickets go on Sale

Concerts scheduled for April 16-18; Tickets \$10

[Early access to tickets here](#)

Thursday, March 19 - Little Kanawha Reading Series: Ace Boggess

4:00 PM - Robert F. Kidd Library

Friday, March 27 - Jazz Band Spring Concert

7:00 PM - Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Tuesday, April 14 - Women's Leadership Circle Lunch & Learn

12:00 - 1:00 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Thursday, April 17 - Career Fair

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Mollohan Campus Community Center Ballroom

Saturday, April 25 - Baseball Alumni Reunion

1:00 PM | Sue Morris Sports Complex (1294 US-33, Glenville, WV 26351)

Save the Date!



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