

Learning institutions partner to offer youth opportunities on Charleston's West Side

Institute, W.Va. – West Virginia State Community and Technical College (WVSCTC), West Virginia State University Extension Service, and the Bob Burdette Center Inc. have signed a partnership agreement to create a variety of new learning curricula for the Bob Burdette Center's after-school program.

The Center's program serves West Side children in grades K-12, providing an environment for individual growth enabling youth to experience personal success and become a positive influence in the community.

The Center serves students from Grandview, Chandler, Glenwood, and JE Robins Elementary; as well as St. Anthony's Catholic School, Capitol High School and many students from neighboring Stonewall Jackson Middle School. While at the Center students participate in reading, computer labs, homework sessions with tutors, a research-based violence prevention program called Second Step, arts and crafts, creative dance, choir, cooking, recreational activities, and an available game room.

WVSCTC and WVSU Extension Service have been delivering programs at the Center since December 2008.

"We are very excited to have them as our partners," says Sam Sommerville, Board President for the Center. "I believe WVSCTC and WVSU Extension Service are going to be tremendous assets to assist us in meeting the needs of our West Side students."

WVSCTC and WVSU Extension Service have a mission of service to the citizens of West Virginia communities.

West Virginia State University President Hazo W. Carter, Jr. explained, "West Virginia State University Extension Service is pleased to enter into this agreement with the Bob Burdette Center. One aspect of the University tri-partite mission as a land-grant institution is service to the community. Our cooperative work with the Center is an example of WVSU's outreach and commitment to the West Side."

"The agreement with the Bob Burdette Center emphasizes that part of our institution's mission is to enhance economic, cultural, and educational partnership between the Community and Technical College and the communities of our service region," said Dr. Joseph Badgley, President of WVSCTC. "We are excited to be able to offer trainings for students of all ages."



An open house hosted by the Bob Burdette Center will celebrate the partnership. The event will take place at 6:00 p.m. on March 9 at the Bob Burdette Center located in Emmanuel Baptist Church on 1401 West Washington Street in Charleston. The community is invited to meet with representatives from WVSTC, WVSU Extension Service, and the Bob Burdette Center, as well as educators from schools serving the West Side, to learn more about this exciting program. For more information, contact Jean Cunningham at (304) 342-4988.

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