



»»» NEWSLETTER «««



COLLABORATE & CELEBRATE

The Power of Higher Education

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JADE IRVING

Dear Colleagues,

As student life professionals, we're not just shaping the future; we're shaping lives.

Every interaction, every initiative, and every effort we pour into our role holds immeasurable significance.

We are the guiding light, the unwavering support, and the beacon of hope for countless individuals navigating the journey of higher education. Through our dedication, empathy, and tireless advocacy, we create environments where students not only learn but thrive.

Embrace the challenges, celebrate the victories, and cherish the moments of connection that define our journey. For in each moment, we have the power to inspire, uplift, and empower those around us.

Remember, our impact extends far beyond the classroom. We are sculpting the leaders, innovators, and changemakers of tomorrow. So, together, let's continue to lead with passion, serve with integrity, and never underestimate the profound difference all of us make in the lives of others.

With gratitude and admiration,

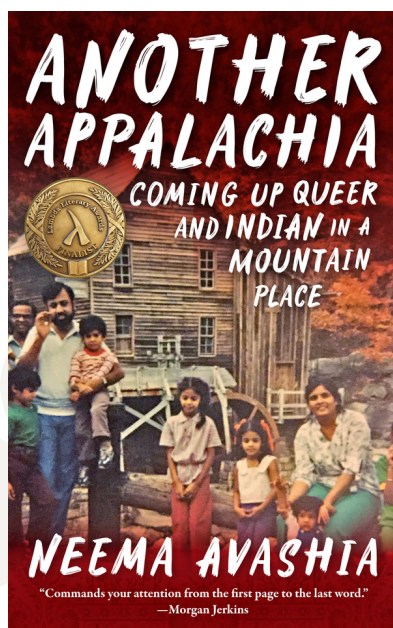
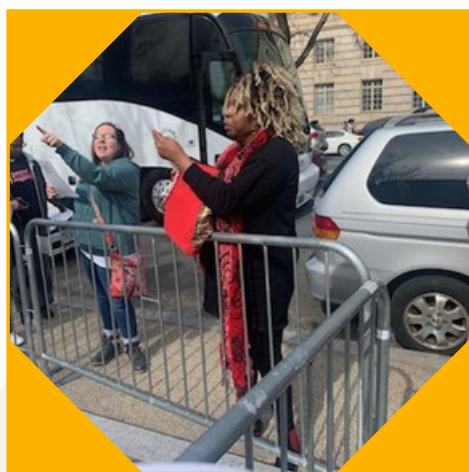
Jade



Pierpont Community and Technical College Champions Global Awareness and Cultural Diversity Initiatives

In Spring 2024, Raven Thomas, Pierpont's Student Involvement Coordinator, re-energized Pierpont's co-curricular activities with a focus on the general education outcome of global awareness and cultural diversity. The office sponsored two bus trips for students and supporters: one to the National Museum of African American History in Washington, DC, in February, and another to the Heinz Museum in March for their "How Women Built Pittsburgh" exhibit. These excursions aimed to reinforce Pierpont's commitment to promoting global diversity and cultural understanding.

On April 11, the Office of Student Engagement hosted a reading and Q&A session featuring Neema Avashia, the acclaimed author of "Another Appalachia Coming Up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place."



The WV TRIO Development and Financial Affairs Committee is in the process of assembling a WV TRIO Cookbook. Proceeds will benefit student scholarships. Details will follow when available.

Announcements

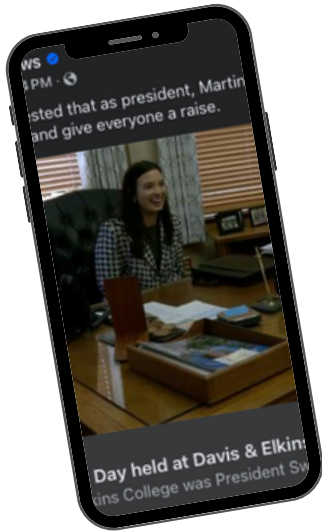
- NASPA Region II Conference - June 3-5, 2024
- Upward Bound Day June 27, 2024
- Save The Date - WV TRIO Fall Conference - October 29-30, 2024 @ Glade Springs Resort
- Underwood-Smith has been funded- [Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars](#)| College For WV

INNOVATION

Welcome to the forefront of innovation, where the student experience takes center stage. In today's rapidly evolving landscape, the pursuit of innovation isn't just about technological advancements—it's about enhancing every facet of the student journey. From reimagining classroom dynamics to revolutionizing campus resources, innovation is the driving force behind creating memorable and impactful experiences for students. [Watch this brief 20-minute video](#) entitled 'Making Innovation Easy with Bridget Burns' detailing a journey of discovery, exploration, and transformation, where innovation not only shapes the future but enriches the lives of every student it touches.



PRESIDENT SWITCH DAY



At Davis & Elkins College, Friday, April 5, 2024, marked President Switch Day, offering Junior Isabella Martinelli and President Chris Wood an opportunity to experience each other's roles firsthand.

Seeing things from another person's perspective is transformative, allowing one to step into another's shoes, while acknowledging their experiences, choices, and decisions. By embracing this perspective-taking approach, it allows an appreciation for diverse viewpoints, an opportunity to challenge assumptions, and a way to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration. The experience empowers participants to build more inclusive, compassionate, and harmonious communities where every voice is valued and heard.

[Stay up to date with what's happening in our state legislature.](#)





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Catching up with Kate...

Introducing Kate Garlick, the Dean of Students at Davis & Elkins College. Kate recently joined WVASPA in 2021, appreciating its role in connecting educators across the state to advance higher education. She eagerly anticipates contributing to WVASPA's growth and fulfilling its mission.

Currently, Kate is immersed in overseeing the construction of a new residence hall at Davis & Elkins. Since 2018, she has been advocating for improved housing facilities on campus, with the last hall being built 53 years ago. Now, her vision is becoming a reality.

Through her experiences at Davis & Elkins, Kate has realized that higher education is a calling, marked by challenges and rewarding moments. She emphasizes the significance of impacting even one life positively, which drives her dedication to the field.

Kate draws inspiration from her supportive network, including admired figures like Dr. Rosemary Thomas, President of Chowan University, whom she has known for 21 years. She values Dr. Thomas's leadership, resolve, and friendship, which exemplify the essence of impactful leadership.

Outside of work, Kate cherishes time with her family and friends, especially as a mother to a two-year-old daughter, with another baby girl on the way this August. She is actively involved in community programs like the American Legion Auxiliary and the Rhododendron Girls State Program, hosted annually by Davis & Elkins College in June.

And, for a fun tidbit, Kate admits to having a sweet tooth, particularly for chocolate, peanut butter, and Rice Krispie treats.



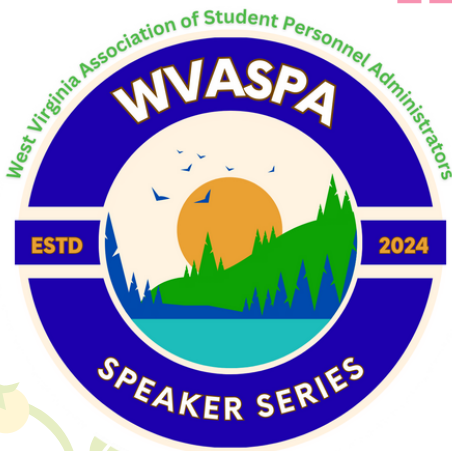
REMNINDER



Save the date!
June 3 - June 5, 2024, Philadelphia, PA
NASPA Region II Conference
Additional details [here](#).



[LEARN MORE](#)



WVASPA Speaker Series.
See what sessions are next [here](#)..

Check out these career opportunities



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