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WVASPA NEWSLETTER

COLLABORATE & CELEBRATE

Brian M. Wilson
WVASPA President

2026 Fall Conference Preview

Join student affairs and TRIO colleagues from across West Virginia for meaningful professional development, statewide connections, and fresh ideas to strengthen our campuses. Our keynote speaker, Brother James "JT" Thomas Jr., brings a message of leadership, mentorship, community building, and service.

Conference information, registration, presenter opportunities, and vendor details can be found on our website!

CLICK HERE!

A Message From the President

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve West Virginia as WVASPA President, and I hope to remain a valuable resource to anyone who may need support, guidance, or simply someone willing to listen. I am excited for Kate Garlick to step into the presidency and look forward to supporting her and WVASPA as Immediate Past President next year.

But we still have important business ahead: delivering a productive, enjoyable, and memorable 2026 Fall Conference! Our Board has worked diligently alongside our partners at WVTRIO to create a wonderful experience for everyone. Please visit our website, register, and join us at Glade Springs. We look forward to learning, connecting, and celebrating with you!

Early Bird Registration ENDS OCTOBER 16TH!

Don't miss your chance to register for the 2026 Conference at the early bird rate! Register and pay by October 16th to take advantage of our discounted price!

We can't wait to see you there!

Why WVASPA Matters

The West Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators connects professionals who support student learning, well-being, leadership, belonging, and success. Membership offers opportunities to share practical ideas, build statewide relationships, recognize outstanding colleagues, and strengthen higher education through collaboration. We welcome professionals at every career stage to join the conversation and get involved!

Visit out website to learn more and join!

CLICK HERE!

Meet the WV TRIO Executive Board!

President
Dr. Evora Baker

President-Elect
Heather Short

Past President
Tira Runyon

Treasurer
Nate Hollister

Meet the WVASPA Leadership Team!

President
Brian Wilson
Davis and Elkins College

President-Elect
Kate Garlick
Davis and Elkins College

Immediate Past President
Dr. Justin Rader
Fairmont State University

Treasurer
Andrew Lewis
West Liberty University

Secretary
Jeremiah Kibler
West Virginia University

Media Relations Officer
Kendra Pullen
Glenville State University

Membership Coordinator
Autumn Perry
WV Higher Education Policy Commission

Member-at-Large
Carla Blankenbuehler
BridgeValley CTC

Member-at-Large
James McDougle
Mountwest CTC

Member-at-Large
Maverick Hudson
BridgeValley CTC

Member-at-Large
Nicky Perkins
Mountwest CTC

Member-at-Large
Rachel Harper
BridgeValley CTC

Member Spotlight

Carla Blankenbuehler

Carla J. Blankenbuehler brings over 20 years of experience in higher education. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Counseling and a Master of Arts in School Counseling from Marshall University. A certified school counselor (PK-AD) in West Virginia, Ms. Blankenbuehler currently serves as Dean of Students at BridgeValley Community and Technical College.

Throughout her career, she has received numerous accolades, including the 2020 NISOD Excellence Award, the 2021 WVASPA Mid-Level Professional Award, and the 2023 Innovation Program Award for her work with the Mindfulness Institute for Emerging Adults.

Ms. Blankenbuehler is deeply committed to the health and wellness of her students and has played an instrumental role in fostering an environment that promotes retention and completion. She served as an advisor to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for over a decade, further demonstrating her dedication to student success and academic excellence.

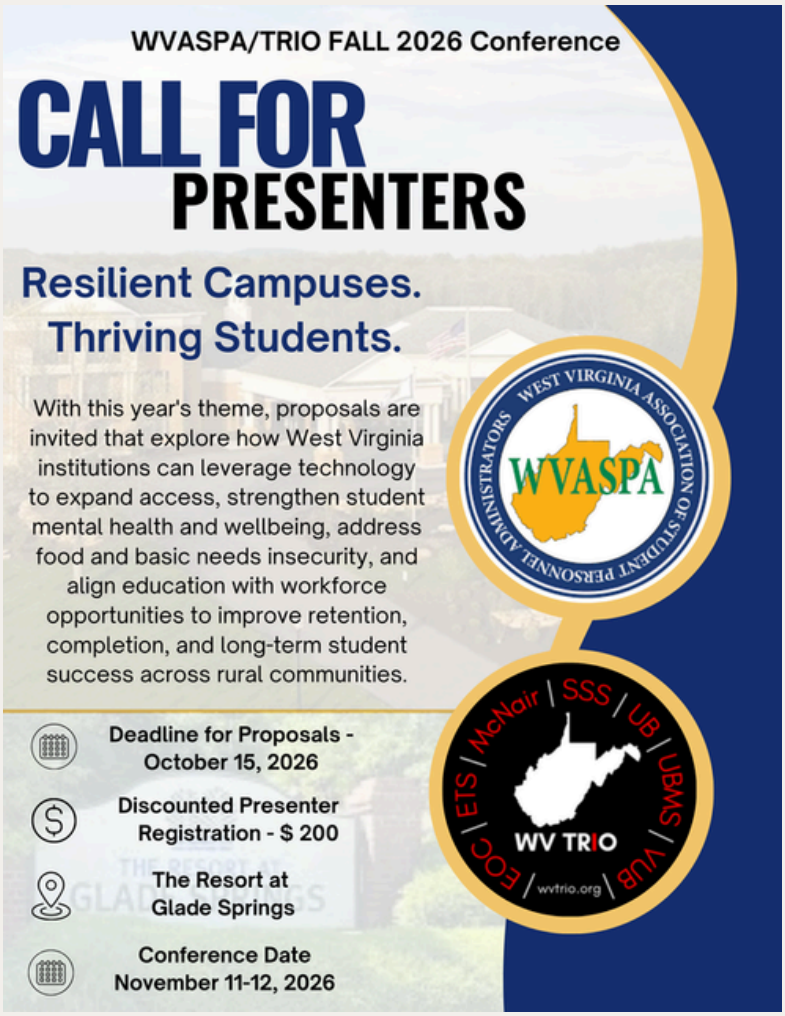
Presenters & Vendors Wanted

We are still accepting presentation proposals and welcoming vendors interested in hosting a table at the upcoming conference!

Vendor Tables: Those interested should contact WV TRIO President, Dr. Evora Baker at **ebaker03@shepherd.edu** for more information.

Presentation Proposals: Those interested in presenting can submit their proposals through the WVASPA wesbite. Click the link below for more information.

CLICK HERE!



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