

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY'S JUNIOR HIGH WASHINGTON GATEWAY ACADEMY

Shepherd University's Junior High Washington Gateway Academy is a one-week residential, pre-college program intended to encourage seventh graders entering the eighth grade to think about, plan, and prepare for college. The program is held in June on the campus of Shepherd University and is designed for underachievers who are performing between the average and high academic performance range.

Through activities and mini-classes, Academy participants receive instruction and information on the benefits of a college education. The program is designed to change learning habits, improve grades in school, and increase the possibility for college attendance.

Research reveals that: (a) West Virginia has one of the lowest going-to-college rates in the nation; (b) approximately 80 percent of all new jobs in the future will require at least two years of college; and (c) underachieving students who do not perform to their ability level are less likely to attain the same occupational and educational level of achievers with the same ability.

Counselors of the program, as well as graduates who are now students at Shepherd, have been invited to the pre-board meeting luncheon and board members are encouraged to attend to discuss this aspect of student life with them.

The Director of the Gateway program is headed by Dr. John "Quincy" Adams, and he will present an overview of this effort.