McMurran Scholars announced

Sixteen Shepherd University students will be named McMurran Scholars at a convocation today, April 29 at 3:30 p.m. at the Frank Center Theater.

Honored as McMurran Scholars will be Kaitlyn Baird, David Canada, Katherine Cooper, Edward Cope, Jessica Fancher, Laura Ferrett, Zachary Grimes, Sara Hall, Heather McSharry, Kathryn G. Morris, Lindsay Pittington, Amanda Rust, Brett Shaffer, Austin Shoven, Aaron Stenta and Elizabeth Tyson.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of Shepherd’s highest academic honor, named in honor of the university’s first president, Joseph McMurran. The award was conceived in 1961 by Professor Kenneth Riley, who served on the first honors committee, along with Librarian John Main and Dean of Students O. L. Harry. Three members of the inaugural class — Sandra Osbourn, class of 1962; Garland H. Ot, class of 1962; and Nicholas J. Pappas, class of 1963 — will be honored during the program.

The convocation address will be given by Jerry Thomas, professor emeritus of history, as part of Shepherd’s annual Last Lecture.
HEPC approves tuition increases across state
(http://timeswv.com/westvirginia/x928072405/HEPC-approves-tuition-increases-across-state)

By Vicki Smith
Associated Press (http://www.ap.org)

SOUTH CHARLESTON — Students at most colleges and universities across West Virginia will pay more in tuition and fees this coming school year.

The Higher Education Policy Commission approved a long list of increases Friday in South Charleston.

They range from as little as 1.8 percent to as much as 19.2 percent, depending on whether they’re for residents or non-residents, and undergraduate or graduate students. The smallest increase is for nonresident undergraduates at Bluefield State College, while the highest is for residents in West Liberty University’s nursing and dental hygiene programs.

Ed Magee, the commission’s director of finance, said the schools need the increases because state appropriations are flat, while both enrollment and costs are rising.

The need for affordable education, he said, must be balanced against the need to fund improvements.

West Virginia colleges have the lowest salaries among the 16 member states in the Southern Regional Education Board, a nonprofit body that works to improve public pre-K-12 and higher education, Magee said. That makes it difficult for the schools to attract and retain faculty.

“This is an issue of maintaining academic quality,” he said.

Thirteen SREB states have higher tuition and fees than West Virginia, and many of those states are also raising their tuitions for the coming year, Magee said — 15 percent at most Florida schools, 7.9 percent at Virginia schools and 6 percent in Kentucky, to name a few. The University of Georgia, he noted, raised tuition 35 percent last year and is planning another 16 percent increase.

Commissioner Kay Goodwin, who is also secretary of the West Virginia Department of Education, voted against the increases after rhetorically questioning whether they would improve graduation and dropout rates, reduce student loan debts or cut the number of adjunct faculty the schools rely on.

She also argued that taxpayers are funding higher education twice, first through state budget appropriations that come from their tax dollars, then again when they pay tuition and fees.

“I know the institutions need our help,” she said, “but so do the citizens of West Virginia.”

Commission Chairman David Hendrickson also indicated displeasure with the increases, urging school presidents in the audience to a fresh look at how they’re budgeting. There must be a way, he
said, “to fund higher education not on the backs of our students and their families.”

Chancellor Brian Noland defended the increases. West Virginia schools are “operating in a lean manner,” he said, with far less funding per student than other SREB schools.

For resident undergraduates, the new increases will range from as little as 3 percent at Fairmont State University to as high as 9.5 percent at Concord University and Glenville State College.

In the middle are: Shepherd University, 6.1 percent; Bluefield State College, 6.8 percent; West Liberty University, 7.9 percent; and West Virginia State University, 8 percent.

Marshall University is raising tuition 6.9 percent for resident undergraduates but doesn’t need commission approval.

Figures for WVU tuition increases, which also do not currently require the commission’s approval, were not included in the commission’s chart.

WVU’s Board of Governors will set those rates in June, but Vice President for Administration and Finance Narvel Weese has said the 2012 budget anticipates a tuition increase of about 4.9 percent. He said financial aid and scholarships would keep pace with the increases.
MU to participate in new graduate school association

HUNTINGTON -- Marshall University is among the founding members of the new West Virginia Association of Graduate Schools.

"This new association is committed to building an awareness of the importance of graduate education in the State of West Virginia and its enormous potential for enhancing the health and future of the state," said Donna Spindel, dean of Marshall's graduate college.

In addition to Spindel and Marshall, the founding members of the association are graduate education leaders from Fairmont University, Mountain State University, Shepherd University, West Virginia University, West Virginia Wesleyan College and the University of Charleston.

According to a statement prepared by the group, the mission of WVAGS is to ensure that graduate education in the State of West Virginia will produce leaders in the private sector, government, and education; will contribute directly, through research and creative activity, to the economic growth and reputation of the state; will attract to West Virginia state-of-the-art facilities and programs in research and development, transportation, health care and the private sector; will provide the licensure, certificate, and degree programs necessary to sustain high standards in K-12, community college, and higher education; will provide high quality opportunities for West Virginia students to earn a terminal degree in their field of choice; and will promote the means by which graduate and professional education can improve the future of West Virginia.
Richard Dreyfuss to meet with Shepherd University officials this week

11:27 PM EDT, May 2, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Oscar-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss will be at Shepherd University this week to meet with university and Contemporary American Theater Festival officials, Ed Herendeen, festival founder and producing director, said Monday.

University officials declined to say what they and the actor will be discussing.

Herendeen said only that “things are in the works.”

Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley said university officials agreed with Dreyfuss’ request that there be no press coverage during his visit.

“I’m not able to talk about it,” Shipley said.

Diane Melby, vice president for advancement at Shepherd, who is expected to meet with Dreyfuss, could not be reached for comment.

Dreyfuss is expected to return to Shepherdstown for the theater festival in July.
CHARLESTON, W.Va. - As tuition rates at public colleges and universities across the state are set to jump, the Promise scholarship will remain flat at a maximum $4,750 per year.

Meanwhile, maximum awards under the state's grant program for needy students will rise a bit but still won't reach the level of the 2009-10 academic year.

The Higher Education Policy Commission examined and passed a distribution plan for the state Higher Education Grant Program at a meeting Friday. The Promise scholarship program also was voted on and maintained in its current state.

Both programs serve as student sources of higher education funding and will matter even more as tuition rises at public colleges and universities across the state this fall. The tuition hikes also were approved by the board on Friday.

The West Virginia University and Marshall University boards decide on tuition rates at their respective institutions. That will change next year, when that authority will revert to the policy commission.

Marshall decided on a 6.9 percent increase for in-state students Thursday. A 4.9 percent tuition increase at WVU will be considered at its Board of Governors' meeting in June.

The policy commission approved tuition increases for nearly every other public college or university on Friday.

Those hikes included: Concord University and Glenville State College, 9.5 percent; Fairmont State University, 3 percent; Bluefield State College, 6.8 percent; Shepherd University, 6.1 percent; West Virginia State University, 8 percent; and West Liberty University, 7.9 percent.

Kathy Eddy was the lone board member to vote against the tuition increases. This was not the first time she had voiced opposition to such increases.

"We always say yes. So one more time, I urge us to please give some thought to parents and students. I know these institutions need our help, but so do the residents of West Virginia," she said before the vote.

Although the commission approved the increases, it is attempting to reach out to as many students as possible by stretching the state Higher Education Grant Program.

For 2012, funding for the program will be $42.8 million.

During the past year, the program served 20,929 students, and the maximum award was $2,100, with an average award of about $1,800. A total of 5,932 more students received grants than in 2009-2010 school year, when 14,997 students were approved.

But the grants awarded that year were higher, with the maximum award capped at $3,300 and the average award at $2,673.

Federal funding fell short this year because of the elimination of the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership
program. That brought an additional $559,000 to the table last year. It was cut because of efforts to trim the federal budget.

However, legislators approved an additional $4 million in this year's general session.

"The Legislature made an unbelievable investment of $4 million this year, and that has enabled us to increase the maximum award by $400," said Angela Bell, a research and planning analyst for the commission who spoke to the board Friday.

Bell expects about 90 percent of the grants awarded this year to go to students who are eligible for federal Pell Grants.

But those who qualify still will have the Promise scholarship to lean on.

The commission approved eligibility requirements, the annual award amount and the summer awards program Friday as well.

The summer awards portion of the scholarship is in only its second year and requires students to take at least 12 hours of credit in the summer. Last year, the commission set aside $400,000 for the summer program and spent only about $122,000 of that, Bell said.

Bell said the same amount will be set aside this year because the commission is anticipating heightened interest as more students become aware of it.

She also said students participating in the summer program are using a whole semester's worth of scholarship that previously could be used only during fall or spring semesters. And the Promise program offers no more than eight semesters of funding.

"So it's not like they are getting extra money," she said.

Eligibility requirements for the Promise will remain intact, meaning high school seniors must have a 3.00 overall grade point average. They also must attain a ACT composite score of 22 and scores of at least 20 in each of the four subject areas. Students may also take the SAT and qualify with a 1020 combined score.

Bell said this year's funding of $47.5 million is only slightly less than last year's $48 million. The amount is down slightly because officials project fewer students to receive funding in the coming year.

Eligible students will still receive up to $4,750 for tuition and fees, Bell said.

Contact writer Amber Marra at amber.ma...@dailymail.com or 304-348-4843.
Shepherd University’s Relay for Life rolls out red carpet

Shepherd University’s 9th annual Relay for Life took place April 15-16, under blue skies, after three consecutive years of rain. Shepherd’s Midway was filled with campgrounds, fundraisers, and fun and laughter as community members, faculty, staff, and students joined together to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones, and to raise money to find a cure for cancer.

This year, 834 participants and 58 teams joined forces, raising $71,492 to date toward the $80,000 goal.

Holly Frye, director of student community services and service learning, said that this year’s Relay was a record year for participants.

“I'm very proud of what the students were able to do,” Frye said. “We accomplished all of our goals, which were to first, honor survivors; second, advocate and bring awareness; and third, raise money.”

Don Zumbach, junior business management major from Brunswick, Maryland, participated in Relay for Life for the first time this year.

“It’s a great event; it really gets the campus together for a good cause. I relay for my roommate who had a close call with cancer,” Zumbach said.

Now in its ninth year at Shepherd, Relay for Life is a community-wide event. Organizers made advocacy and awareness a priority this year, painting the town purple with ribbons, fundraising with Relay for Life cupcakes, and rolling out the red carpet for survivors with this year’s Lights, Camer, Take Action theme.

Participants and supporters gathered on German Street in Shepherdstown to watch as survivors from both the community and campus walked from each end of the street, meeting in front of the Shepherdstown Library to light the torch that was carried through campus.

Krystyna Lee Smith, 7, once again carried the torch with her grandmother Teri Flora, a staff member at Shepherd University.

“Krystyna has been fighting cancer since her birth and was given the news at a doctor’s appointment the week of Relay that she is no longer a cancer patient, but is now a cancer survivor,” said Frye. “For seven of the nine years Relay has been held at Shepherd University, our students have held Krystyna close to their hearts as she truly exemplifies the face of a fighter. Her attitude is uplifting and a source of courage and encouragement to us all.”

Top fundraisers this year included the Hope Riders, who raised $11,037; Shepherd University Nursing students, who raised $5,696; and Hope for a Cure, Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish, which raised $5,201.

Frye said that money will continue to be raised through August, with plans to meet the $80,000 goal. For more information, visit Shepherd’s Relay for Life site at http://www.shepherd.edu/relayforlife/
In a few days (Saturday, May 14) the voters of West Virginia will choose nominees for governor in a special primary election. This will be followed by a special general election on Oct. 4. The person winning that election will become governor on Nov. 15.

All this is the result of a series of events triggered by the death this past summer of United States Sen. Robert C. Byrd. A special election to replace him resulted in the election of then-Gov. Joe Manchin to the U.S. Senate to replace Byrd.

Our state constitution says that upon the vacancy of the office of governor the president of the state senate "shall act as governor until an election is called to fill the vacancy." The constitution does not say when that election is to be held or who is to call it.

A statute subsequently enacted by the legislature clarifies who shall call the election (the acting governor). But that law is not clear as to when the election is to be held.

Last February the State Supreme Court ruled that the special election must be held in time for a new governor to be sworn in by Nov. 15. That's one year to the date that State Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin was sworn in as acting governor.

Acting Gov. Tomblin had taken the position (and I agree with him) that the state constitution and statute could be interpreted to allow him to remain acting governor until the general election of 2012. Under that scenario the special election could be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled election for a full term as governor on that date.

The high court rejected that argument. Had the justices Ok'd it, we would have been spared the expense of $14 million we're now forced to pay for the two special elections (primary and general).

I have a friend who tells me that every time someone from out of state asks him what the heck is going on he says the following. "Look at it this way. We're going to have an election for governor every six months for the next two years!"

Hey, I believe in democracy as much as anybody. But I think this is preposterous. By November 2012 we're going to look like France and Italy in the years right after World War II. They changed prime ministers every few months.

I'm convinced the State Supreme Court could have ruled differently. But it did not, so we're stuck with this $14 million expense.

For the future I think we need an elected lieutenant governor, as most other states have. This would require a change to the state constitution, which takes a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature and a majority vote of the people at a referendum to be put into effect. The idea has been proposed in the past but has been rejected because of the additional expense.

Some of the same people who oppose the expense of a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year to have a lieutenant governor think it's OK to spend $14 million on special elections every time a governor dies, goes to the U.S. Senate or is named ambassador to some warm-weather country. Go figure.

A few months ago I proposed an idea which would eliminate the expense problem. The constitution would specify clearly that the lieutenant governor would receive no money (salary or expenses) for the position. It would further say that upon election the newly elected governor shall appoint the newly elected lieutenant governor to any cabinet-level position. The lieutenant governor would draw the salary of that office.

The constitution would further specify that the governor and lieutenant governor would have been elected as a "team," just like the president and vice president of the United States. The result would be a lieutenant governor who generally shares the political philosophy of the governor on the job full-time running a department and sitting in on cabinet meetings. He or she would be instantly ready to take over the reins of government should the governor's office become vacant for any reason. Acting Gov. Tomblin has endorsed this idea.

If we don't do this we should at least change the constitution to provide that upon a vacancy in the office of governor the president of the senate would "become" (not "act as") governor. This would at least eliminate the necessity of special elections in the future.

That would not solve the problem of having a temporary governor who was not elected by a majority of the people, nor would it guarantee that the temporary governor would generally pursue the policies of the governor elected in the last regularly scheduled election. The idea of a lieutenant governor was a "running mate" with the governor being appointed by that governor to a cabinet-level position and drawing the salary only of that cabinet-level position solves all three problems (continuity, expenses and election by the people).

I think we must wait until 2014 to resolve this question. Why? Time in next week.
Segar named new VP of student affairs

Thomas C. Segar, of Hagerstown, Md., has been named vice president for student affairs at Shepherd University, effective Aug. 1. As vice president, Segar will report to Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley and serve on her executive staff. As vice president for student affairs, Segar will provide the leadership and vision for the Division of Student Affairs which includes the administration, operation, budget and management of residence life, student Center/dining services, student activities, commuter affairs, Greek affairs, conference services, health center, counseling center, multicultural student affairs, student community service, veterans affairs and international students.

Currently, Segar is the assistant vice president for student affairs and director of residence life at Shepherd. Previously, he has held positions as a college administrator at Shepherd and at other institutions in the areas of residence life, multicultural affairs, and disability services. A past doctoral fellow and research assistant in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland, Segar has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in intergroup dialogue and multicultural practice in student affairs at the University of Maryland and is a former adjunct faculty member in the Department of Counseling and Student Personnel at Shippensburg University. He has served as a co-principal investigator for a research study on service learning and is a past project manager for a national study on student leadership. Segar has published more than a dozen articles and delivered more than 30 refereed national and regional conference presentations.

As an independent consultant to colleges, public school systems and other educational organizations for 10 years, Segar speaks and writes about leadership, diversity and social justice and has created and evaluated educational programs for colleges and universities. He has delivered more than a dozen keynote addresses and 150 invited talks and presentations at more than 50 institutions and organizations throughout the United States.

Segar is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland. His dissertation explores the relationship between socio-cultural discussions and social change behaviors among college students. He earned his master of science degree in counseling with a specialization in college student personnel from Shippensburg University and his bachelor of science degree in psychology and certificate in African American studies from the University of Maryland.
During May and June, Melissa Rogers, a graduate of Shepherd University, will travel around West Virginia collecting stories. The goal of her latest project, the West Virginia Storytelling Project, is to create a series of informal documentary episodes about storytellers and animated shorts of traditional stories from the region, all tied together as part of a large interactive website. The central focus of the project will be the 2011 West Virginia Vandalia Gathering where Rogers will talk to past winners and competitors—including Hill Lepp and Adam Loth—judges and co-host/emcee Ken Sullivan.

Rogers is using Kickstarter.com, a crowd-source funding website developed to help independent filmmakers and media artists obtain funds to see their projects through to fund the West Virginia Storytelling Project. In line with Kickstarter.com guidelines, artists have a set number of days to raise all the funds or the project receives nothing. Rogers' project has a 38-day fundraising window, from start to finish. If the allotted budget ($3,500) isn't raised before May 12, all pledges are canceled and the project is not funded. Her campaign, which has been up since April 12, has already raised over $2,000 in support.

Learn more about this project at http://kck.st/eBd6n or http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/weststorytelling/the-west-

Virginia-storytelling-project.

Rogers graduated from Shepherd University with a BFA in Photography/Computer Digital Imagery in 1999. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Media Arts from Emerson College in Boston. Mass. She works as a freelance photographer, videographer and web-designer.
Kim receives $28K grant

Seung-yun Kim, assistant professor of computer information sciences, has received a $28,000, one-year grant award from the West Virginia INBRE Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program. This is the second year that Kim has received an INBRE award for his research on Petri nets. This year's proposal is titled "Petri Nets-based Modeling of Human Systems: Towards Drug Trial Modeling & Simulation."

Kim published three peer-reviewed technical papers at the International Conference on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in New Orleans. These papers include: "Krebs Cycle, Cytoxicity Petri Net Models and Simulations for Biochemical Education." Melissa Pegues, senior chemistry major from Charleston, and Nicholas Droudis, senior computer engineering major from Martinsburg, worked with Kim on this research with collaborating faculty member Robert Warburton, Shepherd professor of biochemistry.

The grant award will allow two students, who have yet to be named, to work with Kim this summer. The project will begin May 1 and run through April 30, 2012. Research from this project will be presented this summer at the WV INBRE Summer Symposium at Marshall University in July; work on the project will continue through the academic year 2011-2012.
Teacher honored as ‘A Caring Educator’

BY MEGAN FISHER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

MARTINSBURG – Julie Sullivan, a seventh-grade math teacher at South Middle School, was honored as Berkeley County’s 2011 “A Caring Educator” Monday night at the Board of Education meeting. Sullivan has devoted himself to West Virginia education since he was 7 years old while attending Jefferson County Schools. She graduated from Shepherd University and received recognition. See ACE B6

from the school of education as the Outstanding Elementary Education Student and a Joseph McMurrin Scholar. This spring will soon complete Sullivan’s fourth year of teaching at South Middle.

“(Sullivan) has definitely made her professional mark on working with the middle school program,” said Ernie Dotson, county middle school instructional specialist. Sullivan has participated in many aspects of the school including workshops, the Professional Learning Community, the Math Textbook Adoption Committee, instructional practices inventory and as a cooperating teacher for student teachers of Shepherd University.

She also provides math tutoring and computer lab after school.

“In one of my recent visits to Mrs. Sullivan’s classroom, I saw a great lesson of utilizing graphs through the use of the Mimio whiteboard.” Dotson said. “It was evident through her classroom management skills, her use of inquiry-based strategies and the rapport she has with students, she certainly exemplifies the outstanding teacher.” Board President Dr. William “Bill” Queen presented Sullivan with a plaque for the award.
Lehrer set
to speak at
Shepherd

‘NewsHour’ host to give
commencement address

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Jim Lehrer, executive editor
and anchor of the "PBS News-
Hour," will deliver the com-
mencement address at Shep-
herd University’s 138th grad-
ation ceremony on May 14.
Lehrer also will be awarded an
honorary doctorate.

Also honored during Shep-
herd’s commencement will be
Tia and Robert A. "Bob"
McMillan, who will be pre-
sented the President’s Award
for their exemplary service to
Shepherd University and the
community.

After receiving an associ-
ate degree from Victoria
College and a bachelor’s
degree in journalism in
1956 from the University of
Missouri, Lehrer joined the
Marine Corps. From 1959 to
1966, he was a reporter for
The Dallas Morning
News and then the Dallas
Times-Herald. Lehrer’s
newspaper career led him to
public television, first in
Dallas and then in Washing-
ton, D.C., where he served
as the public affairs coordi-
nator for PBS.

In October 1975, the
half-hour “Robert MacNeil
Report” with Jim Lehrer as
the Washington corre-
spondent, premiered. Over the
next seven years, “The
MacNeil/Lehrer Report” (as it
was renamed in 1976) won
more than 20 awards for
journalistic excellence. In
September 1983, Lehrer and
MacNeil launched “The
MacNeil/Lehrer News-
Hour.” The 1985-86 sea-
son marked the 20th year of
their journalistic partner-
ship, as well as MacNeil’s
departure and Lehrer’s as-
sertion as the program’s
anchor.

Shepherdstown — The
NewsHour with Jim Lehrer”
In 2009, the pro-
gram title changed to "PBS
Newshour" to reflect the
program’s expanded role as
the hub of news and public
affairs programming on PBS
both online and on air.

Lehrer has been honored
with numerous awards in
journalism, including the
1999 National Humanities
Medal, presented by Presi-
dent Bill Clinton and first
lady Hillary Rodham Clin-
ton. Also in 1999, Lehrer
was inducted into the Tele-
vision Hall of Fame with
Robert MacNeil and into
The Silver Circle of the
Washington, D.C., Chapter
of the National Academy
of Television Arts and
Sciences. He has won two
Emmys, the Fred Friendly
First Amendment Award,
the George Foster Peabody
Broadcast Award, the Wil-
liam Allen White Foun-
dation Award for Jour-
na-ists of Merit, and the Uni-
versity of Missouri School of
Journalism’s Medal of
Honor. In 1991, he was
excered as a fellow of the
American Academy of Arts
and Sciences.

Lehrer has served as the
moderator of 11 nationally
selected presidential debates during the last six
presidential elections. He is the author of 20 novels, two
memoirs, and three plays.

Charleston natives Tia
and Bob McMillan now
make their home in the
Eastern Panhandle where
they own and operate Jeff-
erson Distributing Co., a
beverage distribution busi-
ness in Martinsburg.

Bob McMillan is the
chair of Shepherd Univer-
sity’s Create the Future Cam-
paign, a comprehensive
campaign which will suc-
cessfully raise funds for
the advancement of the
University.

In 2001, Bob Mc-
Millan was a
member of the Eastern West Vir-
ginia Airport Authority
(1989-1996) and the State
University System of West
Virginia Board of Trustees
(1989-1996). He earned a
bachelor’s degree in eco-
nomics from the University
of North Carolina-Chapel
Hill in 1965 and an mas-
ter’s degree in finance and
marketing from Emory
University in 1971.

Tia McMillan was in-
the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant
from 1965-69.

Tia McMillan was a
member of the Eastern West Virginia Com-
munity Foundation and an
18-year member of the West
Virginia Humanities Council.

Tia McMillan was named a
Women of Distinction in
2006 by the regional council
of Girl Scouts and was named
Berkeley County Citizen of
the Year in 2007 by the Mau-
tenberg/Berkeley County
Chamber of Commerce. She
received a bachelor’s degree
in modern European history
from Sweet Briar College in
1966.

In addition to their finan-
cial support of the Create
the Future Campaign, the
McMillans have estab-
lished the McMillan Fami-
ly Scholarship with the
Shepherd University Foun-
dation, which is awarded
annually to a theater stu-
dent. They are members of
Shepherd’s Friends of
Music and the Shepherd
University Foundation’s
Scarborough Society, a
friends of the library
association.
Shepherd University students took 3rd place in the Trinity College International Fire Fighting Home Robot Contest and RoboWaiter Competition in Hartford, Conn., April 9 and 10 and were the only U.S. team to place in the senior division of the fire fighting category.

Students placing 3rd included Matt Alt, junior computer engineering major from Baker; Michael Skaggs, sophomore computer engineering major from Arnoldsburg; and Matt Tark, sophomore computer engineering major from Hagerstown, Md. Shepherd students represented four of the 40 teams that participated in the competition from schools including Penn State, Johns Hopkins University and Polytechnic Institute of New York University. Alt; April Tessler, sophomore mathematics major from Thurmont, Md.; and Matt Griffith, junior computer engineering major from Boonsboro, Md., took 3rd place in the written exam category, the Olympiad Exam, which is a 50-minute exam that includes math, science, engineering and programming in the senior division. This is the third time Shepherd’s Robotics Team has competed in an international competition.

Seung-yun Kim, assistant professor of computer information sciences said that the competition provides students with a good experience to look at other teams and how they design and build robots.
Shepherd University names Segar as vice president of student affairs

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Thomas C. Segar, of Hagerstown, has been named vice president for student affairs at Shepherd University, effective Aug. 1.

As vice president, Segar will report to Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley and serve on her executive staff. He will provide the leadership and vision for the Division of Student Affairs, which includes the administration, operation, budget and management of residence life, the Student Center, dining services, student activities, commuter affairs, Greek affairs, conference services, health center, counseling center, multicultural student affairs, student community service, veterans affairs and international students.

"Tom is a skilled communicator, leader and listener who views our students as our most important constituency," Shipley said. "His familiarity with Shepherd's students and programs, as well as his mastery of the academic field of student development, will serve him well as he leads Shepherd's Division of Student Affairs."

Currently, Segar is the assistant vice president for student affairs and director of residence life at Shepherd. He has held positions as a college administrator at Shepherd and at other institutions in the areas of residence life, multicultural affairs and disability services.

A past doctoral fellow and research assistant in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland, Segar has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in intergroup dialogue and multicultural practice in student affairs at the University of Maryland, and is a former adjunct faculty member in the Department of Counseling and Student Personnel at Shippensburg (Pa.) University. He has served as a co-principal investigator for a research study on service learning and is a past project manager for a national study on student leadership.

Segar has published more than a dozen articles and delivered more than 30 national and regional conference presentations.

An independent consultant to colleges, public school systems and other educational organizations for 10 years, Segar speaks and writes about leadership, diversity and social justice, and has created and evaluated educational programs for colleges and universities. He has delivered more than a dozen keynote addresses, and 150 invited talks and presentations at more than 50 institutions and organizations throughout the United States.

Segar is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland. His dissertation explores the relationship between sociocultural discussions and social change behaviors among college students.

He earned his master of science degree in counseling with a specialization in college student personnel from Shippensburg University, and his bachelor of science degree in psychology and certificate in African-American studies from the University of Maryland.
Lehrer to speak at Shepherd University's commencement

3:37 PM EDT, May 8, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Jim Lehrer, executive editor and anchor of the PBS NewsHour, will deliver the commencement address at Shepherd University’s 138th graduation ceremony on Saturday. Lehrer also will be awarded an honorary doctorate.

As of Wednesday, 678 students have applied for graduation, according to Valerie Owens, executive director of university communications at Shepherd.

Also to be honored during Shepherd’s commencement will be Tia and Robert A. (Bob) McMillan, who will be presented the President’s Award for their service to Shepherd and the community.

After receiving an associate degree from Victoria College and a bachelor’s degree in 1956 from the University of Missouri, Lehrer joined the Marine Corps. From 1959 to 1966, he was a reporter for The Dallas Morning News and then the Dallas Times-Herald. Lehrer’s newspaper career led him to public television, first in Dallas and then in Washington, D.C., where he served as the public affairs coordinator for PBS.

In October 1975, the half-hour “Robert MacNeil Report,” with Jim Lehrer as the Washington correspondent, premiered. Over the next seven years, “The MacNeil/Lehrer Report” (as it was renamed in 1976) won more than 30 awards for journalistic excellence. In September 1983, Lehrer and MacNeil launched “The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour.” The 1995-96 season marked the 20th year of their journalistic partnership, as well as MacNeil’s departure and Lehrer’s stewardship of the program as “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.” In 2009, the program title changed to “PBS NewsHour” to reflect the program’s expanded role on PBS, online and on air.

Lehrer has been honored with numerous awards for journalism, including the 1999 National Humanities Medal, presented by President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Lehrer has served as the moderator of 11 nationally televised presidential debates during the last six presidential elections. He is the author of 20 novels, two memoirs and three plays.

Charleston, W.Va., natives Tia and Bob McMillan now make their home in the Eastern Panhandle, where they own and operate Jefferson Distributing Co., a beverage-distribution business in Martinsburg, W.Va.
Bob McMillan is the chairman of Shepherd University's Create the Future Campaign, a comprehensive campaign that will end June 30 when it exceeds its $20 million fundraising goal under his leadership. McMillan's long service to the university includes membership on the Board of Advisors (2000) and the Board of Governors (2001-09), where he served as board chairman from 2007-09.

Tia McMillan was a founding member of the Contemporary American Theater Festival, serving on its board of trustees from 1991 to 1997. She is now an honorary CATF board member. She is the treasurer of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation and an 18-year member of the West Virginia Humanities Council. She was named a Woman of Distinction in 2006 by the regional council of Girl Scouts and was named Berkeley County Citizen of the Year in 2007 by the Martinsburg/Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to their financial support of the Create the Future Campaign, the McMillans have established the McMillan Family Scholarship with the Shepherd University Foundation, which is awarded annually to a theater student. They are members of Shepherd's Friends of Music and the Shepherd University Foundation's Scarborough Society, a friends-of-the-library association.
Shepherd University student Nathan Arch of Hagerstown performed Sunday afternoon during the Shepherd Honors Recital at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. (By Joe Connell/Staff Photographer)

By DAVE MCMILLION
davm@herald-mail.com
8:46 p.m. EDT, May 8, 2011

HAGERSTOWN— Nathan Arch remembers when his interest in piano started while he was living in the Cayman Islands.

It was in second grade and Arch’s teacher asked if anyone in the class was interested in taking piano lessons.

“I said ‘Why not?’ It was kind of on a whim,” the South Hagerstown High School graduate recalled.

Arch’s relationship with the piano grew and on Sunday, he was among about a dozen top Shepherd University music students performing at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts.

The 19-year-old sat down in front of a piano in the museum, bowing through a number by composer Sergei Rachmaninoff.

It was the eighth year that Shepherd University has showcased the talents of student musicians at the museum.
The event was held at Shepherd University the first few years, then university and museum officials talked about moving it to the art gallery, said Scott Beard, who introduced the student players Sunday and performed with some of them on piano.

Beard said it was a great move, especially because it provides a special environment for the students.

"I'm all about bringing all the arts together. It's such a beautiful place to play," Beard said after the Sunday afternoon performances.

Sponsored by Spence and Cindy Perry, the event featured students singing and playing instruments, including guitar, piano, trumpet, trombone, saxophone and drums.

Although originally from the Cayman Islands, Arch moved to Maryland in 2005 and graduated from South Hagerstown High School last year.

Arch, who was in the marching band and wind ensemble at South High, said he is pursuing a bachelor of arts degree at Shepherd with an emphasis on performance. He said he wants to play piano as an accompanist like Beard.

With accompaniment from Beard, baritone singer Adam Taylor performed two numbers by Roger Quilter and Robert Schumann.

The Keedysville resident, a 2007 graduate of Boonsboro High School, said his singing career started when the organist did not show up for midnight Mass on Christmas at St. James Catholic Church in Boonsboro in about 1998.

Taylor, who was about 8 years old at the time, joined a group of other singers that night at the church.

'It was either do it or we weren't going to have music for Christmas. It stuck with me ever since. I love every minute of it,' Taylor said.

Taylor said he is director of music and liturgy at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hagerstown and hopes to continue in that role.
Shepherd names new vice president

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Thomas C. Segar, of Hagerstown, Md., has been named vice president for student affairs at Shepherd University, effective Aug. 1.

As vice president, Segar will report to Shepherd University President Dr. Suzanne Shipley and serve on her executive staff. As vice president for student affairs, Segar will provide the leadership and vision for the Division of Student Affairs, which includes the administration, operation, budget and management of residence life, Student Center, dining services, student activities, commuter affairs, Greek affairs, conference services, health center, counseling center, multicultural student affairs, student community service, veterans affairs and international students.

"Tom is a skilled communicator, leader and listener who views our students as our most important constituency," Shipley said. "His familiarity with Shepherd's students and programs as well as his mastery of the academic field of student development will serve him well as he leads Shepherd's Division of Student Affairs."

Currently, Segar is the assistant vice president for student affairs and director of residence life at Shepherd. He has held positions as a college administrator at Shepherd and at other institutions in the areas of residence life, multicultural affairs and disability services.

A past doctoral fellow and research assistant in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland, Segar has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in intergroup dialogue and multicultural practice in student affairs at the University of Maryland and is a former adjunct faculty member in the Department of Counseling and Student Personnel at Shippensburg University. He has served as a co-principal investigator for a research study on service learning and is a past project manager for a national study on student leadership. Segar has published more than a dozen articles and delivered more than 30 refereed national and regional conference presentations.

An independent consultant to colleges, public school systems and other educational organizations for 10 years, Segar speaks and writes about leadership, diversity and social justice, and has created and evaluated educational programs for colleges and universities. He has delivered more than a dozen keynote addresses and 150 invited talks and presentations at more than 50 institutions and organizations throughout the United States. Segar is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland. His dissertation explores the relationship between socio-cultural discussions and social change behaviors among college students. He earned his Master of Science degree in counseling with a specialization in college student personnel from Shippensburg University, and his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and certificate in African-American studies from the University of Maryland.

— From staff reports
Actor speaks about civics education at Shepherd University

BRYAN CLARK | Spirit Staff

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Academy Award winner and activist Richard Dreyfuss spoke to professors and administrators at Shepherd University on Wednesday, May 5. The subject of the discussion was the need to increase civics education.

In civics courses, students learn about the American system of governance, American history, civil rights, and other topics vital for participation in a democracy. According to Dreyfuss, such courses are currently grossly insufficient—a sentiment seconded by many in attendance.

“Public education was meant to raise up good citizenship, and now it does no such thing... We don’t know how different our form of government is to all the forms that preceded it. We don’t know how to prepare for the twenty-first century,” he said.

“We are in fact acting out the exact opposite of what we were meant to do,”

“We are the only nation in history bound only by ideas, yet those ideas are not taught,” he said.

Dreyfuss elaborated what he sees as the vital message of American Democracy: “If you have rigor and a work ethic and brains and luck and can take what life throws at you, you might rise by your own merit in your own lifetime. And that was the most important political message in the history of civilization, and it was heard in every corner of the world... and now we do not teach that message.”

“It is now impossible to think that certain people and certain institutions would be held responsi...
Shepherd to host 'Rosies'

By Megan Fisher
Journal Staff Writer

Shepherdstown — When America’s men left everything to fight in World War II, its women stepped up on the home front and worked every “man’s job” from construction to factory work. They became “Rosie the Riveters.”

In 1942, Dorothy May, of Shepherdstown, was 20 years old and six months pregnant when her husband landed on the beach at Normandy on D-Day. While he fought and survived, May joined thousands of other women to serve the nation’s great need for workers.

“I worked for 200 hours to learn woodworking, and then they set me to work on sheet metal,” she laughed. “But it was hard work, and it was hard standing for eight hours.”

In addition to working at Fairchild Aircraft in Hagerstown, Md., to help build cargo airplanes, May also shoveled and hauled lime for her father’s business.

Sheep is the Riveter.

Rosie: From Page B1

“It was just something we did. I thank God for the job,” she said. “We were glad to do something, and we just did it.”

Now, May, 89, has raised seven children and enjoys sharing stories with other Rosies through an organization called Thanks! Plain and Simple.

In the organization, veterans are shown how to apply their skills to complete projects that benefit their home regions, and stories from West Virginia Rosies are collected.

Executive director and founder Anne Montague said 152 Rosies have been accounted for so far.

Thanks! Plain and Simple also hosted Belgian military contacts in Shepherdstown to personally thank the Rosies in 2009. They were the first allied nation to do so.

“Shepherd University is just a wonderful collaborator,” Montague said. “This campus has been almost as oasis – a water in the desert. This collaboration and funding is what we need to make our organization a model in the country.”

Rosies will return to Shepherdstown to kick off a national Rosie the Riveter movement with a film called “We Pull Together: Rosie the Riveters Then and Now,” directed by B.J. Goodnough.

The film was produced through a West Virginia Humanities Council Grant and involves stories from 30 Rosies.

“IF YOU GO

What: Film premiere of ‘We Pull Together: Rosie the Riveters Then and Now’
When: 8:30 p.m. June 10
Where: Erma Byrd Center at Shepherd University
Cost: Free

As we premiere the film, we will also be saying to America, we have what we think is a model for the country’s communities to learn from their living Rosies. We hope people will want to learn more while these women are still living.”

At the event, U.S. officials and possibly officials from other embassies are expected to attend, Montague added.

The free film will premiere at 6:30 p.m. June 10 at the Erma Byrd Center at Shepherd University.

More information is available at www.thanksplainandsimple.org.
SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

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Segar earned his master's degree in counseling with a specialization in college student personnel from Shippensburg University and his bachelor's degree in psychology and certificate in African American studies from the University of Maryland.
The West Virginia Experience
Creating a sustainable public agenda for higher education

By Brian Noland

THE DIVERSE INSTITUTIONS that comprise the American system of higher education are currently operating in an extremely volatile policy environment marked by shrinking state support for operations, rising tuition costs, fluctuating commitments to financial aid, and constant institutional efforts to garner essential resources while concurrently reducing operating costs. While these pressures are unrelenting, the demands on higher education to serve the multiple missions of teaching, research and service have amplified as states increasingly turn to universities to serve as drivers of innovation and economic development. These pressures are inflated by the growing state and federal focus on productivity, college completion, and heightened calls for accountability.

As institutions struggle to adapt and respond to these uncertainties, policy leaders have urged states to establish a public agenda for higher education that is focused on developing clear and consistent policy mechanisms whereby institutions work strategically to meet statewide, rather than institutional, goals. At the core of this call to action is the need for institutions to work in a coordinated manner to meet the nation’s growing demands for higher education. Concerns over this need have been amplified by the declining position of the United States as a world leader in human capital production. Consequently, critics argue that higher education must re-evaluate and modify its mission so that it meets the educational, economic and workforce demands of the nation. Unless institutions are accountable to these changing demands, many fear that they will lose legitimacy and relevance in the face of an evolving educational marketplace in which the for-profit sector is actively creating and expanding market opportunities.

While there is an understanding and appreciation of the need for states to forge a public agenda for postsecondary education, there has been scant attention paid to how states actually develop, implement and sustain an environment that engages institutions in finding solutions to these broad public policy challenges. The remainder of this essay will focus on actions taken by policymakers in West Virginia to establish a public agenda. While the policy experience is unique to the state, it contains a variety of elements common across state systems of higher education.

Creating a Public Agenda—The West Virginia Experience

In 2006 the state’s coordinating body, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, began a strategic planning process that resulted in the creation of “Charting the Future: A Master Plan for West Virginia Higher Education.” Built upon civic, corporate and community
partnerships, "Charting the Future" outlined the state's public agenda for higher education and focused on addressing critical policy challenges facing West Virginia, such as: leaks in the education pipeline, the loss of knowledge workers, blurring institutional missions, increased student debt, and changing job market demands. Concurrently, the state synchronized master planning with the creation of an incentive-based funding formula and the development of new accountability metrics for postsecondary education. Together, these provided the basis for West Virginia's public agenda and served to frame the conversation about the role of institutions across the system in addressing statewide goals.

The public agenda in West Virginia is predicated on the recognition that the democratic and economic viability of the state rests on educating more underrepresented (e.g., first-generation, low-income, rural) students. West Virginia is among those states with the lowest levels of postsecondary educational attainment and the highest number of underrepresented students. U.S. Census data demonstrate that West Virginia has the lowest percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree in the country, ranks 48th with respect to the percentage of people ages 25–34 with an associate's degree or higher, and has the sixth highest percentage of citizens living below the poverty line. A recent study by labor economist Anthony Carnevale estimates that the state will need to produce at least 20,000 more residents with postsecondary credentials by 2018. To reach the more aggressive goal set by Lumina Foundation for Education, 60 percent degree attainment across the United States, West Virginia would need to increase the number of adults with postsecondary credentials by approximately 400,000.

Consequently, one of the initial steps undertaken to ensure that higher education is accessible to all West Virginians was to develop partnerships with legislative and executive leaders to reframe and restructure the state's complement of financial aid programs. West Virginia has historically demonstrated a strong commitment to financial aid; the state ranked fifth nationally according to a recent NASGAAP survey of grant aid per full-time equivalent student. While the state has a rich complement of need- and merit-based aid programs, it faced mounting cost and demand pressures at the onset of the master planning process that placed the sustainability of the largest aid programs in jeopardy. Given the integral role of financial aid as a support structure for the public agenda, higher education leaders worked vigorously with elected officials to restructure these programs and protect and promote the goals of student access and affordability. Faced with escalating cost pressures in the merit-based financial aid program—the PROMISE scholarship—higher education led a series of reform efforts that restructured the program, yielding both additional funding and programmatic stability, thereby negating the annual need to raise academic eligibility standards to maintain budget solvency.

By forging a partnership with legislative leadership, higher education was able to build support for the programmatic goals of PROMISE, as well as the need for increased funding to support the public agenda. As a result, over the course of five consecutive legislative sessions significant annual improvements have been made to the state's financial aid programs, with more than $20 million in new revenues appropriated to support student access and affordability. Furthermore, during the 2011 legislative session, additional need-based aid funding was provided to offset potential declines in the federal Pell grant program.

Once these structural changes were made to the aid programs, the next step in the
implementation of the access goals of the public agenda was the simplification of the college application process. In order to ensure that students and families were aware of financial aid opportunities, the state launched and intensively marketed a one-stop web-portal that provided information on planning, applying and paying for college. Modeled after a similar effort in North Carolina, the College Foundation of West Virginia (CFWV) was launched in October 2009. Funded through a seed grant from the legislature, CFWV enables middle school students, high school students and adults to explore college and career options, apply to college, and find financial aid.

In addition to the traditional students who enroll in college after high school, policy attention was also given to the 173,000 adults in the state with some college but no degree. In conjunction with institutional leaders and Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley, chair of the system’s Council of Presidents, the RBA Today initiative was launched. Through direct marketing of the program to adults who had completed 60 or more hours of credit but did not complete their degree, RBA Today (which enhances the state’s existing Regents Bachelor of Arts program) has provided a flexible and accelerated degree alternative that supports the broad public agenda goal of diversifying the state’s workforce.

In addition to the items noted above, the system has been active in its pursuit of federal and external grant opportunities. Rather than piecemeal federal programs such as GEAR UP and the College Access Challenge Grant, the state worked to coordinate activities under a unified planning structure via the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission’s Division of Student Success and P-20 initiatives. In concert with institution staff, the commission has deepened its outreach efforts to underserved communities and strengthened its policy relationships with our P-20 partners.

The second area of emphasis within the state’s public agenda focused on cost and affordability. Like many states, West Virginia has struggled to protect affordability in an era of fluid state support. Over the past two decades, the landscape of funding for higher education has been characterized by rising costs, shrinking public appropriations, and an increased hostility to the tuition increases that inevitably follow. With a systemic budget malaise that often prevented policymakers from looking beyond short-term solutions to long-term problems, policymakers yearned for more effective education and fiscal policy. This tension was ultimately mitigated with the passage of Senate Bill 595 in 2008, which called for higher education to develop and implement the finance and accountability goals inherent within “Charting the Future.” This legislation cemented the partnership between the legislature and higher education, as both entities worked in concert to develop policies that contained incentives linked to the goals of the public agenda such as college completion, degree production, and increasing the enrollment rates of adult students.

As a result of these efforts, higher education was better positioned to provide the legislature with a series of data-driven benchmarks to assess performance, as well as to articulate the need for sustained investments to promote the competitive health of the system. The creation of a unified finance policy clarified the inherent link between state support and student-generated revenues, and demonstrated that, absent state appropriations, fee increases may be needed to protect the core components of the public agenda. Such increases were avoided in the short term as the system was able to successfully negotiate with the governor and legislative leaders a multi-year commitment to hold higher education harmless from budget reductions, in return for concurrently freezing tuition and fees for the 2010-11 academic year.

The third area of emphasis within the state’s public agenda is the focus on student learning and accountability. A key part of our focus in this area has been to deepen the alignment across both the secondary and postsecondary levels of our education system. Such P-20 efforts are
centered upon curricula alignment, early identification of college readiness, early remediation of academic deficiencies while students are enrolled in high school, and enhanced professional development via faculty exchanges. To support these objectives, the commission developed a series of report cards for parents, students, policymakers and the general public that demonstrate the quality and performance of public higher education. These reports address numerous accountability indicators such as academic preparation, participation, affordability, educational outcomes, and staffing. Much of this work formed the foundation of the state’s participation in Complete College America, the SREB college completion initiative, and former Governor Joe Manchin’s Complete to Compete initiative as chair of the National Governors Association. Under Manchin’s leadership, significant focus was placed on college completion, a policy realm that is a particularly large challenge for West Virginia, where the systemwide six-year college completion rate is below 50 percent. In order to bring attention to the issue and develop a clear plan for addressing it moving forward, higher education leaders have developed a systemwide task force that cuts across institutions and brings together business and university leaders, faculty members, K–12 representatives, and students to identify barriers to completion and develop plans for achieving the state’s goals.

The final area of the state’s public agenda, economic growth and innovation, strikes to the core of the changing expectations placed on our nation’s system of postsecondary institutions. As noted in a broad array of articles published by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the success of institutions will be determined by the extent to which they serve as drivers of economic expansion, job creation and human capital development. In order to remain competitive in an increasingly diverse global marketplace, institutions must strive to utilize the creative capacities of their faculty to drive innovation, research and service to our communities.

As part of West Virginia’s efforts to implement the economic imperatives of the public agenda, presidents from across the system worked in concert with members of their respective governing boards to highlight the importance of investing in applied science and research to stimulate economic growth and job creation. Over a four-year period, $60 million in state funding was secured for research via the Eminent Scholars Recruitment and Enhancement initiative and the “Bucks for Brains” Research Trust Fund. Each of the programs requires institutional matches of state funds, thereby doubling the impact of the initial state investments. Targeted toward the state’s two research institutions, Marshall University and West Virginia University, these programs have assisted institutions in their efforts to recruit scholars with demonstrated research competitiveness in specialties that build on their core research strengths.

In addition to these efforts, the commission, in conjunction with the Battelle Memorial Institute, is working to redevelop the West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park, which served as the former international headquarters of the Union Carbide Corporation. The Park serves as the backbone of the state’s growing economic and community development efforts and provides a venue through which the resources of the institutions can be brought to bear in a collaborative manner with regional industries to create new economy businesses in West Virginia.

**Contextual Issues—Impacting Policy Outcomes**

One of the items central to the development of the public agenda in West Virginia was the establishment of a shared commitment among legislative, executive and external constituencies for the goals of the public agenda. As the plan evolved in West Virginia, members of institutional governing boards also became integral partners in the process. Key
legislation was passed in 2009 which required the professional development of board members as a condition of service, provided an impetus for partnerships across institutions, and brought the influential voices of the boards into the policy discourse. Through the annual Board of Governors summit, system leaders in conjunction with the staff of the Association of Governing Boards brought attention to critical elements of the public agenda, such as completion and cost efficiencies, as well as a deeper sense of board responsibilities beyond the confines of the individual institutions. The importance of boards as active partners in this policy journey cannot be overstated.

Despite the challenges facing West Virginia, a higher education policy strategy focused on critical areas of need and cooperation with other agencies has helped improve the outlook for the future of the state. The state has been fortunate to have economic stability in a time of severe national fiscal constraint, but the challenges other states are facing has brought a keen awareness on the part of higher education leaders and state policymakers to be proactive about setting policy and program strategies. In the end, the success of the public agenda in West Virginia can be traced to the fact that the state developed a plan, worked the plan, and strategically aligned policy and legislative initiatives to implement the plan. From small actions such as adjusting the agenda of board meetings to align with the goals of the plan, to linking staff performance reviews so that individual performance connected to planning outcomes, the state has placed an unwavering focus on the goals of the public agenda.

Conclusions

The paradox of American higher education is that while the pressures on academe to serve as both the great social equalizer and a vehicle for economic development have increased, the economic commitment provided to the corpus has decreased. In many states, funding for higher education has declined significantly as a result of the Great Recession, a trend that will only grow more troubling in the years to come. Current economic pressures are forcing institutions to redefine their missions and become more efficient in the delivery of their services. While the demands on higher education are increasing, the economic capacity to handle these demands is decreasing.

The decades of shifting the funding responsibility away from state appropriations and toward students’ resources have not been the result of a well planned or thoughtful policy discourse. Given the critical role that higher education plays as a facilitator of human capital development, policymakers must remain attentive to the diverse needs of all students requesting access to postsecondary education. Unless careful and deliberative attention is given to the establishment of a public agenda for higher education that builds consensus and support for its broad goals, the academy will continue to suffer a loss of support in the American polity.