

## Stay connected with McDowell

McDowell County is an American story that deserves a new chapter—one filled with promise, with goodwill, with the type of shared commitment that offers solid reasons to believe in a brighter future. Be a part of this historic partnership and show your support for McDowell’s children and the greater community by joining the effort at [www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org](http://www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org).

## McDowell County Career and Resource Fair Is Just Around the Corner

The McDowell County Career and Resource Fair will be held April 19 at the Welch Armory from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. High school juniors and seniors will attend the fair to meet with potential employers. Reconnecting McDowell is partnering with Lori Scarberry from A

Work of Heart, a family-based volunteer initiative, to provide a “closet” of professional and casual dress clothing for students. The fair will showcase more than 50 vendors, which include businesses, county and state agencies, and medical facilities. The fair is sponsored

by the McDowell County Adult Education Program and WIOA Partners, in collaboration with Reconnecting McDowell, Workforce West Virginia, WV Adult Education, among other partners. See below for a full list of participating employers and resource providers.

- AETNA
- ArcelorMittal
- Ashland Resort
- Bluefield State College CARES
- Catholic Charities West Virginia
- Coalfield Community Action
- Coalfield Services
- Concord University
- Coordinating Council for Independent Living
- WV Department of Health & Human Resources
- Elite Coal Services
- FCI—McDowell
- GMS Mine Repair and Maintenance
- Job Corps Outreach & Admissions
- McDonald’s
- McDowell County Adult Basic Education
- McDowell County Commission on Aging
- McDowell County Health Department
- McDowell Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- MountainHeart Community Services—Birth to Three
- Pioneer Community Bank
- PTI Inc.
- Region 1 Workforce
- Robert C. Byrd Institute
- Ross IES
- SAFE
- Southern Highlands
- Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
- Stevens Correctional Center
- UMWA Career Center
- UniCare
- US Army National Guard
- Valley College
- Veterans Upward Board—Concord University
- Welch Community Hospital
- WorkForce WV
- WV Department of Transportation
- WVU Tech
- WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities

## Reconnecting McDowell and Our Partners Support Strong Families

Southern West Virginia agencies came together to hold the first Creating Strong Families conference in McDowell County on March 21. Reconnecting McDowell served as a lead sponsor for the one-day event, which was held at the Welch Armory. Lunch was provided and door prizes were given away to participants. The event featured six workshops and 35 vendors that provided resources to enable participants to build strong families. The workshops focused on primary care for women and children, fatherhood, behavioral challenges in

children, providing optimal infant nutrition through breast and bottle feeding, healthy teeth and gums, and budgeting and finances. The conference was convened by Reconnecting McDowell and partner organizations, including Aetna, Head Start, KVC West Virginia, Tug River Health Association, UniCare and others.

**Tug River Health Association’s Tuggie Bear visits the Reconnecting McDowell table at the Creating Strong Families Fair held during the one-day conference.**



# WVSU Visits McDowell County and Awards Scholarships

West Virginia State University's SWARM (State Working Actively Recruiting More) team visited McDowell County on March 15. SWARM is a mobile recruitment initiative that carries groups of faculty, staff, students and other representatives of the university across the state to share about life as a WVSU student. They visited Mount View and River View high schools and talked with students about the different academic programs and athletics available at the university.

WVSU President Anthony L. Jenkins and the SWARM team along with state Delegate Ed Evans(D-McDowell), led assemblies followed by informational fairs at both high schools.

They also surprised three McDowell County students who are incoming WVSU freshmen. The team presented them with presidential scholarships, which are awarded to students with financial need, recognized merit or talent, or acknowledged potential for success. Kimberley Click and Miranda McCoy from River View High School, and Allison Shaw from Mount View High School received the scholarships.

**AT&T has funded Reconnecting McDowell's Broader Horizons mentorship program for the past three years. Pictured on the right are current mentees Knoraa Brown and Anthony Hall at West Virginia State University's informational fair held at Mount View High School.**

**The WVSU SWARM team at River View High School with Reconnecting McDowell's Broader Horizons mentees. Pictured from left, WVSU President Anthony Jenkins, Madison Rutherford, Benny Mullins, Stinger (WVSU's mascot), Vanessa Pruitt, Lauren Owens and Geoffrey Wingo.**



For a list of Reconnecting McDowell partners, visit [www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners](http://www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners)

## SHAMROCK SHUFFLE 5K RACE ENCOURAGES MCDOWELL FAMILIES TO STAY ACTIVE

McDowell County HOPE Coalition's wellness taskforce, known as Living Healthy 4 McDowell, has held three 5K races this year, with more to come. The goals of the races are to increase opportunities for physical activity among people of all ages and fitness levels. They include a race, a walk, and a fun run for kids. The number of participants increased with each event: January's Freezin' 4A Reason race had 15 participants, February's Love Your Heart race hosted 20 people, while March's Shamrock Shuffle had 30 participants. Members of the Reconnecting McDowell staff, who are also members of the HOPE Coalition and Living Healthy 4 McDowell, help plan and participate in the 5K races. The next run is scheduled for May 5. For more information, contact [livinghealthy4mcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:livinghealthy4mcdowell@gmail.com).

## Let's Connect

Follow Reconnecting McDowell on social media to receive the latest updates and news. We share information on webinars, job-training opportunities and upcoming community events. We also highlight our partners and their work in McDowell County and the state.

### Social Media

 Follow us on Twitter: [@ReconnectMcD](https://twitter.com/ReconnectMcD)

 Follow us on Instagram: [@ReconnectMcD](https://www.instagram.com/ReconnectMcD)

 Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ReconnectMcD](https://facebook.com/ReconnectMcD)

### Want to get involved or learn more?

For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Chad Webb ([cwebb@aftwv.org](mailto:cwebb@aftwv.org)) or Debra Elmore ([delmore@aftwv.org](mailto:delmore@aftwv.org) or 304-552-5766).

