

## 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).

## Applications to the Machinist Program Are Now Open!

McDowell County was one of the recipients of the Appalachian Hatchery grants awarded in 2017. As a dedicated supporter of advancing the County's economy, Reconnecting McDowell worked with the Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) for almost two years on the grant application, signed on as a partner and provided a letter of support. The grants aim at creating jobs in coal-impacted communities and were awarded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Benedum Foundation and the One Foundation.

The grant funds will be used to provide McDowell residents machin-

ery training. The RCBI for Advanced Manufacturing at Marshall University and Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College are offering an associate degree for the Machinist Technology/CNC program at the McDowell County Career and Technology Center.

The program opens a career track for focused, entry-level machinists who are in high demand by companies across the region. The technical training program offers rigorous, specialized, hands-on instruction that prepares individuals for immediate employment and lifelong professional advancement. Recognized and certified by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS), the RCBI

Machinist Technology/CNC program also prepares students to earn individual NIMS certification and a career-enhancing associate degree option.

Because RCBI has set up its curriculum and courses from an industry perspective, the skills students learn make it possible for them to enter a shop floor setting and begin work immediately. Courses at RCBI develop skills with both conventional machines and computer-controlled manufacturing equipment.

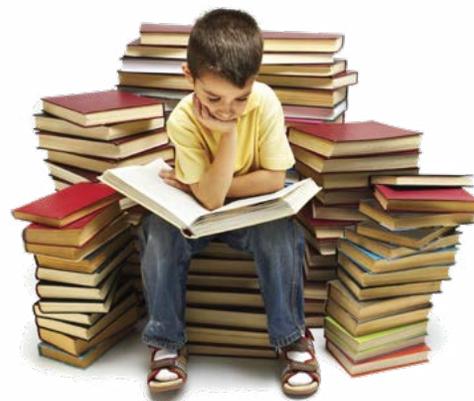
The program is open both to adults and to high school students as a dual-credit program. For more information and to apply, visit <http://bit.ly/MachCNC>.



## Strolling into Pre-K and Kindergarten

The annual Early Childhood Fair rolls around again. "Strolling into Pre-K and Kindergarten" will be held May 11 at the Welch Armory from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair is organized by McDowell County Schools to provide fun and effective early learning resources to families and help raise awareness about the need for early learning. On-site pre-K registration will be available for children who will be age 4 before June 30, 2018. There will be inflatables, a live DJ, face painting, balloon artists and interactive learning games, photo booth,

child nail salon, and other fun activities. Thanks to Voya's grant to Reconnecting McDowell and in partnership with First Book, a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving books to children in need to help them grow and thrive, there will be a distribution of free books. All McDowell County children up to age 5 and their parents or guardians are invited to attend. There is no attendance fee, and lunch will be provided free of charge at noon. For more information, contact Amanda Fragile at 304-436-8441, ext. 250, or [afragile@k12.wv.us](mailto:afragile@k12.wv.us).



# Career and Resource Fair: A Huge Success

The McDowell County Career and Resource Fair, which provides one-stop shopping for County residents to get information on a variety of careers and pathways to the workforce, was held at the Welch Armory April 19. The fair featured more than 50 vendors, and 200 students and 75 community members attended the event. ArcelorMittal, a steel and mining company, accepted 10 applications and had two on-the-spot interviews. McDowell County Schools provided transportation so students could attend the fair and learn more about the various career paths available to them. Vendors gave demonstrations and offered activities, such as the McDowell County Career and Technology Center's baking and pastry class and gaming

**Mount View High School students check out the Career and Technology Center's gaming and coding table.** ▼



table, as well as a welding simulator. Attendees also were able to get health information from Aetna, Bluefield State College CARES and other vendors. The fair offered something for everyone; it was an opportunity to learn about jobs and obtain resources. There was also a "closet," where attendees could get professional clothing, which was provided by Lori Scarberry and A Work of Heart (see accompanying story).

**Lori Scarberry in her home with clothing, toys and other items that will be given to families in need.** ▼



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Lori Scarberry, A Work of Heart

Eleven years ago, Welch native Lori Scarberry felt the calling to help people in her community in any way she could. She remembers praying and asking how she could be the hands and feet of Jesus. Soon thereafter, she started A Work of Heart, a family-led initiative to support McDowell community members.

Lori, along with her mother, Rhonda Bowens, and her aunt, Ramona Mitchem, started A Work of Heart in a carport in North Welch. They now have an entire trailer full of donations where they host an "indoor yard sale," with all the profits going back into the community in the form of financial assistance for families in need. Lori believes that "one random act of kindness can change the world and that helping people in need is a blessing." As with any family business, everyone pitches in to help. Steve, her dad, and Roy, her husband, help with the heavy lifting and the kids, Gracie and Lindsey, assist with the huge job of sorting the donations.

A Work of Heart collects and distributes clothing, shoes, furniture, and other household items to individuals, families and groups across McDowell and surrounding counties. The family hosts "closets" in five McDowell County schools and donates to several other nonprofit organizations. Lori would like to expand and offer closets in all McDowell County schools, but she needs help to do this. Ideally, someone with close ties to a school could manage the closet while Lori and A Work of Heart would supply the clothing and other items. If you would like to help start a closet in a McDowell County school or make a donation, contact Lori Scarberry at 304-888-2894.

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

## 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://www.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@aftvw.org](mailto:cwebb@aftvw.org)) or Debra Elmore ([delmore@aftvw.org](mailto:delmore@aftvw.org) or 304-552-5766).

