

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.

Maier Foundation Powers Four Scholarships

Reconnecting McDowell has awarded its first college scholarships to four high school seniors: Jaime Belcher, Martuise Hansbury and Danyelle Lafferty, from Mount View High School, and Kaylee Muncy, from River View High School, were each awarded \$5,000 scholarships, made possible by support from the Maier Foundation. Reconnecting McDowell, as a part of its mission to make educational improvement in McDowell County the route to a brighter economic future, applied for a grant from the foundation to support students who were pursuing postsecondary education.

Awardees submitted applications, and scholarship winners were selected based on their demonstration of ongoing commitment to McDowell County, either through community activities, community service, or other involvement with neighbors or community and neighborhood organizations. To be eligible for the award, the students had to be high school seniors who would be enrolled in a West Virginia university or college in fall 2018.

Jaime will attend West Virginia University Institute of Technology; Martuise and Kaylee will attend Marshall University; and Danyelle heads to West Virginia University this fall.



Jaime, Martuise and Danyelle received their scholarships at Mount View High School's senior award ceremony. ▲

Kaylee accepted her award at River View's senior award ceremony. ►



Registration for Machinist Program Now Open

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (RCBI) 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 technical training program opens a career track for focused, entry-level machinists who are in high demand by companies across the region. The 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, the 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 walk onto a shop floor and begin working immediately. Courses at RCBI develop skills for conventional machines as well as computer-controlled manufacturing equipment.

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

Broader Horizons Students Take a Trip to Washington

McDowell County students in the Broader Horizons mentorship program visited Washington, D.C., June 3-7. The group consisted of juniors from both River View and Mount View high schools. The Reconnecting McDowell program, now in its fourth year, is funded by a grant from the AT&T Foundation.

Each day started with a workshop that focused on various topics, such as writing effective résumés and utilizing LinkedIn for networking and career advancement, and discussions with staff that included career and college advice. There was also an interactive policy simulation workshop that allowed students to pose as fictional political figures to run for office and get legislation passed.

This year, the Broader Horizons mentees worked on a project to describe their community through interviews with McDowell residents, location observations, and by choosing three photos they think embody the County. In the Program Project workshop, they broke into small groups and discussed common themes among each other's work and then shared with the larger group. Photos ranged from sunsets over Mount View High School to sports teams to an aerial shot of one student's neighborhood. The students identified themes in their projects, such as the impact of coal on their community, as well as the natural beauty of McDowell.

Throughout the rest of the June trip, the students visited job sites and learned about career paths at the Humane Rescue Alliance—a nonprofit organization that rescues animals—and GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit organization that installs free solar panels for residents who have low to moderate incomes.

They also met with their U.S. senators, Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin, with whom they discussed the issues that are important to them. The students enjoyed fun facts about Washington on an evening bus tour of the national monuments and visited Georgetown University where they spoke with current students. They also toured the Library of Congress and the U.S. Capitol, courtesy of Sen. Manchin's staff. Some of the sports enthusiasts enjoyed seeing the sea of red as Washington Capitals fans crowded downtown D.C. to watch their team play in the National Hockey League finals. The trip was the final activity for the program year, but the students will continue to work with their mentors and Reconnecting McDowell staff.

Photos submitted by students for their Broader Horizons project. From top, photos by Brandon Evans, Elijah Barner, Katelyn Craft and Adam Grygiel.



Katelyn Craft and Adam Grygiel install mock solar panels at Grid Alternatives. Students said that visiting the site was a highlight of the Washington trip.



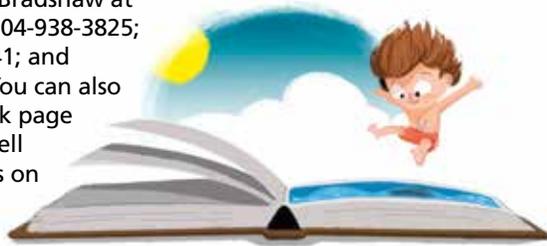
American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten gave words of advice to the Broader Horizons students over lunch in Washington, D.C., and the students talked candidly with her about their hopes and fears for the future.

Check Out the laeger Fun Market

The Fun Market will be open in downtown laeger every Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. through October. The market features local produce, crafts and jewelry. Free vendor setup begins at 4:30 p.m. Vendors are responsible for bringing their own tables, chairs, tents and other supplies; electrical hookups are available for a \$10 fee. For more information or to become a vendor, contact market manager Amanda Kenneda at 304-549-9840 or 304-664-2359.

McDowell Libraries Host Summer Reading Program

McDowell public libraries in Bradshaw, laeger, Northfork and Welch are hosting "Rock 'n' Roll," a summer reading program that includes a story hour as well as a youth and adult coloring club. For more information, call your library: Bradshaw at 304-967-5140; laeger at 304-938-3825; Northfork at 304-862-4541; and Welch at 304-436-3070. You can also visit the library's Facebook page at facebook.com/McDowellPublicLibrary/ for updates on reading program activities and dates.



Creating Strong Families in McDowell

Southern West Virginia agencies came together to hold the first Creating Strong Families conference in McDowell County on March 21. The event featured six workshops and 35 vendors that provided resources to help participants build strong families. The Community Crossing's Parents as Teachers program was the lead sponsor; other sponsors included, CASE West Virginia's Right From The Start program, MountainHeart Community Services' West Virginia Birth to Three program, KVC West Virginia, Head Start, Tug River Health Association, Aetna, Maximus, UniCare and Reconnecting McDowell.

Did You Know?

McDowell County FACES (Families, Agencies, Children Enhancing Services) has an online guide filled with resources available in McDowell County, including emergency telephone numbers and information on faith-based services, substance abuse recovery efforts, jobs, housing and much more. To access the guide, [click here](#). McDowell County FACES is a nonprofit organization working to better the lives of children and families in the County. There's a FACES available in every West Virginia county.



Reconnecting McDowell Is Hiring!

Reconnecting McDowell is looking for a community liaison who will serve as a key point of contact for County residents and community organizations. The liaison also interfaces with organizational partners, specifically those connected to school improvement and health. For more information, read the full job description at <http://bit.ly/countyjob>.

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

For a list of Reconnecting McDowell partners, visit <http://www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners>

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) or Debra Elmore (delmore@aftwv.org or 304-552-5766).

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