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NEWS RELEASE

State higher education system highlights historic enrollment figures

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission recently released the fall 2009 enrollment data for the state higher education system, which revealed that a record 93,712 students were enrolled. Fall 2009 marked the first time in state history enrollment has surpassed 90,000 students. These figures include enrollment in public four-year and two-year institutions and represent an increase of 6.7 percent or 5,909 students over the previous year (fall 2008) and an increase of 13.1 percent or 10,867 students over a five-year period (fall 2004 to fall 2009).

The state's 12 public four-year colleges and universities enrolled 68,229 students, an increase of 3.4 percent or 2,253 students over the previous year (fall 2008) and an increase of 10.3 percent or 6,388 students over a five-year period (fall 2004 to fall 2009.) The largest increase over the previous year (fall 2008) was West Virginia State University with 4,003 students, representing an increase of 33.3 percent or 1,000 students. The largest increase over a five-year period (fall 2004 to fall 2009) was the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with 778 students, representing an increase of 114.3 percent or 415 students. West Virginia University reported the largest enrollment of the state's public four-year colleges and universities with 28,898 students.

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Dr. Brian Noland, Chancellor, today issued a call to action for students to continue building upon this historic momentum. “As students prepare for finals and the semester wraps up, this is a crucial time to think about next steps such as course planning for subsequent semesters, career plans after graduation, and a lifelong commitment to learning,” Noland said. “With economic uncertainty still a reality, the real challenge is to retain and graduate students, so they can enter the workforce and help solidify personal goals, but also improve the state’s economy and national standing.”

In order to assist students, the state recently launched a free resource, the College Foundation of West Virginia (CFWV). CFWV is a web portal for college and career planning designed to assist West Virginia residents in pursuing postsecondary education. To learn more, please visit www.cfwv.com.

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