



**Glennville State College and
Clay County Schools
Partner in
“Home Grown” Program**



In an effort to address the growing teacher shortage in West Virginia, Glennville State College is doing their part to fill vacancies through a “Home Grown” approach.

The number of teacher vacancies in the Mountain State has risen dramatically, from more than 400 three years ago to 700 in 2017, increasing concerns about the long-term educational and economic impact for families and the state. Vacancies are particularly acute in special education, math, early education, and science.

“Glennville State College has a history of training teachers going back all the way to 1872 and we are prepared to take a focused and intentional lead in encouraging enrollment in teacher programs, particularly in the identified shortage areas,” said Glennville State College President Dr. Tracy Pellett. “We know that addressing this teacher shortage matches the vision of Governor Justice and several other state lawmakers and GSC agrees that the time is now.”

Through coordinated college and public school partnerships, GSC plans to address focused and joint teacher identification, financial and scholarship support for candidate attendance to college, and practical experiences and mentoring during teacher preparation and into the start of full-time teaching.

Students who are interested in enrolling in GSC’s education program and taking part in the “Home Grown” initiative can expect to take part in peer and professional mentoring, advising, intensive tutoring, real-world teaching experiences in their home county, and the opportunity to enhance their teaching knowledge and appreciation of teaching.

“The Home Grown initiative presents a wonderful opportunity for students from Clay County and for the county school system overall. With the critical needs we face regarding teacher shortages, this is just another way to put students on the path to college,” said Clay County Schools Superintendent Joe Paxton. “We are excited for this partnership with Glennville State College and look forward to working with them on this program and other potential endeavors in the future.”

Annual competitive scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 are also available for students in the “Home Grown” initiative. Other assorted foundation and community based scholarships are also available to offset costs. Students are reminded that any awards from the institution cannot exceed the full tuition and fees amount.

At present only students from Gilmer, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Kanawha, Lewis, Nicholas, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Roane, Webster, Wood, Wirt, and Upshur Counties are eligible to participate in the “Home Grown” program. However, other scholarships are available for students hailing from other West Virginia counties.