West Virginia University Institute of Technology

A Short History of WVU Tech

The West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech) was established in February 1895 under the name, Montgomery Preparatory School located in Montgomery, WV. In its earliest years, the school provided academic preparation for students from Southern West Virginia who were bound for West Virginia University. Following changes of emphasis to address vocational instruction and teacher education in 1941, the college became the West Virginia Institute of Technology serving regional businesses and industries through baccalaureate education. In 1952, baccalaureate degrees in engineering were added. In 1996, the college was named West Virginia University Institute of Technology, when it became a regional campus of West Virginia University. In the 2016-2017 academic year following the acquisition of a new campus in Beckley, WVU Tech offered classes on both the Montgomery and Beckley campuses. Tech has moved in its entirety and will offer courses on only the Beckley campus from Fall 2017 onwards. WVU Tech offers a broad array of baccalaureate degrees in business, science, the humanities and social sciences, and offers 9 degrees in engineering, computer science and engineering technology that are ABET accredited and have received national rankings. Degrees include a general education curriculum that fosters educational breadth and career skills, and students engage in a wide range of service learning, athletic and extra-curricular activities. A WVU Nursing degree is offered on the Beckley Campus through WVU Tech, and the campus is also home to the Raleigh County Cooperative Extension Service and the LaunchLab to promote regional economic success.

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MISSION

West Virginia University Institute of Technology provides an accessible and supportive environment in which students are guided to be active and contributing members of society by fostering intellectual and personal growth through comprehensive educational experiences.

VISION

To be a nationally-recognized and preeminent regional undergraduate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) teaching institution with well-balanced curricula across diverse academic disciplines.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

As West Virginia’s flagship research institution, WVU undertakes scholarly activity that addresses the challenges most critical to today’s world and the practice of multidisciplinary research. At WVU Tech, a division campus where the educational mission is of paramount importance, faculty pursue an active agenda of research and scholarship which contributes to the vibrancy of their teaching and current knowledge in their fields.

WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created a Cooperative Extension Service for each land-grant institution. The purpose of the Extension Service was to disseminate the findings of the universities’ agricultural stations and provide training and programs on home economics and other practical subjects. WVU has sustained its commitment to the state by supporting an Extension Service office with a faculty presence in all of West Virginia’s 55 counties, staffed by faculty county agents.

The educational programs and initiatives of the WVU Extension Service focus on service to the state and exemplify West Virginia University’s commitment to the public good by connecting the knowledge and research of WVU with citizen and community needs. The Extension Service’s programs are driven by four major initiatives: (1) 4-H youth development; (2) family and health; (3) agriculture and natural resources; and (4) community, workforce, and economic development.

The Raleigh County Extension office is located in the Neville Street Building on the WVU Tech campus in Beckley.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MEDIATION OF CONFLICT

WVU Tech is committed to assuring that all individuals and groups have access to all of the benefits of the University. Such assurance is possible only in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, where basic concepts and principles of social justice are integral to daily practice. All groups on campus (students, faculty, staff, administrators, and constituent groups) have the legal and moral responsibility to promote opportunity, equality, civility, and respect for all peoples. WVU Tech is also committed to assuring the resolution of conflict through mediation, a structured process of communication in which conflicting parties are guided in discussion and resolution of matters of conflict. Information and assistance with filing a complaint or obtaining mediation services is available online at http://diversity.wvu.edu/ea/mediation-services/mediation or by telephone at 304.293.5600, by email at
diversity@mail.wvu.edu, or by writing the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, West Virginia University, PO Box 6202, Morgantown, WV 26506-6202.

**ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

WVU Tech partners with WVU's Office of Accessibility Services (http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu) which is dedicated to helping students achieve their academic goals regardless of any physical, learning, psychological, sensory, or other documented disability. West Virginia University’s process for providing disability-related accommodations follows guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and current case law.

**Accreditation**

West Virginia University Institute of Technology is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission as a division of West Virginia University. West Virginia University is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Information regarding affiliation status may be directed to North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Higher Learning Commission, 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois 60652-2504.

Information Regarding specialized program accreditation may be directed to the following accrediting agencies:


**Nursing BSN Program:** Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 1 DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation.

**Governance**

Effective July 1, 2001, the West Virginia University (WVU) Board of Governors is vested by law and with the authority for the control and management of the University. The board includes thirteen lay members, two faculty members, a staff member, and one student member. The University president, appointed by the Board of Governors, is the chief executive officer of the University. A Campus President provides leadership for WVU Tech as a divisional campus of the University. The Chair of the WVU Tech Board of Visitors, an advisory body, is a member of the WVU Board of Governors.

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission is responsible for policy development and other statewide issues. The commission consists of seven members appointed by the governor, the secretary of education and the arts, and the state superintendent of schools.

The WVU Faculty Senate is the vehicle for faculty participation in the governance of the University. It is a legislative body with original jurisdiction over all matters of academic interest and educational policy that concern the entire University or affect more than one college or school. The senate's decisions are subject to review and approval by the president and the Board of Governors. Senators are elected by members of the University faculty to represent their colleges and other constituencies. Each senator represents twenty members of the University Faculty. The senate is presided over by an elected chair. The WVU Faculty Senate includes senators who are elected by the faculty at WVU Tech.

On the WVU Tech campus, the faculty are represented by the Faculty Assembly. This body is made up of all full-time faculty, including visiting appointments, as well as those with FEAP appointments. The Faculty Assembly is presided over by an elected chair.

The Staff Council is an advisory council to the Campus President, and provides a means for all classified employees to express their opinions about employment conditions, fringe benefits, employee relations, or other areas that affect their jobs.

Students are represented by the Student Government Association, which is made of executive officers and representatives elected by the student body. Members of the SGA serve on various campus committees.