

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

UPDATES FOR
2020-21

WHO WE ARE

The Division of Student Affairs strives to create a statewide culture that promotes educational opportunities for all citizens, regardless of age or income. The Division coordinates several college access and completion programs, including the federally funded West Virginia GEAR UP initiative, a program that works to increase collegegoing rates among students in 10 West Virginia counties, and the College Foundation of West Virginia (CFWV), the state's free college- and career-planning resource.

The Division of Student Affairs supports the work of student affairs offices on the campuses of West Virginia's public two- and four-year colleges and universities.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On May 14, 2020, the 14th annual Student Leadership Conference was held virtually. Typically, the Student Leadership Conference is held each year at Jackson's Mill. Due to COVID-19, this year's event was held via Zoom.

Coordinated by the staff members from the Division of Student Affairs, in partnership with Shepherd University, the conference serves as an opportunity for student representatives from all public higher education institutions in the state to hone their leadership skills and network with other student leaders. More than 60 students and advisors from West Virginia's public two- and four-year institutions were in attendance. The discussions focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their education and how they, through leadership roles, can help as institutions plan for the fall semester and beyond.

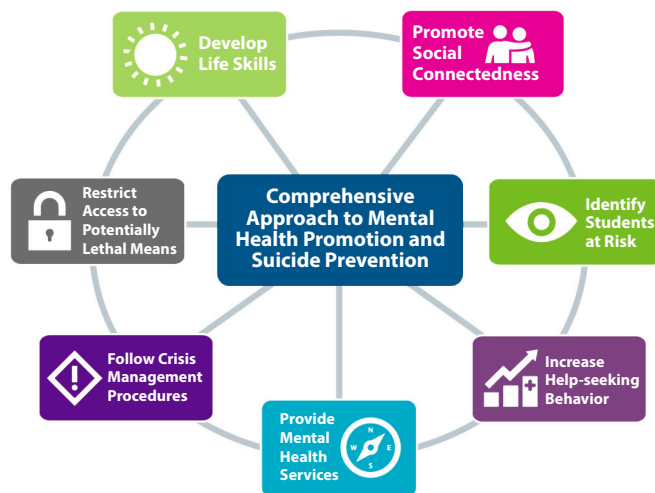
60+

ATTENDED



CAMPUS MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 1st annual Campus Mental Health Conference was held on March 31, 2020. Over 120 professionals in peer recovery, student affairs leadership, residence life, counseling centers, academic counseling, and administration attended the virtual conference. The online professional development event was designed to help campuses identify next steps in addressing student mental health. Using the Jed Foundation's comprehensive, public health approach to promoting mental health and preventing suicide, the presenters discussed an evidence-based model to assess current efforts and identify strengths and areas for improvement.



CAMPUS MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS

\$45,000

GRANTS AWARDED

Through Campus Mental Health Grants, institutions can implement a variety of projects that include the identification existing mental health services for the improvement in accessibility of clinical services, the promotion of mental health throughout the campus system, and establishing a campus-wide culture that strives to identify, prevent, and treat mental illness. In 2020, \$45,000 in grants were awarded by both the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Community and Technical College System to support student mental health at colleges and universities across the state.

Examples of funded project activities include evaluating and addressing racial and ethnic disparities in behavioral health care on campus, developing materials to increase student awareness about mental health, developing campus-wide mental health policies and plans, and increasing the access to mental health counseling opportunities for students.

DIVERSITY FOR EQUITY GRANTS

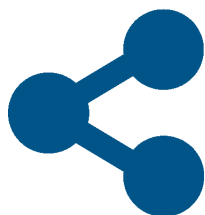
\$85,000

GRANTS AWARDED

Diversity for Equity Grants are designed to support campus-led initiatives that make higher education more accessible to people of all ages, races, genders, and backgrounds. In 2020, \$85,000 in grants were awarded by both the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Community and Technical College System to help strengthen the diversity efforts at higher education institutions across the state.

Examples of funded activities include implementing peer mentoring programs; establishing campus diversity committees; facilitating diversity-oriented student projects and research; providing academic course enhancements and supplemental educational materials; and, conducting various diversity trainings and presentations for students, faculty, and staff.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



Convening leaders of campus mental health for sharing of best practices and resources



Facilitation of the communication with institutions about the topics of student mental health



Bridging gaps in the mental health resources between high school and the first-year of college



Leveraging statewide participation in the national resources on mental health and more



Creation and maintenance of an online repository of campus mental health resources for institutions in WV



Providing professional development for an institution's faculty and staff around mental health