



The April 2009 Open for Business report highlights projects and related announcements that will assist with the creation of new jobs and the preservation of a significant number of existing jobs.

**Wirt County manufacturer plans job fairs April 8-9 to fill as many as 100 positions**

Mustang Survival Corp. announced plans to add 100 industrial sewing jobs during the next two years. WorkForce West Virginia is arranging for two job fairs. On April 8, the fair will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the one-stop WorkForce West Virginia Center, 300 Lakeview Center, Parkersburg, Wood County. On April 9, the fair will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Heritage Park Community Building, Spencer, Roane County. The manufacturing plant in Elizabeth, W.Va., produces aerospace and marine safety and survival equipment. When 130 fishermen were trapped on an ice floe on Lake Erie in February 2009, rescuers wore garments produced by Mustang.

**OVMC Center in Wheeling to get \$5.7 million for expansion, add as many as 40 jobs**

The Ohio Valley Medical Center (OVMC) in Wheeling is slated to receive \$5.7 million for the construction of a 36-bed psychiatric facility for children and adolescents. The new facility will include two floors with a wing for boys and a wing for girls, plus patient rooms, therapy rooms and more. The expansion of OVMC's Hillcrest Behavioral Health Center will allow West Virginia children needing treatment to stay closer to families at lower cost. Funding was secured through the Omnibus Appropriations bill signed by President Barack Obama. Construction is scheduled to begin by fall 2009. When completed in 2011, the facility is expected to create an additional 35-40 jobs.

**WVU cited in Wall Street Journal on connection between universities and jobs**

Morgantown and West Virginia University were one of three "communiversity" towns featured in the online Wall Street Journal Education edition March 24, 2009. Although not immune to recession, the article reported, the towns show unemployment rates below the national average. The article examines the factors such as an educational center, regional medical hub and "a stable, educated, highly skilled work force." Morgantown's low unemployment rate was also recently featured on NBC Nightly News.

**Governor presents more than \$770,000 in scientific research grants**

Gov. Joe Manchin presented 12 grants totaling more than \$770,000 to help advance scientific research at West Virginia colleges and universities. The grants were funded competitively through the state's Research Challenge Fund and West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. Recipients included Concord University, Athens, Mercer County; Marshall University, Huntington, Cabell County; West Virginia State University, Institute, Kanawha County; Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, Ohio

County; West Virginia Institute of Technology, Montgomery, Fayette County; and West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, Upshur County.

**Groups donate \$105,000 'Bucks for Brains' to Marshall University**

Marshall University received two separate donations making a combined total of \$105,000 toward its "Bucks for Brains" initiative. The Huntington Area Development Council (HADCO) donated \$50,000 to the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR). Capstone Development Corp. (Ala.), Mascaro Construction Co. (Pa.) and Brailsford and Dunlavey (Washington) donated a combined \$55,000 for MIIR. The "Bucks for Brains" program, officially titled the West Virginia Research Trust Fund, provides a one-time endowment of \$15 million to Marshall University and \$35 million to West Virginia University to create new opportunities for research and entrepreneurship. The schools have five years to raise matching funds in private and corporate donations.

**Berkeley County's business park receives \$332,500 for infrastructure**

The Berkeley County Development Authority has secured \$332,500 from the federal Department of Transportation for development in Tabler Station Business and Industrial Park. The grant will fund road construction and water/sewer infrastructure.

**Governor creates new Western Potomac Economic Partnership**

Gov. Joe Manchin signed an executive order creating the Western Potomac Economic Partnership (West-Pep). The new economic development association consists of Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson and Morgan counties. West-Pep enables local governments to work together more effectively to promote economic development opportunities.

**Main Street designates first ON TRAC Communities**

Thirteen communities have been designated as West Virginia's first-ever ON TRAC (Organization, Training, Revitalization and Capacity) Communities. Main Street West Virginia created the ON TRAC program to help communities boost economic growth with evaluation, education and networking resources. A community must be ON TRAC for at least two years before applying to become a designated Main Street Community. The state's first ON TRAC Communities are: Belington, Barbour County; Beverly, Randolph County; Elkins, Randolph County; Madison, Boone County; Matewan, Mingo County; Oak Hill, Fayette County; Ranson/Charles Town, Jefferson County; Romney, Hampshire County; Rowlesburg, Preston County; Shinnston, Harrison County; Sistersville, Tyler County; Sutton, Braxton County; and Webster Springs, Webster County.

# # #