

The Move to **WVU BECKLEY**

Q. What will the new campus be known as?

A. WVU Beckley, Home of WVU Tech.

Q. Why move everything to Beckley? Why not operate two campuses?

A. Tech has aging facilities — 94 percent of the campus is 50 years old, and there is a deferred maintenance backlog of more than \$100 million. The Beckley campus facilities can accommodate approximately 3,000 students in a town with services and conveniences that will better meet the needs of students, as it is the fourth-largest metropolitan area in West Virginia. Simply put, WVU can provide affordable educational access for more students at this one location, while being more cost-efficient.

Q. Did WVU do all it could to take care of Tech in Montgomery?

A. Yes, WVU has invested financial and human resources in Tech since 2007, when it became a fully integrated division of WVU. Since 2007, WVU has made \$11 million in capital improvements on that campus — and many services have been provided at no charge, such as legal services, human resources, payroll, capital project management and facilities planning, financial aid packaging, information technology services and more. In addition, WVU has covered Tech's annual operational shortfall for many years, totaling \$14 million since 2007. Over the past three years, WVU's State funding has been reduced by \$24 million so it is no longer feasible to subsidize the Tech campus, much less invest the amount necessary to address the infrastructure needs of the campus.

Q. Is there legislation that says Tech has to stay in Montgomery?

A. The State code indicates that the headquarters of West Virginia University Institute of Technology remains in Montgomery, West Virginia. WVU will be working with the Legislature to take steps necessary to preserve Tech as an institution in Beckley, beginning in the fall of 2017.

Q. Is WVU trying to drive out Bluefield/Concord?

A. No. The decision to relocate WVU Tech to Beckley is being undertaken to preserve WVU Tech as an institution, not to drive out Bluefield and Concord. We want to be good partners with Bluefield and Concord — and have been in contact with both presidents, as well as many community leaders to discuss optimizing academic opportunities and develop partnerships with other academic institutions. We will continue those conversations. We also hope to pursue academic programs for students in this region that are unique to this area such as tourism and hospitality; culinary arts; nursing and allied health fields; adventure recreation leadership and management; entrepreneurship; construction management; etc. We also want to meet the needs of students from those two schools with master's level programs in such fields as business administration, nursing and outdoor recreation.

Q. Will WVU Beckley continue all programs currently offered at WVU Tech or will some programs cease?

A. By the fall semester of 2017, we intend to offer the majors and programs that WVU Tech currently offers, plus additional ones (noted above) that meet the needs of students from the region. However, additional discussions are needed with Bluefield, Concord, community leaders and the Higher Education Policy Commission before any final decisions may be made.

Q. What's going to happen in 2017?

A. All classes and programs will be offered at the WVU Beckley campus by Fall 2017. In the meantime, WVU Tech will continue to offer programs through Spring 2017. WVU Beckley will begin offering classes in Fall 2016.

THE FUTURE OF TECH

Q. Does this mean that WVU Tech will no longer exist after the move?

A. This move is to preserve WVU Tech as an institution. WVU Tech will exist at WVU Beckley, just not in Montgomery.

Q. What will happen to the campus in Montgomery?

A. That is yet to be determined, but WVU has offered the City of Montgomery funds for an economic study and is pursuing alternative uses for certain facilities.

Q. When will the official move begin, and what is the tentative timeline?

A. WVU is already gearing up to offer classes in Beckley for Fall 2016. A facilities manager and business manager have been hired to assist with those operations. Tech's and WVU's executive leadership teams are also very involved in the 2017 move.

Q. What is the anticipated cost of the move?

A. Excluding the \$8 million acquisition, we estimate around \$11.8 million over the next 10 years for infrastructure improvements (such as electrical work, exteriors, HVAC, plumbing, IT, etc.) to prepare the campus. The funds will be borrowed and repaid through revenues generated by the new campus.

Q. Logistically, how will the move occur?

A. It is a work in progress to prepare the campus for Fall 2016 and the 2017 move, including rebranding the campus, modernizing facilities, addressing maintenance issues, establishing healthcare for students, developing a workforce, finalizing fiber and wireless infrastructure, creating spaces for a Law Clinic and LaunchLab (a resource for entrepreneurs interested in start-ups), assigning office and classroom space, etc.

Q. Will WVU Tech officially close or be a part of WVU Beckley?

A. WVU Tech will no longer offer courses in its current facilities in Montgomery, other than any Teach-Out requirements by the Higher Learning Commission. Instead, Tech's new home will be at WVU Beckley.

Q. Will WVU Tech students become WVU Beckley students when we move?

A. Current Tech students will be able to complete their degrees from Tech; a Teach-Out plan will be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission for approval.

Q. How will the legacy of WVU Tech continue?

A. We are doing a number of things to preserve both the legacy of Tech as an institution and the history of those who have made Tech their home. (See below for more detail.)

Q. Will WVU Beckley's mascot be the Golden Bears?

A. Yes.

Q. Will Tech alumni events continue or will they be merged with WVU alumni activities?

A. WVU Tech alumni activities will remain independent of WVU's main campus.

Q. Will all athletic programs move to Beckley or will the athletic offerings change once Tech is moved to Beckley?

A. Yes, athletic programs will move to the Beckley campus in Fall 2017. There will be no athletic offerings in Beckley in 2016; those will remain at Tech until Fall 2017.

Q. Will current WVU Tech students be WVU Tech alumni or WVU Beckley alumni when they graduate?

A. Tech students will be able to complete their degrees from Tech; a Teach-Out plan will be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission for approval. Tech students will become WVU Tech alumni.

Q. How will we preserve the legacy of the people for which buildings and monuments are named, on the WVU Beckley campus? (For example, Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering and Sciences.)

A. Those names that are associated with Tech will appear on the Beckley campus where appropriate. The engineering college will retain Dr. Nelson's name at WVU Beckley.

Q. What will happen to the Athletic Hall of Fame?

A. It will move to the Beckley campus by Fall 2017.

Q. What will happen to the alumni house in Montgomery?

A. That is yet to be determined; however, there will be an alumni house on the Beckley campus.

Q. What will happen to the president's house in Montgomery?

A. That is yet to be determined; however, there will be a President's Home at WVU Beckley.

Q. How will this affect our partnership with Montgomery General Hospital and the Collaborative Nursing Training Center?

A. Nursing training needs will now be met on the Beckley campus, and nursing students on that campus will have access to some of the region's finest medical facilities.

Q. How will this impact commuter students, especially those who might not continue to be within the 50-mile radius rule?

A. The Teach-Out plan will address these concerns.

Q. How will we work with the Beckley community to build/develop a successful college environment for the campus?

A. Community and business leaders have expressed a great deal of support, and discussions have already begun for collaborations (restaurants, entertainment options, merchandise, housing, etc.). Barnes & Noble will open a downtown storefront; WVU's Law Clinic will offer pro bono legal aid; and a LaunchLab will provide research and entrepreneurial support. WVU's Extension Service also will continue to be a strong academic base serving the region.

Q. How will this affect the cost of attendance (tuition and fees, housing, dining) for students?

A. Current Tech tuition and fees will remain in place; tuition and fees for all WVU system campuses are set and approved by WVU's Board of Governors in June of each year.

WVU TECH FACULTY AND STAFF

Q. Will employees lose their jobs?

A. All current Tech faculty and staff will be considered for positions at WVU Beckley.

Q. How will jobs be assigned in Beckley?

A. Generally, employees will be doing the same job — just at a different location.

Q. When might I have to start working in Beckley?

A. The timing is still being worked out, and will depend on the position.

Q. Could I have to work at both locations?

A. Some faculty and staff, depending on duties, may have to teach/work at two locations during the transition.

Q. Will there be any early retirement/severance packages?

A. We will be working with faculty and staff to consider the development of such a plan.

Q. Will those people not near retirement still have a job in Beckley?

A. As noted above, faculty and staff will all be offered positions at the Beckley campus.

Q. Which classes are going to be taught first?

A. There is a well-defined list of courses — from accounting and math to chemistry and computer science. Approximately 24 academic programs are represented in some 40 courses, some of which are being offered online. The final list will depend upon future discussions with state education leaders at Bluefield, Concord and the Higher Education Policy Commission.

Q. Are faculty going to volunteer or be mandated as to which campus they are on?

A. We will be working on developing a schedule that takes into consideration the needs of both campuses initially. Scheduling for faculty will be determined as part of that process.

Q. How will it work to run/manage both campuses?

A. It will be a busy time, but executive leadership — along with committed faculty, staff and students — will make it work. Additional support will be provided from the main campus.

Q. WVU Tech faculty are, in many cases, already overburdened with overload classes. How can they possibly maintain a presence on both campuses?

A. Working with WVU and WVU Tech's Office of the Provost, we will develop a schedule that takes into consideration the needs of both campuses so that it is feasible.

Q. For untenured, tenure-track faculty who need to do research, will running two campuses pose a high risk of overburdening these junior faculty and potentially having a negative effect on their tenure?

A. There should be no negative impact; schedules will be developed to accommodate the needs of both campuses and those of our faculty.

Q. Are we going to be hiring more people/faculty? If so, when?

A. As enrollment grows over time, there may be opportunities to recruit additional faculty and staff; however, there is no timeline set for that process.

Q. Will faculty and staff continue to have a five-day class/workweek at WVU Beckley?

A. Our students expect a five-day class experience, including evening courses and residential learning communities, so yes, that schedule will continue.

Q. Some senior faculty have expressed a disinterest in moving or commuting, thus potentially putting WVU Tech in the position of losing many of the senior faculty with the experience to help develop the new campus as well as losing mentors to the junior faculty.

A. Those are personal decisions they must make; we value our experienced as well as newer faculty.

THE FUTURE OF MONTGOMERY

Q. What will happen to Montgomery with the movement of Tech to Beckley?

A. City leaders will need to assess the town's future. WVU has offered to pay for an economic impact study to help with planning. Although not easy, this move is necessary to provide WVU Tech with the best chance to survive and also thrive in continuing to provide a high-quality education. WVU is also pursuing opportunities for other alternative uses of the facilities in Montgomery.

WVU TECH FACTS

- Since 2008, Tech enrollment has ranged from 1,107 to 1,306 — well short of the 1,800 student enrollment goal recommended by the Revitalization Project Team Report.
- Since 2007, \$26 million has been invested in capital improvements for Tech with support from WVU (\$8.3M), HEPC (\$6.1M), State funds (\$11.2M) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (\$465,000).
- WVU also has provided many services at no cost including legal services, human resources functions, payroll, capital project management, financial aid packaging — just to name a few.

- The total amount WVU has spent to balance the Tech budget since 2007 is \$14 million.
- WVU has seen its State funding reduced by approximately \$24 million over the past three years.
- A special report conducted by the West Virginia Legislative Auditor found that Tech resided in a rural town where students must live with industrial traffic on narrow mountain roads, park on major streets while attending classes, drive 40 or 60 minutes to be at a major population center and be without nearby services or entertainment that create a quality student life.
- The Sightlines survey (2014) reported that 94% of the total campus Gross Square Footage (GSF) was at high risk due to an average age of 50 years and recommended annual stewardship of \$2.5 million.
- WVU will submit a Teach-Out plan to the Higher Learning Commission for approval. WVU Tech is committed to ensuring that all current students are able to graduate from WVU Tech, whether in Montgomery or Beckley.
- Tech's current enrollment: 1,200-plus (2014).
- Residential numbers at Tech: Nearly 500 beds (100% capacity).

WVU BECKLEY FACTS

- WVU Beckley is located 40 miles from Montgomery.
- WVU has spent nearly a year in due diligence and a comprehensive review of the former Mountain State campus.
- Deferred maintenance needs are estimated at \$11.8 million, with an estimated \$3.5 million needed in the first three years.
- All WVU Tech programs will be offered on the Beckley campus in fall 2017.
- In addition to programs offered by Tech, WVU will focus on a set of strategic programs designed to meet the needs of the area, increase educational opportunities, increase the number of graduates and collaborate with other institutions to enhance the state's system of higher education.
- A residential campus, WVU Beckley will also focus on providing the student life experience that enhances a student's personal and professional growth.