



Spring 2005

The Access Point

News of the West Virginia Access Center for Higher Education, Inc.

Apply for a WVACHE Access Project Grant!

The WVACHE is now accepting proposals from West Virginia public high schools for the 2005–07 round of Access Project grants.

Eligible high schools may apply for up to \$10,000 per year for two years (\$6,000 per year for previously funded projects). These grant funds must be used to implement a proven model program of activities that encourage students to consider and prepare for higher education. Using this model program, the 13 West Virginia high schools that currently have WVACHE Access Projects have averaged a 45-percent increase over pre-intervention college-going rates.

To obtain the Request for Proposals (RFP), which includes application forms and instructions, simply download it from the WVACHE

Web site, www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm, or request a paper copy to be mailed to you by contacting the WVACHE office by phone, email or fax. (An RFP announcement flyer recently mailed to all West Virginia high schools includes a tear-off request form; one is also provided on the back of this newsletter.)

A Frequently Asked Questions list is available on the WVACHE Web site with answers to the most common questions about the WVACHE Access Project grant process. Or, feel free to contact Ms. Sarita A. Gattuso, WVACHE executive director, for more information about submitting a grant application.

Proposals for the 2005–07 round of WVACHE Access Project grants are due **June 30, 2005**, so start developing your applications now! ◀

Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship Available

Applications are now being accepted for the 2005–06 Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship.

The scholarship, co-founded by attorney Becky Fillinger and book illustrator Henry Cole and sponsored by the Bluefield State College Foundation, was established to promote art studies in post-secondary education for students residing in West Virginia and the Appalachian Highlands of Virginia.

A one-year, \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving student who is enrolled in a two- or four-year college or university arts program. To be eligible, the student must be a graduating high-school senior with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better and must reside in either West Virginia or Appalachian Virginia.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than **July 29, 2005**. A winner will be selected in late summer and will be invited to attend the 12th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference October 6–8 at Rio Grande Community College in Rio Grande, Ohio for a

ceremonial award presentation by the scholarship founders.

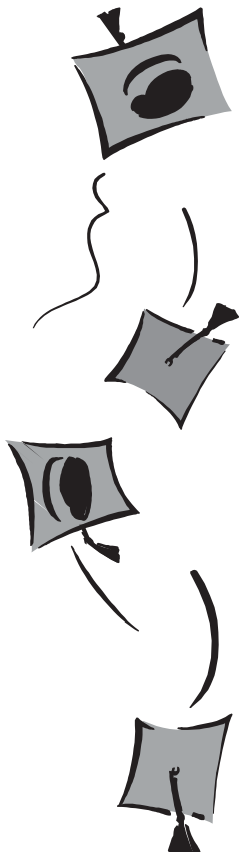
For more information about the 2005–06 Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship, contact Sarita A. Gattuso at 304-327-4096. To download the scholarship guidelines and application form, visit the WVACHE Web site at www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm. Or, request a paper copy by mailing or faxing the request form on the back of this issue of the *Access Point*. ◀



Scholarship co-founders Henry Cole and Becky Fillinger (left) present the 2003 Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship to the parents of Sarita Herman during the Tenth Annual OACHE/WVACHE conference in October 2003.

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Nominate an Outstanding Educator

Do you know a high-school teacher, guidance counselor or administrator who goes the extra mile to help students? Nominate that individual for the 2005 Wayne F. White WVACHE Outstanding Educator Awards, to be presented during the 12th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference October 6-8.

The Wayne F. White Awards recognize school personnel who have made an extra effort to encourage and assist students to go to college. They may have made a positive difference in a variety of ways, e.g., increasing the college-going rate, taking a special interest in students, or developing excellent relationships with college representatives and/or businesses. A nominee does not have to be employed at a WVACHE Access Project partner school in order to be eligible; nominations from all West Virginia public high schools are welcome.

The WVACHE's Outstanding Educator award was renamed in memory of Wayne White, a founding member of the WVACHE board of

directors who passed away unexpectedly on September 30, 2004. During his 40-year career in public education, including ten years as executive director of the Ohio program on which the WVACHE is modeled, Mr. White demonstrated, and inspired in others, a commitment to helping students attain a better quality of life through higher education.

The WVACHE will select a Wayne F. White Outstanding Educator in each of three categories: teacher, guidance counselor and administrator. Each winner will receive a plaque and a \$250 award during the Friday-evening banquet of the 12th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference.

To nominate an educator, download a nomination form from the WVACHE Web site at www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm. Or, request a paper copy using the request form on the last page of this newsletter or by contacting the WVACHE office. Nominations must be post-marked no later than **August 15, 2005**. ◀

WVACHE Board of Directors

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Conference Workshop to Increase Understanding of Poverty, Class Issues

A certified trainer for aha! Process, Inc. will facilitate a workshop on poverty, economic class and their impact on education during the 12th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference.

Spanning two breakout sessions, this workshop will acquaint participants with the effects of class and poverty on our society, as a means to better understand and serve students at all levels of the educational system.

aha! Process, Inc. was founded as RFT Publishing Co. in 1996 by Dr. Ruby K. Payne. Throughout her educational career, Dr. Payne had worked with students from a variety of economic backgrounds. Her experience taught her that "hidden rules" exist in economic classes and that, when those in positions of power and authority come from a class with rules different from theirs, understanding and communication can break down.

Dr. Payne eventually developed her insights into the groundbreaking book *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. From that foundation, aha! Process, Inc. has developed a comprehensive set of books, videos and other training materials to facilitate understanding and bridge the gulf between economic classes.

The organization conducts approximately 200 seminars each year in the U.S. and Canada.

"We are delighted to again be able to host this aha! workshop in conjunction with our annual conference," said Sarita A. Gattuso, WVACHE executive director. "This workshop was very well received at last year's conference. By offering it again, even more attendees will be able to take home what they learn and apply it in their schools and communities."

To participate in the workshop, register for the 12th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference. (an online registration option is available at www.oache.org) **and** be sure to select *both* aha! Process breakout sessions from among the Friday breakout options; the second of the two is a continuation, not a repeat, of the first.

The workshop to be conducted during the 12th Annual Conference is a condensed introduction to several more-intensive programs available through aha! Process, Inc. To learn more about trainer certification opportunities and workshops that are eligible for continuing education units, visit the aha! Process, Inc. Web site at www.ahaprocess.com. ◀



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WVACHE, Inc.
Sarita A. Gattuso, Executive Director
c/o Bluefield State College
219 Rock Street
Bluefield WV 24701-2198
Phone: 304-327-4096
Fax: 304-327-4427
Email: sgattuso@bluefieldstate.edu

We're on the Web! Visit us at www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm



Glass Castle Author, MSNBC Columnist Walls to Address 12th Annual Conference

Jeannette Walls, an online columnist for MSNBC and author of the recently published memoir *The Glass Castle*, will be a featured speaker during the 12th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference October 6–8, 2005.

A resident of Welch, W.Va. during her youth, Ms. Walls relates with surprising warmth a sad and sometimes tragic childhood marred by poverty, abuse, neglect and family dysfunction. She and her siblings eventually escaped to carve out better lives for themselves. Ms. Walls moved out at age 17 to live with her older sister in New York City, where she eventually attended Barnard College and embarked on a career in journalism. Currently the online gossip columnist for MSNBC.com, Ms. Walls is also the author of *Dish*, a book tracing the evolution of celebrity gossip.



The Glass Castle author and MSNBC.com columnist Jeannette Walls (Photo by David Friedman / MSNBC.com)

Lady Gayle Manchin; and Phillip Obermiller, president of the Appalachian Studies Association.

The conference agenda will include more than 20 breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics including best practices in college access programs, understanding poverty (see *article on facing page*), college placement testing, the Reality Store simulation, financial-aid search strategies, March Madness, College Summit, successful grant-writing, and Appalachian culture.

Award presentations will be made to recipients of WVACHE Access Project grants for 2005–07 (see *article on page 1*). In addition, the WVACHE will present the Wayne F. White WVACHE Outstanding Educator award to a teacher, guidance counselor and administrator (see *article on facing page*).

Other conference highlights will include a casual reception on Thursday evening, a Friday-evening banquet, valuable door prizes, and musical entertainment from a variety of regional acts including the Idle Tymes bluegrass group and the Point Pleasant High School Marching Band.

Informative, Varied Agenda Planned

Other noted individuals who have been invited to address the 12th Annual Conference include Anne Pope, Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission; West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III and First

WVACHE Board of Advisors

Jo Ann S. Harman, Chair
Retired Teacher

Dr. Deborah S. Akers
Supt., Mercer County Schools

Jack Wiseman
WV PASS

John Shott
President, Mercer County Board of Education

Tammy Wells
Principal, Valley High School

College-Going Rate Correction

In the previous issue of the *Access Point* the WVACHE reported that the college-going rates in the 13 high schools with 2003–05 WVACHE Access Projects increased by an average of 44 percent over pre-intervention levels.

Since that time, Jefferson High School submitted a correction; that school's college-rate was 58 percent in 2004. This correction brings the average college-going rate increase of the 13 current WVACHE Access Projects in 2004 up to 45 percent over pre-intervention levels.

Team Stipends Again Available to W.Va. Schools

The WVACHE is again offering Team Stipends to enable West Virginia high-school personnel to attend the conference. Through the formal presentations, exhibits and networking with other attendees, teams will learn effective strategies to increase their schools' college-going rates, improve attendance rates and reduce major discipline problems.

Up to 20 two-person Team Stipends will be awarded to West Virginia high schools on a first-come, first-served basis. Stipend applications may be downloaded from the WVACHE Web site at www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm. Or, request a paper copy using the request form on the last page of this newsletter or by contacting the WVACHE office. The application deadline is **September 16** and awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay! ◀

Request Forms by Mail

All of the following forms may be downloaded from the WVACHE Web site at www.oache.org/wvache_home.htm.
Or, request paper copies by mail using this form. **Please place a checkmark by the form(s) you wish to receive.**

- WVACHE Access Project Request for Proposals** (Completed proposals must be postmarked by **June 30**)
- Mountain Laurel Art Scholarship application** (Completed applications must be postmarked by **July 29**)
- Nomination form for 2005 Wayne F. White Outstanding Educator Award** (Nominations due **August 15**)
- Team Stipend application for 12th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference** (Completed applications due **September 16**)

Contact name: _____

Contact title: _____

School name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Contact email: _____

Mail or fax to: WVACHE, c/o Bluefield State College, 219 Rock Street, Bluefield WV 24701-2198 Fax: 304-327-4427 (Voice: 304 327-4096)

Postcards
from the
Field



Attendees at the 11th Annual OACHE/WVACHE Conference in October 2004 learn about the Reality StoreSM simulation during one of the more than 20 breakout sessions offered throughout the conference. The Reality StoreSM helps students understand the consequences of the choices they make as they manage a simulated income and real-world expenses. The exercise motivates students to make more realistic decisions about their futures.



West Virginia Access Center for Higher Education, Inc.

Sarita A. Gattuso, Executive Director
c/o Bluefield State College
219 Rock Street
Bluefield WV 24701-2198