

Letter from the Dean

Thank you for taking the opportunity to learn more about graduate education at Mountain State University. We offer eight programs at the master's level and a Doctor of Executive Leadership.

At Mountain State our graduate education is designed to help West Virginia and the United States maintain competitiveness and innovation in a global market. A recent report published by the Commission on the Future of Graduate Education predicts that the number of jobs in the United States requiring a graduate degree will grow by 2.5 million by 2018, with increases of 17 percent in jobs requiring a doctorate and 18 percent in those requiring a master's.

The report contends that developing human talent must become a national priority and that graduate education must be an essential component of our national innovation strategy. Further, it states, "Europe and Asia are investing in graduate education as an essential component of economic development and have begun to outpace the US in doctoral production, especially in science and engineering." We must take a new look at graduate education if we are to continue to be the leader of the world in graduate education.

"A great strength of US graduate education is the preparation of people at the master's level for a wide variety of careers," says Stanley S. Litow, commission member and vice president of Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs at IBM. "Doctoral education is another key driver of innovation, and its role can only be enhanced by more effective partnership between business and academia."

At Mountain State University, we have long believed in building graduate programs that are scholar-practitioner focused and that meet the needs of our market. Our rich history of building partnerships is evidenced by our relationship with such organizations as the West Virginia National Guard and the Houston Police Officers Union.

This newsletter showcases some of the remarkable endeavors our students and faculty have undertaken domestically and internationally. I am sure you will enjoy reading the articles and learning more about some of our students, faculty members, and programs. If you have questions about any of our programs, don't hesitate to contact me personally.

Sincerely,

William M. White, Ed.D., Dean
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William M. White, Ed.D.
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Mountain State University

Graduate Education Fair

February 3, 2012

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

WV State Capitol

Hosted by

West Virginia

Association of

Graduate Schools

SAVE THE DATE

Addiction: A Medical Crisis in WV

February 23

1:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

**Becky Neal, Director
Intergovernmental
Affairs
Office of Governor
Earl Ray Tomblin**

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Council of Graduate Schools

Objectives:

Economic Growth

- Individual Opportunity
- Job Creation
- Economic Climate

Access

- Participation
- Continuing Education
- Student Preparation

Cost and

Affordability

- Financial Aid
- Finance Policy
- Institutional Efficiency

Learning and

Accountability

- Academics
- Assessment
- Teacher Education and Faculty Development

Innovation

- Partnerships
- Civic Engagement
- Mission Refinement

MSU's Assessment Team Presented Poster on Civic Engagement at the 2011 Assessment Institute Conference



Mountain State University Assessment Coordinator Angela Spelock and Psychology Program Specialist Indre Cuckler presented a poster at the annual Assessment Institute at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis on October 30, 2011.

The presentation illustrated several methods and practices geared toward enhancement of student interest in civic engagement at Mountain State University. The project integrated fostering student interest in civic engagement on the course and program levels. Additionally, the presenters shared a resource list of civic engagement assessment instruments. The poster presentation was very well received, and conference participants had an opportunity to discuss practices in their home institutions.



Master of Science in Nursing student Crystal Clark has had her graduate thesis, Social Factors Associated with Pediatric Diabetic Ketoacidosis Admissions in Southern West Virginia, accepted for publication in Journal of Pediatric Nursing and presentation at the Endocrinology Nursing Society in April 2012. Additionally the thesis has been submitted to be presented to the International Society in Italy. The committee was Kevin Lewis, APRN, BC; Jill Cochran Ph.D., APRN-BC, and Jessica Sharp Ph.D., APRN-BC, CRNA (Chair).

MSU in Action

PA Student Experience in El Salvador— Making a Difference



Alex Epperly, a physician assistant student at Mountain State University, spent his free time between rotations on a mission trip to El Salvador. Alex worked with the organization Cedeinfa in Soyapango, El Salvador, and lived in a missionary house provided by Cedeinfa. Missionaries from America, Peru, and Germany also resided at the house. While there, the group worked in the clinic and in workshops. Alex also taught English in the school and worked with a child sponsorship program in the different ghettos, as well as conducting a few children's services.



Annual Retreat

Changing Demographics and Tight Budgets: An Imperative for 2012

Mark Your Calendar!

The Graduate School annual retreat is April 17 & 18, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. The theme of the retreat is Changing Demographics and Tight Budgets: An Imperative for 2012.

Visit [www. http://www.mountainstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/physician-assistant/](http://www.mountainstate.edu/academics/health-sciences/physician-assistant/) for more information on the PA program.



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At Mountain State University's School of Graduate Studies, you can tailor your program of study to your professional goals, build your knowledge base with an outstanding graduate faculty, and benefit from such flexible formats as online class meetings, accelerated cohorts that meet once a week, and graduate individualized study. We provide students with practical, relevant graduate programs. Visit <http://www.mountainstate.edu/academics/graduate-studies/> for more information.

News from the Doctorate of Executive Leadership

David West, a third-year Doctor of Executive Leadership student, successfully presented his dissertation proposal to his committee on December 15, 2011. He is one of seven students in the program's inaugural cohort. His dissertation topic is "Exploring the Role of Self Leadership in a Virtual Office Environment: An Action Research Case Study." David, like millions of employees worldwide, currently works in a virtual environment. The subject he has chosen is cutting edge and will add new knowledge to the study of leadership.



Mountain State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association (312.263.0456, www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org). Mountain State University received a Show-Cause Order from its accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The University remains accredited. The University is working diligently to resolve the issues and concerns of the HLC. Details are available on our website <http://www.mountainstate.edu/aboutmsu/facts/accreditation/Show%20Cause%20Order.pdf>

Mountain State University is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

Mountain State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.