

MOUNTAINEER E-News

Sept. 7, 2011

## **TOP OF THE NEWS**

1) WVU president Clements issues letter on a healthy workplace

Dear Fellow Mountaineers,

From my first day at West Virginia University, I enjoyed the warm hospitality and caring environment for which our state is famous. WVU's openness and collegiality attracted me here. Every day, it continues to attract students, staff, faculty and administrators from across the state and around the world. WVU, like West Virginia, is a warm and wonderful place. People like to live and work here.

The primary reason for that success is that we value supportive, respectful relationships throughout our schools, colleges, campuses and communities. At WVU, we come from diverse backgrounds and we hold diverse opinions. But we all work with a common mission and goal – to serve the people of West Virginia and to share the university's knowledge and resources — with the state and the world. Working with that common purpose builds our strength as a community and our success as individuals.

We must encourage supportive, respectful relationships among all members of our community, and we must discourage any behavior that jeopardizes this aspect of our identity as a University. To further maintain and enhance our efforts in this regard, WVU will heighten awareness for a respectful work environment in the coming months.

Several new activities intended to increase understanding about the importance of a respectful workplace will begin this year. This will include training to assist supervisors and employees in recognizing, addressing, and preventing behaviors that may be inappropriate. Additionally, WVU will sponsor a presentation by a nationally-recognized expert on the subject of creating a respectful work place. These activities will be guided by an advisory group that will include faculty, staff, and student representatives.

I want each of our employees and students to experience the West Virginia University that I know: a welcoming and supportive institution in which to work, study, engage in research and provide service.

I am deeply grateful to the Healthy Workplace and Campus Environment Committee that initiated the conversation and started to raise awareness of the issue of a respectful work environment on our campus. We will build on the work of this committee to ensure that all members of our community are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Sincerely,  
James P. Clements, Ph.D.