Mountwest Community & Technical College, formerly Marshall Community & Technical College, offers over 50 programs that lead to an associate degree. For full-time students, associate degrees usually can be earned in four semesters, excluding any developmental or prerequisite requirements. Certificate programs are also available, and designed to provide competence in a focused area and require significantly fewer credit hours to complete.
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A New Beginning: From Marshall to Mountwest

With spring upon us we see signs of new beginnings all around. This time of year brings many refreshing perspectives, attitudes, and initiatives. These same qualities are very evident here, at MCTC, as we begin a most significant venture, the branding for the new Mountwest Community & Technical College.

The choice of a name and subsequent development of a new identity has been a very deliberate and strategic process. Working with our many stakeholders, students, faculty, staff, and community members, our Board of Governors employed a highly disciplined procedure to gather input. Mountwest was eventually chosen from a list that included over two hundred suggestions. We feel it best represents our College in many ways. However, the main factor influencing the decision was the chosen location for our campus, in the westernmost portion of mountain state, situated atop a two-level summit. Additionally, the name will allow us to keep our very recognizable "MCTC" acronym. The decision process involved a spirited debate among many on our Board of Governors, each representing the stakeholders previously mentioned. We feel that Mountwest is an excellent choice and one that will allow us to grow with distinction.

Another important element in the branding of our Institution was the choice of a College logo. You will see that new insignia throughout this hallmark issue of Career Focus. My hope is that you will embrace the new college identity with the same pride that I feel. As with the naming process, we went through numerous options until the logo you see in this publication was chosen by our Board of Governors. The identity is different from our previous mark in that we have new colors, a new icon that identifies the college, and a new, updated style.

The naming of the college and the accompanying identity is the beginning of an exciting period for Mountwest. Over the next year, our new campus will take shape on the picturesque hilltop above the 5th Street I-64 interchange. Our student population will continue to grow and we look forward to many new students joining the MCTC learning community. While we are certain that we will have hurdles along the way, we are confident that our leadership team, Board, faculty, staff, students, and the larger community will all contribute to make Mountwest a truly remarkable, distinctive, and invaluable resource within our region.

“...We are confident that our leadership team, Board, faculty, staff, students and the larger community will all contribute to make Mountwest a truly remarkable, distinctive, and invaluable resource within our region.”

Dr. Keith J. Cotroneo
President, Mountwest Community & Technical College
Planning for college is a lengthy and often difficult process. Brittany Brumfield, a College 101 alumni and 2009 graduate of Spring Valley High School, claims that college admissions and financial aid take at least one year of planning prior to attending college. Brumfield states, “I spent my entire senior year working on my college plans. I would advise any high school senior to do the same. Prospective college students should determine why they are going to college and what they want to get out of their education.” To successfully plan for college, prospective college students should look at college admission, financial aid, and reasons for attending college.

Gaining admission to a college and finding financial aid is a year-long process that begins in the senior year of high school. Students should begin looking at colleges and plan campus visits at the beginning of their senior year. Once they have decided on a college, students can apply for college admission. Colleges will send prospective students information about their admission status within a few weeks of applying to that college. Looking for financial aid also begins during the senior year when students can begin applying for scholarships, grants, and loans. Scholarships can be found through online resources such as Fastweb, through the college and through local community businesses and organizations. Grants and loans can be found once the student fills out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in January prior to the beginning of school in August. The FAFSA determines a student’s aid based on that student’s expected family contribution and cost of attendance. Students should work closely with their college’s admissions office and financial aid office in order to ensure the process of applying for admission and financial aid go smoothly.

In addition to completing the application process, students should also think carefully about their reasons for going to college. “The first step to understanding your own role in your college education,” says Janet Amos in her book Strategies for College, Career, and Life, “is to clarify why you are in college in the first place.” By clarifying the reasons for attending college, a student will have a greater chance of succeeding in college. Success in college includes learning to problem-solve, and developing interpersonal skills and self-management skills. A college education can not only boost your chances of starting a new career, but also bolster your self-esteem. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that the most successful people not only have a college degree, but also have the skills and personal qualities needed to succeed in the workplace.

Three-steps to follow when planning for college:

1. **Apply for admission** - The application process can take the student’s entire senior year to complete and the student should work closely with the college’s admissions and financial aid offices to ensure that any errors are resolved in a timely manner.

2. **Apply for financial aid by March 1st of the year you plan to begin college** - Applying for financial aid, scholarships, grants, and loans can take up to a year. Students need to begin working on the applications at the beginning of their senior year. Students need to be sure these are submitted by their deadline.

3. **Define the reasons for going to college** - Students should clarify their reasons for going to college and what they expect to get from their college degree.

Planning for college may be a long process, but it does ensure that a student will successfully obtain their college degree and the skills needed for the workplace.
Information Technology

Shifting the Way We Think, Work & Play
In 1943 the chairman of IBM, Thomas Watson, said, “I think there is a world market for maybe five computers.” Even Watson couldn’t predict the rapid change brought on by the computer age. Now two thirds of American households have at least one personal computer and virtually no business would be profitable without one.

Today computers do much more than simply compute: supermarket scanners calculate our grocery bill while keeping store inventory; computerized telephone switching centers play traffic cop to millions of calls and keep lines of communication untangled; and automatic teller machines let us conduct banking transactions from virtually anywhere in the world.

Computer Technology – It’s everywhere, transforming the way we live, learn, work and play while creating high demand for a highly skilled workforce. Computer engineering, computer programming, information technology, simulation, computer gaming, networking, the Web – there is a world of opportunity waiting for people who get it and can get it done.

Today’s businesses are looking for employees who understand how to put computers to use to devise practical solutions that increase productivity, cut costs, better serve customers and increase profits. Mountwest Community & Technical College offers a variety of computer classes designed to provide the training people need to help businesses do just that.

Experts all agree that constant training is the only way to keep up with the newest trends and maintain an edge in the computer field. Today’s grads must possess the most current education in computer technology in order to compete in the global workplace. Whether incoming students are computer geeks or beginners, the Business and Information Technology Division at Mountwest Community & Technical College prepares students for lucrative careers in a field where jobs await.

Day or night, weekdays and weekends, in class, online or a hybrid combination, all computer courses at Mountwest are taught by highly qualified instructors committed to providing you with a competitive edge.

Program Developer

The days when programmers could sit in a closet writing code are long gone. Successful programmers are required to figure out how people use the neat things that technology has to offer. In today’s technology driven world, the person who succeeds is one who can go into a situation, decide how processes need to be changed, which technology would appropriately address the situation, create the program (or at least work with the programmers) and then train the end-user how to use the new technology.

While our primary emphasis is to prepare you to enter the workforce as programmer or analyst, the skills you learn at Mountwest can be the jump off point for a career as a systems support technician, network designer, or network administrator.

Network Systems Security (CISCO & MCSA)

This program offers comprehensive network training from Mountwest’s Microsoft Information Technology Academy and Cisco Networking Academy. Students will learn how to secure a server and stop people from gaining remote access to a company’s private information. Within this two-year program, students take courses that are developed by Microsoft and Cisco, providing specialized skills in network administration, design, and security.

Network Systems Administration and Development (MCSE & CCNA)

From the simple Mom & Pop operation to a multi-campus business complex, practically every business has the need for computer networking. The need for qualified people to design, configure and maintain the networks that support computer systems in the home, office, and enterprise environments is only going to grow.

You can become a Microsoft Certified Professional. From the desktop to networking and programming, employers worldwide look for those who know the latest technologies, possess in-demand skills, and the assurance of the Microsoft quality standard. Earn the Microsoft/MCSA Certificate at Mountwest and be fully employable upon graduation.

By earning the Cisco Networking Certificate through the Cisco Systems Networking Academy at Mountwest, you will be prepared for Cisco’s industry standard certifications such as CCNA, CCNP, and the Cisco Wireless LAN Support Specialist. You should readily find employment to fill industry demand for qualified network specialists in businesses and industries that utilizes Cisco networking.

Web Developer

Organizations are increasingly using the World Wide Web for a diverse set of business purposes. Web sites are used for everything from marketing to public relations to training. Careers in web development involve the design and maintenance of these sites and they typically work with a client to determine the needs of the organization. The array of organizations seeking web developers is diverse.

Graduates of this program can expect to find employment at an Internet Service Provider (ISP), computer consulting firm or an entry-level position within a computer department. The student will be prepared with specific job skills that include web authoring, web developer, or database support technician.
Military training can pay off for men and women while on active duty, a reservist or after they’ve served their country. Much of that training can be turned into credit at Mountwest Community & Technical College and put toward an associate’s degree. Helping streamline the effort is Cory Payne, a retired and disabled veteran that is now Mountwest’s Military Programs Coordinator. He held a similar position for nearly four years at Marshall University and had previously spent three years learning about federal and state education and benefits for active military and veterans through the regional office in Huntington.

“My role is to create programs for active-duty military, guard reserves and veterans to assist with their educational pursuits,” Payne said.

That includes taking care of the benefits that are entitled to students and getting credits assigned for prior military training. Payne said he spent his first weekend on the job talking to sergeants about attaining a two-year degree. One sergeant, Payne said, qualified for more than 24 credits based on the health and emergency care training he had received in the Army. “One semester and he’s got his Board of Governors (associate’s degree),” Payne said.

Most colleges assign credit, but only as electives. Mountwest gives credit for the appropriate courses and avoids having students take classes that cover standards they’ve already learned and shown proficiency through formal military training. “We provide the correct application of military training to college credit hours,” says Steve Brown Dean of Continuing and Corporate Education. Payne knows the value of such credit. He was able to earn his Associates, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in three and one-half years thanks to Steve Brown.

Payne is also working on the details of a new program that would bring Mountwest instructors to the West Virginia Veterans’ Home in Barboursville. He said for most of those residents, the G.I. Bill has expired or been exhausted. But the state’s Veterans Re-Education Act provides $750 per semester to cover tuition costs. “We will make sure their cost of education doesn’t exceed that,” Payne said, adding that many residents at the Veterans’ Home could become productive workers again with necessary training provided by Mountwest.

Eugene Johnson, MA is an Educational Counselor and Academic Advisor at Mountwest Community & Technical College. He assists Payne with the registration of Mountwest’s veteran student population and is also available for academic advising on programs of study. Johnson is available for mental health counseling on issues specific to Veterans including PTSD, reintegration, and adjustment disorders. Johnson is currently working on developing a group therapy support program to further address Veteran’s needs.

Eugene’s office is located in the Office of Student Services room B4. Further information can be obtained by calling or emailing Johnson at (304) 696-3865 or johns108@mctc.edu.

For more information contact Cory Payne at (304) 399-1279 or e-mail at payne78@mctc.edu.
R. Paul Martin II
Service Manager | Advanced Technical Solutions, LLC
MCTC Graduate - 2003

As a former student of MCTC I often tell others of all the valuable things that combine to make up my education. As an IT student I really enjoyed the hands-on experience and real-world examples that my professors always gave us. I can remember going from just reading about network administration to logging into the lab and actually managing the scenarios and being responsible for making the process work.

So much of the experience at MCTC was also learning what I found interesting and wanted to pursue more in my career. By having real-world, hands-on experience I quickly learned areas that I really enjoyed and could see myself comfortable doing for many years to come. Much of my education came from areas outside of the actual labs at MCTC. For example, in coordinating and pushing group projects through, I remember once that Rhonda Scragg, Professor at MCTC, mentioned to me that I would make a great Project Manager some day. At the time it was flattering but now I practice this and so many other activities in normal, day-to-day work.

Going into my final semester at MCTC, I was at the point of being ready to graduate and move on to my career, but also faced with the stress of actually doing it. This would have been a rough transition for me had it not been for the assistance of my Academic Advisor Patty Walker and Executive Dean Carol Perry. Both took the time to sit and discuss my options as graduation neared. I was in unfamiliar waters and they made me feel comfortable and taken care of through the whole process, yet they have gone through this semester after semester. This level of caring and a top notch staff is why I have always known I made the right choice by enrolling at MCTC.

Upon graduation, I felt prepared and confident for the next step. I immediately took a Federal IT position out of state but wanted to return to Huntington, WV. I eventually got the opportunity to do so as a Network Engineer. I am fortunate to now be the Service Manager at Advanced Technical Solutions, LLC. Here I am part of a rapidly growing company with family values that develops cutting edge technology to meet customer needs. I am proud to say that in the past year, we have had four interns from MCTC and two of which led to full-time positions. I can say that I love my job and whenever I talk to my friends back at MCTC I am quick to let them know how much I appreciate what they do.

In my career, I look back at what helped develop me into the confident, well-rounded employee that I am today and I have to point back at MCTC as a major contributor. As I said earlier, so much of what I gained from MCTC didn’t come from the textbook itself but from the caring staff and their willingness to go the extra mile.

I continue to be impressed by MCTC’s drive and focus towards helping students. We regularly participate in open discussions alongside other companies, and MCTC’s Advisory Committee to make sure they are right on track with what the work force needs and expects from their graduates.
Today about 60 percent of college students borrow money for their education and on average they’ll owe about $22,000 when they’re done.

That’s a significant amount of money, but for most students it’s what financial folks call good debt—an investment in a brighter future and higher earning potential. Because college graduates will earn about $1 million more than high school graduates over their lifetime, borrowing for college is generally a wise investment.

Yet, there are plenty of stories of graduates who have borrowed themselves into a corner. Their monthly payments are painfully high and they wish they’d borrowed less. By following some common sense guidelines, you can take advantage of student loans without letting them take advantage of you.

1. Don’t overestimate what your income will be when you graduate
While earning a college degree will increase your earning power, incomes vary widely by occupation. For example, nurses and engineers can expect starting salaries over $50,000 a year, but English majors and teachers will likely earn around $35,000 to start out.

Be realistic about your future income and be realistic about your living expenses. Not only will you have to pay back your loans, you’ll need a place to live, food to eat, transportation and a little money for fun. As a guideline, your student loan payment should be no more than 15 percent of your take-home pay.

David Flores, a financial counselor with GreenPath Debt Solutions in Lansing, Mich. works with many people experiencing financial difficulty. He says, “Clients with student loans have been surprised by the monthly payments on $10,000, $20,000 or $30,000. If they don’t get the six-figure salary they anticipated, they discover they can’t afford the payments.”

2. Don’t assume that the more expensive your education, the more you’ll earn
While a big name university might give you a foot in the door and impress your coworkers, over the long run your career choice and your work record will be a better indicator of your salary.

A widely-reported 1999 study found that bright, motivated students who went to “average” colleges tended to make nearly identical salaries to those who
graduated from selective—and expensive—colleges. Economist Alan B. Krueger, coauthor of the study told The Chronicle of Higher Education, “It’s not the school that has the magic touch; it’s the students.”

Students who choose expensive colleges also tend to take out more student loans. A 2005 Department of Education survey found that about 45 percent of students at public four-year schools took out loans averaging $5,600 a year. While 56 percent of private college students took out loans averaging $6,900 a year. Those number drop considerable for two-year public colleges where only 12 percent took out student loans averaging $3,600 a year. Remember, if you’re borrowing 15 percent of your future earnings for student loans now, you’re going to qualify for less when you want to borrow for a car or a home. And most banks will only lend up to 40 percent of your income for all debt, says Flores.

3. Don’t drop out
If you borrow money for a degree that you don’t complete, you get the double whammy—more debt and less income. A 2005 National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education survey found that about 20 percent of students with loans dropped out of college.

“It’s in your best interest to complete your degree,” says Flora Boles of the Michigan Guarantee Agency, a state agency that insures student loans. “So talk to your professor if you’re struggling in a class, and use all the resources available to help you. Your college wants to help you succeed because it’s a win-win for everyone when you graduate.”

Boles, who provides services and information to college student loan programs, says that even when students need to work to make ends meet, education should remain their first priority. “It’s an investment in your future,” she says. Don’t burn yourself out. It’s better to work less or take fewer classes if you’re stressed.

4. Don’t drag it out
Six years of college is going to cost more than four. “So don’t waste money trying out courses that won’t count toward your degree,” advises Boles.

While there are limits to how much students can borrow through federal student loans, it’s possible to rack up a lot of debt. For example, freshmen are limited to $5,500 a year but undergraduates can rack up to $31,000 before they reach their lifetime loan limit and graduate and professional students are allowed to borrow well into the six figures.

Flores adds a caution: Don’t borrow more than you need, just because you can. Tuition and living expenses, yes; iPods and nightlife, no. “I’ve noticed students borrowing for unnecessary extras, and forgetting that they will have to pay that back one day.”

Melanie, a teacher from Bakersfield Calif., who took decades to complete her degree and accumulated $50,000 in student loans had this comment to make at the Web site, Project on Student Debt. “I understand that doctors and lawyers sometimes come out of school owing a grand amount like this but they have a killer earning potential. I do not. I only wish that my loan amount was equal to my education and earning potential.”

Don’t borrow more than you need, just because you can.
Tuition and living expenses, yes; iPods and nightlife, no.

MORE STUDENT LOAN INFORMATION ONLINE

How to Plan Careers and College Finance
mappingyourfuture.org

How to Estimate College Costs
www.salliemae.com/content/landing/planner/eip.html

How to Borrow Wisely
www.projectonstudentdebt.org

How to Calculate Student Debt to Income
www.finaid.org/calculators/undergradadvisor.phtml
Facts & Finds

NEWS ABOUT CAREER AND EDUCATION

College Today

With over 18 million people in U.S. colleges today, you might be surprised to learn who these students are and what they’re doing.

- 38.8 percent of all 18- to 24-year-olds are enrolled in college
- 36.8 percent of all college students are age 25 or older
- College enrollment has increased 28 percent since 1997
- Over 6 million undergraduate students are enrolled at public two-year colleges, seven million at public colleges and universities and four million at private four-year institutions
- The percentage of college students who received “Mostly As” in their classes: 24 percent at for-profit colleges, 18 percent at private four-year colleges, 17 percent at public two-year colleges, 12 percent at public four-year colleges
- Average undergraduate tuition and fees:
  - $2,063 at two-year public colleges
  - $5,950 at four-year public colleges
  - $21,588 at four-year private colleges
- 71 percent of private four-year college students, 61 percent of public four-year college students and 37 percent of two-year public college students graduate with student-loan debt
- The average amount of student loan debt is $20,891 for private college graduates, $19,839 for four-year public college graduates and $10,444 for two-year public college graduates

From The Chronicle of Higher Education “Almanac 2009-10”, Aug. 28, 2009

“We know that in the coming years, jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience. We will not fill those jobs – or even keep those jobs here in America – without the training offered by community colleges.”

President Barack Obama speaking at Macomb Community College • July 14, 2009

Cutting the Cost of College

Blame it on the recession – family budgets are tight; federal and state dollars are in short supply; and private donations are down. Yet a college education is still the best path to a good job. So more colleges are coming up with innovative ways to get students the education they need at a lower cost. Some new and old cost cutting strategies are:

- Three-year bachelor's degrees – Some colleges have discovered how to graduate students in three years—and cut their tuition bill—by instituting intensive courses and year-round studies.
- Work colleges – It’s an old idea that’s attracting new attention; some colleges keep expenses down by requiring students to work in exchange for room and board or tuition.
- No frills – If you could get a first-class education without the fancy dorm, landscaped campus or posh amenities, would you take it? Some colleges have opened no-frills campuses where student pay lower tuition rates than they would at an upscale campus.
- Community college – Community colleges’ two-year transfer programs are attracting more students not just because of their low cost but because of their high quality, innovative programs. Maybe that’s why enrollments have risen 30 percent since 2000.
- Online classes – For students who are motivated and prepared, online classes can be a time and money saver. While for-profit schools are more high profile, many public and non-profit colleges offer online learning as well.

Read “Different Paths to a College Degree” in the September 2009 “Solving the College Crisis” issue of U.S. News and World Report.

College Raises Women's Wages

One important reason why women make more money today than they did 30 years ago is that they have more education. In 1979 when women made just 62 percent as much as men only 45 percent were high school graduates and 35 percent had any college education.

But by 2008, women were making 80 percent as much as men and 93 percent had a high school degree and 66 percent had some college. That pay gap between men and women varies widely among age groups too. Among people age 35 and older women earn just 75 percent as much as men. Among people 25 to 34 years old, women earn 89 percent as much as men, and for 16- to 24-year-olds, it’s 91 percent.

### Mountwest A-Z

**Listing of programs offered by Mountwest – Call 1.800.676.5533 for more information, or visit www.mctc.edu.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Study</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Prepares You For</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>entry level accounting, auditing clerk, bookkeeper</td>
<td>$22,330 – $30,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant, Executive</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>business offices, problem solving, computer software</td>
<td>$31,600 – $41,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant, Legal</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>legal offices, problem solving, computer software</td>
<td>$36,990 – $66,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant, Medical</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>medical offices, problem solving, computer software</td>
<td>$26,630 – $37,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Science</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>agricultural work, inspecting, animal breeding, equipment operating</td>
<td>$16,530 – $38,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Conditioning/Refrigeration</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>heating, air conditioning, refrigeration mechanics</td>
<td>$34,819 – $42,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Sign Language, Deaf Studies</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>interpreter training program, effective communication with deaf persons, translator</td>
<td>$20,550 – $64,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animation and Game Developer</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>design software, programming, modeling and animation, designing and developing games</td>
<td>$31,500 – $43,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive Technology</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>automotive service technicians</td>
<td>$29,910 – $39,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking and Finance</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>bank and finance terminology, computer software for financial institutions</td>
<td>$23,316 – $64,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical/Instrumentation Technology</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>maintaining, troubleshooting, and repairing medical equipment</td>
<td>$27,680 – $45,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioscience Technician</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>basic research, development, and testing</td>
<td>$20,800 – $31,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Governors</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>adult learners to meet occupational goals</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Occupational Trades</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>construction management and contracting</td>
<td>$53,430 – $92,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>business management, sales, project planning</td>
<td>$31,880 – $58,630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mountwest Community & Technical College has classes and degree programs to move you toward your new goals. Choose part-time or full-time, day or evening classes. Start small with a certificate or jump right into an associate degree and transfer to a four-year institution.

Mountwest's small classes, comprehensive services and caring teachers are here to help you learn – and change. Not sure what's next? Take a look at this A-Z listing of Mountwest programs. You never know, something unexpected might catch your eye. And change your life.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Study</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Prepares You For</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call Center Supervisor</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>entry level positions that lead to supervisory and management positions</td>
<td>$38,118 – $66,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Coding Specialist</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>becoming familiar with coding systems, medical terminology and medical background of anatomy and diseases; prepares student for National American Health Information Association exam</td>
<td>$20,650 – $32,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Development Specialist</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>assisting those already in child development field to obtain credentials and degree</td>
<td>$15,267 – $20,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Assistant</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>multi-faceted role within a clinical laboratory</td>
<td>$21,840 – $31,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culinary Arts</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>a variety of culinary establishments as a sous chef, garde manager, kitchen supervisor, and restaurant manager</td>
<td>$29,097 – $106,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistant</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>preparing patients for treatments, assisting dentist with procedures, taking x-rays, developing film, and preparing administrative office duties</td>
<td>$24,835 – $36,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Laboratory Technology</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>making and repairing dental appliances such as dentures, crowns, and braces</td>
<td>$24,254 – $40,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>childcare work, child daycare services, and preschool employment</td>
<td>$16,765 – $20,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics Technology</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>installation technician, electronics technician, electronic sales, biomedical technician</td>
<td>$27,680 – $45,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighter</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>firefighter, firefighter supervision</td>
<td>$20,197 – $60,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Building Construction</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>general building construction</td>
<td>$30,000 – $43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Studies</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>transferring to a four-year institution</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geospatial Studies</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>technical skills with image and image-processing software products, working in business, communications, defense, education, engineering, government, health and human services, natural resources, transporation, and utilities industries</td>
<td>$28,610 – $46,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Design/Graphic Communication</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>graphic design work for print shops, computer design firms, publishers, and advertising agencies</td>
<td>$30,600 – $53,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Information Technology</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>technical knowledge and skills necessary to handle medical, administrative, ethical, legal accreditation, and regulatory requirements of the health care delivery system</td>
<td>$20,650 – $32,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Science</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>allows those with allied health experience to pursue a degree in their field</td>
<td>$21,970 – $49,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel/Lodging Management</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>hotel and resort management, tourism and travel services, and recreation services industry</td>
<td>$28,640 – $51,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Management</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>position of supervisory leadership such as assembly supervisor, machine shop supervisor, operations supervisor</td>
<td>$28,282 – $71,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Design</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>employment with architectural firms, interior design firms, kitchen design firms, department stores, and furniture stores</td>
<td>$30,890 – $53,790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*moving forward >>> toward your goals*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Study</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Prepares You For</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Specialty</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>deputy sheriff and city police positions</td>
<td>$34,410 – $56,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Assistant</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>interviewing, case investigation, preparation of pleadings, and legal research</td>
<td>$34,910 – $59,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinist Technology</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>rigorous demands of the manufacturing sector, manual machinist, CNC machinist, industrial sales, auto plant worker, machinist shop, and fabricator</td>
<td>$23,067 – $35,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing Engineering Technology</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>reading and creating blueprints, generating CNC programs, and assisting or leading a design team</td>
<td>$35,000 – $47,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Training</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>rigging barges, maintaining barges once underway, and performing routine maintenance on towboats and barges</td>
<td>$25,000 – $90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massage Therapy</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>interviewing, case investigation, preparation of pleadings, and legal research</td>
<td>$20,342 – $49,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistant</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>administrative duties and clinical duties in physicians’ offices, clinics, and hospitals</td>
<td>$21,970 – $36,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Transcription</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>administrative and transcription office tasks</td>
<td>$25,313 – $35,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>analyzing business requirements, designing and implementing the infrastructure for business solutions, based on the Microsoft Windows platform and Microsoft Enterprise Server software</td>
<td>$43,828 – $81,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Inspection</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>mine safety inspection</td>
<td>$32,593 – $47,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Systems Administration</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>network administrator, network engineer, systems support technician, network designer, and network security systems designer positions</td>
<td>$43,828 – $81,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Systems Development</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>network administrator, network engineer, systems support technician, network designer, network security systems designer</td>
<td>$43,800 – $81,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Systems Security</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>network administrator, web designer, systems support technician, network designer, security solutions designer, help desk technician, hardware technician, software technician, and software applications</td>
<td>$43,800 – $81,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting and Allied Trades</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>earning a degree and credentials for individuals already working in the field</td>
<td>$24,100 – $39,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paramedic Science</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>providing emergency medical treatment and stabilization, rescuing of persons entrapped in life-threatening situations, transporting critical patients, supporting and assisting law enforcement agencies, and public education and training</td>
<td>$21,290 – $35,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Technician</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>routine tasks to help prepare prescribed medication, counting tablets, labeling bottles, administrative duties, stocking shelves, and operating cash registers</td>
<td>$21,970 – $41,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistant</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>home health care, rehabilitation hospitals, nursing homes, acute care hospitals, skilled nursing skills, outpatient departments, private practice offices, and school systems positions</td>
<td>$33,840 – $49,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Science</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>West Virginia State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and federal marshal positions</td>
<td>$28,100 – $56,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Study</td>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Prepares You For</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Developer</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>network administrator, web designer, systems support technician, and network designer positions</td>
<td>$43,800 – $81,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Library Technology</td>
<td>AAS, Certificate</td>
<td>employment as a library assistant, library technician</td>
<td>$20,200 – $34,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiologic Therapy</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>employment in hospitals, clinics, commercial radiological laboratories, physicians’ offices, mobile radiological services</td>
<td>$36,100 – $52,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Therapy</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>employment in nursing homes, nursing units, outpatient centers, rehabilitation hospitals, acute care hospitals, home health, and physician’s offices</td>
<td>$37,650 – $50,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Technology</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>working in hospitals, physicians’ offices, dentist offices, outpatient care centers, and ambulatory surgical centers</td>
<td>$31,400 – $45,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Development</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>network administration, web designer, systems support technician, network designer, security solutions designer, help desk technician, and hardware technician positions</td>
<td>$43,800 – $81,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>building equipment contractor, school maintenance, repair shop, self-employment, manufacturing industry, construction industry, and utilities industry positions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What began as a special topics course three years ago has now become the Animation and Gaming program at Mountwest Community & Technical College. It is a program within the Business and Information Technology Division. The program was first made possible in 2008 by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. According to Mountwest instructor Patrick Smith, they currently have 70 students enrolled in Introduction to Gaming Concepts I and II. By the end of the second course, students will have completed their first Flash game.

Students learn the basics of game design in Smith's class, but they get to contribute a lot to the structure of the course and how it is taught. Textbooks are not used for these courses, but they do utilize a Wiki for class content through Globaloria, a social network for learning web-game design and simulation production. Globaloria was invented by the World Wide Workshop Foundation. Its purpose is to create technology-based educational opportunities through a flexible set of virtual learning networks for students in developing nations, and economically disadvantaged and technology-underserved communities. Throughout Globaloria there are multiple social networks that students use to learn to build games, all while doing so in a collaborative virtual community.

The gaming industry has changed so much in the past 20 years and designers have the ability to create games for free or to sell them. Either way it is possible to gain recognition within the industry, but Smith says to remember that gaming is a very competitive field. Smith compares it to being an actor in Hollywood, but with the right determination, education, and passion the opportunities are there.

In Fall 2010, the program will expand its offerings and include Advanced Programming, which will include C++ programming. Also, an expansion in Spring 2011 will occur and include 3D Modular Programming that will teach students the Microsoft XNA programming language.

Students wishing to obtain this degree will earn an Associate in Applied Science through the Business and Information Technology Division. In addition to the animation and gaming courses, students are required to take several other programming classes within the division, as well as other required basic core classes.
First things first
It’s completely normal to feel isolated, angry, sad and scared, even if you had an inkling the end was near. Finney says it’s important to take a week or two to grieve. “If you can’t get out of bed, stay there for awhile. You’ll get up eventually. Reach out to those you’re closest to. Tell them what you need—a friendly sounding board is most often the requirement.”

Regroup
Ane Powers, principal of Washington, DC-based The White Hawk Group, a career coaching and leadership development company, says the next step is to address your finances. “Look at your budget. Are you eligible for severance or vacation pay, unemployment benefits? How long will you have access to health insurance? What are your fixed expenses (housing, food, insurance, Internet, phone) and where can you cut back? Subtract the cost of your essentials from funds you can count on to determine the date you must have a paycheck.”

Writing this information down helps make it real and easier to comprehend than when fear is muddling the figures and creating fatalistic thoughts in your mind.

The time following a job loss is perfect for reevaluating your personal values in order to find a better, more satisfying career. Ask yourself: “Did I really love my previous job? What are my strengths, what life issues are important to me, what do I most enjoy doing? Am I basing my lifestyle on what society or others have told me I should want? Is it time to find something more in line with what’s really important to me?”

Powers says that those with the means to access a career coach will receive valuable support in finding answers. Others should look to state employment security workshops and employment programs through churches and colleges that frequently offer free testing to help individuals clarify their talents, skills and values.

Dr. Marla Zipin, a psychologist with a coaching and psychotherapy practice in the DC-area, recommends the free online VIA Signature Strengths Test (www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu) as a helpful resource for identifying your core values.

Finding the bright side
Keeping a positive outlook is important says Zipin, “Look at other doors that have closed and remember the ones that subsequently opened and your resiliency. Look at what you’re telling yourself and shift your negative to optimistic thinking. Cultivate appreciation for the small, good things in your life and watch how your attitude changes.”

Finney agrees. “Open up your mind to the possibility that you’ll find the job you love. Look for stories about people doing extraordinary jobs you think you’d like and learn the language of the job. Double-check your negative assumptions. Why shouldn’t you have a new rewarding career?”

Powers and Finney also agree that the positive side to the numerous job losses during these lean economic times is that it’s forced all of us to become more proactive in our careers. Powers says that the days of working at the same company and receiving benefits for life are over; remaining vigilant in assessing personal values and continuously building skills and contacts are now the key to career survival.

Planning for great connections
Powers cautions job seekers still reeling from their loss to resist creating a resume before they know what they want to say and whom they want to say it to. Instead create a 25-word pitch that highlights your skills and talents—and attracts the interest of others.

And plan to get out of the house to use it. Sure, there are jobs online, but people hire people who know people. Face-to-face networking is one of the most important things you can do to look for work—and relieve isolation and revive hope. Attending networking events at least once or twice a week, equipped with your personalized pitch is far more likely to get a response from those you meet than “I’m looking for a job.”
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- Check efficiencies of various engineering processes
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- Work in groups to conceptualize, design and check the viability of a new product while creating a prototype of that product

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