

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 02/08/2008: PHOTO ACCOMPANIES RELEASE

Contact: Jean Chappell , Associate Dean of the Division of Allied Health
Marshall Community Technical College
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25705

Phone: (304) 696-3018
Fax: (304) 696-3013
URL: www.mctc.edu
email: jean.chappell@marshall.edu

Verizon awards Marshall Community and Technical College Biotechnology Grant

Huntington, W.Va., <February 6, 2008>: Verizon of West Virginia has awarded the Marshall Community and Technical College a \$62,000 grant. Dr. Keith Cotroneo, President of MCTC and Jean Chappell, Dean of the Division of Allied Health at MCTC accepted the grant from B. Keith Fulton, CEO of Verizon West Virginia. The grant award from Verizon is in support of the highly successful Biotechnology camp for local area high school students known as Project DACE.

"Every young person deserves opportunities and this project is the type of program that has the ability to jumpstart careers and futures for the students of MCTC. We are proud to lend our support," said B. Keith Fulton, CEO of Verizon West Virginia.

Project DACE was a successful collaborative effort between MCTC and Marshall University's Integrated Science and Technology Department in May, 2007. In this day camp, students and their instructors participated in activities such as DNA isolation, amplification, and sequencing. Students also learned about the various professional tracks a biotechnology student can pursue.

"For an educator, this is really powerful stuff," said Jean Chappell, Associate Dean Division of Allied Health and primary project coordinator. "We had students who were not even thinking seriously about attending college, and now with the possibilities that this grant provides, they are excited about starting at MCTC and begin working in this exciting field."

A portion of the grant money will be used to begin development of an Allied Health program. When fully developed, the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Biotechnology will graduate technician-level workers for a variety of biotechnical and biomedical industries. In addition, MCTC is working with Marshall University's Integrated Science and Technology Program to create an avenue for students from the Biotechnology, AAS, to transition into the B.S program.

"Biotechnology is one the fastest growing industries in the United States. This support from Verizon will give our students and the community exposure to the field and allow them to look forward to what could be a very lucrative career," said Cotroneo.

For more information contact Jean Chappell at 696-3018 or jean.chappell@marshall.edu

ATTACHED PHOTO: Dr. Keith Cotroneo (far right) accepts a check for \$62,000 from B. Keith Fulton, CEO of Verizon West Virginia. Sam Cipoletti (far left) from Verizon and Jean Chappell from MCTC were also on hand for the check ceremony