

specialty practices in neurosurgery, ENT, urology, OB/GYN, rheumatology, pain medicine and orthopedics. He also oversaw development of a new musculoskeletal practice as part of a total facility replacement project. Prior to his position with UHC, he was the director of physician services and compliance officer at St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon from 1995-2003.

Bailey will serve as interim vice president and administrator while a search is conducted for the position.

## Community and Technical Colleges Exceed Goal of Awarded Degrees

The West Virginia Community and Technical College System (WVCTCS) has reported that more than 19,000 degrees have been awarded between the 2009-2010 and 2014-2015 school years, exceeding the five-year master plan goal by 118.5 percent.

"Community and technical colleges are meeting the challenge," says Chancellor Dr. Sarah Tucker. "Five years ago, we set out to increase the number of degree holders, and we did it. In 2020, 65 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education. We work closely with business and industry to guarantee our programs and training services fully prepare graduates for the work force demands of today and tomorrow. I am extremely proud of our institutions and commend them for this accomplishment."

Between 2010-2015, the number of certificate degrees awarded surpassed the goal of 12,674 with 13,396 degrees and the associate degrees goal of 3,362 with 5,609.

These increases are a result of strong efforts by all nine community and technical colleges to help more students obtain degrees. Some of these initiatives include incorporating job skills into programs and curricula that graduates need to be successful in the workplace; establishing learn-and-earn and apprenticeship opportunities with local employers; developing accelerated programs to help students reduce time to degree; instituting a new developmental education model to improve student success, and providing academic and career planning services to reduce the number of undecided students.

## West Virginia University Researchers Named Disruptors of the Year by Roadshow by CNET

Among the chrome and lights of one of the largest auto shows in the world, West Virginia University (WVU) researchers picked up their own metal.

In January, a team from WVU's Center for Alternative Fuels, Engines and Emissions (CAFEE) was named the 2016 Roadshow by CNET Disruptors of the Year for their research on diesel emissions.

The first to test diesel emissions from vehicles while on the road, WVU's researchers found elevated levels of oxides of nitrogen, or NO<sub>x</sub>, emissions from Volkswagen diesel vehicles. The discovery has led to sweeping changes in the way regulators test emissions from diesel vehicles.

"We are very proud to have our team be one of the inaugural CNET Roadshow Shift Award winners and be honored on the biggest stage in the automotive world," says Dan Carder, interim director of CAFEE. "WVU has been the leader in emissions research for 25 years, and we look forward to continuing work that has an impact on automotive technologies of the future, the companies that develop them and the consumers who buy them."

## Morgantown-Based Marketing Agency Wins Gold National Cancer Awareness Advertising Award

Morgantown-based marketing agency InnerAction Media (IAM) is the recipient of a 2015 Gold Cancer Awareness Advertising Award.

The award was presented to IAM for their Zelda Stein Weiss Cancer Center television and online video campaign for Mon General Hospital.

"First and foremost, we have a responsibility to our clients to deliver accurate, informative marketing content to their potential consumers," says Jim Matuga, IAM's CEO. "Being recognized nationally for excellence in our video production process is a very rewarding validation of the talented people on our team."

The CAA Awards is the nation's most elite competition dedicated specifically to the promotion of all cancer products and services.

"It is always encouraging to be recognized for your hard work," says Dylan Sheldon, senior producer at IAM. "It's even better knowing we were able to share the courageous stories of two cancer survivors with the world."



## Thoracic Surgeon Joins Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

Mark Cooper, M.D., Ph.D., a board-certified, fellowship-trained thoracic surgeon, has joined the faculty of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine as an assistant professor. He will

also be a part of Marshall Surgery, a department of Marshall Health, and Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Cooper specializes in surgery of the heart, lungs, esophagus and other chest organs as well as robotic services. He comes to Huntington with 27 years of experience in general and cardiothoracic surgery, having practiced in England and most recently in eastern Tennessee.

Cooper earned his medical degree from the University of Leeds in England. He completed a residency in general surgery at Texas A&M University in Temple, Texas, and a residency in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. He also completed a fellowship in transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh with Dr. Thomas Starzl. Cooper is board certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

## Charleston and Huntington Advance in \$10 Million America's Best Communities Competition

Charleston and Huntington will have the opportunity to continue their journeys toward winning the top prize in the \$10 million America's Best Communities competition. In January, Frontier Communications officials presented Charleston and Huntington with ceremonial tickets to the competition's semi-finals, which includes a trip to the America's Best Communities Summit in Durham, NC, on April 26-27.

Sponsored by Frontier, DISH Network, CoBank and The Weather Channel, America's Best Communities has instilled new hope and helped inspire economic revitalization in small towns and cities across the country.