

The ACCE meeting on September 18th, 2024 Bluefield State University

The HEPC will be interested to see the fall 2024 enrollment numbers, as some of the institutions (community colleges in particular) may have done better than expected considering the enormous challenges with the FAFSA. Some of the four-year schools may have been hit harder.

The 2025 legislative session will begin one month later because of the November 2024 election. We will have a new governor and a new Senate president, along with other changes, so there may not be any huge initiatives in higher education. The HEPC will continue to push for the Legislature to fully fund the performance-based funding model, including the yearly inflationary increase, but the HEPC has been asked yet again this year to provide a flat budget. Some legislators are pushing for another tax cut, and many may oppose funding increases that are base-building rather than one-time funding. The HEPC hopes the Legislature will continue to support initiatives such as nursing scholarships, grants, and the expansion of dual credit across the state. Deferred maintenance projects are going well across the state.

There was discussion of Travel and Meal Reimbursement processes. 18B-5-6(f) in State Code is where code states what has to be paid for ACCE staff members.

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine just began a year long program in Biomedical Sciences.

Southern WV Community and Technical College mentioned having trouble with fraud in the financial aid with bots applying in batches. They have changed their system to include state or federal issued ids. Even with this change, they have found some fake ids coming through.