

**AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE LUNCHEON**  
**President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.**  
**Sept. 26, 2012**



Good Afternoon. I'm Dr. Brian Hemphill, president of West Virginia State University. It is a pleasure to have the best and the brightest from education, business, and community on our beautiful campus attending an energy forum sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute.

Before I go any further, I would like to ask Jack Harrison of American Petroleum Institute to stand as I thank him for sponsoring this event and choosing WVSU to host this energy forum of the Marcellus Shale, which will be on center stage today.

While a number of issues are certain to be discussed at this luncheon, none is more important to the future of West Virginia and our nation's economy than having a reasonable and responsible energy policy.

The development of the Marcellus Shale will play an important role in our nation's energy future. Natural gas is widely viewed as a critical fuel while facilitating the expanded use of nuclear, solar, wind, and biomass resources. Natural gas also could play a pivotal role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy development of the Marcellus Shale will create more jobs, raise living standards, and enhance our energy security, but doing so will require a clear understanding of the potential benefits and an effective partnership between education, business, industry, government, and community.

The opportunities in West Virginia are, in fact, something we're seeing all over the country.

Having a chemical plant as our neighbor, we understand and expect the safe implementation of the latest technology as the natural gas domestic energy development moves into a new era that I believe will have an economic benefit for our universities, grade schools, junior high and high schools.

As I studied various reports on the Marcellus Shale, I noted one highlight — the fact that we are the most energy rich nation in the world.

When you consider U.S. fossil fuels, nuclear energy, renewable and alternative energy sources such as biofuels — you see a country with the largest energy resources in the world...

- more than Saudi Arabia,

- more than China,
- more than Iran – Iraq – Libya – and Kuwait combined.

Clearly, the oil and natural gas industry is proud to be part of this good news about domestic energy.

We as business, education, energy and community members must foster a straightforward discussion today on how West Virginia, following the lead of states like Pennsylvania and Bakken Oil Shale in North Dakota, can build an energy future founded on public policies that encourage greater development of our vast domestic energy supplies.

In conclusion, I believe this forum is a step in the right direction in gaining a fundamental understanding of the challenges we face going forward and the benefits for all parties concerned not only for the future of West Virginia, but also for the future of the United States of America!

Ladies and Gentlemen, let today be the first step in developing a bridge to success for future generations of West Virginians — When the tide of success comes in, all people are lifted.