



## ***2015-16 West Virginia Higher Education Faculty Issues***

### ***For the West Virginia Legislature:***

- Restore Higher Education state funding to a minimum of the 2009 level.
- Invest in West Virginia's future through Higher Education to yield a return that is tried and true: Twenty thousand additional degree holders by 2018 will mean \$54 million in additional state income tax revenue accrued.
- Address mandated PEIA cuts of \$30 million through investment in public insurance: insurance costs have risen for the past three years on average 6-10% each year for WV public employees, while the legislature has not added to PEIA funding for three years, thus negating any salary increases to public employees.

### ***For the West Virginia HEPC and CCTCE:***

- Support community and legislative understanding of West Virginia's Next Generation Standards, which provide a progression of common goals for public education so that teachers can enhance their curricula across the state: a commitment to Common Core Standards is a commitment to work force and college readiness.
- Develop a state-wide standard for professional behavior that addresses the issues of faculty rights and academic bullying; require all institutions to offer training to faculty, chairs and administrators, and develop a statewide forum on ethical and professional behavior.
- Coordinate a statewide initiative on Wellness to address West Virginia's serious health issues; encourage all institutions to enhance their wellness programs and wellness education.

### ***For Our Institutions:***

- Promote discussion forums to help the public understand West Virginia's Next Generation Standards, which provide a progression of common goals for public education.
- Promote faculty rights and ethical behavior through educating administrators and faculty about "academic bullying": create an independent ombudsman office that will mediate for faculty and staff prior to grievance processes, which are often flawed as they move through the administrative process.
- Promote university programs that encourage faculty, staff, and student wellness: initiate incentives for wellness and a climate of good health to address West Virginia's serious obesity problem.