



Center for Community Engagement & Leadership Development

NEWSLETTER

MARCH - APRIL 2023

POLICING IN AMERICA

By: Easton Perry | Athletic Training | Class of 2023

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Human Rights) — It's been almost three years since the murder of George Floyd at the hands of four officers of the Minneapolis Police Department. I'm sure that everyone remembers the confusion, the outrage, and most importantly the momentum of the efforts of those who chose to educate themselves and help to understand the societal issues that led to that moment. However, that momentum quickly died out, and police violence has only worsened since that time. It is because of this that we felt that this topic needed to be discussed.

On Thursday, March 2, 2023, students and faculty gathered on campus to discuss the issue of policing in the United States. The attendees of the event gathered together to watch an informational video, followed by a valuable discussion. The discussion was filled with personal experiences, vulnerable stories, and respectful deliberation about how to move forward.

When asked about the event, Laurie Goux, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at West Virginia Wesleyan College, said "Policing in America, particularly of Black and Hispanic communities, is an ongoing concern. This forum bears repeating to expose more students, staff, faculty, and community to the well-presented topic." We hope that this event serves as a stepping stone to encourage our attendees to continue the conversation with friends and family and help educate others on these issues.

COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

By: Makayla Garcia

Criminal Justice and Political Science | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (CRJ) — The circle is an area in which Social Justice are two words the Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) strives to empower and define for its participants with each circle that is hosted. This circle was no different.

During Wesleyan's Social Justice Week, the CRJ collaborated with the CCE to host Community-Based Approaches to Social Justice on Wednesday.

community members and Wesleyan students can come together to feel heard and valued as individuals. Tonight's circle was no different, when a participant claimed, "I have learned so much about myself."

The Center for Restorative Justice welcomes all people to its circles, as well as ideas and collaborations for circles in the future.



MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

By: Kiylei Holloway | Political Science & Computer Science | Class of 2026

PICKENS, W.Va. (CCE) — What is the Maple Syrup Festival?

Pickens W. Va. is a small rural town about an hour away from Buckhannon. Once a year, they host a maple syrup festival to highlight the town. At the event, there are tons of exciting things going on. There are local vendors selling products, food trucks, and outdoor children's activities. They even have a pony station where festival goers can ride horses. The main attraction though is the pancake feed. People wait in line for hours outside the school house and American Legion hall just to have some

delicious homemade pancakes. On March 18th and 19th, Wesleyan Service Scholars went out to volunteer at the schoolhouse and the Legion Hall.

"The volunteers were also allowed to try these famous pancakes for free!"

At the schoolhouse, the volunteers assisted the event by working the door, making pancakes, serving pancakes, and helping with stocking and cleaning up the eating area. At this event, we were able to bond

with not only the staff of the event but the community who came to support us. A highlight of the event was laughing with a man who pushed himself to see how many pancakes he could eat. He got to 27 pancakes before quitting! Throughout the day it felt like we had served pancakes to millions of people but finally, the event ended. On the way out of the event, we were hugged by the staff and assured that they were excited to see us again next year. The volunteers were also allowed to try these famous pancakes for free and I can say from firsthand experience they were delicious!



SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK RECAP

By: Julia Manley | Leadership & Service Coordinator

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (CCE) – Our Campus. Our Change. Social Justice Week (SJW) at West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC) happened from March 20th through the 24th. This was a week filled with conversation about justice, awareness about what is happening in this college community, and education on social issues for everyone that participated.

From the Oxfam Hunger Banquet to Expression Night the Center for Community Engagement and Leadership Development (CCE), WVWC organizations, and the WE LEAD teams all came together and brought their social justice event to life that week. This was a week for college students to understand all the important topics that affect our communities every single day. "I hope my peers have learned something new about themselves or others on campus. We all come from varying backgrounds and all have

such valuable experiences," Destiny Cochran, a CCE Workstudy and SJW Organizer said.

After COVID-19, the pandemic shut down the production of SJW. The college was focused on getting students to class safely and took a hiatus on extra events for the time being. This year is its first time back since 2020. It felt like a rebuilding year more than ever. The week consisted of 12 events. This was a combination of active and passive events. All are made for the target audience of college students.

"Sometimes it takes things like Social Justice Week to expose each other to new ideas and new life experiences that are integral to one's growth as a leader and student," Cochran said.

THANK YOU WVWC
for your love & support!

CHEERIOS FOR A CAUSE

By: Kaylie Brinkman | Exercise Science | Class of 2026

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Youth Security) — and some coming from the Buckhannon City Council. The Cheerio boxes were taken to the Parish House to be distributed to the neighbors in Upshur County. The WE LEAD Youth Security team hosted a cheerio drive during March in celebration of Heart Health Month. The team collected 19 boxes, some coming from campus participants



OXFAM HUNGER BANQUET

By: Novalee Schmidt | Psychology and Criminal Justice | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Human Rights) — On Monday, March 20, 2023, the Human Rights team kicked off Social Justice Week and partnered with Oxfam America to host the Oxfam Hunger Banquet on campus. This event was hosted in the dining hall and highlighted the differences in food security between lower-income, middle-income, and upper-income classes of the world.

As attendees entered the room, they were randomly assigned real identities correlating to lower, middle, or upper-class groups. The participants were assigned different meals based on their class. The upper-class group received a three-course meal, the middle-class group received rice and beans, and the

lower-class group received rice and water, with no plates or silverware. This was used to simulate real-life experiences. During the event, students shared what they thought about where they were grouped. "I thought the hunger banquet was an eye-opening experience, I absolutely loved being able to learn all the different stories. Attending the banquet really made me think twice about the food I eat and throw away," Hannah Reed, a first-year Wesleyan student, said. The event was described as a wake-up call by many participants and helped them to better understand global inequality.

MARCH MADNESS

By: Makayla Garcia | Criminal Justice and Political Science | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Poverty Reduction) — The WE LEAD Poverty Reduction team hosted a canned food drive in honor of the notorious March Madness basketball tournament. Campus organizations had the opportunity to compete with one another for a chance to win an ice cream party hosted by the WE LEAD Poverty Reduction team.

The food drive brought in over 100 canned food items that were donated to the Upshur County Parish House to be distributed for their Easter boxes. Hali Westcott, a Service Scholar volunteer at the Parish House said, “The success of

the March Madness food drive allows students outside of the Parish House to engage in providing food for our neighbors in need. The Parish House and the community appreciate the huge donation for Easter food boxes to continue serving our neighbors!”

After three long weeks of competition, Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA), a Greek Life organization, won the competition. ZTA also won the canned food drive tournament last March, hosted by Food Security for Tomorrow.

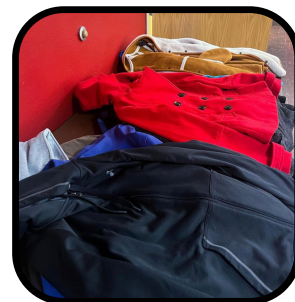
SAFE DRINKING 101

By: Delaney Gump | Criminal Justice, Political Science & Sociology | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Human Rights) — The WE LEAD Human Rights team held an informational event about the importance of safe drinking techniques on March 29, 2023 ahead of Alcohol Awareness Month this April. The event, which was stationed outside of the Social Hall, featured a shot-pouring simulation to test participants' knowledge of how much alcohol is present in a drink along with hand-outs detailing safe drinking practices in hopes of reducing the number of alcohol-related harms. “I had learned that I don't know how to measure a shot, and now, because of the event, I know how to measure my alcohol,” Caroline Fulks, senior Wesleyan Service



Scholar, told the team after attempting the activity. The team also distributed Test My Drink test-strips to test for drugs in one's drink and DanceSafe fentanyl test strips to detect the presence of fentanyl. WE LEAD Human Rights hopes that the participants of the event left with an awareness of the importance of safe drinking and how they can incorporate the techniques into their lives.



WINTER COAT DRIVE

By: Stephen Groves | Biochemistry | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Poverty Reduction) — During the month of February, the WE LEAD Poverty Reduction team partnered with the Center of Restorative Justice (CRJ) and hosted a “Winter Coat Drive.” Students were encouraged to donate a jacket and/or coat to the CCE, which the team would sort and distribute. Through advertising and proper execution, the team has collected a total of fifteen winter coats/jackets. The donations were distributed to the unhoused population of the Clarksburg community.

ROSEMARY PROPAGATION

By: Cadie Kittle | Biology & English | Class of 2026

BUCKHANNON, W.Va (High Tunnel) — The WE LEAD High Tunnel team hosted an event to educate the campus on the propagation of rosemary. After the team found themselves with an excess of rosemary, they took the opportunity to hand it out to some green thumbs on campus. The team took cuttings from the rosemary bush in the High Tunnel, wrapped them in wet paper towels, and tied them up with twine. Then, at the switchboard event, they handed out these sprigs, along with information about propagation. Savannah Herrod, a freshman at Wesleyan, said that she “liked that it got the whole campus involved, while also letting them see what the High Tunnel had to offer.”



E- DAY AT THE CAPTIOL

By: Geneva Brown | Biology | Class of 2023

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (High Tunnel) — Do you know about environmental legislation in W. Va.? Do you know what the W. Va. delegates are doing at the capital for environmental legislation? Do you know what environmental organizations and nonprofits are doing? Well the WE LEAD High Tunnel team took on the capital to find out what was going on during E-Day. We had the opportunity to talk with Delegate Evan Hansen who informed us about some of the environmental legislation he was passionate about. We were

able to chat with environmental organizations about all things West Virginia environment from water to air and soil. Later we had the opportunity to sit in on the House session and learn how a typical day functions. "Attending E-Day at the capital gave me the opportunity to learn about environmental legislation and how to get involved in our community. It was a really great experience and I learned a lot that I was able to bring back home," Cadie Kittle, a High Tunnel member said.

CARRY THAT WEIGHT

By: Courtney Gray | Psychology & Religious Studies | Class of 2023

CW: Sexual Assault

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Human Rights) — WE LEAD Human Rights hosted an outside event titled "Carry That Weight" in support of the movement started by Emma Sulkowicz, a former student at Columbia University. The movement was established to bring awareness to the sexual assault cases occurring on Columbia's campus that were not being addressed by the administration. Human Rights issue team members felt it was an appropriate time to support Emma's efforts here on Wesleyan's campus during the month of April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Students were welcomed to write encouraging notes on a mattress in an effort to support survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. "Thank you, guys, for bringing awareness to this issue. It really means a lot to many people on this campus," said one participant, Nikki Riley. The team feels empowered to have ended the Spring 2023 semester in such an inspiring manner.



SAVE THE DATE: SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Invisible Illness) — The WE LEAD Invisible Illness Team invites students of Wesleyan, community members, and WVWC alumni to our annual Suicide Prevention Walk next semester. The walk will take place on **September 9**, with registration beginning at **9 a.m.** Participants should gather at the **Wesley Chapel** to register and hear opening words from a special guest speaker.

RAMP DINNER

By: Kiylei Holloway | Political Science and Computer Science | Class of 2026

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (CCE) — What is the Ramp Dinner? The ramp fundraiser is a dinner event hosted annually by the Upshur County Public Library. This year was the 28th year that the event has been hosted and the dinner was catered by Fish Hawk Acres. At the event, Service Scholars helped with setting up, serving food, and cleaning up after the event. The library had a beautiful setup where people could sit and chat after getting their food. They even had live music playing.

In case you're unaware, as I was, a ramp is a wild onion that is native to West Virginia and is apparently pretty popular. At the event, we served several variations of food with and without

ramps. We had ramp butter, ramp and potato soup, ramp-infused veggies, ramp quiche, and more! We served people of all ages and backgrounds, and everyone was so grateful for the food and the experience that the ramp dinner offered. We even met a man that had a tattoo of a ramp! The dinner ran from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and we served at least over 50 people. Once the event ended, we helped the library and catering staff clean and pack up. We were thanked profusely for all our help and invited back for the 29th annual event next year. I really enjoyed seeing the community come together and support the local library. Everyone was extremely nice, and the food was delicious!

HAPPY GRAMS

By: Masi Lott | Biology | Class of 2026

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Invisible Illness) — The WE LEAD Invisible Illness team hosted their semesterly "Happy Grams" throughout Spring finals. Happy grams are a positive light during finals and help put a smile on someone's face. You can send a happy gram to anyone on campus and even write your own little message. Happy grams are truly the names they are given, and everyone looks forward to shedding some light on their friends every semester. This connects the students on campus as they show some extra support or just a friendly message one last time before break!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR:
THE HUNGAR WALK
SEPT. 30, 2023
8 A.M. REGISTRATION
9 A.M. WALK**

**BENEFITING THE
UPSHUR COUNTY
PARISH HOUSE**



PARISH HOUSE COMMUNITY DINNER

By: Kendra Goeddert | Sociology and Political Science | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Poverty Reduction) — On March 16th, the WE LEAD: Poverty Reduction team partnered with the Upshur County Parish House to prepare, package, and serve a spaghetti dinner to the Buckhannon community. Several organizations volunteered their aid as well, including Zeta Tau Alpha and Wesleyan Service Scholars. Volunteers worked to prepare meal boxes containing spaghetti, garlic bread, green beans, and mini muffins. The group

served a whopping total of 94 meals within the span of the hour. The team plans to continue hosting these meals once per month. Caroline Fulks, a senior Service Scholar placed at the Parish House, shares, "We loved hosting the WE LEAD Poverty Reduction team for their community dinner at the Parish House. It was great seeing them host an off-campus event and have the opportunity to interact with community members. I am excited to see this become a monthly event for the team!"



EXPRESSION NIGHT

By: Masi Lott | Biology | Class of 2026

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Invisible Illness) — On March 23rd, the WE LEAD Invisible Illness team hosted an event for Social Justice Week. This event was an expression night held in the library's second-floor reading room. Expression night taught the audience different ways to express themselves and show their personalities through different mediums. Some people performed their poems, someone showed their art, someone sang a song, and someone did an act. The event held value for the performers and their ways of expression.



STUDENT'S FIRST

By: Colby Wamsley | Psychology | Class of 2024

CW: School Shooting

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Youth Security) — On average a mass casualty can take between four and twelve minutes. What would Wesleyan do within this time? The WE LEAD Youth Security Team hosted an event that talked about a sensitive subject, school shootings. "Students First: School Safety" was an event talking about gun safety and awareness within the school system. The team highlighted the tragic events of the Uvalde shooting along with what Wesleyan would do. For this event the Youth Security team with the participation of Wesleyan experts, Shauna Jones of the Counseling Center, and John Bohman, the Wesleyan Director of Campus Safety and Security. Team Member Nick Evans went over gun safety and how to properly and safely unload and store a gun. Bohman went over Wesleyan's plan with the students in attendance. He opened the floor to questions and suggestions and left with more knowledge from a college student's perspective. Jones provided a safe space for the students to unwind and talk about their concerns and how the event impacted them. This event had a large turnout including senior Courtney Gray, who stated, "It was such an eye-opener of how quickly situations can escalate. Being told in the time we decorated our flags, the shooting would have started and finished was a true 'wow factor'. I also greatly appreciate John Bohman being there to explain Wesleyan's protocol."



YOUTH SECURITY RECAP

By: Destiny Cochran | Elementary & Special Education | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Youth Security) — On April 19th, The WE LEAD Youth Security Team hosted its final semester event. The event was held outside the Wesleyan Cafeteria as a tabling event. The table was decorated with past events such as Let's TikTalk About Youth Security, CDC Valentines, Cheerio Drive, and Student's First: School Safety. The team

handed out brownies and talk about good memories made while hosting all of these events this semester. "It was fulfilling to witness all of our events laid out on a table. I know we did all of the events, I was there to witness them, but it's completely different seeing all of the things collectively," Kaylie Brinckman, a WE LEAD Youth Security member

explains how satisfying it was to put on the event "It was almost like wrapping a nice bow on a present, nice and tidy for the end of the year!"



INJURED ATHLETE PANEL

By: Erin King | Exercise Science | Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (Invisible Illness) — On Thursday, March 30th, the WE LEAD Invisible Illness team with the help of guest speaker, Dr. Greg Bradley-Popovich hosted an injured athlete panel. The event began at 8 p.m. with Dr. Greg giving a presentation about the effects of injury on the mental health of athletes.

The presentation was followed by a panel of three Wesleyan student-athletes who told their stories and experiences with injury and how it affected them.

The panel consisted of Amanda Schlör, Josh Castro, and Christian Cimaglia. The event wrapped up with a Q&A session with the audience and panel members. "The injured athlete panel was great! Athlete injuries are so common, yet we hear very little about how athletes persevere through adversity. It was a breath of fresh air to hear the athletes discuss their path of overcoming the mental barriers of a major injury," Roman Moore, junior physics major said.

PLASTIC BAG DRIVE

By: Chelsey Fritz | English | Class of 2025

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (High Tunnel) — Do you need plastic bags? We've got plastic bags. The WE LEAD High Tunnel Team held a semester-long plastic bag drive to not only practice sustainability but to give these bags to close partners such as Free Meals Appalachia Foundation and the Upshur Parish House. This campus-wide drive caught the attention of many faculty members and students that the CCE was overflowing with bags! We would like to give the campus life staff of Holloway a special thank

you for focusing their staff program on the drive. As shared by RA Jayla Cowherd, "I really enjoyed watching all the residents collecting their bags for our staff program. They were interested in knowing why a bag collection was happening around campus and after we told they were happy to learn that such a simple gesture was helping the community greatly." Who knew a simple bag drive could bring so many together? We're not done yet though! Keep an eye out in upcoming semesters for our next plastic bag drive!



SPOTLIGHT: COURTNEY SHORTS

BY: Destiny Cochran

Elementary & Special Education

Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (CCE) — Courtney Shorts is a senior Service Scholar at West Virginia Wesleyan College. While being a Service Scholar, Courtney is also a Health Science major who works within the chemistry department as a work-study. Courtney is involved in Welseyan’s Greek Life as well, as a sister in the Alpha Xi Delta chapter where she holds the Membership Vice President position.

Courtney joined the Service Scholar program in hopes of making an impact within Buckhannon and on campus. Courtney’s service site is the Buckhannon Upshur Middle School, Courtney said, “It has helped prepare me to develop communication skills. It has also created a newfound love for the Buckhannon community and has allowed me to create a deeper relationship with my peers.” Courtney’s advice for incoming freshmen rings true, “Be open-minded with everything and honest to yourself.” Courtney plans to pursue a career in pharmaceutical sales, directly impacting her passion for equity in healthcare.



THANK YOU WSS SENIORS



SPOTLIGHT: SKYLAR KETCHEM

BY: Makayla Garcia

Criminal Justice and Political Science

Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (CCE) — Sky Ketchem is a senior Service Scholar and nursing student at West Virginia Wesleyan College, who will begin in the Davis Memorial Emergency Department as a Registered Nurse in May. Ketchem’s site placement is with the Buckhannon Fire Department. She believes her experiences with the FD will help her understand the connections between community and nursing as well as empower her to seek out new programming opportunities as a nurse in the community.

Ketchem feels passionate about healthcare availability, and believes that the program has equipped her to address these availability issues throughout her career, “my leadership characteristics paired with my knowledge of the health field and the needs for available healthcare despite socioeconomic status can help me combat the issue of healthcare availability.”

Reflecting on her time at Wesleyan and with the CCE, Ketchem tells her favorite memory to be of Helvetia, during the first-year service scholar orientation trip. “The night I spent in Helvetia when I thought I would freeze to death, I woke up along with the other girls in my tent early in the morning greeted by the sight of my own breath in the cold air. We all went straight to the community building to warm up, and some of the best conversations I had that trip were prompted by this shared experience that we could all connect with.”



SPOTLIGHT: HANNAH KETTERMAN

BY: Madisyn Fox

Political Science and Physics

Class of 2023

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (CCE) — Hannah Ketterman is a graduating Service Scholar at West Virginia Wesleyan College. She is very passionate about spending time in the classroom, based on her major in Elementary Education, work-study for the Education Department, and has recently completed her year-long residency at Rock Cave Elementary School as a student teacher. Hannah has also served many hours in the classroom as a Service Scholar at Union Elementary, standing by the sides of multiple teachers over the past four years.

Joining us as a first-generation college students, Hannah looked to the program as an outlet for growing as a student and as a leader. She came to our institution as a Biology major, but she says that her experiences as a Service Scholar helped her uncover her passion for teaching and teaching young children. She also credits the program for the development of her characteristics in adaptability, passion, and self-awareness. She used these skills as an orientation leader for our program, and she says, “Being an orientation leader has brought me so many incredible memories over the past few years. One of my favorite memories was from the 2021 trip during Cross the Line. This event allowed a deep sense of connectedness and support as people were being their most vulnerable selves.”

We are so excited to see Hannah develop as a leader after her time at Wesleyan. She has accepted a position as a teacher at Lewisburg Elementary School in Greenbrier County, WV. We can’t wait to see what she does next!

SPOTLIGHT: GENEVA BROWN

BY: Makayla Garcia

Criminal Justice and Political Science

Class of 2024

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (CCE) — Geneva Brown is a senior Biology major with minors in Music and Gender Studies. Brown was member of the Animal Welfare and Sustainability Team prior to taking on a new WE LEAD Team, the High Tunnel.

Brown believes that her experiences in WE LEAD “have allowed me to work in a positive and supportive group dynamic where we all share similar interests in helping our community. I am most thankful for the constant support from the CCE. I have had some pretty big ideas but the CCE has been there providing support the whole way,” Brown shares.

As the semester dwindles and graduation nears, Brown plans to stay local and become an environmental advocate/specialist. Her hard work and effort for the CCE and High Tunnel are greatly appreciated, and the CCE wishes Geneva all the world has to offer.



**THANK YOU
WE LEAD SENIORS**

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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Give:

<https://ssl.charityweb.net/wwwc/donatenow.htm>

GRADUATION

THE 2023 CCE SENIORS

Geneva Brown | Chesapeake City, MD

Olivia Carpenter | Canvas, WV

Hannah Cogar | Buckhannon, WV

Michael Drury | Radford, VA

Madisyn Fox | Caldwell, WV

Caroline Fulks | Bridgeport, WV

Jason German | Webster Springs, WV

Brayden Gillespie | Flemington, WV

Courtney Gray | Flemington, WV

Maddie Groves | Frametown, WV

Claire Gum | Jane Lew, WV

Faith Hammerbeck | Stokesdale, NC

Noah Jeffries | Bristol, WV

Skylar Ketchem | Belington, WV

Hannah Ketterman | White Sulphur Springs, WV

Amanda Schlor | Coraopolis, PA

Courtney Shorts | Purcellville, VA

Ryan Shrewsbury | Scott Depot, WV

Laine Stover | Wexford, PA

Fallyn Swiger | Bridgeport, WV

Zak Williams | Morgantown, WV

Emily Wilmoth | Fairmont, WV



WELCOME TO THE **ORANGE LINE!**

Love,
THE CCE