



## *ACF Interim Report to Higher Education Policy Commission April 26, 2013*

Reporting for the WV Advisory Council of Faculty, Chair Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt (Shepherd); other officers include Vice-Chair Lucie Refsland (New River CTC), Secretary Paul Peck (Glennville State College), ACF Legislative Advisory Coordinator Roy Nutter (WVU), and ACF Webmaster & Listserv Coordinator Mike Ditchen (Bridgemont CTC). **The following issues are important at this time:**

*Prescript: Follow-up on Outcomes-Based Funding:* Our understanding is that an Outcomes-Based Funding bill will again be introduced in 2014. Faculty support and concerns were addressed at the January 31 meeting (see January Interim Report). When we spoke to Senator Plymale on March 21, we were particularly interested that the two councils and **higher education faculty be included as specifics are shaped**. We request that the HEPC advocate for faculty participation as well, for the benefit of the special insights and experience that we provide. Likewise, we ask that you advocate for a rewards-based system that includes some financial incentives so that outcomes-based funding does not appear punitive.

*I. A New Paradigm for Education:* Since so much that we may be able to accomplish for higher education, for the economy, and for the people of West Virginia is linked to funding, we want you to help us stress the importance of a **Pre-K through 20 approach to prepare West Virginia students to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**. National assessment standards (Smarter Balance) are already moving in this direction, and legislators are beginning to see the importance of enhancing the learning continuum at both ends of the spectrum—at the pre-K end and at the higher education end. Thus, the same special status that public education receives, including exclusion from mandated funding cuts, must be applied to higher education as well—crucial in meeting those workforce goals that will come due in “2018” when “49% of the population” will need to have some post-secondary education required by market demands. The 2013-14 funding cuts that have been discussed are having a chilling effect on programs, on progress meeting graduation and other institutional goals, and on other outcomes that institutions of higher learning are striving to accomplish. West Virginia Higher Education Faculty want to be accountable, but as the “gyre” widens and, for example, as salaries become more compressed for older faculty and less competitive for newer, we cannot continue to do more with less and maintain high quality: as Yeats would say, the “center cannot hold” and “things fall apart.”

*Postscript:* We invite you, the Commissioners, to share with us your most pressing concern or issue that will improve higher education in West Virginia. **How can we help you?**