

Foundation Supports WVU Parkersburg Environmental Course



For the third year, West Virginia University was able to offer Psych 410 – Applied Environmental Psychology. Ten students were selected by the team taught faculty of Dr. Phil and Denise McClung. The course involved camping May 10-15 throughout the beautiful state of West Virginia.

The students quickly learned the importance of cooperation. The McClungs commented on how wonderful it is to watch the group develop into a working team and caring group of people who learn to watch over each other and the environment.

The students' first stop is always at the Kayford Mountain mine site where they learn about the devastation from mountaintop removal mining. Other stops include the New River Gorge (hydropower plant), Cranberry Glades, Greenbank

National Observatory, Seneca Rock, Smokehole Caverns, Dolly Sods, Canaan Valley, the windfarms on Backbone Mountain. At Blackwater Falls State Park, the group participates in a high ropes challenge course and ends in North Bend State Park repelling.

This year the course was a feature article in the May issue of the state magazine “Wonderful West Virginia” and has been highlighted in the campus admissions recruitment efforts, as well as serving as the topic of several public presentations. On behalf of the three classes, an oak tree was planted on the campus walking trail in memory of Kate.

... Thank you Svitek Foundation for your continued support to help educate and offer students this outdoor learning experience.

