

**Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley**

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Chair, Education Division  
West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Parkersburg, West Virginia

Educational background

B.A. Elementary Education, Glenville State College  
M.A. Education of Talented and Gifted, West Virginia University  
Ph.D. C&I Leadership and Supervision, Ohio University

Past positions related to teacher education

Professor of Education, Chair of Education Division, and Coordinator of Field Experiences

National educational memberships including past or current positions

Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, West Virginia Associate  
Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, West Virginia University Parkersburg  
Representative and currently West Virginia Chapter Treasurer  
Kappa Delta Pi, West Virginia University Parkersburg Chapter Co-Counselor  
National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs  
National Association of Professional Development Schools, Member  
Phi Delta Kappa, Member

Past NACCTEP Board positions or committees

Member at Large  
Conference Proposal Committee

What is your vision for community college teacher education programs?

My vision is for community college teacher preparation programs to become an even more vital part of the preparation of new teachers than they are now. Because of the affordability of their tuition, community colleges are poised to offer courses and degrees needed to alleviate teacher shortages and to prepare highly qualified teachers. Community colleges touch geographical areas and serve student populations that many other educational institutions do not. This means that teacher preparation programs in community colleges can offer courses to a more diverse population of teacher candidates and prepare them for transfer to baccalaureate schools. Beyond transfer programs, I also believe that community colleges are viable alternatives for offering complete teacher preparation programs in underserved areas. Community college teacher preparation programs will continue to offer quality programs in conjunction with four year institutions and quite possibly begin offering the baccalaureate in education to meet the needs of their students and communities.

What advice would you give to a future teacher?

The best piece of advice I can offer future teachers is to be continuous learners. We are living in an information age in which people from diverse cultures and backgrounds come together. In this society, teachers must be willing to continue to learn and to change to meet the educational needs of their students. Teachers who convey a true excitement

about learning and the learning process will be a model for life-long learning that is vital to the success of their students. Rather than teaching “facts” teachers must teach students how to think and how to learn. Teachers must also practice tolerance of differences in their classrooms. Through modeling a love of learning, teaching thinking, and practicing tolerance teachers will create academically safe environments in which students can learn to be risk takers. The students themselves will then become continuous learners.

#### Interest or hobbies

My interests include the study of meaningful professional development that promotes growth and lasting change. I also am interested in studying the characteristics of effective leaders. I have found that professional development and leadership are very important in public schools and in teacher preparation programs.

My hobbies include reading and collecting quilts. I also enjoy doing needlework when I can find the time. I am a member of the local Lions Club and take part in many community and civic activities through that organization.