



EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS *at the* **2026 WEST VIRGINIA** **GREAT TEACHERS** **SEMINAR**

Comments from past participants:

"A truly positive and useful experience."

"Approaching perfection!"

"Excellent! Thank you!"

"Make sure this seminar continues!"

"I am leaving with a head full of ideas and an increased love for what I do!"

MONDAY, JUNE 15 – THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

The WV Higher Education Policy Commission and the Community and Technical College System with support from the Faculty Advisory Council will sponsor the 34th annual West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar at North Bend State Park, June 15-18, 2026. Like its counterpart in more than 25 states and internationally, the focus of the seminar will be on innovations and challenges of instruction at the college and university level. Faculty members from every higher education institution in West Virginia are encouraged to apply as we address the problems and promises of online, face-to-face and hybrid instruction.

The focus:

The workshop focus is not on teaching specific disciplines, but rather on the art of teaching - and online teaching in particular. The emphasis is wholly on the special nature of those who are and aspire to be great teachers. The GTS is based on the notion that, if properly tapped, the collective wisdom, experience and creativity of any group of practicing educators far surpasses that of any individual expert or consultant.

The structure of the seminar evolves from the initial innovations and challenges workshops. Experienced and inexperienced college educators learn from each other. Underlying all activities is the challenge to characterize and define the "great teacher."

The Site:

The seminar is at the North Bend State Park Lodge on the outskirts of Cairo, WV (not far from Parkersburg). Participants will enjoy the facilities of an established conference center situated in a picturesque wooded valley. Recreational activities include bicycling (North Bend is situated on one of the best rails-to-trails in the state), tennis, hiking, swimming, playing music, guided nature and bird walks, and nearby antique shopping. Participants will have one afternoon free for recreation. Bring your bicycle, running/hiking shoes, a musical instrument or sports equipment as the spirit moves you. Please do not bring family or pets (except for service animals).

The Purpose:

- To celebrate good teaching.
- To challenge educators to venture beyond the limits of their own specializations and environments in search of transferable ideas, non-traditional methods of delivery, and the universals of teaching.
- To promote a spirit of introspection and self-appraisal by providing a relaxed setting and straightforward process whereby participants in these drastically changing times can seriously review and contemplate their attitudes, methods and behaviors as teachers.
- To practice rational analysis of online and hybrid instructional problems and to develop realistic and creative approaches to their solutions.
- To stimulate the exchange of information and ideas by building an expanding state-wide network of communication among teachers in higher education who all face the daunting task of transitioning in part or wholly to online instruction.

The Staff:

David Wohl, a former faculty member at WV State University and understudy to GTS movement founder David Gottshall will lead our workshop. After 25 consecutive years, David Gottshall led his last workshop right here in West Virginia in 2017 and passed the baton in order to keep the magical art of the GTS alive. The staff of 6 experienced facilitators is composed of former seminar participants. For more information contact Barbara Ladner - ladnerbe@wvstateu.edu.

Enrollment:

To ensure a quality experience, enrollment is limited. Each college and university may register for one faculty slot for the seminar. Marshall and WVU may register two faculty each. PLEASE LET US KNOW OF SELECTIONS BY APRIL 15TH, OR CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL SEND SOMEONE BY APRIL 15. Institutions are encouraged to select one or more alternate participants. The April 15 deadline will allow us to know how many alternates can be accommodated. Participant registration forms must be submitted by May 15 and will be sent as soon as your institution gives us your contact information.

Each participant is expected to submit (via email to dwohl23@gmail.com)

- An **INNOVATION PAPER**: A one-page paper describing a personally attempted (and relatively successful) online teaching innovation.
- A **PROBLEM PAPER**: A one-page paper describing a problem or concern you have encountered while teaching in classroom or lab for which you have **not** found a workable answer.
- A **TRICK OF THE TRADE**: A single teaching idea or tool (homemade or commercial, original or borrowed, subject-oriented or universally applicable) which has enhanced your teaching.
- An **INSPIRATION**: a book, journal article, publication, or other resource that you have found particularly helpful or inspiring to you and/or your teaching.

For more information on your campus,
contact your ACF representative
(<https://wvacf.org/acf-members/>)

