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**Thank you to everyone that attended the First2 Network and West Virginia Jobs Network Spring 2024 Co-Conference! Stay tuned for our June newsletter which will feature conference highlights.**



[Click here to view photos, presentations and posters from the conference.](#)

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## **Institutional Updates**

### **Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (BRCTC)**

First2 at BRCTC held campus club officer elections and elected a new President. Faculty hosted a project showcase with ice cream for students.

### **Fairmont State University**

Fairmont's First2 institutional team has been working on completing the coaching sessions for their PDSAs this year. They are also excitedly planning for their 2024 Summer Bridge program! They hosted their final dinner for their First2 scholars and campus club in conjunction with S-STEM scholars/mentors and SURE research students. Multiple First2 institutional team members from Fairmont attended the recent First2/WVJN co-conference and presented a poster about their First2 immersion programs.

### **Glenville State University**

First2 at Glenville had a great Ambassador Visit to Gilmer County High School, and they recently hosted a 3-day study session for finals which will be used as a PDSA. Zoey Steele attended the First2/WVJN co-conference and displayed their Student-Faculty Interactions

PDSA, which won PDSA Rookie of the Year! Addison Aguiniga is heading into her senior year at Glenville and Zoey will be a junior next year; they are excited to create more events and do more with First2.

### **Marshall University**

Marshall's First2 institutional team has been wrapping up their Campus Club PDSA and their Research Mentoring PDSA.

### **Shepherd University**

First2 students Jacob Doyle and Anika Wirt, with faculty assistance, led a finals study event; they spoke with students about how to get organized and ready for finals, time management, and study tactics. About 60-70 students attended over the two dates. These students enjoyed pizza and chips during the event and they participated in break out sessions arranged by class where faculty provided study guides for the students to work on. The Science Student Success Center is coming along! The room has been cleared and it is now awaiting further cleaning and furniture.

### **University of Charleston**

UC's institutional team met to plan for the 2024-2025 First2 program year as well as their summer immersion program. Hailey Cox and Lauren Roush graduated this semester (both plan to pursue medical school) and Jacob Slate graduated this semester; congratulations Hailey, Lauren, and Jacob!

### **West Virginia University**

WVU's First2 institutional team completed exit coaching for their Professor Panel PDSA and for their Professional Development Workshop Club PDSA. They hosted a graduation party for their graduating First2 students Keyzar Dominguez, Sarah Titta, and Revan Buan; congratulations Keyzar, Sarah and Revan! Party attendees also got to visit the Student Success Center, tour the REACH Center and spend time with service dog Ruby. First2 students Ray King and Abigail Judy served as Legislative Ambassadors with Samantha Mitchell and Sarah Riley on a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with WV Senators about the First2 Network. Ty Landis arranged and scheduled a Professor Final Exam Help Session; Ruby, Michelle Paden, and two faculty (an organic chemistry instructor and a biology instructor) attended and assisted about ten students. In addition, organic chemistry student attendees were provided with an ACS practice exam code after the event and leftover food items were distributed to all student attendees. This help session was directly related to the Professor Panel PDSA and was run as a pilot PDSA. Rita Rio tabled for First2 Network at the WV Science Bowl as a pilot PDSA. Abigail Judy has received an internship in the Department of Environmental Protection Office of Mining Reclamation; Ella Moats and Caitlyn Staiger have been accepted to the WVU SURE program; Revan Buan got into the

OneHealth Program at WVSU; and Linsey Powers received a US Steel internship; congratulations to all these amazing students! Ty Landis and Abigail Judy tabled at WVU's Earth Day on the Green event. They spoke with attendees about the First2 Network, majoring in STEM, and being under-represented in STEM; thank you Ty and Abigail for representing First2 at this event! First2 student and neuroscience major Remeri McClanahan was recently recognized as the 2024 WVU Undergraduate Student Employee of the Year. Remi has worked as an undergraduate researcher for Dr. Carla Brigandi for the last two years; [view the write up here](#).



*Ty Landis and Abigail Judy tabling at WVU's Earth Day on the Green*

### **West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech)**

First2 at WVU Tech recently met with the First2 Improvement Science team to check-in about the progress of their PDSAs.

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### **First2 Attends the 2024 Carnegie Summit on Improvement in Education**

Samantha Mitchell (First2 Network Student Coordinator), Heather Arnett (First2 Program Coordinator), Callia Yang (First2 Student Director at Marshall University), Mary Ellen Sullivan (First2 Network Improvement Science Data Support), Brigid Brown (First2 Network Improvement Science and Data Manager), Louise Yarnell (SRI consultant for Improvement Science), and Kirby Chow (SRI Improvement Science Team member and coach) recently represented the First2 Network at the 2024 Carnegie Summit on Improvement in Education ([click here to learn more about this summit](#)).

The summit was rife with exciting insights, promising connections, and an abundance of enthusiasm to support students and educators through Improvement Science. The First2 team that attended participated in 41 sessions including sessions focused on coaching,

improvement science, organization, leadership, and student voice ([view notes about these sessions here](#)).

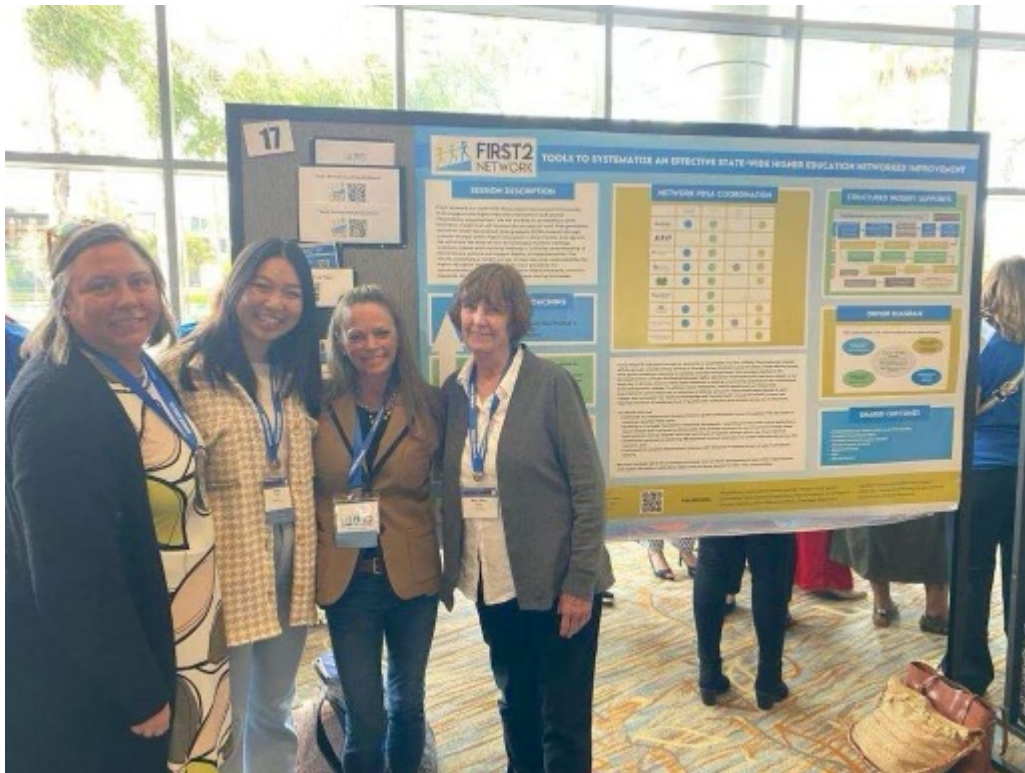
This team also presented a First2 Network poster to over 2,000 summit attendees; their poster was one of the most frequented and engaging posters highlighting the network's successes and coordination among institutional partners. [Click here to view this poster.](#)



*Samantha Mitchell, Heather Arnett, Callia Yang, Mary Ellen Sullivan, and Brigid Brown at the 2024 Carnegie Summit on Improvement in Education*

Samantha Mitchell reflected, “Attending the 2024 Carnegie Summit felt like diving into a pool of creativity! We were buzzing with excitement, already brainstorming how our students could join in and share their own innovative uses of Improvement Science. It’s not just about learning—it’s about empowering our students to be the next wave of educational change-makers!”

[Read a full summary about their experience here](#) and [view their summit presentation here](#).



*Samantha Mitchell, Callia Yang, Brigid Brown, and Mary Ellen Sullivan with the First2 Network poster at the 2024 Carnegie Summit on Improvement in Education*

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## Events and Opportunities



**West Virginia Student Success Summit - “Navigating New Horizons: Empowering Educators & Students in a Changing Landscape”**  
**Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center**  
**July 17 & 18, 2024**

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, the West Virginia Department of Education, and West Virginia GEAR UP are thrilled to invite you to "Navigating New Horizons:

Empowering Educators & Students in a Changing Landscape," an essential event designed to equip educators with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to thrive in an ever-evolving educational landscape. In today's rapidly changing world, educators and stakeholders play a pivotal role in guiding students toward success. This event aims to empower stakeholders with the insights, strategies, and tools necessary to navigate new challenges and seize emerging opportunities effectively. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

### **The U.S. Department of Energy has fellowship opportunities in their Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office**

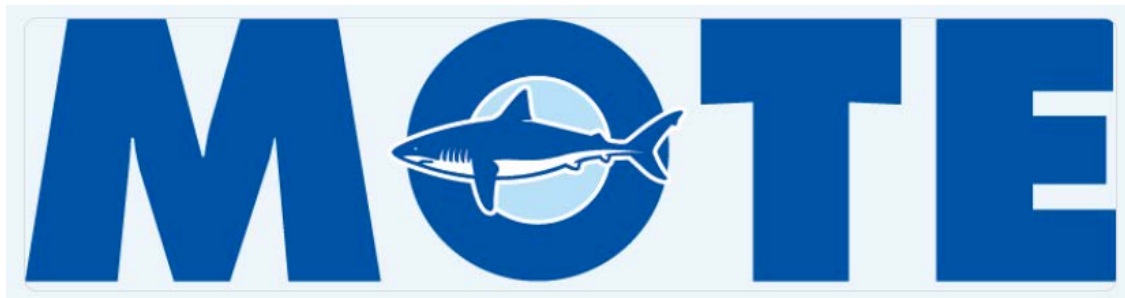
The deadline to apply is July 15, 2024. Must be U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident and have completed either a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral Degree. [Click here for more information.](#)

### **AmeriCorps Service in West Virginia**

Did you know that for each year of Americorps (or VISTA) service in West Virginia, you can earn one year of tuition and fees (last dollar in) that can be used for undergraduate or graduate school in WV? [Search for AmeriCorps opportunities here \(you can filter by state\)](#) and [search for VISTA positions here.](#)

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### **News from the National INCLUDES Network**



### **LSAMP Marine Science Laboratory Alliance Center of Excellence Mentor Development Workshops**

"Are you looking for ways to bring more effective mentorship to undergraduates at your institution? The NSF-funded LSAMP Marine Science Laboratory Alliance Center of Excellence (MarSci-LACE) has created the Mentor Development Workshop (MDW) a six-hour workshop that interactively engages potential undergraduate research mentors in all areas of STEM through the following five training modules: Introduction to Mentoring, Psychosocial Factors of Research Experiences, Ally Skills, Culturally Responsive Mentoring and Mentor Plan Development. These MDW training modules provide an

overview of mentorship, emphasizing the mutual learning opportunities for both the mentor and the mentee, and provide effective mentorship strategies and approaches. Workshop participants will receive tools and resources for use in their own mentorship practice. Mentors of every level will find value in participating.

Workshops are led by trained facilitators and are offered to organizations for their faculty and staff engaged in or preparing to be undergraduate research mentors. Facilitators are available to host in-person workshops at your institution for up to 50 faculty and staff. This is funded through a current NSF grant at no expense to the host organization.”

[Click here to host a workshop.](#)

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