Alumni, employees, students heading to Charleston for ‘WVU Day’

BY BILL NEVIN

Lawmakers will be seeing more gold and blue than usual today when students and alumni of the state’s flagship university descend on Charleston for West Virginia University Day at the state Capitol.

Representatives from WVU’s 13 schools and colleges, regional campuses and other research and academic units will be on hand for the event.

“This is an excellent opportunity for WVU to showcase to lawmakers and state citizens the economic impact this institution has on our state and to tell the story of how our enrollment, research, alumni support and private giving has grown,” said Steve Douglas, direct of the WVU Alumni Association, the group organizing WVU Day activities. “At the same time, we’ll be reminding delegates, senators and others in state government of the major budget challenges we face.”

WVU leaders have been vocal in their unified effort to avoid further reallocations of state appropriations away from higher education.

Last year alone, WVU shouldered a $33 million budget shortfall, and in mid-year was hit with a 1.4 percent rescission. This follows several years of budget reallocations for mandated salary increases that total some $38 million.

In his State of the State address Jan. 14, Gov. Bob Wise proposed cutting higher education’s budget by 2.5 percent for fiscal year 2005 rather than the announced 9 percent for most other state agencies. While officials appreciate the governor’s increased attention to higher education, a 2.5 percent cut still amounts to about $5 million on the main Morgantown campus.

To help manage the impact of both the mid-year rescission and the proposed budget cut, WVU officials recently announced the implementation of a hiring restriction on classified and non-classified state-funded staff positions until further notice. Exceptions would have to be made at the vice presidential level.

In his address, the governor also proposed giving colleges and universities more flexibility in their business and human resources practices. Another administration proposal would establish a permanent fund for research and development with a $10 million investment.

As part of WVU Day, resolutions are expected to be introduced in both the House and Senate recognizing the many contributions WVU has made to the state.

WVU’s student leaders will also be on hand to promote higher education and the state’s future leadership. They organized a statewide group, Students for Higher Education, last October and have been an active voice for a favorable higher education budget.

Computer, software discounts available through WVU Technology Support Center

BY JANEY CINK

From the Web developer who wants a faster computer to the professor who needs a statistics software upgrade, WVU’s Technology Support Center (TSC) can help faculty and staff get the most bang for their buck with educational discounts from Dell, Gateway, Apple and other manufacturers.

TSC caters to three types of clients: faculty and staff members purchasing for their departments, students and parents and general members of higher education.

“If individuals are looking to purchase hardware, we’re interested in talking to them about their budget and directing them to one of the vendor Web sites,” said Mike Cooper, program coordinator at the center.

“Within five minutes, I can ascertain what machine best suits their needs. A heavy power user who works with graphics, for example, might use PageMaker or Quark, which requires a much more robust machine.”

Besides consultations, the center offers a Web site, http://www.wvu.edu/~tsc/, with links to the latest product information and recommended specifications for student purchasing. A Web site just for institutional purchasing is under construction.

If you’re unsure of what hardware and software are right for your office’s needs, the site provides answers to frequently asked questions, such as ‘Should I buy a laptop —continued on page 4—