



Jefferson County Commission
124 E Washington St, Charles Town, WV 25414

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shepherd University Presents on Ongoing Partnership with Jefferson County Commission Employees

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CHARLES TOWN, WV (May 20, 2025) – During a recent HR Series training, Shepherd University presented on its ongoing tuition reduction partnership with the Jefferson County Commission, highlighting the opportunities available to County staff through the program.

Over the past year, 11 employees applied to employees have taken advantage of the partnership to further their education at Shepherd University. One such employee is Jeff Polczynski, director of Emergency Communications, who shared how the program helped open doors that had previously seemed out of reach.

“While serving in the U.S. Navy and then advancing as a public safety dispatcher and leader, college was not an opportunity for me,” said Polczynski. “With the support of the county administration, the tuition reduction program, and the Regents Bachelor’s degree, I finally saw a pathway forward.”

Upon starting the program, Polczynski only needed 24 credit hours to complete a bachelor’s degree due to his extensive military and professional experience. He is currently enrolled in online asynchronous classes and has earned a 4.0 GPA.

Chief Human Resources Officer Jessica James praised the collaboration with Shepherd University, stating:

“Our mission is built around professionalism, constituent service, and engagement. This partnership with an outstanding local university is a critical tool in our toolbox for fostering advancement in that mission.”



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The Shepherd University partnership reflects Jefferson County's broader investment in employee development, providing staff with accessible and affordable educational opportunities to grow as public servants and community leaders.

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