

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

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West Virginia

**Governor's  
Honors Academy**

**The World We Will Create**

**June 16-July 3, 2024**

Fairmont State University

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# WV Governor's Honors Academy **2024**

## WELCOME to GHA

Where every minute is an opportunity

What an enviable position you are in. You have read about GHA, and you have heard your friends—and maybe even your parents—rave about it. This summer, however, all the hearsay falls into the background as you experience GHA yourself.

We are proud to present the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy at Fairmont State University. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of the state's most promising scholars and citizens.

Governor's Schools are truly a community effort. Funded by the legislature and requested in the governor's budget, all Governor's Schools of West Virginia are administered by the West Virginia Department of Education. The host institution, Fairmont State University, will ensure that GHA is like no other academic experience.

The information provided in this booklet should answer many of the questions parents/ guardians have about GHA. Participation in this heralded program provides an opportunity for rising seniors to meet and interact with other students and adults in a rich academic environment that facilitates and encourages creativity, exploration, and collaboration. In some cases, students may receive scholarships from the college they choose to attend. The colleges - not the Honors Academy itself - award such scholarships.

We are happy to congratulate you not only for exploring the world of academia, but for having the wisdom to know that GHA is where you should spend a portion of your time this summer. The Governor's Schools have long been shining stars in our state's education opportunities. You are now part of that magnificent brilliance.

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## Introduction

Please read the information contained in this handbook carefully. It contains information on just about everything you need to know about GHA. If you have any questions that are not answered here, contact Dr. Robin Payne or Dr. Keisha Kibler, co-deans of GHA at Fairmont State University, or Mr. Dustin Lambert the coordinator of Governor's Schools. This handbook includes an introduction to the staff and a description of the Academy's theme.

The Governor's Honors Academy is an excellent opportunity for you to meet and interact with other accomplished students and adults in an enriching and invigorating academic environment. At GHA, you will explore topics of interest to you. You will be living and learning on campus at Fairmont State University as a representative of your school and county.

GHA will challenge you academically and spark your curiosity as you explore your dynamic world. Moreover, you will meet other talented and driven young West Virginians and develop friendships that will last the rest of your life. Only students who complete the Academy are known as GHA Scholars.

By accepting a position with this year's Academy, you agree to behave with integrity and treat others with respect. You will be required to abide by all the rules and regulations included in this brochure. These guidelines are necessary for you to have the best possible learning experience.

We wish you a successful and enjoyable experience at the Governor's Honors Academy at Fairmont State University. We will see you on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>!

## The World We Will Create

During the 2024 West Virginia Honor's Academy at Fairmont State University, students will participate in academic and extracurricular activities that explore the embedded theme: **"The World We Will Create."** Through this theme, students will explore a wide range of contemporary issues with an eye to the future and the aspirations of their generation. Generation Z will assume the reigns of leadership in the wake of myriad upheavals related to unprecedented events like the recent COVID-19 pandemic as well as an on-going technology revolution, the potentially catastrophic impact of climate change, growing political strife, challenging socioeconomic uncertainties, and intensifying social justice movements. The 2024 GHA theme will enable students to better understand how we got to where we are so that they may better contend with the world they will inherit as they create a new world of their own. Programming will enable students to explore critical historical and contemporary realities at the local, state, national, and global level so that they can best determine what aspects of our shared past that they wish to keep and revitalize in the future and which elements are best left behind.



## Schedule of Events and Activities

### Opening and Closing Dates

The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will begin on Sunday, June 16th. Students will sign-up for a check-in time between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on that day. Families will be invited to dine with their child in the dining hall before the Opening Session, which will be held beginning at 1:00 p.m. Families will bid farewell to their child during the Opening Session.

The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will conclude on Wednesday, July 3rd. Parents/ guardians may arrive beginning at 9:30 a.m. for the closing Academic Showcase that will begin at 10:00 a.m.. Students must be checked out by noon that day.

### Typical Daily Schedule

A typical day during the WV GHA at Fairmont State will look like this:

- 6:00-8:00 Access to gym facilities
- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30-9:00 Morning Meeting
- 9:00-11:45 Class Time
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-3:45 Class Time
- 4:00-5:30 Afternoon Activities
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner
- 7:00-9:00 Evening Activities
- 11:00 LIGHTS OUT

### Special Events and Off-Campus Outings

- Sunday, June 16 Opening Session (1:00 p.m.) – move-in will begin by 9:00 am
- Friday, June 21 Pittsburgh Field Trip – Carnegie Science Center, Gateway Clipper Historic River Cruise, and Dinner at the Grand Concourse
- Sunday, June 23 Black Bears Game in Morgantown
- Wednesday, June 26 Washington D.C. Trip – National Mall and Smithsonian Museums
- Saturday, June 29 Outstanding Educator Luncheon (12:00-3:00 pm)
- Sunday, June 30 Picnic and Hiking at Valley Falls Park
- Monday, July 1 Launchpad Trampoline Park in Morgantown
- Wednesday, July 3 Academic Showcase / Farewell (10:00-12:00) – student move-out!

# WV Governor's Honors Academy 2024

## A Note from your Resident Director

Hello 2024 GHA Students and Families!

As your Resident Director, I want to welcome you to the Governor's Honors Academy! Congratulations on being accepted to the GHA experience, I am excited that you chose to accept the invitation to join us at Fairmont State University.

This handbook will help answer any immediate or common questions that you have about the Academy, including policies and procedures we have put in place to help ensure that you will have a great experience during your time with us!



During GHA, you will be staying in [Bryant Place](#), one of the many residence halls at Fairmont State University! In this handbook, you will find more information about the accommodations Bryant Place has to offer. We also included a list of items to bring and not to bring with you during your time on campus.

Feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have! I look forward to meeting all of you on June 16<sup>th</sup>!

Ally Quigley  
[gha@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:gha@fairmontstate.edu)

## Policies and Procedures

### Residency Policy

- Students are expected to remain on campus. Parents, family, and friends are **NOT** to visit. Emergency leave requests should be sent to the deans.
- Students may **NEVER** leave campus alone and without informing the appropriate GHA staff.

### Visitation Policy

- Students may not entertain visitors, including family.
- If a student forgets something at home, parents may contact the deans to set up a time and place to drop off the forgotten items.
- Students are NOT permitted to visit other groups or residence halls while on Fairmont State's campus.

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- Students may visit with members of a different sex **ONLY** in the residence hall lounges or common areas, not in student rooms.

## Motor Vehicles

- Students may neither ride in nor operate a motor vehicle unless driven by appropriate GHA staff.
- GHA students are not permitted to bring a vehicle to GHA.

## Cell Phones, Computers, and Personal Electronics

- Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is limited to trips and free time **ONLY**, unless otherwise approved or instructed by GHA staff. Students may keep their cell phones on them but should not use them during class or activity time.
- Our goal is for GHA students to connect with other GHA students during the academy.
- If you have a cell phone, you must give your RA your phone number. This will help with communication during events and field trips.

## Attendance and Participation

- Students are required to attend and actively participate in all regularly scheduled classes and events.
- Missing an event or class for any reason must be approved.

## Field Trips and Leaving Campus

- Students are required to follow established travel schedules, residence hall curfews, and established town ordinances regarding curfews for minors.
- When off-campus, students **MUST** stay in an RA-or faculty-chaperoned group at all times.
- Students may **NOT** leave Bryant Place without permission, and not at all after dark.
- Students **MUST** travel in groups of three (**3**) or more on campus if no RA or staff member is present.

## Drug Policy

- Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and other chemical substances (apart from prescription or OTC drugs that GHA staff have been made aware of) are **PROHIBITED**.

## Other Policies

- GHA photo ID must be worn at all times.
- If the fire alarm sounds, everyone is to exit the building and assemble at designated safe areas for roll call.
- Dress clothes are to be worn at the Favorite Educator luncheon and the Farewell Luncheon.
- GHA t-shirts are to be worn as instructed on trips. Offensive writing or images on clothing is prohibited.
- Appropriate attire is required in classrooms, activities, field trips, and the dining hall.

## Living Accommodations

**Bryant Place is your home for three weeks. Please be respectful of each other, the building, GHA staff, and ESPECIALLY University Housekeeping. The RD, RAs, and Deans reserve the right to revoke privileges such as afternoon activity time should facilities not be kept up to standard.**

- Students in Bryant Place have the luxury of living in a suite style room. The suite includes a private bathroom facility and a shared communal area between four students. Each suite contains four beds, two sinks, one common area, one shower room, and one restroom facility. Housekeeping does not clean student rooms or student restrooms. Therefore, during your time at GHA, you will be responsible for maintaining a clean space.
- You can view photos of the suite style rooms in Bryant Place [here](#).
- Stairwells are to walk from one floor to the next, not a place to hang out. Please keep them clean and clear.
- You will be issued a key to your room. A fee of \$150 will be charged to re-key your room if the key is lost or not returned.
- Students are to be in their rooms and in bed by **11:00 pm**, unless otherwise instructed by GHA faculty and staff. This means if an RA walks the halls, they should not be able to hear noise from your room or see light. The bathroom light is okay to leave on.

### Mail

Care packages from home are acceptable, but please limit package delivery from websites such as Amazon. Please use the address below to mail packages or letters to a GHA student. **Do not use the address listed on the webpage for Bryant Place.** The resident director or RAs will help distribute mail to GHA students. Outgoing mail can also be dropped off during the day for pick up.

#### Address letters in the manner that follows:

[Student Name]  
WV Governor's Honors Academy  
c/o Honors Program at Fairmont State  
1201 Locust Ave.  
Fairmont, WV 26554

### Trash

All students are responsible for removing trash from their rooms. There is a dumpster next to Morrow Hall. Please exit Bryant Place on the sixth floor and take a right at the end of the bridge.

### Laundry

Laundry facilities are located on the sixth floor of Bryant Place. All laundry machines are free of charge.

### Cafeteria

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the Falcon Center cafeteria. Hours will be announced when you arrive. A salad bar is available for lunch and dinner. Vegetarian options are offered at all meals, and every effort will be made to accommodate special dietary needs.

## Packing Recommendations

What to Bring	Suggested Items	What NOT to Bring
Bedding (Twin XL sheets, pillow, blankets)	Laptop or tablet	Microwave
Towels, wash cloth	Umbrella	Any open flame items
Beach towel	Sunscreen	Pets
Swimsuit	Musical instrument	Extension cords
Hand soap	Board Games	Small cooking appliances (anything with a heating element)
Trashcan (trash bags provided)	Hat	
Cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, bathroom cleaner)	Chargers for electronics	
Shower caddy	Power strip	
Toiletries	Desk lamp	
Clothes hangers	Mini-Fridge (4.6 cubic feet max)	
Laundry detergent	Headphones	
Laundry bag	Light jacket	
Two dress outfits	Fan (the building is air conditioned)	
Comfortable shoes	Snacks	
Refillable Water Bottle	Foam mattress pad	

## Campus Recreation

Fairmont State University's Falcon Center will be opened for GHA students at specific times during the daily schedule to participate in wellness activities. The track and weightlifting room will be available for GHA students from 6:00am- 8:00am. GHA students who wish to work out in the morning must sign up with an RA.

The Falcon Center will also be available during afternoon activity time. Students can sign up to swim, play games, lift weights, basketball, volleyball, soccer, ping pong, etc. Students must always be accompanied by a GHA staff member while in the Falcon Center.

## Harassment Policies

Harassment of all kinds will not be tolerated at GHA. Harassment includes any action or behavior that mocks, demeans, puts down, disparages, or ridicules another person or group. Bullying of all kinds is considered a form of harassment. Sexual harassment is any sort of discrimination, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

*If you are a victim of harassment, please report to either the RD or one of the Deans. In these situations, you should report to whomever you are most comfortable speaking to. Together you can discuss the incident and create a plan to address the issue at hand.*

## Disciplinary Action

Certain behavior is incompatible with the philosophy of GHA. As representatives of your schools, communities, counties, and the state of West Virginia, you are expected to be exemplary citizens. All staff members are responsible for disciplinary action in response to misbehavior. In other words, every staff member is the "boss." There are three levels of discipline, determined by the nature, frequency, or severity of the infraction and they are not necessarily sequential:

1. Verbal reprimand by staff with written notice to the Deans;
2. Written warning by the Deans. Parent/guardian will be notified, and;
3. Dismissal from GHA.

The Deans, in consultation with the appropriate faculty, staff, and the State Director, will make final decisions regarding dismissal from GHA.

Should a student be dismissed, the Deans will immediately contact the student's parents or guardians. A dismissed student must be picked up by a parent/guardian within 12 hours of dismissal. While waiting to be picked up, the student will pack personal belongings under staff supervision and be separated from other Academy members. A letter stating the reason for dismissal will be sent to the parent/guardian, high school principal and county superintendent of schools.

*Be advised that Fairmont State University and the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will cooperate with all university, local, and state authorities regarding investigations or illegal activities.*

### Causes for Disciplinary Action

Students who leave campus without authorization, leave the room after "room check" during off-campus travel, engage in activities threatening the safety of themselves or others including leaving assigned groups when off campus, or who violate the tobacco, alcohol and controlled substance abuse rule will be dismissed immediately. There will be no second chances.

Other reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Unexcused absence
- Disobeying visitation policies
- Unauthorized use of a vehicle
- Unauthorized riding in a vehicle with another person
- Tampering with fire alarms or security systems
- Harassment/ bullying
- Failure to follow faculty, staff, or campus security's directions
- Behavior unbecoming of a member of GHA.

\*\*\*If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, feel free to ask your RA or any other member of the GHA staff. These policies are in place to provide you with a safe, fun, and enriching experience.

## Get to know Our Faculty and Staff



### **Robin Payne, Co-Dean**

Robin Payne is the Director of the Honors Program and an Associate Professor of History at Fairmont State University. She received her doctoral degree in United States history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010. She earned her baccalaureate and master's degrees at Washington State University. She received the William A. Boram Award for Teaching Excellence (2023), the Faculty Recognition Award (2015) and the Foundation Faculty Fellowship Award (2018) during her tenure at Fairmont State University. She has presented her scholarship at the national conferences of multiple nationally recognized historical organizations, such as the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women and the Organization of American Historians, and her work has appeared in the *Journal of Women's History*. Dr. Payne originally hails from the Pacific Northwest, has called West Virginia her home for the past twelve years. In her down-time, Dr. Payne is usually hanging out with her husband, Kevin, and their three daughters – twin fifteen-year-olds and a precocious second grader. You're likely to catch them binge-watching the latest Star Wars or Marvel spin-off on any given weekend. Dr. Payne also enjoys knitting and reading!

### **Keisha-Moraé Kibler, Co-Dean**

Keisha-Moraé Hopkins Kibler, a national board-certified teacher, grew up in the mountains of Bluefield, WV. She taught English language arts in Preston County for 15 years. In 2018, she joined the faculty as an assistant professor at Fairmont State University in the College of Education, Health and Human Performance where she teaches future teachers. Dr. Kibler facilitates professional learning opportunities for K-12 educators throughout WV. Specifically, she plans and implements a range of support for teachers in their journey towards National Board certification. She has earned accolades for her dedication to teaching, professional learning, and the mentoring of beginning teachers such as the Di Tosto and Marockie Outstanding Supervising Teacher award at WVU and the Fairmont State University Teaching in Excellence Award. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and experiencing life with her husband, Jeremiah, and fur-baby, ZuZu (the shih tzu). She is very excited to begin her sixth year with GHA.





# WV Governor's Honors Academy 2024



## Ally Quigley, Resident Director

Ally is a graduate of Fairmont State University where she pursued a BA in English. She is currently working toward a dual degree at West Virginia University including an MA in Professional Writing & Editing and MS in Digital Marketing Communications. During her time at WVU, Ally teaches introductory composition courses to undergraduate students as a graduate teaching assistant. This will be Ally's third time working for Governor's Honors Academy, where she previously was a resident assistant and intern. She is excited to have a leadership role to get to know and work with students and faculty! Ally is also looking forward to some great events and trips throughout the Academy! In her free time, she enjoys playing the guitar and watching movies!

## Carlos Serrano, Intern

Carlos holds an MA in English where he concentrated on studying science fiction dystopian literature. He teaches a liberal studies course at UNC Charlotte that focuses on technology, literature, and the "cost of progress" in science fiction. If he is not reading or lesson planning, you can find him playing video games like Overwatch 2 or Final Fantasy 14.



## Trinity Rollins, Videographer

Trinity Rollins is a senior Video Production major at Marshall University. She was the videographer/photographer for GHA 2023 and looks forward to doing the same for 2024. She is the 2024 winner of the Marshall University Student Film Festival and has had works selected in the WV Mountaineer Short Film Festival, Localization Film Festival, and Huntington's 72hr Film Challenge Festival. Currently, she is interning for Shine On, WV and developing her senior capstone film. Trinity loves journaling, scrapbooking, and her two cats, Princess and Star.



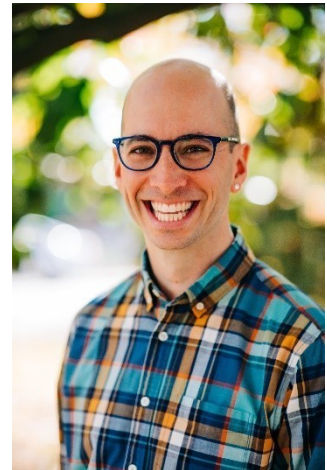


## **Toneta Akers-Toler, Faculty**

Toneta Akers-Toler is a founding member and artistic director of West Virginia Dance Company (WVDC); the only professional touring dance company in West Virginia. Toneta's awards include the 2024 Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement, 2005 WV Governor's Arts Awards for "Excellence in the Arts" & 2011 for "Arts Education", WV Women of the Year in the arts in 1999 and the National Association of Regional Ballet Award for Choreography in 1984. In 2019 Toneta was nominated for the Mid-Atlantic Foundation's Alan Cooper Award and in 2021 Toneta was nominated for the prestigious NEA individual artist fellowship. Toneta has taught on WVDC tours extensively in WV as well as 14 other states and Brazil. She has served many positions at Theatre West Virginia such as dancer, actress, choreographer, and master teacher for Theatre WV since 1973. Toneta has served as teacher at the WV Governor's Honors Academy since 2014. A magical time of dance for her was serving students at the Pineville Dance Theatre for 45 years. Toneta holds a dance degree from the Conservatory of Dance Point Park College, has three certifications from American Dance Festival held at Duke University and has a certification from the Dance Kinetic Institute in New York City.

## **Adam Booth, Faculty**

Adam Booth (he/him) is the 2022 West Virginia Folk Artist of the Year, awarded at the Governor's Arts Awards. He blends traditional mountain folklore, music, and an awareness of contemporary Appalachia to create original, forward-thinking story artistry. Adam's new multidisciplinary program The Heron's Journey has been selected for the 2024-2025 Mid Atlantic Arts Touring Roster. Adam's professional telling appearances include premiere storytelling events across the United States, including the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, the International Storytelling Center, the National Storytelling Festival, and as a Spoken Word Resident at the Banff Centre (Alberta, Canada). He is a member of the Recording Academy and serves as the inaugural Storyteller-In-Residence at Shepherd University.



## **Rachel Cook, Faculty**

Dr. Rachel Cook is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Fairmont State University where she teaches courses in Botany, Genetics, and Molecular Biotechnology. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree and PhD from the University of Waterloo in Canada. Dr. Cook has conducted extensive field work across Canada and the Central Appalachian region of the United States. She specializes in plant taxonomy, particularly focusing on the goldenrods. She currently lives in Fairmont, West Virginia with her husband, their 2 sons, and 12 chickens.

# WV Governor's Honors Academy 2024

## Hugh Costello, Faculty

Hugh is a native of Clarksburg, WV. He earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from WVU and then an MS in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. He held various positions as a lead and senior design engineer for over 25 years including stints at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and GE Aircraft Engines. His design work has included robots, manufacturing automation machines, automated military tanks, mining equipment and hydraulics, and aircraft turbine engines. Hugh is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of West Virginia.

For the last 14 years, Hugh has taught Engineering and Calculus as an Associate Professor at Fairmont State University. He has also taught applied Calculus at WVU and Graduate studies in Engineering Management at FSU. In 2022 he was the proud winner of FSU's Boram Award for teaching excellence.

Currently, Hugh resides with his wife, Sandra, in Fairmont, WV. They have four adult children and two grandsons. He loves teaching and being a new grandpa.



## Mark Flood, Faculty

Mark grew up in southeastern Indiana on a tobacco and dairy farm. He got degrees from Purdue University (BS), Washington State University (MS) and a PhD in embryo physiology from Utah State University. He then did a 2-year postdoc at the University of Utah in Toxicology. Mark has enjoyed teaching many biology and forensic science classes over his 30-year teaching career at Fairmont State University. His specialties are analysis of DNA, fingerprints, and toxicology. He received the Excellence in Academic Advising in 2016 and a Faculty Recognition Award in 2022. Mark currently resides near Clarksburg, WV with his wife, Angela, and their dogs and cats. They have 5 adult children who reside in Morgantown, WV as well as Olympia, Washington.

## Karen Gergely, Faculty

Karen Gergely is a socially engaged artist and educator originally from Morgantown, WV. She holds a BFA from Shepherd University and an MFA in Fine Art from the University of Cincinnati, DAAP. She is currently working as an Associate Professor of Art at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, where she teaches in the Honors Program and serves as head of the Art and Design department. Gergely teaches a myriad of studio, art history, and social engagement courses and recently received a grant from the Iowa Private Academic Libraries Open Educational Resources (OER) Project. She serves on the Services to Artists Committee (SAC) as part of the College Art Association that helps identify and address concerns facing artists and designers. Gergely's artistic practice is rooted in cultivating a sense of community through artistic expression among groups of all kinds. Her work can be found at <https://www.karenergely.com/>. Gergely is an avid adventurer, long distance hiker and bike-packer #askmeaboutit.



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## **Rebecca Giorcelli, Faculty**

Dr. Rebecca Giorcelli currently serves as the Interim Dean as well as the Director of Assessment for the College of Business and Aviation at Fairmont State University (FSU). As a tenured professor, Dr. Giorcelli teaches the undergraduate Project Management courses for the Information Systems Management program as well as several graduate courses for the MBA program. At Fairmont State, she received many teaching awards, fellowships, and faculty development grants. Dr. Giorcelli earned her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University. Fun fact: She was the first female to receive a doctorate in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University. Rebecca teaches fitness classes for the Fairmont State Falcon Center and local fitness facilities. She also enjoys traveling, playing piano, and spending time with her two sons, Trey, and Tyler.

## **Matt Hokom, Faculty**

Prof. Matthew Hokom has taught in the English Department of Fairmont State University since 2001. His academic interests include American Literature, Greco-Roman literature and philosophy, and mythology.



## **Dan Hollis, Faculty**

Dan Hollis is an award-winning journalist and professor of media with Marshall University's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. He was named the 2012 West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and was a two-time finalist, in 2020 and 2021, for the Faculty Merit Foundation West Virginia Professor of the Year. His creative work focuses on telling West Virginia stories, and he has earned three prestigious Edward R. Murrow regional awards for his work. Hollis was a 2022 inductee in the West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame and a 2020 inductee into the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications Hall of Fame.

# WV Governor's Honors Academy 2024

## Cody Hood, Faculty

Cody is a Teaching Assistant Professor for the School of Mathematical and Data Sciences at West Virginia University. In 2021 he earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics with an emphasis in Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education focusing on student understanding of the definite integral in an application context. He received his Bachelor of Science in Math in 2013 along with his Master of Science in Math in 2015, both at WVU. Cody is a coach for the West Virginia National Math Team, where every year 20 of the top performing high school students across the state travel to Penn State for a national math competition. Cody has taught at the Governor's Honors Academy since 2014 and he looks forward to sharing his knowledge and gaining even more. In addition to relishing his time at GHA, Cody has a particular interest in running and statistical and data analysis, with an emphasis on fantasy football.



## Nathan Myers, Faculty

Nathan Myers is an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities at Fairmont State University. He teaches courses in literature, writing, film, and sustainability.

## Ian Nolte, Faculty

Ian Nolte lives in Huntington, West Virginia and teaches for the English Department at Marshall University. He is passionate about writing, filmmaking, and digital media—and how those things intersect. His classes explore the nuts-and-bolts of how stories are put together. This is his sixth time teaching at the Governor's Honors Academy, and he is excited for this year's experience.





# WV Governor's Honors Academy 2024



## Anup Poudel, Faculty

Anup Poudel is currently a Ross Assistant Professor of mathematics at the Ohio State University. He has a PhD in mathematics from the University of Iowa and an MS in mathematics from Loyola University Chicago. His mathematical interest lies in the field of quantum topology which deals with using algebraic tools to understand topological spaces (which are very geometric in nature).

When not doing math, he likes to travel, play tennis, and hike. He has taught at the Governor's Honors Academy in the past and is thrilled to teach again this year.

## Alyssa Schwartz, Faculty

Dr. Alyssa Schwartz comes from Jamestown, New York and is the Director of Bands and Professor of Flute at Fairmont State University, Music Director of the Morgantown Community Orchestra, Executive Director for Black Diamond Philharmonic, Professor of Flute at Marietta College, and Music Director of the newly-instated Fairmont State Community Symphonic Band. She debuted at New York City's Carnegie Hall in November 2017 and returned for a second performance the same month as a result of winning 1st prize in the 2017 Golden Classical Music International Competition and 2nd Prize in the 2017 Concert Artists International Music Competition. As a recording artist, Alyssa has released two albums with her flute quartet, BETA, in 2017 and received her first multiple-CD recording grant from Polyphony Arts Management in 2020. Recently, she has been featured by the Washington Post, Forbes, the BBC, and Yahoo News, as well as shared on NASA's website, for her cutting-edge work on data sonification with physicist and composer Dr. Domenico Vicinanza.



## John Shirley, Faculty

John Shirley is an educator, practitioner, and GHA alum (1995) who earned his BA in English from Bridgewater College and both his MLitt and MFA in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin College. He currently is Resident Dramaturg and Director of Education for The Rustic Mechanicals, as well as a freelance dramaturg who has worked with Theater Alaska, West Virginia Dance Company, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Young Audiences of Virginia. John composed original pastiche dialogue used in the production script for the North American premiere performance of Phillip Massinger's 1631 tragedy Believe As You List and twice participated in the annual Piccolo Spoleto arts festival as a writer-performer with No Shame Theatre.

This is his twenty-fifth summer working with GHA.

# WV Governor's Honors Academy **2024**

## Doug Squire, Faculty

Doug Squire is a Charleston native and a Nitro High graduate. He attended GHA in 1998 at WVU and has taught at GHA since 2011. Having earned both his BA and MS in mathematics from WVU, Doug was on the mathematics faculty at WVU from 2006-2021. In 2010, he won the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award, and in 2011, he won the WVU Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching. He later taught for a year at George Washington High School in Charleston. Since 2022, he has been a Master Instructor and now an Instructional Coach at The Art of Problem Solving. He is coauthor of the textbook *Applications of Calculus*. He likes to play racquetball, go skiing and is a huge WVU fan. Let's go Mountaineers!



## Angelica Starcovic, Faculty

Angelica Starcovic (she/they) is an interdisciplinary artist exploring themes of personal self and public body with a feminist lens through sculpture and photography. She was born and raised in Cameron, West Virginia and holds a BS in Psychology from Fairmont State University. She has most recently received her MFA in Studio Arts from Syracuse University. Her artworks have been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, and Greece.

## Vern Walker, Faculty

Vern Walker studied within a Great Books program at the University of Notre Dame and earned his doctorate in the Comparative Literature department at Binghamton University in upstate New York. He is always curious about how literary and political theory come together in creative ways, and both his undergraduate thesis and PhD dissertation focused on reimagining the concepts of civil disobedience and pacifism. For close to nine years - in between and after his formal studies – he has lived and worked within pacifist, anarchist communities called the Catholic Worker. There he met his wife, and together they now have three growing children ages ten, eight, and five!





## Ta'Marra Cook, Head Resident Assistant

Ta'Marra (Marra) Cook recently graduated from Marshall University this past Spring semester, having earned double majors in Health Sciences and Psychology, with minors in Addictions Studies and Women's & Gender Studies. Throughout her undergraduate journey, Marra actively contributed to campus life, serving as the Diversity Officer for Psi Chi (Psychology Club), a F.A.M. (Friend-At-Marshall) Peer Mentor to transfer students, and a Resident Advisor in First Year Residence Halls. In the upcoming Fall, Marra is embarking on her next academic chapter, pursuing a master's degree in School Psychology at Marshall University, concurrently holding a Graduate Assistant position with the Diagnostics team at Marshall's H.E.L.P. Center. Outside of her academic pursuits, Marra indulges in her passion for cooking and baking, as well as embarking on road trips with friends. Notably, she served as a 2023 GHA Resident Assistant last summer and eagerly anticipated returning this year to mentor a new cohort of students.

## Sara Adams, Resident Assistant

Sara Adams is a junior at Fairmont State University double majoring in History and secondary Social Studies Education. On campus, Sara is a member of the Fairmont Honors Association, the History honors society Phi Alpha Theta, and works as a Student Ambassador and tour guide. After graduation, Sara aims to pursue an M.A. and Ph.D. in archival science and modern History. Outside of school, Sara enjoys reading, gaming, drawing, and teaching their friends niche history facts.



## Kat Curry, Resident Assistant

Kat Curry is a junior at Fairmont State getting a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a minor in Museum Studies. After graduating, Kat hopes to pursue a master's and doctorate in applied sociological research, data analysis, and policy proposal. Currently, Kat is the president of the Falcons for Disability Advocacy student-led organization and an active member of the Honors program. In their free time, Kat enjoys spending time with friends, knitting, crocheting, baking, playing video games, and cuddling with their 20-pound cat.





# WV Governor's Honors Academy **2024**



## **Zac Fancher, Resident Assistant**

Zachary Fancher is a graduate student at Fairmont State University where he will graduate in December 2024 with a Master of Education in Multi-Categorical Special Education with Autism. In 2021 he graduated from Fairmont State University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Zachary has worked the past two years as a special education teacher in Marion County Schools, WV. He finds that special education is a good intersection of two of his passions: teaching and advocacy. His professional goal is to someday become a school administrator or director of pupil services. Zachary's favorite color is blue, loves Coca Cola, and enjoys spending his free time with his dog Gus and cat Cleo.

## **Brooklyn Fazzini, Resident Assistant**

Brooklyn Fazzini will be a senior at Fairmont State University majoring in National Security and Intelligence and Political Science. She is extremely interested in safeguarding the nation and its people and aims to become a United States bureaucrat. She works for Herbalife Nutrition where she helps people's health and wellbeing through her own business. In her free time, she enjoys exercising, lifting weights, cooking, and reading!



## **Brandon Frazier, Resident Assistant**

Brandon is an upcoming Junior at WVU, and he is pursuing a double major in political science and philosophy. He works as a Resident Assistant at Honors Hall, and in his free time does volunteer work. Brandon serves as Attorney General of Student Government at WVU and is also involved in the Presidential Student Ambassador Program, the Kendrick Fellowship, and the Mountaineer Maniac Executive Board. His personal interests include classical literature, metaphysics, and college sports.



# WV Governor's Honors Academy 2024

## **Kyle Matthews, Resident Assistant**

Kyle is vice president of Fairmont's honor society, as well as a member of the APO theater honor society! He loves to do fun stuff and show off pictures of his dog!



## **Kushal Modi, Resident Assistant**

Kushal recently graduated from Marshall University with a degree in Biology. This July, he will continue his education at Marshall's Medical school. Outside of the classroom, Kushal works as a research lab assistant. In his free time, he loves to travel, watch/play soccer, and workout. As a high school student, he attended the Governor's school of Entrepreneurship and the Governor's Honors Academy, and he is really looking forward to being an RA for GHA.

## **Riley Neal, Resident Assistant**

Riley is a junior at Fairmont State University. She is a triple major in National Security & Intelligence, Criminal Justice, Political Science, and also has a minor in History. During the summer, she also works on Fairmont's campus as an orientation leader. At Fairmont, Riley is a member of the student government and president of the Model United Nations club. In Riley's free time, she enjoys exploring West Virginia's outdoors, watching movies, and baking.



# WV Governor's Honors Academy **2024**



## **Alex Poling, Resident Assistant**

Alex is an honors student dual majoring in Information Systems Management, Business Administration, and a minor in Graphic Design Technology at Fairmont State University. They hope to go to graduate school for something related to technology but have not yet narrowed down exactly what yet. As for hobbies, Alex loves swimming, hiking, playing video games, and music of all kinds. When you see Alex, you will almost always find them holding a cup of coffee!

## **Brianna Stevens, Resident Assistant**

Brianna is from Mannington, West Virginia and is a senior at Fairmont State University graduating this year with her Bachelors in Secondary Education concentrating in Social Studies and a minor in Museum Studies. She has two cats named Dragon and Magic and loves to crochet and read.



## **Ryan Williams, Resident Assistant**

Ryan is in his third year of studying architecture at Fairmont State University. He loves to travel and explore, and some of his most exciting times have been going to Germany and Ireland with the Fairmont Honors Program. He is also a member of the Creative Sustainability Council at Fairmont, and in the future, hopes to combine sustainability and architecture into a career that can help both the community and the environment.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Can I miss any part of GHA?

No. The commitment to GHA is for the full program, and you will be excused only for a verified emergency. Everyone is expected to attend the entire time with no exceptions for weddings or other planned events. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Deans of the GHA.

### 2. Will there be time to check e-mail?

Yes. There are times during the day when students may go to a number of places to check e-mail or to do computer research. In addition, the campus has Wi-Fi, so you can use your personal devices to check for messages.

### 3. Can my parents or friends visit during GHA?

No. GHA is designed so that you can be totally focused on the activities planned for you. Parents, other family members, and friends are not permitted to visit. Those from the Fairmont area need to pay special attention to this.

### 4. Will I get the classes I request?

Possibly. The classes are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We try to see that students are enrolled in their first or second choice in the broad-based or intensive class. Although you may not get your top choice, there are no bad choices.

### 5. Can I choose my roommate?

No. GHA assigns roommates on a random basis, and deliberately attempts to separate students who attend the same school or county. This is designed to encourage you to meet new people and engage with others outside of your comfort zone.

### 6. Will attending GHA enhance my scholarship opportunities?

**Some** colleges and universities award financial aid over and above other scholarships for students who complete GHA. You will need to check with the respective institution's financial aid office to see if they offer such a scholarship. Scholarships are not financed by the Governor's Schools--neither are they guaranteed.

### 7. Will I receive college credit for the GHA classes?

No. The classes at GHA are for your enjoyment and intellectual and academic enrichment. Although you will work hard in the classes, they are not designed to meet the requirements of a college-credit course.

### 8. Will I really enjoy living with all these rules?

Of course you will. Students who attend GHA say that they are the best experiences of their high school career. You will not be "giving up" your summer; instead, you will be gaining tools and making memories for a lifetime.

## **Contact Information**

**Mailing Address:**  
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c/o Honors Program  
1201 Locust Ave  
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**Robin Payne**  
Dean  
304-367-4197, [rpayne4@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:rpayne4@fairmontstate.edu)  
\*\*For emergencies only: 919-259-1012\*\*

**Keisha Kibler**  
Dean  
304-367-4394; [kkibler@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:kkibler@fairmontstate.edu)  
\*\*For emergencies only: 304-288-5352\*\*

## Directions and Campus Map

### When Driving I-79 South:

- I-79 South to Exit 132 (South Fairmont Exit). At light, turn right onto Route 250 North.
- Follow 250 North and at the 2nd light turn left onto Country Club Road.
- At 1st light, turn right onto Locust Avenue.
- At 3rd light, turn left at the main entrance to campus and proceed up hill to the parking lot.

### When Driving I-79 North:

- I-79 North to Exit 132 (South Fairmont Exit). At the light, turn left onto Route 250 North.
- Follow 250 North and at the 4th light turn left onto Country Club Road.
- At 1st light, turn right onto Locust Avenue.
- At 3rd light turn left at the main entrance to campus and proceed uphill to parking

