

Stay connected with McDowell

McDowell County is an American story that deserves a new chapter—one filled with promise, with goodwill, with the type of shared commitment that offers solid reasons to believe in a brighter future. Be a part of this historic partnership and show your support for McDowell's children and the greater community by joining the effort at www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org.

Broader Horizons Students Encounter New Terrain

Reconnecting McDowell's Broader Horizons mentorship program, which has been funded by the AT&T Foundation for the last three years, was recently renewed for another two! Twenty-four high school students participated in the third year of the program, and all of these students graduated from River View High School and Mount View High School in May. Reconnecting McDowell and its partners are so proud of their achievements and know there will be more to come.



**Congratulations on your graduation—
we wish you all the best
in the next stage of your lives!**

American National University
Selena Collins

Bluefield College
Jaiquan Ward
James Ward

Bluefield State College
Dillon McCoy
Kelsie Potter
Carah Simpson
Alexis Witcher*

Concord University
Michael Dority*
Sidney George
Nadia Johnson
Destiny Robertson

Gap Year
Dylan Frazier
Maddie Hicks
Caleb Holloway
Justin Riggs
Makayla Saunders

Glenville State College
Joe Hayes
Jaquane Imes*

Liberty University
Lindsay Meade

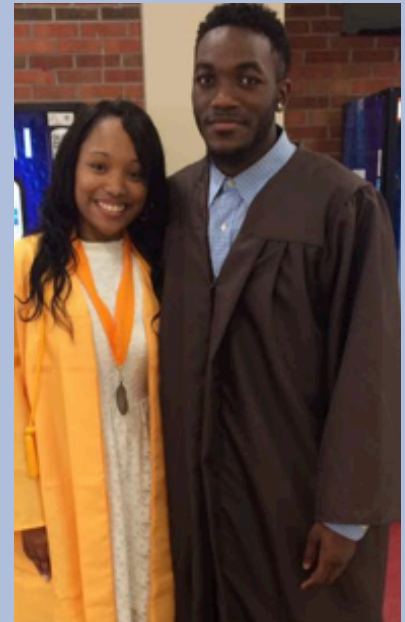
Marshall University
Terrell Bell
Ellis Bryson
Sarah Hardee

**McDowell County Career and
Technology Center**
Faith Stanley

**Southern West Virginia
Community and Technical College**
Brooke Jones*

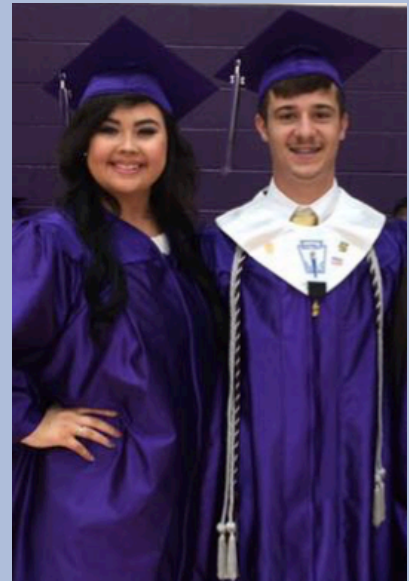
***pictured at right**

Congrats to the Class of 2017!



▲ **Alexis Witcher (left) and
Jaquane Imes at their Mount
View High School graduation.**

**Brooke Jones (left) and
Michael Dority, two of River
View High School's newest
graduates.** ▼



Mental Wellness Tools

A Training Session

The Southern Highlands Center will hold a Youth Mental Health First Aid event Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Phoenix Center in Welch. Attendees will learn how to identify when someone is dealing with substance abuse or a mental health crisis. The curriculum is tailored to individuals who interact or work regularly with young people ages 12-18; however, anyone may attend the training. Continuing education units are available for social workers, law enforcement personnel and nurses who participate in the program. To register, email victoriafondale@shcmhc.com. Lunch will be provided.




McDowell Families Attend 'Read & Roll'

Reconnecting McDowell was one of various community partners for a Read & Roll event held at Atwell Park on Aug. 26. It was organized by Parents as Teachers, a nonprofit organization that promotes optimal early development and health of young children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers, and was sponsored by UniCare, a health insurance company. The event encouraged the culture of family learning, as well as showing children how to see reading as a fun activity. Reconnecting McDowell provided 25 board book copies of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Prenatal mothers and families with children from birth up to age 5 were encouraged to attend. More than 40 attendees took part in the activities, which included a belly-, bike- and stroller-decorating contest.

Let's Connect

Follow Reconnecting McDowell on social media to receive the latest updates and news. We share information on webinars, job-training opportunities and upcoming community events. We also highlight our partners and their work in the county and state.

Social Media

-  Follow us on Twitter: [@ReconnectMcD](https://twitter.com/ReconnectMcD)
-  Follow us on Instagram: [@ReconnectMcD](https://www.instagram.com/ReconnectMcD)
-  Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ReconnectMcD

PARTNER



Stop the Hurt, a nonprofit, nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center, provides a private, child-friendly setting that is both physically and psychologically safe for victims of abuse. It serves as a central location where children and their families can be interviewed and treated, and then embark on the healing process. Stop the Hurt works closely with other local organizations, such as McDowell County FACES (Families, Agencies, Children Enhancing Services), Stop Abusive Family Environments (SAFE) in Welch, and the McDowell County Department of Health and Human Resources.

Stop the Hurt has two counselors on staff to offer therapy and a family advocate who will guide children and their non-offending guardian through the interview and court process. For questions or to set up a presentation at your church, school or organization, call 304-436-1600 or email sth_childabuse@yahoo.com.

For a list of Reconnecting McDowell partners, visit www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners

Want to get involved or learn more?

For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Chad Webb (cwebb@aftwv.org) or Debra Elmore (delmore@aftwv.org or 304-552-5766).

