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Glenville State College Presidential Scholars Program

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SHORT PIECES

GLENVILLE STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ALISON WITTE

PHILIP TAYLOR

Glenville State College established a new honors program in the fall of 2000. The *Presidential Scholars Program* (PSP) was developed to reflect the *Renaissance of Shared Values*, a conceptual framework of values identified to guide Glenville State College in its mission to serve the State of West Virginia. Each of these values, Civility, Freedom, Tolerance, Responsibility, Excellence, Fairness, and Integrity, is taken as a focus for one semester in a variety of class activities: readings, discussions, field trips, and finally, a relevant service project. The continual goal is that the PSP student be able to articulate a personal definition of the value, internalize it, and carry out a service project that reflects commitment to the total *Renaissance of Shared Values*.

Students are assigned develop an *Electronic Portfolio* in which they record their reactions to assignments and class discussions. Ideally, the portfolio also includes biographical background and descriptions of their service projects. The portfolio is not graded but serves as a tool for intellectual growth.

The requirement for an *Electronic Portfolio* has been a limited success. The coordinators have found that although students are comfortable with developing the *Electronic Portfolio* on a semester basis, the concept of a long term record of their personal and intellectual growth is new to them. Several students are still uncomfortable with submitting their work by e-mail or on disk, preferring to print out their portfolios. In addition, these academically focused students seem to attach less value to a project which does not result in immediate feedback measured by a grade. However, the coordinators hope that eventually the portfolios of students in the *Presidential Scholars Program* will be available on the college web site.

Glenville State College has embraced the concept of Portfolio Evaluation for all students. The coordinators expect that as the program develops, students in the *Presidential Scholars Program* will be able to present an impressive portfolio on graduation, electronically available, reflecting depth in course work and a fundamental commitment to values.

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