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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL SEMINAR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR FUTURE CAREERS

MORGANTOWN, W.Va., April 5, 2013 – Current, past, and future Rehabilitation Counseling students gathered with regional employers and advisory board members for the annual internship seminar hosted by the College of Education and Human Services Rehabilitation Counseling Education (RCE) program on Thursday, March 21 at the Lakeview Resort.

WVU extended learning students traveled to Morgantown specifically for the seminar, which was also attended by CEHS alumni who represent potential employers and internship opportunities for students. The seminar's keynote speaker, Mr. Jim Harris, owner of Opportunity Consulting Service, spoke in the morning session titled *Compassion Fatigue: When Caring Hurts*. The morning session was followed up with the RCE's Advisory Board meeting and a Rehabilitation Employer Fair that allowed networking opportunities for professionals and students.

The daylong agenda provided counseling and rehabilitation professionals with guidelines on how to manage the stress associated with their careers. Attendees learned to cope with different aspects of compassion fatigue, a condition common among helping professionals such as counselors, social workers, or rehabilitation specialists, and is characterized by lessening compassion over time, fatigue, and hopelessness.

"RCE students preparing themselves for future careers in Rehabilitation Counseling benefitted greatly from attending the seminar," said Katherine Byers, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator in the Rehabilitation Counseling program. "Not only was it a chance to make professional connections with their peers, but they also learned about and prepare for the stressors associated with their work."

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