

# The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar

AUGUST 3-5, 2020



*The fireplace at North Bend State Park*

## 2020 WVGTS Conductor's Report

<https://wvgts.com>

*Compiled by Steve Smith*

*1<sup>st</sup> Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC*

**The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar (WVGTS)** was conducted virtually August 3-5, 2020. 1<sup>st</sup> Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC assisted in the development of this statewide professional learning event for West Virginia teaching faculty. In lieu of cancelling the WVGTS, this year's seminar was virtually created, designed, and executed by the 7-member seminar staff in approximately 10 weeks after North Bend State Park (sole venue for the seminar) closed its doors in May 2020 due to pandemic concerns. The WVGTS continues to be financially supported by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC -- <http://www.wvhepc.edu/>) with additional support from the West Virginia Community & Technical College System (WVCTCS -- <https://www.wvctcs.org/>) and *without* commercial or outside business vendors or interests.

## SEMINAR LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The current WVGTS Staff remains one of the most experienced and veteran GTS leadership groups in North America. After leading West Virginia's Great Teachers Seminar for 25 years, David Gottshall, founder of the Great Teacher movement retired in 2017 and passed on WVGTS leadership to **Steve Smith**. Longtime understudy to David, Steve sustained the North Carolina GTS for many years and currently maintains the [National Great Teachers Movement](#) (NGTM) website.

Staff facilitators (pictured below) are usually "graduates" of previous WV Great Teachers Seminars and this year included **Mark Goldstein** (formerly at WVNCC), **Fred Jacoby** (formerly at WVU Potomac State), **Cat Hayes** (formerly at WVSOM), **Deidre Morrison** (formerly at Blue Ridge CTC), **David Wohl** (College of Charleston and Winthrop U / formerly at WV State), and **Barbara Ladner** (WV State).

## SEMINAR PURPOSE

- To celebrate good teaching.
- To challenge educators to venture beyond the limits of their own specializations and environments in search of transferable ideas and the universals of teaching.
- To promote a spirit of introspection and self-appraisal by providing a relaxed setting and straightforward process whereby participants can seriously review and contemplate their attitudes, methods and behaviors as teachers.
- To practice rational analysis of instructional problems and to develop realistic and creative approaches to their solutions.
- To stimulate the exchange of information and ideas by building an expanding state-wide network of communication among teachers in higher education.

## THE TWO PRIMARY GOALS OF THE SEMINAR

1. Model effective practices in online instruction through our “converted” seminar format
2. Provide a space that will become FULL of useable ideas right out of the box! Things you can use by Monday.... Wednesday at the latest.

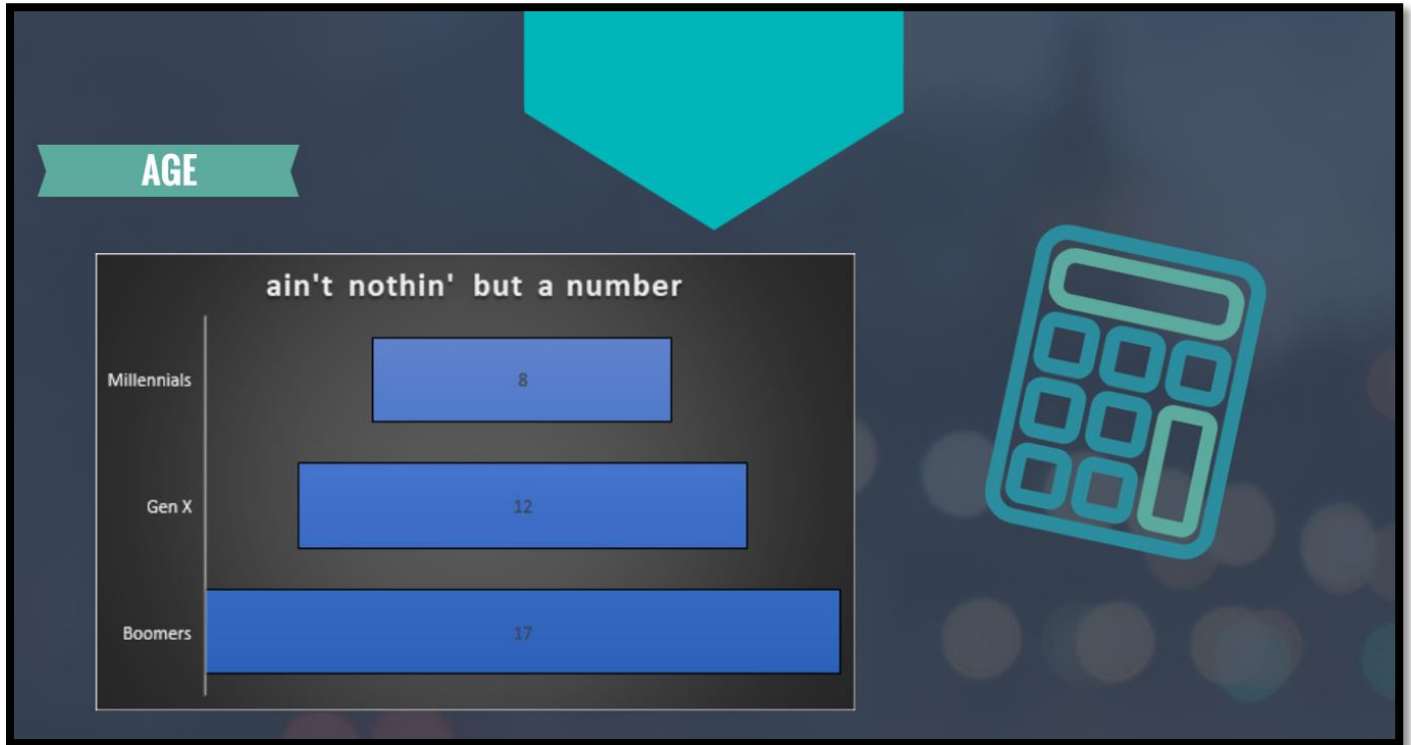
## DEMOGRAPHICS & OTHER RELEVANT DATA

Thirty (30) faculty members representing sixteen colleges/universities participated in the Seminar. The range of experience included first year faculty to those with over 30 years of experience. Disciplines from all areas of higher education were represented including Physics, English/English Education, Civil Engineering, Mathematics/Math Education, Criminal Justice, Business, Geography & Planning, Business Management, Political Science, Psychology, Medicine, Electrical Engineering, Sociology, Advertising & Design, Theater, Environmental Science, Communication, Journalism, Business & Accounting, Biology, Criminal Justice & Criminology, Applied Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Hospitality, Geospatial Science & Technology, Brewing Technology, and Speech Communication.

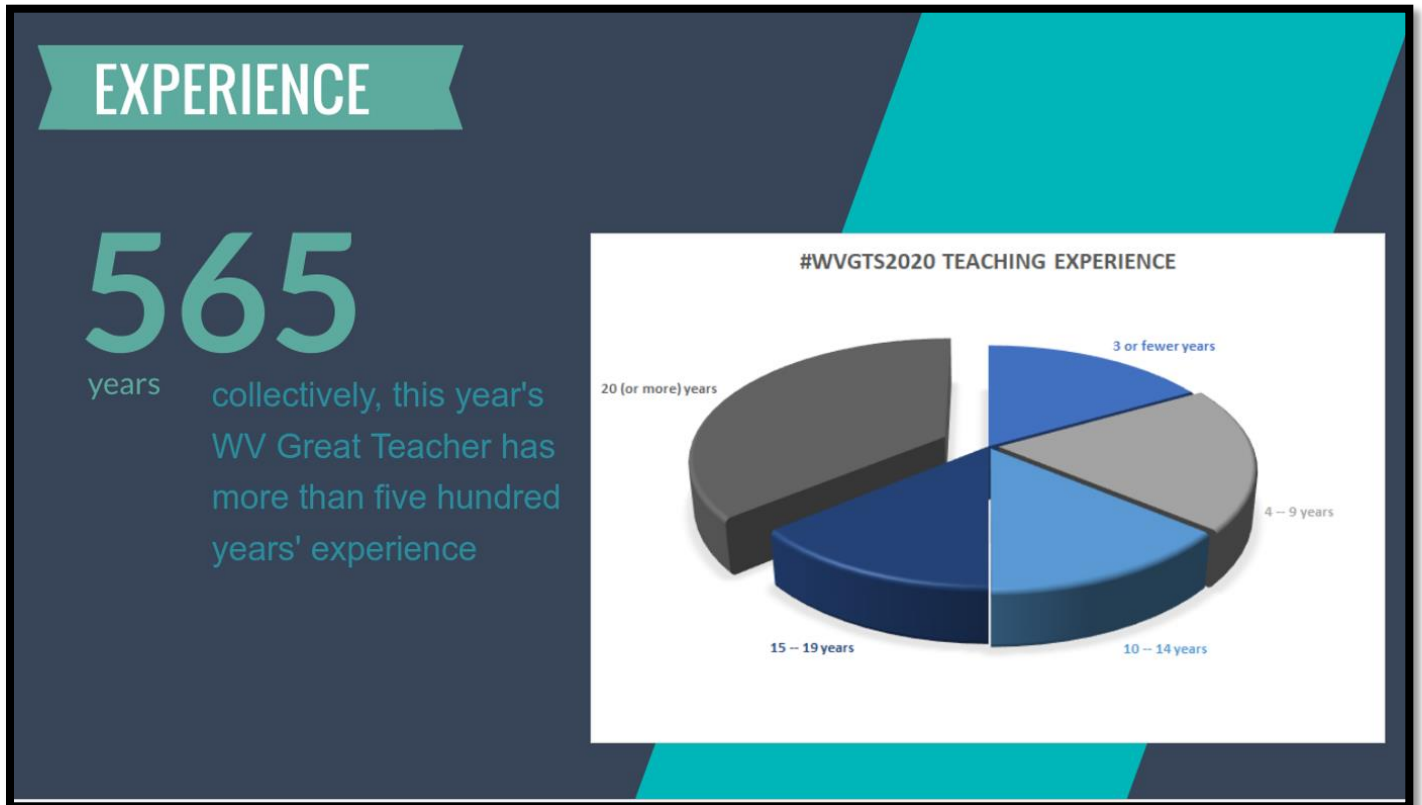
**The following educational institutions were represented at the seminar:**

<i>Concord University</i>	<i>Marshall University</i>	<i>WVU Tech</i>	<i>Glenville State</i>
<i>WVU Parkersburg</i>	<i>New River CTC</i>	<i>West Liberty U</i>	<i>WV State U</i>
<i>Potomac State</i>	<i>Clarksburg VA Hospital</i>	<i>Shepherd U</i>	<i>Eastern WV CTC</i>
<i>Blue Ridge CTC</i>	<i>Mountwest CTC</i>	<i>Bridge Valley CTC</i>	<i>WV Northern CC</i>

## Participant Distribution by Generation



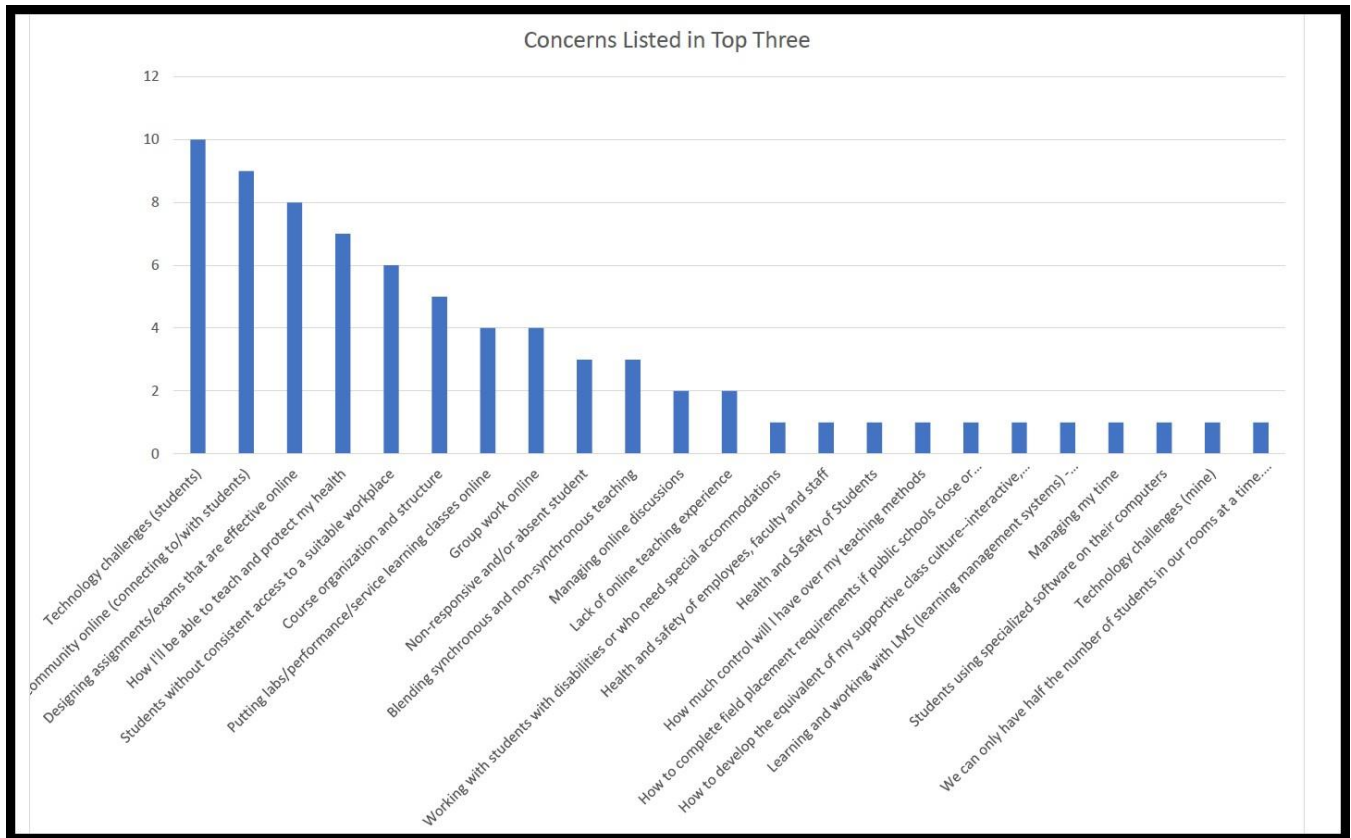
## Participant/Staff Combined Years of Teaching Experience (The “Collective Expert”)



## Participant/Staff Zoom Experience upon Entering Seminar -- *Graphics Courtesy Deidre Morrison, WVGTS Staff*



## Top 3 Concerns by Frequency (data from pre-seminar participant assessment; used in seminar planning) – *Chart graphic Courtesy David Wohl, WVGTS Staff*





## SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

The seminar launched Monday morning with an overview of the entire seminar process including participant and leadership expectations. Seminar staff reviewed the mechanisms in place for seminar communications and support in the event participants had any questions or needed help during the event itself. All pre-seminar materials requested of participants were submitted through the WVGTS domain via [submissions@wvgts.com](mailto:submissions@wvgts.com) to ensure a secure and accessible method of collecting participant work product.

### DAY ONE – MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd

#### General Session ONE – Zoom (Introduction /Seminar Review, Sorting)

- Tricks of the Trade, Part I – Seminar participants shared their pre-prepared “tricks of the trade”

#### General Session TWO – Zoom

- Introduction to Small Groups Session 1 - (Innovation Paper Processing)  
*Participants logged out of the main Zoom session and logged into their pre-assigned small group virtual meetings.*
- *OPTIONAL:* Small Group Interest Sessions – Select participants hosted their own meetings via Zoom, Facetime, Google Hangouts, etc. and created their own discussion topics. These groups were created by participants and links to the sessions were posted to the web-based master schedule each day. Some of these topics included Getting Students Committed to/Using APA7 or Their Field's Manual, Increasing Student Willingness to Ask for Personal Help in Online Courses, and Testing Online—Concerns About Avoiding Cheating.
- *OPTIONAL:* 4:30 PM - Happy Half Hour! This virtual social event was hosted by Fred Jacoby on both Monday and Tuesday afternoon. Sessions were well attended and produced many, positive networking connections among participants.

#### General Session THREE – Zoom

- Tricks of the Trade, Part II – Seminar participants shared their pre-prepared “tricks of the trade”

### DAY TWO – TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH

#### General Session FOUR – Zoom

Introduction to Small Group Activity (Problem Paper Processing)

Participants logged out of the main Zoom session and logged into their pre-assigned small group virtual meetings.

#### General Session FIVE – Zoom

- Introduction to Small Group Activity (Special Sessions Based Upon Pre-Seminar Concern Inquiries)  
*Participants logged out of the main Zoom session and logged into their pre-assigned small group virtual meetings.*
- *OPTIONAL:* 3:30 PM - Small Group Interest (Simple Tech Apps and Tricks We've Discovered for the Online Environment)
- *OPTIONAL:* 4:30 PM - Happy Half Hour! This virtual social event was hosted by Fred Jacoby on both Monday and Tuesday afternoon. Sessions were well attended and produced many, positive networking connections among participants.

#### General Session SIX – Zoom

- Tricks of the Trade, Part III – Seminar participants shared their pre-prepared “tricks of the trade”

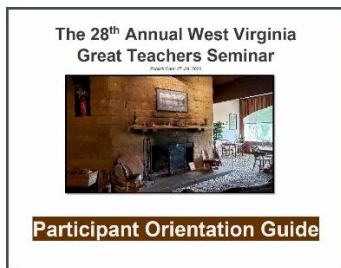
## DAY THREE – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH

### General Session SEVEN – Zoom

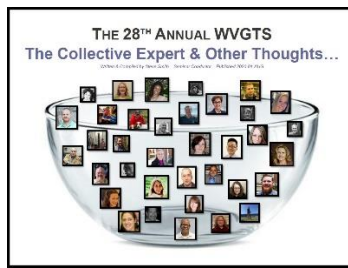
This final segment of our seminar included closing remarks by the seminar leadership in addition to participants engaging in the WVGTS final exam. This process included participants being placed back into their original small grouping to complete the final exam question: “Working with a small group of your peers, by whatever means, help us understand the nature of the Great Teacher”. Seminar closure consisted of each original, small group making presentations on the nature of “The Great Teacher”—all of which were profound representations of the art and spirit of teaching. The final closing “circle” gave each person an opportunity to express what he or she was taking home from the seminar!

### WVGTS Participant Document & Guide Index (comprehensive)

These guides and preparation documents, and summaries were made available to all participants at various points during the seminar. These are archived and hyperlinked below at <https://wvgt.com>.



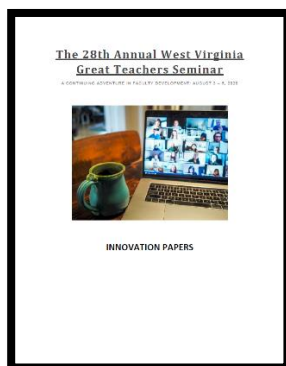
*Orientation Guide*



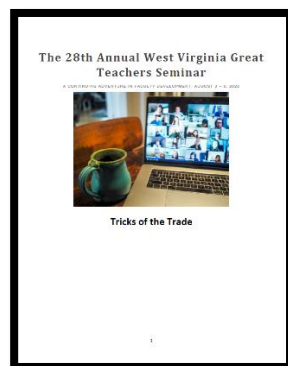
*Pre-Seminar Preparation*



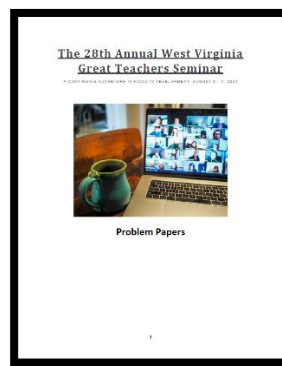
*NGTM Overview*



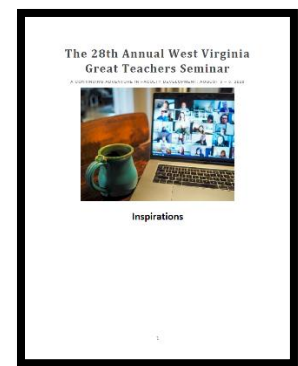
*Innovation Papers*



*Tricks of the Trade*



*Problem Papers*



*Inspirations!*



For the most up-to-date information about the West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar, visit <https://wvgt.com>. The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual WVGTS is tentatively scheduled for 2021. 1<sup>st</sup> Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC may be contacted at +1.910.280.3247.