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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advantage Valley announces three upcoming FASTER WV Entrepreneurship Webinars

Charleston, WV. October 22, 2020 — Advantage Valley announces three upcoming FASTER WV Entrepreneurship Webinars for people interested in starting or expanding a business. There will be a webinar on November 17th to learn more about the business coaching, business training, and loan funds associated with the FASTER WV program. Anyone with a manufacturing idea may be interested in the FASTER WV Small Manufacturing webinar on November 5. The final webinar of the year will be held on December 9th for anyone interested in opening or expanding a child care business. Each webinar begins at 6 pm, is free, will last one hour, and will include panelist presentations and Q&A.

The “FASTER WV” Program ~ **Fostering Advantages for Start Ups & Entrepreneurial Resurgence in WV** is focused on entrepreneurs in Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, Putnam and Wayne Counties. The webinars are designed to encourage and inspire potential entrepreneurs into starting or expanding businesses. Participants will learn about the high growth potential certain types of businesses including Food & Beverage Production; River & Outdoor Recreation/Lodging; Dependent Care; Healthcare; Small Manufacturing; Construction Trades. The program offers business coaching, entrepreneurship training, and access to capital.

November 5, 2020 at 6 pm

Maker to Manufacturer – This webinar is designed for people who have an idea for a product or craft to make and sell or for an existing manufacturing business owner who wants to scale-up. Partnering with RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers and patent attorney Monika Jaensson of Dinsmore & Shohl, LLC., this webinar offers information on how to move a product from idea to production, how to protect intellectual property, and how to grow or expand your enterprise with business coaching, entrepreneurship courses and financing.

November 17, 2020 at 6 pm

Need Help Starting or Expanding Your Business? – This webinar will provide an overview of the FASTER WV program and about how it can support an entrepreneur along their journey. Presented by program partners including the WV Small Business Development Center, BridgeValley Community &

Technical College, Unlimited Future, Inc., and The Wyoming County Economic Development Authority, this webinar will detail how individuals can access free business coaching, entrepreneurship training, and access to capital by being a part of the FASTER WV Program.

December 9th at 6 pm

HOW TO START A CHILDCARE BUSINESS IN ADVANTAGE VALLEY

Presentation of New StartUp Guide for Child Care Business - This webinar is for those interested in starting a child care facility and includes the unveiling/presentation of WV Forward's new StartUp Guide for Child Care Business, designed to assist those interesting in opening and operating a child care business, as well as information about business coaching, training, and loan funds.

"We are thrilled with the participation in our FASTER WV program so far. We feel a surge of entrepreneurial activity, which may seem surprising during the pandemic, but it has been remarkable." said Advantage Valley Executive Director Terrell Ellis. "Many individuals are using this time to build skills by taking online night courses focused on entrepreneurship business basics, and by taking advantage of free business coaching."

The FASTER WV collaborative partners include the WV Small Business Development Center, BridgeValley Community & Technical College, Unlimited Future, Inc., **and** The Wyoming County Economic Development Authority, manager of the revolving loan fund. Major funding for the FASTER WV program is provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, with additional support from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Unlimited Future, Inc, BB&T now Truist, and USDA.

To register for any one of the upcoming FASTER WV ZOOM Webinars, please go to <https://advantagevalley.com/faster-wv-initiative> or call Advantage Valley at 304-352-1165.

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ADVANTAGE VALLEY *builds economic vibrancy in the Charleston-Huntington region by attracting new businesses, retaining existing businesses and promoting business start-ups.*