

**Congressman Murtha's Funding Announcement
Response: President Mitchell**

Thank you Congressman Murtha. This announcement is a clear indication of your commitment to improve our national security, our community, and the resources here in Pennsylvania. The entire W&J community is grateful to you for all that you've done to make this possible, and I am personally grateful to you for allowing us the opportunity to build on our already existing resources in a way that will benefit W&J students for years to come.

As chance would have it, today's announcement happens to fall on the birthday of one of our distinguished presidents for whom this college is named – George Washington. It is likely that Washington, who was born on this day in 1732, would have applauded Congressman Murtha's efforts to secure funding that enables W&J to deliver the finest in

technology, education, and training for the improvement of our national defense and the promotion of education.

In fact, Washington once said “There is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well prepared to meet the enemy.” This initiative will allow the National Guard to work toward peace NOW by preparing its personnel for the FUTURE. It builds on Washington & Jefferson College’s commitment to serve as a resource to the community and acknowledges the important role that the Guard plays in our national defense.

During a time when the quality of our national security is critical, Washington & Jefferson College and all colleges must tap their resources to help in the best way they know how – education and training.

This funding, which will support a new collaborative relationship between W&J and the National Guard will provide the National Guard with instruction in skills ranging from basic computer and technology to advanced applications through our developing Information Technology Leadership Program. Led by Dr. Charles Hannon, who joins us today, The Information Technology Leadership Program will offer state-of-the-art technology to our students, enhance the National Guard's abilities for our national defense, and help many Guard members in their civilian careers.

I would also like to note another significant association with today's announcement – Congressman Murtha's status as a W&J alumnus. Before enlisting in the Marine Corps, Congressman Murtha attended W&J.

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Through his service as an elected official, he has continued to embrace the values of W&J and has helped us to fulfill our mission in promoting education. He has also worked tirelessly to improve Southwestern Pennsylvania, including bringing high technology and jobs to the area. He has fought for important policies and projects that benefit Pennsylvania, the region, and its people.

We are truly grateful to Congressman Murtha for providing us with an opportunity to create a collaborative relationship with the National Guard and offer its members the best possible resources in education and technology today.

I invite you to join me in a round of applause to recognize Congressman Murtha's diligence, hard work, and success on this project.

Thank you.
