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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy supports area college's environmental program

Hagerstown, Md., March 7, 2000 – Allegheny Energy, as part of its ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, has donated funds to Shepherd College to support the region's first Environmental Studies Program.

The donation will help fund a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Laboratory at the college's new Robert C. Byrd Science and Technology Center in Shepherdstown, W.Va. The laboratory is being created to help students address the environmental education needs of business, industry, and communities in eastern West Virginia and western Maryland.

“Allegheny Energy's gift has enabled the Institute to build eastern West Virginia's first college-based Geographic Information Systems laboratory,” said Dr. David L. Dunlop, President, Shepherd College. “The GIS lab provides Shepherd students with hands-on opportunities to use computer-based technology to study the environment. Allegheny Energy's generosity has enabled the Institute to establish this laboratory ahead of its previous funding schedule. The college appreciates the partnership it has with Allegheny Energy, which benefits both students and the community as a whole.”

The Environmental Studies Program provides undergraduate students with the education, field experiences, and practical knowledge necessary to succeed in the environmental sciences. The program will prepare students for employment in a variety of areas, including environmental education, solid and hazardous waste management, air pollution control, and water quality management.

Shepherd College is in an ideal location to take advantage of the emerging industrial, economic, and social growth occurring in West Virginia's eastern panhandle and in western Maryland – areas served by Allegheny Energy.

“Allegheny Energy is committed to the environment, and we take pleasure in supporting Shepherd College – one of our region's educational institutions dedicated to providing environmental expertise in these changing times,” said David L. Riggleman, Manager, Local Government Affairs, Allegheny Energy. “We will continue to be a leader in environmental stewardship activities that enhance the communities in which we live and work.”

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. The Allegheny Energy family includes *Allegheny Power*, which delivers energy to about three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; *Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC*, which operates and markets competitive retail and wholesale electric generation and operates regulated electric generation for its affiliates; and *Allegheny Ventures*, which actively invests in and develops telecommunications and energy-related projects. For more information, check our web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.