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**WEST VIRGINIA ON TOP OF A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO STOP THE BLEED**

**CHARLESTON, WV** – West Virginia has the highest number of individuals who have completed Stop the Bleed training per capita than any other state in the nation, according to information presented at the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Clinical Congress meeting held October 26-29, 2019 in San Francisco.

A collaboration of efforts from the Trauma divisions of West Virginia University Critical Care and Trauma Institute and Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) Trauma Services, General Hospital is what put West Virginia at the top of the list. The collaboration has many ongoing initiatives to ensure that every West Virginia citizen is trained to stop life threatening bleeding if the need arises.

Every hospital in the state has completed a train-the-trainer program and is now training schools, civic organizations, churches and others in their respective communities. In addition to training and due to generous grant funding, Stop the Bleed kits are being placed in every public school at the middle and high school levels. Plans to equip elementary schools will also be carried out in the future.

Stop the Bleed is a national campaign motivated by the 2012 tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School and other tragedies that have occurred in recent years. The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma is leading the national effort to save lives by teaching the civilian population to provide vital initial response to stop uncontrolled bleeding in emergency situations. West Virginia formed its own committee in 2017 to provide the life-saving Stop the Bleed techniques to West Virginia citizens.

“It is nice to see West Virginia on top of a positive national health ranking, and we are proud to have been a part of the efforts to get there,” Gregory Schaefer, DO, WVU Medicine trauma surgeon and physician champion of the Stop the Bleed campaign,” said. “The Stop the Bleed initiative is critical in educating community members on how to react in life-threatening emergencies, and it has been our honor to bring this life-saving knowledge to the people of West Virginia.”

“The CAMC foundation donated over seventy-six thousand dollars for stop the bleed kits in nearby county schools. Injury prevention efforts with the trauma centers have done hundreds of classes reaching thousands of citizens. CAMC has partnered with the West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) and the West Virginia Office of EMS, EMS for Children and the Department of Homeland Security to provide these kits to additional schools in the state,” Tiffany Lasky, CAMC Trauma Medical Director, MHS, DO, FACOS, FACOS said. “The commitment from West Virginia Trauma centers and healthcare agencies toward this national initiative by the American College of Surgeons has been astounding and CAMC is very proud to be a part of it, Lasky said.”

Through the national campaign, more than 1 million people completed Stop the Bleed training courses under the supervision of more than 60,000 qualified instructors. The collaboration between CAMC Trauma Services, General Hospital and WVU Critical Care and Trauma Institute as well as every hospital in WV, are actively involved in the Stop the Bleed campaign by offering classes to various community and civic organizations and school personnel in their respective communities. Generous funding and additional collaboration have been ongoing with The West Virginia Office of Emergency Services, the West Virginia Hospital Preparedness Program, The West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and many local groups.

For more information on Stop the Bleed, visit [www.stopthebleed.org](http://www.stopthebleed.org).

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