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Top Three Candidates for VPSA Position at BRTC Named

Three individuals have been selected for campus visits and interviews in BRTC's search for a new Vice President for Student Affairs, according to information released this week by Julie Edington, HR Director. The three were selected during a process that began with a review of a pool of forty applicants.

The three candidates are Lyvier Leffler of Moravia, Iowa; Martha Nelson of Pewaukee, Wisconsin; and Kim Armstrong of Moline, Illinois. The top six candidates were chosen for Skype interviews, according to Edington. Of the six, two had previously accepted positions, leaving four for the Skype sessions.

Each of the three top applicants will spend part of two days touring both the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses and will meet with senior administrators, Board of Trustees, as well as faculty and staff. Each will also make a brief presentation and then attend a reception to which the public is invited, Edington said.

While the specific schedule is still being determined and will be announced within the next week, the dates of

the visits are September 23-24 for Leffler, September 30-October 1 for Nelson, and October 7-8 for Armstrong.



Martha Nelson



Kim Armstrong



Lyvier Leffler

The process of the search committee has been both deliberate and thorough," said Dr. Wayne Hatcher, BRTC President, "and I am confident we will be taking a close look at three highly qualified individuals. We look forward to meeting and welcoming them to our campus."

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Important Dates

- September 23**
Introduction to Islamic Culture presentation, 6:30 p.m.
- September 24-26**
PTK Blood Drive
- September 27**
Annual IBERIABANK / BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament
- October 8**
Fall Advisory Dinner
- October 14-15**
Fall Break for Students
- October 17**
NTHS Induction Ceremony
- October 29-10**
Holocaust Survivor Series

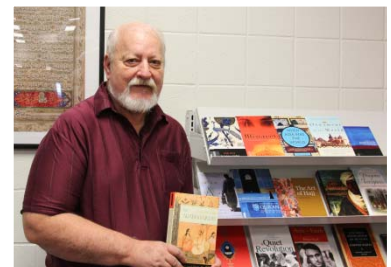
BRTC to Host Presentation from Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Collection

An "Introduction to Islamic Art and Culture" presentation will be held Monday, September 23, 6:30 p.m., in the Black River Technical College Library in Pocahontas, according to BRTC Librarian Anne Simpson. The program is part of a series of seminars intended to give a better understanding of different cultures.

The BRTC Library is one of four libraries and state humanities councils in Arkansas and one of 843 across the country, selected to receive the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Collection from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. It is a collection of resources on the history and culture of Muslims in the United States and around the globe. The collection includes 25 books, three films, and access for one year to Oxford Islamic Studies Online.

The bookshelf was developed by the NEH and the ALA based on expert advice from scholars, librarians,

and other public programming experts. Muslim Journeys is the first in a planned series of Bridging Cultures Bookshelves. "This current bookshelf program emphasizes the



Bill Carroll holds one of the books from the collection

important role libraries play in fostering conversations among community members," Simpson explained. "The program is intended to address both the need and the desire of the American public for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices as well as the cultural heritage associated with Islamic civilizations." The

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VPSA Position

According to information submitted by the applicants, Dr. Leffler is currently Dean of Academic Services at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa, and formerly held the post of Associate Dean of Academic and Student Services there. She also held the position of Department Chair of Housing and Counseling Services at IHCC, and previously was Director of Counseling Services at IHCC. Her career there began in 2003 as Director of Rural Health Ed Partnership.

She has a PhD in Ed Leadership and Policy Studies from Iowa State University, a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from University of Houston, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, minor in Sociology, from Iowa State.

Nelson is currently serving as Coordinator of the Access to Success Project at University of Wisconsin College, and is Diversity Trainer at Casper Consulting LLC. She previously served as Mount Mary University's Chief Student Affairs Officer, worked as Implementation Manager for Recruitment Plus Comprehensive Enrollment Management

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System at University of Wisconsin Colleges System. Previously, she held the position of Assistant Campus Dean at UW, Washington County.

Her degrees include a Master of Science in Counselor Education and a Master of Arts in English Literature from Syracuse University, and a Bachelor's of Arts degree from Russell Sage College.

Dr. Armstrong is currently Assistant Dean of Student Support Services at Black Hawk College, where she previously served as Interim Dean of Student Support Services and Assistant Dean of Student Services and Perkins Grant Manager.

She earned her PhD in Physiological/Neuropsychology and Cognitive Child Development from Howard University. She also has a Master of Science degree in Psychology and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with minor in Chemistry from Howard.

The three candidates are vying for the position previously held by Dr. Michael Sullens, who retired in July.

Students in BRTC's Respiratory Care program recently participated in the 12th Annual Prostate Cancer Screening and Health Fair, held September 14 in the Pocahontas Community Center. The students performed screenings in addition to answering questions regarding testing. "Our booth was very popular," said instructor Jessica Alphin. There was a good response to our booth from the public."



Respiratory students pictured (left to right) are: Amanda Quick, Jessica Alphin, RT instructor, Terra Voyles, Julie Dummer, DiNesa Elliott, Amber Rice, Michele Davis, Rachel Holder and Brian Reynolds.

Koth Awarded

BRTC student Ashlee Koth was awarded \$150 for winning a business plan competition in the spring as part of Small Business Management class taught by Darena Kersey.

Students were assigned to research and write a business plan for their own entrepreneurial venture. At the conclusion of the course, oral presentations were given and judged by business instructor Shannon Ogden and local businessman Mike Jones of Hydrottemp.

Koth and her husband own and operate a heating and air conditioning company in Hoxie. She is a member of the BRTC chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) and plans to enter the state PBL competition in hopes of going to the national PBL competition June 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee. PBL is an international organization and is the collegiate level of FBLA, Future



Ashlee Koth

Business Leaders of America. BRTC's Student Government Association funded the award for this competition.

Art Club Takes Trip to Little Rock

Members of BRTC's Art Club visited Little Rock September 6 where they toured the Arkansas Art Center and the William J. Clinton Presidential Library.

Twenty-one participants first toured the Presidential Library, where they looked at aisles of books and timelines, and viewed many pieces of artwork and sculpture that had been presented to the Clintons as gifts from all around the world.

A few members of the group enjoyed sitting in the president's chair in the interactive replica of the White House cabinet room. An exhibit of dresses designed by Oscar de la Renta and worn by several First Ladies and Hollywood stars was also on display at the Library for students to admire. Following the Library tour, the group dined at Forty-Two, the Library's restaurant, seated on the outdoor patio overlooking the Arkansas River. Afterwards, the group visited the Clinton Museum store where each member received authentic campaign buttons as a free gift.

Following the visit to the Clinton Presidential Library, the group went to the Arkansas Art Center to view its traveling exhibit, "The Treasures of Kenwood House, London," a collection of Baroque paintings on loan from England. These included works from England, Italy, France, and the Netherlands, the crowning centerpiece being an introspective self-portrait by Rembrandt.

This trip was led by Fine Art instructor and Art Club advisor Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz and chaperoned by Business instructor Ruth Schaa, Administrative Assistant Sharon Watson, Bookstore Director Janice Harvey, and adjunct English instructor Mantha Baltz. Dr. Baltz says of the event, "We had a wonderful visit at the Clinton Library where exhibits of the international gifts to the president and the oval office replica were favorite spots. And to view an internationally famous large Rembrandt painting at the Art Center was a treasure to behold."



Members of BRTC's Art Club visited the Arkansas Art Center and the William J. Clinton Presidential Library during a trip to Little Rock.

PBL Students Attend Conference in California

During the Spring 2013 semester, several students, along with advisors Darena Kersey, Shannon Ogden, and Ruth Schaa, attended the state Phi Beta Lamda (PBL) competition in Little Rock, Arkansas. All students attending competed in at least two competitive events.

Carlo Obregon, Olen Hunt and Jamie Weeks placed in the top two positions in their respective events making them eligible to compete at the national PBL competition at Anaheim, California, during the summer. The three students, along with Schaa, were able to attend the national event with some of the expenses paid by the Student Government Association and by PBL fundraisers.

Carlo Obregon who won first place at state in Justice Administration, went on to place sixth at the national level. Carlo graduated in May 2013 with his AAS in Criminal Justice, and he is now enrolled in the Law Enforcement Training Academy at

BRTC. Carlo's native language is Spanish. Therefore, during the timed event in which he competed, he had to translate the questions which were written in English into Spanish, conceptualize the questions, and translate his answer back into English.

Jamie Weeks, who is currently working on her AAS in Business Technology, competed in the Job Interview event.

Olen Hunt, who is currently a business student working on his AAS degree, competed in the Networking event.

"BRTC PBL members are already working toward the Spring 2014 competition," Schaa said, "with hopes of surpassing the achievements already made of the two-year old organization. Competition is fierce among the collegiate PBL members as many of them competed during their high school years in FBLA events. This could be seen at the national



Olen Hunt, Jamie Weeks and Carlo Obregon attend PBL competition in Anaheim, California.

conference when competitors were quizzing others with flash cards and textbooks while they were waiting in line to enter the competitive events."

Students interested in joining PBL should contact Shannon Ogden or Ruth Schaa. Their offices are located in the Business Technology Building on the BRTC Pocahontas Campus.

"Plus 50" Open House is Held

BRTC students over age 50 were treated to an open house August 28-29 in the Department of Corporate and Community Education, according to Director Patti Blaxton. The event was funded through a "Plus 50" grant designed to assist students in meeting their goals of accomplishing a certificate or degree.

"Through this grant, we want to provide our non-traditional students with information to help them succeed while also enjoying the college experience here at BRTC," said Blaxton. "Events and classes such as these will help open more doors for this important and growing part of the BRTC student body."

The open house was the first event held to welcome the Plus 50 students to college and provide them with information to help make their transition an easier one. Students learned about degree programs, student organizations, tutoring, and financial aid, among other key information. Lunch and door prizes, including a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card were provided.

The following speakers introduced the Plus-50 students to the services provided by their respective departments: Tammie Lemmons, Director of Adult Education; Miley White, Resource Assistant for Program Completion; Donna Foster, Academic Learning Center Coordinator; and Daniel Parker, Program Coordinator for Distance Education.

For more information on the Plus 50 program, contact Blaxton at 870-248-4181.



Patti Blaxton (center), Director of Corporate and Community Education, gives Pam Anis (left) and Ruth Patterson information during the Plus 50 Open House. students information.

Bookshelf Collection Cont'd. from pg. 1

BRTC Library applied for this program last summer and was awarded the bookshelf in January.

"We are honored and take great pride in the fact that our library was selected as a community center for discussions about Islam," said Simpson. "This award coincides with the library's mission to provide materials and discussions about Islam from an intellectually and culturally rich perspective."

The college received support from the grant from Bill Carroll of Pocahontas who is a subject matter expert on the Middle East and Islam. Support was also provided by the Eddie Mae Heron Center and the Randolph County Public Library. In addition, BRTC faculty members and local ministers encouraged this endeavor. The books are available not only to students, faculty, and staff at BRTC, but also to the entire community. "Our goal is to support classroom instruction as well as resources for our area while nurturing and developing lifelong skills for using the library to assist with information needs," stated Simpson.

In addition to the NEH and ALA, this program is made possible with a generous gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Additional support for the arts and media was provided by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

The event is free and open to the public. Additional events for the collection will be announced as they are scheduled. For more information on the collection, contact Anne Simpson at the BRTC library at 870-248-4061 or anne.simpson@blackrivertech.org.

Join us for the
20th Annual IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation
Golf Tournament
Friday, September 27 - Rolling Hills Country Club
For more information, call 870-248-4187 or 870-248-4189.



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BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

Campus Commentary



Regina Moore, Director of DE

Professional development can be obtained in many ways and is important for all members of the college to learn and grow as professionals. To further BRTC's commitment to professional development, the college has recently acquired iStream, an online professional development tool, which has resources that support student and organizational learning.

iStream offers an online repository housing 44 years of best practices, model programs, and innovative ideas created by and for community colleges and higher education. Over 200,000 resources and tools are available. With iStream, faculty and staff will be able to view conference videos and presentations, articles, webinars, and eLearning opportunities through Open Educational Resources in a collaborative setting in the library classroom.

This month's iStream theme is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Transfer Programs. Within this theme, a Seattle Community College District explains their STEM transfer project. PowerPoints from the STEMtech 2010 conference presentations along with highlighted archived STEM projects are available for review.

September's Partners Spotlight is Digitalis Open Astronomy Curricula. Viewers can find helpful links to websites, printable materials for classroom instruction, and other helpful hints on teaching about the solar system. Each month, a new subject is presented.

The Innovators Educators and Microsoft DreamSpark Webinars links feature on-demand webinars/webcasts. September's Innovators Educators webinar is Supporting Adult Students: How to Build Traditional College Services around Non-Traditional Needs. Monthly, a new topic is featured and past webinars can be viewed with this link. The Microsoft DreamSpark features Microsoft and CISCO webinars such as Microsoft Windows 7 Tips and Tricks, Green Solutions for Community Colleges, Campus Safety and Security Best Practice, and Partnering to Prepare the Workforce for Tomorrow to name a few.

The National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) offers a HippoCampus link that allows access to open-educational resources with more than 2500 multimedia learning objects in a variety of discipline areas.

Past conference presentations from Innovations, Innovator Spotlight, STEMtech, Information Technology, and Learning College Summit are accessible on demand. LENS and Getting Results links provide professional development tools for instructors that are presented in modules and video formats.

During September, iStream will be available in the BRTC library classroom on Wednesday, September 18, and Tuesday, September 24, from 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Each month a schedule for iStream availability will be released along with the topic of the month.

BRTC is also an Alliance member of the League of Innovation, which includes even more features and opportunities for faculty and staff members. The College may participate in awards and competitions such as the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards, Innovation of the Year Awards, and the Terry O'Banion Student Technology Awards, and receive discounted registration for STEMtech, Innovations, and Learning Summit conferences.

These services enhance BRTC's professional development program and provide for collaborative opportunities for faculty and staff without leaving campus.