Drug Policy

Drug abuse and use are subjects of immediate concern in our society. These problems are extremely complex and ones for which there are no easy solutions. From a safety perspective, the users of drugs may impair the well-being of all BRTC students/employees, the public at large, and result in damage to state property. Therefore, it is illegal in the State of Arkansas to manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use any controlled substance in the school/workplace. Any student/employee violating this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion or termination and any Federal or State penalties applicable to the convicted offense.

♦ The term “controlled substance” means any drug listed in 21 U.S.C. Section 812 and other federal regulations. Generally controlled substances are those drugs which have high potential for abuse. Such drugs include, but are not limited to Heroin, Marijuana, Cocaine, and “Crack.” They also include “legal drugs” which are not prescribed by a licensed physician.

♦ A continual use of alcohol and illegal drugs could cause addiction, which will lead to severe physical and mental harm.

♦ Each employee is required to inform the institution within 5 days after he or she is convicted for violation of any federal or state criminal drug statute where such violation occurred on the agency’s premises. A conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or the imposition of a sentence by a judge or jury in any court, state court, or other court of competent jurisdiction.

♦ BRTC must notify the US Department of Education within ten days after receiving notice from the employee of a conviction or receives actual notice of the conviction.

♦ If an employee is convicted of violating any criminal drug statute while in the workplace, he or she will be subject to discipline up to and including termination. Alternatively, the institution may require the employee to successfully finish a drug program sponsored by an approved private or governmental institution.

♦ As a condition of employment, the law requires all employees to abide by this policy.

♦ Drug treatment referral programs are available for students/employees of BRTC. Information about various drug and alcohol referral programs may be obtained by contacting Bridgett Guess, Advisor (870) 248-4000 ext. 4014. BRTC wants every student/employee to be aware of the physical, mental, and legal ramifications that can be associated with the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs on our campus or at a college sponsored function.
Extended Penalties:

Any person who sells, delivers, or possesses with the intent to deliver a controlled substance may be subject to an enhanced sentence of an additional term of imprisonment of 10 years if the offense is committed on or within 1,000 feet of a public vocational school, private or public college or university. Any person convicted under this section shall not be eligible for early release on parole for the extended portion of the sentence. (Arkansas Statutes 5-64-411)

Facts to Know

BRTC wants every student/employee to be aware of the physical, mental and legal ramifications that can be associated with the possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs on campus or at college sponsored function.

Students, employees, or guests are prohibited from possession of any type of firearm on the campus unless specifically exempted by state law. Offenders are in violation of Arkansas Criminal Code Annotated 5-73-119 through 5-73-122.

No student, employee, or guest may bring any intoxicant or harmful/illegal drug onto the campus, or appear on campus under the influence of such substances. BRTC will not tolerate use, possession, or sale of such substance on campus or at any institutional function.

Conviction leads to a minimum five year prison term. Persons convicted of drug possession under State or Federal law may be ineligible for federal student grants and loans for up to one year after first conviction and five years after the second; the penalty for distributing drugs is loss of benefits for five years after the first, ten years after the second, and permanently after the third conviction.
Health Risk

Alcohol
Alcohol consumption causes a number of changes in behavior and physiology. Even low doses significantly impair judgment, coordination, and abstract mental functioning. Statistics show that alcohol use is involved in a majority of violent behaviors on college campuses, including acquaintance rape, vandalism, fights, and incidents of drinking and driving. Continued abuse may lead to dependency, which often causes permanent damage to vital organs and deterioration of a healthy lifestyle.

Cannabis
(Marijuana, Hashish)
The use of marijuana may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce coordination and energy level. Users often have a lowered immune system and increased risk of lung cancer. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in the fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28-30 days.

Hallucinogens
Lysergic acid (LSD), mescaline, and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicions, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even when use has ceased. Phencyclidine (PCP) affects the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries.

Cocaine/Crack
Cocaine users often have stuffy, runny nose and may have a perforated nasal septum. The immediate effects of cocaine use include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature, followed by depression. Crack, or free base rock cocaine, is extremely addictive and can cause delirium, hallucinations, blurred vision, severe chest pain, muscle spasms, convulsions, and even death.

Amphetamines
Amphetamines can cause a rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, collapse, and death. Heavy users are prone to irrational acts.

Heroin
Heroin is an opiate drug that causes the body to have diminished pain reactions. The use of heroin can result in coma or death due to a reduction in heart rate.

Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine are synthetic amphetamines or stimulants that are produced and sold in pill form, capsules, powder, and chunks. Two such methamphetamines are crank and ice.

Crank refers to any form of methamphetamines.
Ice is a crystallized smokeable chunk form of methamphetamines that produces a more intense reaction than cocaine or speed. Ice has an appearance that is clear and crystal-like, and resembles frozen ice water.

Methamphetamines stimulate the central nervous system, and effects may last anywhere from 8 to 24 hours.

Crank and ice are extremely addictive and produce a severe craving for the drug.

Short term effects increased alertness, sense of well-being, paranoia, intense high, hallucinations, aggressive behavior, increased heart rate, convulsions, extreme rise in body temperature, uncontrollable movements, violent behavior, insomnia, impaired speech, dry itchy skin, loss of appetite, acne, sores and numbness.

Effect on the mind: disturbed sleep, excessive excitement, excessive talking, panic, anxiousness, nervousness, moodiness and irritability, false sense of confidence and power, delusions in friends, sex or food, aggressive and violent behavior and severe depression.

Long term effects: fatal kidney and lung disorders, possible brain damage, depression, hallucinations, disorganized lifestyle, permanent psychological problems, weight loss, liver damage, stroke, and death.

Methamphetamines cause a severe crash after the effects wear off. The crash or low feeling is more intense and longer lasting than both speed and cocaine.
If any employee or student is convicted of violating any criminal drug statute he or she will be subject to discipline up to and including termination and or expulsion from the college.

UCR Report (Uniform Crime Report)

Title II of the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires the collection and dissemination of the violations listed below. BRTC reports the following violations:

If any of the afore stated incidents occur, it must be reported to a BRTC Security Officer.

A report must be made/filed with the security officer within 72 hours of an incident’s occurrence. The security office must file a report with the local and/or state authorities within 24 hours of the occurrence. Access to campus facilities should be directed to BRTC’s campus security at 870-248-4000 ext. 4034.

Instructor/Sponsor of student organization will be responsible for those individuals participating in any off campus activity/student organization. Any of the above state crimes must be reported to the instructor/sponsor in charge. The instructor/sponsor will report the incident to the local/state authorities within one hour of the reported occurrence of the above stated violations. Upon returning to the campus of BRTC, the instructor/sponsor will immediately report the offense to the security officer.

There are several precautions one should take to help prevent the occurrence of the above mentioned crimes:

- Remove keys from vehicle
- Never carry large sums of money
- Lock your vehicle
- Trust your instinct
- Always travel in pairs

The above information concerning BRTC and other colleges & universities can be viewed at the following web site: http://ope.ed.gov/security.