

# THE RIVER'S EDGE

Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould



David Coker

## Coker Appointed to Board of Trustees

David Coker of Walnut Ridge has been appointed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson to a 7-year term on the Board of Trustees for Black River Technical College.

Coker is president of Coker Insurance in Pocahontas and Paragould and the Lawrence Agency in Walnut Ridge. He currently serves as chairman of the Walnut Ridge Planning Commission, Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company, and Arkansas Farmers Union. Mr. Coker is active on other boards including the Northeast Arkansas Intermodal Authority, Arkansas Earthquake Authority, and the National Farmers Union.

Coker believes in strong community and industry service. "I have always admired BRTC and the importance it plays in our commu-

nity and state. It is an honor to be joining the board," stated Coker. President Dr. Eric Turner

said, "We are honored and pleased at the appointment of Mr. Coker to the Board of Trustees and look forward to our working together."

*I have always admired BRTC and the importance it plays in our community and state. It is an honor to be joining the board.*

## BRTC Receives Motor Vehicle Commission Grant

BRTC received a grant from the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) which will benefit both the BRTC Automotive Service Technology and the BRTC Automotive Collision Repair Technology programs.

The MVC awarded almost \$150,000 to grant recipients for the newly created Education & Training Grant Program on June 1 in the Governor's Conference Room at the state capitol. The purpose of the Education & Training Grant Program is to provide funds to assist institutions that offer education and training in vehicle service and maintenance.

BRTC received \$11,000 that will go toward the purchase of equipment which will allow these programs to be on the cutting edge of automotive technology. Automotive Service Technology requested funds to establish road force balancing diagnostic training. Automotive Collision Repair Technology requested funds to implement aluminum body repair training.



**From left:** Joy Blackenship, Commission Vice Chair; Clyde Noel, Commissioner; Judge Jones, Commissioner; Travis DeClerk, BRTC Automotive Service Instructor; Butch Dail, BRTC Automotive Collision Repair Instructor; Phillip Dickson, BRTC Division Chair for Technical Education; Governor Asa Hutchinson; Dr. Eric Turner, BRTC President; Dr. Angie Caldwell, BRTC VP of Technical Education; Sandy Stroope, Commission Chairman; Gary Dan Futrell, Commission Secretary; and Mitch Ward, Commissioner.

## JOY IT DOWN

*August 15*

5-Day Work Week Resumes

*August 22*

Fall Semester Begins

*September 5*

BRTC Campuses Closed

*September 19*

Business After Hours at BRTC

*September 30*

Foundation Golf Tournament



## EMT-Paramedic Program Receives Grant

The EMT-Paramedic program received a grant from the Arkansas Trauma Foundation. The grant is for instructor professional development and for EMT-Paramedic students who have completed their first two semesters. Funds will help students with expenses during their last two semesters and can be used on anything from tuition to books. The student portion of the grant totaled \$2,313.99.



## APNF Grant Recipients

Eighty-five RN, LPN, and CNA students received reimbursement in the amount of \$36,152.30 for out-of-pocket expenses incurred while enrolled in their respective programs. The reimbursement was made possible by the Arkansas Partnership for Nursing Future (APNF) grant which ended March 31, 2016. This amount was in addition to \$29,682.82 students had received earlier in the year.

Students received help from APNF through various offerings including tutoring, certifications, tuition scholarships for CNAs, adjunct pay for clinical instructors, uniform scholarships, statewide clinical instructor training, and the RN-to-BSN pilot program offered at UAMS for ARNEC graduates. "This grant has been instrumental in providing access to continued education for nurses," explained Ramonda Housh, Division Chair for Allied Health.

○ Students,  
if you have enrolled in classes, don't forget to verify your financial aid on Campus Connect. Make sure your balance is paid by **Friday, August 19** or you will be dropped from all classes. Payment plans must be set up by **Thursday, August 18**.

If you do not see your financial aid award, contact the Financial Aid office at (870) 248-4000.

the 411

## ○ WELCOME WEEK!

### Monday, August 22

FREE Coffee  
7:30 a.m. -9:30 a.m.  
Pocahontas Admin Building Lobby

### Tuesday, August 23

Grocery Bingo  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Pocahontas Cafeteria

### Wednesday, August 24

Karaoke & Nacho Bar  
FREE to 1st 150 Students  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Pocahontas Cafeteria

### Thursday, August 25

Photo Booth & Burger Bar  
FREE to 1st 150 Students  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Pocahontas Cafeteria



## THEIR MARK Fountain Gets Facelift

MAKING

Welding, Machine Tool Technology, and Auto Collision students all came together to fix a need on the Pocahontas campus.

Neal Harwell, Career Counselor, noticed that the fountain between the library and academic building looked unfinished. "I knew we had some really talented students on campus that could make the fountain a showpiece," said Harwell.

The students decided they wanted to represent the five rivers in the area. They visited with students in Machine Tool Technology



Rocky Jones and Garrett Rawls

because that program had the ability cut plaques with the rivers' names on them. They also contacted Auto Collision who painted the metal bronze.

Check out the new fountain. It's a tribute to BRTC students' creativity, teamwork, and hard work.



**Bottom:** Lori Anderson, Lanie Faughn, Ashley Mansfield, Jessica Alphin, Jerica Thacker, Kelly Qualls, Mary Irvine, Sandi Quador, Vanna Early, Ben Moore

**Top:** Summer Graham, Lance Mitchell, Joe Price

## Respiratory Care Students Attend Seminar

Respiratory Care students participated in the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care Northeast District educational seminar held on June 10 at the ASU Heber Springs Campus.

Students attended lectures on indirect calorimetry, pulmonary function testing, Vest Therapy, and an interactive lecture from AR Saves, a stroke prevention and treatment program from UAMS. Students were also able to network with practitioners and department directors from other hospitals throughout the northeast district. These educational hours contribute to the students' professional development required in their professional portfolio.

*"If you can dream it, you can do it." ~Walt Disney*

## Dillion Receives Certification

Dane Dillion may be a new face around BRTC; however, he is already proving he was the right choice for campus police.

Dillion, who previously worked for the Pocahontas Police Department, has recently become a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). Of the 9,000 police officers in Arkansas, only 176 are DREs. He volunteered to go through the training while still at the Pocahontas Police Department.

Dillion's training began last September at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy in Camden. He learned to evaluate a person suspected of drug-impairment. While the training was intense, Dillion can now evaluate the seven drug categories.

BRTC benefits from Dillion's training because Dillion can tell the difference between drug impairment and medical issues. To keep his skills sharp, Dillion plans to ride BRTC's BAT mobile and help with the checkpoints. He encourages faculty and staff to contact him if they have any questions.

Dillion hopes to become a DRE instructor: "As I transition from street-level law enforcement to providing law enforcement to an institution of higher-education, I see the value of learning every single day. I plan to use this insight to further my law enforcement instruction to help bring more DREs to this area. Until then, because my DRE certification has reciprocity throughout the state, I hope to be an any department in Northeast Arkansas who needs someone with my skills."



Dane Dillion

CAMPUS  
CLOSEUP

Fall, by far, is my favorite time of the year! I actually feel the excitement and energy in the air during this time. As the Career Coach and Counselor here at BRTC, I look forward to working with students in need, whatever it may be. Let me give you some issues with which I typically help current and prospective students.

Juggling life and college can be stressful and overwhelming. Having a counselor to help students focus on their educational and personal goals can help. None of us are immune to mental stress or disorders. Stress is common, and sometimes beneficial, but sometimes we all need a little guidance to get us out of a rut. Sometimes those ruts are small, but sometimes they are huge. I can help or get students the help they need.

Besides basic counseling and guidance I help a lot of students select a major or career. Many students come to me with ideas of what career they want but are not sure how to achieve it. Others come to me at a point in their life where they simply cannot decide on a major or career. I love helping students at this point in their college lives. I love to see them get excited as they work through their thoughts and images of their future self, what they see themselves doing, or more importantly, who they see themselves helping and problems they see themselves solving in the future.

Seeing those students excited about their future is my payoff!



Neal Harwell

To contact Neal call (870) 248-4000 ext. 4158 or email [neal.harwell@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:neal.harwell@blackrivertech.edu)

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