

THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

BRTC Signs Transfer Agreement with John Brown University

On January 31, Stacey Duke, Dean of Degree Completion Programs, and Tiffany Lopez, Associate Registrar, Graduate & Degree Completion, from John Brown University visited BRTC to sign an articulation agreement. Students will be able to seamlessly transfer the following BRTC associates degrees to John Brown University's bachelor programs, all of which are available online.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| AAS in Entrepreneurship | BS in Business Administration |
| AAS in Business Administration | BS in Business Administration |
| AAS in Entrepreneurship | BS in Organizational Leadership |
| AAS in Accounting | BS in Management Accounting |



Top: Billie Fry, Bridgette Guess, Dr. Angie Caldwell; Bottom: Stacey Duke, Tiffany Lopez

Robert Bosch Tool Company Donates \$2,500 to BRTC Foundation



Tracy Brock, Steve Engelken, Karen Liebhaber

On December 12, Robert Bosch Tool Company donated \$2,500 to the BRTC Foundation to be used in support of students. Bosch representatives Steve Engelken, Operations Manager, and Tracy Brock, Human Resources Manager, presented the check to Karen Liebhaber, Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

Bosch is a long-time BRTC supporter and we appreciate their continued interest! Previous Bosch funds have provided furniture in the student commons area of the Administration Building and in Student Affairs.

Welding Students Receive NCCER Certificates

For the first time, 8 BRTC welding students and 3 TOPSS students earned their NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) certification. This certification acts as a transcript which will identify students' completed competencies. Many employers require NCCER certification and will pay more per hour to individuals possessing it. Rickie Gunn, BRTC welding instructor, says this certification is a "win win" for both BRTC and the students and he is excited to be able to offer them another employable certification.



BRTC students: Syd Humes, Curtis Humes, Tracey Johnson, Matthew Mattox, Matthew Edington, Jacob Irving, Ryan Petersen, Saige Lash; TOPSS students: DJ Hilton (Pocahontas), Cade Schnick (Sloan-Hendrix), Steven Borreson (Pocahontas)

JOIN IT DOWN

February 13
Black History Speaker

March 11
BRTC Gala, RHCC

March 9
Advisory Committee
Dinner

March 20-26
Spring Break

AROUND CAMPUS

AR State Police Help LETA With Riot Training

BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) works hard to provide officers with a well-rounded education. On January 27, the Arkansas State Police assisted LETA faculty in riot training. Officers (left in the picture above) practiced riot handling skills with volunteers from the NEA Career and Technical Center (right).



200 BRTC Students' Children Receive Toys

The holidays might be over, but thanks to the generosity of the BRTC Paragould faculty and staff, Christmas was truly a wonderful time of year for BRTC students' children. On December 14, the first Day of Caring was offered to all BRTC students. Over 300 toys were purchased and given away to students so their children could have a happy Christmas.

Thanks to the generosity of LA Darling Fixtures, First National Bank of Paragould, Allen and Priscilla Stillwell, and the BRTC Student Government Association (SGA) for making this event possible!

BRTC Trip to Switzerland

Community members and BRTC students still have time to sign up for the May 2017 trip to Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Venice through February. Visit the BRTC website for more details.



94 Students Attend Business Tech Day

BRTC faculty helped 94 business and FBLA students from Walnut Ridge, Hoxie, Sloan-Hendrix, and Rector prepare for spring FBLA state competitions on December 9. We wish them good luck in their competition!



ENTER THE BRTC POETRY CONTEST!

Students: Enter to win cash:

- Up to 2 original poems of any length, style, or form AND
- Up to 2 original Shakespearean sonnets

Prizes are as follows:

1st Place	\$100
2nd Place	\$50
3rd Place	\$25
Best Sonnet:	\$75

Visit the BRTC website for more information!

WIN A \$50 BOOKSTORE GIFT CERTIFICATE!

Students: Complete the marketing survey for a chance to win \$50! Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TP6NT3N>

Important Dates!

3/1	Scholarship deadlines
3/6	4-Week classes begin
3/6	8-Week classes begin
3/17	M*A*S*H Camp deadline
4/1	Practical Nursing program application deadlines
4/1	Phlebotomy program application deadlines
4/3	Poetry Contest deadline
4/7	Campus Preview Day
4/10	4-Week classes begin

the 411

Music Department Holds Sing-A-



Gram

The BRTC music department is holding its annual Sing-A-Gram fundraiser for BRTC's American Choral Directors Student Chapter.

Starting at \$1.00, students will take a rose or candy and sing a song to a special person on Valentine's Day.

"This is a great event," said Joniece Trammel, music director. "We raise some money and have a lot of fun! The students really enjoy the chance to showcase their talents."

Student Wins \$250 Walmart Gift Card



Paragould student Amanda Robertson won a \$250 Walmart gift card for participating in a BRTC student survey! The survey solicited students' feedback on the new BRTC strategic plan. Congratulations, Amanda!

11th Annual Gala Sold Out!

The 11th Annual BRTC Foundation Gala, set for March 11, is already sold out! This popular event helps raise money for student scholarships, academic programs, and other college needs.

Last year, the Gala raised over \$20,000 through ticket sales, a raffle, and silent and live auctions. Again this year, Allen Higginbotham of Little Rock will serve as the auctioneer.

The BRTC Gala is a Foundation event and is organized and hosted by Foundation members. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.



Foundation Gala

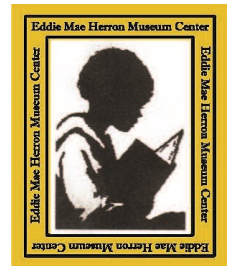
**SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017
6:00 IN THE EVENING
ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
POCAHONTAS, AR**



Former Lady Razorback is BRTC Black History Month Speaker

Celia Anderson, published author and a former Lady Razorback basketball player, will be the featured speaker for the BRTC/Eddie Mae Herron Center Black History Month Speaker Series on February 13. Anderson will speak at 10:00 a.m. in RCDC on the Pocahontas campus.

This event is a partnership between the Eddie Mae Herron Center, Black River Technical College, and the BRTC Foundation. Admission is free and the public is invited.



Tom and Becky Baker Agriculture Scholarship



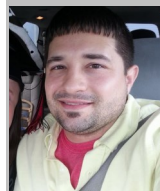
BRTC is excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity.

BRTC agriculture instructor and program director Tom Baker and his wife Becky are offering a \$1,000 scholarship to agriculture students in Fall 2017.

Contact Financial Aid to learn how to apply or visit our website.

Thank you for supporting BRTC's new agriculture program, Tom and Becky!

Paragould Student Scholarship



Recipient: James Michael Wiggins
Hometown: Paragould
Major: Respiratory Therapy
Amount: \$250

River Bank Scholarship in Memory of Patsy Baltz



Recipient: Aarin Cannon
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Pocahontas High School, 2016
Parents: Ron and Robin Cannon
Major: Practical Nursing
Amount: \$500

spotlight

BRTC Student
Cheryl Allen



Cheryl Allen, the single mother of 22-year-old Joshua and the late Jordan who would have been 31 this year, has wanted to go back to college for many years.

However, she spent 37 years working in factories before she had the opportunity.

"I always wanted to go back to school," Cheryl says, "but I began to think I would never achieve it, especially at this time in my life."

After losing her job to Mexico and spending 6 weeks there training her replacements, she enrolled in BRTC a year and a half ago.

"I'm kind of glad I had to wait to go back to school," Cheryl admits. "I know I will succeed better now than I would have when I was young. "

Today Cheryl is a Business Technology major. She will graduate in May 2017.

"Never give up on your dreams," Cheryl says. With a 3.74 GPA and as a honor society member, clearly Cheryl is achieving her dream!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



PSD Donates Bus for First Responder Training

In order to help BRTC paramedic students and other first responder students learn how to extricate victims from school bus accidents, Pocahontas School District donated a retired bus to BRTC.

"Getting a bus like this is rare," said Alan Haskins, BRTC Fire Training instructor. "Not many get donated; they are usually sold." Thank you, Pocahontas School District, for helping BRTC make Northeast Arkansas safer!

Project REACH to Be Featured on PBS April 5

On February 3, Chuck Dovish with PBS's Exploring Arkansas visited Rice-Upshaw to tour the facility and interview its staff.

Tune in Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. to see the full feature!



Calling Participants for WorkKeys Study

BRTC's Adult Education is participating in an ACT WorkKeys Scaling Study which is being conducted to norm questions for the WorkKeys assessment given for the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC).

Individuals participating in the study will receive a \$60 Amazon account credit for completing the 3 sections required for the CRC. The Adult Education program will receive an \$8 Amazon credit to be used to purchase items for the program and its students for each completed study.

The study will run through February 17 and is open to the public. Contact Cindy Robinett at cindyr@blackrivertech.edu for more information.

Pocahontas Rotary Club Donates to Kimbrough Choir

On February 1, the Pocahontas Rotary Club donated \$250 to the Kimbrough Choir. The gift will be used to help Kimbrough Choir members sing with the ASU Choir in Ireland over Spring Break.

The choir is very active in the community. It performs at local events including the annual Rotary Christmas Party. For more information, contact choir director Joniece Trammel at (870) 248-4000 ext. 4188 or joniece.trammel@blackrivertech.edu.



Director Joniece Trammel and Rotary President and BRTC VP Karen Liebhaber



2016 M*A*S*H Camp attendees

BRTC's Summer M*A*S*H Camp Dates Announced

The 2nd BRTC M*A*S*H (Medical Applications of Science for Health) camp dates are June 5-15. Thirteen high school juniors and seniors will attend the 2-week summer enrichment program on the BRTC campus. Participants will shadow health professionals and attend workshops which will enhance their healthcare field exposure.

To learn more or apply, visit the BRTC website. BRTC's M*A*S*H program is part of UAMS's Northeast regional program.

Respiratory Students Study Other Cultures

On February 3, respiratory students held their annual Cultural Dinner to explore the health of other cultures. They cooked traditional dishes, decorated a table, and gave a presentation. Cultures explored were Amish, Mexican, Chinese, and African. BRTC administration was invited to taste the dishes and watch the presentations. "We learn a lot about different cultures and health," said Jessica Alphin, respiratory instructor. "Plus, we get to eat great food!"



"We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for I don't know." – W. H. Auden

BRTC Shares New Strategic Plan Draft with Community



Since last April, BRTC has been creating a new 5-year strategic plan and is now sharing it with the community to receive feedback. On February 1, Daniel Parker, Director of Planning and Research, spoke at Pocahontas Rotary Club and solicited their feedback.

Community organizations in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties are being visited. To add your group, contact Daniel at (870) 248-4000 ext. 4074.

BRTC: Helping Others

CAMPUS
CLOSEUP

BRTC is proud of the impact our employees have on not only our students but our communities.



Neal Harwell

Left: Neal Harwell, BRTC Career Counselor, is a founder and board member of Bridge of Hope Ministries which provides a home for teenage boys in foster care.

Below: BRTC LETA faculty are certified law enforcement officials and may respond as needed. We are grateful for their keeping our communities safe!



BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) faculty being ceremoniously sworn in by Circuit Judge Phil Smith on January 12.

As the stories throughout this newsletter illustrate, the spirit of helpfulness is at the core of Black River Technical College – but this spirit does not compose just the core of our college; it is in the hearts of our employees.

From the generosity of Neal Harwell’s time and his dedication to helping foster kids in need to the many hours put in by the Paragould faculty and staff in creating BRTC’s first Day of Caring, BRTC faculty and staff are here for our students and our community.

I’m especially proud of the extra effort put in by welding instructor Rickie Gunn to help welding students, for the first time, work for and earn their NCCER certificates. And for a respiratory instructor who makes her classes not only engaging and educational but also inviting.

I am honored to be associated with Tom and Becky Baker who exemplify generosity and support by providing a \$1,000 scholarship for agriculture students.

And I am pleased to be a part of a college which houses a law enforcement academy whose faculty are ready to participate in the protection of their neighbors, communities, and state at the first sign of danger.

BRTC is indeed staffed by caring, helpful people. BRTC is indeed a *community* college.



Dr. Eric Turner

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