Our Community Is Essential to BRTC!

BRTC exists to serve the citizens of its service area and its community. However, we are fortunate to have an exceptionally supportive community! Without the support and help of our local citizens, civic clubs, and businesses, BRTC would not be able to achieve its mission.

Community members support BRTC in a variety of ways. For example, in April ProMed Ambulance Service of Pocahontas donated an ambulance stretcher to the BRTC EMT-Paramedic Program. This stretcher is one which the college would not have been able to afford on its own. Because of ProMed’s generosity, students have the opportunity to use the very same equipment in their training that they will use on the job. Thank you!

In addition, BancorpSouth in Pocahontas worked with adult education students during American Saves Week to help students better understand the importance of banking and saving. Thank you Stephen Malone and Melanie Chester with BancorpSouth! We appreciate your time, knowledge, and advice!

The two stories are just a sliver of the examples of support BRTC receives from the community. Thank you to each and every individual who makes BRTC what it is!

BRTC Student Named PTK Regional President for the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region

On March 10 at the Annual Regional Convention of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region of Phi Theta Kappa, Leah "Aly" Smoot was voted in by her peers in PTK as the new PTK Regional President. She will run the annual Regional Honors Institute in the fall and the Annual Regional Convention in the spring. She will also attend Catalyst, PTK's International Annual Convention in 2018 and 2019, and the International Honors Institute at Villanova University. She represent both the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region of PTK and BRTC’s chapter.

At BRTC, Aly is president of Phi Theta Kappa and treasurer of the Student Government Association. She is married to Spencer who is currently retired from the Marine Corps and they have one son, Ace. Aly was born in Soda Springs, Idaho.
On Monday, March 26, the Beta Delta Phi chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society welcomed 18 new members: Anne Bruetsch, John Cotton, Madison Crawley, Alicia Croney, Rebecca Ferguson, Madison Foster, Stephanie Foster, Benjamin Gore, Johnathan Hensley, Charlotte Jennings, Brandon Johnson, Courtney Keck, Lindsey Mans, Jillian Noles, Tanner Ringo, Monica Sanchez, Brian Smith, and Samantha Weir.

Phi Theta Kappa is a scholarly organization which promotes the ideals of scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. To receive an invitation to join, students must have a minimum of 12 credit hours and a 3.5 GPA.

BRTC Paragould Celebrates Pi Day!

BRTC Paragould’s math department celebrated Pi Day March 14 and 15 with door prizes, pies, pizza pies, and punch. Students could also enter a poster contest in which they illustrated information about pi, a mathematician, or a mathematical formula. In addition, $10 gift card door prizes were given out.

We sincerely appreciate our local gift card donors! Walmart, Sonic, Kum & Go, and Taco Bell each donated a $10 gift card for a door prize. Thank you!!

Meet BRTC SGA President Lidia Lopez

I was in Student Council in high school. I love volunteer work. I knew that I wanted to continue that in college, so I joined Student Government Association (SGA).

The purpose of SGA is to be the voice of the student body. It bridges the gap between administration and students. It also helps foster leadership. As SGA President, I run the meetings. I have more contact with SGA sponsors than any other club officer. I fill out the paperwork and send out emails.

We hosted a Solar Eclipse Watch Party and a Pizza Pi day. We sponsored and helped out at the Child Abuse Awareness Walk, STEM Day, Day of Giving, BRTC’s Got Talent, trips to Europe, etc. We took a day trip to Little Rock and toured the State Capitol.

I have had a lot of fun! I am so thankful for the experience!
Your donations to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students. These students must meet GPA, academic, and in some cases programmatic standards to be eligible for scholarships. Without your support and commitment, the following scholarships would not be possible!

**Foster and Foster Farms Scholarship in Memory of Jack and Amy Foster**

Recipient: Blaine Huddleston  
Hometown: Pocahontas  
High School: Pocahontas High School  
Parents: Clay and Megan Huddleston  
Major: Agriculture

**Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship**

Recipient: Cynthia Nishimura  
Hometown: Ravenden Springs  
County: Randolph  
Major: Nursing  
Pictured: Nishimura and BRTC’s Mike Smith

**Jennifer Wren Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient: Alexa Ramsey  
Hometown: Thayer, MO  
High School: Mammoth Spring HS  
Parents: Michael and Heather Ramsey  
Major: Agriculture

**GED Scholarship**

Recipient: Jennifer Barber  
Hometown: Corning  
Spouse: Chris Barber  
Major: Nursing

**Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship**

Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship is named after longtime Pocahontas school teacher Mary Sallee. Recipients must be single parents with custody of minor children, be enrolled in a program of higher education, meet certain income guidelines, and be residents of Randolph County.

The Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship is part of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund.

*Thank you, donors, for making this scholarship possible!*

**Nightingale Scholarship**

The Nightingale Scholarship is sponsored by BRTC nursing faculty and staff and is awarded to practical nursing students in their second semester of the program. The Spring 2018 scholarship was awarded to Ragan Rapert of Bono and Ashley Martin of Des Arc.

**Paragould Scholarship**

Four business and industry students at the Paragould location have each been awarded a $250 Paragould Scholarship for the spring semester:

- **Richie Higgins**  
  Campbell, MO

- **Hunter Douglas**  
  Lake City

- **Bobby Manuel**  
  Keiser

- **Johnny Rounds, III**  
  Jonesboro

Paige Davis, Pocahontas  
Chortney Durga, Pocahontas  
Rachael Gardner, Pocahontas  
Mikayla Morrow, Reyno  
Cynthia Nishimura, Ravenden Springs  
Mary Richardson, Pocahontas  
Holly Smart, Pocahontas  
Erica Bartman, Pocahontas  
Ragan Rapert and Ashley Martin
Spring Break 2018 Trip

BRTC faculty Dr. Derek Clements and Courtney Clements led 21 students, faculty, and community members to London, Paris, and Normandy.

BRTC’s next trip will be to Australia and New Zealand in 2019 and Scotland in 2020. Visit the BRTC website for information on how to join BRTC group travel!

Jennifer Stewart Honored

We are proud of longtime BRTC English adjunct Jennifer Stewart on winning the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith’s Luella M. Krebriel Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award!

New Employees Here for You!

Position: Library Technician  
Hometown: Pocahontas  
Location: Pocahontas  
Education: Black River Technical College, AA, AAS in Business Administration

Position: Nursing Clinical Site Coordinator  
Hometown: Maynard  
Location: Pocahontas  
Education: Three Rivers Community College, AAS in Registered Nursing