

THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

Students Raise Money for Classmate

BRTC students joined together to support classmate Courtney Waddell after a dangerous car crash left her seriously injured and took the life of her 3-year old son, Luke. Lisa Inman's Freshman English I class, of which Courtney was a member, raised over \$800 for Courtney in 2 hours. BRTC's LETA class raised nearly \$1,000.



Amber Hollis, Hannah Wilson, Caitlyn Hill



Courtney's uncle Cory Fitzgerald accepts money from Jake Milgrim, Blaze Hurt, Brandon Searcy, Morgan Jarosz, Sarah Greer



Back: Jake Milgrim, Amber Hollis, Brandon Searcy, Blaze Hurt, Shauna Phillips, Sarah Greer, Morgan Jarosz, Adrian Hicks. Front: Makenzie Reed, Hannah Wilson, Shelby Hoggard, Dean Liles



BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy Class 2018B

Sergeant Robert Bemis to Speak at LETA Graduation



Pennsylvania State Police senior trainer and former Marine Robert Bemis was responding to a vehicle fire in Schuylkill County, PA, when a passing vehicle hit his police cruiser and threw him into the air. He endured multiple surgeries and spent two years in rehabilitation before retiring from the state police in January of 2017.

After 24 years of service, Sergeant Bemis serves as a senior trainer with the Pennsylvania State Police. Prior to this service, he spent 6

years in the U. S. Marines, even providing security for President Ronald Reagan's helicopter, Marine One.

Sergeant Bemis will speak at BRTC's LETA graduation on Friday, November 16.



JOINT DOWN

November 16
LETA Graduation

November 22-23
Offices Closed

December 11
RN/PN Graduation

December 13
Commencement

CAMPUS SGA President Introduces BRTC Officials to Funding Source

AROUND

BRTC Student Government Association (SGA) president Andrea Spradlin introduced members of the Arkansas Human Development Corporation (AHDC) to BRTC's financial aid and Career Pathways programs. AHDC helps their local communities by providing services like job development and job placement. They also have a program for displaced workers.

"I thought AHDC could help me and others like me," Spradlin said. The AHDC program for displaced workers caught her attention.

To learn if AHDC can help you, call BRTC Financial Aid.



AHDC's Linda Scott, BRTC SGA president Andrea Spradlin, AHDC Director Clewon Young, Career Pathways Director Rhonda Crabtree

BRTC Students Help their Communities



Konnor Mulock, Sarah Helms, Nicole Throesch, Jordan Westbrook

BRTC students banded together to help the community in October at both Paragould and Poca-hontas.

Students landscaped the Bridge of Hope Ministries boys' home in Poca-hontas and planted trees on the BRTC campus.



Hannah Coats

Phi Theta Kappa Induction

Katelyn Adams was one of 13 BRTC students inducted in the Beta Delta Phi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the 2-year college international honor society founded in 1918. Phi Theta Kappa centers around cultivating the hallmarks of scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service. In order to be considered,

students must have completed at least twelve credit hours and maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average. Inductees not pictured are Halee Arnold, Emily Beal, Kelsi Bowers, Beverly Brown, Samantha Davis, Paula Decker, Erica Goeson, Kenneth Lee, Doris Rains, Emma Rice, Robin Rogers, Rebecca Wolff.



Dr. Jan Ziegler, Katelyn Adams, PTK advisor Ashley Hankins

Important Dates!

- 11/16 Last day to drop
- 11/19-23 No classes
- 11/22-23 Offices closed
- 11/30 Serendipity
- 12/1 Spring financial aid priority deadline
- 12/5-11 Finals
- 12/24 Campus Closes
- 1/1 Final financial aid deadline
- 1/2 Campus reopens
- 1/11 Last Day to Pay for Spring
- 1/14 Spring 2019 Begins
- 1/16 Last day to add a class, set up payment plan, be reinstated

the 411

Thank you, BancorpSouth!

Pocahontas BancorpSouth's Stephen Malone and Melanie Chester spoke to BRTC GED students about credit scores, setting up checking accounts, bank loans, and financial responsibility. Thank you for helping students succeed!



THEIR MARK

MAKING

FFA State Officer and Hillcrest Valedictorian Chose BRTC as Her College Home



BRTC freshman Raven Randolph was already successful before she started college. In April of her senior year, she was voted FFA state reporter, the only office which requires all FFA chapters in the state to vote. She was also Hillcrest High School's 2018 valedictorian.

So one would expect her to attend a university to pursue her degree. However, Raven found a home at BRTC.

"I always thought I would attend a 4-year university after graduation," Raven said. In fact, that is the route most valedictorians take. However, she says her decision to attend BRTC was the best she could have made: "I am so thankful I chose BRTC! I came from a small school and I would have felt overwhelmed at a university. The transition from high school to college is overwhelming enough!"

At BRTC, Raven feels like she has a big family. In fact, she and several of her friends in her ag classes have decided to take the same classes so they can be there for each other. "It's very important that students have friends and a support system at school," Jenine Myers, BRTC agriculture instructor said. "Students with a support system are more likely to succeed."

For Raven, BRTC seems to be a good fit. As a freshman, her decision to join her high school's FFA chapter was not her idea: "I honestly did not want to join! My advisor at the time wouldn't take my 'no' as an answer. He wanted me to be vice president of that year's Opening Closing Ceremonies team and had even ordered my jacket already. So I gave in and joined and it is one of the best choices I have ever made!!"

Agriculture is still one of Raven's passion. She said in the past, agriculture was viewed as "Cows, Sows, and Plows," but the industry has changed dramatically. Today, Raven said, agriculture is not just about farmers; it just as much about "government officials, business leaders, even technology."

One of the perks of FFA which Raven appreciated is that members are able to see the ag industry changes first-hand. Members also have the opportunity to network with business leaders.

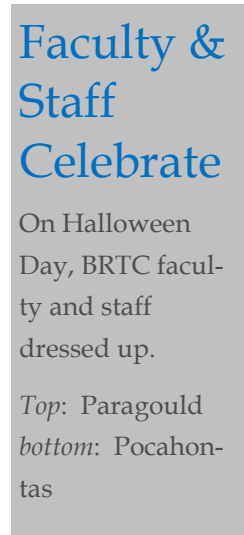
At BRTC, Raven plans to pursue a degree in agriculture education: "As I look back on my 4 years of high school, my most favorite memories are made in the Ag room! I can never express how thankful I am for my ag teacher. I want to be able to influence, impact, and inspire students for the rest of my life!"

Raven also said BRTC's agriculture instructor Jenine Myers has been "without a doubt" an inspiration: "[Mrs. Myers] has gone above and beyond to help me for four years now and I can never thank her enough. I wouldn't be a state officer today if it wasn't for her and everything she has done. Every moment she pushed me I can see now that it grew me, even if in the moment it seemed crazy and terrifying."

As FFA state reporter, Raven will serve until April 2019. Part of her duties includes attending leadership trainings and teaching leadership to other FFA students across the state. As a BRTC student, Raven has the opportunity to inspire and lead others. She was invited to attend the Arkansas Community College Student Leadership Academy and with her FFA leadership, she will be a huge help to BRTC students!



BRTC ag instructor Jenine Myers and Raven at her high school graduation



You may not realize it, but the sacrifice many parents make to come to college can be significant. Many students skip lunch so they can save their money to feed their children.



Adult Education students are especially hard hit. Often they are the least paid, are working on their GEDs to get a better job, or are high school drop-outs trying to turn their lives around.

Many BRTC students attend college, work fulltime, and raise their families. Your support of the **BRTC Food Pantry and Lunch Meal Plan** will help them in times of need!

Your gift via check, credit card, or cash can make a tremendous difference! Visit www.blackrivertech.edu and click on **Give to BRTC** to help today!

Nursing 1 Halloween Fun at BRTC

On Halloween Day, Nursing 1 students sponsored a Halloween costume party. The winner was Garth Brooks, AKA Breck Rushing. Nursing faculty wore emoji t-shirts which best represented their personalities.



Kimbrough Choir and Friends Fall/Winter Concert

Join Kimbrough Choir director Karen Parish and the Kimbrough Choir as they perform with the high school choirs of Maynard, Pocahontas, and Sloan-Hendrix for their annual Fall/Winter Concert!

The concert is November 29 at 7:00 p.m. at RCDC on the Pocahontas campus and is free and open to the public!



SNAPSHOTS BRTC Paragould Scholarships

FOUNDATION

The Paragould Student Scholarship is offered to fulltime BRTC students who attend at least one traditional class at the Paragould or enroll in an industry class of more than 18 hours.

This fall, ten students were awarded in the amount of \$250: Bobby Manuel of Keiser, Alison Wortham of Paragould, and Nicholas Brannan of Marmaduke. Not pictured are Johnny Rounds, III, of Charlotte; Richie Higgins of Campbell, MO; Michael Halcomb of Paragould; Cody Shearer of Paragould; Alex Thomason of Paragould; Benjamin Gore of Rec-
tor; and Kameron Parks of Piggott.



Bobby
Manuel



Alison
Wortham



Nicholas
Brannan

The Paragould Student Scholarship is funded by Paragould educators, staff, and community members as well as the annual BRTC Scholarship 5K held in the late spring. **Thank you, donors, for making this scholarship possible!**

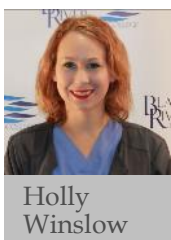
BRTC LETA Remembers Operation Gothic Serpent



On the 25th anniversary of Operation Gothic Serpent, known as Black Hawk Down, Law Enforcement Training Academy recruits performed an exercise where they marched in a military-style formation. During the one mile march, each member carried a 35-pound weight and a sandbag or assisted in carrying a litter with a 90-pound heavy bag. At various points during the march, the recruits and instructors stopped to do 19 burpees, 19 squats, and 19 pull-ups as a group to honor the 19 soldiers who lost their lives during Operation Gothic Serpent.



New Employee Here for You!



Position: Nursing Assistant Instructor

Hometown: Pocahontas

Location: Paragould

Education: Black River Technical College, AAS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Honor those special to you!

Your memorial or in-honor gift supports student scholarships and academic programs!



Memory



Honor



Scholar



Give

spotlight

Nursing Students in Action

BRTC Foundation Board member Jana Caldwell had the misfortune of ending up in the hospital. However, as she lay in the hospital, she was greeted by a friendly voice.

"Hi, Mrs. Caldwell. I'm a nursing student at Black River Technical College. May I take care of you?"

BRTC nursing students get real-life practice during their clinical rotations. During clinicals, students assist hospital staff in taking care of patients.



Jana had the opportunity for BRTC nursing student and L.D. Rose Family Foundation scholar Anne Bruetsch care for her.

"Anne was very professional and pleasant," Jana said. "It was exciting to see BRTC students in action!"

Her instructors are not surprised. "Anne works hard both inside and outside the classroom," says PN instructor Tina Stroud. "She is detailed-oriented, caring, and scores at the top of her class!" Instructor Nancy Felts calls Anne "contentious, prepared, and motivated"

"It was great to see one of the students I have helped succeeding!" said Jana.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



BRTC Adult Education's Elizabeth Thompson (Paragould), Director Tammie Lemmons, Cindy Robinette, Sheila Baltz

Robinette Named the 2018 Arkansas Adult Education Instructor of the Year

On November 8, the Arkansas Association of Career and Adult Education honored BRTC adult education instructor Cindy Robinett with the 2018 Teacher of the Year award at the state convention in Hot Springs. Robinette has taught adult education at BRTC for 23 years. We are so proud of her!

BRTC Employees Pack the Pantry!



In October, BRTC employees held a competition to pack the BRTC pantry. Many students at BRTC sacrifice to attend and simply cannot afford to purchase food. The BRTC Food Pantry accepts donations of cash and food to help students provide a 3-day balanced meal for their family of 4.

The BRTC Food Pantry is a service project of the BRTC Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Service Management program. Students learn how to manage and run a food pantry, a real life activity in which many of them will be involved when they graduate. To learn more, contact Christina Derbes, Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Service Management instructor, at (870) 248-4168.



BRTC MISSION STATEMENT

Black River Technical College transforms lives through quality academic and career education to enhance the community we serve.

INSIGHT With Dr. Jan Ziegler College Students – Who Are They, Really?

BLACK RIVER TECH

Across the nation, those who make policies are finally grasping a reality that has always been the case here at BRTC and at Arkansas's other two-year colleges: today's college students are not like the "college kids" of just a few decades ago. In fact, a new book by Patricia McGuire points out that "Fewer than 20% of undergraduates today are traditional-aged students (18-22 years old) living on campus, attending full-time, with mom and dad most likely paying the bills." This is so true, here and across the country. According to the U.S. Department of Education. Some 75% of college students nationally have one or more characteristic making them "non-traditional." These include commuting to college, working, attending part-time, and paying for their own education.

Approximately 77% of BRTC's first-time full-time students are financial aid-eligible, with an estimated 57% falling at or below the federal poverty line.

Why does this matter? It matters because, simply stated, the majority of today's undergraduate students are adults; they

75% of college
students are age
24+ with families,
fulltime jobs, and
adult responsibilities.

have adult responsibilities that demand their time, their focus, and their financial resources at the same time they are trying to earn degrees and certifications so they can build a better life for themselves and their families. It matters here at BRTC because we know our students are pulled in many directions that expand beyond the classroom. They face challenges that force them to decide which demands take precedence over



This is why we at BRTC are focused on providing as much support as we possibly can to help our students succeed. This support takes many forms, and often involves resources from the community as well as from our own faculty and staff and from state or federal programs. For example, we have campus-based and a mobile food pantries. We have a clothes closet. We working to provide lunches for students. We provide counseling services. We provide child care assistance. We have funds for emergencies of all kinds, everything from house fires to transportation for medical crises. We have an academic success center where tutoring—face to face and online—are available, as are computer labs with wireless access. These are only some of the ways we help our students.

Whenever we see a need, we try to meet it. And as we enter the holiday season, needs seem to intensify. We will be especially busy this season helping our students succeed. It goes without saying that this takes a village. This takes all of us.

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