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Nearly 500 Attend "Hoxie 21" Presentation

Nearly 500 people attended a recent presentation of "Hoxie 21" - the 1955 school desegregation in Hoxie, AR - held in the Randolph County Development Center on the campus of Black River Technical College in Pocahontas.



Current Hoxie School Superintendent Dennis Truxler (standing) visits with (seated from left) Yvonne Taylor, Ethel Tompkins, Gene Vance, Fayth Hill Washington, and Jim Barksdale.

The event, sponsored by the BRTC Foundation SEAS (Special Events and Activities Support) Program in collaboration with the Eddie Mae Herron Center and Hill Foundation, Inc., provided an opportunity for the community and area students to learn about the landmark story of the Hoxie, AR, school system being the first "challenged" desegregation in Arkansas, two years prior to the Little Rock Central High integration crisis. Includ-

ed in the audience were students from Hoxie, Hillcrest and Maynard schools.

Sharing the Hoxie 21 story were Fayth Hill Washington, Ethel Tompkins and Yvonne Barksdale Taylor, all African American students who were among the first 25 to integrate into the Hoxie

school in 1955; Gene Vance, son of the late Howard Vance who was president of the Hoxie School Board when they unanimously voted to integrate, and also a fourth grade student at the time; and Jim Barksdale, who provided a second generation account as both the son of a Hoxie 21 student and a former Hoxie student.

(Continued on pg. 2)

Important Dates

- March 8**
Foundation Gala
BRTC Folklore Society Symposium
- March 24-28**
Spring Break—offices open
- April 7**
Registration Begins for Returning Students
- April 10**
Campus Preview Night
- April 14**
Registration Begins for First-time & Transfer Students
- April 29**
Fun Before Finals

BRTC Career Connections to Link Employers with Students and Alumni

Black River Technical College's Department of Student Affairs has announced the launch of "BRTC Career Connections," a free interactive career management database, which will connect employers with BRTC students and alumni. "I'm excited about the potential of this new program," said Bridget Guess, Academic Advisor. "We hope students, alumni, and employers will take advantage of this innovative tool to enhance their job search and applicant pool."

With just a few clicks, students and alumni can self-register online with BRTC Career Connections through the BRTC website, eliminating a trip to campus. BRTC Career Connections offers access to resume building tools that are easy to use with many varied templates from which to choose and it's all free. "Simply add your personal information and Resume Builder completes the form for you - no worrying about margins or indentions," explained Guess.

"Once complete, the resume can be posted immediately to the job listing on BRTC Career Connections."



Regina Moore (clockwise from top left), Bridget Guess and Mary Anderson prepare to launch Career Connections.

Also available on the site are sample resume and cover letters. Students and alumni can browse a list of employers registered on the site, perform job searches, and even apply for any job posted on the site through BRTC Career Connections.

Employers can self-register with BRTC Career Connections, which makes available to them a platform to post jobs available at their company, access student resumes posted on the system through Resume Book (students have the choice to opt-out), and contact a student/alumni by email directly from

the site. Even if a student has not applied for a company's advertised position, Resume Book allows employers to view all students' resumes in the system.

(Continued on pg. 2)

PBL Holds Valentine's Day Fundraiser for Conference

BRTC's Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda raised \$533 during a Valentine's Day fundraising event. The money raised will be used to help the club finance travel and lodging for the PBL Spring 2014 State Leadership Conference and Competition, which is a two-day event scheduled for April in Little Rock.

Bert Clevenger, Director of Corporate and Community Education at BRTC-Paragould, said an additional \$100 will be donated from the Greene County Industrial Training Consortium.

PBL students sold over five hundred raffle tickets for a chance to win one of two Valentine baskets. The baskets contained items for a romantic night on the town including dinner for two, a floral bouquet, tickets for two to the movies, a box of chocolates and a night's stay at a hotel.

The two winners were Danielle Williams and Gina Carpenter, both from the Paragould campus. The baskets were made possible with items donated by the following Paragould and Jonesboro businesses: Wal-Mart, Holiday Inn Express, Chili's, Adam's Florist, Pollack Cinema in Paragould, Pocahontas Posey Patch, and Malco Cinema in Jonesboro.

"The students worked really hard to sell tickets," noted Ruth Schaa, business instructor and PBL advisor. "PBL would like to give a special thanks to the businesses who donated items and to those who purchased tickets."



Danielle Williams

Chili Cook-Off Raises Money for GCSPSF

A total of \$289 was raised for the Greene County Single Parent Scholarship Fund during a Chili Cook-Off held on the BRTC Paragould campus.

Eleven contestants, consisting of BRTC faculty, staff and students, were judged by five individuals from the community. Winners were: Dana Bradford, 1st place; Carol Roberts, 2nd place; and Audra Howerton, 3rd place. Mallory Smothers was voted People's Choice by the faculty, staff and students.

"This was the first fundraiser held at BRTC-Paragould for the GCSPSF," said Kathryn Lewis, Administrative Specialist, "but we plan to make it an annual event."



Dana Bradford (from left), Carol Roberts, Audra Howerton and Mallory Smothers were winners during the chili cook-off fundraiser held on the BRTC-Paragould campus.

"Hoxie 21"

Cont'd. from Pg. 1

Vance talked about how one year after the United States Supreme Court ordered school desegregation with "all deliberate speed," his father, along with the other members of the Hoxie School Board, unanimously made the decision to desegregate Hoxie's schools and integrate School District 46. Several legal precedents were set by this action, and it was the first time the United States Department of Justice intervened on behalf of the historical Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, KS, case in support of integration. Vance expressed how this action affected not only the school and its students, but also the community as a whole. He cited three reasons for their decision: "It was right in the sight of God" being the first; second, it complied with the Supreme Court Ruling; and third, it was cheaper and more economical for the school system.

Washington talked about the unwavering courage of the small African American community and how the diversity successfully withstood the challenges they faced. She referred to the parents and family members as the "Dreamers" who wanted so desperately for their children to have equal opportunities and a better education. "Hoxie was a small town that fostered their basic human spirit and instincts to weather the storm against the segregationists to maintain law and harmony in the community," Washington noted. She also directly addressed the student groups in attendance, asking if they knew about the Jim Crow Laws or if they had even heard of Jim Crow. She suggested that be the first place they start when learning about desegregation.

"The goal of the Foundation is to educate," said Washington. "It is our hope that the Hoxie 21 story will be passed on for generations to come." She also shared plans for a monument to be constructed as a memorial to the Hoxie 21.

"We were very blessed to have this distinguished panel come to our campus to speak about this historical and nationally recognized event," said Dina Hufstедler, BRTC's Director of Community Development and event coordinator. "As Fayth mentioned, 'this is not just about African American History, it's about American History,' and we were glad to provide an opportunity for this story to be shared."

Career Connections Cont'd. from Pg. 1

This exciting new tool is available through the Virtual Career Center website and was funded through the PACE grant. BRTC's Director of Distance Education/Instructional Technology and Program Coordinator of the PACE grant, Regina Moore, explained, "The PACE grant's purpose is to find an accelerated path to completion and employment for students. BRTC Career Connections is another tool that will assist our students and alumni in their job search as well as aid area and national employers in finding our students. BRTC Career Connections is a great addition to the services BRTC offers its students as well as an avenue to connect with community businesses."

BRTC Career Connections launched March 3 at which time current students were sent an automated email message explaining that their account has been created and they only need to update demographic data to get started. "I hope many students, alumni, and employers will take advantage of this new service," stated Academic Advisor Mary Anderson. "The more businesses and individuals who register and use the site, the more effective the program will be."

Students and alumni may login at <https://blackrivertech-csm.symplicity.com/students/>. Employers' login page is located at <https://blackrivertech-csm.symplicity.com/employers>. If you have questions, please contact Anderson or Guess at (870) 248-4000, extensions 4011 or 4014, respectively.

MSSPS Awarded to 15 Students for Spring 2014 Semester

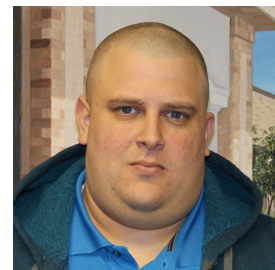


Valorie Anderson

A total of \$7,125 in scholarships has been awarded among 15 students at BRTC through the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) fund for the Spring 2014 Semester. Valorie Anderson of Imboden, Brandi Beckman and Joshua L. Jenkins of Maynard, and Lacy Wheelless, Mily Ball, Elizabeth Loyd, Monica Parsons, Amber Wolf, Melaina Bailey, Angela Emmett, Stephanie Searcy and Amy Thielemier of Pocahontas, were each awarded \$500; Ashley Hamilton of Pocahontas was awarded \$450, Holly Beegle (not pictured) of Pocahontas was awarded \$375, and Amanda Rowe of Maynard was awarded \$300.



Brandi Beckman



Joshua Jenkins



Amanda Rowe

Anderson is a graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School and is in the nursing program at ASU-Newport, with plans to become an RN. Beckman is a 2012 graduate of Maynard High School and is working towards an AA degree at BRTC then plans to transfer to ASU for a degree in Medical Diagnostic Sonography. Jenkins is a 2002 graduate of Walnut Ridge High School. He is retired from the US Army and is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice at BRTC. Wheelless is a 2009 graduate of Pocahontas High School and is pursuing a Dietetics degree at BRTC. Ball is a 1996 graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School and is currently pursuing an AA degree at BRTC with plans to pursue an education in Social Work.



Lacy Wheelless



Ashley Hamilton

Loyd is a 2011 graduate of Pocahontas High School and is currently working to complete prerequisites for the Respiratory Care program at BRTC. Parsons earned a GED from BRTC in 2013 and is in the CNA program at BRTC. Wolf is a 2011 graduate of Pocahontas High School and is in the Respiratory Care program at BRTC. Bailey earned a GED in 2013 and is currently working on prerequisites for the nursing program. She plans to become a pediatric nurse. Emmett earned a GED from Ogechee Tech and is currently pursuing an AA degree at BRTC. Searcy earned a GED in 2001 and is currently attending BRTC with plans to become an RN. Thielemier is a 1996 graduate of Pocahontas High School and is working towards a teaching degree at BRTC. Hamilton earned a GED and is currently attending BRTC with plans to pursue a Master's in Counseling degree. Beegle is a graduate of Doniphan High School in Missouri and is completing basic education courses at BRTC with plans to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy. Rowe is a 2010 graduate of Maynard High School and is attending BRTC with plans to enter the Respiratory Care program in the fall.



Miley Ball



Amy Thielemier

To date, \$168,573 has been awarded through MSSPS since its inception in 1992. Funding for the single parent scholarships is generated through fundraisers and BRTC employee contributions, in addition to, this year, donations from Arkansas Department of Higher Ed (ADHE), United Way of Northeast Arkansas, and the Arkansas Delta Endowment for Building Community Grant. Ball and Emmett have been designated as ADHE recipients; Jenkins, Loyd, Parsons and Wolf have been designated as United Way recipients; and Anderson, Bailey and Beckman have been designated as Delta recipients. Scholarships are given in varying amounts depending on full-time or part-time enrollment status.



Elizabeth Loyd

According to Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Officer and MSSPS Co-Chair, to qualify for the single parent scholarship, individuals 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. For more information, contact Rush at 870-248-4019.



Stephanie Searcy



Angela Emmett



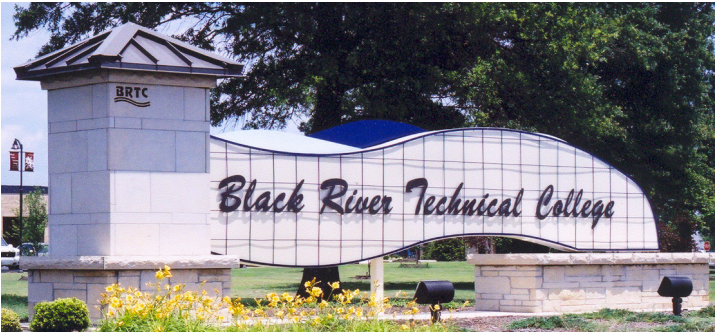
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BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

Campus Commentary...



Dr. Wayne Hatcher
BRTC President

Some of our students here at BRTC have been chosen to join a specific pool of community colleges across the nation to share their personal opinions, views and choices regarding how they spend their time, the nature and quality of their interactions with faculty members and peers, and what they have personally gained from their classes and other aspects of their college experience. They are encouraged to respond candidly, as their individual responses will remain confidential, but the results of this national survey will be important in helping

BRTC to examine our educational practices and identify ways that we can improve programs and services for students.

Soon after I sent out the email about this project, I received messages from students sharing their personal experience. To me, it was because they wanted us to know how we had changed their lives and that of their families. I want to share a couple of stories with you, as they reiterate not only the primary purpose of BRTC and community colleges, but also why and how our faculty and staff make a real difference in so many lives.

One student wrote:

"My experience at Black River has been great. I have now completed thirty hours toward my basics and some toward the nursing program. This is my second attempt at a college degree. My first time around, I went to ASU right out of high school. I played more than I learned and my interaction with staff was not the best. The BRTC staff has been very helpful and it is obvious that they care about the students and our accomplishments. So many times it seems the ones making decisions forget to care, but at BRTC they are willing to do what they can to help one be on the road to success."

Another student wrote:

"...this is my second semester in BRTC. I graduated high school in 1976 and have worked since. I have two sons. The oldest one is in school with me. My youngest son is to start BRTC this summer. BRTC is a life saver for us! My major is Criminal Justice, and my very good, but very demanding teacher is Darren Plaster. Everything about BRTC is GREAT!!! Before I started school my life was at a complete stand still. I could not find work and being on government assistance is not the way I have ever lived. We moved up from Texas and there I made a very good living. My sons often work on the road as construction men. Arkansas has little work in any of our fields. If I had known the joy of school, or how easy it was to get in, and the pleasure the staff makes it—at least here at BRTC—we would all have a degree in something by now. BRTC and everything about it is a God Send. Thank you!"

I realize that I have said this before, but I do believe that our faculty and staff at BRTC live by and practice the following: *"Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise; Risking more than others think is safe; Dreaming more than others think is practical; and Expecting more than others think is possible."* ~ Unknown

It is also why we make a difference—because we believe in them and their future.