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## Turner Named Next BRTC President

The Board of Trustees of Black River Technical College has named Dr. Eric Turner as BRTC's next president. Turner is currently Dean of Adult Education at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. The announcement was made by Chair Sue Gibson at the conclusion of the June 12 Board meeting.

From a pool of 26 applicants, the field was narrowed to six semi-finalists who were each interviewed via Skype. Turner and Dr. Dennis Rittle, Provost and VP of Learning at Ozarka College in Melbourne, were named as finalists and came to the Pocahontas campus earlier this week to give presentations, tour the campus and meet with faculty and staff.

"We are very excited to have Eric joining the BRTC family as the new president," said Gibson. "We had two excellent candidates, which made the decision a difficult one, but we feel that we have chosen the best fit for the college and the community."



*Dr. Eric Turner*

Turner has been with WBC since 1997 where he has served as Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations, Director of Development and, from 2003-2012, Vice President of Institutional Advancement before being named Dean of Adult Education in 2012. He earned a baccalaureate degree in History from Williams Baptist College, a Master of Arts degree in History from Arkansas State University, and the Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.

A Randolph County native, Turner is actively involved in the Pocahontas Rotary Club and is a member of First Baptist Church in Pocahontas. He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Pocahontas with their daughter, Emma, who attends St. Paul's Elementary.

"Barbara, Emma, and I are humbled by the confidence placed in us, and we look forward to joining the BRTC

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### Important Dates

**July 1**

**Summer II Classes Begin**

**July 2**

**Advising Night**

**July 4**

**Independence Day**

**July 14-Aug 13**

**Fall Registration**

**August 14**

**Pocahontas Orientation**

**August 15**

**Paragould Orientation**

**August 18**

**Fall Classes Begin**

**September 1**

**Labor Day - Campus Closed**

**September 5-6**

**PBL Yard Sale**

## Finalists Chosen for VPD Position

A committee consisting of faculty, staff, administrators and board members has chosen three finalists in the search for a Vice President for Development at BRTC. The three, according to Human Resources Assistant Amber Green, are Dina Hufstедler of Walnut Ridge, Karen Liebhaber of Pocahontas and Howard Moore, Jr. of Ripley, MS.

Hufstедler is currently Director of Community Development at BRTC; Liebhaber is currently an instructor of English, literature and technical writing at BRTC; and Moore is currently serving as a contractor, preparing grant proposals, completing applications and raising funds for non-profit organizations.

Hufstедler has been with the Office of Development at BRTC since 2003 when she was hired as secretary for the department. She was promoted to Project Specialist in 2007 and to her current position in 2013. She has also



*Dina Hufstедler*

*Karen Liebhaber*

*Howard Moore, Jr.*

taught Writing Fundamentals, Business Communications and Introduction to Computer Concepts as an adjunct instructor.

Prior to joining BRTC, Hufstедler worked six years for the Walnut Ridge Public Schools as Parent Center Coordinator and Coordinator of the MealTracker program, and for three years as Parent Center Coordinator at

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

## Kids' College Still Popular Event After 14 Years

The 14th Annual Kids' College sponsored by the Office of Corporate and Community Education was held June 9-12 on the BRTC campus in Pocahontas. Participating in the four-day event were 103 students entering 1st through 6th grades throughout the region, according to Patti Blaxton, Director of Corporate and Community Education.

"This was the 14th session of Kids' College," noted Blaxton, "and it continues to be a popular event designed to provide children with a variety of activities promoting education and creativity while having fun."

The classes offered and presented by area volunteers and businesses were: Planting Seeds, presented by Five River Master Gardeners; Let's Go Camping, presented by BRAD Early Child Care; Fund to Save, presented by First National Bank; 4-H Yoga, presented by Randolph County Cooperative Extension Service; Furry & Feathered Friends, presented by Randolph County Humane Society; So, You Want to be a Millionaire?, presented by IBERIABANK; Arkansas Wildlife, presented by Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Citizen Me, presented by Kiwanis Club of Pocahontas; Historic Toys, presented by Powhatan Historic State Park;



*Students attending Kids' College made historic dolls in a class led by staff of Powhatan Historic State Park (above), and made friendship bracelets in a class led by BRTC Recruiter Sarah Waltermire (below).*



In the News, presented by Star Herald Publishing; and Acting Up, presented by Studio for the Arts.

Other classes sponsored by BRTC were: Building a Healthy Plate, Fancy Fans, Kitchen Science, From Worm to Wonder, Friendship, Hello Cupcake, Fossils-Not Just a Rock, Germ Busters, Fun-n-Games, Kid's Safety, and Tornado Safety.

Pat Lambert and Nettie Blaxton, along with area teenagers, were community volunteers who served as class leaders, in addition to many BRTC employees who also led classes, gave presentations and assisted in various ways throughout the week.

"Kids' College would not be possible without the hard work of so many individuals coming together to make it happen," said Blaxton. "I truly appreciate all who helped by sharing their talents, assisting with programs, leading classes, facilitating registration, and sharing their time in any way. It all results in a successful program."

More photos of Kids' College 2014 can be viewed on the BRTC website at: <http://www.blackrivertech.org/community/cce/kids-college>

## Finalists Cont'd. from Pg. 1

M.D. Williams Intermediate School in Pocahontas through the Arkansas Head Start Transition Demonstration Project. She is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School and holds a BS degree in marketing and an MSE degree with a business technology emphasis, both from Arkansas State University. She has three children and two grandchildren and is chair-elect of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Executive Board.

Liebhaber began working at BRTC in 2000 as instructor of English and added the roles of Distance Education Coordinator and Moodle System Administrator in 2003. From 2011-2012 she served as Director of Distance Education before returning to the classroom to teach full time. She also serves as an advisor for both Rotoract and Phi Theta Kappa, student organizations at BRTC, and has served as acting English Department Head.

Other work experience of Liebhaber includes instructional design contracting with Williams Baptist College, teaching English Composition online for the University of Phoenix, teaching English for Pikes Peak Community College, and being a technical writer and indexer for Euronet Worldwide. She is a published writer and has received numerous awards for her poetry and short stories. She is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and holds both BA and MA degrees in English from Arkansas State University. She is President of the St. Paul School Board and a member of the Studio of the Arts/Imperial Dinner Theatre Governing Board. She and her husband, Brett, have two children.

Moore was Director of Development for Rust College in Holly Springs, MS, from 1997-2008, then served as Executive Director of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Foundation until 2011 when he became an independent contractor and fundraising consultant in Hickory Flat, MS.

In 2012, Moore was named Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Concordia College of Alabama and served in that position until 2013 when he returned to contracting. He holds a BAE degree in speech pathology, audiology and special education from the University of Mississippi and an MS degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Memphis State University.

The committee selected six semi-finalists from a pool of 18 applicants, and the six were interviewed via Skype on June 19. Three finalists were then chosen from the six and are scheduled for on-campus interviews to be conducted July 28-30. Receptions will be held during this time to allow faculty, staff and the community an opportunity to meet the candidates. The dates and times of the receptions will be announced at a later time. The position became open with the December retirement of longtime VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler who held the position since the inception of the department in 2003.

The VP for Development is responsible for planning, leading and implementing college fund-raising initiatives, development, research and strategic planning, as well as coordinating the college's grant applications. The VP also serves as REACH Coordinator, liaison for the BRTC Foundation, the institution's Higher Education liaison, and alternate liaison for BRTC to the Higher Learning Commission, in addition to leading a team of development, marketing and communications professionals and administrative staff.

## BRTC Sponsors Graduation Trip to Washington, D.C.

A group of 47 traveled to Washington, D. C. last month on a trip sponsored by BRTC and organized by Dr. Sandy Baltz, Fine Arts instructor. "I wanted to develop a special 'gift' for graduates similar to the car giveaway held in previous years," explained Baltz, "and I thought a free trip to D.C. would be a wonderful gift and a great opportunity for a lucky graduate. In discussing the idea, Dr. Hatcher suggested giving two trips – one for a technical student and one for a general education student."

A random drawing was held from the pool of December graduates and from the May graduates and then a final drawing was held to determine the two winners. Britt Grice and Deborah Woodson were the winners of the all-expenses paid trip worth approximately \$900. Grice graduated in December with a Tech Ed degree, and Woodson graduated in May with a Gen Ed degree.

The other thirty students had half of their expenses paid by BRTC's Student Government Association (SGA). "This meant a trip of a lifetime for many," noted Baltz. In addition to the students, several BRTC employees and a few members of the community rounded out the group, filling up all seats available on the chartered bus.

The group spent four days in D.C. where they toured the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives, and also viewed the Lincoln, Washington, Vietnam, WWII, Marine Corp and Korean Memorials. They traveled to Mount Vernon in Virginia, home of George Washington located on the Potomac River, and to the Arlington Cemetery where they witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They also went to Ford's Theatre where they watched a play telling the story of Lincoln's assassination, then they toured the house across the street where Lincoln was taken and later died from his wounds.

The group also toured the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and also had the opportunity to visit different Smithsonian Museums of their choice, such as the Natural History Museum, the American History Museum, and the



*BRTC faculty, staff, students and members of the community pose for a picture in front of the White House while on a recent trip to D.C.*

Air and Space Museum. A group photo was taken in front of the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

BRTC students making the trip were: Pam Allen, Christina Gilbreath, Ryan Carter, Susan Glasgow, Kera Hufford, Keri Hufford, Hannah Shepherd, Samantha Wilson, Andy Guyton, Jacob Pipkin, Joe Videgain, Pam Anis, Cyndell Graftenreed, Savannah Evans and Jessica Russell. Also, Bridget Stacey, Deborah Woodson, Mitzi Thomas, Jessica Gregory, Lillian Champion, Eathan Pruett, Sabrina Morrisett, Charles Hester, Michael Secrest, Britt Grice, Marva Burgess, Paige Ratliff, Samantha Adams,

Joshua Dye, Jerri Blue and Donna Kieffner.

"I am a nontraditional student, and I would never have an opportunity like this," said Jerri Blue. "With the help of the college, I was able to go and learn so much. I am very thankful." Hannah Shepherd added, "It was so important! I felt like they (BRTC) really cared about us to provide this educational experience."

BRTC employees on the trip were: Mantha Baltz, Janice Harvey, Mary Anderson, Billie Fry and Kim Bigger, who all served as chaperones, along with Sandra Parker, Teresa Shepherd, Daniel Lee and Anne Simpson. Members of the community who went were: Miranda Krueger, Ryan Glasgow, Sheila Jackson, Dawayne Anderson, Katelyn Bigger and Wade Gregory.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for the students," said Baltz, and I know they were very appreciative of this learning experience."

Student Joe Videgain said, "It was a better way of getting to know the history of the U.S. I learned more on this trip than I would have learned in a classroom." Savannah Evans stated, "I believe this trip gave me a better appreciation for our military. Seeing so many graves and veterans memorials just gave me a new perspective. I know I would never have been able to see these wonderful places without the help of BRTC and the SGA." Jessica Gegory added, "I would never have been able to go to D.C. without the help of BRTC and the SGA. Thank you both for a life-changing experience!"

## Lopez Awarded In-STEAD Scholarship

Alexandria Lopez of Lynn has been awarded the In-STEAD Scholarship (Scholarship to Encourage the Advancement of Diversity) for the Fall 2014 semester at Black River Technical College. The scholarship in the amount of \$500 is awarded each semester to a minority student.

Preference for the scholarship is given to a non-native speaker of English, and students are chosen based on their application and a 100-200 word self-descriptive essay. The scholarship is awarded through the BRTC Foundation with funds donated by BRTC faculty and staff.

Lopez is a May graduate of Hillcrest High School and plans to attend BRTC in pursuit of a Practical Nursing degree. She is the daughter of Francisco and Melody Lopez of Lynn.



*Alexandria Lopez*



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### **BRTC Mission Statement**

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

## From the President's Desk...



*Dr. Wayne Hatcher*  
*BRTC President*

At BRTC I have experienced the best three years of my professional career. The people in the various communities have all been so positive and hard working.

The BRTC faculty and staff—well, if you are not aware of how much I value them then you haven't been reading this corner. It is the faculty and staff that make this the best place one could ever work. They care...about the students, each other—and you. When they recently voted me

BRTC's Outstanding Staff Member of the Year and the special way they expressed it...well, that's a memory that will be with me forever.

Similarly, the "Farewell Reception" that was at the Country Club was superb. Admittedly, I had some problems remembering names of all those who came, but I did appreciate the turnout and the comments.

To all of you at the college and in the community that continue to drop in or catch me on campus or at various functions in the community to express your sentiments—they are appreciated.

As my President's Leadership Council class knows, we utilize a lot of John Maxwell's leadership philosophy in addition to others. Maxwell believes that good leaders don't use people so they (the leader) can win; they lead people so they can all lead together. I work to incorporate that into my approach to leadership.

There are two other points made by Maxwell that I believe are essential to leaders in higher education: (1) "Success is...understanding your purpose in life...and sowing seeds that benefit others." He follows that up with one that all good, authentic leaders should practice, (2) "The growth and devel-

## Turner Cont'd. from Pg. 1

family," said Turner. "The opportunity to serve my hometown region in this capacity is highly meaningful to me and my family. We are honored and excited to be partnering with the college and the community as a whole."

Turner will be the third president of BRTC following Dr. Wayne Hatcher whose contract ends June 30 after serving three years. Hatcher replaced long-time president Richard Gaines upon his retirement in 2011. Turner's official start date will be July 28.

opment of people is the highest calling of leadership." I believe that my purpose is to "add value" to others...whether that be one of my students or a faculty or staff member. If I can help someone be a better person, leader, teacher, student...then I am doing what I was put here to do.

In recent years, at our Nursing Pinning ceremony, they sing about why they are here...and why we all SHOULD be here. We are here to go light candles...especially for those that need some added value.

Goodbye...and God Bless each and every one... yes, every one (Romans 12).