

# THE RIVER'S EDGE

Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

## BRTC Awarded 5-Year, \$1.179 Million Federal TRIO Grant

BRTC has been awarded a 5-year \$1,179,975 U.S. Department of Education grant to start a TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC). TRIO grants are used to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“This is our first TRIO program,” stated Martha Nelson, Vice President of Student Affairs who will oversee the program, “and we are excited to have this opportunity to make education more available and attainable to residents of our 4-county service area. This program will provide support and resources to help our deserving adults with education that can change their lives and those of their families.”

Participants will be connected to tutors, mentors, and counselors for guidance on admission, financial aid, and college course selection. For those who may not have finished high school, help will be offered on secondary school re-entry or high school equivalency exam programs.

For more information, contact Martha Nelson, Vice President of Student Affairs, at (870) 248-4000 ext. 4029 or via email at [Martha.Nelson@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:Martha.Nelson@blackrivertech.edu).

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## 23rd Annual IBERIABANK/Foundation Golf Tournament

The 23rd Annual IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, September 30, at Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas.

This two-person scramble, underwritten and supported by IBERIABANK, is the largest fundraising event for BRTC, providing funding for student scholarships. Four-star, three-star, two-star, and one-star sponsorships with signage are available at \$1,000, \$500, \$250, and \$125. Four-star and three-star sponsorships include one team entry fee and golf cart as well as the option of having a promotional tent along the fairway.

For more information on the tournaments or sponsorships contact Jessica Bailey at (870) 248-4189.



**Foundation Board members from left:** Mike Dunn, Milton Smith, Kelly Rose, Dr. Eric Turner, Stephanie Sutton, Melissa Wright-Davis, Ruth Ann Ellis, Danny Barr, Sandra Tweedy, Mike Miller

## JOY IT DOWN

September 5  
BRTC Campuses Closed

September 19  
Business After Hours at BRTC

September 23  
Serendipity

September 30  
IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament



## Veteran's Fair

On August 11, BRTC, in partnership with the Craighead County Veteran Service Officer Vermalene Smith, Randolph County Veteran Service Officer Mike Richardson, and David Baltz with the John J. Pershing Veteran's Medical Center, hosted a Veterans Benefit Seminar at RCDC on the Pocahontas campus.

More than 300 veterans and vendors attended. Vendors offered services and provided information to veterans from more than 5 counties. Speakers provided information on the wide variety of healthcare options and benefits available. Also in attendance was Dr. Patricia Ten Haaf, director of John J. Pershing VA Hospital in Poplar Bluff.



**FFA officers from left:** Madison Brown, secretary; Madison Adams, reporter; Zack Huffman, treasurer; Jesse DeJournett, president; Justin Ingam, vice-president; and Garrett Gavin, sentinel

## FFA, BRTC's Newest Student Club

FFA is a national organization for students enrolled in or interested in agriculture. Members have an opportunity to be involved in a variety of community service activities. Participation in leadership activities such as parliamentary procedure promote growth and self-esteem. Exposure to various aspects of the agricultural industry including animals, plants, soils, and agriculture economics allows students to broaden their experiences and knowledge while providing insight into various occupational opportunities.

For more information, contact Tom Baker at (870) 248-4068 or [thomas.baker@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:thomas.baker@blackrivertech.edu) for further information.

### Food

#### Pantry

Part-time or full-time students who are in need (with a current school ID) can fill out an application and receive food.

Pocahontas Campus-BT 125, open Tuesday & Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Paragould Campus  
-Contact Ashley Hall or Mylea White

The Food Pantry is run by the nutrition & dietetic students and SGA.

### BRTC's Got Talent!

Do you have family-friendly talent: singing, dancing, hula hoop, magic, twirling, instrumental, etc.? Try out for BRTC's Got Talent! Audition dates:

#### Pocahontas Campus

Tuesday, October 4  
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
AC 102

#### Paragould Campus

Thursday, October 6  
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
PAC 128

\*Alternative audition times are available for students with a schedule conflict. Contact Elizabeth Collins (870) 239-0969 ext. 5120 or email at [elizabeth.collins@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:elizabeth.collins@blackrivertech.edu).

# Foundation Golf Tournament 4-Star Sponsors Award 16 Scholarships

The 2015 Annual IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament named scholarships have been awarded to 16 students attending BRTC. Each named scholarship is sponsored by a \$1,000 donor who is able to name the scholarship. The student is awarded \$1,000 per semester, fall and spring, provided the student maintains enrollment and GPA requirements.

## Randolph County Nursing Home Scholarship



**Recipient:** Emilee Smith  
**Hometown:** Paragould  
**High School:** Paragould High School, 2015  
**Parents:** Robert Smith, Poplar Bluff, MO  
 Mary Smith of East St. Louis, MO  
**Major:** Nursing

## AgHeritage Farm Credit Services Scholarship



**Recipient:** Rebecca Lopez  
**Hometown:** Lynn  
**High School:** Hillcrest High School, 2015  
**Parents:** Francisco and Melody Lopez  
**Major:** Respiratory Therapy

## Joshua R. Toney, DDS Scholarship



**Recipient:** Desorree Beach  
**Hometown:** Paragould  
**High School:** Paragould High School, 2016  
**Parents:** John Beach, Leachville  
**Major:** Nursing

## Nielson Bainbridge Group Scholarship



**Recipient:** Dalton Price  
**Hometown:** Corning  
**High School:** Corning High School 2016  
**Parents:** Mr. and Mrs. Greg Mock  
 Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Price  
**Major:** AA in General Education

## Karla Baltz, DDS Scholarship



**Recipient:** Kathryn Ball  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School, 2016  
**Parents:** Michael and Aneica Ball, Maynard  
 Winter Vaughn-Gilbert, Reyno  
**Major:** Occupational Therapy

## Don's Steakhouse in Pocahontas in Memory of Fredia Finch Scholarship



**Recipient:** Jacob Duncan  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School, 2016  
**Parents:** Melinda Endicott  
 Rick Duncan of Imboden  
**Major:** Nursing

## L.D. Rose Family Scholarship



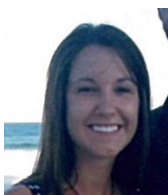
**Recipient:** Landon Williams  
**Hometown:** Piggott  
**High School:** Piggott High School, 2016  
**Parents:** Lambert and Melissa Williams  
**Major:** Physical Therapy

## NEA Turf Care & Nursery Scholarship



**Recipient:** Haley Hudson  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**High School:** Walnut Ridge High School, 2016  
**Parents:** April Hudson & the late Richard Hudson  
**Major:** AS in Business

## Monsanto Scholarship



**Recipient:** Jessica Alls  
**Hometown:** Delaplaine  
**High School:** GED, 2010  
**Parents:** Barbara Simmons  
**Major:** Nursing

## VALIC Community Spirit Scholarship



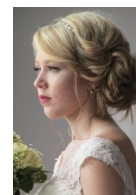
**Recipient:** Julie Gates  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School, 2016  
**Parents:** Jim and Marie Gates  
**Major:** AA in General Education

## SGA Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship



**Recipient:** Marshall Padgett  
**Donor:** BRTC Student Government Association  
**Hometown:** Ravenden Springs  
**High School:** Maynard High School, 2015  
**Parents:** Scott and Robin Padgett  
**Major:** AS in Business

## Allison Architects Scholarship



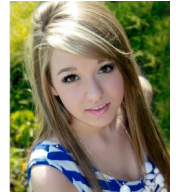
**Recipient:** Ariel Avery  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Parents:** Carmen Cummings  
 Shane Cummings  
**Major:** AS in Business

### PECO Foods Educational Scholarship



**Recipient:** Caitlin Waddell  
**Hometown:** Imboden  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School, 2016  
**Parents:** Terry Nance of Imboden  
Tommy and Janet Waddell of Walnut Ridge

### Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation Member Scholarship



**Recipient:** Holly Utnage  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School, 2014  
**Parents:** Randy and Julie Utnage  
**Major:** Nursing

### Tommy and Tim Bennett in Memory of Scotty Lee Bennett Scholarship



**Recipient:** Jessica Choate  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School, 2015  
**Parents:** Betty Hufstедler the late Dale  
Hufstедler

### Success Grain in Memory of Jerry G Berry Scholarship



**Recipient:** Jodi Davis  
**Hometown:** Stanford  
**High School:** Marmaduke High School, 2015  
**Parents:** Chuck and Tina Davis  
**Major:** Agricultural Science

## BRTC Foundation Scholarships Provided by Generous Donors

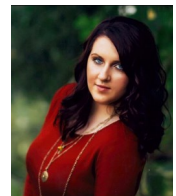
Many generous donors to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students. These students must meet GPA, academic, and in some cases programmatic standards.

### Foundation GED Scholarship



**Recipient:** Katrina Dougan  
**Hometown:** Jonesboro  
**Parents:** James and Phyllis Barber, Walcott  
**Major:** Nursing

### Shelia K. (Adams) Dobyns Nursing Scholarship



**Recipient:** Jodi Davis  
**Donor:** A & D Propane, Inc.  
**Hometown:** Imboden  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School, 2016  
**Parents:** April and Kevin Brown  
**Major:** Nursing

### In-Stead Scholarship



**Recipient:** Rebecca Lopez  
**Hometown:** Lynn  
**High School:** Hillcrest High School, 2015  
**Parents:** Francisco and Melody Lopez  
**Major:** Respiratory Therapy

### Merle R. Young Memorial Scholarship



**Recipient:** Crissie Overshine  
**Hometown:** Jonesboro  
**Married to:** Kendall Overshine  
**Major:** Nursing

### Phillip Collins II & Beth Collins Memorial Scholarship



**Recipient:** James Drake McGrew  
**Hometown:** Success  
**High School:** Neelyville High School  
**Major:** AA in General Education

### Grainger Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship



**Recipient:** Joshua Drwenski  
**Hometown:** Doniphan, MO  
**High School:** Doniphan High School, 2015  
**Parents:** James and Angela Drwenski  
**Major:** Auto Collision Repair

### Grainger Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship



**Recipient:** Owen Jordan  
**Hometown:** Poplar Bluff, MO  
**High School:** Twin Rivers High School, 2015  
**Major:** Industrial Maintenance Technology



## Networking to Enhance Student Experience

Between May 28-31, BRTC's RN and respiratory students were able to simulate a high-acuity neonatal situation. The scenario centered around a premature infant, 25-weeks-old weighing 1 pound, 14.5 ounces, with multiple needs. The simulations were held in BRTC's new Health Science building on the Pocahontas campus.

Because real-life emergencies cannot be scheduled to occur when students are attending class at clinical sites – and because such emergencies in Northeast Arkansas are less common than in major cities – students frequently go through their entire education without being involved with or seeing certain emergencies. This is especially true of emergencies involving babies and children.

However, simulation equipment composed of anatomically correct manikins and high-powered software allow students to gain hands-on experience with such emergencies without the risk of patient fatality.

BRTC nursing and respiratory faculty, with help from the BRTC maintenance department, set up a neonatal ICU and utilized equipment from the nursing, respiratory, and EMT/paramedic departments. St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro and Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould also loaned equipment for the scenario.

Students were broken into groups of 5-6 and were able to spend 30 minutes in simulation. Through simulation, students were able to have rare, realistic, hands-on experience which will dramatically improve their level of skill in helping future patients.

*"Time is a precious thing. Never waste it." ~Willy Wonka*

## New Hires and Position Changes

CAMPUS  
CLOSEUP

### Paragould CNA Instructor



**Name:** Brandy Cooper  
**Residence:** Paragould  
**Credentials:** Greene County Tech, RN through BRTC  
**Past Experience:**  
 AR Methodist Medical Center, 3 years  
 Belle Mead Nursing & Rehab, 5 years

### Pocahontas CNA Instructor



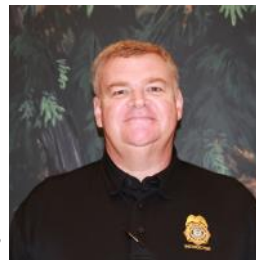
**Name:** Holli Nitzsche  
**Residence:** Pocahontas  
**Credentials:**  
 Pocahontas High School  
 BS in Nursing from U of A  
**Past Experience:**  
 Randolph County Nursing Home  
 Red Bud Regional Hospital, 2 years

### Administrative Specialist III for LETA



**Name:** Bridgette Rose  
**Residence:** Pocahontas  
**Credentials:**  
 Pocahontas High School  
 BS in Marketing from ASU  
**Past Experience:**  
 BRTC Grants Coordinator, 2.5 years  
 Bank of Pocahontas, 15 years

### LETA Instructor



**Name:** Mark Mosier  
**Residence:** Hoxie  
**Credentials:** Hoxie High School, BRTC LETA, U.S. Army  
**Past Experience:**  
 Jonesboro Police Dept., 22 years  
 Pocahontas Sheriff's Office  
 Randolph County Police Dept.

Twenty-six years ago this fall, I began my college career as a freshman. Those days as a freshman are just as vivid today as they were then.

Like students today, I was bombarded with a myriad of decisions required of me rather than being decided for me. Should I buy a new or used book? What major should I declare? If I made the wrong choice, would my life be ruined? Most important of all—I sure wished the coed sitting next to me in U.S. History class did not ignore my awkward attempts at conversation....Alas.

This past summer, Dr. Roger Johnson and I have been conversing about how life alters one’s perspective. As we accumulate more years and mileage, the pressing issues of yesterday are replaced by new ones, or perhaps our responses have changed over time – hopefully due to a reflection of wisdom and maturity.

While all of our perspectives change, one thing remains constant – Black River Technical College meets students where they are in their educational journey.

Thank you for making Black River Tech a special place.



Dr. Eric Turner

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