

THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

Welding Students Generously Build Sign for Vandalized Cemetery

When BRTC's welding students heard the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Bookman, Arkansas, had been vandalized, they wanted to help.

"When we heard that their sign was stolen, we felt really bad and knew that building a new sign was something we could do to help," said Matthew Mattox. Students and instructor Ricky Gunn cut out a new sign with BRTC's Plasma Cam then Mattox and Matthew Edington built a frame.

"We were happy to donate some of our time and labor to make sure the cemetery had a sign like it deserved. It was a good experience for some of the students since these are the kinds of things they may end up building on the job," explained Gunn.



Matthew Edington and Matthew Mattox

Two BRTC Programs Recognized as Top in the State

BRTC's Adult Education program has the highest percentage of education gains in the state, says the Arkansas Department of Career Education. Gains occur when students improve from one academic grade level to the next.



Cindy Robinett, Jean Wilson, Director Tammie Lemmons, Sheila Baltz

According to PracticalNursing.org, BRTC's Practical Nursing (LPN) program is named the best of 27 LPN program in Arkansas. The site ranks programs on AR nursing exam pass rates.



"Our program quality is high because we have high quality faculty," said LPN Director Tonya Hankins.

BRTC Pocahontas Weathers Another 100-Year Flood

For the second time in 6 years, BRTC had to cancel spring final exams because of record flooding.

On Monday, May 1, President Turner received notification that the Black River levee would breach. Immediately, campus worked to send students home, move college



property, and evacuate. After breaching 10 of 13 buildings, the water receded by May 8 and reconstruction began.

Restoration is expected to be complete by August 20 for the fall semester.

JOT IT DOWN

August 3
Board of Trustees meeting, Paragould campus

August 7
Return to regular business hours, M-F

August 20
Fall Semester Begins

September 4
Labor Day – Campus



Preview Day

More than 275 NEA high school students attended Education and Career Opportunities (ECO) Day on BRTC's Pocahontas campus in Spring.

Students had the opportunity to get an in-depth look at de-

grees and programs offered at BRTC by choosing 2 academic interests and attending sessions on those programs. "This was a tremendous team effort," Angie French said. "Faculty and staff from across all departments and both Paragould and Pocahontas campuses pitched in to make the day lots of fun and informational for students."

Certified Quality Technician Training

In response to local industry request, BRTC Paragould and Greene County Industrial Training Consortium offered a rigorous and challenging quality training course. The 40-hour course included quality assurance techniques, statistical analysis, gauging, and other subjects which world class quality professionals routinely use. Individuals completing the course and passing a difficult certification exam earned BRTC Certified Quality Technician recognition.



Seated: Sherry McFarland, Ryan Sluder, Fallon Clayton of General Cable . *Standing:* Jason Payne, Ken Hendrix, Tom Brandon of Anchor Packaging; Charlie Harris of Southworth Products; Scott Follett, Instructor; James Ward of General Cable; Richard Flanery, Stacey Garner of Allen Engineering .

Students Support Child Abuse Awareness Walk

On April 19, 243 individuals attended the Child Abuse Awareness Walk organized by BRTC Social Science instructor Rachel Koons and her Introduction to Social Work students. More than 70 individuals walked in the event. Students from her Principles of Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, and Developmental Psychology classes also assisted with the event. The walk was sponsored by the BRTC Student Government Association and the BRTC Community Connections Club.



DIRECT TRANSFER

Most BRTC 2-year degrees transfer to Arkansas and some out-of-state 4-year colleges!

A few of the 4-year transfer degrees are

- Agriculture
- Business
- Education
- History
- Nursing
- Nutrition Science
- Health Sciences
- Psychology
- Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management
- Organizational Leadership

Find direct transfer on our website under *Academics/Direct Transfer*.

ASU	UAFS
ATU	UAMS
SAU	UCA
UA	John Brown University
	Central Methodist University

Important Dates!

7/27	Last day to drop Summer II class
8/1	Fall financial aid paperwork, preferred deadline
8/12	REACH Sites open
8/14	Faculty return for fall
8/17	Fall Orientation, Pocahontas
8/18	Fall Orientation, Paragould
8/21	Fall semester begins

the 411

THEIR MARK

Machine Tool Students Build Working Engines

MAKING

When Thomas Castelan entered Black River Technical College's Machine Tool Technology program, he never imagined by the end he would have built a small engine from scratch. However, that's just what he did.

"When we started class we were told our big class project would be to build something such as a cannon or a small engine. I thought the idea of building an engine was really neat," relayed Castelan. The engine Castelan built is an Odds 'n Ends Hit 'n Miss Engine, a water cooled four-cycle engine.

"I gathered and melted brass gauges to form the wheels, carburetor, and assorted small parts. I used the mill and lathe to get the basic form of the parts," explained Castelan. It has taken 2 semesters and all of his free time to complete, but the end result is worth it.



Thomas Castelan

2nd Annual BRTC M.A.S.H. a Success!

BRTC hosted 12 students on the Pocahontas campus for the 2nd annual M.A.S.H. (Medical Applications of Science for Health) camp held June 5-15. M.A.S.H. is a summer enrichment program for high school sophomores and juniors designed to inform students about health careers and personal health improvement. Students become certified in both Basic First Aid and Basic Cardiac Life Support.

M.A.S.H. is sponsored in part by UAMS Regional Programs, Arkansas Farm Bureau, and Black River Technical College.



Back: Taylor Kingery, James Carter, Sheridan Smith, Madeline Holt, Matthew Stowers, Dylan Cotter. Front: Elizabeth Grider, Libby Hembrey, Hannah Carter, Briley Henson, Baylee Davis, Jessica Stevens

Community Helps BRTC Host Renaissance Faire

On April 28-29, BRTC Paragould held a Renaissance Faire which enabled students to see Renaissance period jousting reenactments, participate in Renaissance games, and earn prizes. Students from Marilyn's Clogging Company in Pocahontas performed traditional Renaissance dances. Vendors offered handmade wool products and wooden sculptures. The Greene County Fine Arts Council performed Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the Kimbrough Choir sang. Local schoolchildren attended Friday and the public attended Saturday.



New Employees



Linda Bland

Position: Fiscal Support Technician
Hometown: Pocahontas
Campus: Pocahontas
Education: Black River Technical College, 2016, AA



Randall Creech

Position: Maintenance Assistant
Hometown: Pocahontas
Campus: Pocahontas
Education: Black River Technical College, 2014, Auto Collision Repair Technology



Jason Crow

Position: Maintenance Assistant
Hometown: Pocahontas
Spouse: Jessica Crow
Campus: Pocahontas
Education: Delta Technical Institute, HVAC, 1997



Cindy Chandler

Position: Fiscal Support Technician
Hometown: Pocahontas
Spouse: Scott Chandler
Children: Cole, Cadie
Campus: Pocahontas
Education: Williams Baptist, 1990, BA

CAMPUS
CLOSEUP

BRTC Says Goodbye to Several Long-Time Employees

On June 19, BRTC said goodbye as several long-time employees retired from the college. In total, the 14 individuals served more than 181 years at the college.

In addition, several community members attended as well as original BRTC employees including Past-president Richard Gaines; Loretta Williams, past vice president of finance; John Utnage, past maintenance; and Dr. Martie Shull, past division chair of general education.



Kim White Johnson
Fiscal Support Technician
26 years, 6 months



Dr. Angie Caldwell
Vice President of Tech Ed
25 years, 7 months



Dr. Charlotte Power
Instructor of History
21 years, 10 months



Dr. Roger Johnson
Vice President of Gen. Ed.
18 years, 10 months



Harold "Mert" Sharp
Institutional Services Assist.
18 years, 1 month



Renee Davis
Admin. Specialist II, EMT,
Resp., 15 years, 10 months



Steve Williams
Computer Support Tech.
16 years, 11 months



Sharon Watson
Administrative Specialist III,
Gen. Ed., 15 years, 5 months



Joe Chappel
EMT/Paramedic Instructor
13 years, 10 months



Suzette Hicks
Respiratory Care Program
Director, 11 years, 10 months



Tom Baker
Career Pathways Director,
Agri., 11 years, 7 months



Debbie Nolte
Institutional Services Assist.
10 years, 7 months



Anne Simpson
Director of Library
10 years

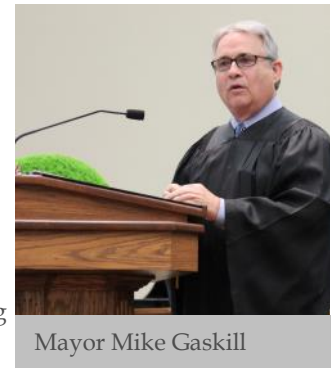


Donna Foster
Learning Center Coordinator
4 years

Community Provides Alternate Location for Graduation

Due to the flooding in East Pocahontas, BRTC held its Spring 2017 Commencement Tuesday, May 23 at Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas. BRTC awarded 291 degrees and certificates to 244 graduates. Amber Green, candidate for the Associate of Science in Business, served as graduate candidate spokesperson and Paragould mayor Mike Gaskill served as guest speaker.

BRTC sincerely thanks pastor Kevin Barnett, deacons, and parishioners of Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas for providing not only a location but also their help and support of BRTC's Spring 2017 Commencement.



Mayor Mike Gaskill

First Baptist Church Hosts PN Graduation and Pinning Held



BRTC held its Spring 2017 Practical Nursing graduation and pinning on May 22 at First Baptist Church in Pocahontas. Guest speaker was Kelly Rogers from NEA Baptist. Class spokesman was Whitney Rodgers, the prayer was given by Seth Morris, and the final benediction was presented by Lisa Wilcox. The reception was sponsored by Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Pocahontas Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, St. Bernard's Medical Center, and Randolph County Nursing Home.

May 18 to 27, 10 BRTC staff and community members traveled for 10 days to Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland. BRTC's annual travel series is designed to provide BRTC employees, students, and community members with travel opportunities.

Karen Liebhaber, VP of Institutional Advancement, led the trip. Among the trip's highlights were visits to Munich, Germany's Olympic Park and Marienplatz; Dachau concentration camp; Bavaria, Germany's Neuschwanstein castle, the inspiration for Disney's Cinderella's castle; downtown Innsbruck, Austria; Venice, Italy's St. Mark's Square and Murano glass; and Como, Italy.

Over spring break 2018, Dr. Derek and Courtney Clements will lead a trip to Paris, Normandy, and London. In May 2019, Liebhaber will lead a trip to Australia and New Zealand. Learn more at www.blackrivertech.org/current-students/student-life/travel

Scholars & Donors Reception Honors College Donors

Stephanie DeClerk Nichols, lawyer and BRTC alumnae, was the guest speaker at the annual Donors & Scholars Reception held April 25 in the Randolph County Development Center. The event is held each year to acknowledge the financial contributions of businesses and individuals to the BRTC Foundation for scholarships and donations along with the students who are Foundation scholarship recipients. The Kimbrough Choir, directed by Joniece Trammel and accompanied by Glenda Blassini, and BRTC's Dietetics Department, who prepared and served a lunch buffet of hors d'oeuvres, were featured.



Stephanie Nichols

BRTC LETA Graduation Held April 21

BRTC held its Spring 2017 Law Enforcement Training Academy graduation April 21 at RCDC in Pocahontas. Guest speaker was NFL referee and Hiland Dairy controller Walt Coleman. Fifty-six officers from across the state completed 13 weeks, 577 hours of basic police training in standard police tactics, firearms, legal, education, technical skills, and practical exercises.



Walt Coleman

BRTC Group Visits Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland



Karen Liebhaber, Gena Farrin, Nancy Smith, Jeri Powers, Pat Jones, Vicky Powers, Ruth Ann Ellis, Janice Harvey, Denise Young, Jackie Shaw

FOUNDATIONS

SNAPSHOTS

Your Generosity: Foster and Foster Farms Scholarship in Memory of Jack and Amy Foster



Kevin and Donna Foster

BRTC is pleased to announce that Kevin Foster and his wife, Donna, former BRTC Academic Learning Center Coordinator, are offering a \$250 scholarship to BRTC agriculture students residing in Randolph County for Fall 2017. Kevin and Donna are longtime agriculture supporters who are excited to help students interested in farming and agriculture succeed.

For more information about the Foster and Foster Farms Scholarship in Memory of Jack and Amy Foster, contact Financial Aid or visit the BRTC website.

BRTC Foundation Scholarships Provided by You, Our 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 to be eligible for scholarships. Without the support and commitment of these donors, the following scholarships would not be possible!

Merle R. Young Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Tomyka Rogers
Hometown: Little Rock
Major: Nursing



Nightingale Scholarship

Recipient: Brently Massey
Hometown: Pocahontas
Major: Nursing

Recipient: Emilee Smith
Hometown: Paragould
Major: Nursing

Phillip Collins II & Beth Collins Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Tanner Ringo
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Pocahontas High School
Parents: Lindsay and Shelly Ringo
Major: Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine



Paragould Student Scholarship

Recipient: Kimbra Grissom
Donor: BRTC Nursing Faculty and Staff
High School: Osceola High School
Parents: Jerry Grissom
Major: Nursing

BRTC Wins NSF Grant

After a year and a half's work, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded BRTC \$197,938 to offer a 1-year Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture. BRTC will be the first Arkansas college or university to offer a technician-level degree in precision agriculture. The program is designed to improve the agricultural productivity, increasing the education and employability of local workforces while providing pathways for students interested in higher education in agriculture.

The grant's principle investigator is Rex Flagg, BRTC science department head and biology instructor. The co-principle investigator is Ricky Gunn, BRTC welding

instructor. The administrator was new-retiree Dr. Roger Johnson, Vice President of General Education, and the grant was written by Karen Liebhaber, Vice President of Institutional Advancement. The new administrator will be Dr. Sheila Taylor, Vice President of Academics.



On April 5, PBS's *Exploring Arkansas* with Chuck Dovish, featured the Rice-Upshaw house, one of the two REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) sites.

Project REACH is funded in part by the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, the Arkansas Humanities Council, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and Black River Technical College.



Ricky Gunn, Rex Flagg, Karen Liebhaber, and Dr. Roger Johnson

spotlight

STUDENT GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE



Autumn Doney at PHS graduation

Autumn Doney, daughter of Brad and Alli Doney, had the honor of graduating from Pocahontas High School and Black River Technical College in the same semester.

While in high school and college, Doney balanced several jobs and participated in several sports.

“There would be some days where I would have work, then have to go to school, then get out of school and be up studying all night,” said Doney. “I would literally be in class until 6 at night.”

Doney now plans to attend the University of Central Arkansas to double major in health sciences with an emphasis in physical therapy and in business administration with an emphasis in hospital administration.



BRTC faculty Chris Lynch and Autumn Doney

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WBC Hosts Serendipity

BRTC is very thankful to Williams Baptist College for hosting the last meeting of Serendipity on their campus. Because BRTC was closed due to flooding, Williams Baptist College stepped up and offered the use of their library.



Pam Meridith, Leslie Throesch, Dr. Jan Ziegler, Ken Ziegler, Patti Blaxton, Sue Fair, Georgia Berry, Brenda Ivie, Donna Simonton, Nancy Dismang, Patty Riffel, Philip Burton, Bobbye Truitt, Marlene Cox, Anne Simpson, Scotty Lamb, Jessica Bailey

Randolph Co. Republican Committee Donation

In April, Senator Linda Collins-Smith and Randolph County Republican Committee members presented a book, *The Heroes and Heroines of the Journey: The Builders of the Modern Republican Party of Arkansas*, by Dr. Ken Coon to BRTC President Dr. Eric Turner and library technician Krystal Hendon.



Paragould Children Learn at Kids' College

On June 5 -8, children ages 6-17 attended Kids' College on the Paragould campus, hosted by BRTC Paragould's Corporate and Community Education. Kids' College provides fun-filled learning experiences and expands knowledge and creative skills. This year's focus was on keeping kids active. Thank you to our generous donors: Walmart, Walmart Neighborhood Market, Paragould Cinema, and Swirlz.



You Support Scholarship 5K at Paragould

On June 3, BRTC held its 3rd annual BRTC Scholarship 5K on the BRTC Paragould campus. Forty-four men, women, and children participated. The race began at 8 a.m. and the first runner completed the race at 8:22:50 a.m. The race was officially timed by Stearns Race Timing. Full results can be found on their website.



BRTC thanks the following sponsors: *Grand:* GCITC. *Platinum:* BRTC SGA, Triple B Electric. *Gold:* BRTC Electrical Industrial Program. *Silver:* BancorpSouth, Urban Envy, Liberty Tax Service, Caps Plus, Nerd Herd. *Bronze:* Ironhorse BBQ, The Pharmacy at Brookland, Inner Strength Fitness LLC, Frankie's Drywall, French Family. *In-kind:* Walmart, Anytime Fitness.

It's been an interesting year for Black River Tech. As you read on the front page, May 1st brought Pocahontas its second 100-year flood in 6 years. Again, we had to evacuate the Pocahontas campus and cancel final examinations.

This year, however, we had more time to prepare, enabling us to rescue equipment and furniture. College faculty and staff were proactive in evacuating students and peers and had enough warning to protect themselves and their families.

Initially, the IT systems were moved to the Paragould campus for safekeeping. Doing so protected our infrastructure and enabled us to resume operations within two weeks.

During the flood, my two driving goals were to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff, and to ensure we continued to operate. I am proud of our people; we were able to accomplish both of those goals.

Currently, Pocahontas faculty are slated to reoccupy their offices the week before Faculty In-Service. The target for completion is August 20. So far, we are on target to meet those goals.

Thank you for your support of our college and students. Our community has been tremendous in encouraging and helping us. Thank you mostly, though, for supporting our people. I am proud of the work they have done!



Dr. Eric Turner

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