

# THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

## BRTC Welding Graduate Featured in National Welding Publication

The American Welding Society's national publication *Careers in Welding* features 2002 BRTC graduate Wesley Guntharp. Originally from Jonesboro, Wesley completed his welding certificate from BRTC, attended the Commercial Diving Academy in Jacksonville, FL, and is now an underwater welder. "I had never touched a welding machine in my life until I went to [BRTC]," Wesley says, "but it turns out I was good at it."



Wesley Guntharp

Underwater welders are highly skilled and in tremendous need. "My work takes me all over the world," Guntharp says. "I never know for sure on Monday morning where I might be on Friday." For example, when interviewed, Guntharp was returning to Curacao to reinstall a 44-ton ship rudder. According to the Commercial Dive Institute's website, underwater welders work in "marine salvage, dredging, bridge inspection, pipeline construction, and sea wall repair."

Rickie Gunn, BRTC welding instructor, said a welding certificate is a great place to start. "In our welding program, students learn the foundational skills needed to advance into more advanced programs like underwater welding," said Gunn.

For more information about BRTC's welding program, contact instructor Rickie Gunn at 870-248-4000 or visit [blackrivertech.edu](http://blackrivertech.edu)

## Your Donations to the Foundation Help Flood Renovation at RCDC

Thanks to your support, the BRTC Foundation approved \$60,000 to BRTC Pocahontas to assist with flood recovery. The donation will be used to replace Randolph County Development Center (RCDC) auditorium seating in Spring 2018.

"The BRTC Foundation is so pleased to have the opportunity to partner with the college in this meaningful and lasting way," said Foundation Board Chair Kelly Rose. "The Foundation was established to support the college's mission and this project is a tangible example of the Foundation achieving its purpose."

The first three rows of the auditorium seating were damaged in the 2011 flood and again in May 2017 flood. While insurance covers some costs, Dr. Eric Turner felt it was time to replace all of the seats in the auditorium, several of which had sustained damage over the years.

Each year the Foundation receives donations from many generous businesses and individuals like you. Rose said, "It is the generosity of these donors and the efforts of our Foundation board which provide the opportunity to effect positive change in our community through the support of BRTC."

Last year your donations to the BRTC Foundation provided almost \$40,000 in scholarships as well as provided financial support for the Holocaust Survivor Series, numerous student events, and academic programs.



First 3 rows of RCDC auditorium seating after flood

### JOIN IT DOWN

- September 4  
Labor Day – Campus closed
- October 6  
iBERIABANK/Foundation Golf Tournament
- October 18  
BRTC Health Fair
- October 19  
Advisory Committees Meet
- October 24-25  
Holocaust Survivor Series



## Welcome Back, Students!

BRTC law enforcement cadets hold the plank position for several minutes as they follow LETA faculty orders. Students learn to follow commands and push themselves physically. They are expected to grow mentally and physically during the program, making them ready for the demands of law enforcement.

## Danny Moore Named to Board of Trustees

In July, Governor Asa Hutchinson named Corning resident Danny Moore to the BRTC Board of Trustees. Moore will be replacing outgoing member Dr. Paul Baltz.

Moore is an ASU graduate and president and CEO of his family's business, Harold Implement Company. He has served as a Corning alderman for 16 years, a member of Corning Harvest Festival for 26 years, and has been coach and umpire for youth baseball and basketball for 10 years.



The Danny Moore Family

"BRTC has made and will continue to make a positive impact in the communities in which it serves and has made a positive impact in the lives of young people of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri," said Moore. "I think everyone should give back to their communities and I hope that I can help in a small way by serving with BRTC."

Moore is married to Karen and has 3 children, Cory, Jacob, and Laura.

## Your Support Exposes Students to Industry

Through partnership with you, our local Paragould businesses, and a Gene Haas Foundation grant, students grades 9-12 learned about the manufacturing industry through the Young Manufacturing Academy (YMA) offered on the Paragould campus. Students participated in hands-on activities, simulation-based learning, and traveled to industry locations for on-site interaction. They learned a variety of skills including leadership and communication needed for success in the global economy.

Thank you to our Paragould business and industry professionals for their support! Andy Husky from Great Dane Trailers presented lean manufacturing. Rhonda Quenzer with Axis organized a plant tour showcasing technological advancements in manufacturing. The Arkansas National Guard demonstrated drone technology, and Nick Turner with TWI showed how virtual reality is used in manufacturing.



YMA students constructing K'NEX roller coaster

Students participated in hands-on activities including building solar-powered robots. The final project was the design and construction of K'NEX roller coaster which had to adhere to design specifications and stay within budget.

### Important Class Dates!

- 8/29-30 Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive, RCDC
- 9/1 Spring Single Parent Scholarship Deadline
- 9/8 Foundation Board Meeting
- 9/9 REACH Sites open
- 9/18 1st 4-Week Classes Begin
- 10/5 Last day to drop 1st 4-week or 1st 8-week classes
- 10/9-15 Mid-Term Exams
- 10/13 Last day to pay for 2nd 8-week classes
- 10/16 2nd 4-Week Classes Begin  
2nd 8-Week Classes Begin
- 10/23 Respiratory Meet & Greet
- 10/31 Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive, RCDC

Students: Make sure to meet with your advisor!

the 411



Join us  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6**  
 Sponsorships Available  
 Rolling Hills Country Club, Pocahontas

# THEIR MARK

## Student Builds Cannon in Machine Tool Class

MAKING

What started as a regular class assignment grew into the largest class-built cannon ever constructed in Meier’s Machine Tool program. “I planned to just build a cannon for my grandkids to shoot,” said James Lee, a student in Meier’s program, “but then the guys [in class] wanted more power.”



James Lee

“We know it shoots over 240 yards. We lost track of the [golf] balls [used in testing] after that,” shares Lee. For this cannon, Lee had to build a special tool to bore out the barrel. The base is built out of 7 different types of wood.

Lee enrolled in Machine Tool Technology for fun. He said, “When I retire I’ve always wanted to have a gunsmithing shop, and the skills I learn here will allow me to do that.”

It’s safe to say Lee will be coolest grandpa around once his grandkids see this cannon!

## Dr. Sheila Taylor Named Vice President of Academics



Dr. Sheila Taylor

Dr. Sheila Taylor has been named the Vice President of Academics. Dr. Taylor comes to BRTC after a short retirement from higher education.

Dr. Taylor spent five years a Chief Academic Officer, the equivalent of Vice President of Academics, at Granite State in Concord, New Hampshire. Before that, she was Chief Academic Officer at Urban College of Boston in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Taylor earned her bachelor and master of education at Arkansas State University and her doctor of education at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Taylor is a Northeast Arkansas native. She grew up in Lepanto, Arkansas, raised her children in Jonesboro, and had grandparents and other relatives who lived in Pocahontas.

Dr. Taylor has a daughter Abby, son Matt, and 7 grandchildren. She resides in Jonesboro.

## UCA Offers BRTC Students 35 Bachelor Options

The University of Central Arkansas is making it easy for BRTC students to earn a 4-year degree. In June BRTC and UCA partnered to offer direct transfer opportunities into 35 bachelor degrees. BRTC’s Associate of Arts graduates have the opportunity to move directly into one of these bachelor degrees.

“BRTC is delighted to provide more opportunities for BRTC students,” said Donna Statler, Dean of General Studies. She reminds students to work with their BRTC advisor to insure they take the correct courses to satisfy the UCA’s degree requirements.



Dr. Eric Turner, Donna Statler, Dr. Sheila Taylor

The agreement with UCA offers access to degrees in the following disciplines: History, Philosophy, Psychology, Business Administration, Economics, Finance, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Insurance & Risk Management, Personal Financial Planning, Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing, Education, Health Sciences, Health Services Administration, Addiction Studies, Communication Sciences & Disorders, and Nutrition. For more information, contact Donna Statler at 870-248-4000 ext. 4183.

## BRTC President’s Scholarship

The President’s Scholarship pays full tuition for fall and spring semesters provided the recipient maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Recipients and their parents or spouse are listed below.

- Alexis Baldwin
- Kaylee Campbell
- Sarah Helms
- Alyson Smith
- Cody Whitmire
- Madison Wilson

- Josh and Loria Baldwin of Walnut Ridge
- Benjamin Campbell, spouse
- David and Kim Helms of Pocahontas
- Alan and Pam Smith of Walnut Ridge
- Mitch and Kristy Whitmire of Smithville
- Gary and Barbara Wilson of Paragould

**FOOD FILL-UP FOR FALL!**

With your non-perishable breakfast food or monetary gift, YOU will make this semester successful for BRTC students and families!

Call Christina Derbes at 870-248-4000.

# You Made a Difference in These Students Lives!

Thanks to our donors who were 4-star sponsors of the 2016 IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament, the following students are receiving \$1,000 in Fall 2017 and \$1,000 in Spring 2018 to cover tuition, fees, and books. For a fulltime student, these scholarships cover 70% of their tuition and fees for the entire year! Thank you for making a dramatic difference in these students' lives!

## AgHeritage Farm Credit Services Scholarship



**Recipient:** Dalton Price  
**Hometown:** Corning  
**High School:** Corning High School  
**Parents:** Marcus and Heather Price  
**Major:** Agriculture

## HARPS Foods Scholarship



**Recipient:** Drew Calhoun  
**Hometown:** Corning  
**High School:** Corning High School  
**Parents:** Ricky and Sarah Calhoun  
**Major:** City Development

## Archer Realty Scholarship



**Recipient:** Drew West  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**High School:** Walnut Ridge High School  
**Parents:** Aaron Britt and Beka West  
**Major:** Accounting

## L.D. Rose Family Scholarship



**Recipient:** Natalie Varner  
**Hometown:** Rector  
**High School:** Rector High School  
**Parents:** Timothy Varner and Tarah Green  
**Major:** Respiratory Therapy

## Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation Member Scholarship



**Recipient:** Alyssa Bracken  
**Hometown:** Piggott  
**High School:** Piggott High School  
**Grandparents:** Steve and Karen Beaver  
**Major:** Nursing

## Nielson Bainbridge Group Scholarship



**Recipient:** Sylvia Poindexter  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Parents:** Rodney and Angela Brasfield  
**Major:** Associate of Arts in General Education

## Custom-Pak Scholarship



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

## Overman Buildings Scholarship



**Recipient:** Karma Schaechtel  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Parents:** Ronnie and Regina Hagood  
**Major:** Mental Health Counseling

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



**Recipient:** Ashley Chavez  
**Hometown:** Ravenden  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School  
**Major:** Nursing

## PECO Foods Educational Scholarship



**Recipient:** Alexandra Gott  
**Hometown:** Black Rock  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School  
**Parents:** Roy and Sarah Gott  
**Major:** International Flight Nurse

## Dr. Joshua R. Toney, DDS, Scholarship



**Recipient:** Amber Bryant  
**Hometown:** Piggott  
**High School:** Piggott High School  
**Spouse:** Joshua Bryant  
**Major:** Nursing

## SGA Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship



**Recipient:** Dalton Murray  
**Hometown:** Rector  
**High School:** Rector High School  
**Parents:** Steve & Julie Murray  
Christy & Brad Osborn  
**Major:** Agriculture Business and Finance

## Dr. Karla Baltz, DDS, Scholarship



**Recipient:** David Russell  
**Hometown:** Imboden  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School  
**Parents:** Rick and Donna Slusser  
**Major:** Nursing

## VALIC Community Spirit Scholarship



**Recipient:** Andrew Radcliff  
**Hometown:** Reyno  
**High School:** Corning High School  
**Parents:** James and Shawna Radcliff  
**Major:** Associate of Arts in General Education

# BRTC Foundation Scholarships Provided by You, Our Generous Donors!

Your donations 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 your support and commitment, the following scholarships would not be possible!

## Danny and Ruth Ann Ellis Agriculture Scholarship



**Recipient:** William Weir  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**High School:** Walnut Ridge High School  
**Parents:** Allen and Martha Weir

## Jennifer Wren Memorial Scholarship



**Recipient:** Hannah Hammock  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**Parents:** Jason and Kim Hammock  
**High School:** Walnut Ridge High School  
**Major:** Agriculture

## Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship, United Way



**Recipient:** Holly Smart  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Major:** Nursing



**Recipient:** Juliet Jones  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Major:** General Technology, Nursing

## Tom and Becky Baker Agriculture Scholarship



**Recipient:** Dalton Price  
**Hometown:** Corning  
**High School:** Corning High School  
**Parents:** Marcus and Heather Price  
**Major:** Agriculture  
**Donors:** Tom and Becky Baker



**Recipient:** Garrett Akins  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Parents:** David and Heather Akins  
**Major:** Agriculture  
**Donors:** Tom and Becky Baker

## Colby Hostler Memorial Scholarship



**Recipient:** Kierce Due  
**Hometown:** Imboden  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix School  
**Parents:** Johnna Due and Buford Due  
**Major:** Nursing  
**Donors:** Steve and Rhonda Higginbotham

## Foster and Foster Farms Scholarship in Memory of Jack and Amy Foster

**Recipient:** Garrett Akins  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Parents:** David and Heather Akins  
**Major:** Agriculture  
**Donors:** Kevin and Donna Foster



## Grainger Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship

**Recipient:** Reese Gurley  
**Hometown:** Piggott  
**High School:** Piggott High School  
**Parents:** Kevin and Tracy Gurley  
**Major:** Auto Collision Repair



**Recipient:** Dennis Barber  
**Hometown:** Maynard  
**Spouse:** Lisa  
**Children:** Jennifer, Leyman, and Elizabeth  
**Major:** Industrial Maintenance Technology



## Academic Distinction Scholarships

The Academic Distinction Scholarship is awarded to first time entering freshmen at Black River Technical College who are also in the top 10% of their graduating class with a 3.00 GPA or higher. Qualifying students are awarded full tuition for 2 years. Recipients and their parents or spouse are listed below.

Michael Bailey	Chris and Camille Barnes
Cody Barnes	Bob and Catrina Bateman
Sky Bateman	Chris and Lorna Bounds
Michael Bounds	Greg and Cindy Coats
Hannah Coats	Johnna and Buford
Kierce Due	Shawn and Shirley Humes
Robert Humes	Craig and Angie Jones
Alysa Jones	Jammie Jones
Myhailan Jones	
Tuff King	
Brian Marriott	Dale and Natalie Marriott
Bradley Reed	Leslie Reed
Emma Rice	Audumn Vickrey
Allyson Tyler	Chris and Jamie Tyler
Keith White	John White and Samantha Letson
Hannah Whitmire	Mitch and Kristy Whitmire
Brandon Douglas	Leslie and Patricia

## New Employees Here for You!



Jenine Meyers

**Position:** Agriculture Instructor  
**Hometown:** Hoxie  
**Campus:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Murray State University, BS, MSE



Lindsay Stewart

**Position:** Career Coach  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Campus:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Arkansas State University, BA, 2009



Rachel Dowdy

**Position:** Career Coach  
**Hometown:** Rector  
**Campus:** Piggott and Corning  
**Education:** Arkansas State University, BS



Darrin Burns

**Position:** Director of Technology  
**Hometown:** Searcy  
**Campus:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Phillips County Community College, AAS; Capella University, BS



Matthew Smith

**Position:** EMT/Paramedic Director  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Campus:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** BRTC, EMT, 2011; Williams Baptist, BS, 2014; Union University, MS, 2016



Pat Cagle

**Position:** Library Director  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Campus:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Arkansas State University, BSE; University of Central Arkansas, MSE



Joshua Earley

**Position:** Skilled Tradesman-Electrician  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Campus:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** UA Community College, Batesville  
**Certifications:** Journeyman, 2003; Master Electrician License-Commercial & Residential, 2006

## Students Build Drug Takeback Box; Chief Accepts Key



Gary Meier, Dr. Eric Turner, Chief Cecil Tackett, Philip Dickson, Dr. Sheila Taylor, Ashley Boles

In Spring 2012, the BRTC Student Government Association provided the funding for the creation of 2 takeback boxes, receptacles for unused or expired medications. The Randolph County Cornerstone Coalition provided the decals and signage.

Over 3 years, BRTC students in 3 technical programs created the box and its components. BRTC welding students made the box, machine tool students fabricated the door, hinges and the special gumball-style drop system to protect the contents of the box, and auto body students painted the box.

On July 19, Pocahontas Police Chief Cecil Tackett accepted the key to BRTC's drug take-back box. The box is located in the administration building on the Pocahontas campus. BRTC employees, students, and the community are invited to drop unused or expired medications into the box for proper disposal.



Retirees Judy Ballard (*above, in red*), administrative assistant for LETA, and Rene Davis (*far right*), administrative assistant for EMT Fire Science, received plaques of appreciation for their service.



### ACC Visit

On, August 14, Bill Stovall, executive director of Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC), spoke to the BRTC faculty and staff. As executive director for ACC, Stovall provides resources and support for all 22 Arkansas 2-year colleges.

# spotlight

STUDENTS WATCH TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE ON FIRST DAY OF CLASSES



The first day of class was more exciting than normal as students crowded on Pocahontas's front lawn to witness the first total solar eclipse since 1918.

BRTC's Student Government Association purchased 50 pairs of solar glasses for students to view the eclipse. Students were also entered in a drawing for BRTC logo blankets and other giveaways.



"It was awesome to be part of such an amazing scientific astronomical event," said Lauren Pate, respiratory care student.

SGA is thankful to the officers and Institutional Advancement for their help and especially to the students for attending.



## PN Students Achieve 100% NCLEX Pass Rate



All 35 practical nursing (PN) students in BRTC's Spring 2017 graduating class have passed their NCLEX-PN exam. This is the 3rd time in 5 years that BRTC's PN program has achieved a 100%. The NCLEX-PN is required for students to earn their license to become licensed practical nurses (LPNs).

"One of the reasons students come here is because they know the quality of the program," said Tonya Hankins, PN director, "and of our excellent pass rates. When they come to BRTC, they know they can pass their NCLEX boards." The average 2017 NCLEX-PN pass rate for Arkansas is 90.9%. Nationally, the average is 83.7%.



Samantha Williams of Walnut Ridge won a \$50 gift card for taking BRTC's marketing survey which asks students about BRTC's advertising. It is offered every semester.

In 2016, only 1 out of 41 students did not pass the exam; in 2013, 2 out of 38 did not pass. Otherwise, all students in BRTC's program have passed the licensing exam. BRTC's 5-year average is 98%, Arkansas' is 91%, and nationally it is 83%.

Hankins directs and teaches in the program. Other instructor are Sandra Green, Tahnee Green, Kelsey Cagle, Nancy Felts, Tina Stroud, and Jennifer Hibbard. For more information, contact Director Tonya Hankins at 870-248-4000 ext. 4174.

## Greene County Adult Education at BRTC

BRTC began offering Adult Education in Greene County, previously offered by Arkansas Northeastern College, on the BRTC Paragould campus. "We are excited to expand BRTC's presence in Greene County," said Dr. Eric Turner.



Beth Thompson



Joan Eveland



Linda Lee

Tammie Lemmons, BRTC Director of Adult Education, explained that housing the program at BRTC Paragould, "will be more cost effective; funds previously spent on overhead such as rent will now go toward serving students."

Beth Thompson and Joan Eveland have been with the Greene County program for over 30 years. "We are so excited to have BRTC right across the hallway," Thompson said. Such access makes helping students enter college after they earn their GED or enhance their academic skills easier, explained Eveland.

With this recent addition, BRTC provides adult education to all of its primary service area: Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties. For more information, contact Tammie Lemmons at (870) 248-4000 ext. 4171.

It is hard to believe the fall semester has begun. This week, the hallways are once again teeming with bright-eyed students – a welcomed sight following such a busy summer. We are in the final stages of recovering from the 2017 Flood, but we were able to convene classes with no interruptions. Some of the final details include the delivery and installation of millwork, cabinetry, and office furniture.

We are excited to welcome six new schools in addition to our two to our Technical Opportunities and Pathways for Secondary Students (TOPSS) program: Corning, Hoxie, Maynard, Pocahontas, Rector, Sloan-Hendrix, and Walnut Ridge. Enrollment in this program has grown since last year. The collaboration between the College and K12 schools provide students with the opportunity to earn technical certificates, industry-recognized credentials, and employable skillsets while simultaneously enrolled in high school.

Black River Tech meets students where they are academically, socially, and financially – we are committed to empowering people to change their lives. The BRTC Foundation exists to ensure this continued effort.

Each year, the Foundation hosts the iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament. This event is being held on Friday, October 6 and all proceeds go directly to student scholarships. It is indeed an important occasion.

I am grateful for your support. Because of you, Black River Tech is truly a special place.



Dr. Eric Turner

P.O. Box 468  
1410 Hwy 304 East  
Pocahontas, AR 72455  
(870) 248-4000

P.O. Box 1565  
1 Black River Drive  
Paragould, AR 72450  
(870) 239-0969

Visit us on the web at  
**BlackRiverTech.edu**

**Newsletter Staff:**

- Karen Liebhaber
- Ann Savage
- Jessica Bailey
- Shawna Lepard

**CONTACT US**

**BRTC Milestones**

To kick off the school year, BRTC celebrated personnel several milestones. Thank you to our devoted employees for all you do!



**5 Years of Service**

- |                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kathryn Warren   | Financial Aid, <i>Paragould</i> |
| Jessica Bailey   | Institutional Advancement       |
| Kelsey Cagle     | Nursing Instructor              |
| Jennifer Hibbard | Nursing Instructor              |



**10 Years of Service**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Sonya Walker     | Payroll                                    |
| Mylea White      | Retention Specialist                       |
| Chris Hankins    | Law Enforcement Instructor                 |
| Lisa Jackson     | Math Instructor                            |
| Krystal Hendon   | Library Tech                               |
| Angela Loveless  | Science Instructor, <i>Paragould</i>       |
| Allen Stillwell  | Maintenance, <i>Paragould</i>              |
| Bridget Guess    | Academic Advisor                           |
| Beverly Edington | Finance                                    |
| Dana Bradford    | Corporate & Community Ed, <i>Paragould</i> |



**15 Years of Service**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Priscilla Stillwell | Academic Coordinator, <i>Paragould</i> |
| Dana Clay           | Allied Health Admin. Assistant         |
| Phillip Dickson     | Dean of Technical & Business           |



**25 Years**

Carl Hawkins,  
Skilled Trades



BRTC faculty and staff voted Amber Green as Outstanding Staff member and Sissy Gray as Outstanding Faculty.