

THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

YOU Helped Raise Money for Student Scholarships

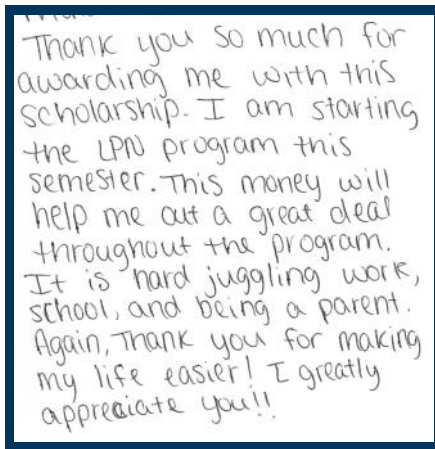
Thanks to YOU, the 24th Annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament will be able to provide almost \$40,000 in scholarships to students! This fund will assist almost 40 students in the 2018-2019 academic year paying a portion of their tuition and fees!

The 24th annual golf tournament had a record number of sponsors, 111, and we are so grateful to them! Our headline sponsor, iBERIABANK, has supported the tournament since 2003 and we are also grateful to Harps Foods, Inc., for providing the Harps Food Pavilion.

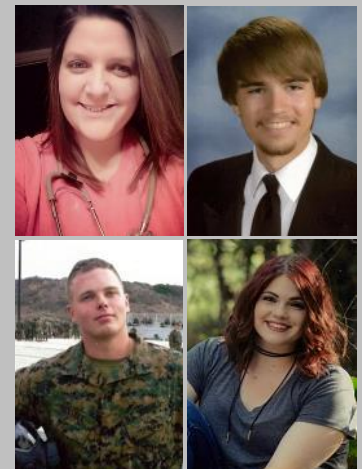
We also had 16 4-star sponsors who provide a named scholarship to students: AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Archer Realty, BRTC SGA, Cavanaugh Auto Group, Clay County Electric, Custom-Pak, Don's Steakhouse, Dr. Karla Baltz DDS, GNC Industries, Metro Builders & Restoration, Nielson Bainbridge/Pinnacle



Frames and Accent, Overman Buildings, PECO, Pocahontas Aluminum, Sandhill Dentistry, VALIC via Marc Phillips.



Below are just 4 of the 2017-2018 students you helped when you supported the 2016 golf tournament!



Holocaust Survivor Speaks to 1,471 Students, Visitors

BRTC's 13th annual Holocaust Series, in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), featured Ukrainian Holocaust survivor Rita Rubinstein. Rita was born on December 12, 1936, in Văscăuți, Romania, now Vashkivtsi, Ukraine. In 1940, the Soviet army marched into Văscăuți and drafted her father; later, Romanian soldiers forced out all its Jews. Rita's family bribed a guard to take them to a primitive village where they lived for 3 years before being moved to a displaced persons camp. At the age of 12 she arrived in the United States. Rita, a retired 3rd grade school teacher, volunteers at USHMM to share her story. At BRTC, Rita spoke to 1,471 visitors over 2 days.

This event is made possible and free to the public because of our generous donors: BRTC Foundation SEAS Project; Mike and Barbara Dunn; First National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Hoxie, Pocahontas, and Bono; Integrity First Bank; and Brett and Karen Liebhaber.



JOIN IT DOWN

November 17

LETA Graduation

November 23-24

Closed – Thanksgiving

December 11

Respiratory Graduation

December 12

Nursing Graduation

December 14

Commencement

December 22-January 1

Campus Closed

CAMPUS Learning Takes Many Forms

AROUND

BRTC students have been working hard on their classwork. Some of their most exciting and educational experiences, though, occurs when they collaborate with other students and other classes.

As you see below, working in groups, with classmates in other classes, or with community members makes learning much more engaging and exciting!



Third semester respiratory students pose as patients to first semester paramedic students who must assess and treat them. Students were assigned cardiopulmonary cases.



Criminal Investigations students measure "blood" splatter to decide what happened at a mock crime scene.



Students in BRTC's agriculture classes have been busy! Left: Dr. Roger Helms of Gateway Animal Clinic examines a bull; Rt: Plant Science students identify plants.

Important Class Dates!

- 11/17 Last day to drop a class
- 11/20-24 Classes closed for Thanksgiving
- 11/28 ECO Day
- 11/30 Last day to drop 3rd 4-week and 2nd 8-week classes
- 12/1 Spring 2018 financial aid priority deadline
- 12/6-12 Final exams
- 1/1 Spring 2018 financial aid final deadline
- 1/2 BRTC campus opens
- 1/8 Faculty return to BRTC
- 1/11 Pocahontas orientation
- 1/12 Paragould orientation
- 1/16 BRTC Spring 2018 begins

the 411

What BRTC Students, Graduates, and Employers Are Saying about BRTC

"I love BRTC! It gives every student a chance no matter who they are....I have made friends and [met] people I consider family."

"I would recommend anyone to go to BRTC because the staff and faculty are the best that can be chosen!"

"I am very thankful to have BRTC in our town. As an employer...it is nice to have the professionalism of a program that if something is needed here, we can make a phone call and BRTC never fails to help."

MAKING THEIR MARK



Walnut Ridge Students Learn Fire-fighting in High School

Beginning Fall 2017, thanks to a collaboration between Lawrence County School District, BRTC, and the Walnut Ridge Fire Department, Walnut Ridge students grades 9-12 may take courses in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Emergency Medical First Responder, and Firefighter 1 & 2 while in high school. In addition, students may also earn concurrent credit in Fire Science from BRTC.

We at BRTC are excited to be able to help students achieve their dreams! Thank you LCSD and Walnut Ridge Fire department!

BRTC Respiratory Students Place 3rd in Annual Sputum Bowl

BRTC respiratory students participated in the Annual Sputum Bowl, a quiz bowl about respiratory, sponsored by the American Association for Respiratory Care during the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care's State Meeting and Educational Seminar in Hot Springs. BRTC placed third in the state.

Students also dressed up in costumes and participated in the 4th Annual Cystic Fibrosis Walk, a part of the state meeting, to raise awareness and funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. BRTC students were voted Best Costume overall.



Front: Samantha Jones, Ashley Purcell, James Wiggins, Lauren Pate. Back: Instructor Jessica Alphin, Kristine Smith, Tim Gregson, John Ballard, Director Jason Linam



Practical Nursing Students Attend AR State Board of Nursing Hearings

Twenty-six practical nursing students attended hearings held at the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) in Little Rock. ASBN president Ramonda Housh, BRTC's Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, led proceedings.

Back: Jeremy Sparks, Stephanie Vallance, Brandi Davis, Natalie Ragsdale, Emilee Smith, Sabrina Naquin, Brently Massey, Caleb Elsperman, Garen Thomas, Allison Wright, Jordon Whitley, Penny Payne, Maleri Carpenter. Middle: Adrianna Gibson, Abigail Granger, Amber Bryant, Jordan Eliff, Regina Kincade, Jessica Aalls, Kendra Honeycutt, Kara Bailey, Morgan Tyler, Delaney Edington, Laurie Baltz, Sydney Housh, McKenzie Collier. Front: BRTC's Sandra Green, Kara Malin, Ramonda Housh, Jennifer Hibbard.

Below: Nursing students and faculty dress up for Halloween.



You Made a Difference in Students' Lives – No Matter Where They Live!

The **Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF)** is an Arkansas-based nonprofit who enables single parents to attain self-sufficiency through college education. ASPSF helps shape the educational goals and career aspirations of the next generation, breaking a family's cycle of poverty. When children watch their parents attend college, college becomes more attainable.

Each Arkansas county has its own **Single Parent Scholarship (SPS)**. Your donations as well as sub-grants and matching donations from ADHE, United Way, and Entergy make funding for these scholarships possible. While applicants may only apply in their home county, they may attend college anywhere. The students below have elected to attend BRTC. Thanks to you, they are making a difference in their – and their children's – lives!



Craighead County Single Parent Scholarship

Sherilyn Blanchard of Jonesboro General Technology
(not pictured)

Entergy recipient

Timothy Bryan of Jonesboro Associates of Arts

Arkansas Department of Higher Education recipients

Kenya Holbrook of Jonesboro General Technology

Vicky Householder of Bay Medical Office Administration

Page Hunter of Bono Associates of Arts

Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship

Arkansas Department of Higher Education



Recipient: Kacey Baxter
Hometown: Pocahontas
Major: Nursing



Recipient: Katelyn Johnson
Hometown: Pocahontas
Major: Nursing



Recipient: Cynthia Nishimura
Hometown: Ravenden Springs
Major: Nursing



Recipient: Mary Richardson
Hometown: Pocahontas
Major: Respiratory Care

Greene County Single Parent Scholarship

Jacalyn Banks of Paragould	Associates of Arts
Tammy Cuadra of Paragould	Associates of Arts
Michelle Espinoza of Paragould	Accounting
James Green of Paragould	General Technology
Veranica Hernandez of Paragould	Criminal Justice
Tiffany Jones of Paragould	Registered Nursing
Samantha Lamb of Paragould	Associates of Arts
Ashley Miller of Paragould	Respiratory Care
Andrea Romero of Paragould	Associates of Arts
Elizabeth Shaw of Paragould	Associates of Arts

Lawrence County Single Parent Scholarship

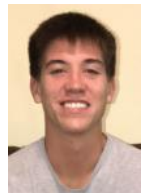
Jessica Alls of Hoxie	Nursing
Paula Decker of Imboden	Associate of Arts
Chelsea Rosson of Walnut Ridge	Associate of Arts

Walmart Scholarship

Recipient: Ty McDonnough
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Pocahontas High School
Parents: Andrew and Ty McDonnough

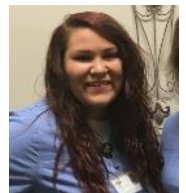


Recipient: Trevor Overbay
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Pocahontas High School
Parents: Andy Overbay & Kim and Jack Archer

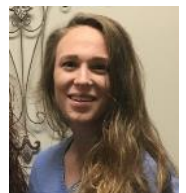


Nightingale Scholarship

Donors: BRTC Nursing Faculty
Recipient: Haily Lowrey
Hometown: Biggers
High School: Pocahontas High School
Spouse: Chris Lowrey
Major: Nursing



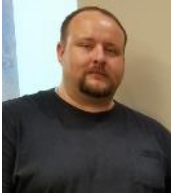
Recipient: Paige Davis
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Oak Ridge Central
Spouse: Jessie Bishop
Major: Nursing



BRTC Foundation Scholarships Provided by You, Our Generous Donors!

Your donations to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students on both the Pocahontas and Paragould locations. The following 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!

Above and Beyond Scholarship



Recipient: Timothy Bryan
Hometown: Jonesboro
Major: Associate of Arts
Career Goal: High school history teacher
Donor: Above and Beyond Healthcare

Distance Education Scholarship



Recipient: Ariana Gibson
Hometown: Jonesboro
High School: Nettleton High School
Parents: Laura Denice Fowler
Major: Nursing

Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship



Recipient: Kacey Baxter
Hometown: Pocahontas
Major: Nursing
Award: \$500

The Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship is provided by

Darrell Cagle in honor of his mother, Sylvia, who raised him while a single mother. Pictured with Baxter is BRTC's Mike Smith.



Legacy Scholarship

BRTC's May 2015 Practical Nursing class knew many PN students' in their last semester struggled to pay for licensure and test fees. They created this scholarship to help their peers. Each class has continued to keep the legacy alive.

Eleven \$200 scholarships have been awarded to December 2017 class members: *Photo back:* Allison Wright, Brently Massey, Jordan Eliff, Garen Thomas, Amber Bryant, Abigail Granger, Emilee Smith, Natalie Ragsdale, Jeremy Sparks. *Front:* Adrianna Gibson, Brandi Davis.

Paragould Student Scholarship

Donors to the Paragould Student Scholarship are BRTC Paragould faculty and staff and other Paragould community members.

Recipient: John Hall
Hometown: Paragould
High School: Greene County Tech
Parents: Dave and Rachael Hall
Major: Associates of Arts

Recipient: Bobby Manuel, Sr.
Hometown: Keiser
High School: Osceola High School
Parents: James and Carolyn Manuel
Major: Master Electrician License

Recipient: Erica Bartman
Hometown: Branson, MO
High School: Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills, CA
Parents: Jim and Cathy Smith & James Tolbert
Major: Respiratory



Recipient: Ariana Gibson
Hometown: Jonesboro
High School: Nettleton High School
Parents: Laura Denice Fowler
Major: Nursing



Recipient: Robert Powell
Hometown: Pocahontas
Spouse: Delaina Powell
Major: Associates of Arts



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Honor those special to you!

A memorial or gift-in-honor directly supports scholarships and academic programs.



Memory



Honor



Scholar



Give

New Employees Here for You!



Position: Director of Respiratory Therapy
Hometown: Paragould
Location: Pocahontas
Education: Southern New Hampshire University, currently; Black River Technical College, AAS, AA; Williams Baptist College, hours for bachelor



Position: Computer Support Technician
Hometown: Paragould
Location: Paragould
Education: Black River Technical College, AAS



Position: Nursing Assistant Instructor
Hometown: Pocahontas
Location: Pocahontas
Education: University of Arkansas, BS in Nursing

CAMPUS
CLOSEUP

BRTC LPN Program Named Best AR LPN Program for 2nd Year

For the second year in a row, Practicalnursing.org named BRTC's Practical Nursing (LPN) program the best of 27 LPN programs in Arkansas. The site compares 5 years of nursing program's graduates' pass rates on the national nursing exam required and considers how recent a programs' exam scores are. "Our quality is high because we have high quality faculty," said Director Tonya Hankins.

Check out other Arkansas college rankings at <http://www.practical-nursing.org/lpn-programs/arkansas>



Right: Hoxie concurrent students attend BRTC about Constitution Day.



BRTC Faculty and Staff Present at Conferences

In higher education, conferences present a significant opportunity for faculty and staff to interact and learn from their peers. This fall, BRTC faculty and staff have been very busy helping others and learning at conferences.



Rex Flagg (above), Rickie Gunn, Jack Deloach presented BRTC's National Science Foundation (NSF) project on precision ag at NSF's Advanced Tech Ed. conference in Washington, DC.

Darenda Kersey

Topic:

Conference:

Business Technology Instructor

Technology Tools for Teachers

Arkansas Career and Technical Education Conference, Hot Springs
 Arkansas Business Education Association Conference, Hot Springs

Karen Liebhaber

Topic:

Conference:

Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Online instructor presence for adult students in small, rural community colleges
 American Association for Adult and Continuing Education National Conference, Memphis

Cindy Robinett

Topic:

Conference:

Instructor of Adult Education & Career Development Facilitator

Adult Education: Teaching Outside the Box
 Arkansas Literacy Councils Conference, Hot Springs



Rhonda Stone

Topic:

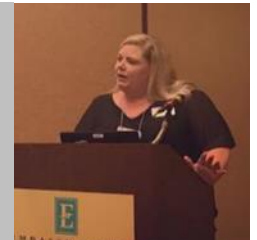
Conference:

Vice President of Finance

Disaster planning lessons learned from the recent flood
 AR Association of College and University Business Officers, Henderson State U.



Jessica Alphin (left) presents interdisciplinary simulation and Ramonda Housh, Angie French, Jennifer Hibbard, Sandra Green, and Donna Stater (bottom left) presented about ECO Day at the Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC) conference in Hot Springs. Krystal Hendon (right) presented about the flood preparation at the Arkansas Library Association meeting in Rogers.



spotlight

STUDENT
EARN'S HIS GED
AND A JOB AT
BRTC!



Tyler Hardy

Many students come to BRTC to improve their lives and Tyler Hardy is one of them. He entered BRTC's adult education program before but did not complete. However, this past July, he not only achieved his GED but accepted a job with Marcis & Associates, a BRTC contractor.

Today, he has a fulltime job and his high school equivalency – and a daughter due any day! "He's such a hard worker and always so willing to help," said instructor Cindy Robinett, "I'm just so proud of him!"



Floridian Family

Visitors come from all over to visit the REACH sites. Jim Smith, son of Jake & Alma (Rice) Smith, and his daughter Debby Smith Boyle (pictured left), visited from Florida.

DIFFERENCE Volunteering



MAKING A

Some BRTC employees spent Pocahontas High School's homecoming helping out in the concession stand.

PHS Band Boosters were grateful – they spent their concession time watching their children perform on the field.



National Technical Honor Society Induction

BRTC inducted 11 new members in the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). Students must maintain a 3.5 and 12 hours of courses in a technical field.



Pictured: The BAT Mobile in the background, LETA Class 2017-B in yellow, and Director Ashley Boles on the right.

BAT Mobile Grant Helps Keep AR Safe

For the 11th year in a row, BRTC has received the Arkansas State Police's Highway Safety grant which supports the Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Mobile and its program. The BAT Mobile is the only completely self-contained vehicle used for conducting sobriety checkpoints in Arkansas.

Director Ashley Boles travels the state helping law enforcement agencies as well as giving demonstrations and educating communities and schools about sobriety.



Advisory boards are essential to insuring BRTC programs address employer needs. *Above,* board members attend the fall dinner and meetings. *Thank you for your help!*

INSIGHT Angela Flippo Named New VP

BLACK RIVER TECH

Student Affairs at BRTC has undergone a significant change this fall. In October, Angela Flippo became the vice president of enrollment management. In her role, Mrs. Flippo will not only insure that students are supported when they attend college, but her office will work at getting students in the door, through their degree with as much support as possible, and to graduation. Students will notice a new energy and look in the office when they visit!

Offices within Enrollment Management are very similar to those in the past. Enrollment Management includes the offices of financial aid, admissions, Career Pathways, counseling, veterans relations, and disability services. Only the offices of the registrar and concurrent enrollment have moved to Academics. The others remain as they were.

Mrs. Flippo is originally from Trumann. She earned her bachelor of business administration from Williams Baptist College then her MBA from ASU. She was vice president of enrollment and student services at Williams Baptist College for 21 years before taking the opportunity in 2014 to be a stay-at-home mom during which time she opened Flowers Nursery and Gifts in Walnut Ridge. She is married to Brad, a native of Hoxie, who is a location manager at Greenway Equipment. Her son Drew is a senior and Ty is an 8th grader at Walnut Ridge.



Angela Flippo

"I am excited to be at BRTC. BRTC offers affordable tuition while maintaining high standards in the classroom and providing the personal attention and support students desire."

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



Alphin Honored

At the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care's (ASRC) annual meeting, BRTC's respiratory instructor Jessica Alphin was named ASRC Respiratory Therapist of the Year. In 2015 she was named ASRC Educator of the Year. Alphin is currently president of ASRC.

Staff Promotions and Changes

BRTC is excited to announce the following staff changes.



Phillip Dickson
Dean of Tech
Ed and Business



Angie French
Director of
Admissions



Sissy Gray
Dean of
Assessment &
Accreditation

Parker Graduation

Congratulations to Daniel Parker, *right*, on his graduation from the Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC) Leadership Institute! The Institute provides leadership and community college training for Arkansas leaders.



Neal Harwell
Dean of
Students



Ramonda Housh
Dean of
Nursing &
Allied Health



Donna Statler
Dean of Gen-
eral Studies



ACC Awards

Sissy Gray, *left*, was named BRTC Outstanding Faculty; Amber Green, *right*, was named BRTC Outstanding Staff. Both ladies, selected by their BRTC peers, were honored at the annual ACC Conference in Little Rock.