

# THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

## BRTC Welcomes Dr. Jan Ziegler Back as Interim President



Longtime BRTC employee Dr. Jan Ziegler was named interim president by the BRTC Board of Trustees on August 9 at a special meeting. Dr. Ziegler's appointment comes after the resignation of Dr. Eric Turner.

Dr. Ziegler retired from BRTC in 2013 after a 20-year career at the college. At the time of her retirement, she was Vice President for Development and BRTC's HLC Liaison. While at BRTC, she had taught classes in English, German, and The Holocaust, and served as Division Chair for General Education.

After retiring, she continued to be an adjunct and also to lead the college's Serendipity program, a reading group for lifelong learners sponsored by the Office of Corporate and Community Education, the Office of Institutional Advancement, and the BRTC Foundation. Upon her retirement, Jan was granted *Faculty Emerita* status by the Board of Trustees.

"I am truly honored and pleased to be serving BRTC in this way," said Dr. Ziegler. "I appreciate the warmth and support I've been shown by those in the college and the community since returning in this interim capacity. There is this sense of coming home, but I also have a sense that BRTC is in many ways a new place with new hopes and unlimited possibility. Being here just feels good. So good." Welcome back, Dr. Ziegler!

## BRTC Begins Fall 2018 with Fun Activities and Increased Enrollment

BRTC kicked off Fall 2018 with lots of fun activities during Welcome Week. From snow cones to donuts and karaoke to free t-shirts, students had lots of reasons to be excited to return to BRTC.

Even more exciting is the fullness of the campus. After three years of lowered enrollment, BRTC experienced a 4% overall increase in students in Fall 2018. The college also experienced a 15% increase in freshman student enrollment and a 32% increase in students transferring to BRTC. We look forward to a busy, fun-filled year!



### JOIN IT DOWN

September 28  
BRTC Golf Tournament

October 13  
Last Saturday for  
REACH sites

November 1  
Board of Trustees Meet

November 1-2  
Holocaust Survivor



# CAMPUS LETA Instructor, Graduates Run for the Special Olympics

AROUND

BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy instructor and graduate Ashley Boles and several other past LETA graduates participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run in Jonesboro. Great job, guys!



Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) instructor Ashley Boles, 2nd left, carries the torch in Jonesboro’s annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics. Pictured runners are LETA graduates. Photo credit: KAIT.

## Important Dates!

- 10/2 Pocahontas Preview Day
- 10/8 Mid-Term exams begin
- 10/14 Mid-Term exams end
- 10/26 Serendipity
- 10/30 Paragould Preview Day
- 11/5 Spring Registration begins
- 11/14 Pocahontas Preview Day
- 11/16 Last day to drop a fall class
- 11/19-23 No classes – Thanksgiving
- 11/21-23 Campus closed
- 11/30 Serendipity

the 411

## BRTC “Hopeful” After HLC Site Visit

Thanks to the generous 2-day preparation by ASU – Mountain Home and ASU – Newport, as well as the diligent effort of BRTC’s Sissy Gray, Dean of Accreditation, and Dr. Sheila Taylor, Vice President of Academics, BRTC feels “hopeful” about HLC’s site visit which occurred September 10-11.

During their exit visit with college administration, Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Peer Review Team Chair Dr. Randall Fletcher said BRTC “has made great progress” in addressing concerns, especially in student learning assessment. He indicated while BRTC has “accomplished much,” more work remains as BRTC continues to fully embed assessment and strategic planning into campus culture.

“We feel the team was very thorough and we will be stronger because of our preparation,” said BRTC Interim President Dr. Jan Ziegler. “The outcome so far has been positive and we are already moving forward to educate students, transform their lives, serve the community, and partner with business and industry.”



HLC site team members held open forums to solicit feedback from faculty and staff regarding college processes, operations, and campus activities.

BRTC’s Sissy Gray provided 5-days worth of training sessions to faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees members to help them prepare.



Officials from ASU-Mountain Home and ASU-Newport held mock HLC meetings to further prepare faculty, staff, and the Board of Trustees.

# MAKING THEIR MARK



Board of Trustee member Carolyn Collins poses with 30-year employees Donna Statler, Butch Dail, and Kelly Grooms

## 3 BRTC Employees Celebrate 30 Years

1988 was a good year for big hair, the U.S. space program, and BRTC. That year, three young faculty began: Donna Statler, math; Butch Dail, auto body; and Kelly Grooms, theater and oral communications. At BRTC's milestone awards, these three 30-year BRTC veterans were honored. We are thankful they're here!

Other BRTC employees also celebrated milestones. Pictured with each is Carolyn Collins, BRTC Board of Trustees member.

Mrs. Collins is also a former BRTC employee. After 22 1/2 years of employment, she now serves on the BRTC Board of Trustees, helping to lead the college.



15 Years: Carolyn Collins, Kellee Hardage, Kim Bigger, Janna Guthrey, Gary Meier



10 Years: Carolyn Collins, Trent Ingram, Shannon Ogden, Rachel Koons, Misty Bradley, Tina Stroud, Tony Saylor

"At BRTC, I have more than a job; I have another family."



20 Years: Janice Harvey with Carolyn Collins



5 Years: Carolyn Collins, Mack Downey, Jessica Stout, Sandra Green, Debbie Martin, Sissy Gray, Amber Green, Ashley Conrey, Eric Sullinger, Elizabeth Collins, Lynn Steele

# YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

## 24th Annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Scholarships

Four-Star sponsors of last year's 24th Annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament generously donate to sponsor a \$2,000 BRTC student scholarship. Students who are awarded the scholarship receive \$1,000 in the fall and \$1,000 in the spring. The following students will be receiving \$1,000 this fall to pursue a degree at BRTC.

Thank you, sponsors, for making the following Golf Tournament scholarships possible!

### AgHeritage Farm Credit Services Scholarship



**Recipient:** Seth George  
**Hometown:** Corning  
**High School:** Corning High School  
**Parents:** Mark and Leilani George  
**Goal:** Occupational Therapy Assistant

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

**Recipient:** Taylor Bohr  
**Hometown:** Rector  
**High School:** Green County Tech  
**Major:** Nursing



### Archer Realty Scholarship



**Recipient:** Ashlie Richardson  
**Hometown:** Paragould  
**High School:** Paragould High School  
**Parents:** Tom and Latricia Wortham  
**Spouse:** Jacob Richardson  
**Major:** Nursing

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

**Recipient:** Robin Rogers  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Spouse:** Carroll Rogers  
**Major:** Nursing



### Cavanaugh Family Scholarship



**Recipient:** Melissa Freemam  
**Hometown:** Reyno  
**High School:** Biggers-Reyno High School  
**Parents:** Lesley and Susan Hovis  
**Spouse:** Thomas Freeman  
**Major:** Registered Nursing

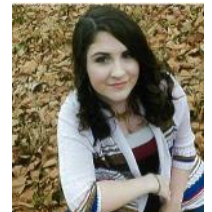
### Dr. Karla Baltz, DDS, Scholarship

**Recipient:** Londyn Smith  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Major:** Nursing



### GNC Industries Scholarship

**Recipient:** Charlotte Jennings  
**High School:** Marmaduke High School  
**Parents:** Tommy and Regina Jennings  
**Major:** Nursing



### Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation Member Scholarship



**Recipient:** Kaytie Manatt  
**Hometown:** Corning  
**High School:** Corning High School  
**Parents:** Nick Manatt & Melanie Riley  
**Major:** Respiratory Care

### HARPS Foods Scholarship

**Recipient:** Alexandria Lopez  
**Hometown:** Lynn  
**High School:** Hillcrest High School  
**Major:** Medical Office Administration



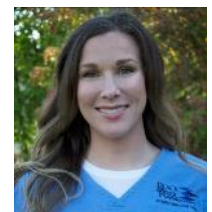
### Custom-Pak Scholarship



**Recipient:** Cade Harrell  
**Hometown:** Piggott  
**High School:** Piggott High School  
**Parents:** Michael and Amber Harrell

### L.D. Rose Family Scholarship

**Recipient:** Anne Bruetsch  
**Hometown:** Lexington, VA  
**College:** Radford University  
**Spouse:** Mike Bruetsch  
**Major:** Nursing



24th Annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Scholarships, continued

**Metro Restoration Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Shea Capps  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Parents:** Dwayne and Angie Capps  
**Major:** Nursing

**PECO Foods Educational Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Abby Fears  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**High School:** Hoxie High School  
**Parents:** Keith and Kammie Fears  
**Major:** Associate of Arts

**Nielson Bainbridge Group Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Jordan Westbrook  
**Hometown:** Benton  
**High School:** Bryant High School  
**Major:** Nursing

**SGA Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Cassie-Lee Wilson  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Major:** Nursing

**Overman Buildings Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Shelby Plumley  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Parents:** John and Amanda Plumley  
**Major:** Nursing

**VALIC Community Spirit Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Stephanie Foster  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Parents:** Jimmy Dale Bibb, Cindy Tribble  
**Spouse:** Michael Foster

**YOU, Our Generous Donors, Make Success Possible!**

"I ask God bless you and your family. You have certainly been a blessing to mine."  
 ~ Quote from a thank you note to a donor from a BRTC scholarship student

**Phillip Collins II & Beth-Collins Bagwell Memorial Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Hayden Cook  
**Hometown:** Paragould  
**High School:** Green County Tech  
**Parents:** Ben and Amy Cook  
**Major:** Associates of Arts

**Merle R. Young Memorial Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Shila Dale  
**Hometown:** Doniphan, MO  
**Parents:** Lynn and Becky March and the late Barbara March  
**Spouse:** Jeff Dale  
**Major:** Registered Nursing

**Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Diamani Davis  
**Hometown:** Hoxie  
**High School:** Hoxie High School  
**Parents:** Diamond Edwards  
**Major:** 9-12 History Teacher & Coach

**Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Malcolm Finley  
**Hometown:** Imboden  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School  
**Parents:** Crystal Johnson  
**Major:** Youth Ministry

**Dr. Roger Johnson Agriculture Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Garrett Akins  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Parents:** David and Heather Atkins  
**Major:** Agriculture

**Colby Hostler Memorial Scholarship**



**Recipient:** Abby Vance  
**Hometown:** Black Rock  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School  
**Parents:** Eric and Tracy Vance  
**Major:** K-6 Art Teacher

# SNAPSHOTS

FOUNDATION



Steve Engelken, Walnut Ridge Bosch plant operations manager, presents a check to Stephanie Sutton, BRTC Foundation chair. In front, Tracy Brock, Bosch HR manager; Dr. Jan Ziegler, BRTC interim president; in back, Rex Flagg, science department head

## Bosch Community Fund Grants BRTC \$15,000

The Bosch Community Fund awarded Black River Technical College \$15,039 to increase science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) interest in middle school, junior high school, and post-secondary students using drone technology. BRTC will use the funds to purchase equipment for BRTC's precision agriculture courses: 10 inexpensive practice drones, 10 computerized drones, 10 iPad Minis for drone programming, and 8-lesson drone curriculum.

BRTC's Precision ag students will learn how to use and program drones, and write computer code to

send drones on missions. BRTC precision ag students will also work with 4-6 grader and 7-8 grade students during 1-week summer STEM drone camps.

"Bosch has long been a great partner with BRTC," said interim president Dr. Jan Ziegler. "This project is very exciting for all involved. The campus and those we serve are grateful beneficiaries of the generosity and commitment of Bosch."

BRTC Foundation Board Chair Stephanie Sutton says the Foundation appreciates Bosch's support: "The BRTC Foundation would like to extend its deepest gratitude to Bosch for selecting us to receive the Bosch Community Fund grant. Bosch has always been very supportive of both the college and Foundation, and we are grateful to have such a valued business partner in the community."

Research shows introducing STEM to middle and junior high students, especially girls and low-income students, is highly effective in recruiting into STEM careers. Exposing this same age group to college increases post-secondary enrollment. According to Rex Flagg, BRTC science department head, "Bosch's support of science education is invaluable in helping our youth develop an interest in the technology needed for the future of our community."

## SEEKING INPUT: STRATEGIC PLANNING

If you are interested in participating in BRTC's strategic planning, please contact Karen at (870) 248-4185. Your input is essential to our students, the college, and our communities!



**Recipient:** Karmen Esquivel  
**Hometown:** Malvern  
**High School:** Paragould High School  
**Major:** Nursing

### Paragould Scholarship

### Paragould Scholarship

**Recipient:** Heather Frost  
**Hometown:** Monette  
**High School:** Paragould High School  
**Spouse:** Dustin Frost  
**Major:** Nursing

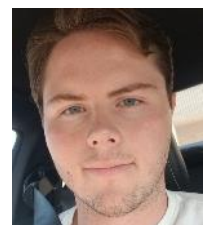


**Recipient:** Sunnie Cunningham  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**High School:** Walnut Ridge High School  
**Parents:** Jeremy and Stormy Cunningham  
**Major:** Nursing

### Walmart Scholarship

### Walmart Scholarship

**Recipient:** Caleb Liddell  
**Hometown:** Paragould  
**High School:** Paragould High School  
**Major:** Fire Science



# spotlight

## Medical Supplies Gift

We all know medical services and supplies are expensive. Training future nurses is no different.

That's why a donation of expired medical supplies from the Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) was such a gift to the BRTC nursing program! ACH donated supplies worth \$5,000.

Thank you for your generosity, ACH!



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Nikki Epperson and Mrs. Hankins

## BRTC Nursing Student Donates Bone Marrow

In April 2018, Nikki Epperson, BRTC registered nursing student, received a call from Be The Match Bone<sup>®</sup> Marrow Registry who told her she might be a match for a person in need.

In October 2016, practical nursing director Tonya Hankins hosted a bone marrow drive at the BRTC Health Fair and trained nursing students to collect cheek swab samples. Nikki was one whose cheek was swabbed.

When the registry asked Nikki in April if she wanted to be considered for donation. She said, "Yes, I'm a nurse, and I want to help."

After testing at NEA hospital in Jonesboro confirmed a possible match, she underwent blood work and a physical exam at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville where her match was confirmed. She also donated blood to be stored for herself for after the donation.



Nikki on the day of her bone marrow donation

In late May 2018, Nikki underwent general anesthesia and donated 1100 mL of bone marrow from her hip bone. She was able to go home that same day. Even though she has had a more difficult time than usual getting her blood count levels back to normal, she says, "I'm grateful that I got to be the one to help this person and would do it again if I had to."

Nikki has inspired others in her nursing class to join the registry. "Every 4 minutes," said Mrs. Hankins, "someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer, such as leukemia. The only hope for many of them is a marrow transplant."

One myth is most people have a family member who is a match. Unfortunately, 70% of patients needing a transplant do not have a matching donor in their family. Another myth is donation weakens the immune system. "Actually," Mrs. Hankins said, "only 1 to 5% of your marrow is needed to save a person's life, so your immune system stays strong."

Bone marrow donation is free. Plus, Be The Match<sup>®</sup> supports a caregiver to accompany the donor. For Nikki, she was relieved Be The Match<sup>®</sup> not only allowed her husband to come, they reimbursed both of them for all travel, hotel, and meal costs. She was even given an insurance card that paid for all medical expenses. Mrs. Hankins encourages anyone



Mrs. Hankins and students swabbing their cheeks.

between the ages of 18 and 44 to join the registry. "Only 1 in 430 people on the registry are able to be a match," she said. "The more people on the registry, the more lives that can be saved. I am so proud of Nikki — she has given the gift of life."

## BRTC HEALTH FAIR

October 23 from 8 – 4:30, RCDC

# BRTC MISSION STATEMENT

Black River Technical College transforms lives through quality academic and career education to enhance the community we serve.

## INSIGHT With Interim President Dr. Jan Ziegler

BLACK RIVER TECH

The results are unofficial, but from all indicators, it appears BRTC has experienced an increase in enrollment this fall. Preliminary figures show an increase of approximately 4% in overall headcount, and an increase of approximately 3% in Student Semester Credit Hours (SSCH). The figures represent the number reported at the 11th day reporting time.

This is great news for us at BRTC and for the entire community, especially as these increases mark a departure from several consecutive fall enrollment levels that have steadily declined. Numbers from the Office of Enrollment Management place the Fall 2018 headcount at 1,587 and the SSCH level at 17,346, compared to 1,532 and 16,846, respectively, in Fall 2017. The number of first-time freshmen students stands at 418, up 15% from a year ago, and transfer students at 177, an increase of 32% over this same reporting time last year.

We are very pleased and appreciative of the faculty and staff whose work has directly contributed to our growth, especially those in the Office of Enrollment Management. We believe that the new model of enrollment management implemented by BRTC is having positive impact, as these figures suggest. The irony faced by this and every college is the fact that in time of a robust economy where jobs are available, college enrollment typically declines. This pattern has been played out across the state for the past several years now. Such times make it essential for colleges to have in place a plan to manage enrollment, avoiding extreme fluctuations. At BRTC, this plan includes targeted recruitment, enhanced retention efforts, expanded marketing, greater focus on student life, as well as scheduling and curricular decisions designed to appeal to prospective students of all ages.

This is an exciting time for BRTC. We are in planning already for the spring semester, and we are exploring emerging opportunities for continued growth and expansion.



### Mike Greene Returns to BRTC

After a brief departure from BRTC, Mike Greene, BRTC's 17-year Director of Computer Services, was named to his previous position. We are delighted to have Mike back on campus!



**Hometown:** Jonesboro  
**Location:** Pocahontas

### New Employees Here for You!

**Position:** Career Coach  
**Hometown:** Paragould  
**Location:** Paragould High School  
**Education:** Black River Tech, AAS  
Arkansas State University, BGS



Francesca Shearer

**Position:** Development Coordinator  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**Location:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Williams Baptist University, BLA; Southern Arkansas University, MBA



Holly Looney

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