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Car Seats for Kids Made Possible by Grant

Thanks to a joint project proposed by the Randolph County Health Department and Black River Technical College's Department of Nursing, up to 400 children in the area will be provided car seats that may well save lives and prevent serious injury in the event of automobile accidents. The two partnering organizations recently received word that their Community-Based Injury Prevention Initiative was funded by the Arkansas Department of Health, meaning there is no charge for the safety seats.

As a result, personnel from the county Health Department, nursing students and staff at BRTC, and certified seat technicians from around Northeast Arkansas will fit and provide 400 children car seats on July 14 on the campus of BRTC in Pocahontas. The event begins at 8 a.m. and will continue as long as the seats remain available.

Grant Director Kathy Smith of the Randolph County Health Department said safety seats had long been a priority of hers, but that last year's flood had destroyed her inventory of seats. "It was a relief to me," she said, "when the student nurses expressed an interest in a safety seat project last fall so that the work can continue."

BRTC Nursing Instructor/Clinical Site Coordinator Teresa Fisher echoed the sentiment, saying "We are very



Pictured, left to right, are Trishon Crisler, Kathy Smith, Teresa Fisher, Ramonda Housh, and April Carter.

excited about this event!" In addition to the car seat component, health care professionals will be on hand to teach child and infant CPR. The Randolph County Health Department will provide immunizations and provide information on preventing injuries. BRTC nursing students will be on hand to assist in the event.

Car seats will be provided on a first-come first served basis (no income requirement) with these guidelines: the

(Continued on pg. 2)

Important Dates

- June 11-14**
Kids' College
- June 16**
Juneteenth Celebration, EMHC
- June 20**
PTK Blood Drive
- July 2**
Summer II Classes Begin
- July 4**
Independence Holiday Campus Closed
- August 13-17**
BRTC In-Service

BRTC Selected for NEH Project

BRTC is one of eighteen community colleges nationwide selected from over seventy applicants from thirty states for the "Advancing the Humanities: A National Endowment for the Humanities Bridging Cultures Project." Announcement of the selection was made last week by David Berry, Executive Director of the Community College Humanities Association. The proposal was developed by a team of two BRTC faculty members in the Humanities, Dr. Derek Clements and Priscilla Stillwell, and one administrator, Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development.



Pictured, left to right, are Dr. Derek Clements, Priscilla Stillwell and Dr. Jan Ziegler.

The eighteen colleges selected for the "Bridging Cultures" project will receive intensive guidance from exemplary humanities mentors as they strengthen the curricula

and engage in robust faculty development and scholarship in the discipline of history, according to Dr. Berry. They will also attend two national conferences where they will meet and interact with scholars in their academic disciplines.

The project will also include publications and opportunities to disseminate the results of their project through presentations at other humanities conferences.

The proposal submitted by BRTC includes: developing a new module of REACH findings for use by BRTC faculty and for professional meetings around the state and nation; developing a customizable lesson plan packet to use for training area 7-12 teachers and for use in the state's regional Educational Co-ops; and launching a BRTC History-oriented student organization.

Moseley Represents BRTC at "Arkansas 2032" Conference

Jason Moseley, a recent graduate of BRTC, was selected by Dr. Wayne Hatcher to represent BRTC at the "Arkansas 2032" conference held April 26-27 in Little Rock. One student leader from each of the state's two-year, four-year, public and private colleges and universities was selected to attend the conference held at the Clinton School of Public Service located on the grounds of the Clinton Library.



Jason Moseley, front row, 2nd from right, represented BRTC at the "Arkansas 2032" conference held at the Clinton Center in Little Rock.

"Arkansas 2032" is a Clinton School initiative designed to bring together the future leaders of Arkansas to critically assess important issues to the state. During the conference, students reviewed and made recommendations on issues including economic development, healthcare, race relations, the aging population, and education. They discussed where Arkansas stands today on these issues and where they hope to see it in 20 years.

The recommendations submitted to state law-

makers by the students included a sales tax for higher education, extending legislative term limits, encouraging regional collaboration in economic development and expanding the "Natural State" branding campaign to promote healthy lifestyles. Their recommendations will be forwarded to state elected officials and community leaders.

The Clinton School provided background research on each issue to prepare students to discuss the topics. In addition, experts from across the state participated in panel discussions for the students. The panelists included current elected officials, community and business leaders, and leaders in higher education.

"This event was a wonderful opportunity for Arkansas students from varying postsecondary schools and diverse backgrounds to gather and discuss issues that our state will face over the next twenty years," said

Moseley. "Dr. Hatcher graciously offered me the opportunity to represent BRTC at the conference and I had the great pleasure of participating. It was truly an honor to have been a part of the historic event."

Moseley was selected by his peers at the conference to be a co-presenter of the public health forum.

BRTC Partners with Corning HS

Beginning in Fall 2012, BRTC will offer a wide range of college courses at Corning High School, according to Patti Blaxton, Director of Corporate and Community Education. The courses are open to any eligible individuals, including those still in high school as well as those who have already earned a high school diploma or GED.

The schedule includes a mix of credit-bearing college transfer classes and developmental courses, as well as one integrated credit/developmental course in Writing Fundamentals and Freshman English I, offered Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 - 8:15 p.m.

Students who are beginning their studies, Blaxton pointed out, should easily be able to enroll in twelve credit hours in the fall semester. As in all BRTC courses, she added, classes must include the requisite number of students in order to "make."

"This is something BRTC has wanted to do for some time," Blaxton said, "and it seems all parties are working together to make it happen. I know the leadership in Clay County understands the link between economic development and higher education, and this is one way of helping communities to build that important asset."

In addition to the integrated class, other planned offerings are Fine Arts Musical, World Civ Since 1660, Introductory Algebra, Introduction to Psychology, and English Essentials.

"We are pleased to be able to be a presence in the Corning Community," Blaxton said. "Our ability to continue this practice and offer additional classes on site in Corning in the spring semester will depend on the interest and support of the people of the area," she added.

For more information, visit www.blackrivertech.edu, or contact Blaxton at 870-248-4000, EXT 4181, or pattib@blackrivertech.edu.



Rhonda Swink (left) and Patti Blaxton, Office of Corporate and Community Education, review agreement with Corning High School.

Car Seats Cont'd. from pg. 1

child must be present and fitted for the seat; and the parent/guardian must sign for the seat.

The grant, approximately \$23,000, provides the following seats: 76 rear or front-facing seats (rear facing for children from 5-35 pounds; forward facing for children from 20-50 pounds); 176 seats with harness for those from 20-50 pounds; and 150 big kid seats for those weighing 30-100 pounds.

Clay County Electric Gives Refund to BRTC

BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher received a check on behalf of the college from Clay County Electric Vice President and Board Director Charlie Ragland. The check in the amount of \$3,354.41 is a capital credit refund from 1992, which is profit above the actual cost of operation.



Dr. Wayne Hatcher (left) accepts a check from Charlie Ragland of Clay County Electric.

BRTC Foundation Scholarships Awarded to Eleven

BRTC Foundation Scholarships have been awarded to eleven students. Those receiving the scholarship for General Education are David Emery and Matthew Mann of Lake City; Joseph Page and Hope Richey of Marmaduke; Alexa Allen and Hunter Utnage of Pocahontas; and Justin Beck of Rector. Receiving the award for Technical Education are Lisa Cook of Paragould, Austin DeShazo of Imboden, and Cody Vowell of Corning.

The BRTC Foundation Scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for two consecutive semesters (Fall/Spring) provided the recipient maintains at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA for the two terms and is enrolled full time.

Emery is the son of Kim and Monte Emery of Lake City. He is currently attending BRTC working towards an AA in Teaching degree with future plans teaching History. Mann is the son of Mark and Kelly Mann of Lake City. He just graduated from Riverside High School, but has been taking classes concurrently at BRTC. He is undecided about a major.

Page is a graduate of Marmaduke High School and the son of Gary and Ladonna Page. He plans to major in computer science. Richey, also a Marmaduke High School graduate, is the daughter of Ginger and Steve Richey of Marmaduke. She plans to complete basic courses at BRTC then transfer to ASU to pursue a degree in Social Work.

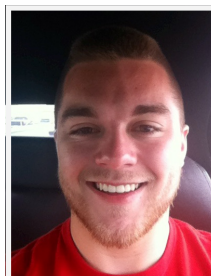
Allen is the daughter of Dee and Andy Allen of Pocahontas and just graduated from PHS. She plans to earn a degree in Education and become a math teacher. Utnage is a 2011 graduate of PHS currently

attending BRTC working towards an AS in Business degree. Future plans include a major in business and finance. He is the son of Randy and Julie Utnage of Pocahontas.

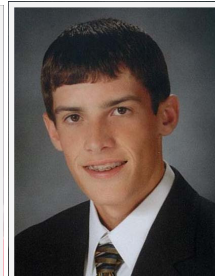
Beck is the son of Lisa Beck of Rector. He plans to take basic courses at BRTC and later pursue a Bachelor's degree in economics, then go to law school. He is a graduate of Rector High School.

Cook is a 1990 graduate of Ridgecrest High School and is currently attending BRTC pursuing an AAS in Business Technology degree with Health Information option. She is the daughter of Oliver Wendall Barnes and Lucy Barnes of Paragould, wife of Robert Lee Cook and mother of Toni Renea Barnes.

DeShazo is the son of Marc and Sheila DeShazo of Imboden and recently graduated from Sloan-Hendrix High School. Vowell is a 2011 Corning High School graduate and the son of Philip and Marsha Flurry and Randy and Sandy Vowell, all of Corning. He has been attending BRTC and plans to become a nurse and have a career in the medical field.



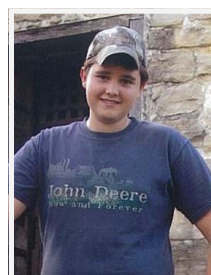
David Emery



Matthew Mann



Joseph Page



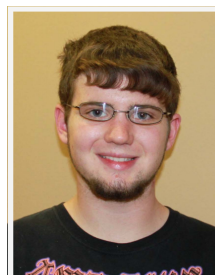
Hunter Utnage



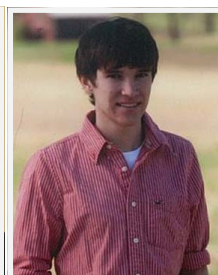
Justin Beck



Lisa Cook



Austin DeShazo



Cody Vowell

ARNEC is Winner of SGPB's 2012 Innovator Award

The Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium



Consortium (ARNEC) recently received word from the Southern Growth Policies Board that they have been selected to represent Arkansas as the winner of the 2012 Innovator Award, according to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC. The award is based on achieved success important in the area of education and workforce development.

Each year the SGPB honors initiatives that are improving the economy and quality of life in the South. The 2012 Innovator Awards were chosen from initiatives that are successfully preparing Southerners to meet the workforce needs of a globally competitive business sector.

"The challenge faced in Arkansas was the high demand for registered nurses in an area of poverty," Housh explained. "Arkansas had the least educated nursing workforce in the country and one of the lowest RN-to-population ratios. Students were hindered by time, expense and distance, and many that left to attend college elsewhere did not return."

In 2004, six colleges decided to work together in response to the challenge. "ARNEC was formed as a solution to a multitude of barriers to education," said Housh, "and it has exceeded all expectations."

The program was incepted to provide the next step for Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses desiring to become Registered Nurses (AAS degree). The program was developed to: fit the schedule of a working student; use local resources for clinical experiences; use technology to maximize resources; and keep expenses manageable by sharing one

program director. It is now the largest registered nursing program in Arkansas with eight schools participating.

As of December 2011, ARNEC graduated 678 students. Respondents to graduate surveys indicate that 100% are employed with over 90% remaining in the area where they were educated. Respondents to employer surveys indicate a high to very high satisfaction rate with graduates.

"Perhaps one of the most satisfying results," Housh noted, "is that the baccalaureate nursing program administrators that objected to program approval are now recruiting graduates for their RN to BSN programs."

The ARNEC program will be recognized for the Innovator Award at a ceremony to be held June 25 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, during the SGPB Chairman's Conference.



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BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

From the President's Desk



Dr. Wayne Hatcher

One of the marks of excellence of any college is special recognition by those outside the immediate college community through the bestowing of awards and honors. That has happened to our institution and our faculty and staff quite a lot in recent weeks. Some of those honors are highlighted in this week's issue of *The River's Edge*.

The Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium, of which BRTC is a member, has been selected to represent Arkansas as the winner of the Southern Growth Policies Board 2012 Innovator Award. ARNEC consists of eight of Arkansas' two-year colleges who have formed a partnership to provide

RN training for the areas served by the respective member-colleges. The Consortium posts pass rates and scores that rank it consistently at or near the top level among all RN programs in Arkansas.

ARNEC, according to the awards letter, is one of thirteen Innovators in the Southern region, and will be publicly recognized at an awards ceremony June 25 at Southern Growth's Chairman's Conference in Chattanooga.

BRTC's Department of Nursing, in partnership with the Randolph County Health Department, has also scored a major win through the awarding of a \$23,000 grant from the Arkansas Department of Health to provide 400 car seats to individuals in this area. This award is a part of the state's Community-Based Injury Prevention Initiative. Grant Director Kathy Smith of the local Health Department, along with the nursing students and other health care professionals, will be working on July 14 to provide not only the free car seats, but many other health-related services as well. This will clearly be a great learning opportunity for the students, even as it positively impacts the most vulnerable of our community members—infants and young children.

This college has been selected as one of 18 community colleges nationwide to participate in

"Advancing the Humanities at Community Colleges: A NEH Bridging Cultures Project." This selection was a part of a national competition to strengthen introductory courses in community colleges that enhance understanding of diverse countries, peoples, as well as cultural and intellectual traditions worldwide. A team of two faculty in the Social Sciences and one administrative staff member will take part in an 18-month project of the Community College Humanities Association, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The team will attend two national conferences and will work with a humanities scholar who will act as a mentor to guide the development of BRTC's Bridging Cultures project. This initiative will also involve publication of articles about the work, as well as dissemination of the project to other community colleges, and work with local students. Our winning proposal entails activities connected to Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage). The college team will travel to Washington, D. C., in September for the first National Bridging Cultures Conference.

These are examples of excellence in education. Even though they may represent effort that extends far beyond the normal job requirements, their impact is closely connected to the job these people do for this college, for the students, and for the communities we serve.