

# Blue Ridge Community College

# Times-News Column

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Blue Ridge Community College has exceeded performance standards set by the State Board of Community Colleges, according to the State Board's recently released 2011 Critical Success Factors Report released earlier last month. The Report shows that Blue Ridge Community College students are well prepared to pass licensure and certification exams, are successful as college transfer students, and move successfully from developmental to college level courses. Other measures verify high levels of satisfaction from clients receiving customized training and students completing their educational goals. Blue Ridge is one of only 26 of the 58 colleges in the North Carolina Community College System to meet or exceed the standards for all eight performance measures. The NC Community College System and State Board of Community Colleges have annually assessed the performance of the state's community colleges for more than 20 years. Over time, the assessment has evolved into eight core performance standards: progress of basic skills students, passing rates on licensure and certification examinations, performance of college transfer students, passing rates of students in developmental courses, success rates of developmental students in subsequent college level courses, satisfaction of program completers and non-completers, curriculum student retention, and client satisfaction with customized training. According to the Report, the measures are core indicators of student success. They also capture the essential elements of the mission of the state's community colleges. The 2011 report is based primarily on data from the 2009-10 academic year. These accountability measures show that Blue Ridge Community College is providing a well-prepared workforce for Henderson and Transylvania Counties. Blue Ridge is committed to providing top quality education and training, and we are pleased to receive endorsement of a job well done.

Beginning in the fall, the College is launching a gerontology program through our continuing education programs. In Gerontology: Part I students will be focusing on life management strategies and personal growth issues. This course also covers the psychological, social, and physical aspects of aging. Part II will focus on trends and issues, as well as the impact of nutrition, leisure, exercise, social engagement and other lifestyles. For more information, call (828) 695-1750 or 694-1761 or visit our Web site at [http://www.blueridge.edu/con\\_ed/ahemer\\_svc/gerontology.php](http://www.blueridge.edu/con_ed/ahemer_svc/gerontology.php).

The July Music by the Lake concert at Blue Ridge Community College will present Hot Duck Soup on Sunday, July 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This free concert is sponsored by Community Enrichment in the Continuing Education Division. Hot Duck Soup Novelty Jazz Band from Burnsville follows in the footsteps of Ragtime and Dixieland bands of long ago, playing old tunes like you have never heard them played. Formed in January 2005 by John D. Richards, banjo, and his wife Claudia Dunaway, cornet, they were soon joined by Rob Levin on guitar, Tim Clark on washtub bass, and Joy Boothe on cacophonium. The public is invited to bring a picnic and lawn chairs to enjoy an evening of music with friends and family beside the college lake. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will take place in the Thomas Auditorium in the Sink Building. For more information contact Martha Howell at 694-1743 or at [marthah@blueridge.edu](mailto:marthah@blueridge.edu).