Blue Ridge Community College

July 2015

Campus News is a periodic communication from the President of Blue Ridge Community College to inform elected officials and other stakeholders about programs, events, and issues affecting Blue Ridge Community College.

Blue Ridge Community College

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Blue Ridge Community College
Joins Achieving the Dream Reform Network

Blue Ridge Community College is one of 16 community and technical colleges selected, this year, into the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network. Last month faculty, staff, and administrators from Blue Ridge Community College participated in the 2015 Achieving the Dream Kickoff Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Achieving the Dream, Inc. is a national nonprofit leading the nation’s most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history. The Achieving the Dream National Reform Network, including more than 200 institutions, more than 100 coaches and advisors, and 15 state policy teams - working throughout 35 states and the District of Columbia - helps more than 4 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams.

As an Achieving the Dream Institution, Blue Ridge Community College combines the resources of this partnership and our strategic plan to focus the College on measurable outcomes for the success of our students. We want to ensure that every student has the opportunity to build a better future,” said Blue Ridge Community College President Dr. Molly A. Parkhill.

"We are delighted to welcome Blue Ridge Community College into the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network and congratulate them for taking this next step in operationalizing their commitment to improving student outcomes,” said Achieving the Dream Vice President for Community College Relations Cindy Lenhart.

At the 2015 Kickoff Institute June 23 – June 25, Blue Ridge Community College worked in teams with coaches to increase its data analytic capacity to inform decision-making; understand how guided pathways can improve the student experience; identify opportunities to improve teaching and learning; and understand equity challenges on campus.
Blue Ridge Community College is joining a network of over 200 colleges that are working to preserve access and assure that their students, especially low-income students and students of color, achieve their goals for academic success, personal growth, and economic opportunity.

"To become an Achieving the Dream College, applicants must demonstrate an institution-wide commitment to spend at least three years working with Achieving the Dream experts to implement reforms designed to improve student success and completion rates on their campuses. Such a huge commitment to fundamentally rethink educational and student support is unusual and should be applauded because their work will result in a much larger, better educated, and productive workforce," said Achieving the Dream President and CEO William E. Trueheart.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) sent a visiting team to Blue Ridge June 1-3 to review our Welding program at Brevard High School and Mechatronics at Balfour Education Center. The Department of Education requires such a visit in order to approve the off-site locations. I am pleased to provide the "unofficial" update from the visiting team that Blue Ridge received a clean report with no recommendations. The off-site locations are fully in compliance with the principles of accreditation.

The College received a letter from SACSCOC, dated July 19, indicating approval for the Associate in Engineering Degree, beginning fall semester.

Machining Instructor Bryan Bagley has been selected to deliver a presentation entitled "Adapting the Old School to Meet the Modern Skills Demand" at the HTEC Americas CNC Educators Conference at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo on July 28. Bryan’s presentation will focus on the improvements he has led in our Computer Integrated Machining program over the last two years.

The Manufacturing Advisory Council members have piloted three new training programs which will be open to all manufacturers in our service area in the Fall of 2015. These include Maintenance Technician Training, Machining Certification and the MSSC Certified Logistics Program.
The EWD/CE Schedule of courses for Fall 2015 features Kharen Caggiano as the Success Cover Story. Kharen completed Continuing Education Machining Courses and transferred them into the Curriculum Machining Program which she will complete at the end of Summer term. She plans to complete an internship at Borg Warner beginning in July. Her goal is to eventually continue her education to become a quality engineer.

The Continuing Education Paramedic class achieved an 86% pass rate.

Now in its sixth year, Camp TECHhead hosted 10 high school students during the week of June 15 for unique opportunities to experience real world science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers with hands-on activities and tours of area manufacturers and the Engineering Department at Western Carolina University. Camp TECHhead is an excellent example of our strong partnerships with public schools, four-year universities, and employers to change the misconception about advanced manufacturing jobs.

In its fourth year, Young Engineers Experience focused on middle school students this Summer with over 40 students applying for 20 slots. The Camp was able to accommodate 21 students for a week of hands-on STEM experiences.

VP Julie Thompson and Jason Chappel, Director of the NC Works Career Center, attended a breakfast reception for Christopher Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC), on June 25th. Christopher Chung was selected to serve as the organization’s first CEO in January, 2015. As the lead economic development organization in North Carolina, the newly created EDPNC is responsible for overseeing business and job recruitment and retention, international trade, and tourism, film and sports development. Mr. Chung outlined the organization’s recent activities and provided best practices and opportunities for collaboration between local economic development organizations and community leaders.

The May commencement ceremony was the largest at BRCC since we moved to two graduations each year. 209 students graduated (compared to 168 last May) with the following breakdown of degrees awarded: 189 Associate Degrees, 7 Diplomas, and 22 Certificates. More than 650 guests attended.

The Henderson County Early College graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, May 14 with 47 students graduating with their high school diploma. 39 HCEC graduates also earned their two-year degree from BRCC. Shanita Jackson, one of this year’s graduates, spoke at the statewide New Schools Summer Institute in June.

Blue Ridge Launches Professional Development Institute

Program development efforts including focus groups, interviews and online survey from a variety of stakeholders in both Henderson and Transylvania counties has revealed ideas for EWD/CE newly formed Professional Development Institute. These include Sustainability, Succession Planning, Project Management, Customer Service, Coaching and Developing Others, Business Analytics, Strategic Planning, Change Management, Medical Assisting, Leadership Training, and various types of computer courses and certifications.

The Division will offer selected courses suggested by specific companies in the Fall of 2015 with plans to kick off the Professional Development Institute by bringing Disney back for Customer Service training in 2016.
Danielle Tate-Maccaroni, Blue Ridge Community College’s recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship in 2013, graduated from Converse College on May 16, 2015 with a BFA in Creative and Professional Writing. She has been accepted into the UNC-Greensboro Master of Library and Information Studies program, and has received a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Continuing Graduate Scholarship to pursue that degree.

BRCC received a positive report from the CFNC EX$EL program. Of our original cohort for 2014-2015 of 232 students, 55 were delinquent (23.7%) in February 2015, 17.3% were delinquent in late April and only 13% were delinquent in the July 1, report. Delinquency is the precursor to default status which constitutes our Cohort Default Rate. Reducing our delinquent borrowers numbers by 10% to students now repaying their loans and in good standing should have a significant impact on lowering our default rate in the future. The EX$EL program provides comprehensive and continual contact for a cohort of former students at various stages of delinquency via email, postal mail, and telephone calls.

The Financial Aid Office has created a financial aid “Tuesday Tip” on the financial aid Facebook page each week. The first tip was regarding the new FSA ID and password that is replacing the pin number students have used in the past to log-in to the FAFSA.

Rita Blythe, BRCC’s Recruiter, and Cathy Stephenson, Director of Enrollment Management, represented BRCC at MAHEC’s Health Career Expo Saturday, June 6, at UNC-Asheville for 9th through 12th graders attending the 2015 Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference from all across North Carolina.

Destiny Davis Places High in National Conference

Students in the Phi Beta Lambda chapter competed at the Phi Beta Lambda National Conference in Chicago and returned with one national winner, Crystal “Destiny” Davis, who took 4th Place in Computer Applications. The students competed against over 2,000 other college students representing state chapters around the nation from both 2-year and 4-year institutions.

On May 14, TCC hosted over 120 sophomores, juniors, and seniors from the area high schools on campus to hear about CCP and adult programs. The students were given presentations on advanced manufacturing (CNC and mechatronics), cosmetology, criminal justice, early childhood education, EMS, film & video, fire protection technology, horticulture, nursing (NA1 and RN), and welding.

Rob Rhodes was a participant and speaker in this year’s Transylvania County “Career Academy for Educators.” This three-day professional development activity is for Transylvania County public educators to better understand the ongoing changes in the local economy and workforce. Rob presented information on curriculum and the Career & College Promise program.
Spring 2015 Community Ambassador Program

The final class and graduation for the spring 2015 Community Ambassador Program participants was held on June 3. Our eighth class and new Community Ambassador graduates are Stephanie Bailey (Wells Fargo), Kristel Bane (Carolina Village, Inc.), Judy Boleman (Village of Flat Rock), Tyrone Brandyburg (Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site), Craig DeBrew (Duke Energy), Cathy Dillard (Continental Automotive Systems, Inc.), Reggie Gaither (Meritor), Russ Henson (Coldwell Banker), Steve Kirkland (Blue Ridge Literacy Council), Frank Merritt (Bold Rock Hard Cider), Mike Morgan (United Federal Credit Union), Marie Nicholson (Mars Hill University), Dr. Raymond Stone (retired NC community college president), Bob Sundeen (retired sales executive), Michael Thompson (The Van Winkle Law Firm), and Jon Wood (First Citizens Bank). One hundred fifty individuals have completed the Community Ambassador Program since 2010.

New Scholarship Endowment

Raven and Judith McKenzie-Wilson contributed $20,000 to establish the Carol McKenzie-Wilson Scholarship Endowment Fund, in honor of their eldest daughter, a former engineer. The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship support to a student in the field of Associate in Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, or Mechatronics Technology and is open to a new female high school graduate with financial need and a GPA of 3.0 or better who has a demonstrated aptitude for mathematics and logical thinking. The recipient will be expected to complete a two-year associate degree in one of the above fields at Blue Ridge Community College.

Other Major Gifts and Grants

Margaret R. Pardee Hospital Auxiliary pledged $11,000 for 2015-16 scholarships ($6,000 for curriculum scholarships and $5,000 for continuing education scholarships).

Carl and Jean Schoendorfer made an unrestricted gifted of $5,000 through their donor-advised fund within Fidelity Charitable.

New Annual Distribution

In 2015-16, the Robert G. and Rosemary H. Miller Fund, through the Community Foundation of Henderson County, will distribute $851.54 to the Foundation to carry out our mission.

New Annual Scholarships

An anonymous donor has established the Brookdale Senior Living, Inc., Scholarship for 2015-16 in the amount of $500. This scholarship is awarded with preference to full- or part-time employees of Brookdale Senior Living.

The City of Hendersonville approved $400 in a Special Appropriations Request for a City of Hendersonville Scholarship designated for a City resident.

2015-16 Curriculum Scholarships

To date, more than 285 and $456,638.26 in 2015-16 Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation scholarships are available for curriculum students. The College’s Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee is meeting on a regular basis to award these scholarships.