March 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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**College Update**

Blue Ridge Community College has been selected for participation in Achieving the Dream beginning in June 2015. Achieving the Dream was conceived as a national initiative in 2004 by Lumina Foundation and seven founding partner organizations that are leaders in the higher education field. Over the course of six years, Achieving the Dream has demonstrated that innovative, evidence-based community college programs and interventions can produce and sustain improved student success. In 2010, with the support of the Founding Investor and Founding Partners, Achieving the Dream’s Managing Partner (MDC) established Achieving the Dream, Inc., an independent national nonprofit organization. This nonprofit continues to work closely with an extensive network of partners, investors, advisors, coaches, colleges, and state policy teams to help millions of community college students realize greater economic opportunity and achieve their dreams. Today, Achieving the Dream leads the nation’s most comprehensive, non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history.

The groundbreaking for the Health Sciences Building in Hendersonville will be held on March 19. The Health Sciences building is a joint effort among Henderson County, City of Hendersonville, Wingate University, Pardee Hospital, and Blue Ridge Community College to bring a state-of-the-art learning facility to Henderson County to produce a quality world class workforce for employers.

Blue Ridge Community College Technology and Development Division staff are working jointly with Spiracle Media to develop and produce a series of commercials and recruitment videos for the College as part of a comprehensive marketing plan. Brewing, Fermentation, and Distillation Program, as well as Computer-Integrated Machining Technology Program, will be featured in promotional videos currently being produced by North Carolina Community College System. This videos will be used to recruit industry to North Carolina.
Total Economic Impact: $129.4 million

According to a recent economic impact report for fiscal year 2012-13, conducted by EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialists International) for higher education in the state of North Carolina, Blue Ridge Community College created $129.4 million in added income. This economic impact is equal to approximately 3.5 percent of the total Gross Regional Product of Henderson and Transylvania Counties and is equivalent to creating 3,430 new jobs.

Return on investment to students, society, and taxpayers

For every $1 spent by ...  

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<tr>
<th>STUDENTS</th>
<th>$3.50</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Gained in lifetime income for STUDENTS</td>
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<tr>
<th>SOCIETY</th>
<th>$11.30</th>
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<td>Gained in added state income and social savings for SOCIETY</td>
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<th>TAXPAYERS</th>
<th>$4.20</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Gained in added taxes and public sector savings for TAXPAYERS</td>
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The average annual return on investment for STUDENTS is 15.7%

In return for the money students invest to earn their degrees, they will receive a present value of $143.9 million in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of $3.50 in higher future income for every $1 that students invest in their education.

The average annual return on investment for TAXPAYERS is 14.1%

Taxpayers also receive a return on investment in present societal savings related to reduced crime, lower employment, and increased health and well-being across the state.
Blue Ridge Community College
Board of Trustees
Currently Serving

Appointed by the Governor
John C. McCormick, Jr., Chair
Sandy Tallant
Dee Dee Perkins
Duke Woodhull

Appointed by the Henderson County Commissioners
Chip Gould, Vice Chair
Bill Ramsey
Andrew Tate
vacant

Appointed by the Henderson County Board of Public Education
Kenneth Butcher
Kohlan Flynn
Betty Gash
Patricia F. Jones

Appointed by Transylvania County Commissioners
Jeremy Gibbs
vacant

Student Government Association President
Hannah Owens
(ex-officio, non-voting)

Vice President for Instruction Alan Stephenson has been named to the NCCCS Curriculum Review Committee. The committee is responsible for maintaining and sustaining the viability of the Combined Course Library (CCL) and has authority to approve changes, additions, and deletions to the CCL. This is a three-year appointment.

At the request of Park Ridge Hospital, Medical Assistant Prep/Review classes with National Certification (CCMA) began in January. Students who complete the course are eligible to sit for the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Certification Exam issued by the National Healthcareer Association. Park Ridge Hospital is requiring all medical assistants in its system to have this national certification.

Blue Ridge Community College is offering outdoor education continuing education courses in Bicycle Mechanics, Zip Line Guide Certification, and Outdoor Survival.

The Office of the State Auditor has completed its audit of the College’s Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2014. I am very pleased to report that Blue Ridge Community College audit disclosed no deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that they considered to be material weaknesses. I commend the Business Office staff for their diligence in addressing prior audit concerns and ensuring compliance with the Government Auditing Standards. The State Auditor has posted the report to their website.

Student Services are working jointly with a group of local agencies supporting Spanish-speaking and immigrant population interested in higher education. The meeting included Henderson County Public Schools Migrant Education, The Immigration Network, and Blue Ridge Literacy Council with the purpose of collaborating efforts to better serve the needs of this population.

The percentage of Blue Ridge Community College students defaulting on their student loans is on a downward path, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Education. The recently released rate of 21.1% (three-year cohort) is down from 24.3% reported last year. The College continues to work with students to provide financial literacy education through EX$CEL, a third-party provider managed by College Foundation, Inc.
Henderson County Public Schools is applying for a planning grant from North Carolina New Schools Project for a second innovative high school to prepare students for career and technical careers.

Henderson County Early College students recently competed in the Western Region of the Science Olympiad placing fifth in the region. Nineteen students earned medals and seven students placed high enough to go to the state competition at NC State University in April.

The NC School Report Card grade for Henderson County Early College was 92—a grade of "A." This was the best grade in the district and was tied for 19th place in the state.

North Carolina Community College System President Dr. Scott Ralls visited the Transylvania County Campus as part of his participation in the Transylvania County Business Summit this month.

Eric Stephens (pictured above), BRCC automotive systems faculty, provided Dr. Ralls an in-depth look at the Automotive Systems Technology lab at TCC.

Seamless Transfer Opportunities Available for Nursing and Engineering Students

Building on the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) already in place between the University of North Carolina system and NC Community Colleges, the UNC Board of Governors and State Board of Community Colleges have approved two supplemental articulation agreements that will provide seamless education pathways for students wishing to pursue specialized degrees in the high-demand careers of nursing and engineering.

These agreements create uniform requirements for students moving between North Carolina’s two public higher education systems and will help students avoid course duplication, shorten the time to degree completion, and eliminate the need for multiple agreements between institutions. In the process, they will help address the needs of both employees and employers by building a pipeline of skilled, talented citizens for promising careers.
Elaine Hamrick Thompson received the Dr. and Mrs. William D. Killian Outstanding Teacher Award for her commitment to teaching excellence. Thompson has served in various roles at the College since 1992 and currently serves as Criminal Justice Technology Instructor. Nominated and chosen by her peers, she was cited for her student-focused approach to teaching and her long-time commitment to encouraging and motivating all students to do their very best.

Gary Heisey received the Dr. Molly A. Parkhill Staff Person of the Year Award for his individual achievement and exceptional contributions to Blue Ridge Community College. As Small Business Center Director, Heisey was recognized for his work with area small business throughout Henderson and Transylvania Counties. Through his leadership, the Small Business Center at Blue Ridge Community College held 175 entrepreneurship events last year, as well as counseling and other one-on-one support activities for business owners. These activities and other performance-based measures have ranked the College’s Small Business Center fifth in the state out of 58 community colleges.

Dr. Vicki H. Audia received the Dr. Eliza B. Graue Extra Mile Award. The Graue Award commends an instructor who has in some special way touched the lives of students at Blue Ridge Community College. Dr. Audia, Chemistry Instructor, was nominated by her students for her no-nonsense approach coupled with a compassion and strong desire to see Blue Ridge students succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Maggie S. Faulkner received the Dr. David W. Sink Jr. Community Service Award. Faulkner was recognized for her countless hours of volunteer work with Four Seasons Compassion for Life. In addition to her College duties as Director of Disability Services, she volunteers her time with various agency boards and is a strong advocate for persons with disabilities, mental health diseases, and substance abuse needs.

Each recipient was honored with a framed award and a monetary gift from Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation.
Joseph L. Galloway, one of America’s premier war and foreign correspondents for half a century, and co-author of the non-fiction book, We Were Soldiers Once and Young, will be the featured presenter at the Seventh Annual Blue Ridge Bookfest at Blue Ridge Community College on April 24-25, 2015.

Mr. Galloway, a North Carolina resident, recently retired as the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers. Before that, he held an assignment as a special consultant to General Colin Powell at the State Department. His participation in Blue Ridge Bookfest will include an interview conducted by local author Bill Ramsey on Friday evening, and a panel discussion on Saturday. Along with nearly forty other authors from various genres, Mr. Galloway will be available to sign copies of his books and discuss his work.

Blue Ridge Bookfest offers small group workshops where writers gain knowledge and resources to complement their craft, their efforts towards publication, and book sales. Panel discussions with authors in thematically connected genres and topics offer readers in-depth and behind the scenes participation in the world of books. Workshops, presentations, and the exhibit hall are free to the public. Ticketed reception and luncheon events which support the Bookfest sold out in 2014.

Contributions for the first six months of the 2014-15 fiscal year were $198,566 at December 31, 2014. Investment returns were 5.01% for the calendar year and 10.98% for the trailing three years. At December 31, assets of the Foundation were at $10.7M.

Fundraising efforts from the 6th annual Daniel Furr Memorial Golf Tournament provided an additional gift of $300 bringing the total amount pledged to $8,700 to the J. Daniel Furr Memorial Scholarship fund for 2015-16 scholarship awards.

The 2015 Spring Community Ambassador Program kicked off March 4 with the following participants: Stephanie Bailey, Wells Fargo; Kristel Bane, Carolina Village; Judy Boleman, Village of Flat Rock; Tyrone Brandyburg, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site; Marcia Caserio, educator and James J. Caserio, MD; Craig DeBrew, Duke Energy; Cathy Dillard, Continental Automotive Systems; Reggie Gaither, Meritor; Steve Kirkland, Blue Ridge Literacy Council; Frank Merritt, Bold Rock Hard Cider; Mike Morgan, Signum; Marie Nicholson, Mars Hill University; Dr. Raymond Stone, retired (NC community colleges); Bob Sundeen, retired (business development and sales executive); Michael Thompson, The Van Winkle Law Firm; and Jonathan Wood, First Citizens Bank.

To learn more Blue Ridge Bookfest at Blue Ridge Community College, visit blueridgebookfest.org.