The Phi Beta Lambda chapter competed in the 61st Annual State Leadership Conference. At this year’s conference, each student brought home a state award and placed within the top 8 in the state. There were a total of 7 individual events, 1 team event and 2 chapter awards, which means BRCC brought home 10 awards. Students also received certificates of participation in the SLC Leadership Development Program. Crystal "Destiny" Davis, Paulette LaBerge, Heather Rollins and Jennifer Rollins have advanced to represent North Carolina Phi Beta Lambda and Blue Ridge Community College in this year’s National Leadership Conference being held in Chicago, IL this summer in June.

The following are winners with their ranking and event:

- Crystal "Destiny" Davis: 1st place in Computer Applications and 4th Place in Organizational Behavior & Leadership
- Paulette LaBerge: 1st Place in Desktop Publishing (Team with Jennifer) and 2nd Place in Personal Finance
- Jennifer Rollins: 1st Place in Desktop Publishing (Team with Paulette) and 8th place in Retail Management
- Heather Rollins: 2nd in Accounting Principles and 7th place in Word Processing
- Jaime Tankersley: 5th Place in Word Processing

The College has received the final edits of the commercial and recruitment videos produced by Spiracle Media Video Production. The ten videos ranging from 30 seconds to three minutes capture the mission of the College and reinforce the importance of education and workforce development. Plans are currently
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underway to air commercials on WLOS during the summer months. Videos will also be posted on the College’s website and used for recruiting visits.

The College’s 8th Annual Student Art Show held its opening night on April 23. The show consisted of student work from the Associate Fine Arts, Simulation and Game Development, and Film and Video Production. The student’s artwork was on display until May 7.

The College’s Automotive Technology NATEF program has received accreditation/renewal of accreditation. The site team was very impressed with the program and commented on the professionalism of the automotive instructors.

The College’s Manufacturing Advisory Council, composed of plant managers, operations managers and human resource managers from the Henderson County manufacturing community, has been meeting quarterly to identify common manufacturing training needs and design programs to meet these needs. New training programs developed by the Council include:

• Industrial Maintenance Training Program piloted by Clement Pappas
• Machinist Certification Program piloted by Continental
• Certified Logistics Training Program piloted by Continental
• Supervisory Leadership Program piloted by Kimberly Clark.

At the March meeting, Jeff Frazier, an engineer with Eastman and Director of the Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing (RCAM) in Kingsport, Tennessee spoke to the Council about how the manufacturers in his region are addressing the issue of a shortage of skilled labor. Council members are organizing a trip to Kingsport to visit RCAM in the near future.

EWD/CE hosted the Tenth Annual Kehr Lecture Series on April 8, featuring author and HGTV television host Jeff Wilson. The series focused on sustainable homes for the 21st century. Mr. Wilson presented ideas for creating a sustainable home as well as renovating to improve an existing home’s energy efficiency.
The College Financial Aid Department has received 328 BRCC Educational Foundation Scholarship applications for the 2015-16. This compares to 279 last year, which is a 17.5% increase.

A Program Specialist with the VA North Carolina State Approving Agency conducted a Compliance Survey/Audit on April 23. She noted two minor findings which were non-monetary and are now remedied or in the process of being remedied. She complimented Donna Turner, BRCC’s VA Certifying Official, in her post-audit memo: “The extremely low number of discrepancies found is a testament to the excellent grasp you have regarding the reporting and recordkeeping requirements of the VA Education Benefits program. I commend you on the great work you are doing!” She also took note of several “best practices” that she has not seen at her previous college reviews.

On March 31, Blue Ridge hosted an all-day Student Leadership Academy in the Conference Hall. About 100 students from 9 high schools in Henderson and Transylvania Counties participated as well as Blue Ridge faculty and staff, Henderson County teachers and administration, representatives from four-year colleges, and individuals from the community.

The College hosted a recruiting fair at West Henderson on Wednesday, April 1. The event ran all day with West teachers bringing their classes in to talk with Blue Ridge faculty.

Hendersonville Middle School 8th graders toured BRCC April 2 and were able to see program areas and demonstrations by BRCC faculty and students.

BRCC Recruiter Rita Blythe organized a tour of BMW the week of April 27 for automotive and mechatronic students as part of the Student Recruit Student Campaign. BRCC faculty and Henderson County Public School staff also participated. Forty high school students participated with some currently enrolled in BRCC through the Career and College Promise program and some prospective students for next year.

The HCEC Spanish Club participated in a Spanish Quiz Bowl at WCU on March 17. They had several top finishes in the team events. Hannah Lunsford finished first in the poetry category.

The HCEC Key Club partnered with BRCC SGA in a Habitat build on March 21. The Key Club also helped with the Henderson County Education Foundation Hall of Fame event that will be took place on the BRCC campus on April 16, as well as participating in the Historic Johnson Farm Festival on April 25.
NC New Schools recognized Henderson County Early College (HCEC) at the April 13 Henderson County Board of Education meeting for receiving the Innovation and Excellence Award. This recognition is awarded to a limited number of innovative schools that meet a strict criteria and demonstrate excellence in academic achievement.

Students Celebrate Community College Day at the General Assembly

Students from community colleges across North Carolina visited the General Assembly last month to voice their support for raising instructor pay, funding community colleges for year-round instruction and maintaining affordable tuition rates.

"The affordability and the quality at Blue Ridge Community College is paving the way for my success," says Priya Balakrishnan, a student at Blue Ridge Community College and president-elect for N4SGA. "Instructors go above and beyond to ensure that their students have everything they need to enter the workforce or transfer to a university."

Blue Ridge Community College students Renee Martinez, Alex Aiken, Eric Maloney, Carolyn Cullen, Jennifer Piper Rollins, Priya Balakrishnan and Elizabeth Mallard attended Community College Day. During the visit, students attended a meeting of the N.C. House’s Education – Community Colleges Committee and were formally recognized by both chambers. Blue Ridge students met with Senator Tom Apodaca, Representative Chris Whitmire, and Representative Chuck McGrady.

The N4CSGA is a student-led organization that represents all student government organizations within the North Carolina Community College System.
Congratulations Class of 2015!
Support and revenue totals $529,160 through March 31 with assets at $10.8 million. Investment returns for the trailing 12 months were 6.17% and 8.48% for the trailing three years.

**Major Gifts**

Ellen Perstein gifted $148,841 that will provide for annual scholarships ($841); an additional $1,000 to each already established Roper Scholarship Endowment Fund ($8,000); a new Roper Scholarship Endowment Fund ($40,000); the Pay It Forward Engineering Technology Instructor position for 2015-2016 ($25,000); and $75,000 to the Pay It Forward Endowment.

The American Association of University Women-Brevard pledged $9,500 with $5,500 being awarded as 2015-16 scholarships and $4,000 contributed for their scholarship endowment fund.

**Major In-Kind Gifts**

Henderson County Robotics donated two flat surface steel tables with Plexiglas sides that have security driven locks. These two cabinets (total value $10,000) will be used by the Mechatronics Engineering Technology program to run projects in an enclosed environment.

James Graves made an in-kind gift of numerous tools and supplies to the Automotive Systems Technology program with a total value of $17,275.40.

**Transfer of the Roughgarden Student Loan Fund Trust**

On April 13, 2015, Superior Court in Transylvania County, NC, approved the termination of the George Coventry Roughgarden Student Loan Fund Trust and distribution of the Trust’s property to Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation; with the Trust’s principal and undistributed income added to the George Coventry Roughgarden Student Work-Study Endowment Fund. The Trust’s assets ($50,000 principal and $66,336.04 income) were transferred from the College to the Foundation on May 4, 2015.

**2015-16 Board of Directors**

At their meeting on April 22, 2015, Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation Board of Directors appointed its 2015-16 officers: President Kaylyn ”Katie” A. Siegmund, Vice President James ”Jim” W. Rudisill, Secretary Cindy N. Walker, Assistant Secretary Molly A. Parkhill, Treasurer Hilliard Staton, Assistant Treasurer Carolyn W. Alley, and Executive Director Ann F. Green.

Ken D. Adams, Vikki D. Bailey, C. Page Collie, Patsy Farmer Jones, and Sandy Tallant will rotate off the Board of Directors at June 30. Carolyn W. Alley, Russ E. Henson, Mark A. Isabelli, and Hilliard Staton were appointed as new directors beginning July 1.

**2014-15 Audit**

At their April meeting, the Board of Directors ratified the actions of the Audit Committee to engage Carter, P.C. for the 2014-15 audit. Preliminary audit work is scheduled for June 8, 2015, with fieldwork scheduled for the week of July 13.