College Update

Blue Ridge Community College is the recent recipient of a $485,000 Mid Skills Golden LEAF grant that will provide additional funding for the College’s ongoing upgrade of advanced manufacturing training in Henderson and Transylvania Counties. With support from a $200,000 start-up grant from Golden LEAF Foundation in 2012, the College has already completed significant upgrades to its advanced manufacturing offerings. The new Mid Skills Grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation will enable Blue Ridge Community College to continue its advanced manufacturing upgrade by enhancing the Computer Integrated Machining labs at the Henderson County Campus and Brevard High School in Transylvania County.

The official celebration of the North Carolina Community College System’s (NCCCS) 50th Anniversary kicked off at the System’s conference on October 7, 2012. Dr. Ed Wilson is serving as chair of the Anniversary Celebration Committee. Cochairs are former Governors Jim Holshouser, Jim Martin, and Jim Hunt and System Presidents Emeriti Ben Fountain and Martin Lancaster. UNC-TV is producing a documentary on each of the 58 community colleges to air on its station during the year. UNC-TV Producer Rick Sullivan will be at Blue Ridge Community College in January to begin production of the Blue Ridge Community College portion of the documentary. Anniversary activities will culminate with a gala in Raleigh on June 5, 2013. More information is available on the 50th Anniversary Web page http://nccommunitycolleges.edu/50th.

President Parkhill presented a College update to the Henderson County Commissioners at their meeting on January 7.
The Board of Trustees has been invited to attend the BLET training on Saturday, February 23, which will focus on classroom and practical exercises for "Rapid Deployment" (formerly called "Response to School Shooters"). The classroom portion gives insight into a law enforcement response strategy, logistical concerns, and facility issues. Most facilities that were built prior to "Columbine" have many issues. This lecture is very eye opening. The instructor is Pat Staggs, a leading authority in "Rapid Deployment." The practical portion, which is conducted at the old Tuxedo Elementary School, allows the BLET cadets to practice those strategies. The classroom portion will start at 9 a.m. at the Henderson County Campus in the Patton Building Room 224. The practicals will start in the early afternoon. It will be a long day for the cadets, but all guests are welcome to attend whichever portion they might be interested in observing.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Blue Ridge Community College Community Ambassadors participated in a strategic planning discussion on November 28.

February 19 will be a required professional development day. The College will be closed to the public so all faculty and staff may participate.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

• Curriculum

Art Instructor Brian Glaze has been asked to serve as a visiting artist at Western Carolina University in the spring. Two BRCC art students (Ashton McGeehon and Renee Olge) sold cast iron sculptures at Brevard College’s art exhibition last month.

The College will be hosting an Advanced Manufacturing Career Day on April 9. The Career Day will be part of the statewide "Advanced Manufacturing Awareness Week" that will be held April 8-12. Chris English is the contact person for BRCC.

In preparation for the NCCCS mandated developmental math redesign (to be implemented in Fall 2013), Instructors Gayle Snyder and Alison Carter are piloting the new DMA (developmental math) content, design, and policies in a MAT 060 course and a MAT 070 course. These courses will emphasize mastery learning (completing each assignment with a minimum score before moving on to the next assignment or taking the test) as well as application-based learning in an effort to connect the math content to real-world situations. In both courses, after the first day of class, students were excited about the new policies and course design.
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION (EWD/CE)

The EWD/CE Division has provided training and placement services to more than 30 employers including customized training to 524 workers. Working in collaboration with the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce, the Division has offered over 154 seminars for small business owners.

Many manufacturers in Henderson County are either expanding or making significant equipment and infrastructure investments. Henderson County has also recently recruited three new manufacturers. During 2012, the EWD/CE staff worked with 23 companies providing training in such areas as welding, machining, safety, computer, PLC, and lean manufacturing. Additionally, the staff provided assistance with new-hire training and selection.

The Henderson County Joblink Career Center, which serves those unemployed or underemployed, or those looking for a career change, provides assistance to more than 2,000 customers. Often these initiatives are not publicly announced but are a very important part of serving the workforce needs in our community.

The EWD/CE Division has sought input from Oskar Blues and Sierra Nevada officials to identify their specific workforce needs related to the craft beer industry. One training opportunity identified was the basic understanding of the craft brewing industry. The outcome was the creation of the Craft Beer Academy. The Academy has three components:

1. The Fundamentals of Craft Beer - tied to Cicerone Certification
2. The Business of Craft Beer
3. The Brewing of Craft Beer - tied to the General Brewing Certification from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling.

When the College first advertised the Craft Beer Academy, the response was overwhelming. We currently have 150 students enrolled in classes that will begin this month. We are adding additional sessions. The EWD/CE Division has applied to be a certified testing site for the Institute of Brewing and Distilling and should be able to test successful candidates for certification when the first classes end.

The EWD/CE Department for Allied Health will add phlebotomy courses beginning in February. More than 80 individuals have expressed interest in this program.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

The North Carolina Office of State Auditors is currently on campus performing preliminary/planning audit work. Preparations have been made to ensure a smooth and successful audit.

Because of safety concerns, the picnic shed (adjacent to the Arts and Sciences Building) was removed last month. Landscaping will be added in the vacant area.

The Blue Ridge Community College 2011-12 Annual Report is now available online.
DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

• Registration
The College ended Spring registration with 2,149 enrolled.

• Enrollment Management/Counseling
The College hosted a Business Student Open House on January 14. The Open House brought current and prospective Business students together to meet the Business faculty; ask questions about the program, advising, and job opportunities; and to introduce them to services available from Student Services and Continuing Education.

Two students have been nominated to the All USA Academic Team and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship competitions: Danielle Tate-Maccaroni and James Shane Worley. Students were chosen for nomination by an ad hoc Special Scholarships Committee.

The 13th annual Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast and program is planned for Monday, January 21, and will be held in the Blue Ridge Conference Hall. This year’s theme is “Triumphant Teens Fulfilling the Dream.” Adult tickets are $10; children under 12, $5. Tickets can be purchased through Gary Rivers, director of Minority Services in Student Services.

• Financial Aid
In November, BRCC Financial Aid Director Lisanne Masterson presented a financial aid workshop to approximately 60 students and parents at North Henderson High School and to about 70 students and parents at West Henderson High School at two events.

• Recruiting/High Schools
BRCC College Night is scheduled to take place at West Henderson High School during the Tuesday, February 12, West vs. East basketball game.

• Early College
Shanita Jackson, one of our outstanding HCEC students, was featured on the front page of the Hendersonville Times-News. Shanita also competed and won in a local poetry slam held at NC Stage Company in Asheville in November. This young lady has an incredible ability to write and perform with such passion. We look forward to her organizing a community poetry slam to be held on at BRCC later in the school year.

DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY

Blue Ridge is now an official Microsoft IT Academy. We have access to self-paced training and materials to supplement curriculum and continuing education courses. The plan is to introduce the academy by providing access to self-paced courses for Microsoft Office products.

Approximately 1,500 curriculum students are taking on-line course spring semester 2013. The completion of the Moodle 2 upgrade provides our instructors with additional features that they can incorporate into their courses. Faculty have been trained and encouraged to utilize many of these features to improve the interaction between faculty and students and their ability to navigate within their courses.

Blue Ridge will be implementing a new process for wireless access to the college’s network. It provides legal protection for the college and secondly, it serves to educate our user community about the risk they are assuming by performing activities over a public network.

Next month we will install a new emergency notification system which provides for two fundamental features which are critical in enhancing our ability to enhance the security and protection of our college community. The first allows all of our employees to notify representatives of activities and for the school to quickly communicate to everyone in the event that action is required. Our employees will be able to trigger an alert from their computer which will be transmitted to our “first notifies” which include the leadership and security with one button push. Responses will be initially displayed on computer screens and cellphones with the plan to expand to other devices like strobes and our electronic displays in the future.
Recognizing Employee Excellence

For more than 20 years Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation has presented annual awards to faculty and staff who demonstrate work and personal ethics that go well beyond their job description. The employees honored are recognized for their invaluable contributions, outstanding dedication, competence, conscientious performance, and ingenuity which translate to a significant impact for our students and to the fulfillment of the College mission.

2013 Dr. and Mrs. William D. Killian Outstanding Teacher Award
Benjamin J. Hardy
English Faculty

2013 Dr. Eliza B. Graue Extra Mile Award
Brian N. Glaze
Art Faculty

2013 Dr. Molly A. Parkhill Staff Person of the Year Award
Alice Crisp
Director, Instructional Technologies and Distance Learning

2013 Wellness Employee of the Year Award
Kirsten H. Bunch
Registrar

2013 Dr. David W. Sink Jr Community Service Award
Brad Toms
Fire Protection Technology Faculty
Major Gifts
The family of Joe D. Spearman (who served 27 years on the Blue Ridge Community College Board of Trustees; spending 16 years as chairman of the Board) has created the Joe and Mary Elizabeth Spearman Scholarship Endowment Fund with our Educational Foundation.

An $8,000 contribution was made by James and Jo Ann Brittain, earmarked for the James E. and Jo Ann Layne Brittain Scholarship Endowment Fund ($4,000) and the Beulah Coulter Layne and Arvel Layne Scholarship Endowment Fund ($4,000).

Betty Berg made a $5,000 gift to the William A. Keyser Memorial Scholarship. This gift will be awarded as five $1,000 scholarships with preference given to Transylvania County residents with financial need.

Scholarship Applications Available
Since January 2, the 2013-2014 Scholarship Application forms have been available and are due on Friday, March 1, 2013.

IRA Update
The IRA charitable rollover is back for 2012 and 2013 through a provision in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Donors age 70½ or older are once again eligible to move up to $100,000 from their IRAs directly to qualified charities without having to pay income taxes on the money. Congress recognized the issues with a late extension and provided two special transition rules:

1) Qualified distributions made by February 1, 2013, may be counted retroactively for the 2012 tax year; and

2) A taxpayer who took a distribution from an IRA in December 2012 may make a contribution to a qualified charity before February 1, 2013, and treat this as a direct transfer.

Estate Gifts
Trustees of the Edward C. Wesch Living Trust have notified the Educational Foundation of a $83,372.68 distribution for a scholarship fund, to be used to provide scholarships to the maximum extent possible for students pursuing a career in retailing. An additional small distribution may be received later in the year once the Trust has been finalized.

Financial Update
Returns for the fiscal year and the trailing 12 months were 5.71% and 12.62%, respectively. At the Foundation Board meeting in late January, the Finance and Investment Committee will recommend paying out endowment awards at a 4% spending rate for 2013-2014, resulting in total awards of $299,352. This is an increase of more than $25,000 from last year’s endowment awards.