Campus News is a bimonthly 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.

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Blue Ridge Community College Students Continue to Demonstrate Success in Licensure and Certification Exams, College Transfer Performance

The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) launched a new set of accountability measures to gauge student success and Blue Ridge Community College performs at the top when compared to other community colleges across the state. The Performance Measures for Student Success are a result of SuccessNC, NC Community Colleges’ three-year strategic plan. The new measures were developed by a committee, co-chaired by Blue Ridge Community College President Molly A. Parkhill, and comprised of college leadership, faculty and staff from across the state with various areas of expertise and insight, and were enacted into law by the General Assembly in June 2012.

"Our community college system has always maintained a focus on accountability," says N.C. Community College System President, Dr. Scott Ralls. "SuccessNC marks a shift in our emphasis on student completion and success, and our new performance measures more accurately reflect a focus on key metrics we believe are important to student progress."

The new, annual accountability report released on Wednesday includes eight performance measures: Basic Skills Student Progress, GED Diploma Passing Rate, Developmental Student Success Rate in College-Level English Courses, Developmental Student Success Rate in College-Level Math Courses, First Year Progression, Curriculum Student Completion, Licensure and Certification Passing Rate, and College Transfer Performance. The report is based on data collected during the previous academic year, with system-wide baselines and goals for each measure based on the prior three years of historical data.

Blue Ridge Community College was one of only three community colleges that met or exceeded the goal on four of the eight performance measures. Those included Developmental Student Success Rate in College-Level Math Courses, First Year Progression, Licensure and Certification Passing Rate, and College Transfer Performance. Blue Ridge performed above the baseline on all measures.

Scoring second highest in the state, the report showed that 98.6% of Blue Ridge Community College students who transferred to a four-year university or college earned a 2.0 GPA or better after two semesters at the transfer institution.

Blue Ridge Community College President Molly A. Parkhill commended the faculty and staff when the results were released by NCCCS, "The results of this report provide evidence that Blue Ridge Community College is one of the top-performing community colleges in the state of North Carolina. Our dedicated faculty and staff provide quality training and education and an exceptional commitment to our students and our community as a whole. This report is an endorsement of a job well done.”

The complete report can be found at www.nccommunitycolleges.edu.
College Update

House Bill 903 has passed the Senate and is headed to the Governor’s desk for his signature. This important legislation requires all four-year public universities to fully adhere to the articulation agreement with the Community College System. It also ensures the articulation agreement will be applied consistently among UNC constituent institutions. Unfortunately, community college students across the state have run into many transfer obstacles with certain four-year public universities in NC. This legislation paves the way for our students to truly have seamless transfer opportunities as the original agreement had intended.

Blue Ridge Bookfest, held on May 17 and 18, was very successful with approximately 80 attendees at the reception honoring featured author Wiley Cash.

The Balsam Range Concert, held on June 13 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the North Carolina Community College System, was sold out with more than 400 people in attendance. Sponsors for the event included: Sierra Nevada (Presenting Sponsor); Legacy Paddlesports and Park Ridge Health (Supporting Sponsors); and, Mountain Credit Union (Event Partner).

A comprehensive advertising campaign launched last month to promote the upcoming enrollment periods for Fall Semester:

- Outdoor billboards in Henderson and Transylvania Counties including the large digital board on I-26 in Fletcher;
- Television commercials on WLOS TV Channel 13;
- Radio commercials on KISS FM 99.9;
- On-screen advertisements at Epic Theatre in Hendersonville;
- Direct mail of Career Focus to residents in northern Henderson County;
- Advertisements on www.blueridenow.com; and
- Ongoing media relations including recent articles in the Times-News and Hendersonville Lightning on Camp TechHEAD and the proposed Brewing curriculum program.

Industry recruiting visits are scheduled for Blue Ridge Metals, Borg Warner Thermal Cooling, and UPM Raflatac.
DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

The first curriculum EMS class had a pass rate of 97% on their licensing exam.

Jay Alley, dean of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Science, submitted the final paperwork for the statewide realignment of the Fire Protection Technology program that he led.

The American Heart Association has re-approved BRCC for teaching AHA courses.

The College hosted prospective student information sessions in July for its proposed (pending approval from the State Board of Community Colleges) Brewing, Distillation, and Fermentation curriculum program. The program is slated to begin in Fall Semester.

The College received notification from NCCCS that Jobs for the Future (JFF) has requested that North Carolina withdraw from the Accelerating Opportunity (AO) Grant effective July 1, 2013. Their decision was made based on low enrollment numbers, difficulty with aligning the basic skills program to the AO program as required by JFF, and lack of movement on state policies to support the AO program.

Because Blue Ridge was one of five colleges that exceeded the AO benchmarks, the Systems Office staff has indicated that they will provide additional literacy funds from their reserves to support the continuation of this initiative with the hope that the model colleges can provide technical assistance to other institutions in the implementation. The Accelerating Opportunities program was designed to allow high school drop-outs to enroll in credit courses that lead to a diploma and/or associate degree in selected career pathways while earning their GED.

Blue Ridge Community College was well represented at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri June 24th thru June 28th. There were 98 different competitions and over 20,000 in attendance from all fifty states and Puerto Rico. Our competition was an all-day event against top level technical schools and colleges with premier automotive programs. Tristan Duncan (pictured), the North Carolina state champion and Blue Ridge Community College automotive student, competed in the automotive technology competition against other state champions and finished 31st in the nation. In addition Tristan won a scholarship from the Mike Rowe Works Foundation. Mike Rowe, of the TV show “Dirty Jobs”, was there to present at a scholarship dinner. Tristan was the only student from North Carolina to win a scholarship from the Mike Rowe Works Foundation. Tristan represented Blue Ridge Community College and the state of North Carolina very professionally and we can be proud of his accomplishments. Tristan will be starting an internship with Apple Tree Honda this summer. We would like to thank Apple Tree Honda, Blue Ridge Educational Foundation, and the Great Smokey Mountains Region, Antique Automobile Club of America for sponsoring Tristan to attend and compete in the SkillsUSA National Conference.

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION (EWD/CE)

The 2013 Transylvania Business Conference was held at the Transylvania Library on May 23 in collaboration with Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce, City of Brevard, Cooperative Extension Service, Mountain Bizworks, SCORE, Senior Resource Network, Transylvania Cooperative Extension Service, Transylvania Economic Development, and United Way of Transylvania County.

In response to several area restaurants, the Continuing Education department is working on a series of classes for Fall that will provide training in wait staffing and food preparation. Additional culinary courses are also planned for personal enrichment. The College is partnering with Dandelion’s in Henderson County and Mayberry’s in Transylvania County for facility space to offer these courses.
The Small Business Center is creating the Blue Ridge Innovation Lab to be housed in the Applied Technology Building as part of Blue Ridge Innovation Network (BRIN). The purpose of the Innovation Lab will be to provide technology lab access to incubate new industries and companies in Transylvania County that create and/or sustain jobs. It will provide computer access training for BRIN-incubating companies and other businesses within the community in such areas as Web site creation, social media, bookkeeping/accounting, online businesses, and 3D printing.

Blue Ridge Community College and Henderson County Chamber of Commerce hosted a Job Fair on June 6 in the Conference Hall with over 40 employers participating.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
Antonia “Toni” Berbrick has accepted the position of Vice President for Finance and Operations. She will begin on August 15. Ms. Berbrick’s last position was Assistant Vice President for Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey, where she served for five years. Toni earned her undergraduate degree in Accounting and a Master’s of Business Administration from Monmouth University. She has been a CPA in the State of New Jersey since 1989.

At their meeting on June 24, the Henderson County Commissioners approved full funding of the College operating budget and top priority capital improvement projects for 2013-14. This includes partial funding for facility upgrades for the Mechatronics Engineering Technology program. The expansion project for the TEDC parking lot was not funded. On June 26, the Transylvania County Commissioners approved full funding of the College operating budget and capital improvement projects for 2013-14.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES
A "Hiring Our Heroes" Job Fair was held at the Asheville Army Reserve Center on May 9. This job fair was open only to veterans. Sixty veterans currently receiving funding at BRCC were notified about this event. Feedback from one of the veterans that attended was, “There were a lot of employers there and it was a great opportunity.”

The new 2013-14 college catalog was distributed to several local area businesses such as Blue Ridge Health Center, Henderson County Health Department, Henderson County Family, and Children’s Resource Center, among others.

Blue Ridge Community College was selected by the North Carolina Office for the State Auditor for the state’s federal financial assistance programs audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, with the purpose of complying with the audit requirements of the Single Audit Act and the OMB. Their objective is to express an opinion as to whether the State of North Carolina has complied with the requirements that have a direct and material effect on major federal programs, using a sample of community colleges and universities within North Carolina. The auditors were on the Henderson County campus on June 24-26 and July 1-3 to review student files and will return in November to complete the audit.

A high school guidance counselor intern Aimee Boswell from Asheville High School is working in the Financial Aid Office for five weeks this summer. She will benefit from first-hand experience in financial aid and be able to share specifics of the process with her high school students; we will benefit from the additional manpower during a busy time for Financial Aid prior to Fall Semester. This program is sponsored through the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority.

A Consortium Agreement has been signed with Western Carolina University for financial aid processing for our first class of Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) students beginning this fall.
DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY

The College Emergency notification system is now live. Employees have an icon on their desktop computers that will trigger the system to notify 911 and begin the internal investigation process. A process is also in place for employees and students to self-register for these notifications. The desktop icons have been developed to trigger a response to weather, evacuation, and lock-down situations.

The Web redesign process has begun with the development of new site maps that will be used to build the shell and determine how users will navigate within the new Web site. The next phase will concentrate on developing content to be displayed. The goal/outcome of this major project will be to create a more user-friendly Web site that markets the College and its educational programs.

The BRCC-TV staff has been mapping out the video needs to create the online version of the first course of the "Brew School.”

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Blue Ridge Community College
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

2013-2014 Curriculum Scholarships
To date, $381,277.97 in 2013-2014 Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation scholarships are available for curriculum students. This includes a gift of $83,372.68 through the Estate of Edward C. Wesch for students pursuing a career in retailing. The Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee is meeting on a regular basis to award these scholarships.

Rosman’s Genie Products, Inc., has funded a new annual scholarship starting in 2013-2014 at $3,750. The scholarship will be awarded to a Transylvania County resident enrolled in the Associate in Applied Science Degree program of Computer-Integrated Machining.

New Curriculum Scholarships for 2014-2015 and Beyond
Through Community Foundation of Henderson County, the Educational Foundation has received notification of a new annual scholarship. The Herman and Shirley Lukoff Scholarship will be awarded in 2014-2015 at $3,430. The recipient is to be a worthy, single parent of either sex.

Ray and Judith McKenzie-Wilson contributed $6,500 ($3,250 to be awarded in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016) to fund a two-year engineering scholarship for women.

Grant/New Continuing Education Scholarships for 2013-2014
Wells Fargo Foundation granted $10,000 in support of BRCC Workforce Development scholarships.

Sponsorships and Underwriting
Balsam Range Concert sponsors included Sierra Nevada, Park Ridge Health, Legacy Paddlesports, and Mountain Credit Union.

Park Ridge Health has gifted $3,000 ($2,000 for the 2013 Faculty and Staff Holiday Party; $600 for the 2013 Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon; and $400 for the Balsam Range Concert). They also intend to contribute $1,000 in 2014 for the Appreciation Breakfast.

Appreciation Breakfast
More than 120 College friends attended the Foundation’s Appreciation Breakfast on May 22. Danielle Tate-Maccaroni, a recent recipient of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, delivered heartwarming remarks about the College’s impact on her educational journey. The Foundation also recognized Pay It Forward Endowed Chair Donor Ellen Perstein and the Endowment’s first recipient Engineering Technology Faculty Sharon Suess. Ellen Perstein gifted $58,996 that will provide for annual scholarships ($1,996), a new Roper Scholarship Endowment Fund ($32,000), and $25,000 to award the Pay It Forward Endowed Chair Fund in 2013-2014.

2012-2013 Foundation Audit
The Foundation Board of Directors has engaged Carter, P.C., for the 2012-2013 fiscal year audit. Preliminary information will be sent to the auditors, as requested, with fieldwork being completed the week of July 15. The Board also accepted the recommendation of the Audit Committee to send a "Request for Proposal” for the 2013-2014 audit (that will be mailed no later than January 31, 2014).