Blue Ridge Community College honored Pay It Forward Endowed Chair donor Ellen Perstein at its annual Appreciation Breakfast on May 22. To pay her brothers’ and sisters’ generosity forward for helping her get an education, since 1993 Ellen Perstein has been funding annual memorial scholarships in her family members’ name, Roper, at Blue Ridge Community College. She started with the Carrie Roper Williamson Memorial Scholarship, in memory of the sister who was like a mother to her. Her goal has been to establish scholarships to assist outstanding students who really wish to get an education in order to make an impact on the world; and who, in turn, might help others get an education. To that end, she has established six endowed scholarships (and is planning to fund her seventh) with Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation.

In 2006, she provided an initial gift to establish the Pay It Forward Endowed Chair Fund; when fully funded, the endowment will approximate one million dollars. The first recipient of the Pay It Forward Endowed Chair is Sharon Suess, Engineering Technology faculty.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
BRCC presented a program on advanced manufacturing to the Rotary Club of Hendersonville at its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16. The presentation included an overview of the advanced manufacturing program, as well as onsite interviews with manufacturing representatives.
Danielle Tate-Maccaroni has been selected as a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship winner. Danielle is one of 73 scholars selected this year from 769 nominations and the only recipient from a North Carolina college. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program, the largest private scholarship for community college transfer students in the country, provides up to $30,000 per year for up to three years to community college students who are nominated by their schools based on academic excellence, financial need, persistence, leadership, and a desire to help others. Danielle is the fourth BRCC graduate to receive this distinction.

“As a student at Blue Ridge Community College, I have endeavored to make meaningful and lasting contributions to the reputation of my school. I can now demonstrate, through my own “success story,” that Blue Ridge Community College offers boundless opportunities to individuals that may have been otherwise unable to pursue their degrees—our donors and supporters help make these opportunities possible. What binds us together and connects us to the essence of the community college system is our common aim to go further, to affect change in our communities, our families, and ourselves—despite whatever setbacks, disadvantages, or complications life may throw our way.”

~Danielle Tate-Maccaroni
Blue Ridge Community College Students Excel in Academic Competitions

Three BRCC Phi Beta Lambda students competed in this year’s State Leadership Conference. All three advanced to compete at the national level, representing both BRCC and the North Carolina chapter of Phi Beta Lambda. These students competed against students from over 35 North Carolina college chapters, representing two-year and four-year institutions. In addition to the team and individual wins, our chapter also brought home several chapter awards.

The BRCC BAJA Team competed at the Tennessee Tech SAE BAJA Competition in Cookeville, TN, from April 18-21. The competition engaged 100 different university-level engineering programs from four countries on four continents. BRCC was the only two-year program in attendance and was surrounded by very prestigious schools such as Cornell, WVU, FSU, Georgia, GT, Alabama, RIT, Maryland, USC, and VMI. The students in the BAJA Club built their off-road vehicle from top to bottom in six months during their own time on the College campus. The BAJA Club members designed the frame and analyzed its strength under stress. The creation process was a tremendous feat combining mechanical engineering, machining, and welding.

We have two state champions! The SkillsUSA Team attended the NC SkillsUSA Conference in April which was held in Greensboro. There were more than 50 different competitions which included both secondary and post-secondary schools from all across North Carolina. Blue Ridge Community College had great representation from both the Henderson County and Transylvania County Campuses. Students from BRCC placed in all the events entered, including three events in automotive technology and one in collision repair. The final competition results were: Automotive Technology, Secondary First place - Tristan Duncan; Automotive Service 1, Secondary First place - Eddie Wahler; Automotive Service 1, Secondary Third place - Cody Thompson; Muller Automotive Technology, Post-Secondary Third place - Michael Baer; and Collision Repair Technology, Post-Secondary Fourth place - Cedric Geldres.

Blue Ridge Community College Automotive Student Tristan Duncan qualified for the SkillsUSA National Conference in June where he will compete against 49 other students. This national competition, held each year in Kansas City, represents the best automotive students in the country.
DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

BRCC is one of eight community colleges in the state awarded a grant of $50,000 from the Early Childhood Education Innovation Fund.

Communications Faculty Josh Bledsoe has been selected to attend the NC Humanities Council Summer Institute titled "Muslim Journeys: Islam and Its Many Roads." All of his expenses will be paid by the NC Humanities Council.

Forty-four students from East and North Henderson High Schools participated in The Advanced Manufacturing Day, held on April 9. Due to its success, we plan to make this a twice-a-year event beginning this fall.

The BRCC Heritage Week was held from April 15-18 with several events conducted on both the Henderson County (HCC) and Transylvania County Campuses (TCC). Some of the events included the third annual International Food Tasting; an African American Student Day; and a presentation by Paul Cuadros, the author of A Home on the Field.

The latest production by the Drama Department, "Pride and Prejudice," was a great success, selling out six of its eight shows.

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION

The College hosted the Transylvania Economic Development Advisory Board for their regular meeting on April 11 at the Transylvania County Campus. Vice President Julie Thompson and TCC Dean Glenda McCarson presented initiatives planned for the Transylvania Campus to the Board of Economic Development.

The Fire and Rescue Program reported 61 students passing fire and rescue classes to the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

The Law Enforcement Program reported an 83% passing rate on the BLET state exam and an 89% passing rate on the Detention Officer Certification School.

The Fourth Annual Prospering Conference was held on April 23 in the Blue Ridge Conference Hall with 21 trainings to support the local business community and more than 80 participants.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

On April 22, TCC Student Services Coordinator Rob Rhodes and Automotive Instructor Eric Stephens presented to all of the juniors and seniors at Davidson River School. Rob discussed programs of study, financial aid, basics of admission, and the Career & College Promise program. Eric demonstrated BRCC’s new Chevrolet Volt hybrid car, and discussed automotive technology and new Applied Technology programs, such as alternative fuels and mechatronics.
"Experience Blue Ridge," held on April 30, offered the opportunity for people in the community to try BRCC classes for free. The event allowed prospective students to see some of what BRCC offers and experience what takes place in a college classroom. Recruiter Rita Blythe, who organized this event, reported that we had participants turn in over 180 class tickets. Over 32 faculty, staff, and students made this event a success by volunteering time and teaching classes, setting up displays or working with registration, and serving as building guides. High school and career technical education teachers were also involved with this event and we hope to grow and refine this offering for the community—possibly expanding to the Transylvania County Campus.

On April 18, 52 students from local high schools attended the African American High School Students’ Day. The Day consisted of a morning information session, followed by guided tours of the Henderson County Campus. The event ended with a Q&A panel of College students, faculty, and staff, followed by a keynote address by BRCC Vice President of Technology Ernest Simons.

Lisanne Masterson was recently elected to one of three representative-at-large positions on the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Board of Directors. This is a two-year term beginning July 1, 2013.

The Commencement Ceremony for Henderson County Early College (HCEC) Class of 2013 was held on May 9, with 26 students graduating with their high school diploma.

Jyotsna Panthee, one of the HCEC super-seniors, has received an acceptance letter to UNC-Chapel Hill. Another student, Fabian Moreno, has been placed on the waiting list for Chapel Hill. Fabian has completed his high school diploma and two-year degree in four years instead of the prescribed five-year plan.

Forty-eight rising first-year students will enter the Early College program in August.

**DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY**

The Kehr Lecture, held on April 25, will air on the BRCC-TV channel in June.

We are ready to implement Blue Ridge Alert, the new emergency notification system that will provide an increased level of protection at both campuses. The system includes the ability for our employees and students to subscribe to a service that will broadcast emergency responses to their e-mails or smart phones.

The President’s Innovative Idea of the Month Grant funded a recent Earth Day campus improvement project. Students, under the direction of Grounds Supervisor David Tabor, repaired an area of campus which had fallen into a state of erosion. The improvements were made to the well-worn path leading from the lower parking lot to several classroom buildings. A set of steps was installed to provide students with easy access through the wooded area while plants were added to allow nature to restore an eroded section of the path.
Congratulations Class of 2013!
2013-2014 Board of Directors
At their meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation Board of Directors appointed its 2013-2014 officers: President Hilliard Staton, Vice President Ken D. Adams, Secretary Steven R. Carson, Assistant Secretary Molly A. Parkhill, and Treasurer Eric B. Cannon.

Karen M. Workman and Andrew T. Tate will rotate off the Board of Directors at June 30. Terry Andersen, a CPA and CFP with Carland and Andersen, was appointed as a new director beginning July 1.

Financial Update
As of March 31, investment returns for the fiscal year are 10.33%. Total support and revenue for the first nine months totals $1.1 million with total assets at $9.6 million.

Estate Gift
The Foundation received $16,736.90 from the Estate of Jacquelyn L. Marks. These funds are to be used exclusively for the needs of the Music Program.

Major Gifts
The Brevard Branch of the American Association of University Women has pledged $5,000 toward 2013-2014 scholarships and $3,000 to their scholarship endowment fund. Margaret R. Pardee Hospital Auxiliary has pledged $12,500 for 2013-2014 scholarships ($8,500 for curriculum scholarships and $4,000 for continuing education scholarships).

Raven and Judith McKenzie-Wilson added $20,000 to their Ray and Judith McKenzie-Wilson Scholarship Endowment Fund with the Foundation. They also made a gift of $1,000 for the Machine Shop to be used exclusively for the replacement of tool bits, drills, and other expendable equipment used in the workshop.

Major In-Kind Gift
The Foundation acknowledged in-kind services valued at $5,240 for the promotion of Blue Ridge Community College with WSQL Radio in Brevard.