Blue Ridge Community College

Campus News

March 2014

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

www.blueridge.edu

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Duke Energy Awards $249,867 to Blue Ridge Community College

Duke Energy and Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) announced a $249,867 investment from the Duke Energy Foundation. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for BRCC’s new Brewing, Distillation and Fermentation degree program.

The grant fills a skills gap in the local workforce and enhances training opportunities for new and incumbent workers to develop skills in brewing, distillation and fermentation in support of the influx of breweries, wineries, and cider manufacturers locating to Henderson and Transylvania counties.

Blue Ridge Community College has a strong history of providing well-trained graduates. Duke Energy’s support of Blue Ridge Community College has ensured that local breweries, wineries and other advanced manufacturers can hire highly skilled employees who have trained on state-of-the-art equipment and technologies.”

This grant is part of Duke Energy’s $6.7 million investment in North Carolina community colleges’ focus on technical education and support of business and industry.

Students and faculty from Blue Ridge Community College Brewing, Distillation, and Fermentation program during the check presentation from Duke Energy Carolinas District Manager Craig DeBrew.

Front Row: Joel McLead and Justin Neal; Back Row: Craig DeBrew, Bryan McMahan, Scott MacRae, Cody Noble, George Elley, Cliff Ellis, Josh Owen, Josh Anderson, Amanda Lyda, and Blue Ridge faculty Gabe Mixon.
In January, Blue Ridge launched a redesigned website with added features and user-friendly navigation.

Residents of Henderson and Transylvania County now have a new resource to develop a career. Blue Ridge Community College now offers access from its homepage (www.blueridge.edu) to Career Coach, a comprehensive online career-planning tool. Career Coach was designed to help job-seekers develop career interests by providing the most current local data on wages, employment, and related education and training.

The Blue Ridge homepage now displays an icon for Career Coach. Career-seekers may search by keywords or browse through a listing of all careers and programs in the database. Visitors to the site may create their own accounts which allow them to bookmark information. A resume building tool is included by the creators of Career Coach.

President Parkhill, Chad Merrill, Carol Ann Lydon, Alan Stephenson, Marcia Stoneman, Julie Thompson, Kirsten Bunch, Kathy Allen, Vicki Audia, and Tommy Oakman attended the SACS Commission on Colleges Annual Meeting in Atlanta on December 8-10. This group represents the College’s SACS leadership team and committee chairs who are leading the effort to prepare for the College’s Fifth-Year Interim Report, due September 2014.

As a partner with Western Carolina University on a large GoldenLEAF grant, the College will be receiving funds to become Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) certified. Blue Ridge Community College is the only community college in the consortium with plans to seek this accreditation. Central Piedmont Community College is apparently the only other community college in NC that is ABET certified. WCU representatives visited several classes on our Henderson County Campus and feel Blue Ridge could be ABET certified within two years.

Ben Hardy, English Faculty was selected as a semi-finalist for the state-wide R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Teaching award. Ben was one of 10 faculty members from 48 applications who were interviewed in late November at the system office in Raleigh. The state winner will be announced in May.
Blue Ridge Community College Launches New Phlebotomy Program

Beginning August 2014, Blue Ridge Community College will launch a new continuing education program in Phlebotomy. The program will be offered during the day on the Henderson County Campus and in the evening on the Transylvania County Campus.

The Phlebotomy program is an intense course of study with three phases (class, lab and clinical) that prepares students for technician positions to draw blood from patients and prepare specimens for testing or storage in hospitals, physicians’ offices, laboratories, clinics and blood banks. Content includes the circulatory anatomy and physiology, and the phlebotomist role in the health care system. The course also covers procedures and the responsibility and skills required for job acquisition, retention, and advancement. Students will complete 110 hours of classroom instruction and 90 hours of clinical instruction. Completers receive a certificate of completion and are eligible for state certification.

All interested persons must attend an information session to receive important registration, courses costs, and enrollment information. For more information about the Phlebotomy program and view a complete list of information session dates and times, visit www.blueridge.edu/phlebotomy or contact Blue Ridge Community College at (828) 694-1750.
The Sixth Annual Blue Ridge Bookfest will be held on April 25-26, 2014, at Blue Ridge Community College Henderson County Campus.

Participating authors will represent a wide array of genres and include award winners, best-selling authors, renowned scholars, children’s writers, and writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. During the two-day event, approximately forty authors will be leading workshops, making presentations, meeting attendees, and autographing books.

This year’s Honoree is Ken Grossman, Sierra Nevada co-founder and author of recently published Beyond the Pale. An evening reception honoring Mr. Grossman will be held on April 25 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Immediately following the reception, Grossman will talk about his book and his entrepreneurial experiences.

Tickets for the reception are $25 and can be purchased online at www.blueridgebookfest.org.

A complete schedule and list of authors for Bookfest are available at www.blueridgebookfest.org.
NC Back-to-Work Classes Provide Valuable Training
www.blueridge.edu/ncbacktowork

Blue Ridge Community College has received funding for the NC Back-to-Work Grant for the second year in a row. Programs include career paths in Advanced Manufacturing, Basic Law Enforcement, Brewing Technology, Computer Systems, Emergency Medical, Fire and Rescue, Healthcare, and Transportation Systems. All program training will be short-term and lead to industry-recognized or state-regulated credentials.

The NC Back-to-Work program is supported by both NC Community Colleges and the NC Department of Commerce allowing community colleges across the state to partner with employers, as well as workforce development boards and other local agencies to help match training with areas of workforce demand. This year eligibility has been expanded and funds from the grant may be used to provide financial assistance (tuition, books and credentialing fees) to the unemployed, underemployed, veterans and members of the N.C. National Guard.

Annual Report Available Online
www.blueridge.edu/annualreport

The Annual Report recaps the College’s accomplishments. It spotlights our students, award recipients, and donors. In addition, the report offers ways to connect to the College and its Educational Foundation. In an effort to be good stewards of the environment, as well as our resources, we print a limited number of copies of the Annual Report.

If you would like to request a copy of the current edition, contact the Educational Foundation at brccf@blueridge.edu or (828) 694-1710.
EXPERIENCE Blue Ridge Community College classes for FREE!

EXPERIENCE

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
5 to 9 p.m.

A complete schedule and easy online registration is available at www.blueridge.edu/experience

This event is free and open to the public. Use our easy, online registration to save your spot! Your online registration makes you eligible to win a Nook®!

Get a college experience in one day! At Experience Blue Ridge, you can take up to three 45-min. classes! The simple registration form at the link above lets you choose the three classes you want to take. And, it’s all free. Presenters include Blue Ridge faculty and staff.

After this experience, you may want to become a full-time or part-time student. Information on enrollment steps and financial aid will be available. You can also pick up information about Early College and other programs for high school students.
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.

2014 Dr. and Mrs. William D. Killian Outstanding Teacher Award

Pamela Phillips
Nursing Faculty

2014 Dr. Eliza B. Graue Extra Mile Award

James Duckworth
Computer Programming Faculty

2014 Dr. Molly A. Parkhill Staff Person of the Year Award

R. Chad Merrill
Chief of Staff

2014 Dr. David W. Sink Jr Community Service Award

John Clark
Adjunct Faculty

2014 Wellness Employee of the Year Award

Brett Bailey
Custodian
At their January Board meeting, the Foundation Board of Directors approved Trustee Sandra B. Tallant (replacing Trustee Andrew Tate) as a director of the Educational Foundation.

New Scholarships
Hendersonville Woman’s Club has started a new annual scholarship ($1,500) with the Educational Foundation to be awarded in 2014-2015. This scholarship is awarded to a student 21 years of age or older, with a financial need, seeking to obtain a degree or upgrade a skill to provide a better quality of life for himself/herself. The recipient must be a Henderson County resident with a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

Major Gifts
Fundraising efforts from the 5th annual Daniel Furr Memorial Golf Tournament provided a gift of $8,400 to the J. Daniel Furr Memorial Scholarship fund for 2014-2015 scholarship awards.

Eleanora Meloun made a $15,000 addition to the Charles J. and Eleanora W. Meloun Scholarship Endowment Fund from the Charles and Eleanora Meloun Charitable Fund, a Donor Advised Fund with the Community Foundation of Henderson County.

Connestee Falls Property Owners Association gifted $15,000 for 2014-2015 scholarship awards.

Louis and Judith Santiago contributed stock valued at $5,354 and have designed their gift for the Blair-Santiago Family Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Betty Berg gifted $5,000 to the William A. Keyser Memorial Scholarship awarded with preference to a Transylvania County resident with a financial need.

James and Jo Ann Brittain contributed $6,000 to their three scholarship endowments: $3,000--the James E. and Jo Ann Layne Brittain Scholarship Endowment Fund; $1,500--Jenny Bee Brittain Scholarship Endowment Fund; and $1,500--Beulah Coulter Layne and Arvel Layne Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Continental Automotive Systems contributed $10,000 for a new annual scholarship fund for award in academic year 2014-2015.

Margaret R. Pardee Hospital Auxiliary pledged $11,000 for 2014-2015 scholarships ($6,000 for curriculum scholarships and $5,000 for continuing education scholarships).

Major In-Kind Gifts
Henderson County Rescue Squad, Inc., donated a 1986 Chevrolet rescue truck valued at $45,000. The truck will be used in the College’s Fire Protection Technology and Emergency Medical Science programs.

Jo Ann Brittain donated a 2004 Ford Taurus (valued at $5,759) to the Automotive Systems Technology program.

Continental Automotive Systems gifted the College with two automation systems and four robots. This equipment will be used in the Mechatronics Engineering Technology, Computer Integrated Machining, and Welding Technology programs and, ultimately, in the Advanced Manufacturing Center. The Continental staff will also be setting up and programming the equipment, as well as, providing individual training for the College faculty. This contribution has a fair market value of $121,950; the original acquired value was $624,999.52.