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.

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College Update

The College received notification from SACSCOC of approval for Balfour Education Center (BEC) as a Blue Ridge Community College off-campus site. This approval is primarily because 50% or more of credits toward Mechatronics Engineering Technology can be obtained at the Balfour Education Center.

Alan Stephenson, Marcia Stoneman, Lori Allen, Darlene Cope, Richard Sykes, Alison Carter, Tish Blair, Laura Engel, Stephanie Gilliam, Kirsten Bunch, Cathy Stephenson, Susan Jones, Nancy Bulow, Katie Winkler and I attended the NCCCS Conference "Pathways to Success: 21st Century Teaching, Learning, and Student Success" on October 12-14 in Raleigh. Several faculty members presented at this conference.

Carolyn Alley is participating in the 2014-15 North Carolina Community College Leadership Program. This seven-month program offers participants learning experiences that will acquaint them with community college issues and develop leadership skills.

Blue Ridge Community College is responsible for preparing and distributing the Annual Security Report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). The Annual Security Report was published October 1 and contains three years of selected campus crime statistics and certain campus security policy statements in accordance with the Clery Act. The full report is posted at www.blueridge.edu/about-brcc/campus-security.

The 2014 nursing graduates had a 90% passing rate on the NCLEX, national licensing exam for nurses. This passing rate exceeded the rates of other neighboring colleges including Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College (81%), Southwestern Community College (75%), South College (63%), and Isothermal Community College (84%). Recent completers of the EMT basics class achieved 100% first time pass rate, with seven students being tested.

The Economic and Workforce Development Division worked closely with leaders at Wilsonart to provide rapid response services, including a job fair,
to 43 workers who were terminated due to the company’s restructuring.

The College hosted a Nurse Aide/Phlebotomy Job Fair on October 8. Approximately 27 facilities and hospitals attended.

The College hosted its annual Career Day for area high school students on October 17. More than 800 high school juniors from our local area had an opportunity to hear three speakers from a choice of approximately 60 career paths.

The College currently has customized training projects with ASG Shorewood, Blue Ridge Metals, Cane Creek Cycling, Clement Pappas, Continental, Elkamet, Pharmagra Labs, Sierra Nevada Brewing, and Wilson Art.

Park Ridge Hospital approved the 54-hour Clinical Medical Assistant Review/Prep Course through the National Health Career Association. BRCC has been approved by the NHA as a testing site for this national certification. NHA proctored certification, via webcam, for two Allied Health staff. Classes will begin in January and are open to any Medical Assistant.

The Fletcher Town Council approved BRCC to offer continuing education classes at the new Fletcher Town Hall, starting in the spring semester. The classes, which could include personal financial management and introduction to computers, will be offered several times during the semester.

On October 15, the BRCC Small Business Center sponsored a What’s New in Business Conference with East Henderson High School ROTC participated in the College’s recent Veteran’s Day observance event. More than 65 faculty, staff, and students attended.
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce and SCORE with over 50 local businesses participating. The Small Business Center also sponsored the 2014 Women’s Business Conference on November 4 at the BRCC Conference Hall with more than 100 local business representatives attending.

The College hosted the WNC Regional MATRAC Healthcare Coalition meeting on November 14. The topic presented was preparation for the Ebola outbreak. The Healthcare Coalition will host the regional epidemiologist Dr. David Buhner, providing an update on Ebola Infection Prevention and Control. Also, at the request of Ned Fowler, Mission Health’s Regional EMS Liaison, there will be an open discussion of possible EMS transport and referral patterns for infectious disease patients.

The Business and Service Careers Advising Fair was held on October 29. The Advising Fair was open to all currently enrolled students in a business or service career curriculum program. The advising fair was designed for students to meet their advisors and begin to establish a professional working relationship between student and advisor.

The Fall College Transfer Fair was held on October 29th. The Transfer Fair allowed students an opportunity to meet college representatives from several different colleges and universities.

Nine students have been selected to serve as BRCC Student Ambassadors: Larena Capps, Jacob Bradley, Carolyn Cullen, Greg Mosier, Caleb Tinsley, Megan Capps, Renee Martinez, Greer Robinson, and Alex Aiken. Student Ambassadors assist with recruiting, public relations events, campus tours, and follow up with people who have applied to BRCC.

Student Ambassadors helped with the Daniel J. Furr Memorial Scholarship Tournament held in October at the Connestee Falls Golf Course. Fourteen Transylvania County BRCC students received Furr scholarships this year.

**Joint Allied Health Education Center Project Update**

The house that was on the designated site has been demolished and work on clearing the land has begun. Some of the materials from the house have been salvaged for re-use. Hendersonville City Manager is working on transferring ownership of the site to Henderson County.

The schematic phase of the design process has been completed. The Board of Commissioners moved to approve the design on September 17, 2014. The architect is moving forward, submitting plans to various regulatory agencies. A groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled for the fall. Grading will begin this winter with construction starting in the spring.

Pictured above: Architectural rendering of the entrance to second and third floor educational spaces for Wingate University and Blue Ridge Community College.
2014-2015 Fiscal Year

Contributions for the first quarter were $59,407. Investment returns were 9.19% for the trailing 12 months. At September 30, 2014, assets of the Foundation were more than $10.6M. At their meeting on October 22, the Board of Directors approved the College’s request for $217,770 to purchase equipment and safety items needed to begin the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) certification process for the Computer-Integrated Machining Technology program. Skills in the metalworking industry are certified through the earning of NIMS credentials. This allocation brings the Foundation’s 2014-2015 budget to $1.2M.

In-kind Gifts

Legacy Paddlesports donated a kayak mold ($8,000) to the College’s Welding Technology program, and Cason Builders Supply contributed 15 loads of mulch, which is valued at $7,500.

Trustees and Directors Giving Campaign

Currently 97% of individuals serving on either the College Board of Trustees or the Foundation Board of Directors have made an annual gift to the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation Trustees and Directors Giving Campaign.

Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign

Pat Horlick and Matt Rieger (pictured) served as this year’s co-chairs of the Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign raising $28,058.76. Areas across the campus were combined as a way to even the numbers across departments for a 100% Participation Competition. The co-chairs recently recognized the Academic Support area for 100% participation. In addition, every employee serving on the College Leadership Team has made a contribution to the Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign.

Through this Campaign, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education Julie Thompson has established the Julie Thompson Scholarship Endowment Fund.

In a review of the foundations associated with the 58 North Carolina community colleges, Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation is ranked high in these comparisons:

- Ranked 2nd in WNC
- Ranked 5th in NC

Source: Fiscal Year 2013 tax returns