Blue Ridge Community College

Campus News

September 2012

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.

Blue Ridge Community College

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Blue Ridge Community College

Blue Ridge Community College Ranked Exceptional by North Carolina Community College System

I am pleased to announce the North Carolina Community College System has recognized Blue Ridge Community College as one of only 16 community colleges in the state for Exceptional Institutional Performance (EIP) for the year 2012.

The rating is based on the North Carolina Community College System’s annual review of seven performance measures from across its 58 community colleges.

The measures include
• passing rates on licensure and certification examinations;
• performance of college transfer students;
• passing rates of students in developmental courses;
• success rates of developmental students in subsequent college-level courses;
• satisfaction of program completers and non-completers;
• curriculum student retention; and,
• client satisfaction with customized training.

The exceptional rating indicates Blue Ridge Community College met or exceeded all seven performance measures; our students received at least a 70 percent passing rate on all licensure exams for first-time test takers; and, students transferring from Blue Ridge into the UNC System performed at a level equal to or above native UNC System students. The results of this report certainly show student success across several significant areas. In addition, it shows we have been very responsive to employers in meeting the necessary training and retraining needs of business and industry in our area.
The North Carolina General Assembly approved the 2012-2013 State budget in early July. The budget contains the majority of the NCCCS goals for reinvestment strategy and targeted provisions. This biennial legislative session would not have been as successful without our elected officials, trustees, and the entire community college family working together. The Blue Ridge Community College budget will be approximately $14 million—remaining flat from the previous year.

Patty MacDuff has been selected by the Leadership Team for the Innovative Idea of the Month. Recently, Patty submitted an idea that would establish a means to recognize College employees for going ‘above and beyond’ in the course of their daily work. Employees could nominate fellow employees for their extraordinary actions that make Blue Ridge a great place to work. Patty’s suggestion has led to the implementation of the High 5 Employee Recognition Program.

Blue Ridge Community College is partnering with Fighting Eagle 5K to be held on the Henderson County Campus on November 10. Fighting Eagle 5K will benefit East Henderson High School student Hunter Garren, who was recently injured in an off-road vehicle accident. The College will forego its own 5K to support this worthy cause. We plan to have a training program for running the 5K and a Continuing Education training class is scheduled to begin in October.

The 2012-2013 Community Ambassador Program (CAP) began on August 29. Participants will participate in four sessions over a four-month period to gain a behind-the-scenes look at the College and its programs and services. Upon graduation from the program, each Community Ambassador will join more than 70 other CAP graduates to help build relationships that encourage involvement and investment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEAM OF FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE THE ASHEVILLE 48-HOUR FILM PROJECT LAST MONTH. THE TEAM’S FILM WAS SHOWN AT THE "BEST OF" EVENT TO A SOLD-OUT CROWD AND RECEIVED THE OVERALL BEST USE OF PROP AWARD.

ALAN STEPHENSON AND OLIVIA MARTIN ATTENDED THE KICK-OFF MEETING FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. OLIVIA IS SERVING AS BLUE RIDGE'S REPRESENTATIVE; DR. STEPHENSON IS SERVING ON THE STATE LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THIS TWO-YEAR PROJECT.

MORE THAN 50 CURRICULUM CLASS SECTIONS HAVE BEEN RANDOMLY CHOSEN FOR THE SURVEY OF ENTERING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (SENSE) PROJECT. THE SURVEY WILL BE ADMINISTERED DURING THE WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER 10 AND SEPTEMBER 17 AND WILL FOCUS ON INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES AND STUDENT BEHAVIORS IN THE EARLIEST WEEKS OF COLLEGE. AS RESEARCH SHOWS, UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS’ EARLIEST EXPERIENCES CAN HELP US ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING, RETENTION, AND SUCCESS. SURVEY DATA WILL BE COLLECTED, ANALYZED, AND REPORTED BACK TO BLUE RIDGE, EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS.

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL SEMESTER IS IN FULL SWING. THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SHORT-TERM, NON-CREDIT CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY IN 2012. "MANY MORE ADULTS ARE SEEKING SHORT-TERM TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THE WORKFORCE QUICKLY OR UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS FOR THEIR CURRENT POSITION," SAID BEN KISH, DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE TRAINING DEVELOPMENT. "ENROLLMENT IN CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES SUCH AS FIRE AND RESCUE, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, AND COMPUTER TRAINING HAS BEEN RISING STEADILY. THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FIRE AND RESCUE COLLEGE SLATED FOR MID-SEPTEMBER HAS ALMOST DOUBLE THE REGISTRATIONS THIS YEAR COMPARED TO 2011."

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES MARCIA STONEMAN REPORTED TUESDAY THAT 2,270 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN CURRICULUM COURSES. "AFTER A WEEK OR SO OF SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS AND PAYMENT DEADLINES, OUR CURRICULUM ENROLLMENT REPORT IS COMPLETE," REPORTED VICE PRESIDENT STONEMAN. "ENROLLMENT LAST YEAR WAS 2,480, BUT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT BLUE RIDGE TODAY VERSUS FOUR YEARS IS STILL HIGHER. IT SEEMS THAT, AFTER THE DRAMATIC ENROLLMENT SURGE IN 2008, ENROLLMENT HAS LEVELED."

ENROLLMENT IN THE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS INCREASED WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM. THE TOP FIVE HIGHEST CURRICULUM ENROLLMENT ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS AT BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, OTHER THAN COLLEGE TRANSFER WHICH HAS MORE THAN 600 STUDENTS, ARE NURSING, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, EARLY CHILDHOOD, AND FIRE PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY. SEVERAL STUDENT SERVICES FOCUSED ON STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES WERE ADDED THIS YEAR INCLUDING MANDATORY STUDENT ORIENTATION, AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF ONLINE LEARNING, A 24/7 ONLINE TUTORING SERVICE, CREATION OF THE ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER, AND EXPANDED COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS.

ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT STUDENTS AT BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

- Curriculum and continuing education classes are offered at two campuses—Henderson County Campus and Transylvania County Campus.
- Through credit courses, continuing education and workforce development programs, Blue Ridge Community College annually serves nearly 15,000 students.
- The average age of curriculum students at Blue Ridge is 27. The average of continuing education student is closer to 35.
- The majority of Blue Ridge students do not take a full-time course load. Most juggle work and family responsibilities along with their college courses.
- While 84% of our students come from the College’s designated service area—Henderson and Transylvania Counties—several hundred curriculum students commute to Blue Ridge from surrounding counties such as Polk and Buncombe.
- Ninety-two curriculum courses are offered fully online with 824 students enrolled in those courses. More than 1,900 students are enrolled in courses with an online learning requirement.
- Early College, a North Carolina High School of Excellence, has 128 students enrolled this year.
- Approximately 47% of Blue Ridge Community College students receive some type of financial aid while attending College. This fall, Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation awarded scholarships to more than 200 students.
further supporting our efforts to understand the critical early student experience and to improve practices in ways that will increase student success in the first year.

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION

The EWD/CE Division has received a North Carolina Back-to-Work Grant from the NC Community College System in the amount of $363,359. The grant, which targets local residents who have exhausted their unemployment benefits in the last 12 months, will provide resources for workforce development and job training in the areas of automotive, manufacturing, electronic medical records, and computer certifications, as well as beer brewing and wait staff training. In addition, the grant will provide financial assistance for qualifying individuals who wish to enroll in one of the designated training programs.

The EWD/CE Division will be coordinating a Job Fair in March for Sierra Nevada in the Blue Ridge Conference Center.

The annual WNC Fire College is scheduled for September 12-16.

Eighteen students tested for the BLET state exam with 17 successfully passing (94% pass rate).

The new 300-hour online certificate program for Law Enforcement Leadership concluded on September 1, with 31 students enrolled.

The year-long Vision Henderson and Vision Transylvania programs have begun; students will graduate in May.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

The Division of Finance and Operations is working with the president and all divisions of the College to bring the 2012-2013 state budget planning and development process to completion. Enrollment and actual cost trends were reviewed to justify or adjust base budget allocations and funding priorities. Budget monitoring workshops are underway to discuss budget details, as well as fiscal accountability guidelines campus wide.

It is our desire to operate and maintain physical facilities, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution’s educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities. Therefore, we are in the process of gathering information from students, faculty, and staff for our annual building assessment report in order to capture these program, support service, and mission-critical needs.

The $2MM project is completed and final payment from the County has been received.

Capital project priorities for the new fiscal year are renovations in the Spearman building to accommodate our new Mechatronics equipment and program and renovations to the first floor of the Patton building to create a more conducive administrative office structure that better serves our customers and community. We are also engaged in safety, energy efficient, and deferred maintenance-related projects that the Board of Trustees approved and the County funded.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

At the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) national conference last month, Financial Aid Director Lisanne Masterson was announced as the recipient of the NASFAA Regional Leadership Award for the Southern Region. In February, she will be officially presented with a plaque at the regional conference in Atlanta. Lisanne also authored the first chapter in NASFAA’s recently released publication, You’re the Director—A Guide to Leadership in Student Financial Aid.
Henderson County Early College (HCEC) High School students returned to campus on August 7, with 170 students enrolled this year. You may have seen a recent article in the Times-News announcing that the Henderson County Early College High School was recognized as being the only high school in Henderson County to receive the highest status of “Honor School of Excellence.” Schools must have at least 90 percent of students proficient in the tested subjects and also meet all federal Annual Measurable Objectives requirements in order to qualify for this status. HCEC had a 99.3% rate of proficiency.

DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY

For the Fall semester, we are running 92 fully online courses with 824 unduplicated users. A more accurate total of everyone in Moodle, our online platform, would be 413 course sections (Internet, Hybrid, and Web-based) with 1,990 (unduplicated) users and 5,165 duplicated enrollments. These figures are up slightly from Fall 2011.

Service Area agreements were completed for sign language classes offered via our Interactive TV classrooms with Southeastern and Brunswick Community Colleges. Both Fayetteville Technical and Bladen Community Colleges will offer these classes under their continuing Level III agreements via ITV. Additionally, we are sending a variety of other classes to the Transylvania County Campus including nursing, marketing, and math courses for a total of approximately 70 course hours per week.

“Soul’s Journey: Inside the Creative Process” (executive producer, former VP for Technology, David Hutto) was created to provide viewers with an insight into the creative process as it is revealed through the work of studio craft artists with diverse cultural backgrounds, living and working in the southern United States. The documentary, comprised of six one-hour shows featuring the top craft artists in wood, metal, fiber, clay, glass, and furniture was made possible by a grant from Windgate Charitable Foundation with support from Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation. More information can be found at the Center for Craft Creativity and Design Website.

Holiday Market 2012

Huge selection of holiday gifts from local entrepreneurs and businesses in one convenient location!

Free, Open to the Public
Blue Ridge Conference Hall, Henderson County Campus
Vendor Applications accepted until November 9

For more information, please call the BRCC Event Information Line at (828) 694-4747 or contact events@blueridge.edu.

2012-13 Estimated Financial Aid for BRCC Students by Source
(based on current semester numbers)

Federal Aid ................ $5,850,000
BRCC Educational Foundation ................ 360,000
State Aid ................ $275,000
Outside Aid ................ 25,000

State Aid ........................ $275,000
Outside Aid ................ 25,000
Board Appointments

The Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation Board of Directors has approved the following appointment of officers for its fiscal year 2012-2013:

- Andrea J. Corn, President
- Hilliard Staton, Vice President
- Steven R. Carson, Secretary
- Molly A. Parkhill, Assistant Secretary
- Terry Foxworth, Treasurer
- Rhonda K. Devan, Assistant Treasurer
- Ann F. Green, Ex. Director

Ken D. Adams, Vikki D. Bailey, C. Page Collie, and Patsy Farmer Jones have been appointed to a second three-year term as directors.

Major Gifts

Blue Ridge Community College has been awarded a $200,000 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation to fund mechatronics equipment for Career and College Promise programs at high schools in Henderson and Transylvania Counties and a wet lab for the Mechatronics Engineering Technology simulated factory floor on the Henderson County Campus.

Col. and Mrs. George F. McGregor gifted $30,000 to the George and Anne McGregor Allied Health Scholarship Endowment Fund. Louis and Judith Santiago made a $5,000 gift to the Blair-Santiago Family Scholarship Endowment Fund. This scholarship is awarded with preference to a Hispanic student.

New Annual Scholarships

A new $500 annual scholarship was established by Roger and Linda Freed in memory of their family friend Sarah Nodurf. Sarah was a graduate of East Henderson High School and held an Associate Degree in Paramedic Science. While on duty as an EMT-Paramedic in January 2012, she died of a blood clot that moved to her lungs. The Sarah Nodurf Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an Emergency Medical Science student planning to become a paramedic.

Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning gifted $3,500 in scholarships for students in "Learning for Work" classes.

2011-2012 Foundation Audit and 2012-2013 Foundation Budget

The Foundation 2011-2012 audit was conducted by Carter, P.C. They presented the audit report to the Foundation Audit Committee at their meeting on August 13 expressing an "unqualified opinion" (a clean opinion) on the financial statements. Budget requests submitted by the College to the Board of Directors, along with other Foundation funds, rendered an approved budget of $777,873.

Faculty and Staff Awards

Now through September 28, nominations are being accepted online for BRCC faculty and staff awards:

- Dr. Eliza B. Graue Extra Mile Award
- Dr. and Mrs. William D. Killian Outstanding Teacher Award
- Dr. Molly A. Parkhill Staff Person of the Year Award
- Dr. David W. Sink Jr. Community Service Award
- Wellness Employee of the Year

The nomination form (available with this code using your smartphone) must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 28, to be considered.

Award recipients will be presented a monetary gift at the College Faculty and Staff Holiday Party on Friday, December 7, 2012, and announced at the December 14, 2012, graduation ceremonies.

Annual Fundraising Campaign

This month the Foundation will kick off its annual campaign starting with College trustees and Foundation directors. This year’s Faculty and Staff Campaign, chaired by Brian Johnson and Amy Williford, will kick off on September 12 and will conclude on September 28. The Foundation will celebrate our students and donors at the Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon on September 19.