September 2013

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.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT/GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The State Board of Community Colleges approved the Brewing, Distillation, and Fermentation Technology program at Blue Ridge Community College. As a result of our promotional efforts, The Associated Press picked up the Times-News article on the Brewing associate degree program. This generated a flurry of media inquiries including Fox News Carolina and a news radio station in Charlotte. Fifty-five potential students attended one of the sessions held in July. Back-to-Work students who participated in the Craft Beer Academy courses were also informed of the information sessions.

INSTRUCTION

The State Board of Nursing has released the passing rates on the National Council Exam. Blue Ridge Community College had a pass rate of 83% from the ADN graduates who sat for the exam. The format of this exam recently changed and there seems to be wide spread negative impact on passing rates throughout the state. Although there was a drop in our passing rate, Blue Ridge students scored higher than students at most of the colleges in our area.

The College also received notification from the National Board of Surgical Technologist and Surgical Assisting that 100% of our Surgical Technology graduates passed their national certification exam.

• Advanced Manufacturing Update

A facility at Balfour Education Center has been renovated to accommodate the Mechatronics program and some machining equipment from the College. The renovations took place from March-June 2013. At Brevard High School, a former computer lab was converted to house Mechatronics. A wing in the north end of Brevard High School had extensive electrical work completed to upgrade for Welding. Due to space limitations, Brevard High School will only be able to accommodate the equipment for introductory courses in Machining. The College administration is considering alternative options for housing the CNC machining equipment.
Recruiting flourished during the Spring Semester with events such as career nights at West Henderson High School and Blue Ridge Community College. These events introduced the field of mechatronics to students and parents. Also in the Spring Semester, events were held, such as "Experience Blue Ridge," where students and parents rotated through different hands-on training exercises to give them practical knowledge of the field. BRCC also participated in the state-wide Advanced Manufacturing Day in April. Local high schools participated by bringing in 40 students in the STEM programs to tour and receive hand-on experience and understanding in the mechatronics and machining fields. Carolina Trainers, UPM Raflatac, and the Computer-Integrated Machining department participated in the event. Students rotated through various training exercises. Also during the Spring, two lunchtime recruiting events were conducted at Brevard High School to increase the students’ knowledge and gain enrollment into the new high school program for Fall 2013.

In other efforts to inform the community about advanced manufacturing at BRCC, staff and Applied Technology faculty participated in summer-long events at various industries to discuss the programs. BRCC employees set up tables at these industries and, when shift change would occur or break time came about, College staff would supply information to these employees. The initiative was a huge success and will be carried on through the Fall Semester.

During the Summer Semester, the engineering instructors conducted two camps for high school students on the Henderson
County Campus: Young Engineers and Camp TECHhead. These camps ran for two weeks, during which students learned the fields of mechatronics and engineering. The 14 high school students who took the Young Engineers camp earned college credit in EGR 150 (Introduction to Engineering); the credit can be utilized for transfer when they begin their college program. Camp TECHhead had 22 students enrolled. Also during the Summer, 14 high school students toured the WCU engineering program to gain an understanding of the university level and courses needed from BRCC. In all, during the Spring and Summer Semesters, 150 high school students received information about the Blue Ridge Community College Mechatronics program.

To increase public and parent awareness of the program, local TV channel WLOS created TV commercial spots highlighting the Mechatronics and Machining programs. These commercials aired at different time slots during the day until August 14. Information sessions and lectures about advanced manufacturing were given to the Rotary and Lions Clubs during April and July 2013. BRCC Film and Video staff created a short recruiting video that has been used at high school events, and is now aired on YouTube and BRCC-TV.

The work to create apprenticeships began in late Spring Semester. Meetings with Continental Teves, BorgWarner Thermal, and Elkamet have been completed. The process to develop the apprenticeship is based on the guidelines created with Continental. The course will be offered on specific days for full eight-hour days. This will allow instruction to be completed in a specific number of days or weeks instead of the traditional, full 16 weeks; in turn, shortening the time spent on campus and instead putting emphasis on the work environment. The apprenticeship program should be ready to operate beginning Summer 2014.

A partnership is underway for a robotics club with Henderson County Public Schools. BRCC will provide space for the high school robotics club, where students can build, repair, and interact with College students. The College faculty and students will also be mentoring the middle school Lego teams this year and have purchased two Lego kits to support this effort. Blue Ridge will host the first Lego League Challenge on November 8 (this event was held at the UNC-A campus in the past).

**JobLink Career Center Opens at Transylvania County Campus**

Transylvania County JobLink Career Center is open on the Transylvania County Campus of Blue Ridge Community College in Brevard. The JobLink Career Center is a comprehensive career planning, training, and job placement resource for all residents of Transylvania County. Services include job search assistance and resume and job interview preparation, as well as locating financial assistance for job training. The Center is staffed by Case Manager Megan Silvey and Customer Services Assistant Shawn Gaddis.

The JobLink Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Walk-ins are welcome; appointments can be scheduled by calling (828) 883-2550.

Picture attached: Case Manager Megan Silvey and Customer Services Assistant Shawn Gaddis
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY CAMPUS

The Transylvania County Campus will host Brevard Middle School’s 7th Grade Career Day on Friday, October 11.

On Tuesday, November 12, the Transylvania County Campus will host the Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours.

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

Blue Ridge Community College has received its second NC Back-to-Work grant in the amount of $129,000. This will allow continuation of our short-term training for unemployed and underemployed individuals in Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Computer Systems, and Brewing Technology.

The North Carolina Community College System Workforce Continuing Education Division has selected Blue Ridge Community College as one of six community colleges to pilot a Career Readiness Certificate Detention Officer Certification Program. EWD/CE’s Law Enforcement and HRD programs will partner to participate in this pilot.

The EWD/CE has created the Blue Ridge Community College Culinary Institute for the purpose of offering workforce training to those working in the culinary field, as well as personal-interest culinary courses for the community. This Fall, the Culinary Institute will offer more than 20 courses including 7 courses at Mayberry’s in Transylvania County and courses at Burnt Shirt Vineyards, St. Paul Vineyards, Dandelions, the Poe House, and Falderal Winery in Henderson County.

The EWD/CE is partnering with the Henderson County Recreation Department to offer personal enrichment classes at the newly renovated recreation facility on Old Spartanburg Highway (formerly Faith Christian School).

This Fall, the EWD/CE offered 26 personal enrichment courses in this facility.

With the purpose of introducing additive technology to the community, the EWD/CE began offering 3D printing courses in August. This training introduces participants to how 3D digital design and additive technology can reveal new ideas and provide fresh inspiration for business and manufacturing projects. Courses are held in a newly equipped and renovated classroom, the Blue Ridge Innovation Lab in the Applied Technology Building on the Transylvania County Campus.

“I believe the combination of determination, networking, and classes at BRCC all helped me land my dream job. I am grateful that these courses were available and I highly recommend them to anyone who wants to enrich their knowledge of the beer industry and possibly gain employment in the booming world of craft beer.”

Amy Rubin, WNC Sales – Oskar Blues Brewery
**FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

The College has completed the 2013 fiscal year-end process and, accordingly, has filed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the Office of the State Controller. The Finance and Operations staff have submitted formal financial statements to the State Auditor.

The Safety Committee is reviewing the impact of the amendment to the firearms laws, under House Bill 937, that would allow lawfully concealed weapons to be carried in places previously barred, including locked vehicles on college campuses.

The BRCC Bookstore has begun implementing Faculty Enlight, which will become effective for the Spring 2014 semester. Faculty Enlight was piloted last October by Barnes & Noble (B&N) and has been launched at all campuses served by B&N nationwide. Faculty Enlight was developed as an online solution to provide faculty with the information necessary to compare and select the best available format and price of educational materials for their students prior to adoption. Most notably, Faculty Enlight provides students with the ease of a computerized online ordering service and an online comparison-shopping search engine for obtaining purchasing information.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Fall curriculum enrollment is 2,314. The Registrar’s office processed close to 2,000 applications and returning student forms in preparation for the Fall Semester.

Henderson County Early College (HCEC) has begun its fifth year with this 2013-14 school year. This year’s “13th” grade level of Super Seniors represents the first class that began HCEC in their freshman year of high school.

The United States House and Senate have reached a compromise on the Smarter Solution for Students Act, which will tie direct loan interest rates to the 10-year treasury note. This change will go into effect for all loans disbursed after July 1. Essentially, this lowers the current interest rate at 6.8% for undergraduate students to an estimated 3.86%.

The College hosted the Annual CACRAO Educational Opportunity Night (“College Night”) on September 10.

Fifty-seven students have registered in 115 classes in the Career & College Promise (CCP) program in Transylvania County. For Henderson County, 67 students have registered for 142 classes.
2012-2013 Fiscal Year

Support and revenue for 2012-13 totaled $1.4 million with assets at $9.6 million. Investment returns for the fiscal year were 9.97%. The “Independent Auditors’ Report” with an unmodified opinion (clean opinion) and the “Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax” (Form 990), both prepared by Carter, P.C., for the 2012-13 fiscal year were accepted by the Board of Directors.

2013-2014 Fiscal Year

The Board of Directors approved College Vice President for Finance and Operations Antonia Berbrick as a director and its assistant treasurer. Sunnybrook Assisted Living President Katie Inman was approved as a new director to the Board. Katie is a Blue Ridge Community College alumna and a Blue Ridge Community College Community Ambassador. Budget requests submitted by the College to the Board of Directors, along with other Foundation funds, rendered an approved budget of $934,678.75 for 2013-14.

New Scholarships

John Almert funded a new $2,500 scholarship for the 2013-14 academic year. The Ruby Marie Almert Memorial Scholarship is awarded in memory of Ruby Marie Almert who taught piano lessons for 50 years. The scholarship is awarded to a student enrolled in the Fine Arts - Music curriculum with a first preference to a recipient studying piano; however, if this is not attainable, the award may be made to another student enrolled in Fine Arts - Music.

The North Carolina Law Enforcement Women’s Association Scholarship has started a semi-annual scholarship awarded to a female Criminal Justice Technology or Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) student. The recipient will be invited to attend the Association’s annual banquet.

Major In-Kind Gift

Carolina Training Associates gifted a Robotino Pen (valued at $5,000). It will be used in the Mechatronics Lab for robotics and automation training.

Nominations for BRCC Faculty and Staff Awards

Now through September 30, 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 (nominations by full-time faculty only)
- Dr. Molly A. Parkhill Staff Person of the Year Award
- Dr. David W. Sink Jr. Community Service Award
- Wellness Employee of the Year

Annual Fundraising Campaign Begins in September

In September the Foundation will kick off its annual campaign starting with College trustees and Foundation directors. This year’s Faculty and Staff Campaign, chaired by Jack Igelman and Melodee Leyshon, will kick off on September 11 and will conclude on September 30. The Foundation celebrated our students and donors at the Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, September 18.