

## REPORT TO BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

**January 12, 2015**

**Dr. Molly A. Parkhill**

### **INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT/GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

The Human Resources Department has been in process of auditing data in Colleague and ORBIT to ensure that employee longevity information is 100% accurate. A Longevity / Creditable State Service request of verification was sent to each full-time employee for determining 100% accuracy of information. This provides our employees an opportunity to ask questions regarding date verification that may bring forth additional information for correcting any other unnoted finding. The findings of the Longevity Audit have been turned over to our EAGLE Auditor for review. An action list for improvements and corrections was also included. Following the EAGLE review of the audit and following any additional information provided by our individual employee reviews, we will work together to finalize the appropriate actions and report.

President Parkhill, Chad Merrill, Alan Stephenson, Marcia Stoneman, and Carol Ann Lydon attended the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tn., December 6 -9, 2014.

Video production team contracted by NCCCS was on location at Blue Ridge on Dec 9-11 conducting interviews and gathering footage for a promotional video about brewing programs at AB, Blue Ridge, and Rockingham. Chris English, Gabe Mixon, and Lee Anna Haney identified faculty, students, and employers to be featured in video.

### **DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION**

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) has awarded continuing accreditation to the Surgical Technology Program. This continuing accreditation follows a comprehensive peer review site visit last spring, and recognizes the program's substantial compliance with the nationally recognized accreditation Standards. While the program will continue to be monitored through routine annual reporting, the next comprehensive review and on-site visit will occur in 2024.

### **DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/ CONTINUING EDUCATION (EWD/CE)**

A re-accreditation audit visit was also held recently for the College's Basic Law Enforcement Training program. The auditor presented glowing accolades to our staff for an outstanding quality program. He was very complimentary of the program's record keeping, as well as the organization of equipment and student records. The report was presented with zero deficiencies--

something that had never been presented to community college basic law enforcement program. A recommendation for accreditation renewal will be presented to the Criminal Justice Training and Standard full commission meeting in February for approval. The next re-accreditation audit for renewal will be 2018.

BRCC personal enrichment classes are scheduled to be taught in the Fletcher Town Hall in January 2015. To “kick off” the new location, we will offer a free Photography workshop January 20 from 6-8 PM. Other courses include:

- Beginning Spanish 1
- Social Media Systems for Small Business
- Learning to use your iPad/iPhone
- Wire Wrapping Jewelry Making
- Build a Better Brain
- Conquering Your Fear of Public Speaking

The College will be participating in the Asheville Chamber of Commerce Homecoming Job Fair at the Western North Carolina Ag Center on January 7, 2015. Ben Kish and Shanda Bedoian will be representing the College.

## **CORPORATE AND CUSTOMIZED TRAINING**

### ***Business Services/ Initiatives:***

- Continental Automotive Systems - Finished Plating Operator Profile with 2nd group of SMEs; drafting report
- 1000 in 100 - Participated in meeting at Elkamet (Becky Levi/ HR, Brent Coston/ PM and Kevin/ Ops) with Pat and Barbara; led meeting via phone with Sylvan Sports (Tom Dempsey/PM) and Ellie Waters
- Spring 2015 Schedule - Mass delivery to major manufacturers in Henderson and Transylvania Counties
- Cane Creek Cycling - Met with Courtney Smith/ HR, and Doug Jones/ Continuous Improvement Trainer re: Root Cause Analysis training
- Clement Pappas - Started an OSHA 10 class; finalized dates/ times for 1st Aid/ CPR class with Kara Bailey/ HR and Chris Suttles/ NC Works CTP Trainer; discussed 96 hr Maintenance Program with Kara and Pete Szelwach/ PM
- Continental - Meeting with Alan Williams/ HR and Steve Gormley/ T&D re: Certified Logistics Technician classes - working on logistics (dates, times, location/s) of classes; communicated with all machining certification students/ employees re: transition to curriculum for Spring 2015 to complete certificate; reviewed process with Alan Williams/ HR and Steve Gormley/ T&D
- Elkamet - Met with leadership - Becky Levi/ HR, Brent Coston/ PM and Kevin/ Ops re: leadership series (times, student count, location) starting in January and continuing through March

- MPS (Formerly ASG) - Met with Angela Sparks/ CI Mgr., Ruth and conferenced in Jeff Groves/ NC Works CTP Trainer to finalize Leadership Series topics, dates and times - starts in January and continues through March

### **DIVISION OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS**

The College received a plaque from the Holly Society of America listing our Holly Collection as a Holly Arboretum. The garden is located between the TEDC and the Lake.

### **DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES**

During BRCC's December 19, 2014 graduation 120 graduates were awarded a total of 138 degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Five Henderson County Early College students graduated early in December with both their high school diploma and A.A. degree. HCEC graduate, Emily Bodley, performed the National Anthem at the ceremony. Pamela J. Saltz Mangum, an honors graduate with an A.A.S. in Office Administration, delivered the commencement address and eloquently expressed the challenges she overcame to reach her educational goal and the gratitude she felt towards her instructors and BRCC for their support.

Shanita Jackson has been selected to be Blue Ridge's Academic Excellence Award recipient for 2015. Criteria for the award is the student must be currently enrolled, must have completed at least 12 semester hours in an associate degree program, and must have a cumulative grade point average of not less than 3.25 and Shanita stood out. Shanita is already both a regionally and a nationally recognized spoken-word poet. As well as both working and attending school, she volunteers to serve food to the homeless at Hope Methodist Church in East Flat Rock every Tuesday night. She will finish both Early College High School AND her Associate in Arts degree 1 year early, graduating in May of 2015. And all of this while dealing with a homelessness situation. Her accomplishments while at Blue Ridge, as well as her work-ethic, natural leadership ability, and her overall demeanor, made her the superior choice as the representative from Blue Ridge who we will be able to celebrate as "one of ours."

Students who were nominated to the All-USA/Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Programs are: Crystal Davis and John Olsen from the Henderson County Campus, and Abigail Arnold and Lyndsay Queen from the Transylvania Campus.

Financial Aid staff attended the Fall NCASF AA (NC Assoc. of Student Financial Aid Administrators) Conference November 10-12 at the Crowne Plaza in Asheville. The NC Community College caucus met to discuss default rate plans with other NCCCS institutions as we finalize our default management plan.

Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”), requires VA to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty at public institutions of higher learning if the schools charge qualifying Veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for terms beginning after **July 1, 2015**. These new requirements will ensure that our Nation’s recently discharged Veterans, and their eligible family members, will not have to bear the cost of out-of-state charges while using their well-deserved education benefits. To remain approved for VA’s GI Bill programs, schools must charge in-state tuition and fee amounts to “covered individuals”. The NC Community College System has included in the 2015-17 budget priorities a request to the General Assembly to carry forward and re-purpose Yellow Ribbon Program funds to support the cost of charging in-state tuition rates.

Financial Aid Director, Lisanne Masterson was honored to receive the Eleanor S. Morris Distinguished Service Award during the Fall NCASF AA (NC Assoc. of Student Financial Aid Administrators) Conference held the week of November 17, in Asheville. This is the highest award given by the Association. The award is named for Eleanor S. Morris, a financial aid administrator of national reputation who served the students at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. This award is presented to a financial aid administrator who has made important contributions to the Association or to the student financial aid profession. The recipient should have been involved in the Association in a variety of leadership roles: committee chair, elected officer, active member. The recipient should also have been involved in regional and state associations in a variety of roles: committee member, committee chair, possibly elected officer. This award is presented only when there is a deserving individual to be recognized. It was first awarded in 1989 and has only been presented to 13 previous NCASF AA members.

An updated Program Participation Agreement (PPA) has been submitted to add College Foundation Inc. as a third party servicer to assist us in managing our cohort loan default rate. In addition, the signed contract with College Foundation Inc. has been submitted, as well as setting up accounts for two staff members to access our student loan accounts.

Lisanne Masterson, Director of Financial Aid, was invited to attend a meeting hosted by the American Council on Education with Department of Education Undersecretary Ted Mitchell on December 17th, to discuss student borrowing and debt issues. BRCC was one of five community colleges from across the country represented at the meeting, and Lisanne is one of five FAAs invited from the Southern region (including one other community college FAA from Florida).

Rita Blythe, BRCC’s Recruiter, organized a productive meeting/workshop November 13 with Henderson County High School counselors, principals, and Central Office personnel to explore ways to serve our county’s high school students through the Career and College Promise

pathways. Challenges with schedules and transportation were addressed and participants also expressed needs for their individual student populations and learned more about the process.

On Friday, November 21, ninety-eight students from Rosman Middle School were at the TCC campus to learn about college and career options. Student ambassadors were on hand to guide the groups, and BRCC faculty and staff provided college presentations.

On November 25, Rob Rhodes provide a presentation to a freshman dropout prevention class at Brevard High School. The presentation focused on the merits of higher education and the Career & College Promise program. This same class visited the Transylvania County Campus's NC Works office.

On Friday, December 5, the fifth grade class from Pisgah Forest Elementary School visited TCC to learn about exciting career options. Faculty members Eric Stephens and Brad Toms presented their respective programs, and Sheriff David Mahoney demonstrated the K9 unit while discussing law enforcement careers. The Student Ambassador team served as guides for this group as well.

The 1st Annual Henderson County Early College FUNdRUN was held on Saturday, December 6. The event was a great success as it raised just over \$2000. All runners were pleased with the mapped out route of the race. It was a wonderful opportunity to increase our school spirit and bring our students, parents, community members and HCEC faculty and staff together.

Early College students also raised money for UNICEF, wrote letters to soldiers, raised money for Salvation Army and collected shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Ministries.

Natalie Pierce, English Instructor, and Beth Caudle, HCEC Principal, presented at the National Early College Conference in Dallas, TX, December 9-10, 2014. The HCEC proposal, Reframing Data Teams, was one of three selected from North Carolina out of the hundreds that were received by the sponsoring groups "Educate Texas" and "Jobs for the Future".

HCEC science teacher, Tom Savage, is one of 20 applicants (out of 250 nationwide) who was selected to be part of a research team for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

By the end of the 2014/2015 school year, the Early College will have a total of 47 graduates - 41 of those students will have earned both high school diploma and an associates degree. Students graduating in May are receiving acceptance letters for Fall 2015. Students have received letters from the following schools thus far: WCU, Lees McRae, UNCC, UNCG and Queens University.

## **DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY**

Staff members viewed a presentation from EAC Visual Data that demonstrated a potential Moodle plugin that would capture extensive student learning outcomes data. This tool is currently used in the BlackBoard LMS, and now the programmers want to try to have the plugin approved by Moodle hosting vendors. BRCC was contacted by Davidson Community College in an effort to gain support from college end-users. The College will be working with Davidson to advocate for its approval and implementation by MoodleRooms.

IT staff met with Cleveland Community College and shared the progress that BRCC has made with SharePoint and Portal. There was discussion about creating a collaborative effort amongst the colleges including Isothermal and others who are looking to move forward.

IT staff have been working on preparing a demonstration to validate revisions to our disaster recovery procedures for Colleague. A demonstration is expected to show our backup Colleague server operating with data restored from the previous day's backup. Preparing this demonstration has taken a lot longer than we originally anticipated. However, it has been highly valuable and we plan to conduct such demonstrations semi-annually to continue to ensure our processes are keeping pace with the technology.

The fall graduation ceremony aired on the BRCC-TV December 20, at 7:30 am/pm and December 21, at 8:00 am/pm. The video was also posted to the website on December 23.

## **BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

### **Major Gifts**

The Fitzpatrick Foundation contributed \$9,750 to fund three Mills River Scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year: The Mills River Scholarship is to provide scholarship support to a full-time Blue Ridge Community College student in a degree-granting curriculum that has and maintains a 2.5 (or higher) grade point average. The recipient must also be a Mills River resident and have the intentions of staying and working in the county.

Kalep, Inc., donated \$17,738 (\$8,869 general scholarships and \$8,869 Fine Arts - Music program) memorializing the life of longtime supporter of the College Helen Savie Underhill who passed away in 2013.

Ray and Judith McKenzie-Wilson contributed \$6,500 (\$3,250 to be awarded in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017) to fund a second two-year engineering scholarship for women.

Louis and Judith Santiago gifted \$5,000 and have designed their gift for the Blair-Santiago Family Scholarship Endowment Fund.

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

Connestee Falls Property Owners Association donated \$17,000 for 2015-16 scholarships.

Fundraising efforts from the 6th annual Daniel Furr Memorial Golf Tournament provided a pledge of \$8,400 to the J. Daniel Furr Memorial Scholarship fund for 2015-2016 scholarship awards and Continental Automotive Systems pledged \$10,000 for 2015-2016 scholarships.

### **Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign**

Blue Ridge Community College employees have now contributed \$28,888.76 to the 2014-2015 Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign.

### **2015-2016 Scholarship Applications**

The 2015-2016 Scholarship Application forms are available now and are due on or before Thursday, April 2.

