

REPORT TO BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

July 13, 2015

Dr. Molly A. Parkhill

Blue Ridge Community College is one of 16 community and technical colleges selected, this year, into the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network. Alan Stephenson, Marcia Stoneman, Alison Carter, Carol Ann Lydon, Lee Anna Haney and I attended the Achieving the Dream Kickoff Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio June 22-25.

Achieving the Dream, Inc. is a national nonprofit leading the nation's most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history. The Achieving the Dream National Reform Network, including more than 200 institutions, more than 100 coaches and advisors, and 15 state policy teams - working throughout 35 states and the District of Columbia - helps more than 4 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams. To become an Achieving the Dream College, applicants must demonstrate an institution-wide commitment to spend at least three years working with Achieving the Dream experts to implement reforms designed to improve student success and completion rates on their campuses.

TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) sent a visiting team to Blue Ridge June 1-3 to review our Welding program at Brevard High School and Mechatronics at Balfour Education Center. The Department of Education requires such a visit in order to approve the off-site locations. I am pleased to provide the "unofficial" update from the visiting team that Blue Ridge received a clean report with no recommendations. The off-site locations are fully in compliance with the principles of accreditation.

The College received a letter from SACSCOC, dated July 19, indicating approval for the Associate in Engineering Degree, beginning fall semester.

The Balsam Range Concert had revenue of just over \$4600. For additional information on use of college facilities, refer to the 2014-15 Events Activity report provided.

Blue Ridge Bookfest 2015 Author Interview Jeremy Jones is posted to the BRCC TV, BRCC TV Bookfest webpages and is linked on the Blue Ridge Bookfest landing page. An updated grid promoting the air dates of the remaining author interviews is also posted on each of these webpages.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

Bryan Bagley, machining instructor, has been selected to deliver a presentation entitled “Adapting the Old School to Meet the Modern Skills Demand” at the HTEC Americas CNC Educators Conference at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo on July 28. Bryan’s presentation will focus on the improvements he has led in our Computer Integrated Machining program over the last two years.

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

The Manufacturing Advisory Council members have piloted three new training programs which will be open to all manufacturers in our service area in the Fall of 2015. These include Maintenance Technician Training, Machining Certification and the MSSC Certified Logistics Program.

Because of increasing demands from manufacturing companies for technical skills training for their employees, the Division is hiring a full time Industrial Maintenance Instructor to begin in Fall 2015.

The EWD/CE Schedule of courses for Fall 2015 features Kharen Caggiano as the Success Cover Story. Kharen completed Continuing Education Machining Courses and transferred them into the Curriculum Machining Program which she will complete at the end of Summer term. She plans to complete an internship at Borg Warner beginning in July. Her goal is to eventually continue her education to become a quality engineer.

Program development efforts including focus groups, interviews and on line survey from a variety of stakeholders in both Henderson and Transylvania counties has revealed ideas for EWD/CE newly formed Professional Development Institute. These include:

- Sustainability
- Succession Planning
- Project Management
- Customer Service
- Coaching and Developing Others
- Business Analytics
- Strategic Planning
- Change Management
- Medical Assisting
- Leadership Training
- Various types of computer courses and certifications

The Division will offer selected courses suggested by specific companies in the Fall of 2015 with plans to kick off the Professional Development Institute by bringing Disney back for Customer Service training in 2016.

The Continuing Education Paramedic class achieved an 86% pass rate.

Now in its sixth year, Camp TECHhead hosted 10 high school students during the week of June 15 for unique opportunities to experience real world science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers with hands-on activities and tours of area manufacturers and the Engineering Department at Western Carolina University. Camp TECHhead is an excellent example of our strong partnerships with public schools, four-year universities, and employers to change the misconception about advanced manufacturing jobs.

In its fourth year, Young Engineers Experience focused on middle school students this Summer with over 40 students applying for 20 slots. The Camp was able to accommodate 21 students for a week of hands on STEM experiences.

VP Julie Thompson and Jason Chappel, Director of the NC Works Career Center, attended a breakfast reception for Christopher Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC), on June 25th. Christopher Chung was selected to serve as the organization's first CEO in January, 2015. As the lead economic development organization in North Carolina, the newly created EDPNC is responsible for overseeing business and job recruitment and retention, international trade, and tourism, film and sports development. Mr. Chung outlined the organization's recent activities and provided best practices and opportunities for collaboration between local economic development organizations and community leaders.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

BRCC's May 15, 2015 graduation ceremony was the largest at BRCC since we moved to two graduations each year. 209 students graduated (compared to 168 last May) with the following breakdown of degrees awarded: 189 Associate Degrees, 7 Diplomas, and 22 Certificates. Over 650 guests attended.

The Henderson County Early College graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, May 14 with 47 students graduating with their high school diploma. 39 HCEC graduates also earned their two-year degree from BRCC. Shanita Jackson, one of this year's graduates, spoke at the statewide New Schools Summer Institute in June.

Danielle Tate-Maccaroni, Blue Ridge Community College's recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship in 2013, graduated from Converse College on May 16, 2015 with a BFA in Creative and Professional Writing. She has been accepted into the

UNC-Greensboro Master of Library and Information Studies program, and has received a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Continuing Graduate Scholarship to pursue that degree.

Our Student Services Admissions and Financial Aid offices have implemented a new Electronic Sign-In system in the lobby of the Sink Building in order to more efficiently serve students. All staff have access to information on what help students are seeking which has expedited service to students along with helping us track services provided.

BRCC received a positive report from the CFNC EX\$EL program. Of our original cohort for 2014-2015 of 232 students, 55 were delinquent (23.7%) in February 2015, 17.3% were delinquent in late April and only 13% were delinquent in the July 1, report. Delinquency is the precursor to default status which constitutes our Cohort Default Rate. Reducing our delinquent borrowers numbers by 10% to students now repaying their loans and in good standing should have a significant impact on lowering our default rate in the future. The EX\$EL program provides comprehensive and continual contact for a cohort of former students at various stages of delinquency via email, postal mail, and telephone calls.

The Financial Aid Office has created a financial aid “Tuesday Tip” on the financial aid Facebook page each week. The first tip was regarding the new FSA ID and password that is replacing the pin number students have used in the past to log-in to the FAFSA.

The Financial Aid department has reached out to the NCWORKS Veterans Program Coordinator, to establish a connection to help the College better serve veterans enrolled in curriculum programs. We will be able to counsel and refer the curriculum Veterans to the NCWORKS programs and services that are offered specifically for veterans.

Rita Blythe, BRCC’s Recruiter, and Cathy Stephenson, Director of Enrollment Management, represented BRCC at MAHEC’s Health Career Expo Saturday, June 6, at UNC-Asheville for 9th through 12th graders attending the 2015 Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference from all across North Carolina.

On May 14, TCC hosted over 120 sophomores, juniors, and seniors from the area high schools on campus to hear about CCP and adult programs. The students were given presentations on advanced manufacturing (CNC and mechatronics), cosmetology, criminal justice, early childhood education, EMS, film & video, fire protection technology, horticulture, nursing (NA1 and RN), and welding.

Rob Rhodes was a participant and speaker in this year’s Transylvania County “Career Academy for Educators.” This three-day professional development activity is for Transylvania County public educators to better understand the ongoing changes in the local economy and workforce.

Rob presented information on curriculum and the Career & College Promise program.

Students in the Phi Beta Lambda chapter competed at the Phi Beta Lambda National Conference in Chicago and returned with one national winner, Crystal “Destiny” Davis, who took 4th Place in Computer Applications. The students competed against over 2,000 other college students representing state chapters around the nation from both 2-year and 4-year institutions.

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Spring 2015 Community Ambassador Program

The final class and graduation for the spring 2015 Community Ambassador Program participants was held on June 3. Our eighth class and new Community Ambassador graduates are Stephanie Bailey (Wells Fargo), Kristel Bane (Carolina Village, Inc.), Judy Boleman (Village of Flat Rock), Tyrone Brandyburg (Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site), Craig DeBrew (Duke Energy), Cathy Dillard (Continental Automotive Systems, Inc.), Reggie Gaither (Meritor), Russ Henson (Coldwell Banker), Steve Kirkland (Blue Ridge Literacy Council), Frank Merritt (Bold Rock Hard Cider), Mike Morgan (United Federal Credit Union), Marie Nicholson (Mars Hill University), Dr. Raymond Stone (retired NC community college president), Bob Sundeen (retired sales executive), Michael Thompson (The Van Winkle Law Firm), and Jon Wood (First Citizens Bank). One hundred fifty individuals have completed the Community Ambassador Program since 2010.

New Scholarship Endowment

Raven and Judith McKenzie-Wilson contributed \$20,000 to establish the Carol McKenzie-Wilson Scholarship Endowment Fund, in honor of their eldest daughter, a former engineer. The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship support to a student in the field of Associate in Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, or Mechatronics Technology and is open to a new female high school graduate with financial need and a GPA of 3.0 or better who has a demonstrated aptitude for mathematics and logical thinking. The recipient will be expected to complete a two-year associate degree in one of the above fields at Blue Ridge Community College.

Other Major Gifts and Grants

Margaret R. Pardee Hospital Auxiliary pledged \$11,000 for 2015-16 scholarships (\$6,000 for curriculum scholarships and \$5,000 for continuing education scholarships).

Carl and Jean Schoendorfer made an unrestricted gift of \$5,000 through their donor-advised fund within Fidelity Charitable.

Wells Fargo Foundation pledged to grant \$4,000 in support of BRCC Workforce Development scholarships.

New Annual Distribution

In 2015-16, the Robert G. and Rosemary H. Miller Fund, through the Community Foundation of Henderson County, will distribute \$851.54 to the Foundation to carry out our mission.

New Annual Scholarships

An anonymous donor has established the **Brookdale Senior Living, Inc., Scholarship** for 2015-16 in the amount of \$500. This scholarship is awarded with preference to full- or part-time employees of Brookdale Senior Living. First preference is given to employees of Brookdale Hendersonville North (formerly Heritage Hills) with a second preference given to employees of Brookdale Heritage Circle (formerly Heritage Hill Lodge) or Brookdale Hendersonville East (formerly Pine Park); it may then be awarded to another if no qualified student applies.

The City of Hendersonville approved \$400 in a Special Appropriations Request for a City of Hendersonville Scholarship designated for a City resident.

2015-16 Curriculum Scholarships

To date, more than #285 and \$456,638.26 in 2015-16 Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation scholarships are available for curriculum students. The College's Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee is meeting on a regular basis to award these scholarships.