

REPORT TO BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

March 9, 2015

Dr. Molly A. Parkhill

The College has entered into an agreement with Risk Management Associates to conduct a full security assessment on both the Henderson and Transylvania County Campuses. The assessment should be completed by the end of April.

TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The College received a letter from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), dated Jan. 13, related to submission of our Fifth-Year Interim Report. SACSCOC is the regional body that accredits the entire institution and its programs and services. The Fifth-Year Report is in response to the U.S. Dept. of Education requirement that accrediting agencies monitor their institutions on a regular basis. After review of our Report, the SACSCOC Committee requested no additional report; and, accepted the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Impact Report. We were told by our SACSCOC vice president that it is rare for colleges to have no additional reports requested.

Chris English met by phone with representatives from Foundation for the Carolinas in relation to our Duke Energy grant "Meeting the Workforce Needs of our Community: Brewing, Distillation, and Fermentation." This was a regular update as the group prepared for its board meeting in February. As a follow-up, Chris, Gabe Mixon, Ben Kish, Barbara Gregory, Carol Ann Lydon, and Chad Merrill met to determine methods to track graduates of the BDF program, develop work-based learning opportunities, track students from Beer Academy, and possibly include these measures in the BDF Action Plan.

Lee Anna Haney, Rich Keen, Ben Kish, Carolyn Alley, Dr. Parkhill, and Chad Merrill heard presentations from the top two vendors who will develop and produce a series of commercials and recruitment videos for the College as part of a comprehensive marketing plan. The company selected will begin its time line in February and the project deliverables will be completed by April. BRCC selected Spiracle Media out of Charlotte, NC.

Balsam Range Concert (March 20, Thomas Auditorium) ~ Tickets are available for purchase online and at the Cashier. Please let Brenda Conner know if you plan to attend so we prepare VIP seating arrangements.

After attending a CIOA conference call with Dr. Williams regarding the state CIO lead initiative tying centralized hosting with the Colleague transition to a Microsoft Windows platform, it became clear that it is unlikely that any changes will be made to our current environment until 2017. Our current Colleague server(s) are over 5 years old. Therefore the College Administration has begun investigating options to purchase or lease a new Colleague server. Early preliminary

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estimates from Oracle put outright purchase at approximately \$50,000. An alternative to purchase would be a 2 year lease options which could range from \$14,000 - \$18,000.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

Ciné Foundry Entertainment and filmmaker James Suttles were on site 02/09/15 - 02/11/15 taking video footage of the College's machining lab for their documentary about training and jobs. These film projects are being provided by the System Office and will be used for recruiting students and new businesses.

Alan Stephenson has been named to the NCCCS Curriculum Review Committee. The committee is responsible for maintaining and sustaining the viability of the Combined Course Library (CCL) and has authority to approve changes, additions, and deletions to the CCL. This is a three year appointment.

The State Board of Community Colleges and the UNC System have approved an Associate in Engineering Articulation Agreement. With Board approval, the College will be submitting the required paperwork to offer the new AE degree beginning Fall 2015.

The State Board of Community Colleges and the UNC RN to BSN programs have approved a Uniform RN to BSN articulation agreement. Students who follow the progression degree plan will meet the entrance requirements at all of the North Carolina public RN to BSN programs. Nurses may then apply to any of these programs without taking additional courses.

The State Board of Community Colleges approved a curriculum standard change submitted by BRCC concerning the Brewing, Distillation, and Fermentation Technology Program. The College has hired Matthew Cordell, attorney with Ward and Smith, to assist in applying for the necessary permits with the North Carolina ABC Commission and the Tobacco & Drug Administration, US Department of Agriculture.

The College has been approved to offer all three versions of the High School Equivalency exam. BRCC has been an approved site for the GED through PearsonVue for a year now. The two new exams are offered by competitors at a lower cost to the student.

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

At the request of Park Ridge Hospital, Medical Assistant Prep/Review classes with National Certification (CCMA) began in January. Students are required to have a minimum of one year

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documented employment in a healthcare organization. The new class is 53 hours in length and offered in the evening. The class reviews medical office management procedures, patient care, EKG monitoring, and phlebotomy skills. Students who complete the course are eligible to sit for the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Certification Exam issued by the National Healthcareer Association. Park Ridge Hospital is requiring all medical assistants in its system to have this national certification.

The Department is offering three Short Term courses in Outdoor Recreation:

- Bicycle Mechanics
- Zip Line Guide Certification
- Outdoor Survival

NC Office of the State Fire Marshall audited BRCC's Fire and Rescue Program on January 29. The audit found all documentation in order.

Staff participated in the yearly regional Coming Home Job Fair at the WNC Ag Center, manning a booth assisting with employer set up.

DIVISION OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS

The financial statement audit is complete for the year ended June 30, 2014. The results of the audit tests disclosed no deficiencies in internal control that are considered to be material weaknesses in relation to the audit scope at the Colleges or instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. Business Office staff & Internal Audit worked diligently to compile the financial statements and supporting documentation.

Plant operations staff were busy clearing sidewalks and parking lots of snow and ice during the inclement weather we experienced the past few weeks. Ice accumulation followed by record-breaking low temperatures created real challenges. Plant operations staff worked long hours in cold temperatures and icy conditions.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

Blue Ridge Community College has been selected for participation in Achieving the Dream beginning in June 2015. Achieving the Dream was conceived as a national initiative in 2004 by Lumina Foundation and seven founding partner organizations that are leaders in the higher education field. Over the course of six years, Achieving the Dream has demonstrated that innovative, evidence-based community college programs and interventions can produce and sustain improved student success. In 2010, with the support of the Founding Investor and

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Founding Partners, Achieving the Dream's Managing Partner (MDC) established Achieving the Dream, Inc., an independent national nonprofit organization. This nonprofit continues to work closely with an extensive network of partners, investors, advisors, coaches, colleges, and state policy teams to help millions of community college students realize greater economic opportunity and achieve their dreams. Today, Achieving the Dream leads the nation's most comprehensive, non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history.

The 15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast & program was held on January 19, 2015. The College hosts this in conjunction with the Henderson County Human Relations Council. This year's effort was one of the best ever in both attendance and funds raised for students of color at BRCC. We had 321 patrons in attendance from the community. We raised more than \$1000 dollars in scholarship funds.

The North Carolina Diagnostic Assessment and Placement (NC-DAP) tests have been completed and BRCC will begin implementing the second stage of NC-DAP which is the Developmental Reading and English (DRE) on March 9. Colleges implemented the first phase with math in 2013. The state's Developmental Education Initiative focuses on increasing the number of students who successfully complete college level coursework. With the new DRE students will take a multiple choice test covering Reading and Revising and Editing along with a Write Placer Essay.

Henderson County Public Schools is applying for a planning grant from North Carolina New Schools Project for a second innovative high school to prepare students for career and technical careers.

Henderson County Early College is currently in the selection stage for their 2015-2016 entering freshman class. Recruiting visits were made to Apple Valley, Rugby, Flat Rock, Immaculata, Hendersonville Middle and Mtn. Community. An Open House/Parent Meeting for prospective students was held February 9. The applications will be evaluated beginning March 4 and the selection should be completed mid-April.

Henderson County Early College students competed in the Western Region of the Science Olympiad on Saturday, February 28, at UNC Asheville, Our students placed 5th in the region. 19 students earned medals and 7 students placed high enough to go to the state competition at NC State in April.

The NC School Report Card grade for HCEC was 92 -- a grade of "A." That was the best grade in the district and it was tied for 19th place in the state.

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The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has approved the College's Form I-17 recertification petition through which we admit International students with F-1 Student Visas to our college.

Rita Blythe, Gary Rivers and Marcia Stoneman met with a group of agencies supporting Spanish-speaking, ESOL, and immigrant population interested in higher education. The meeting included Henderson County Public Schools Migrant Education, The Immigration Network, Blue Ridge Literacy Council and Basic Skills with the purpose of collaborating efforts to better serve the needs of this population.

The College has received the draft cohort default rate for the student loan program from the Department of Education. BRCC is now at 21.1% compared to last Fall's final rate of 24.3%. The final rate will be reported in September. The financial aid staff will be reviewing causes for this drop as we continue to explore ways to make positive impacts toward reducing our default rates.

The Department of Education approved our submission of College Foundation, Inc. (CFI) as our third party servicer for loan default management with the EX\$EL program. EX\$EL is managed by College Foundation, Inc. ("CFI") on behalf of participating schools and is made available through the joint efforts of Decision Partners, a premiere provider of online financial literacy education, CFI and the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority ("NCSEAA"). EX\$EL works with colleges and universities to enhance students' financial education during college and beyond and guide student loan borrowers in successfully managing and repaying their loans.

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BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Contributions for the first six months of the 2014-15 fiscal year were \$198,566 at December 31, 2014. Investment returns were 5.01% for the calendar year and 10.98% for the trailing three years. At December 31, assets of the Foundation were at \$10.7M.

The Board of Directors has ratified the actions of the Finance and Investment Committee to approve paying out endowment awards at the 4% spending rate for 2015-16, resulting in total awards of \$344,413. This is an increase of \$24,000 from last year's endowment awards.

Three families have recently shared that they are remembering the Foundation in their estate plans.

Fundraising efforts from the 6th annual Daniel Furr Memorial Golf Tournament provided an additional gift of \$300 bringing the total amount pledged to \$8,700 to the J. Daniel Furr Memorial Scholarship fund for 2015-16 scholarship awards.

Community Ambassador Program

The 2015 Spring Community Ambassador Program is set to commence on Wednesday, March 4 with the following participants: Stephanie Bailey, Wells Fargo; Kristel Bane, Carolina Village; Judy Boleman, Village of Flat Rock; Tyrone Brandyburg, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site; Marcia Caserio, educator and James J. Caserio, MD; Craig DeBrew, Duke Energy; Cathy Dillard, Continental Automotive Systems; Reggie Gaither, Meritor; Steve Kirkland, Blue Ridge Literacy Council; Frank Merritt, Bold Rock Hard Cider; Mike Morgan, Signum; Marie Nicholson, Mars Hill University; Dr. Raymond Stone, retired (NC community colleges); Bob Sundeen, retired (business development and sales executive); Michael Thompson, The Van Winkle Law Firm; and Jonathan Wood, First Citizens Bank.

2015 Sponsors to Date for the Balsam Range Concert Event on Friday, March 20 include:

Supporting Sponsor, Asheville Savings Bank; **Event Partners**, Macon Bank and Mountain Credit Union; and **Other Partner**, Wingate University.