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The River's Edge

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FCB Announces Major Gift To Honor BRTC's President

Officials from First Community Bank announced a major donation to benefit students at Black River Technical College while paying tribute to longtime college President Richard Gaines and his wife Patti. The announcement was made at the Pocahontas campus August 1 with Dewayne Powell of Jonesboro, CEO of the bank, announcing the establishment of the "Richard and Patti Gaines Foundation." The initial donation is \$25,000. On hand for the announcement were members of the President's



Pictured are, from left, FCB Vice President Robert Sorg, CEO Dewayne Powell, President Richard Gaines, Patti Gaines, and FCB Board member Ralph "Pink" Baltz.

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Important Dates

August 15–19

- BRTC Faculty/Staff In-Service

August 11

- ASSET Test

August 22

- Fall Classes Begin

August 26

- BRTC Foundation Board Meeting

September 5

- College Closed - Labor Day

October 1

- First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation 12th Annual Golf Tournament

October 6

- Board of Trustees Meeting

BRTC Grad is Competition Finalist



Meredith Fluke

Meredith Fluke, a December 2004 graduate of Black River Technical College, was recently chosen as one of five finalists out of 50 entries in a nation-wide Barbecue Turkey Recipe Contest sponsored by Kraft Foods and Morrison Healthcare Food Services. Entrants were required to create and submit a recipe using tur-

key as the main meat along with one of three Kraft barbecue sauces – Bold Original, Open Pit, or Bull's-Eye®. They were asked to be creative with the meat and the sauce, but could add any other ingredients they chose.

Each finalist will receive an all-expense paid trip to Chicago for the final cook-off to be held August 9 in the Kraft Test Kitchen. The finalists will prepare their recipes and judges will determine a winner based on taste and

appearance as well as originality of the recipe.

After receiving an Associate of Applied Science in Dietetics degree from BRTC, Fluke went to work for Morrison Food Services at the Northeast Arkansas Medical Center in Jonesboro. She also serves as a chef for the Imperial Dinner Theatre in Pocahontas. While at BRTC, she studied under Angie Caldwell and Tina Harris, instructors in the Dietetics department.

Fluke's entry is Spicy Turkey Garnacha, named for its Spanish meaning of "rounded appetizer." It consists of cooked, chopped turkey and Bull's-Eye® barbecue sauce, along with pepper jack and cheddar cheese, and a variety of spices, sandwiched between fried tortillas. The winner in Chicago will receive a trip to Greenbrier, West Virginia, to see the Barbecue University® show with host Steve Raichlen, author of *The Barbecue Bible*.

"The most exciting thing about being named as a finalist in this competition," Fluke enthusiastically remarked, "is that I beat out actual chefs who have graduated from culinary school."

Miller to Chair BRTC Foundation



Scott Trammel (left) congratulates Mike Miller

Mike Miller, Vice President of Bank of Pochontas, was elected BRTC Foundation Board Chairman at the Foundation's meeting August 4. Miller is assuming the post held by Scott Trammel, who served in that capacity for the past six years and who will remain on the Foundation Board. Other new officers are Ruth Ann Ellis, Vice-Chair, and Milton Smith of First National Bank in Walnut

Ridge, Secretary.

The fund-raising arm of the college, the Foundation is currently making preparation for the 12th Annual First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament to be held October 1 at Rolling Hills Country Club.

Ralph "Pink" Baltz, board member of First Community Bank, confirmed that FCB once again is providing \$10,000 funding support as co-sponsor of the tournament. The overall goal for fundraising this year has been set at \$30,000 in net proceeds.

The fall golf tournament typically fills with 72 teams, and Tournament coordinator Jim Ulmer of BRTC anticipates this year will be no different. Proceed from the event support activities of the

college, with the bulk of the golf tournament proceeds funding student scholarships. For more information on the tournament, or to sign up a two-person team, phone Vickie French or Jim Ulmer at BRTC at 870-248-4000.



Registration is in full swing for the Fall 2005 semester at BRTC. Ambassadors (from left) Alvin Lewis, Rosemary Johnson, and Sommer Young are available to assist students during the registration process. Classes begin Monday, August 22.

GED Diplomas Awarded

The Department of Continuing Education at Black River Technical College held its annual graduation ceremony Thursday, July 21, in the Randolph County Development Center. Thirty-seven graduates walked during the ceremony which recognized 130 students who earned their General Educational Development (GED) diplomas.

Third Judicial District Circuit Court Judge Kevin King was the guest speaker. Referring to a popular line made famous by comedian Larry the Cable Guy, King jokingly said that G.E.D. stands for "GET-ER-DONE." But, in all seriousness, "you did just that," added King when addressing the graduates. "You accepted the challenge and



'Got-er-done' with your hard work and commitment and set an example for family and friends.

Unique to this year's ceremony was the walking of a mother and her two sons who had completed the G.E.D. program together. Emily Wilkerson, along with her sons, William and Eric, proudly accepted their diplomas signifying the achievement of their goal. The trio began their pursuit of the G.E.D. diploma at different times and for different reasons, but the end result was the same for all three. Despite the challenges along the way and the worry of failure at test time, the three made it to the finish line together with much to be proud of – not just for their own accomplishment, but for each other's.



William Wade, Emily Wilkerson, and Eric Wilkerson

Ziegler Named VP for Development

President Richard Gaines of Black River Technical College is pleased to announce that Dr. Jan Ziegler has assumed her new position as Vice President for Development effective July 1. In this position, Dr. Ziegler will concentrate on the processes that spur continuing advancement of the institution, according to Gaines, by evaluating the assets available and determining what improvements can be made and the resources needed to make those improvements.



Dr. Jan Ziegler

"This college is what it is today because of a staff of dedicated men and women with a common goal – to do what is best for our students," said Gaines. "Dr. Ziegler is a highly supportive administrator with a commitment to excellence and continuously searches for ways to improve upon the standard of quality already established at BRTC."

In addition to her duties as Vice President for Development, Dr. Ziegler is an adjunct Instructor of English and German. She has been with BRTC for twelve years.

Folk Music Presented to English Class

An instrument in hand is all that's needed for Carol Kay Moore to bring an audience to tears – from laughing so hard that is. Moore was a special guest in the Freshman English II class at BRTC taught by her daughter, Courtney Clements. Clements asked her mother to share her talents with the class as a way of introducing them to folk music and instruments.

Moore has been entertaining audiences throughout the state, performing for different civic groups and organizations for over twenty years. A retired educator, Moore taught English at Walnut Ridge for seven years before spending the next 23 years

teaching history at Valley View.

For Clements' English class she performed "Turkey in the Straw" on her picking bow, "The Very Unfortunate Man" accompanied by the auto-harp, and "Orange Blossom Special" with the spoons. She also performed selections using her dulcimer and the banjimer/dulcijo (a dulcimer with a banjo head attached.)

In addition to sharing her musical talents, Moore brought along her clog dolls (Clem the Clog Doll, Rodney the Clog Horse, and Fido the Clog Dog). Volunteers, including Joniece Trammel, BRTC

Recruiter, helped demonstrate their use. "She has a wonderful way of keeping the art of folk music alive with her enthusiasm and by incorporating humor and audience participation in her presentation," Trammel noted. "She is so talented and entertaining"



Carol Kay Moore

Major Gift

Continued from Page 1

administrative staff.

The fund will be used in accordance with guidelines currently being developed by the Gaines to benefit BRTC students, and may include scholarships or other benefits to students. The earliest awards are expected to be made for the Fall 2006 semester. Both President Gaines and his wife expressed their deep appreciation for the honor, saying they are "overwhelmed" with the gesture.

In making the award, Powell noted the many years of dedicated service of the couple to this community. President Gaines joined the staff as Assistant Director of then - Black River Vo-Tech in 1973, and became Director of BRVTS in 1978. Gaines has headed the institution since that time, assuming the position of President when the school became a college in 1991.

Powell also acknowledged the importance of the college to the communities it serves, and praised Gaines for his guidance and efforts in the institution's growth.

Also noting the accomplishments of BRTC's president were FCB Executive Vice President of Commercial Loans Robert Sorg and FCB Board member, Ralph "Pink" Baltz, both of Pocahontas. Baltz is also a member of the BRTC Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the college.

"I think if you look around this campus," Baltz said, "you can see what a tremendous impact Richard has had, and you realize that much of what you see is here because of his hard work." He continued to say that he hopes this donation will spark other action, saying "I'd like to encourage others to consider adding to the Richard and Patti Gaines

Foundation."

FCB representatives indicated the bank hopes to be able to provide additional funding to this venture in future years. The new award will be held and administered by the BRTC Foundation.

Pres. Gaines noted that he does not take responsibility personally for the college's success, but suggested, "This credit goes to a whole lot of people besides me. Many others have played a huge role in our success. There's no 'I' in team, and this college is where it is because of teamwork."

The main office of First Community Bank is located in Jonesboro, with branch offices in Corning, Hardy, Highland, Hoxie, Imboden, Lake City, Marked Tree, Newport, Paragould, Pocahontas, Swifton, Tuckerman, Walnut Ridge, and in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

FIRST COMMUNITY BANK
BRTC FOUNDATION
12th Annual Golf Tournament

Two "Person" Scramble

Saturday, October 1, 2005
Rolling Hills Country Club

Entry Fee \$80 per Team

Grand Prize
hole-in-one on #15
Chevrolet Truck

For more information contact:
Jim Ulmer at (870) 248-4000 ext 4011
or Vickie French ext 4070

Students Complete Driver Training

Four students recently completed the first commercial driver training course offered through BRTC in cooperation with Arkansas State University in Newport. Instructor Frederick McClellan (far left) of ASU-Newport presents certificates to students (from left,) Rodney Rose of Pocahontas, Ronald Richard of Paragould, Shawn Williams of Black Rock, and Paul Mullen of Imboden.

The next four-week course is tentatively scheduled to begin September 12. Applicants must be at



least 23 years of age, have a valid driver's license, pass a drug screening (applicant's expense), and must have passed the DOT physical.

For more information on the commercial driver training course contact BRTC at 870-248-4000, ext. 4115.

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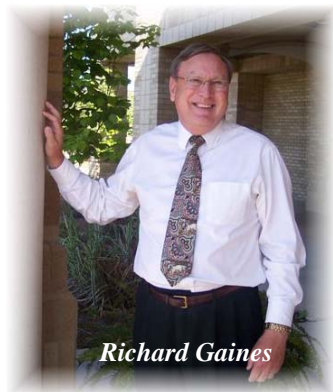
Mission Statement

Black River Technical College is an institution of higher learning committed to a partnership with the individual and the global community to provide lifelong learning experiences, seeking always to empower those it serves to achieve their academic, vocational, and personal development goals.

On-line Application address:

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

The announcement that First Community Bank is establishing a scholarship program in honor of my wife, Patti, and me can surely be considered one of the most meaningful events of my life. I had never expected anything like this, and am still almost speechless in trying to find the proper words to express our deep appreciation to FCB for their generous act. We are consulting with various staff members on campus as we consider how best to use this funding to benefit BRTC students.

It has been my pleasure to be in this position of leadership at BRTC for many years. I feel the college has always received outstanding community support. Because of such support, this institution has been able to grow and progress from its modest beginning in 1973 as a vocational-technical school to a full-fledged community college serving around 1,800 students each semester. We have been able to remain true to our original mission, providing job-training leading people into better careers, while taking on the expanded mission of providing college transfer classes for the freshman and sophomore years for those who wish to pursue baccalaureate degrees or higher.

These advances have been possible also because of the dedication and level of skills our faculty and staff bring to BRTC. We have worked hard, and will continue to do so, to keep abreast of technological and other changes so that we can do

Musick to Lead Respiratory Care



Suzette Musick

Suzette Musick has joined the BRTC staff as the new Respiratory Care Program Director. She has worked the last 18 months as a staff respiratory therapist at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center and will continue to work in that capacity on an as-needed basis.

Musick holds an Associate of Applied Science degree from Chattanooga State Technical Community College in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and an Associate in Theology degree from Christian Life School of Theology (C.L.S.T.), an affiliate of Beacon University, in Columbus, Georgia. She is currently working on her Bachelor's in Theology, also from

C.L.S.T. Certification as a RRT/CPFT is also among her credentials.

Originally from Virginia, Musick spent 23 years in the Chattanooga area before moving to Poplar Bluff, where she currently resides. She is the mother of three children, one daughter and two sons, and the grandmother of two.

a good job in preparing people of all ages for the changing workplace and the changing society that await them.

So this honor given by FCB this week is in many regards also a

tribute to you, those in the community and the faculty and staff who have added so much to this college. My wife and I thank all of you.