



The River's Edge

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Gomez, Perez Receive H.O.P.E. Scholarship



Vanessa Gomez



Joshua Perez

Vanessa Gomez of Jonesboro and Joshua Perez of Paragould have been awarded H.O.P.E. (Hispanic Outreach Project for Education) scholarships for the Fall 2007 semester.

Each student will receive an award for \$500, according to the Office of Financial Aid.

Gomez is completing her Associate of Arts degree, while Perez is working toward a degree in Auto Collision Repair Technology.

The scholarships are funded through specially designated gifts to H.O.P.E. from employees who contribute to the BRTC Foundation through a payroll deduction plan. The aim of the project is to encourage and to recognize students of Hispanic ethnicity, and to promote BRTC as an institution which welcomes Spanish-speaking students. Both Gomez and Perez are bilingual.

Individuals interested in contributing to this or other scholarship funds or those who would like to establish a scholarship may contact BRTC Foundation Secretary, Vickie French, at 248-4070.

Dave Statler Scholarship Given

Carlos Martinez is the first recipient of the David A. Statler Scholarship established by Diamond State Tool and Die in honor of long-time Machine Shop instructor Dave Statler. The scholarship is awarded to a student in the Machine Shop Technology program and covers the full cost of tuition and fees at 15 hours per semester.

Statler started the Machine Shop program in 1972 and retired from that position 30 years later when he was succeeded by Gary Meier, current Machine Shop instructor.

Martinez, son of Jesus and Judy Martinez, is a 2005 graduate of Hoxie High School.



Carlos Martinez and Machine Shop Instructor Gary Meier.

Important Dates

- October 6**
Golf Tournament
- October 12**
Serendipity
- October 14 - 16**
AATYC
- October 24**
PTK Blood Drive
- October 25**
ASSET Test



It's a Sign of the Season...

Students in Melissa Carter's Nursing II class took advantage of the cool fall weather to hold class last week in the open air on the lawn near the Joe Martin Health Sciences Building.

Nursing Students Help Community Organizations



Pictured, left to right, are Nursing I students Daniel Morris, Clay Harris, and Rebecca Ream.

The Nursing I and II students at BRTC have been active in community service projects, according to Nursing Director Ramonda Housh. Students in both classes recently collected and delivered food and other much needed items to two community organizations, Black River Area Development (BRAD), and the local Battered Women's Shelter.

The students collected and donated non-perishable food items to BRAD in response to that agency's current shortage of those items, Housh explained. According to information from the community action agency, BRAD served 145 families, or 237 individuals, during the month of August. A

typical month for the agency sees service to 90-100 families. A spokesperson for BRAD said the organization currently needs breakfast and snack items for children to take to school, as well as powdered milk, personal hygiene items and diapers.

Items collected for the Battered Women's Shelter and delivered to the County Extension Office included pens, pencils, envelopes, crayons, notebooks and personal hygiene items. Other items the organization needs include additional personal hygiene items, including hairbrushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste and razors.

New Student Ambassadors Chosen



Jessica White



Whitney Caldwell



Jessica Hausman



Sarah Doyle



Cathy Murdock

Five students have been chosen to serve as BRTC Student Ambassadors for the 2007-2008 Academic Year, according to Registrar Kimberly Bigger, Coordinator of the Student Ambassador Program. The Student Ambassador Program provides a tuition waiver to students in exchange for ten-twelve hours of service to the school each week assisting with various BRTC events and working in a variety of office settings.

Jessica White of Pocahontas, Whitney Caldwell of Doniphan, Jessica Hausman and Sarah Doyle of Pocahontas, and Kathy Murdock of Maynard were selected based on recommendations from BRTC faculty and staff, the applicants' educational goals and objectives, letters of personal reference, and an

interview with a panel of BRTC employees. Ambassadors are required to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and a minimum enrollment of twelve credit hours per Fall and Spring Semester and six credit hours during one summer term.

White is a graduate of Blytheville High School and is working towards her AA degree in Gen Ed with plans of transferring to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro as a Zoology major and possibly pursuing a Pre-Veterinarian degree.

Caldwell is also seeking an AA degree in Gen Ed with plans of transferring to Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge to pursue a degree in Psychology. She is a graduate of Doniphan High School.

A third AA in Gen Ed major, Hausman plans to

transfer to a 4-year college after graduating from BRTC. Future educational goals for the Maynard High School graduate include possible studies in foreign communications and writing.

Doyle plans to graduate from BRTC's Dietetics Program next year. After living most of her life in Pennsylvania, Doyle moved back to the Northeast Arkansas area three years ago.

Murdock is pursuing an AAS in Dietetics degree after earning a Dietary Manager Certificate from BRTC this past May. After graduation, she plans to seek Registered Dietician certification.

For more information on BRTC's Student Ambassador Program, contact Kimberly Bigger at 870-248-4000 ext. 4015.



Dr. Charlotte Power and Dr. Jason Morrison

Constitution Day Observed at BRTC

Constitution Day was recognized September 17 in the student lounge area of BRTC's Administration Building. Students and staff gathered for a reading of the Preamble led by Dr. Jason Morrison, instructor of Social Sciences, and Dr. Charlotte Power, instructor of History, in celebration of history's important day when the Constitution

was signed 220 years ago.

Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, Fine Arts instructor, was responsible for creating the Constitution Day sign, as well as handouts of the Preamble given to participants for a mass reading.



Joyce Rose tutors student in new Tutoring Center.

Retired Educators Tutor BRTC Students

Two retired educators are working as tutors in Math and English at BRTC this semester. They are Joyce Rose, longtime Walnut Ridge teacher and counselor, and Rebecca Jansen, former principal at St. Paul's School. Supplementing their tutoring efforts will be student Terri Milburn.

The tutoring center is in Room 132 of the Administration Building.

Rose, who tutors students in both subject areas, works with students on Mondays and Wednesdays from

8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and from 10:50 to noon.

Jansen, who tutors students in English, meets with students from 8:30 to 12:30 on Tuesdays. Milburn will be tutoring in math Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to noon.

BRTC VP for Academics Jack McCord said he is pleased with the student volume and interest in this free service. He also indicated a potential need to hire additional tutors. Interested qualified persons should contact McCord at 248-4000 EXT 4111.

Three Join Staff at Black River Technical College



Kay Reid

Kay Reid, Shannon Ogden and Tony Saylor have recently been hired to fill positions at BRTC.

Reid is the new Data Entry Specialist in the Department of Student Services. A graduate of St. Paul

High School, Reid attended Webster College in Missouri before earning an Associate of Arts in Business degree from Memphis State University.

After working for a time in Memphis and Little Rock, Reid and her family returned to Pocahontas where she has worked for the past 25 years

for DeClerk LP Gas.



Shannon Ogden

Pocahontas native Shannon Ogden has been hired as a new full time Business instructor, and will be teaching computer, accounting, and marketing classes at both Pocahontas and Paragould campuses.

Ogden has worked for the past five and a half years as Cost Analyst for Waterloo. She worked for Northern Technologies for three and a half years prior to that. She holds a BS in Accounting degree and an MBA, both from Arkansas State University

in Jonesboro.



Tony Saylor

Saylor, a Pocahontas resident, has been hired as a new Public Safety Officer for the evening shift. He has worked for the past three years with the Pocahontas Police Department, with the last year and a half as K-9

Officer. He earned his GED from BRTC and graduated from BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy in 2004.

Cookbook Sales to Benefit Dietetic Students



Dietetic students are currently selling cookbooks to raise money to attend the state Dietary Managers Meeting in Hot Springs and to help fund trips next semester. The cookbooks were started by second year Dietetic students, according to Dietary Manager Tina Harris, and were finished by first year students.

Anyone wishing to purchase a cookbook for \$12 and support the Dietetic program can contact Harris or any Dietetic student. "They make great gifts for showers or holidays," noted Harris.

Pictured at left are first year Dietetic students showing cookbooks being sold as fundraiser.

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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.

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From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

A speaker at one of our recent graduation ceremonies, Stanley Reed, has written recently that "Arkansas culture must embrace higher education." I couldn't agree more.

The President of Arkansas Farm Bureau and longtime Board of Trustee member for the UA system, Reed notes that education is important to us not only as individuals, but collectively as a state. In fact, he asserts, "how we value higher education will determine Arkansas' prosperity." He

backs up this claim by pointing out that "studies have consistently shown that the per-capita income of our citizens is directly proportional to the percentage of the adult population with college degrees."

Like Reed, I also believe that the problem today is less a problem of access—given that the establishment of the state's 22 two-year colleges and the spread of online and other Distance Ed options have greatly improved availability of higher education programs—and more a problem of our society's failure to understand how crucial higher education really is to economic success.

I would add to his comments my belief that the escalating costs of higher education are of great concern to this state. We see growth at the two-year colleges, where tuition and other fees are typically far below costs at universities, far outpacing growth at the four-year institutions. BRTC has benefited from this trend,

as our enrollment increases indicate. But we also have responsibilities to continue to provide as much financial assistance to our students as we possibly can.

Community-based scholarship dollars are vital to this effort, and I

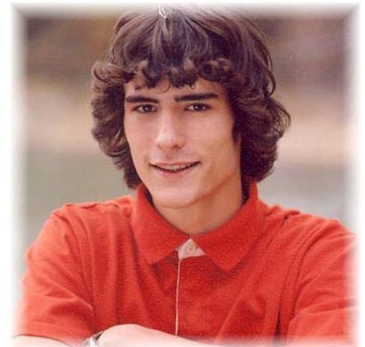
applaud and encourage the individuals, businesses and organizations in the counties we serve to partner with us in making locally funded scholarships grow along with our student population.

Sorg Accepts Scholarship

Clint Sorg, son of Bill and Sharon Sorg and a graduate of Pocahontas High School, has accepted an Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend BRTC for the Fall 2007 semester.

The scholarship covers the cost of tuition and is based on Sorg's standardized test scores and/or class rank in the upper ten percent. The award is renewable for up to four years, pending maintenance of a required GPA and approval by the four-year institution to which Sorg eventually transfers.

At BRTC, Sorg is completing college basics, with plans to major in Physics or Mechanical Engineering.



Clint Sorg