



The River's Edge

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REACH Meeting is November 17



Eric Sammons, log specialist, works to insert replacement log on the Rice house near Dalton.

campus in Pocahontas.

Both of the historic structures, dating to 1828 and 1833, respectively, are part of BRTC's Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage). The meeting will feature a panel discussion of several individuals involved in the restoration work, along with video and other multi-media presentations. The audience will also be able to view a display of artifacts from the Rice House project.

The two structures are among the state's earliest existing log buildings, constructed by Reuben Rice and William Looney, two pioneering men who migrated to the Eleven Point River Valley in the early 1800s from Hawkins County, Tennessee. Looney was accompanied here in 1803 by three African American slaves. Rice and other family members arrived on an 1812 wagon train. Descendants of Rice and Looney, as well as descendants of those slaves, continue to live in Randolph County. Along with the restoration of the physical structures themselves, the heritage of these early settlers and those who followed are

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Important Dates

- November 6**
Board of Trustees Mtg
- November 10 - 11**
PTK Blood Drive
- November 14**
LETA Graduation
Serendipity
- November 17**
REACH Public Mtg
- November 20 - 21**
New Student Orientation
- November 21**
Foundation Board Mtg
- December 11**
BRTC Graduation
- December 12**
Faculty/Staff Potluck

The public is invited to a meeting on Monday, November 17, at 7 p.m. to hear updates on the ongoing work on the current restoration of the Rice House, as well as preliminary work on the Looney Tavern/Inn restoration project. The meeting will be held in the auditorium at Randolph County Development Center on the BRTC

Awards Presented at AATYC

Four individuals associated with Black River Technical College were among those receiving awards at the recent conference of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges as a result of selection by their peers and by the college. Held in Rogers this year, the annual fall event brings together faculty and staff of the state's 22 two-year colleges for a variety of programs, speakers, and training sessions on topics of interest.

Those honored were Carolyn Collins of the Office of Financial Aid; Travis DeClerk, Automotive Service Technician Instructor; BRTC Alumnus Kevin Rose; and BRTC student Thomas C. Nichols. The four received plaques in recognition of having been named Outstanding Staff, Outstanding Faculty, Outstanding Alumni, and Academic All-Star, respectively.

Collins, who currently works in Financial Aid on the BRTC-Paragould campus, has been with BRTC for



Carolyn Collins

Travis DeClerk

eighteen years. She previously held positions as Business Instructor and Division Chair for Technical Education. DeClerk joined the faculty at BRTC in 2000, teaching students pursuing their one-year certificate in Automotive Service Tech. Enrollment in and demand for the

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Prensky Touts Technology for Today's Students



Marc Prensky

The nature of education is changing, and with it, the role of educators, according to author and publicly acclaimed speaker Marc Prensky, who spent two days in presentations and workshops on the BRTC campus last week. Funded through a Carl Perkins grant as a professional development activity, the sessions' audiences included BRTC faculty and staff members, as well as staff from five other two-year colleges, public school staff, and others.

Prensky presented substantial data as well as first-person accounts to illustrate changes in students of today and tomorrow, changes greatly impacted by the technology explosion of the past few decades. He challenged his audience to consider a number of important questions: "Are

today's students different? What should our students know? What and how should we teach them? And what is the role of technology?"

A consultant, futurist and inventor in the field of education and learning, Prensky urged educators to abandon a longstanding mindset of lecturing and controlling for one of guiding and partnering. Partnering with students, in Prensky's opinion, calls for teaching and learning that is case-based, problem-based, inquiry-based, and student-centered. Today's kids, he pointed out, were "born to the idea of rapid change....The world they inhabit is very different from ours." Prensky added that not only time, but

tools have changed: "We are birthing a new type of tool user, one who requires 21st century tools."

Of special importance to today's educators is the answer to this question, he said: "Are we educating kids for the day they leave us, or for the rest of their lives?" The incredible rate of change, he added, should have major influence on the way educators answer that question. Prensky noted that "In thirty years, if technology continues to double in power every year (as is the case right now), our technology will be one billion times more powerful than it is today. In forty years, technology will be one trillion times more powerful."

A special challenge, he acknowledged during the course of the sessions, is the need of educators to be able to find the right balance between their students "knowing," as in memorization of content, and "finding out," as in gaining the skills needed to locate and process the needed information.

A special feature of the two days was a student panel with representatives not only of BRTC, but of several area high schools. This panel, which fielded Prensky's questions, was designed to demonstrate the validity of much of what Prensky had already suggested regarding the way today's students want to learn.



On stage with Prensky are (l to r) Todd Baltz, Pocahontas, Ashley Tarantino and Elizabeth Sackman, BRTC, Carrie Massey, Walnut Ridge, Katie Edington, Pocahontas, Hampton Owens, Maynard, David Helms and Sandra Parker, BRTC, Amy McKenzie, Black Rock, and David Holt, Pocahontas

AATYC

program have remained high, and Automotive Services now shares a newly renovated facility on the northwest side of campus with Auto Body Tech.

Currently Vice President / Commercial Relationship Manager for Pulaski Bank, Rose completed his AA degree at BRTC. He also is a member of the BRTC Foundation Board, and co-chairs the BRTC Foundation/Pulaski Bank Golf Tournament.



Kevin Rose

Nichols, formerly a member of the U. S. Ma-

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rine Corps, is currently completing college basics and plans to pursue a degree in pharmacy. As the Academic All-Star, Nichols has been awarded a full tuition scholarship to any of the state's public four-year universities for the final two years of his degree.



Thomas C. Nichols

Among those presenting breakout sessions at the AATYC were Jana Culp, Science Instructor, "Group Work in the Community College Classroom," and Jack McCord, VP for Academics, "AATYC Aerospace Training Consortium."

FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC

Sponsored by
Randolph County
Health Department

Thursday, November 6
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Randolph County
Development Center

BRTC Recruitment Efforts in Full Swing



Rhonda Foster, BRTC Recruiter, speaks with Bay High School students and provides them with information on various BRTC programs.

For most of October, Black River Technical College participated in college planning fairs which catered to more than 50 surrounding area high schools. More than 3,000 students passed by the BRTC booth, Recruiter Rhonda Foster said.

“It went well. From the three weeks of college planning fairs, I was able to help future college students decide on majors and degree fields. I also set up five speaking engagements at local schools along with touching base with several high school counselors,” she said.

The college fairs were a chance to get the BRTC name out there because several students who stopped by did not know anything about the college or where it was located. “In these instances, I was able to tell

them about BRTC and the degree plans offered as well as the low tuition costs,” Foster added.

For two days of those three weeks, Foster recruited Amber Sarhan, Office of Development secretary, to assist with the college planning fairs. “We were able to speak to many students at our booth and create a big interest in BRTC,” Foster said. “If Amber had not been there, some students would have grown tired of waiting to talk to me and left our booth.”

Foster said that she has received several calls from students wanting to set up campus tours as a result of the college planning fairs. If anyone is interested in a campus tour, contact Foster at 870-248-4000, ext. 4157.

Photography Class Tours Glaub Studio

Students in a Digital Photography class at BRTC recently toured Joey Glaub’s Fine Art Portrait Studio in Jonesboro. “The studio is filled with quality portraits and frames and hundreds of examples of how images may be displayed,” explained instructor Kellee Hardage. “Students toured the framing room, portrait studio, sunroom and the viewing studio where they were able to see examples of the newest types of images, frames and albums.”

In the portrait studio, students learned how to pose groups and individuals and how to work with people to create high quality portraits. Mr. Glaub discussed many aspects of photography such as posing, props, backgrounds, lighting, and camera settings. In the viewing studio, he demonstrated how clients are able to view their portraits and make selections. He also demonstrated many photo editing techniques using Adobe Photoshop CS3.

“Students all loved the tour and learned a lot from it,” Hardage added. “Digital Photography students tour this facility once each semester and it allows students to see first-hand how to use the techniques taught in class.”

Digital Photography will be offered again in the spring on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. For more information, contact Hardage at 870-248-4000 ext. 4133.

Bake Sale Held in Support of Breast Cancer Research



Nursing students don camouflage and pink in honor of ‘Hunt for the Cure’ theme.

The nursing department at BRTC sponsored a “Hunt for the Cure” bake sale to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation in October during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The nursing department supports breast cancer research by holding fundraising activities each

year to raise money for the Foundation. In addition, some students and instructors participate in the “Race for the Cure” walk held each year in Little Rock as another way of raising funds.

Students and instructors dressed in a combination of camouflage and pink, the color representing breast cancer awareness, and set up booths in two locations on campus to sell their baked goods. According to Dana Clay, Secretary for Nursing and Respiratory Care, the department raised \$660.75. “We want to thank everyone who came out to buy items in support of the foundation.”

For more information on the Susan G. Komen Foundation, or if you wish to participate in the nursing program’s efforts, contact the nursing department at 870-248-4000.



Coloring Books for Kiwanis Kids

Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, art instructor for BRTC (left) and Doni Martin, Kiwanis member, display the Kiwanis coloring books for kids. A community education project for Kiwanis, Baltz’ Spring semester graphic design class illustrated the super heroes in the coloring books and the Kiwanis club has provided copies of the books to area clinics and health department. “It’s an activity for children, which are a priority for the Kiwanis club,” Martin said. As a press date, the Kiwanis club is in the process of getting a copyright for the coloring book to protect the individuals who participated in the project..

Black River Technical College

P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455

P.O. Box 1565
1 Black River Drive
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-248-4000

Phone: 870-239-0969

Fax: 870-248-4100

Fax: 870-239-2050

Website: www.blackrivertech.org

*The River's Edge is produced by the
Office of Development.*

janz@blackrivertech.org
annf@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org
amber.sarhan@blackrivertech.org



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

A major challenge for colleges and universities continues to be the need to increase graduation and retention rates. The issues are complex, and the suggestions from organizations and agencies who are studying this problem are diverse. Because the students themselves represent a wide demographic, spanning the age spectrum, it seems useful to look at the problem in smaller chunks, as in a recent joint report by The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

This study considers the question of persistence and completion of 18-24-year-olds, a group typically referred to as "traditional" college students. This report identifies three characteristics it calls "key" to an effective first-year college program.

The first of these is, interestingly, "intensity," or enrollment in a substantial number of academic credits early in the academic career. According to the report, when students earn less than twenty credits in the first calendar year after high school graduation, this lessens the "probability of completing a bachelor's degree" by one-third.

A second characteristic of a successful first-year program is, not surprisingly, the availability of a solid student financial aid package and financial aid policies. This is important especially because having ade-

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also a focus of REACH. The work is being funded through grants from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council.

The project entails not only research by historians and archeologists, but also offers connection to the studies of students, both at the graduate and undergraduate level. In addition, students at all grade levels can participate in REACH-related studies and activities. Educators are especially urged to attend the meeting to learn more about student opportunities in conjunction with this

quate financial aid results in students being able to take more courses and reduce the time outside of the classroom students must work to earn income.

The third major characteristic, the report goes on to say, is the development of learning communities. These typically consist of cohorts of students taking two or more courses

unique heritage project.

Panelists will include Joan Gould, Historic Preservationist; Tommy Jameson, Historic Architect; Kathy Cande, Project Director for Arkansas Archeological Survey of the U of A; Log Specialist Eric Sammons; Stonemason Ben Hurd; Construction Superintendent James Park and Ronnie Walker, Construction Manager of BRTC. Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development, will serve as moderator, and the audience will participate in a Q-A session.

together, thus encouraging greater interactions with peers and with their instructors.

At BRTC, we are looking closely at these and at other factors as we work to ensure that students who begin their studies with us will be more likely to complete them. Our success, as well as theirs, depends on this happening.