

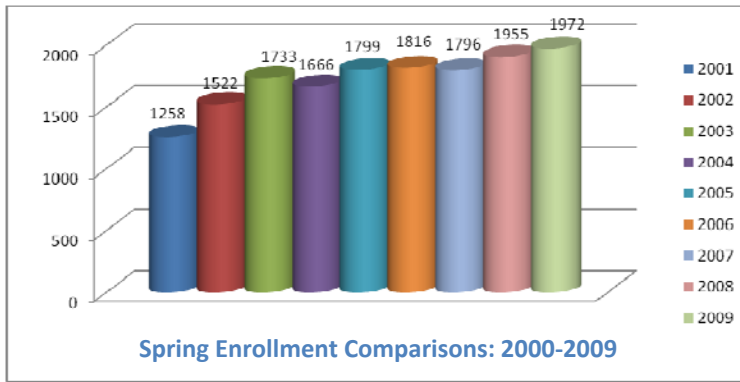


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## Spring Enrollment Sets Another Record

Though it is a small gain, another record enrollment has been achieved at BRTC for the Spring semester, according to data from the office of Dr. Mike Sullens, VP for Student Services. The headcount number stands at 1,972, up 17 students, or just under one percent, from the previous record number of 1,955 students this time one year ago. The spring number represents an increase of over three percent from the Fall 2008 enrollment level.



living in Randolph County; 19% in Greene County; 17% in Lawrence County; 11% in Clay County; 10% in Craighead County; 8% other in-state counties; and 2% from out of state.

The student cohort for this semester includes, as in most previous semesters, approximately 62% female students. Almost 59% of the student body are full-time students, and just over half the students enrolled are considered "nontraditional," or over age 25.

Approximately 25%, or 496 students, are enrolled in at least one online course.

Approximately 459, or 23.3% of the students are attending at the BRTC-Paragould location. The Paragould enrollment for Spring 2008 was 439, which represented 22.5% of the overall number enrolled.

Counties of residence of the students remain relatively unchanged, with approximately 33 percent of the students

### Important Dates

- February 24**  
*Foundation Gala*
- February 26**  
*Tuskegee Airman Presentation*
- March 3 - 4**  
*Holocaust Survivor Visit*
- March 10**  
*BRTC Health Fair*
- March 12**  
*BRTC Advisory Dinner*
- March 12**  
*Business Etiquette Luncheon*
- March 16 - 21**  
*Spring Break*
- March 24**  
*PTK Induction*

## BRTC "Home away from Home" for Out-of-State Utility Linemen



LETA staff, students, set up cots for linemen in BRTC LETA gymnasium.

For the more than 50 Iowa and Oklahoma linemen who came to Randolph County to help restore electrical power in rural parts of the county, BRTC's gymnasium has become a temporary home in the wake of one of the area's worst ice storm disasters ever. Red Cross cots arrived from Craighead County on Tuesday, February 3, filling the gym in the Law Enforcement Training Academy. The cots were followed by bedding, towels and toiletries donated by individuals, churches and area businesses eager to do their part in supporting the mammoth task confronting Randolph, Clay, and parts of Greene County served by Clay County Electric Cooperative.

Clay County Co-Op Director David Smith told Rotary members Wednesday that prior to the January 27 ice storm,

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## United Way Gives \$4,000 for Scholarships



*Paula Robertson of Jonesboro, Community Impact Coordinator for United Way of Northeast Arkansas (far right), was in Pocahontas for the United Way check presentation by local CIT members (from left) Norma Pickett, Kevin Rose and (second from right) Sandra Tweedy. Accepting the check on behalf of the BRTC Foundation is Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development.*

Randolph County United Way recently donated \$4,000 to BRTC for needs-based scholarships. The donation was a part of a total \$26,000 made possible through donations of Randolph County residents through the leadership of local Community Investment Team (CIT) members.

One hundred percent of the scholarship gift to BRTC will assist part-time or full-time students with financial need. Students may apply online at [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org), according to the Office of Financial Aid, or phone Brandi Chester, 870-248-4000, EXT 4020 for more information.

Randolph County CIT members are Norma Pickett, Randolph County employee; Sandra Tweedy and Kevin Rose, Pulaski Bank; Craig Hibbard, UPS; Doty Reed, Sharon Thielemier and 2008 Team Chair Donna Late, Paslode; and Jenni-

fer Reed and Tony Reed, Wal-Mart.

“BRTC and its students are very appreciative of this generous scholarship gift,” said BRTC President Richard Gaines. “We always have students with unmet financial needs, and this money may mean the difference in succeeding or dropping out for several students.”

Other United Way funds were donated locally to Black River Area Development Corporation; The Children’s Shelter of Walnut Ridge; and the “Stuff the Bus” and “Imagination Library” projects.

**BRTC Foundation Gala**  
**February 24**  
**6:00 p.m. RCDC**  
**For Tickets—Phone (870) 248-4070**

## Bottled Water Delivered to Community



*BRTC's Victoria Robinett and Steve Shults stack water.*

On Tuesday, three trucks pulled up to BRTC’s Law Enforcement Training Academy to unload donated water being delivered from Little Rock. The water is to assist residents of the community who are currently under a boil order due to the power outages. Tommy Smith and David Bazzel, hosts of the morning show, “The Show with No Name,” at radio station KABZ 103.7 The Buzz, spearheaded the water campaign.

“We didn’t have a clear understanding of the devastation until Friday,” explained Lindy Blackstone, Promotions and Marketing Director with the station. “A listener emailed us about that area of the state, and it was just that simple. Tommy and David got word out about taking a truck with water up there on Monday, and the listeners came through!”

According to Blackstone, Mark Wilson from Naturally

Fresh donated a company truck and a driver, Mike Mayfield, who helped load and deliver the 20,000 pounds of water that the truck could carry. Frank Fletcher, of Fletcher Jeep, Chrysler, Dodge, purchased almost \$3,000 worth of water from Sam’s Warehouse in Sherwood to fill the truck. Bruce Elliott and Bob Cunningham from Clear Mountain Water also donated a truck load of water and made the trip to deliver. “Listeners also stopped by the station and brought water for us to transport,” said Black-

stone. “Tommy, David, and their producer Danny-Joe Crofford, along with a couple of listeners, ‘Reverend’ and ‘Red,’ helped transport the water. In the end, approximately 1,000 cases of water were delivered.”

Members of the community who are under a boil order can stop by LETA to pick up some water as long as the supply lasts. Individuals are asked to get the minimal amount needed so more people can benefit. For more information contact BRTC at 870-248-4000.

## Linemen

the Co-Op had 11,400 meters that were “hot”; within a short time, only 12 meters were “hot.” As of Wednesday, eight days after the wintery mix, Smith said, about 20% of the meters were “hot.” He went on to say that a system which had taken almost 70 years to build had been almost destroyed by nature in about 70 hours. Repairing the damage, Smith said, “is not a sprint. This is a marathon.” He added that some 15,000 utility poles were “on the ground” throughout the Clay County Co-Op area. In addition to repairing existing poles and lines where feasible, linemen are upgrading damaged items.

Smith had high praise for his crew, but added that the sheer size of the afflicted area means repairs may take as long as two months. He said with “disaster” declaration, 75% of the

## (Continued from Page 1)

costs of the utility repair incurred by Clay County Electric will be born by FEMA, with the state picking up 12.5% and the Co-Op members carrying the other 12.5% of the costs. Smith also acknowledged the cooperation of BRTC President Richard Gaines and others in making available the space to house the linemen and in assisting in the set-up and supplies. LETA students, as well as other BRTC faculty and staff, assisted in the effort.

During the time the linemen are housed in BRTC’s gymnasium, LETA students and BRTC’s P.E. students are working out and lifting weights at two area gyms, Fitness Works and Black River Health Club. “We appreciate their cooperation in making their facilities available during this time to our students at no charge,” said VP for Academics Jack McCord.

## Liebhaber Named ARDLA Editor

Karen Liebhaber, Distance Education Coordinator for BRTC, has accepted appointment as editor of the official newsletter of the Arkansas Distance Learning Association (ARDLA). The quarterly electronic publication is designed to facilitate the sharing of information among educators involved in the state's distance learning programs.

"I'm so excited," Liebhaber said, adding "It brings together my loves of writing and distance education." Liebhaber explained the goal is that ARDLA become "the place Arkansans in distance learning look for information that will help make their jobs in distance education easier." The association and the newsletter are designed, she said, "to provide answers for those involved in distance learn-

ing in K-12, higher education, telemedicine, telejustice, online education, and interactive video instruction."

Liebhaber's duties with the e-newsletter include editing submissions, design and layout, graphics, as well as writing and technical work. She invites those interested in distance education at any level and in any sector to join the mailing list by contacting her at [karenl@blackrivertech.org](mailto:karenl@blackrivertech.org). The publication can be accessed at this online site:

<http://ardla.bassikdesign.com>.

In addition to her work in Distance Education, Liebhaber also serves as Instructor of English, Literature and Technical Writing.



*Karen Liebhaber, English Instructor and Distance Ed. Coordinator.*

## BRTC Adult Ed Program Top in State



*Back row (l to r) Carolyn Jones, Gail Dodd, Linda Wyss, Cindy Robinett, Tammie Lemmons. Front row (l to r) Sue Bentley, Peggy Weir, Karon Skaggs, Jean Wilson.*

The Adult Education Program at Black River Technical College recently received the highest "Efficient and Effective" (E&E) score of all 52 adult education programs in the state of Arkansas for the 2007-2008 academic year, according to BRTC Director of Adult Education Peggy Weir.

Ms. Priscilla Flowers, Northeast Arkansas Regional Program Advisor with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, notified Weir of the achievement on January 13. "I know this is not only from the hard work of a genius director," Flowers stated to Weir, "but also the hard work of the greatest staff in the

world. I'm very proud of all of you."

Programs receiving adult education funds are required to meet or exceed 80% of the federal performance measures for adult education programs. BRTC's Adult Education Program exceeded the 80% standard with a performance score of 128.70%, Weir explained. The criteria for these performance standards include the percentage of enrolled students that achieve the following goals: making an educational level gain, getting a job, retaining a job or advancing on a job, getting a GED, and entering post-secondary education.

"The program achieved this suc-

cess because of the dedicated, hard-working staff," said Weir. Instructors for the program and the towns they serve are Carolyn Jones, Corning and Rector; Karon Skaggs, Corning; Linda Wyss, Piggott, Sue Bentley, Walnut Ridge; Cindy Robinett, Pocahontas; and Jean Wilson, Pocahontas. Support staff includes Tammie Lemmons, GED examiner and assessment/orientation coordinator, Pocahontas; and Gail Dodd, GED examiner and secretary, Pocahontas.

According to Weir, instructors and staff spend time with the students upon enrollment to set attainable goals, which are essential to the success of the program. "They (the instructors) have the sincere desire and motivation to help the students attain those goals," Weir stated. "They are highly qualified and each licensed with the Arkansas Department of Education."

The full-time instructors enroll in 60 or more hours of continuing education each year and the part-time instructors in 30 or more.

"This honor was made possible because of the staffs' dedication and commitment to the program and to the students," noted Weir, "and I am so very proud of each and every one of them."

## Trammel Earns Master's Degree



*Joniece Trammel*

Joniece Trammel, Music Instructor, recently received a master's degree in Vocational Technical Administration from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Trammel began at BRTC in October 2003 as Recruiter before moving into the position of instructor. In addition to teaching music classes, she also directs the Kimbrough Choir and serves as Coordinator for Concurrent Classes.

### Tuskegee Airman

February 26 - RCDC

9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

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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*

When communities experience such catastrophic events as the ice storm and widespread power outages we had last week, we are quickly reminded of just how much we all have to depend on each other. At such times, we appreciate the people and the agencies whose job it is to provide those crucial services so that such episodes are more along the lines of a temporary inconvenience rather than a great tragedy. We know many, many people rose to the occasion, giving of their time and

their resources to support the efforts of those on the front lines, particularly the utility workers faced with the work of repairing lines and restoring power in an area where, at the peak of the problem, as many as 80% of the rural consumers in our area were without power.

Clay County Electric Co-operative contacted the college to see if we could offer space in our gymnasium to house additional linemen who would come from out of state if the community could accommodate them. We said yes. Their needs included not only space, but certain supplies. Our staff, with assistance from many individuals, churches, and businesses, stepped up to take care of those needs. In turn, area gymnasiums agreed to allow our displaced students to use their facilities. The overwhelming attitude has been one of cooperation and willingness to "do my part" to help those who are helping this community get back to the normal life we

## Gould Speaks to Students

Historic Preservation Consultant Joan Gould was guest speaker during Dr. Gary Buxton's Local Community Heritage class last month. Gould presented an overview of Project REACH, Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage, which is restoring two of the oldest log structures in Arkansas.

She discussed both the Rice House and Looney Tavern, focusing more on the Rice House since it is currently undergoing restoration. She introduced Rueben Rice in her presentation and gave an in-depth look at his journey to Arkansas and his life as a successful country merchant in the area. She spoke of the cultural changes within the time period of 1830s to present day. "One of the challenges we face is trying to understand the culture of past generations," she said in a later interview.

"I am glad to have Joan lecture to any of my classes. She is always prepared and does a fantastic job with a very interesting subject," Buxton said.

Gould owns the business Preservation Matters and works out of Fayetteville. She has been part of Project REACH since the beginning.



*Joan Gould*

so often take for granted. BRTC appreciates the assistance we received in helping us to help those linemen. It takes the whole com-

munity working together, and this is one time we all have pulled together for the common good.