

The River's Edge

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Important Dates

April 12

PN Meet and Greet

April 16

LETA Graduation

April 20

Country Feast

May 4

Fun Before Finals

May 5-11

Final Exams

May 13

Graduation

Luncheon Event Honors Donors, Students

The BRTC Foundation paid tribute to its scholarship donors and to the students who receive scholarships during their annual Scholarship/Donor Luncheon held Thursday in Randolph County Development Center.

Foundation member Kevin Rose provided an inspiring speech to the filled room, and the BRTC Kimbrough Choir under the direction of Joniece Trammel performed three pieces.

Student spokespersons included Olen Broyles, Madonna Foster, Dallas Carlile and Amy Griggs. Broyles received a Richard and Patti Gaines scholarship, Foster received a Wal-Mart scholarship, Carlile was a recipient of a Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship, and Griggs



Kevin Rose, BRTC Foundation Board Member, served as guest speaker.

received a Wal-Mart and a Gaines scholarship.

BRTC President Richard Gaines introduced the donors and acknowledged the impact the donors make with their gifts. He also expressed appreciation on behalf of both the college and the students. BRTC VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler introduced the student scholars.

Foundation Chair Mike Miller, Vice Chair Ruth Ann Ellis, and Scott Trammell assisted in the ceremony. Event organizers gave special acknowledgement to the BRTC Dietetics Department who prepared the meal, to Vickie French, and to the staff of the Office of Development for their part in the event.

BRTC is Part of NATYC Consortium



NATYC Leaders, left to right, are Ed Coulter, Chancellor, Arkansas State University-Mountain Home; Deborah Frazier, Chancellor, University of Arkansas Community College-Batesville; Jeff Olson, President, North Arkansas College in Harrison; Rebecca Paneitz, President, Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville; Richard Gaines, Presi-

Black River Technical College has joined five other two-year colleges from across the northern region of Arkansas to form the North Arkansas Two-Year College (NATYC) Consortium.

BRTC President Richard Gaines and representatives of

the other colleges met March 16 at Arkansas State University-Beebe following the Presidents and Chancellors Meeting to announce the formation of NATYC and describe its mission and goals.

As the national focus on education continues to grow, so does the need for institutions of higher education to strengthen the voice for support and collaboration. The NATYC's mission is to strive to meet the education and workforce needs of North Arkansas citizenry and the business community through collaboration in programs, services and innovation in higher education and workforce training.

Consortium participants will meet several times a year to discuss opportunities and activities concerning the group and its involvement. These activities may include discussions on appropriations requests, grant applications, curriculum development and training opportunities.

Other members of the consortium are Northwest Arkansas Community College (Bentonville), North Arkansas College (Harrison), Arkansas State University- Mountain Home, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, and Ozarka College (Melbourne).

(Continued on page 2)

Southern Growth Policy "Road to Recovery" has Meeting

BRTC was one of three hosts statewide for a community forum considering different approaches to the current economic downturn. The forum, sponsored by Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB), was designed to engage community representatives in a discussion of ways rural areas can best recover from a slow economy.

SGPB is a non-partisan think tank based in the Research Triangle of North Carolina and serves thirteen member southern states. Results of the forum held in BRTC's Business Technology Center last week, along with forum results from all thirteen states, have been sent to SGPB and will be disseminated to state leaders and shared with other rural communities.

In addition to assisting state policy-makers, the forum is designed also to spur conversations locally and generate ideas for ways communities can help



Keith Futrell (from left), David Cook, and Dale Morris greet each other before the Southern Growth Policy Board's "Road to Recovery" meeting commenced.

themselves on the 'Road to Recovery.' Forum participants discussed three primary approaches communities may take in times of sluggish economies: Wait It Out; Build on What We've Got; and Create New Strengths.

The ultimate goal, participants agreed, is to develop a structure and a process so that local groups and organizations are willing and able to develop and implement an action plan for improving the overall economy in this community.

BRTC's Department of Continuing Education/Business Outreach Director Patti Blaxton coordinated and planned the event, which was attended by approximately 25

individuals from throughout Randolph County. Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development, served as moderator. Participants generated a number of suggestions and made plans for a follow-up meeting to be facilitated by BRTC.

Guest Speaker Talks Play Therapy



Tessa Hastings

Tessa Hastings of Harrison, a nationally accredited play therapist, was recently a guest in Victoria Barkley Robinett's Child Abuse and Neglect class to speak in conjunction with a chapter on Art Therapy and Childhood Trauma.

"Art and play therapy were developed and came to be recognized as an effective way for children to express their feelings in a safe and supportive context," Robinett explained. "It can provide a means of reconciling emotional conflicts, developing social skills, managing behavior, solving problems, reducing anxiety, aiding reality testing, and increasing self-esteem."

Increasingly, art therapists interface with and participate as members of multidisciplinary child protection teams. Art and play therapy are used in the criminal justice environment to

help gather information, corroborate facts, and assess and implement treatment plans that allow the child to work through trauma and readjust to a "normal life." It can also be an effective treatment for children who are part of the foster care programs helping to integrate and find a productive way to address their feelings and emotions.

Hastings explained to the class that things that happen to us stay with us and she demonstrated that fact by working through some practical play exercises with the students that allowed them to remember events that were the best and worst moments of their childhood. "Those that shared their memories were surprised at how vivid their recollections were," said Robinett, "saying they could remember the sights, smells and sounds of the memory as if it were yesterday."

NATYC

(Cont'd from Page 1)

NATYC will work to combine intellectual expertise providing cutting-edge programs for workforce education and 4-year transfer opportunities while coordinating resources and specializations in the compilation of grant proposals.

The consortium will combine efforts to provide regional education and training opportunities to meet the workforce needs of North Arkansas. Moreover, these schools will promote a regional and statewide view of education and workforce needs to better meet the education and professional opportunities for Arkansas' citizens.

Design Work Chosen



Ashley Allen and Nikki DeLoach present their artwork that was selected to be used on the cafeteria newsletter.

Nikki DeLoach and Ashley Allen, students in Dr. Sandy Baltz' Graphic Design class recently had their work chosen to be used on the cafeteria newsletter. Delouch designed the masthead and Allen designed the map. All class members submitted work and the selection was made by Sandra Parker, Cafeteria Coordinator, and Tina Harris, Dietetics Instructor.

"I always schedule a project in which the student chooses an existing masthead from a magazine or newspaper and then they improve on it.," Baltz said.

"Students are usually bored with the assignment, but whenever this 'real' job became available it proved the necessity of working on such a project and they did a marvelous job.

"I am very proud of their work and effort and am always pleased when the students can put their training into real life situations," added Baltz.

Additional Academic Distinction Scholarships Awarded



Lindsey Needham



Jessica Rudd



Cory Twitty



Alyssa McConnell



Brittany Hembrey



James Collier



Christopher Cross



Chelsea Raddad



Ashley Stallings



Jessica Cartwright



Amber Lamb



Megan Walls

Lindsey Needham, Jessica Rudd, Cory Twitty, Alyssa McConnell, Brittany Hembrey, James Collier, Christopher Cross, Chelsea Raddad, Ashley Stallings, Jessica Cartwright, Amber Lamb, Megan Walls, Alyssa Davis, and Shelby Borst. have been awarded the Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend Black River Technical College beginning in the fall, according to Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush.

The scholarship provides full tuition renewable up to four semesters provided the recipient successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester and maintains and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.00 for the first two semesters and 3.25 for the remaining two semesters.

Needham, a senior of Sloan Hendrix High School, plans to pursue a career in Nursing. She is the daughter of Adam and Jackie Needham.

A senior of Walnut Ridge High School, Rudd plans to major in Nursing. She is the daughter of Roger and Pauline Burlerson and Jackie Hare.

The son of Darin and Myra Twitty, Cory Twitty, a senior at Greene County Tech High School, plans to earn a degree in Computer Science.

McConnell, a senior at Hoxie High School, plans to pursue a degree in Nursing. She is the daughter of Melissa and Jeff Moskop.

A senior at Hoxie High School, Hembrey plans to pursue a degree in Nursing. She is the daughter of Linda and Eddie Hembrey.

Collier, a senior at Greene County Tech High School, plans to enter the Aviation Maintenance Technology program. He is the son of Deanna

Almquist and James G. Collier.

The son of Dean and Michele Cross, Christopher Cross, a senior at Walnut Ridge High School, plans to pursue a career in Crime Scene Investigation.

Raddad, a senior at Green County Tech High School, has future plans of becoming a Nurse Anesthetist. She is the daughter of Christal and Whitney Thompson and Scott Raddad.

The daughter of Susan Houlthouser and Jason Stallings, Ashley Stallings, a senior at Black Rock High School, plans to pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.

Cartwright, a senior at Oak Ridge Central High School, plans to major in Business. She is the daughter of Vance and Regina Cartwright.

Lamb, the daughter of Bobby and Sharon Lamb, plans to obtain general education courses while at BRTC. She is a senior at Black Rock High School.

Walls, a senior at Pocahontas High School, plans to major in Nursing. She is the daughter of Brenda and Danny Walls.

A senior at Oak Ridge Central High School, Davis plans to pursue a career in Nursing with future plans in Radiology. She is the daughter of Harold and Rayetta Davis.

Borst (not pictured) plans to major in Biology with future plans as a Physician's Assistant. A senior at Mena High School, she is the daughter of Sheila and Scott Borst.

For more information on Financial Aid, please contact Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019 or via e-mail at Natasha.Rush@blackrivertech.org.



Alyssa Davis

Culver Scholarship Recipient Named



Tawnie Smith

Tawnie Smith of Pocahontas is the recipient of the Henry Culver Music Scholarship for the Spring 2010 semester at Black River Technical College.

The scholarship was established by Oleita Young of Pocahontas in honor of her father, the late Henry Culver, and provides tuition of one credit hour of choir at BRTC for one student each semester.

Smith moved to Pocahontas four years ago from California and is a full-time mom and homemaker. She learned of the Kimbrough Choir through Director Joniece Trammel and wanted to participate.

"I just love it," stated Smith. "For two hours a week I get to do 'my thing' and it's something I really enjoy."

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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.

*The River's Edge is produced by the
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Campus Commentary



Vickie Kuykendall

*Director of Off-Campus Operations
Paragould Campus*

Over the past ten years, there has been a significant increase in the involvement of two-year colleges in community economic development. Since the 1980s, two-year colleges across the nation have stepped up to meet the challenge of helping their communities develop the workforce. In the beginning, many technical colleges were founded to help meet

the sudden increase of new technology in the workplace. Overall, the message has been clear in terms of enrollment and educational goals: two-year colleges are providing adults the academic, workforce, and career development skills they need.

Meeting the needs of students is only part of the equation. Two-year colleges are also meeting the needs of business, industry, and economic development. As we all know, a key factor associated with economic development is a well-trained, well-educated workforce. And the education includes job training and retraining, which prepares people to effectively perform on the job.

How far a two-year college pursues economic development responsibilities will vary from region to region. However, all who educate and prepare people for employment are involved in economic development. Two-year colleges are distinctively positioned to

assist their communities in terms of growth, prosperity and quality of life. A well-educated and trained workforce can assist a community in its ability to attract new business ventures and can assist in preservation and growth of existing business and industry. As for the future, continuous demands on business and industry will make it necessary for communities to show that a labor pool with the ability to be trained and retrained exists for job creation and expansion to take place. This is where the two-year college can provide the edge for a community or region in the area of economic development.

Through the contract and continuing education division, the institution can provide essential opportunity for local business and industry to train and update their workforce via customized training programs. These nontraditional areas of higher education provide the network to fulfill the short skills-oriented training needs that have resulted from rapid hi-tech advances.

BRTC is uniquely situated to help the communities and local regions we serve to be successful in their actions to attract and retain businesses, and to create an environment for entrepreneurial success. Some two-year colleges have a limited view of job training responsibilities and merely see themselves as little more than the first two years of a four-year degree. The ramifications of this limited vision clearly place their communities at a competitive disadvantage in a global market where business and industry success are dependent on the skills of the local workforce.

BRTC has always been a leader in workforce development and continues to incorporate this economic development responsibility into the college's days-to-day operations. Because of this forward thinking, business and industry will clearly benefit in terms of international competitiveness, and BRTC will continue to be a major leader in economic development in each of the individual communities that we serve!