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Nursing Grads Begin Car Seat Program



BRTC Nursing III students from the December 2011 graduating class have been working to begin a "Seats for Tots" car seat program in Lawrence and Randolph Counties, which began as a class project in the Fall.

During a class project this past August, BRTC nursing students discovered there is a need for a car seat program in Lawrence and Randolph Counties and they have been challenged to solve the problem, according to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC.

with NAPNES (National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.) to start a car seat program that will help provide much needed car seats and booster seats to families in the two counties. They are calling the program "Seats for Tots."

The BRTC Nursing Department is currently working

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Important Dates

- January 24-25**
PTK Blood Drive
- February 11**
ACT Testing
- March 6**
BRTC Foundation Gala
- March 15**
Business Etiquette Luncheon
- March 19-23**
Spring Break
No Classes; Offices Open
- March 27-28**
PTK Blood Drive

BRTC Signs Articulation Agreement with ASU's Dietetics Program

BRTC has signed an articulation agreement with Arkansas State University's Dietetics program signaling ASU's willingness to accept BRTC Dietetics students, according to Angie Caldwell, Vice President for Technical Education at BRTC.

"The purpose of this agreement is to assist students holding an Associate of Applied Science degree in Dietetics from BRTC to transition smoothly to ASU for the completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutritional Science," Caldwell explained.

Through collaborative efforts, the partners desire to increase graduation rates, facilitate the transfer process and maintain a high quality working relationship between ASU and BRTC.

Under the agreement, a student who holds an Associ-

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Angie Caldwell, VP for Technical Education (from left), Dr. Wayne Hatcher, President, and Tina Harris, Dietetics Program Director, sign articulation agreement with ASU.

Nursing Grads Cont'd from Pg. 1

While the Seats for Tots program is still being developed, nursing students jumpstarted their efforts by donating two new car seats and one booster seat to both Lawrence and Randolph County Health Departments to be given out as they see necessary.

"This doesn't seem like much at this time, but it's a start," said April Carter, nursing student helping to spearhead the program. "Six car seats can save six lives and that's a huge impact. The nursing department looks forward to getting the Seats for Tots program up and running as quickly as possible."

Anyone wishing to make a donation or to find out more about the Seats for Tots program may contact BRTC's Nursing Department at 870-248-4000.

Bosch Tool Corp. Continues Support

The Robert Bosch Tool Corporation of Walnut Ridge recently donated \$2,500 to the Black River Technical College Foundation in their continued support of BRTC students. Bosch representatives on hand to present the gift to BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher were Steve Engelken, Operations Manager, and Nick Lee, Human Resources Manager at the Walnut Ridge facility.



Presenting the donation to Dr. Wayne Hatcher are Steve Engelken, Operations Manager (left) and Nick Lee, Human Resources Manager.

"We are pleased that BOSCH continues to make the students of BRTC a top priority in their successful efforts to assist Northeast Arkansas' economic develop-

ment," stated Hatcher.

"The administration of BRTC has traditionally utilized their gifts for items that provide long term benefits to the students," Hatcher said.

In past years, the Bosch donations have helped in areas such as providing furniture for the student commons area of the Administration Building. This year's donation combined with Bosch's generous previous donations will go towards refurbishing the Department of Student Services in the Administration Building, according to Hatcher.

Articulation Cont'd from Pg. 1

ate of Applied Science degree in Dietetics from BRTC may apply for admission to the Coordinated Program in Dietetics at ASU provided the student meets program admission requirements. ASU agrees to accept for transfer 22 hours of dietetics-specific courses as well as required general education courses into the Coordinated Program.

"With additional basic courses, students can walk out of our program and finish the Dietetics program at ASU in approximately two years," noted Caldwell. "We are excited about this collaboration with ASU and the opportunity it provides our students."

The agreement will be subject to annual review by both ASU and BRTC, or in the event there are changes to the curriculum at either institution. Both schools also agree to recognize and promote the agreement with prospective transfer students.

Signing the agreement in addition to Caldwell from BRTC were Tina Harris, Dietetics Program Director, and Dr. Wayne Hatcher, President. Signing from ASU were Pam Towery, Dietetics Program Director; Dr. Susan Hanrahan, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Professions; Glen Jones, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost; and G. Daniel Howard, Chancellor.

Two Earn Master's Degrees

BRTC employees Rhonda Foster of Pocahontas and Tina Harris of Dalton were each awarded Master's degrees this past December. Foster, Coordinator of Student Recruitment, was awarded a Master of Science in College Student Personnel degree from Arkansas Tech University. Harris, Dietetics Program Director, was awarded a Master of Arts in Organizational Management with a Specialty in Leadership from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

Foster has been with BRTC since 2007 when she began as Community Outreach Coordinator in the Career Pathways Department. She became Coordinator of Student Recruitment in the Office of Development in January 2008. She previously worked for 11 years as Director of Human Resources at Randolph County Medical Center (now Five Rivers Medical Center) and 12 years as Director of Marketing at Harris Hospital in Newport. She also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing degree with a minor in Human Resources Management from Harding University.

Harris became a student at BRTC when Brown Shoe, her employer at the time, closed in 1995. She received an Associate of Applied Science in Dietetics degree from BRTC in 1998. She began teaching dietetics classes at BRTC as well as managing the cafeteria while working to complete her Bachelor's degree. After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Harris became Program Director of BRTC's Dietary Managers certificate program. She also works part-time as a Diabetic Educator and Consulting Dietitian for area hospitals and nursing homes.



Rhonda Foster



Tina Harris

Business Technology Day Continues to Grow

Black River Technical College hosted the third annual Business Technology Day January 13 on the Pocahontas campus, according to Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head.

Approximately 160 students from seven area high schools participated in business-related competitions to help prepare them for the upcoming District FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) competition. Schools participating were Highland, Hillcrest, Hoxie, Nettleton, Piggott, Rector and Walnut Ridge.

“Business Technology Day is a day for high school FBLA students to come to our campus and participate in practice skills tests in areas such as accounting, word processing, desktop publishing and personal finance prior to the District FBLA competition,” explained Darena Kersey, Business Instructor and organizer of the event.

“We were approached a few years ago by area high school teachers suggesting we hold a practice competition here on our campus prior to the District FBLA competition, which is held each year at Nettleton Schools,” said Prichard. “They believed that a practice competition beforehand would help prepare students for the actual competition and improve their performance.”



Walnut Ridge High School FBLA students Clay Hufstедler (from left), Payton Poole, Matthew Cox, Nick Rice and Eric Wilcoxson, prepare for a business exam at BRTC's Business Technology Day event.

The event also provided an opportunity to show high school students the campus and tell them about business degrees offered at BRTC. Rhonda Foster, Coordinator of Recruitment, gave a short presentation about the programs at BRTC during the opening welcome.

“We were fortunate to have the assistance of the Phi Beta Lambda members at the event,” added Kersey. “The PBL chapter is the post-secondary

version of FBLA and has recently been reactivated on the BRTC campus.”

The event began with an opening session and welcome at 9:00 in the Randolph County Development Center auditorium followed by the first testing session at 9:45 in classrooms throughout the Business Technology Center. Students had a break with refreshments in the lounge area of the BT Building prior to the start of the second session at 11:00. A closing was held at noon back in the auditorium where door prizes were given.

Business Technology Day has grown from four schools participating the first year it was held in 2010 to seven schools this year. “Several teachers have told us that since we started

this event, more students have placed in the district competition than ever before,” Prichard noted.

“Considering the steady growth and the improved results at competition, I believe that Business Technology Day will continue to grow and be successful.”

“Thanks to all of the volunteers, instructors, students and participating schools that took part in the event,” added Kersey.

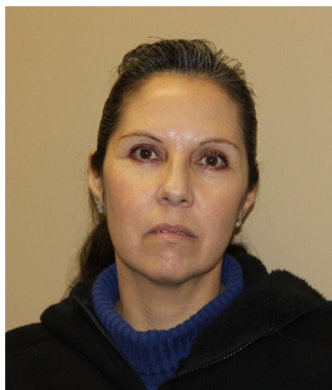
BRTC Hires Three New Full-Time Employees

Veronica Denton, Kara Malin and Suzanne Mason have joined the BRTC staff, announced Julie Edington, Director of Human Resources.

Denton has been hired as Institutional Services Assistant for the Paragould campus. Originally from Mexico, she lived in Pocahontas for 12 years before moving to Paragould where she currently resides. She worked at Green Acres Nursing Home in Paragould prior to joining the BRTC staff.

Malin has been hired full time as Practical Nursing and CNA Instructor. She has been an RN adjunct instructor at BRTC since October 2010. She previously worked for three years as a Triage Nurse at Pocahontas Medical Clinic, and has also worked at Fiver River's Medical

Center Home Health, Legacy Hospital of North Arkansas, St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center, and Randolph County Nursing Home. Malin earned both LPN and RN degrees from BRTC. She resides in Imboden with her husband and their four-year-old son.



Veronica Denton



Kara Malin



Suzanne Mason

Mason has been hired as Administrative Specialist I for Continuing Education and Business Outreach on the Paragould campus. She is a native of Alpena, Michigan, but currently resides in Paragould. She earned both an Associate of Arts in Gen Ed degree and an Associate of Applied Science in

Business Technology with Accounting option degree from BRTC. She previously worked at Emerson Electric in Paragould and Donaldson, Inc. in Wisconsin before returning to school.



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

Phone: 870-248-4000
Fax: 870-248-4100

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

Phone: 870-239-0969
Fax: 870-239-2050

www.blackrivertech.edu

On-Line River's Edge Address:
http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/

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

*janz@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org
jessica.mcfadden@blackrivertech.org
rhonda.foster@blackrivertech.org
anns@blackrivertech.org*

BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

Campus Commentary



Dr. Wayne Hatcher

Last week a student mentioned to me that they had read my article in the last issue of the newsletter and she agreed that she was getting a good bargain for her tax dollars. While I was pleased that she agreed, what I also wanted to tell her was that what I stated in the article wasn't even the tip of the iceberg. The faculty and staff of this organization are frequently among those presenting sessions at conferences, seminars and local groups. There is no financial benefit for doing so, no re-

quirement to do so in order to meet tenure stipulations; however, faculty and staff present and publish precisely because they place intrinsic value on the acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge. Let me give you a few examples:

- The Distance Education Coordinator has presented sessions on her discipline to meetings of the Mid-South Distance Learning Conference in Hot Springs and to the Pocahontas Rotary Club. She has also presented at the Dietary Managers Association and to the Practical Nursing Educators Conference, in addition to publishing several articles.
- Our VP for Technical Education recently presented at the Arkansas Dietary Management Association's fall conference. She also was named Outstanding Dietitian in Arkansas in 2011.
- BRTC's Director of the Fire Science program assisted in rewriting the National Farmedic Class for McNeill and Company in Cortland, New York; he also wrote and added a new module to this program on Agricultural Aircraft Crashes (Crop Duster Crashes) and presented this new

program as a pilot test to several rural New York Fire Departments.

- Members of the Business Department presented a session at the Arkansas Association for Developmental Education and another at the Arkansas Business Education Association.
- The EMT instructor recently assisted on a state training committee for the Arkansas Department of Health Emergency Medical Services division in the writing of a transition course for the new EMS education guidelines.
- Our Art and History instructors recently presented at Arkansas State University's Heritage Studies PhD program, plus one has had several Civil War articles published.
- The VP for Development, also an adjunct instructor in German and The Holocaust, presented two sessions at national conferences earlier this year. She has also had numerous articles published on multiple subjects.

We give to our communities because it feels good. We hope you do the same.