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Record Amount Raised at MSSPS Auction

A record amount was raised at this year's Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship Auction, according to MSSPS Chair Janna Guthrey. During the annual BRTC faculty and staff auction \$2554 was raised. When this amount is matched at 150% by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Foundation, the value will exceed \$5000.

The auction is held each year at the conclusion of the annual holiday lunch to raise funds for the MSSPS program. This year's event included the traditional silent and live auctions of items donated by BRTC faculty and staff. New this year was the Ticket Table, where individuals could purchase tickets to place with the object or objects of their choice and a drawing was held among all tickets for each item.

Butch Dail, instructor of BRTC's Auto Collision and Repair program, served as the auctioneer with assistance from Phillip Dickson, Business Instructor, and Betty White, Controller. In addition to staff, members of the BRTC Board of Trustees and the BRTC Foundation also



Phillip Dickson

participated in the event.

BRTC's Single Parent Scholarship program provides assistance to eligible single parents living in Randolph County and enrolled in an institution of higher education.

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Important Dates

- January 4**
Last Day to Register and Enroll in Classes
- January 6**
Classes Start
- January 13**
Business Technology Day
- January 16**
Martin Luther King Day – No Classes; Admin. Offices Open
- January 24-25**
PTK Blood Drive
- February 11**
ACT Testing

Commencement Recognizes 378 Graduates

BRTC commencement exercises were held December 15 in the Randolph County Development Center to recognize 378 graduates, including 105 GED recipients, according to Dr. Michael Sullens, VP for Student Services.

Degrees were conferred by BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher and awarded by Dr. Roger Johnson, VP for General Education, and Angie Caldwell, VP for Technical Education. The degrees awarded included two-year Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees, as well as one-year Certificates, one-semester Certificates of Proficiency, and GEDs.

Kelly Rose of Pocahontas, Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager with IBERIABANK, served as keynote speaker for the ceremony. He spoke of his own experiences in enrolling first at the University of Arkansas, only to find this was not the right "fit" for him; he contrasted that experience, when no one seemed to know or care whether he attended classes,

to BRTC, where all his instructors knew him by name and where his presence was an important matter.



Kelly Rose

Rose told the graduates to realize that they are now "officially qualified to pursue success." He went on to say, "Realize you are qualified to pursue success with another preparation, another tool, to achieve success: confidence. You have demonstrated you have a work ethic. You have a right to have confidence in your abilities." He also encouraged the class to "Seek opportunities to serve others."

Rose, who earned his Associate of Arts degree from BRTC and completed his bachelors degree at ASU, is also an active member of the BRTC Foundation Board.

Esther Shelley of Imboden, graduate candidate for the Practical Nursing certificate, served as Graduate Candidate Spokesperson. She told of her own journey to the completion of this stage of education, and urged her

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BRTC Groups Made Donations to The Children's Shelter

This past semester, several groups around the BRTC Pocahontas campus adopted The Children's Shelter in Walnut Ridge to help during the holiday season.

Students of the nursing department were allowed to wear casual clothes as opposed to their scrubs the last two days of class if they made a donation of food for the shelter. Many students took advantage of that opportunity.

The English Club gave a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card to be used by the shelter as needed. The gift card was purchased with funds raised from a book



Tom Baker (from left), Helen Shipley, Rhonda Crabtree, Margo Veer, and Bridgett Guess of BRTC's Department of Career Pathways, display some of the items which were gathered for donation to The Children's Shelter in Walnut Ridge.

sale at which baked goods and chili were also sold.

Phi Theta Kappa collected food, toys and stuffed animals to distribute among several area organizations including the shelter. Phi Beta Lambda members also collected and donated items.

The Career Pathways Department at BRTC held a drive to collect toys, clothes and other needed items for the shelter. Faculty and staff were encouraged to donate items that the children had asked Santa for.

Pathways staff decided last year to start donating to The Children's Shelter instead of giving gifts to one another. According to Pathways staff, many more donations were received this year than last year, including monetary donations.



Tammy Vaughn, English Club President (third from left), presents Lisa Hufstедler, Director of The Children's Shelter, with a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card. Others present include, from left, Jason Moseley, Lisa Inman, sponsor, Shelby Borst, Joe Collier, sponsor, and Loretta Sifford.

Griggs Awarded BS Degree

Sherry Griggs, Fiscal Support Specialist in the Finance Department at BRTC, was recently awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Arkansas State University during a commencement ceremony held on the ASU campus in Jonesboro.

Griggs is a Maynard resident who began working for BRTC in June of 2001. She worked for V & B Manufacturing in Walnut Ridge prior to joining the BRTC Staff. She also holds an AAS from BRTC.



Sherry Griggs

PLC Takes First in Randolph County Christmas Parade

The newly organized President's Leadership Council, formerly BRTC Ambassadors, captured first place in their division in the recent Randolph County Christmas Parade.

The unit featured the theme "Where Dreams Come True." The theme was carried out by the participation of BRTC students representing many of the professional training programs available at the college. Participants were wearing the attire appropriate to their discipline such as first responders and health professions.

The PLC planned and prepared the entry with assistance from their advisors, Laura Keuter-Woods, Coordinator of Retention and Placement, and Ann Savage, Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

Other PLC activities during the Fall semester included breast cancer awareness activities during October and diabetes awareness activities in November.



PLC and friends at the Randolph County Christmas Parade

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The funds may be used for child care, transportation, housing, or other expenses. Since its beginning, the organization has provided more than \$138,000 in scholarship funds. In addition to the annual auction, the fund receives support from individual BRTC staff members through payroll deductions, from grants, from special events and from the BRTC Foundation.

MSSPS Chair Janna Guthrey expressed her appreciation to the many people who had donated items for the auction, noting this year's event had over forty items. "This means so much to me personally, and it means so much to the many students your generosity will help. That includes those who brought the items and those who bid on them and bought them," she said.

Individuals in the community may make contributions to the program by contacting Guthrey or Vickie French at 870-248-4000.

BRTC Board Members Attend Trustee Conference

Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe was a special guest speaker at the annual Trustee Conference sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education for college Board members earlier this month at the Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock. Annual training for Board Members is a requirement of Higher Education.

Attending from BRTC were Board President John Jackson, along with Michael Dunn, Leo Baltz, and Dr. Paul Baltz. Also attending were BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, VP for Finance Loreta Williams, Angela Caldwell, VP for Technical Education, and VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler.

The governor told those present that even though state revenues are down, Arkansas has managed to avoid the massive reductions in higher education that many states have experienced. He pledged his continuing support of higher education as a pillar of economic development, and repeated a pledge to continue to encourage legislative understanding

when higher education institutions seek to fund their needs through increases in tuition and other fees, to help counter the continued reduced funding by the state.

Other presentations at the conference included an overview of "Common Core Curriculum and Assessment," "Achieving the Dream" initiative as implemented in two of the community colleges, "Complete College America" and "PACE" initiatives.

PACE is an acronym for "Path to Accelerated Completion and Employment," and is the name of a \$14.7 million Department of Labor grant awarded the state's 22 two-year colleges. BRTC's portion of the grant is over one-half million dollars, and will enable the college to redesign Development Educa-



BRTC Board of Trustee Members, from left, John Jackson, Dr. Paul Baltz, Michael Dunn, and Leo Baltz.

tion and to restructure certificate and degree pathways in an effort to lessen the time to degree completion, and to enhance advisement and placement services.

'Fun Before Finals' Draws Large Number of Students

Approximately 200 BRTC students in addition to BRTC faculty and staff participated in the 8th annual Fun Before Finals held November 30 in the Randolph County Development Center.

This event, which is typically held in May, was held in the November due to spring flooding that closed the campus. The event was also held indoors because of the cooler weather. Despite being held at a different time of the year and a new location, attendance was just as high, according to Regina Moore, event coordinator.

The first 100 students with their student ID received Fiesta themed t-shirts and were able to register for door prizes, including the grand prize 32" Toshiba flat screen television. Students were able to enjoy Wii games such as Guitar hero on the big screen in the auditorium or play against friends in Mario Cart or Golf. There were also competitions in games such as Baggo and Bingo. The huge 'Operation' game, built by BRTC's Computer Services Director Mike Greene, was a big hit. Food was also provided free of charge.

"Thanks to all the volunteers and many sponsors who made this event possible," said Moore. "Even with all the challenges of moving the event indoors everyone was able to come together and make it one of the best Fun Before Finals event yet."



Pictured above: BRTC students Norma Obregon and Michelle Duran play a life-size 'Operation' game during Fun Before Finals.

Pictured right: Mylea White, BRTC Student Services, presents student Malcolm Ashblock with the grand prize 32" television.

Jeffery Joins LETA Staff as PE Instructor/Trainer

Christy Jeffery has been hired as the new Physical Education instructor/trainer for BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy, announced Steve Shults, LETA Director. She is from Ohio, but currently resides in Jonesboro.

Jeffery is working to complete the Master's Degree in Exercise Science at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Athletic Training from Kent State University in Ohio. She has worked as an athletic trainer, First Aid and Safety Instructor, and Approved Clinical Instructor at ASU; and most recently as a CrossFit Level 1 Trainer at CrossFit870 in Jonesboro.



Christy Jeffery





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BRTC Mission Statement

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

Campus Commentary



Dr. Wayne Hatcher

Too often in today's world too many of us find it too easy to be a cynic. It's almost a reflex to start a conversation by making a negative statement about the economy, public education, healthcare, politics, etc. Let me tell you some positive facts.

According to a recent economic impact research study, for every dollar a BRTC student puts into their education they get \$7.50 back. As a taxpayer, you get \$2.10 back for every dollar just

because we do such a good job. The study also stated that "regional income in the BRTC Service Area would be substantially lower without the educational and training activities of BRTC." That helps explain the summary section which details how BRTC has an annual total economic impact of \$180 million in our Service Area, which is 10% of its total.

That is good news. Want some more? Did you know that over the last several years BRTC easily has the lowest average increase in tuition and fees in the state, despite continued reduced state funding? How about some of our local high schools producing students with some of the lowest remediation rates in the state? Or the Five Rivers Medical Center that is making some positive changes for our future? Do you realize that unlike most other Arkansas community colleges and local hospitals, neither BRTC nor the hospital is supported by a local tax? That many of the area school districts have some of the lowest millage rates in the state?

The question is, can such a situation continue? Can we continue to get such high returns for such low dollars when costs for everything continue to escalate? Can we continue to grow and move forward at yesterday's rates of payment? You know

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fellow classmates, saying "We owe it to ourselves to believe in the incredible power of the human mind. Anything is possible."

Outstanding Departmental Graduate Awards went to the following for General Education: Jeremy Rose, English; Rebekah Bowman, Fine Arts Visual; Sylvia Clemons, Graphic Design; Crystal Andrew, Drawing; Candice Kane, Math; John Rainwater, Chemistry; Dustin Miller, Psychology; Ben McClellan, Kimbrough Choir; and Austin Morgan, Criminology.

The following for Technical Education: Travis White, Auto Collision; Darrell Foust, Auto Service Tech; Jeffrey Smith, Aviation; Aaron Burke, Fire Science; Linda Glenn, Phlebotomy; Esther Shelly, Practical Nursing; Jeff Wheeless, Registered Nursing; Sarah Potter, Respiratory Care.

the answer...so be careful of folks that say we can.

In the meantime, look up the definition of "investment." BRTC takes your investment seriously and we will continue to work hard to give you a good return...for the future of Northeast Arkansas.