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## Tickets on Sale for Foundation Gala

Preparations are being made for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual BRTC Foundation Gala to be held Saturday, March 8, 6:00 p.m., at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas, according to Ann Savage, BRTC's Director of Marketing and Gala Event Chair.

The elegant and fun event includes dinner, silent and live auctions, and a drawing for some wonderful items. Proceeds from the event assist the Foundation in providing scholarships and meeting other needs of the college.

Tickets are \$125 per couple and may be purchased by contacting any BRTC Foundation Board member or calling Vickie French at (870) 248-4070 or Ann Savage at (870) 248-4025. "Seating is limited so individuals are encouraged to purchase tickets early," noted Savage.



*Katherine French (from left), Bill Holobaugh, and Carol Belford-Lewallen having fun at the 2013 Foundation Gala.*

## Increased Sponsorships Lead to Additional Foundation Scholarships Being Offered

More scholarships are available to BRTC students through the BRTC Foundation for the 2014-2015 academic year thanks to generous donors of the Annual IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament, according to Dina Hufstедler, Director of Community Development and tournament chair.

"A new sponsorship level, which included a scholarship naming opportunity, was added to our last golf tournament," Hufstедler explained. "This was the idea of Kelly Rose, BRTC Foundation Chair, and the response was great. Several donors increased their sponsorship to this level, and with the additional revenue we are able to offer even more scholarships through the Foundation than were already possible."

The following scholarships are those named by tournament sponsors at the Four-Star, \$1,000 level: CCECC Membership Scholarship, sponsored by Clay County Electric Coop. Corp.; L.D. Rose Family Scholarship, sponsored by Larry Rose and Pocahontas Alumni; Nielsen Bainbridge Group Scholarship, sponsored by Pinnacle Frames and Accents, Inc.; VALIC Community Spirit Scholarship, sponsored by VALIC; and Sandhill Dentistry Scholarship, sponsored by Dr. Josh Tony.

Also, Rufus and Imogene McDaniel Construction

Trades Scholarship, sponsored by Ramson's Construction; Karla Baltz, DDS Scholarship, sponsored by Dr. Karla Baltz; SGA's Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship, sponsored by BRTC's Student Government Association; Northeast Arkansas Turf Care and Nursery Scholarship; Ruby Architects, Inc. and Allison Architects, Inc. Scholarship; and Monsanto Scholarship.

"Scholarships in addition to those listed are available," Hufstедler noted, "but these are the ones who increased their level of giving and took the opportunity to name a scholarship. All Foundation Scholarships are made possible through fundraising efforts such as the tournament, the Annual Gala, and private donations."

To qualify for a Foundation Scholarship, students must be a resident of Arkansas and a full time student at BRTC completing a minimum of 12 credit hours. Interested students must complete the scholarship application and submit with ACT or ASSET scores, high school transcript, and a 100-200 word, typed, self-descriptive essay.

Additional criteria may apply to some of the named scholarships, and the information requested should be

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

### Important Dates

**February**

**Black History Month**

**March 8**

**BRTC Folklore Society Symposium**

**Foundation Gala**

**March 24-28**

**Spring Break**

**April 7**

**Registration Begins for Returning Students**

**April 14**

**Registration Begins for First-time & Transfer Students**



# Donation Made to Adult Ed for Reading Materials

Carmen Rose of Pocahontas recently donated a gift card from Amazon.com to the Adult Education Department of BRTC to help purchase reading materials. Her gift was in response to a plea through social media by Adult Education instructor Cindy Robinett.

“Just before Christmas, I made a post on Facebook suggesting donations to BRTC’s Adult Education Department to help promote reading among adults in the community would be a great gift idea for the holidays,” Robinette explained. “Carmen immediately responded by purchasing a gift card from Amazon.com to donate.”

I’ve always loved to read and strongly support BRTC’s efforts to help adults improve this most basic and necessary of skills,” said Rose.

Robinett said she encourages her students to read a little every day. “People just don’t read for pleasure like in the past,” she said. “As a result, reading comprehension skills, including vocabulary, just aren’t where they need to be.” Robinett



*Carmen Rose, far right, presents an Amazon gift card to Adult Ed Instructor Cindy Robinett, left, and student Diane Howard, for the purchase of reading materials.*

uses a technique referred to as “immersion” to introduce teens and young adults to reading for pleasure. The technique refers to reading text while at the same time listening to a professional narrator read the book.

“A person who never learned to love to read has

missed out on so much,” said Robinett. “By listening to a narrator, the reader can travel to a whole new world, expand his or her imagination and really feel the emotion, excitement, and drama of a book.” She added that when choosing books to have available, she looks for strong characters who can positively influence her students—especially young men and women.

“With state funding very limited for instructional materials, the BRTC Adult Education Program is always very appreciative for contributions from the community,” added Tammie Lemmons, BRTC Adult Education Director. “Our program is here for the community and is free to adults who want to improve their basic skills, study for the GED test or prepare for college.”

The BRTC Adult Education Department has classes in Pocahontas, as well as in Walnut Ridge, Strawberry, Corning, Piggott, and Rector. For more information, contact the department office at (870) 248-4130.

## Increased Sponsorships Cont'd. from Pg. 1

noted on the application or in the essay.

The scholarships with specific criteria are: CCECC Membership Scholarship - CCECC member or immediate family member in household of CCECC member, or employee or immediate family member of employee of Clay County Electric; L.D. Rose Family Scholarship – Randolph County resident; VALIC Community Spirit Scholarship – community service activities and/or financial need.

Also, Sandhill Dentistry Scholarship – preference given to a student pursuing education in a science-related field; Rufus and Imogene McDaniel Construction Trades Scholarship – preference given to a student pursuing a construction trade education; SGA’s Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship – has held leadership role in a student organization, club, or activity.

Priority on these scholarships will be given to those who meet the specified criteria, if applicable. In the event no applicants meet the criteria, the scholarship will be awarded to another eligible applicant.

Applications for these and other Foundation Scholarships will be accepted through April 1, 2014, for the 2014-2015 academic year. Applications may be downloaded from the Financial Aid link on the BRTC website at <http://www.blackrivertech.org/financial-aid/scholarship-opportunities>.

Contact the Financial Aid Department at 870-248-4000 or Hufstедler at 870-248-4187, for more information.

## New Paragould Site Scholarship Awarded to Three BRTC Students

Melinda Pate of Poplar Bluff, MO, Kelli Voss of Paragould, and Hope Richey (not pictured) of Marmaduke, have each been awarded the Paragould Site Scholarship in the amount of \$250 per semester.

Pate is a graduate of Poplar Bluff High School and is pursuing a degree in business technology with plans to enter the field of medical coding. She and her husband, Randy, have three children.

Voss is currently working toward an Associate of Arts in Gen Ed degree with plans to transfer to Arkansas State University for a degree in Social Work. She attended Paragould High School and is currently office manager and worship leader at Life house Ministries at Southside Community Church. She and her husband, Drew, have three children.

Richey is also pursuing an Associate of Arts in Gen Ed degree.

The Paragould Site Scholarship is awarded for two semesters, fall and spring, for a total of \$500 being awarded. Candidates for the scholarship must complete 12 credit hours at BRTC with a 2.75 GPA, and maintain at least a 2.75 in order to receive funding for the second semester. Greene County residents will be given priority in the selection process. In addition to completing the FAFSA, interested students must submit a self-descriptive essay of 100-200 words with their completed application.

For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 870-248-4000 or the Paragould campus at 870-239-0969.



*Melinda Pate*

*Kelli Voss*

## Beebe Appoints Housh to ASBN

Ramonda Housh of Pocahontas has been appointed to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing by Governor Mike Beebe, according to an announcement made December 19. She is a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and fills the Board position for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse.

The ASBN is composed of 13 members appointed by the Governor for terms of four years, subject to confirmation by the Senate, according to the ASBN website. Six members must be registered nurses and each must be an Arkansas resident; have at least five years of successful experience as a registered nurse in nursing practice, administration, or teaching; be licensed in Arkansas as a registered nurse; and have been employed as a registered nurse for at least three years immediately preceding appointment, two of which shall have been in Arkansas.

Housh received her bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing degree from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. She is currently serving as Interim Director of Nursing at Black River Technical College.

Previously, Housh served patients as a Registered Nurse in medical-surgical nursing and as a community health nurse, and also served pediatric patients as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and is a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

"After 20 years as a nurse and ten years as a nurse educator, I want to be involved in the protection of the public and in the regulation of our profession," Housh stated. "It is an honor to serve in this capacity on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing." Housh is married to Eric Housh and they have two children.



*Judge David Jansen (left) swears in Ramonda Housh to her Governor-appointed position on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.*

## Two Receive Wal-Mart Success Scholarship

RoseAnn Thomason of Imboden and Matthew Smith (not pictured) of Walnut Ridge, have each been awarded the Wal-Mart/BRTC Success Scholarship for the Spring 2014 Semester.

Thomason is pursuing the PN degree at BRTC and Smith is seeking the AAS in Industrial Electricity/Electronics, as well as Industrial Maintenance Technology and Machine Tool Technology certificates.



*RoseAnn Thomason*

Recipients of the scholarship must be an Arkansas resident, having graduated from an accredited Arkansas High School, have a 2.5 GPA and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.

Applicants must submit a completed application along with high school or college transcript, ACT or ASSET scores, and a 100-200 word, self-descriptive, typed essay. For more information on the Wal-Mart and other scholarships, contact the Financial Aid Office at 870-248-4000.

## F.E.A. Involved in Several Fall Activities

Fall activities of BRTC's chapter of Future Educators Association (F.E.A.) included a food drive, hosting a seminar and a trip to the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis, according to Daphne Perkins, BRTC instructor and FEA advisor.

F.E.A. held a food drive and collected 1,018 items along with 15 pair of shoes, all of which were donated to Brookland Elementary School for their Backpack Program, a program that provides food and supplies to students in need.

"Going Bananas Over Healthcare" was a seminar hosted by F.E.A. for BRTC students, faculty and staff. A presentation on health insurance and Obamacare was given by Robert Perkins and Michele Legrid from Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield on the BRTC-Paragould campus.

To conclude their fall semester activities, Perkins and several F.E.A. members visited the Pink Palace Museum where they viewed a special train exhibit.

For more information on BRTC's chapter of F.E.A., contact Perkins at 870-239-0969.

*F.E.A. members touring the Pink Palace Museum were: (front, l to r) Sharon Sullivan, Daphne Perkins, advisor, Alicia Bennett, and Jillian Russell; (back, l to r) Makayla Willis, Jessica Carter, Stephanie Lamar, and Shanna Fletcher.*



## Presentation on African American Quilts Set for February 18

Dr. Cherisse Jones, professor of history at Arkansas State University, will be presenting "History and Meanings of Quilts Made by African Americans from Slavery through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Tuesday, February 18, 10:00 a.m., at the Eddie Mae Herron Center in Pocahontas. The presentation is sponsored by the BRTC Foundation SEAS Program and is being held in conjunction with Black History Month.

Jones will discuss how constructing the quilts served as a means of empowerment and resistance, and how coded quilts may have been used to help African Americans escape via the Underground Railroad.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dina Hufstедler, BRTC Director of Community Resources, at 870-248-4187.



*Example of a coded quilt made by slaves and possibly used for escape to the underground railroad.*



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### **BRTC Mission Statement**

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

## From the President's Desk...



*Dr. Wayne Hatcher*  
BRTC President

There's more good news about what is going on at BRTC, but this time we can also include the state. Most of you are aware of the many changes and improvements that the faculty and staff have been implementing, especially since we received the PACE Grant about four years ago. One of the primary objectives was to enhance developmental programs, which helps students strengthen their academic skills so that they will be successful in college level work. Thanks to the leadership and collaboration of our faculty, BRTC has made significant improvements in this area, in partnership

with the resources provided to us by the PACE Grant.

Recently, on the front page of the Arkansas Gazette, was the headline "State colleges see drop in unprepared students." A lengthy article followed that included many positive developments that have taken place during the 25 years of struggle to significantly address this issue, which has been a major impediment to the growth and economic development of the state. (I will be happy to email the article to you upon request.)

The percentage of Arkansas students (traditional and nontraditional) inadequately prepared for college-level coursework, which had been reduced to 55% in 2009, has now fallen to 43%, which is the lowest on record. The article agrees that this is the result of the joint collaboration and leadership of the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, of which the Arkansas Association of Two-year Colleges is a leading participant.

Statistics also show that only 37% of our high school students now have to receive remediation due to low test scores. These facts are all good things for the Arkansas taxpayer and the economic impact studies prove that the return on your invest-

## Rose Joins BRTC

Bridgette Rose of Pocahontas has been hired for the position of Grants Coordinator at Black River Technical College. Her experience includes working for 15 years at Bank of Pocahontas

(now Integrity First Bank) in several positions, her most recent being Internal Control Supervisor. She has served in the roll of full time homemaker for the past four years.

A graduate of Pocahontas High School, Rose earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing degree from Arkansas State University. She and her husband, Kelly, have two children.



*Bridgette Rose*

ment in Arkansas public and higher education will play an even bigger part in the state's economic future.

In keeping with our reputation for excellence, BRTC continues to upgrade its curriculum, equipment and services...by Bridging Resources, Technology and Challenges...One Graduate at a Time.