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Senator Boozman to Speak at LETA Graduation

U.S. Senator John Boozman will be the guest speaker at Black River Technical College's Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) graduation to be held April 12. The ceremony will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center on the BRTC Pocahontas campus.

Boozman, sworn in as U.S. Senator on January 5, 2011, was raised in Fort Smith and graduated from Northside High School. He went on to play football for the University of Arkansas Razorbacks while completing his pre-optometry requirements. He graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in 1977 and entered private practice that same year, co-founding a family business with his brother that would ultimately become a major provider of eye care to Northwest Arkansas.

For five terms, Boozman served the people of the Third District of Arkansas in the U.S. House of Representatives, establishing a reputation as an advocate for Arkansans, especially for the needs of veterans and the state's infrastructure needs. While Ranking Member of

the House Veterans Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, he played a crucial role in the government's efforts to ensure veterans have a smooth transition to civilian life.



Senator John Boozman

During his tenure in the House, Boozman served as Ranking Member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee of the House Transportation committee, which holds jurisdiction over water resources development, conservation and management, water pollution control, water infrastructure, and hazardous waste

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Important Dates

- April 2**
Health Fair
- April 4**
SGA Candidate Debate
- April 7**
Art Showcase
- April 12**
LETA Graduation
- April 13**
REACH Sites Open (9am-12pm)
- April 16**
Scholarship Luncheon
- April 23**
Student Awards Ceremony

NTHS Ceremony Honors Students

BRTC held its third National Technical Honor Society induction ceremony on March 11, 2013, in the Randolph County Development Center auditorium. Black River's chapter of the NTHS began in

the spring semester of 2012 and boasts 93 members to date, including the 23 new students inducted on the 11th.

The National Technical Honor Society is a leading honors program for recognizing students of career and technical education certifications. Students must have GPAs of 3.5 to be eligible for NTHS, and must maintain 3.0s to remain members. BRTC NTHS members may also



New inductees of NTHS with faculty members Gary Meier, Alan Haskins and Janet Murrell.

become members of PTK or other honor societies.

New inductees present were: Benjamin Ball, Margie Brown, Alisia Capone, Austin DeShazo, William Hamby, Jacob Lawson, Danielle Martin,

Alex Nance, Lisa Spencer and James Taylor.

BRTC faculty members present for the ceremony included Alan Haskins, Gary Meier, and Janet Murrell. Meier stated, "We had a really nice ceremony," and added that it was beneficial "to be able to honor these technical students." Haskins noted, "We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments."

Boozman

cleanup. He was also one of the founding members of the Congressional I-49 Caucus to promote completion of Interstate 49.

Boozman's work on the international stage during his tenure in the House, helped make Arkansas a larger player in global trade. In 2007, his efforts to bring together Third District and state leaders with the international community culminated in the creation of the Arkansas World Trade Center (AWTC) in Rogers, which opened in 2007. Since its opening, he and the AWTC have hosted numerous foreign dignitaries, diplomats and government leaders in an effort to open new markets for Arkansas's goods and services.

In the 112th Congress, Boozman was selected to sit on four committees in the Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Environment and Public Works; Commerce, Science and Transportation; and Veterans' Affairs. He serves as ranking member of the Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee; rank-

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ing member of the Science and Space Subcommittee of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works' Green Jobs Subcommittee.

Prior to his election to Congress, Boozman served two terms on the Rogers School Board, which is one of the largest school districts in the state. He established the low vision program at the Arkansas School for the Blind in Little Rock and worked as a volunteer optometrist at an area clinic that provides medical services to low-income families. He successfully raised Polled Hereford cattle that were competitive in the show ring, as well as in bull testing at Oklahoma State University.

Boozman, 60, and his wife Cathy have three daughters.

"We are honored to have Senator Boozman as guest speaker," said LETA Director Steve Shults, "and delighted that he has chosen to speak to such a good group." There are 43 officers representing police and sheriff departments around the region expected to graduate.



The design of Jacquelyn Reeves, Graphic Design student, was chosen as the new SGA logo. Last fall, two designs were chosen to represent the beginning design for the logo. This semester students were asked to combine the two previous designs into one and the final selection was made.

AR Folklore Symposium Held in Pocahontas



Lynn Clements, Dr. Brooks Blevins and Marek Halir practicing dowsing powers.

A group of 35 individuals from Arkansas and Missouri attended the First Annual Arkansas Folklore Symposium held March 8-9 in the Randolph County Development Center in Pocahontas. The event began on Friday with a tour of the REACH structures in Dalton followed

by a folk music jam session that evening at the Eddie Mae Herron Center. A series of lectures were held on Saturday featuring several guest speakers.

Arkansas State University professors Dr. William Clements, Dr. Rick Burns, and Dr. Gregory Hansen headed a discussion panel on "Folklore in Arkansas, Today." Missouri State University librarian Drew Beisswenger presented the documentation of Gordan McCann's musical recordings, and MSU professor Dr. Brooks Blevins talked about his book, Ghost of the Ozarks. Symposium participants also observed a "water witchers" dowsing presentation by Olan Samons, Marek Halir, and Bobby Burrow.

Dr. Gary Buxton, instructor of English, and Dr. Derek Clements, instructor of history, both at BRTC, organized the event with assistance from the Office of Corporate and Community Education. "Overall, I thought this first symposium went quite well," Buxton noted. "I was very pleased with the excellent speakers."

Next year's symposium is scheduled to be held again in Pocahontas, March 7-8, 2014. For more information, contact Buxton or Clements at 870-248-4000, ext. 4187.

BRTC LPN Pass Rate 100%

Black River Technical College reports that all 18 of its students previously enrolled in the Licensed Nurse Practitioner program have passed the National Council Licensure Examination, giving BRTC a 100% NCLEX pass rate this year. The BRTC LPN program is a three-semester group of courses, with admission based on students' Nursing Entrance Test scores and overall GPA. Several of BRTC's recent LPN graduates have applied for the BRTC Registered Nursing program, while others have found employment in health centers in the surrounding area.

The students in this class were: Lora Ashford, Samantha Brown, Jake Cooper, Alyssa Difani, Brandy Franke, Aaron Franklin, Tiffany Gugle, Trish Gunn, Abbey Loggins, Janea Lyons, Alyssa McConnell, Patricia Middlecoff, Connie Moore, Sharon Peek, Matt Phillips, Deana Smith, Samantha Watson and Elisabeth Woodard.

The BRTC faculty members who instructed this group of graduates include Tanya Hankins, Teresa Fisher, Jennifer Hibbard, Bridgette Kasinger, and Tina Stroud. Vice President of Technical Education Angie Caldwell states, "We are very pleased with the continued performance of our students and with the quality of education provided by our nursing faculty."



December LPN Graduates

“Fast Track” Courses Offered at BRTC

Students at Black River Technical College now have the opportunity to take “Fast Track” courses—class pairings taking one rather than the normal two semesters to complete. This semester, these integrated courses included combinations of Introductory and Intermediate Algebra, Freshman English I and II, and Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II. BRTC offered Fast Track courses last semester as well, and administrators plan to continue to offer them in coming semesters.

English instructor Lisa Inman explains of her Fast Track English I and II, “The accelerated nature of the course makes it more challenging at times for both students and teacher... [there is] a substantial amount of work—not only for students but also for me in terms of grading. [However,] if students are willing to put forth the extra amount of effort and dedication needed to succeed, the benefits are wonderful. Being able to knock out two classes with [a] one semester class block is so helpful to students looking to speed up the degree-seeking process.” Math instructor Al Dixon also notes this in his



Deana Forrester (from left), Kira Hand, and Danyelle Odom, students in Lynda Griffin's AP I & II Fast Track Course, use a cake for their model portion of an AP project to present the four stages of an ulcer.

combination Introductory/Intermediate Algebra: “It has been referred to as a 16-week sprint... But no matter how grueling the course is—when it is over—the students that complete the courses are gratified they finished the two courses in one semester.” A&P instructor Lynda Griffin adds, “In the fall

of 2012, I started the semester with 19 students and finished with 16 students. This spring, I currently have 26 students enrolled. I'm looking forward to this semester and this new group of eager minds.”

Online supplements can often help bolster students' retention of the concentrated materials offered in Fast Track courses. Inman, Dixon, and Griffin all include online, hybrid elements in their classes this semester. Dixon mentions that his students “can use the Pearson My Math Lab to do their homework and get caught up,” and Inman notes, “For students new to the world of taking online courses, a hybrid course is a really nice way to ease into online class work because students still get to see me twice a week and have that face-to-face interaction in a traditional classroom setting.”

While more intensive than normal classes, Fast Track classes obviously have much to offer. They will be invaluable for students wishing to obtain their degrees quickly, as well as for those seeking a challenge or a way to absorb learning materials in a shorter amount of time.

VP of Administration Announces New Staff

Eric Sullinger of Pocahontas and Lynne Steele of Supply have joined the BRTC staff, announced Brenda Gillogly, Vice President of Administration at Black River Technical College.

Sullinger has been hired to fill the new position of Information Technology Manager in the Office of Computer Services. He is a 2002 graduate of Pocahontas High School and 2006 graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Technology. He has worked for the past seven years in Information Technology for the Pocahontas Public Schools.



Eric Sullinger



Lynne Steele

Steele has been hired for the position of Maintenance Assistance. A graduate of Doniphan, MO, High School, Steele has worked the past fourteen years in construction, most recently with Steve Camp Construction.

PTK Inducts 27 New Members

The BRTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society welcomed 27 new members during its spring induction ceremony held March 14 in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus.

Members inducted were: Ben Ball, Danielle Black, Rachel Blackwell, Margie Brown, Amanda Carman, Krystal Cowen, Mary Crawford, William Crowley, Valarie Diglia, Debbie Haferkamp, Betty Hodge, Krystle Hudson, and Edmond Quinton Hurst,

Also, Donna Kieffner, Eric Kuba, Kristen Laky, Elizabeth Lepard, Mandy Leroux, Erik Lyons, Natalie Marriott, Danielle Martin, Amy Morgan, Julie Rainwater, Bridget Reinhart, Kaitlyn Roe, Joel Stanfel, and Andrea Williams.

The purpose of PTK is to recognize

and encourage scholarship among associate degree students and provide opportunities for development of leadership and service. PTK has been recognizing academic achievement in two-year colleges since 1918 and is the only internationally acclaimed honor society serving institutions which offer associate degree programs. Requirements for selection include maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or above while enrolled in at least 12 college credit hours per semester.

Current PTK officers are Shaunya Fraysher, President; Jamie Weeks, Vice President of Fellowship; Jeff Martin, Vice President of Leadership; Secret England, Vice President of Service; Lisa Cook, Treasurer; Trent Morledge, Secretary; and Debbie Henson, Historian.

BRTC's chapter advisors of PTK are: Shana Akers, Ashley Hall, Karen Liebhaber, and Daphne Perkins.



PTK officers pose with new members prior to induction ceremony.



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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

I want to give you two examples of the many reasons as to why I love being a part of BRTC and our region.

First, with the current economy being as fragile as it is, many BRTC students are finding it hard to focus on their studies, much less the dreams they have for themselves and their families. Federal financial aid is essential for the majority of our students, but too often it isn't enough. This is where

the BRTC Foundation steps in. Your Foundation is able to make a difference the difference for many of these students to accomplish their dreams.

Realizing the increasing number of students needing additional aid, especially with the new restrictions on federal aid, the BRTC Foundation rolled up their sleeves and went to work even harder than before. Every major fundraising effort this year involved evaluation, planning, some calculated risk-taking, dedication, commitment and most of all hard work. It has been a wonderful formula for this year's successes.

The members of the Foundation and those that give to it are area citizens who are willing to sacrifice their time and resources to help make a difference in our region. Thanks to their wonderful efforts, more students will be able to focus on accomplishing their goals because the BRTC Foundation is helping to make their dreams come true. I want to thank them and those of you that have also contributed to the Foundation this year for helping make a difference in at least one person's life. I believe that is why we are here.

Second, during a recent meeting with a BRTC

campus student organization, one of the members mentioned they had written a letter to a U.S. Congressman that related to school children being hungry. The student went on to state that before Christmas he had pulled a family's name from a local school's Angel Tree. The nine year old boy wanted one pair of good socks to replace the ones he had, which were full of holes. "It doesn't even have to be a new pair," the boy wrote. The boy's six year old sister simply wrote "Food" for her request.

Another member of the student organization said "We can do something to help." Now, this small student organization is participating in its own regional "Backpack for Kids" food drive project for elementary children, making them the second BRTC student organization to participate in the project.

Sometimes making a difference in someone's life can mean just giving a little of your time, such as going through your pantry – or your old sock drawer.

Making a difference...we all want to, and it really isn't that hard.