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Dedication Held for \$11 million Health/Science Complex

BRTC held a dedication ceremony for the new Health/Science Complex on Monday, November 2. The ceremony celebrated the completion of the 2-story, \$11 million, 42,000 sq. ft. facility which houses 4 science labs, 2 math/science lecture halls, 5 nursing classrooms, a multipurpose CVN/computer lab, and a state-of-the-art nursing lab. Students are provided with private study carrels, a spacious lounge furnished with modern seating which has built-in electronic plugins and computer access, and a break room complete with two refrigerators, a sink,



Ribbon Cutting

and a microwave. Math, science, phlebotomy, and nursing classes will all be held in the new building.

The science facilities include several prep areas for specific activities instead of one general purpose prep area found in most science buildings. It also features an alternative lab setting where gas and water

access is housed in tables along the periphery of the lab classroom instead of inside the working stations in the middle of the classroom. This arrangement lends flexibility because it allows science

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LETA Graduation Held for 55 Officers

“A man’s character should not be measured by how he falls but by how he stands back up,” said Captain Clay Higgins of St. Landry Parrish Sheriff’s Department in Louisiana. Higgins was guest speaker at BRTC’s Law

Enforcement Training Academy graduation held Friday, November 13 in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas Campus.

The 55 graduating officers completed a thirteen-week course that included instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal education, technical skills, and practical exercises. Officers are required to score at least 70% on each exam and consistently fire at least 80% during firearms training exercises in order to graduate.



Law Enforcement Class 2015-B

Amber Wise of the Sherwood Police Department received the Top Overall Award, which is earned by having the highest overall average in the areas of academics, firearms, and physical fitness. Taylor Scott Beckett of the Paragould Police

Department won second in this category and Daniel Malone of the Heber Springs Police Department won third.

Top Academic award also went to Amber Wise of the Sherwood Police Department. Stephen Wayne Ferguson of the Greenbrier Police Department received the Top Firearms award. Top Physical Training award went to Christopher Patrick Wright of the Marion Police Department.

Matthew Clairday of the

(Continued on pg. 3)

Important Dates

- November 26-27**
Thanksgiving Holiday
Campus Closed
- December 7**
Fun Before Finals
- December 9-15**
Final Exams
- December 10**
Respiratory Care Pinning & Graduation
- December 15**
PN/RN Pinning and Graduation
- December 17**
Graduation

BRTC Choral Festival

Joniece Trammel, Director of the Kimbrough Choir at Black River Technical College (BRTC), had a dream after attending a choir festival at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. She wanted BRTC to hold its own festival and invite local high school choirs. This year her dream became a reality.

On Thursday, November 5 BRTC invited local high school choirs to show their talent as well as acquaint students with the BRTC campus. High school choirs included Sloan-Hendrix, Maynard, Hoxie, Corning, and Mammoth Spring. The BRTC Kimbrough Singers and BRTC choir also performed.

The day began with Craig Jones, Voice Master from Harding Academy, leading all the choirs in voice exercises and then a short class. Trammel met Jones at the American Choral Directors Association reading clinic in Hot Springs and was impressed as she watched him direct. "Not only is he an accomplished director, but he has an excellent rapport with students," said Trammel.

Each individual choir worked all semester on one piece which they sang to the public. Then all the choirs sang one piece together. "The role of the festival was to encourage high school choirs, and from the feedback we have received, the festival accomplished that," stated Trammel.



Choirs warming up before they practice.

BRTC's Got Talent

Singing "Mary Did You Know" Nathan Mathis and family won first place in BRTC's Got Talent held in the RCDC building of Black River Technical College's Pocahontas campus on Thursday, November 19. They won \$500 for first place.

The competition consisted of 20 students from Pocahontas and Paragould campuses and was free for the public to attend. Talents included singing, dancing, a flag line routine, and instrumental solos.

Receiving 2nd place was Linda Bland and Marilyn Hogan with their instrumental, "Irish Medley." Third place went to Joarmalin Gray who sang, "Love Hurts." Paige Davis was awarded fourth place and Audience Choice Award for signing, "Wind Beneath My Wings." Fifth place went to Elizabeth Scotson for her flag solo.

Judges were Aja Osler, chemistry instructor, Patricia Sanderson, Workforce program development coordinator, Angie Caldwell, VP of Technical Education, Daniel Parker, Director of Planning, Research, and Assessment. Event coordinators were Lisa Inman and Elizabeth Collins, both English instructors. Emcee for the evening was Thom Fielder.



The winners of BRTC's Got Talent.

Mayor Speaks to Class

Pocahontas Mayor Kary Story visited Darena Kersey's Principles of Supervision class on Monday, November 2. He spoke about the daily tasks of his job as they relate to supervision. He emphasized the importance of clear communication with employees, being an example, time management, having an open door policy, and listening to employees. Mayor Story supervises 70 employees.



Cavanaugh Scholarship

In a joint effort between Cavanaugh Auto Group and Black River Technical College (BRTC), Cavanaugh Auto Group has developed a Cavanaugh Technician Scholarship Program.

Students enrolled in the Automotive Technology Program are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Students who are awarded this scholarship become part-time employees of Cavanaugh Auto Group while enrolled as BRTC students, and upon graduation, are guaranteed full employment by the Cavanaugh Auto Group.

Matt Cavanaugh stated, "In our efforts to grow our service operations departments and to better serve Cavanaugh customers, we are excited about our partnership with BRTC to invest in the workforce in Northeast Arkansas. BRTC President, Dr. Eric Turner commented, "we are delighted in the confidence placed in Black River students and the College's efforts in workforce development."

For more information contact Travis DeClerk or Financial Aid at (870)248-4000.

Staff Additions and Changes Announced



Daniel Parker of Jonesboro is now the Director of Planning, Research, and Assessment. Previously, he was the Instructional Technologist.

Parker's job will be to facilitate the college's planning and research processes and assist academic and administrative leaders in making data-informed decisions to fulfill the goals of the college.

Daniel Parker

Parker received his MS degree in Information Science through his studies at City University, London, in 2011. He received a BA degree in History from Arkansas State University in 2010. His is a 2005 graduate of Piggott High School.



Amanda Dobbs of Strawberry has accepted the position of Student Affairs Coordinator for Black River Technical College's Paragould campus. She has been serving as Interim Coordinator of Student Affairs since 2013, and before that she worked as Weekend College Coordinator for BRTC.

Amanda Dobbs

She is a 1995 graduate of River Valley High School and received a BSE in English from Williams Baptist College in 2008, a ME in Gifted Education from Arkansas State University in 2009, and a SCCA from ASU in 2012. She completed her coursework for the Doctoral in Educational Leadership at Arkansas State University in May 2015, and is working on completing her comprehensives and her dissertation.

Dobbs previously worked one year as Director of Admissions for Ozarka College, two years as adjunct instructor for ACT Academy, three years as ACT instructor for Northcentral Educational Cooperative, and three years as English instructor at Highland High School.

Health/Science Complex

faculty to teach both lab and lecture courses in the same room. This arrangement is also very cost effective in that regular lecture-style classes such as those in math, English, and history can utilize the classroom.

The nursing section of the building includes a 16-bed simulation lab which is

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Craighead County Sheriff's Department was selected as class spokesman. Christopher Wynn of the Paragould Police Department opened the ceremony by singing the National Anthem.

Guest speaker Captain Higgins has gained much fame from his Crime Stoppers segment through the local media. After an unfulfilled life as a very successful business man, Higgins became a civilian cop earning just \$8 an hour. He has spent 17 years in law enforcement, 6 years as a military police officer, and 11 years as a civilian cop. He has served on a SWAT for 11 years, 7 of them on night shift. He is a very colorful and passionate member of the law enforcement community. He challenged the graduates to be humble and forgiving, stay in shape, learn the law, and avoid gossip.

Ron Patterson of Corning has accepted the position of Academic Advisor for BRTC's Paragould campus.

Patterson has worked for the last three years at BRTC as a math tutor, an adjunct math instructor, and as the interim academic advisor. Before joining BRTC Ron taught secondary math at Poplar Bluff High School for 31 years. During the last 8 years of that time, he also taught concurrent classes for Three Rivers College.



Ron Patterson

Patterson graduated from Poplar Bluff High School in 1977. He received an AA degree from Three Rivers College in 1979, a BSE with major in Mathematics from Southeast Missouri State University in 1981, and his MA in Secondary Administration and Supervision from Southeast Missouri State University in 1997.

Craig Barnes of Palm Springs, California has accepted the position of Computer Support Technician for BRTC's Paragould Campus.

Prior to moving to Paragould, Barnes attended Indio High School and Music School in Hollywood, California. He then went on to study at Copper Mt. College in Joshua Tree, California. He plans to finish his Associate of Science in Business degree at BRTC.



Craig Barnes

Barnes has spent the last eleven years working at Joshua Spring Calvary Church and Private School as a youth pastor and doing church and music ministry. He is now continuing this work at the South Side Community Church in Paragould.

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also fully functional as a labor and delivery area as well as a recovery and postpartum area, a very special feature in an educational institution since labor and delivery are hit-or-miss at clinical sites. Nursing students have access to a ceiling-mount patient lift, a rarity not only in hospitals and nursing homes but especially in educational facilities. In the event of a catastrophic event, the simulation lab can become a small functioning hospital.

BRTC's will be one of the few educational facilities with two debriefing rooms where students can view recordings of their participation in simulations to evaluate their reactions and progress during training sessions. The facility includes two control booths for BRTC's hi-fidelity manikins as well as a ventilated manikin storage unit which controls eye and skin irritating fumes emitted by the manikins. Other features of the nursing wing include an ambulance bay for real ER environment simulation, a medication prep area, and an up-to-date Phlebotomy lab.

The CVN/computer lab houses 75 laptops and may be used for testing, compressed video including all ARNEC classes, and a functioning computer lab. In the future, the area may be utilized for continuing educational opportunities with local agencies.



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BRTC Mission Statement

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

Community Health Fair

Black River Technical College Allied Health Programs hosted a community health fair on Tuesday, October 20th in the Randolph County Development Center. All services were free to the public.

The Randolph County Health Unit and nursing students provided flu immunizations to 534 attendees.

1st Choice Healthcare and phlebotomy students provided cholesterol screenings for 168 attendees. Custom Eyes provided 105 vision screenings. Nineteen individuals were placed on the Marrow Registry for those in need of a match for a bone marrow transplant. The Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation provided 72 free blood screenings for prostate cancer. St. Bernard's Mobile Mammogram was on site and due to high demand, returned the following day to provide 32 free screening mammograms. The Air Evac helicopter was on site for tours, as well. The Respiratory Care students provided lung function testing. Dietetic students provide body composition analysis and body mass index analysis, nursing students provided blood pressure, heart rate and glucose screenings.

Other vendors included:

1st Choice Healthcare- information on signing up for insurance through the Affordable Care Act



Five Rivers Medical Center- education on stroke, heart attack, and trauma

Mid-South Health Systems- information on the services available

Fitness Worx- information on classes offered

North Arkansas Home Care- information on services offered and service area

Be The Match- cheek swabbing to be placed on the Marrow Registry

Pro-Med Ambulance- information on services available

Above and Beyond Home Care- information on services offered and service area

Pocahontas Healthcare and Rehab Center

Stonebridge Assisted Living

AR Transitions Medical Safety Committee

Karla Baltz Dentistry

First Class Home Care

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

KAIT8 News was on site for an interview with Bridgette Kasinger. The event was shown on the 6:00 p.m. news.