

RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

BRTC Board of Trustees Begins Search for 4th College President

On January 2, the BRTC Board of Trustees opened the search for the college's fourth president. Full consideration will be given to applications received by February 15. Applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.

"The BRTC Board of Trustees is making every attempt to make the selection of our next president with input from all concerned in a transparent and thorough manner," said Board Chairman Doug Cox. "We all look forward to welcoming our next president who will lead us in fulfilling the mission and vision of BRTC."

Search materials are located publically on the BRTC website. A committee of faculty, staff, students, and community members will participate in the search and provide feedback to the Board. From the list of finalists who will visit BRTC and meet with the campus community, the Board hopes to make an selection announcement in April 2019.

2019 Black History Month Speaker Will Be Toby Daughtery



Black River Technical College and the Eddie Mae Herron Center will host Toby Daughtery on Thursday, February 19 at 10 a.m. in the Randolph County Development Center at BRTC in Pocahontas. Daughtery will share his inspiring journey from prison inmate to college graduate.

Daughtery grew up in North Little Rock where he lived with his grandmother until he was 10 then was raised with his four brothers and two sisters by his single mother. While a teenager, Daughtery became involved in selling drugs and was incarcerated three times. Finally, however, he enrolled in Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock where he graduated with honors. Today, Daughtery shares his story to help others find a path through education.

In 2010 he delivered the keynote address during the opening sessions of the Achieving the Dream Strategy Institute in Indianapolis, Indiana. Daughtery was the first student keynote speaker in the event's history.

For more information or to schedule a group for the program contact Holly Looney at (870) 248-4189 or Holly.Looney@blackrivertech.edu.



BRTC students at both Paragould and Pocahontas were treated to free t-shirts and trail mix to kick off the new semester! Above, nursing students pose with new Vice President of Enrollment Management Jason Smith.

JOIN IT DOWN

February 7
Board of Trustees Meeting

February 19, 10 a.m.
Black History Month
Speaker

February 22
Serendipity Meeting

March 4
Business After Hours at
BRTC Paragould

March 9
BRTC Foundation Gala



BRTC Club Donates to Local Boy's Home

The BRTC Community Connection Club, in addition to the Annual Child Abuse Awareness Pinwheel Walk/Run, supports local children's shelters. Club advisor Rachel Koons presented BRTC's Neal Harwell, Bridge of Hope Ministries, Inc., board member, with a donation of \$500.

For more information about the BRTC Community Connection Club, contact Rachel Koons at (870) 248-4172 or Rachel.Koons@blackrivertech.edu.

Mary Sallee Scholarship Auction Success

In December, BRTC employees raised \$2,288 which is \$546 more than last year, to support single parents in Randolph County. "The simple phrase 'thank you,' does not begin to express the gratitude I feel toward each of you who participated," said Janna Guthrey, Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship chair. "And a very special thank you to our BRTC Foundation for graciously agreeing to donate the difference so we may receive the maximum match for this final year."

Single parents who live in Randolph County and are attending or intending to attend college are eligible to apply.

Right: The Arkansas Welcome Center in Corning provided a shadowbox for BRTC's Project REACH to display artifacts including pre-historic projectile knife points, a glass medicine bottle, handmade mussel shell buttons, and handmade glass beads.



Spring 2019 Scholarship Recipients



AgHeritage Scholarship

Recipient: Lauren Honeycutt
Hometown: Imboden
Parents: Brian and Leah Honeycutt
High School: Sloan-Hendrix
Major: Animal Science

Don's Steakhouse in Pocahontas in Memory of Fredia Finch Scholarship

Recipient: James Freeman
Hometown: Pocahontas
Spouse: Julie
Major: Nursing



Custom-Pak Scholarship

Recipient: Richard Norman
Hometown: Van Buren, AR
Major: Nutrition & Dietetics

Overman Building Scholarship

Recipient: Kelsie Moore
Hometown: Imboden
Parents: Michael and Jerrie Moore
High School: Pocahontas
Major: Nursing



Calendar

- 2/12 SGA Meeting
- 2/26 SGA Meeting
- 3/11-17 Mid-Term Week
- 3/18-24 Spring Break
- 3/26 SGA Meeting
- 4/8 Summer 1 & 2 Registration
- 4/9 SGA Meeting
- 4/12 Last Day to Drop
- 4/23 SGA Meeting
- 5/8-14 Final Exams
- 5/16 Commencement
- 5/18 BRTC Scholarship 5K & 0.0K at Paragould
- 5/20 Intercession Begins

BRTC Scholarship Deadlines

Don't miss out on applying for scholarships!! Contact us today!

- 2/1 Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship
- 3/1 Remaining BRTC Scholarships including Catfish Farmers of Arkansas

BRTC's Corporate and Community Education serves business, industry, and the community. Visit <http://lackrivertech.org/community/>

☪ Paragould

Contact Alan Decker at (870) 239-0969.

OSHA

February 18-22
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
\$475.00 per person

Root Cause Analysis

February 19, 1-5 p.m.
GCITC Member: \$75
Non-Member: \$95

Real Estate Classes

18-Hour Salesperson Post-License

February 6 - 7, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
\$200.00 per person (includes lunch)

2019 Continuing Education

February 20, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
\$75.00 per person (includes lunch)

60-Hour Pre-Licensure

February 28, March 1, 2, 14, 15,
8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
\$500 per person

☪ Pocahontas

Contact Cally Shore at (870) 248-4182.

Coupons 101

February 4 & 11, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
\$25 per person

Occupational Welding

February 11 - March 11,
Mondays from 5–7:30 p.m.
\$109 per person
No experience necessary!



Student Success Story: Annetta Raines

"I didn't come from the perfect home. My parents divorced when I was in the 2nd grade. My life wasn't bad because we had food and clothing and love--lots and lots of love. I always knew my dad and mom loved us kids, but my dad had an addiction--one that would make me set my mind to never even try drugs. I made this choice at around the age of 10.

Many people had a hand in raising me. Have you heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child"? Well, it's true in my case. Yet, even with all these people who cared so much, I still made some bad decisions.

At 15 when I was in 9th grade, my daughter was born. I had no way to pay for the things my baby needed but I knew it wasn't my parents' responsibility. When I was 16, I quit school and got a job, but I was soon laid off. Around this time, I met my future husband who I married when I was 17. By the time I was 21, I had 2 more children. I should have gone back to school, but I was busy being a mom. After many years, I didn't know what my academic options were—nor had any confidence. I told myself I couldn't do it, I wasn't smart enough, and it would be too hard.

I lost my dad in 2010 and I began questioning myself. My dad had always had confidence in me and had told me I could do anything I set my mind to. It took a few more years, but by 2018, I worked up my courage to go the Adult Education department at BRTC in Pocahontas to just see what it would take to earn a GED. By this time, I was working in home health, caring for those who could not care for themselves.

After starting on my GED, I quickly realized I CAN AND I WILL DO THIS! And only a couple of months later, I did it! Therefore, my encouragement to all others is no matter your issues or circumstances, you can do it, too. Just stay focused, study hard, and smile through the times you think you won't make it. Also, pray... always pray that with God, all things are possible.

With God and the support of my mom, the many phone calls to my sister, and from my husband for staying home and helping with the kids through those long nights of studying, I DID IT! I finished my GED not long before Thanksgiving 2018.

To the ladies who teach and work in the GED program, thank you for having a classroom that's so comfortable, inviting, and home-like. Thanks for being warm and welcoming and having faith in your students while making them feel important. You were a Godsend to me."

For more information about Adult Education at BRTC, call (870) 248-4000.

BRTC MISSION STATEMENT

Black River Technical College transforms lives through quality academic and career education to enhance the community we serve.

INSIGHT With Dr. Jan Ziegler

BLACK RIVER TECH

It would be easy for us here in rural Northeast Arkansas to think we are isolated from the wider world around us. Take the current and ongoing partial government shutdown. Other than the headlines and constant media chatter, the direct impact of the now month-long shutdown isn't all that big a deal for us. That's just national news. The reality is, for BRTC and other institutions, "national news" headlines are also local; national issues and trends often matter greatly and require our attention.

Take for example 3 of the most pressing issues facing U.S. higher education today: renovation and technology upgrades place heavy demands on tight institutional budgets; graduation rates place the U.S. at a disadvantage with other countries; and the rising cost of college is outpacing students' and families' ability to pay.

One of these "national" issues represent challenges BRTC confronts daily. BRTC is almost 50-years-old; new facilities have been constructed, but some of the buildings are original. New programs and keeping pace with technology require modern facilities. Half a century ago, we were hearing about a "microprocessor" but had no idea how it would transform our lives. Today BRTC has over 1,000 computers and a new Student Information System which gives the institution the tools needed to perform technologically sophisticated tasks. Finding a way to fund facility and technology needs poses a daunting challenge.

We know that graduation rates and degree attainment matter to all of us. Even though our nation is among the most well-educated countries, its place in the world has fallen to 14th in the percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds with higher education. Our governor has charged Arkansas to reach a post-secondary education attainment rate of 60% by 2025, a goal heavily impacted by retention and completion. A focus of the BRTC's Enrollment Management office is retention, with significant resources dedicated to this effort. We understand that we – and the nation – cannot afford low graduation rates.

With up to 60% of all BRTC students eligible for financial aid, the struggles they and their families face to fund their studies are real. Most have jobs to help but still must often take out loans to fund their studies. This reality makes important the relative affordability of 2-year colleges like BRTC where tuition and fees typically run less than 1/2 those at universities. This reality also underscores the importance of BRTC's Foundation and its fundraising efforts, including those geared toward scholarships.

Recognizing students' needs and their struggles, BRTC has taken steps to lessen the burden. Our Academic Success Center operates a food pantry and clothes closet, supported by the Northeast Arkansas Food Bank and employee and community donations. The BRTC Foundation helps the college to provide food vouchers in special circumstances.

And we think national issues, including the government shutdown which threatens food stamp and housing assistance programs, government loans, and is already costing the national economy in the billions, have little impact on us? Think again.



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