

THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould



HLC Removes BRTC from Probation

According to a certified letter received from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) board of trustees, BRTC has resolved concerns identified by HLC and is fully compliant with the regional accrediting agency. "The Board determined that the Institution is no longer out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, and removed the Institution from Probation," read the HLC decision. "A comprehensive evaluation in four years is typical following removal from probation, as is interim monitoring," said Sissy Gray, BRTC's HLC Accreditation Liaison and interim Vice President of Academics.

The news was welcomed by the entire campus who has worked hard over the past two years to address all concerns identified by HLC. "I know each of you is just as excited and happy as I am and I know you are also proud of what this institution has achieved during the past two years," said BRTC interim President Dr. Jan Ziegler in an email to faculty and staff. Black River Technical College is now on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2022-23. The institution is required to submit a monitoring report by December 4, 2020.

Three Chosen as Finalists in BRTC's Presidential Search

The Black River Technical College Board of Trustees has named three finalists for the position of college president whose tenure will begin with the 2019-2020 academic year. Finalists' selection was made through a committee consisting of BRTC faculty, staff, students, administration, Board of Trustees members, and community members.

The candidates are Dr. Chris Boyett, associate vice president of academic affairs at Rhodes State College in Lima, Ohio; Dr. Martin Eggensperger, vice chancellor for academics at ASU-Mountain Home in Mountain Home, Arkansas; and Dr. Justin Hoggard, dean of instruction at Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.



Dr. Ziegler presents a gift to BRTC students Hannah Coates and Hadley Rose in thanks for serving on the presidential search committee.

Each finalist visited the Pocahontas campus the first week of April for interviews, a campus tour, an open forum, and a public reception. Beginning at 3:00 on each day in the Randolph County Development Center at BRTC Pocahontas, the candidate spoke about himself then answered questions at the open forum which was

(cont'd. on pg. 2)

JOIN IT DOWN

Mid-April

Proposed date for presidential announcement

April 19

Law Enforcement Training Academy Graduation

April 26

Serendipity Meeting

May 9

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 11

REACH Homecoming

CAMPUS

AROUND

streamed live on BRTC's Facebook page. Individuals who could not attend the presentations were invited to view the presentations live and submit questions for the candidates. The videos are archived on Facebook for public viewing after the presentations have concluded. "We welcome and encourage all who are interested in helping us make this leadership transition decision," said Doug Cox, chairman of the BRTC Board of Trustees, "to attend as many of the opportunities as possible to meet the candidates."

"The Board of Trustees is very grateful for the efforts and input of all of the members of the presidential search committee as well as the BRTC human resources and institutional advancement offices," Cox said. The presidential search committee included a diverse group of community members from the 4-county service area and BRTC students, faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees members.



On Tuesday, April 2, at 3, Dr. Justin Hoggard, dean of instruction at Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, began his presentation at 3:00 p.m. Hoggard has held teaching and numerous administrative roles at Three Rivers College over his 19-year career. Hoggard is responsible for academic programming and workforce development at the Poplar Bluff campus as well as at TRC's locations in Sikeston, Kennett, and Dexter.

Hoggard holds a Bachelor of Science in social science education, a Masters of Arts in history, a Specialist in Community College Teaching from Arkansas State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from William Woods University. He has recently been accepted as a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission. Hoggard is a long-time resident of Paragould where he lives with his wife Lori. They have three children, Dylan, Zachary, and Lilly.



On Wednesday, April 3, at 3, Dr. Martin Eggen-sperger, vice chancellor for academics at ASU-Mountain Home in Mountain Home began his presentation at 3:00 p.m. Eggen-sperger previously served as mathematics faculty, dean then division chair of general studies, and associate vice president for institutional effectiveness at Southeast Arkansas College. At College of the Ouachitas, Eggen-sperger served as vice president for instruction and as the board-appointed interim president. At ASU-Mountain

Home, he has led HLC reaccreditation efforts, guided strategic planning, and leads all academic programming.

Eggen-sperger earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from University

Calendar

4/8	Summer 1 & 2 Registration
4/9	SGA Meeting
4/12	Last Day to Drop Grad. Intent Due
4/23	SGA Meeting
5/8-14	Final Exams
5/14	PN Graduation
5/16	Commencement
5/18	BRTC Scholarship 5K & 0.0K at Paragould
5/20	Intercession Begins Last Day to Add/Drop

BRTC Scholarship Deadlines

Attention currently enrolled machine tool students: Contact us today!

4/1	David A. Statler Machine Tool Technology Scholarship
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Allied Health Deadlines

Don't miss out on applying for entrance in the Fall 2019 allied health programs. Visit blackrivertech.org/academics/ for applications.

4/1	Phlebotomy
4/1	Practical Nursing
10/1	Respiratory Care

Don't miss out on applying for entrance in the January 2020 RN program!

8/31	LPN to Registered Nursing Bridge (ARNEC)
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For more information or details, contact Dana Clay at (870) 248-4150.

the 411

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

April 2, 3, 4

Candidate interviews
and open forums dur-
ing campus visit

Mid-April

Selection of president

July 1

Projected date for pres-
ident to assume duties

of Central Arkansas, and his master's and Ph.D. in applied mathematics from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Eggenesperger is a native of Randolph County and a graduate of Maynard High School. He and his wife Jennifer have two children, Zoe and Ben.

On **Thursday, April 4, at 3, Dr. Chris Boyett**, associate vice president of academic affairs at Rhodes State College in Lima, Ohio, began his presentation at 3:00 p.m. Boyett was faculty of mathematics and director of distance learning at Arkansas State University-Beebe. He served as vice chancellor for Arkansas State University-Heber Springs, a campus of ASU-Beebe, managing operations. Additionally, Boyett worked to make advanced degrees from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro available on the ASU-Beebe campus.



Throughout his higher education career, Boyett has held numerous leadership positions at his colleges and in the community such as in Rotary. Boyett earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics at the University of Arkansas and a Specialist in Community College Teaching and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. Boyett is married to Meleah. They have three children, Bethany, Brunson, and Bennett.

The Board of Trustees is very grateful for the efforts and input of all of the members of the presidential search committee as well as the BRTC human resources and institutional advancement offices," Cox said. "We would also like to thank our interim president Dr. Jan Ziegler," said Cox. "Dr. Ziegler has not only been a great campus leader in this transition, she has also been instrumental in guiding us in the presidential search process."

For more information about the presidential selection process, the position, or the public forums, contact Julie Edington at (870) 248-4032 or email her at Julie.Edington@blackrivertech.edu.

Sissy Gray Appointed Interim Vice President

On March 25, interim president Dr. Jan Ziegler appointed Sissy Gray interim Vice President of Academics following the resignation of Dr. Sheila Taylor. "Sissy's knowledge and experience will enable her to assume the new responsibilities with a minimal learning curve," said Dr. Ziegler.

Gray began her career at BRTC as an adjunct instructor of psychology in January 2011 and was hired fulltime in August 2012. In August 2015, Gray accepted the responsibility of serving as the college's HLC Accreditation Liaison in addition to her teaching load. In 2017, she became Dean of Assessment & Accountability. In these roles, Gray's leadership and instruction has been instrumental in helping college employees address the concerns of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) which resulted in BRTC's being removed from probation. "She understands Higher Learning Commission policies and regulations on all aspects of accreditation," said Dr. Ziegler.

Gray's appointment will remain in effect until December 31, 2019. A search and open application process will begin this fall for the Vice President for Academics position with a start date of January 1, 2020.

Gray earned her Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Harding University, her Master of Science in psychology degree from Missouri State University, and her Specialist degree in Community College Teaching, administrative track, from ASU. She is married to Josh and they have two sons, Croston, and Canaan.



YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your donations to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students. These students must meet GPA, academic, and in some cases programmatic standards to be eligible for scholarships. Without your support and commitment, the following scholarships would not be possible!

Spring 2019 Nightingale Scholarship

The Nightingale Scholarship is sponsored by the BRTC nursing faculty and staff and is awarded to practical nursing students in their second semester of the program. Recipients are chosen based on qualities that exemplify the spirit of caring embodied by Florence Nightingale. These nurses are motivators and visionaries who contribute to the redefining of the profession of nursing. The Spring 2019 scholarship was awarded to Alexandria George and Reagan Carr.



Recipient: Alexandria George
Hometown: Corning
Degree: Bachelor of Science in Public Health from University of Arkansas
Parents: David and Christina George
Shannon George
Major: Nursing

Recipient: Reagan Carr
Hometown: Doniphan, MO
High School: West Point Christian Academy
Parents: Chuck and Misty Carr
Major: Nursing



Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship Recipients

The Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship supports single parents through sub-grants and matching donations from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, United Way, and Entergy along with the help of various fundraising events and contributions by BRTC faculty and staff. Since 1992, 490 Randolph County residents have received scholarships totaling \$222,998. A total of \$5,800.00 has been awarded to nine Randolph County students for the 2019 spring semester.

To qualify, individuals must be residents of Randolph County, a high school graduate or equivalent, a single head-of-household, pursuing an undergraduate course of study, and meet certain income guidelines. Scholarship amounts vary depending on if the

recipient is a full-time or part-time student.

Photographed with each recipient is Wendy Stotts, Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship NEA Program Manager. Recipients are, *top left*, Racheal Gardner, Ripley Owen, Cynthia Nishimura, Stephanie Hicks, Hannah Townsend, and Erica Bartman.





Spring 2019 Practical Nursing “Leave a Legacy” Scholarship

BRTC’s May 2015 Practical Nursing class knew many PN students in their last semester struggled to pay for licensure and test fees. They created this scholarship to help their peers. Each class has continued to keep the legacy alive.

Eighteen \$200 scholarships have been awarded to Spring 2019 PN class members: Jordan Holland, Samantha Weir, Sunnie Cunningham, Madison Foster, Alexandria Davis, Anne Bruetsch, Brittany Reeder, Penny McCluskey, Courtney Rigdon, Bobbie Anderson, Katelyn Adams, Rebecca Ferguson, Jacob Duncan, Ariana Gibson, Joshua Pickett, Katlyn Noles, and Sara Cullum.

BRTC Students Visit Capitol

On February 26, BRTC student ambassadors and the SGA president traveled to the Arkansas Capitol. Students toured the Capitol and witnessed legislators working. They also sat in on some of the committee sessions.

Pictured left to right are Hannah Coats, Hadley Rose, Daniel Hill, Ashley Scott, and Daija Williford.



BRTC Was Flocked!

In support of Relay for Life, the Pocahontas Medical Center and the Pocahontas Relay for Life team have joined forces to raise money for cancer. BRTC joined the fun and had the opportunity to donate for cancer research and have these lovely birds removed!

Promotions and New Employees Here for You!



Position: Customer Care Specialist
Hometown: Pocahontas
Location: Pocahontas
Education: Associate of Science
Black River Technical College

Position: Campus Store and Procurement Manager
Hometown: Pocahontas
Location: Pocahontas
Education: Associate of Arts,
Black River Technical College



Janice Harvey

SNAPSHOTS Annual BRTC Foundation Gala 2nd Largest

FOUNDATION On March 9, the BRTC Foundation held its 13th Annual BRTC Foundation Gala. The event netted over \$22,000, making it the second largest Gala in the event's history, and featured an additional elk hunt raffle which was drawn that evening. This event is 1 of 2 major fundraisers for the BRTC Foundation with proceeds supporting student needs, scholarships and field trips, and program, institutional, and academic needs.

Seventy-six donors gave auction items and money to make the event possible. Foundation board members, BRTC's Vickie French, and the Office of Institutional Advancement spent more than 5 months preparing.

For the seventh year in a row, the event was held at the Rolling Hills Country Club. Dinner was catered by Chow at 118 out of Paragould. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase tickets for the raffle, bid on silent auction items, compete for live auction items, and purchase elk hunt tickets. The live auction was led by auctioneer Tom Bennett of Pocahontas who donated his time. Photographer Jana Morris also donated her time and services to the event.

Gala photos online at Flickr can be accessed via the BRTC website at www.blackrivertech.edu.



Pictured are, *top left*, Mike and Amanda Miller, Mary Helen and John Jackson; Corbett and Bethany Clark. *Middle left* are Carolyn Collins and Brandi Chester; Pink and Charlotte Baltz; Susie Eddington; and Cathy and David Coker. *Bottom left* are Doug and Cindy Cox; Sarah and TK Lowtharp, Skylar and Haley Jackson, and Sheila and Sammy Jackson; and Kevin and JoAnn Bell.



community

Corporate & Community Education serves business, industry, and the community. blackrivertech.org/community

▷ Paragould

Contact Alan Decker at (870) 239-0969.

Real Estate 18-Hour Post-License

April 10-11, 8:00 – 5:00
\$200 including lunch

Advanced Excel 2016

April 16-25, 5:30-8:30
Tuesdays & Thursdays
\$119/\$139 per person

Real Estate 60-Hour Pre-License

April 17-19 & May 2-4,
8:00 – 5:30

\$500 including lunch and materials

▷ Pocahontas

Contact Cally Shore at (870) 248-4182.

“Unveiling the Past” A Peter Kluge Photo Exhibit

April 4, 5:00 – 7:30, Free

ServSafe Food Safety Training

April 6, 8:00 – 6:00
\$159.00 including textbook and exam

Topics Facing Supervisors & HR

April 18, 8:00 – 4:30
\$150 including lunch

Excel 2016, Level 3

April 26 & May 3, 8:30 - 3:30
\$125 including textbook, 1-hour lunch

OSHA 10-Hr General Industry

April 29-30, 8:00 – 3:00
\$130 with a 1-hour lunch break

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Stephanie Sutton, Foundation chair; Sandra Tweedy; Dr. Jan Ziegler, interim BRTC president



Ruth Ann Ellis

BRTC Foundation Says Thank You to Two Retiring Members

The BRTC Foundation said thank you to two retiring board members. Sandra Tweedy retired from the BRTC Foundation board after 6 1/2 years. She is looking forward to enjoying retirement on her farm with her husband.

Ruth Ann Ellis is retiring after 18 years and 11 months on the BRTC Foundation. She is finishing her term on the BRTC Board of Trustees and looks forward to having only two part-time jobs.

The BRTC Foundation board and BRTC want to thank these dedicated board members for spending years supporting the BRTC Foundation, the college, and students! Thank you for all you have done, Sandra and Ruth Ann, to make BRTC a great place for students!



BRTC Ag Students Eat Their Project!

BRTC plant science students have been growing green leaf lettuce hydroponically in the greenhouse on the Pocahontas campus. Once the leaves are ripe, students will bring dressings and topping to make salads so they can eat their lab projects!

BRTC Agri Program to Hold Plant Sale

BRTC Agriculture students will hold a plant sale on Saturday, April 13 from 7:30 – 11:00 at the greenhouse on the Pocahontas campus. Some plants which will be available include tomato, bell pepper, jalapeno, squash, zucchini, cucumber, coleus, marigold, salvia, and vinca.

For more information, contact instructor Jenine Myers at 870-248-4068 or via email at Jenine.Meyers@blackrivertech.edu.

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

When I think about the wonderful news we received in mid-March telling us that BRTC no longer labors under the cloud that has been following us for two years, I can't help but think how appropriate that the news came on the cusp of spring. We have been removed from Probation, following two years of diligent efforts by the faculty and staff, and following positive recommendations from two different review bodies and a third and final ruling by the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Directors.

Like spring itself, the news represents for this college a new beginning – a chance to leave behind the dark shadow that seemed there for a very long time: the mark on our website that was placed there the minute we were

placed on probation; the immediate mandatory notice to the press of

our probationary status; the required letter to our students explaining we had been sanctioned; the brick wall we faced when it came to adding new credit programs of study. Just...the sobering doubt we sometimes imagined we saw when we talked about the future of BRTC.

"Like spring itself,
the news represents
for this college a
new beginning...we now
are an institution
transformed"

we now are an institution transformed, one where assessment and strategic planning are hallmarks of all we do, the pressure is removed. Even though we will be submitting interim reports by the end of 2020, we see the reports as a responsibility and an opportunity for growing stronger, not as a threat nor even a burden.

It truly is for us a new day – and chief among the reasons is the imminent announcement by the Board of Trustees of BRTC's new president, who will assume duties by July 1. It really is a great time for this institution, approaching its 50th birthday in just a couple more years, ready and able to enjoy the wisdom and legacy that comes with our maturity, well positioned to approach the next half-century with hope and renewed energy. Don't wonder at seeing a spring in our next steps – wherever they may lead.



Jan with two of her three daughters, Ivy Pfeffer and Holly Brigrance

Instead, we now have a clean, fresh new path forward. The mark of affiliation on our website now says "Accredited by the Higher Learning Association." We have submitted paperwork to be able to offer our new Truck Driving program as non-credit training AND as a credit-bearing Certificate of Proficiency program of study. We can consider new programs. Even though

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