

## REPORT TO BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

July 10, 2017

Dr. Laura B. Leatherwood

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The College has signed a contract with MCNC for our network connectivity between Brevard and Flat Rock. This will reduce the annual cost of this link from ~\$19,200 to \$8,790. In addition, this also allows us to take advantage of additional network services that MCNC offers as part of our existing NCREN services with them at our Henderson County campus.

IT staff will move computers from the Balfour building into an IT storage area. General updates will be performed on these computers in order to have them ready to be deployed into the new IHS building at the direction of HCPS staff.

General Administration staff are working to transition our current Policy & Procedures “Word” document into a new Policy & Procedures web site.

Glenda McCarson and Lee Anna Haney manned the BRCC booth at the Chamber Business Expo on June 7. Lee Anna has outlined the requests for information and asked applicable staff to provide follow up.

BRCC participated in a conference call between NC Emergency Management Association and all of the other community colleges in the State to discuss community college participation in emergency management planning and operations.

On June 29, the Director of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness submitted the substantive change prospectus for Rosman High School to SACSCOC. The substantive change is seeking permission from SACSCOC to offer 50% or more of the College's Welding program onsite at Rosman High, beginning Spring 2018.

### FINANCE DIVISION

The EAGLE Program (Office of the State Controller Internal Audit Program) walkthroughs and control testing of high-risk financial areas were completed. Audit findings and a corrective action plan report is being prepared for submission to the Office of the State Controller by July 31, 2017.

## INSTRUCTION DIVISION

On April 26th thru April 28th the SkillsUSA North Carolina State Conference was held in Greensboro, NC. Over 2600 High School and College students from all across North Carolina arrived to compete, setting a new state conference record. Eric Stephens and Jonathan Galloway traveled with thirteen BRCC students to compete in the high school and college competitions. We are very pleased to announce Caison Newton won first place in Automotive Service Technology for post-secondary. Caison was in competition with 40 college students from colleges across North Carolina. Also, BRCC student, Jeremy Chastain earned second place in Technical Drafting. This was the first Automotive Service Technology competition for many of our students and it was a great learning experience for them.

Caison Newton, competed in the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference competition in Louisville, KY the week of June 19th. Caison is a Light-Duty Diesel/Automotive student in the Transportation Technology Department of the Advanced Technologies Division on the Henderson County Campus of Blue Ridge. North Carolina had the largest delegation in the history of the state to attend with a total of **429 registered!** Caison competed against 39 other Post-Secondary students from all across the United States and Puerto Rico in 13 different events in the automotive repair profession. He was tested in all areas ranging from automotive industrial safety, electrical repair and diagnosis, manual and automatic transmissions, HVAC systems just to name a few. Caison has placed and is ranked **13th overall** in the nation in Automotive Service Technology post-secondary level!!

The College's Phi Beta Lambda chapter competed at the Phi Beta Lambda National Conference which was held June 24 through June 27 in Anaheim, CA. The students competed against close to 3,000 other college students representing state chapters around the nation from both 2-year and 4-year institutions. BRCC student, Amy Clarke placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Accounting for Professionals category. This is significant win since two year students with less education exposure are competing against four year students from some of the top universities in the nation. Though the chapter did not place in the other event attempted, we are proud the student had the opportunity to compete to represent BRCC and NCPBL on the national level.

Seven students have been accepted to Project Search, which is a joint collaboration between BRCC, Park Ridge Health, and several other community partners to bring training to developmentally disabled adults in our area.

The 13th Annual Benefit Car & Trade Show hosted by the Great Smoky Mountain Region of AACA was held on June 3, 2017. This year's event celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Camaro. The event was free to the public and featured all types of modes of transportation, vendors, and dealers.

## **ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/ CONTINUING EDUCATION (EWD/CE) DIVISION**

On June 7, Norafin, a German manufacturer of flame retardant material, broke ground in a ceremony on their 14 acre site in the heart of Mills River. BRCC is working with company officials to design and implement a pre- and post-hire training plan and recruiting initiative using our Customized Training Program, Human Resources Development Program and the NCWorks offices.

Since the first *Camp TechHead* in June 2010, EWD/CE has exposed area public school students to the world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) through summer camp experiences. This summer, EWD/CE has designed and offered seven sessions and three different STEM camps to over 130 area high school and middle school students. Camps were offered at both Transylvania and Henderson County campuses.

- *Young Engineers Experiences 1* for rising 7th through 9th graders introduces students to engineering through hands on experiments in electronics and AutoCAD and team design projects and competitions in robotics, bridge building and Ping Pong Ball Launch.
- *Young Engineers Experiences 2* for rising 9th through 12th graders allows students to use creativity to design and build a project using advanced technologies in BRCC software and equipment.
- *ArcStrong* for rising 9th through 12th graders introduced students to welding with an emphasis on gas metal arc welding (MIG) and plasma cutting.
- *Shark Tank* This summer marked the addition of an Entrepreneur Camp for High Schools Students. Small Business Center Director, Ben Kish, designed and taught this hands-on, 4 day Entrepreneurial Camp to 17 rising 9th to 12th graders. Students learned the concepts of idea formation, business modeling, hiring, marketing, planning and finances. They applied these concepts in group settings where they divided into teams, formed “businesses” to sell candy bars at a profit.

Meritor is using the EWD/CE’s NCWorks staff to screen employees for 20 new positions. The company is requiring and paying for applicants to earn their Career Readiness Certificates. NC Works staff administered the online assessment.

EWD/CE’s Allied Health Department has developed a new Healthcare Billing and Coding program to begin fall semester 2017.

EWD/CE's Law Enforcement Department has contracted with internationally known Interrogation Trainer, Don Raebon, to offer through BRCC, a week long program on interrogation techniques in August to 35 individuals from the Department of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, Washington DC.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

Curriculum graduation was held May 13; 156 associate degrees, 5 diplomas, and 166 certificates were awarded.

A list of students who applied for fall 2017 has been shared with counselors so that they can begin to call and/or email students to see if they have any questions about the admissions process and are aware of next steps.

President Trump's budget proposal has been released. Local implications from this proposed budget include: 1) Pell Grant for 2017-18 is \$5,920 - the budget proposes no increases essentially for the next ten years; 2) Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG) would be eliminated - currently we award ~\$70,000/year; 3) Federal Work Study would be cut in half - currently we have ~35 students earning \$45,000, and 4) elimination of the federal interest subsidy for needy loan borrowers - burden would be placed back on student so that interest begins accruing immediately, increasing their total loan debt and possibly affecting repayment and default rates. There is little chance all of these budget proposals will end up in a final budget as there is plenty of support for higher education aid programs in Congress, but we should not be complacent.

The Student Services Counseling Team conducted Student Success Workshops for those students on Academic Probation. Students on probation who are unable to attend are welcomed to make personal appointments with their assigned counselor.

Financial Aid staff attended a NCServes training session at the Goodwill Training Center in Asheville. This is a new Initiative funded by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families. It's purpose is to focus on streamlining the delivery of health and human services to Veterans and their families. It is a referral program.

## **TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY CAMPUS**

The Career & College Promise program in Transylvania County increased again for the 2016-2017 academic year: 197 students were registered in 430 courses.

- 31% increase in students
- 11% increase in courses

Since 2014-2015, TCC has increased the number of students by 208% and courses by 231%.

Transylvania County Campus staff presented at the Rosman High School Awards Night on May 30. The scholarship committee selected 7 students who were awarded a total of \$13,600.

The Career Academy for Educators was held on June 13, 14, and 15. Twenty-five teachers, counselors, and administrators participated. Twenty-four presenters from business and industry, government, and nonprofits provided information on careers, economic and workforce needs. The educators also learned about BRCC programs.

The Student Services staff at TCC has initiated a recruitment plan for fall semester 2017, which includes setting up recruitment tents at well-trafficked locations throughout the summer. Some of the locations are Magpie's Restaurant, Ingle's, College Plaza, Sav-Mor and the July 4th downtown celebration. A BRCC display will be placed in local banks, and the county library.

The Young Engineers camp took place the week of June 16th. Sixteen middle and high students participated, with a great week of design, engineering, electronics, and college tours.

## **BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

### **Major Gifts**

**Carl and Jean Schoendorfer** gifted \$10,000 from their donor advised fund with Fidelity Charitable: (\$7,500 is unrestricted and \$2,500 is designated for the Carl and Jean Schoendorfer Scholarship).

An **anonymous donor** has established a new annual scholarship fund with a \$10,000 contribution to fund five scholarships at \$2,000 in the 2017-18 academic year:

The Veterans and Families Scholarship is awarded to a military veteran or to a veteran's dependent or spouse in appreciation for their service to the United States of America. It is hoped that someday in the future the recipient will "pay it forward" and make a similar gift to a prospective college student. Priority will be shown to those applicants wanting to major in business, health, or teaching disciplines.

**Margaret R. Pardee Hospital Auxiliary** pledged \$12,500 for 2017-18 scholarships: (\$8,500 for Curriculum scholarships and \$4,000 for Continuing Education scholarships).

### **Major In-kind Gift**

Continental Automotive Systems, Inc., has donated a FaroArm portable coordinate measuring machine (CMM) valued at \$5,000 for use in the College's Computer Integrated Machining Technology program.

### **New Annual Scholarships**

The **Sentinel Patriot Club** started the Stand T.A.L.L. - Thank A Local Lawman Scholarship with a \$1,000 donation. This scholarship is designated for a Basic Law Enforcement Training student.

**Alexander Sabo** pledged to fund four \$750 scholarships with two awarded as the Szabo Sandor Scholarship and two as the Dorothy Szabo Memorial Scholarship. Each scholarship is awarded to a student who has a financial need. Preference is given to either a first generation college student or to a minority student; however, if this is not attainable, the award may be made to another student.