

THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

BRTC Enrollment Increases Despite Continued National Decline!



BRTC enrollment between Spring 2017 and Spring 2018 has increased in several areas. The college experienced a 18% increase in the number of first-time entering freshmen and a 13% increase in transfer students. Students enrolling from Greene County increased by 4% from last spring and Lawrence County students increased by 2%.

Overall, spring enrollment is 1% higher than enrollment last spring. While 1% may not seem like much, it illustrates a change in the downward trend that has occurred in higher education since the Great Recession. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, the latest data nationwide shows enrollment in public 2-year colleges declined 4% from Fall 2015 to Fall 2017 and 5.2% from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017.

“Our enrollment gain is the result of a collective effort from everyone,” explained Dr. Eric

Turner, president, “targeted marketing and communications, proactive advising and course scheduling, online textbook rental, and a highly relational approach from admissions and financial aid. It takes everyone doing their part for enrollment success.”

For the entire academic year which includes both Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, enrollment is up 1% overall with a 10% increase in transfer students, a 2% increase at the Paragould location, and a 4% increase in Greene County students.



BRTC Signs 40th Agreement with UCA!

This spring, BRTC President Dr. Eric Turner signed the 40th articulation agreement with UCA, making it even easier for BRTC students to transfer immediately to UCA.



This agreement enables BRTC students to transfer general studies courses as well as some dietary courses directly to UCA to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Education in Family and Consumer Sciences. Students must work with their BRTC advisor to ensure they take the correct courses to satisfy UCA’s degree requirements.

For a complete list of UCA direct transfer options, visit **Academics** at www.blackrivertech.edu or contact Donna Statler, BRTC’s Dean of General Studies, at (870) 248-4000 ext. 4183.

JOIN IT DOWN

- March 10*
BRTC Foundation Gala
- March 12-18*
Mid-Term Exams
- March 19-25*
Spring Break
- April 3*
Scholars & Donors
- April 13*
LETA Graduation

CAMPUS PN White Coat Ceremony

AROUND

BRTC Practical Nursing (PN) held its White Coat Ceremony for the Spring 2018 PN class on February 8 at Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas. This ceremony instills a commitment to providing compassionate care among future health professionals and welcomes Spring 2018 students into the practical nursing program.

Due to construction continuing on the Randolph County Development Center (RCDC), the ceremony was held at Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas. Thank you, Sutton Free Will, for supporting BRTC students!



Spring 2018 PN students are pictured above beginning at the front from left to right: Erin Gray, Shana Irwin, Emma Houston, Crystal Johnson, Tammy Massey, Brittany Reeder, Courtney Rigdon, David Russell, Samantha Weir, Jordan Westbrook. Middle from left: Alexandra Gott, Kellie Matheny, Anne Bruetsch, Penny McCluskey, Jeremy Mesey, Katlyn Noles, Joshua Pickett, Alyson Smith, Brandi Wade. Back from left: Katelyn Adams, Bobbie Anderson, Sarah Cullum, Sunnie Cunningham, Alexandria Davis, Jacob Duncan, Rebecca Ferguson, Madison Foster, Ariana Gibson.

Mobile Food Pantry

While BRTC has a Food Pantry, the needs of students are greater than what our pantry currently provides.

BRTC students are able to benefit from the Bread of Life mobile food pantry which comes to both BRTC locations once a month. Thank you, Bread of Life, for your support!



Important Dates!

- 1/1 Spring 2018 financial aid final deadline
- 1/2 BRTC campus opens
- 1/8 Faculty return to BRTC
- 3/26 Phi Theta Kappa Induction
- 3/19 Spring Break
- 3/27 Red Cross Blood Drive, Pocahontas
- 4/9 Fall Summer Registration

the 411

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Support BRTC's Food Pantry or Clothes Closet!

Many students struggle to buy food and clothes, but your gift of the following will change lives!

- ◆ Non-perishable food
- ◆ New clothing
- ◆ Gently worn clothes
- ◆ Monetary gifts

Contact Mylea or Neal for more information at (870) 248-4000.

Your gift has the power to change lives!

THEIR MARK

MAKING



Jacob's art composed of Black River bridge trusses, donated to BRTC, on display next fall.

BRTC Couple Bring Their Skills Back Home

Both Jacob and Hannah Pipkin began their adult lives at BRTC and are repaying their communities by bringing their education and skills back home!

While sharing a cubby with each other in Dr. Sandy Baltz's painting class because, Hannah said, "our last names both began with 'P,'" the two met over the taco-shaped bag Hannah used to hold her paint brushes. "I thought the bag was really cool," Jacob said. "I started asking people whose taco bag it was and Hannah told me it was hers. I think that was the first time we really spoke to one another."



Jacob and Hannah Pipkin

The couple began dating not long afterward. They attended BRTC's Spring Break Italy tour in 2016, which turned out to be a very memorable trip. In Florence at the Basilica de Santa Croce, "we were walking in the back of the group and Jacob started dragging me to the front," Hannah said. "I was getting irritated because he was making my feet wet—it was raining—then he got down on one knee. I was no longer irritated."

The proposal had been part of a plan Jacob concocted with Dr. Baltz. Several travelers were also in the loop. Hannah said "yes" in front of the entire group.

"BRTC was the best school | could have chosen before going to a university."

Jacob graduated from Pocahontas in 2012 and BRTC in December 2014 with his Associates of Arts degree. He

transferred to ASU to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in art education. Recently, he accepted a job at Alma Spikes Elementary in Pocahontas as an elementary art teacher. "We want to stay close to our families as well as our church family," Jacob said.



Jacob proposes in Florence, Italy, in front of all 55 tour members.

Hannah graduated from Corning in 2013 and BRTC in May 2015, also with an AA. She, too, transferred to ASU and graduated this past December with her Bachelor of Science, finance emphasis. She currently works at Integrity 1st Bank in Pocahontas and hopes for a career in banking. "We travel often," she said, "but we are always excited to get back to small town living."

BRTC has been a big part of the young couple's lives. "I loved everything about BRTC!" Hannah said. "The classes challenged me, yet they were always fun and interesting. And I am still in contact with many of my professors from BRTC."

Jacob agrees: "There were many times at ASU that Hannah and I would reminisce about BRTC. Like Hannah said, our professors were all very kind and friendly. We do keep in touch with some of our



Jacob and Hannah's wedding day, New Year's Eve 2016 in Walnut Ridge.

professors! I always recommend BRTC to students who are planning for their college careers."



Thank You Again, Sutton Free Will Baptist Church!

Once again, Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas graciously allowed BRTC students to utilize their facilities! Because the Randolph County Development Center was still under renovation, Sutton Free Will let the BRTC nursing program hold its White Coat Ceremony in their sanctuary.

It's community neighbors and partners like Sutton Free Will Baptist Church that make serving the BRTC community such a pleasure! Thank you for your generosity and kindness, Sutton Free Will!

153 Children of BRTC Students Receive Toys

On December 13, BRTC Paragould held its 2nd annual Day of Caring event in which able faculty, staff, students, and sometimes community members bring toys to give to students who are unable to provide a Christmas for their children. The event was so successful last year that Paragould faculty worked with Pocahontas faculty and staff to offer the event on the Pocahontas campus this year.



Event coordinators: Paragould instructors Elizabeth Collins (English) and Brook Cato (science)



BRTC's Student Government Association (SGA) funded the event on both campuses. Paragould instructors Elizabeth Collins and Brook Cato (above, right) organized the event. Faculty and staff at both locations assisted.

Each campus was allocated \$1,000 to purchase new toys for BRTC children. Faculty members Collins and Cato purchased the items and set up the rooms.



Left, top: Paragould students work bicycle sign-ups

Bottom: BRTC's Carl Hawkins in Pocahontas scares — uh — entertains a child.

Many BRTC students have children and struggle to make ends meet. Most students have a job even when they attend classes fulltime, so an event like this one is very helpful.

BRTC strives to support its students in their journey to improve their lives and the lives of their children. For more information or to help out, contact Elizabeth Collins at (870) 239-0969.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help Support BRTC Students and Families

Many BRTC students attend college, work fulltime, and raise their families. Your support of **BRTC Emergency Fund** will help them in times of need!



Left: Child of BRTC student who was overjoyed to select a toy for Christmas!

CELEBRATING GRADUATION

Fall 2017 Commencement

December 14, 2017

Black River Technical College's Fall 2017 Commencement awarded 39 degrees and certificates to 218 graduates. The guest speaker was Donna Statler, BRTC's Dean of General Studies and a 30-year BRTC employee. The class spokesperson was Christie Duke, an Associate of Arts graduate from Walnut Ridge. The event was held in BRTC's RCDC.



Respiratory Care Graduation

December 11, 2017

BRTC's Respiratory Care graduated 7 students. The student speaker was John Ballard.



Nursing Graduation and Pinning

December 12, 2017

BRTC's nursing departments graduated 47 resisted nursing students and 26 practical nursing students. The guest speaker was Susan Glasgow, the resisted nursing student speaker was Derek Waddell, and the practical nursing student speaker was Jeremy Sparks.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Honor those special to you!

Your memorial or in-honor gift supports student scholarships and academic programs!



Memory



Honor



Scholar



Give

SNAPSHOTS

Your Giving Creates Student Opportunities!

FOUNDATION

Your donations to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students at both the Pocahontas and Paragould locations! Without your support and commitment, Foundation scholarships would not be possible! Thank you for your generosity!

Students who receive Foundation scholarships are held to a very high academic standard. They must meet GPA, academic, and in some cases programmatic standards in order to be eligible for scholarships.

Supporting Foundation scholarships not only helps students get in the door but are a strong incentive for their success and continuation with their studies. Your help truly makes the difference in students' lives!

Thank you for your tremendous support of BRTC and our students!

David A. Statler Machine Shop Scholarship

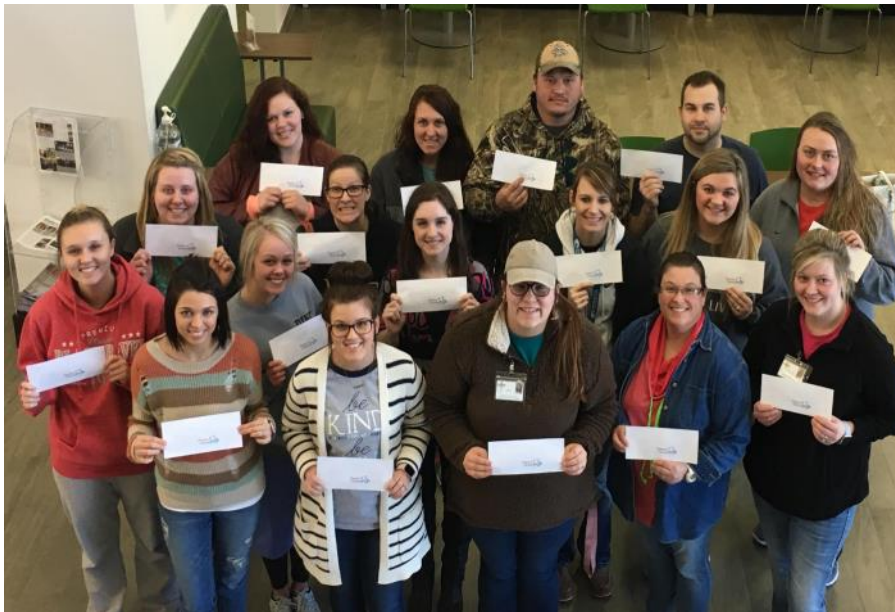
The David A. Statler Machine Shop Scholarship was established as a memorial for the late David Statler, long-time BRTC Machine Tool instructor. Scholarship recipients receive \$1,000 per semester and must maintain a 2.5 GPA.

Recipient:	Kyle Jones
Hometown:	Portia
High School:	Walnut Ridge High School
Major:	Industrial Maintenance



Kyle Jones and Instructor Gary Meier

Practical Nursing's Legacy Scholarship Continues to Give Back!



BRTC's May 2015 Practical Nursing class knew many PN students' struggle their last semester to pay for licensure and test fees. The class created the Legacy scholarship to help their peers. Each class has continued to keep the legacy alive.

The Fall 2017 graduates awarded fifteen \$200 scholarships to the May 2018 class members. The current RN students also contributed this semester in order to offer 2 additional scholarships.

Recipients are pictured left to right, front to back: Whitney Clark, Chasity Chaffin, Haley Lowery, Julie Jones, Samantha

Treanor, Brittanie Cline, Dakota Willingham, Shekinah Reynolds, Ashley Dorsey, Sherilyn Blanchard, Harlie Ennis, Cheyenne Dinkins, Jessica Helms, Leah Cantrell, Kayti Cline, Chris Bennett, and Roger Herriott .

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sponsor an Electricity Student!

Electricity students need a wide variety of tools to begin work after graduation. A gift of \$250, just \$21 a month, will provide the tools an electricity graduate needs to begin his/her first job!

spotlight

1973 BRTC ALUMNUS WAYMON LONG

Today Waymon Long is the president of Eagle Pest Management, LLC, in Batesville, Arkansas, but he is also a very important part of BRTC.

Waymon is a member of the first class offered at Black River in 1973.

Waymon graduated from high school and enrolled in tool and die classes at BRTC. He was 18-years-old and one of 10 or 12 students in the class. His instructor was David Statler.

Waymon attributes much of his success to the skills he learned in that class. He said a lot of what he has been able to do are due to the “mechanical knowledge from tool and die.”

According to Waymon, Instructor Statler mentored his students and Waymon has that same attitude today: “When I hire, I’m always looking for a sharp go-getter I can develop no matter the discipline.”

Waymon currently lives in Batesville with his wife. He has two grown sons.



Left to right: Tyler Truitt, Peyton Guerra, Clayton Ingram, Chase Bippus, Steven Borreson, Parker Sluder, and Conner Morgan

TOPSS Students Earn OSHA Certification

This spring, 7 high school students in the Industrial Technology pathway of BRTC’s Technical Opportunities and Pathways for Secondary Students (TOPSS) earned OSHA’s 10-Hour General Industry Safety and Health certification.

Because most industries require this certification upon hiring, these students will immediately be employable. Further, after completion of the TOPSS program, students will have also earned their Career Readiness Certificate and some will have even earned a degree from BRTC along with their high school diploma.

TOPSS is open to local area high school juniors and seniors who are self-motivated and committed to succeed. The seven students pictured are currently high school juniors and seniors enrolled at Corning, Hoxie, Pocahontas, and Walnut Ridge high schools as well as at BRTC. For more information on TOPSS, contact Brittany Lawrence at (870) 248-4000.

Your Voice Matters!

Students Bonnie Brown and Taylor Fox each won a \$50 BRTC bookstore gift card via random draw for completing BRTC’s marketing survey which helps staff assess the effectiveness of college communication and marketing.

Thank you, students! Your input matters to us!



BRTC’s Jessica Bailey and BRTC Paragould’s Bonnie Brown (AA), Fall 2017 survey winner



BRTC’s Shawna Leopard and BRTC Pocahontas’s Taylor Fox (nursing), Spring 2018 survey winner

BRTC MISSION STATEMENT

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

Hawkins Retires After 25 Years

Longtime employee Carl Hawkins, skilled tradesman, retired in November after 25 years of service to BRTC.

Carl began at BRTC in 1992 and worked his way from maintenance to Computer Services. His expertise is in telecommunications.

He will continue to help the college on a part-time basis until mid-spring. We wish you lots of luck, Carl!



Longtime BRTC President Richard Gaines, Carl Hawkins, and BRTC Officer Tony Saylor

New Employees Here for You!

Position: Program Specialist

Hometown: Pocahontas

Location: Pocahontas

Education: Black River Technical College, AA
University of Arkansas, BS Human Resource
Workforce Development



Callie Shore

Position: Nursing Clinical Site Coordinator

Hometown: Maynard

Location: Pocahontas

Education: Maynard High School
Black River Technical College, AA
Arkansas State University, BS Nursing



Amanda
Junkersfeld

Position: Administrative Specialist II

Hometown: Clover Bend

Location: Pocahontas

Education: Hoxie High School
Black River Technical College, AA



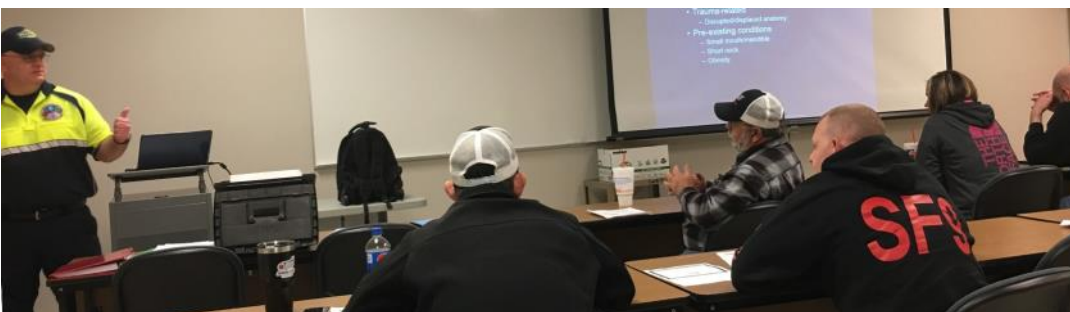
Terran
Wheelis

BRTC Hosts EMT-Paramedic Continuing Ed

BRTC's EMT-Paramedic program was excited to host continuing education training in February for working EMT-Paramedic professionals. Training for Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) was provided by ProMed and Survival Flight and utilized BRTC's airway manikins for simulations and practice.

BRTC EMT-Paramedic instructor Matthew Smith said, "We are happy to partner with Survival Flight and ProMed for trainings such as these. Pre-hospital care is constantly changing, and hosting continuing education events allows our students to see the significance of lifelong learning."

For more information about BRTC's EMT-Paramedic program, contact Matthew at (870) 248-4000 or visit our website at www.blackrivertech.edu.



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