The semester is quickly progressing and before long we will be celebrating with family during the holiday season. It is a special time of year and we hope that each of you has a wonderful time. Our college has seen its best enrollment in the history of the institution at just over 5,000 students and for that we are very grateful to our student body for making Blue Ridge one of the largest institutions in West Virginia.

The path we have taken to get here has not always been smooth. And you may have heard that the financial picture of our state is not robust. In fact, West Virginia is experiencing the issues of many states in that revenues are decreasing and costs for items such as health care and transportation are increasing. As a state institution, the deceeding revenues are a great concern for us and especially for you as students. We shall see what the upcoming legislative session brings, but I can tell you from this vantage point there are already talks of budget cuts for higher education. I have heard ranges of between 7.5% to over 9%. A funding reduction of that magnitude has implications for all of us.

There are only two major sources of funding that allow us to run our college: state allocation and tuition and fees. The state allocation comes to us from the state legislature and we generally know what that allocation is just shortly after the legislative session concludes. This year that date should be toward the end of March. The timing of that notification allows us to determine whether or not we need to increase tuition and fees in order to meet the expenses of the college.

We have been very lucky in the past 6 or 7 years in that we have not increased our tuition and fees in many of those years. However, the picture I see at this point is not so kind. The college is mindful of the expense of education, and we are keenly aware of the great sacrifices that students can go through in order to pay for a college education. It is our goal to increase costs to students as little as possible while still maintaining good service and quality academic work. The upcoming legislative session will be an interesting struggle, as it most often is, for allocation of scarce resources and funding. My hope is that the college can secure a fair share of the allocation in order to keep student costs low.

I also hope that your semester ends well and your holiday season brings you great joy.

Dr. Peter Checkovich
Mock Interviews Prepare Medical Assisting Students for Future Employment after Graduation.

Interviewing for a job can be intimidating. To better prepare students, on October 28th, the Office of Career Services piloted a Mock Interview project for Blue Ridge CTC’s Medical Assisting program. Fifteen students interviewed with industry experts and received constructive feedback on their interview question responses and resumes.

While most students were nervous, all participants agreed they gained usable skills and would apply them to their professional life. One student responded to our survey stating, “My interview gave me a lot of tips to prepare me for further job interviews including ways to boost my self-esteem.” Everyone agreed that others should participate in a mock interview if given the opportunity.

For more information about interviewing, assistance with your resume, developing a job search plan and more, contact Chris Cobian, Coordinator of Career Services at careerservices@blueridgectc.edu

INTERVIEWERS
Interviewers came from 3 area organizations:
- American Public University
- Berkeley Medical Center
- Winchester Medical Center

THE QUESTIONS
Among the questions students used to prepare for the mock interviews:
- Tell me about yourself.
- What is your greatest weakness?
- Why should I hire you?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

May Graduates

If you have applied for May Graduation and have at some point taken a student loan, you now need to complete Exit Counseling!

The Exit Counseling session is available at www.studentloans.gov and should be completed as soon as possible. It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete the counseling session.

You will need your US Department of Education four-digit personal identification number (PIN). Be sure to submit the session when you are finished so that the results will be sent to us electronically.

If you have questions about the status of your Federal Direct Loan(s), please contact Borrower Services at 800-848-0979.

The Office of Financial Aid Staff
Family Night

Friday, November 22

5pm-8pm
Main Campus

Come out and join the Student Leadership Academy for the annual Family Night events. Free to all Blue Ridge students, and the community!

Games • Food • Prizes• DJ

Santa & Mrs. Clause & Much MORE!

Sponsored by Student Leadership Academy (SLA)
WIN A FREE NOOK!

Enter by correctly completing the below puzzle. Your name will be entered for a monthly Nook Tablet drawing. Winner will be contacted by mid to late December! Enter for your chance to win a FREE NOOK. **Deadline is December 12, 2013.** Please make sure you fill out the contact information with the completed puzzle. Winners can only be official Blue Ridge CTC students. Turn in to Jamie Harrison in Suite 2400.

Birthday Problem:
- **Part 1:** Suppose that a room contains 25 people. What is the probability that at least two of them have a common birthday (born on the same day of same month, but not necessarily in the same year)?
  - **You should assume the following for part 1:**
    1. Every day of the year (365 days) is equally likely to be a birthday.
    2. Disregard leap years (disregarding any February 29th birthdays).
    3. Birthdays of 25 people are unrelated (no twins present).
    4. Ignore the fact that birth rate varies during the year.

- **Part 2:** How many people must you ask in order to have a 50% chance of finding someone who shares your birthday?
  - *To support your answer, please provide us with your solution.

**Participants of October’s puzzle:** (Participants receive a Bruin Café voucher)
- Autumn Cheeks
- Ashley Clapp
- Judy Jeffares
- Joanna Johansen
- Lorraine LaPlante
- David Weaver

**And the WINNER of October’s NOOK is…..AUTUMN CHEEKS**

**Solution to last month’s puzzle:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>Check work</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100y+x-5 = 2(100x+y)</td>
<td>x = 31, y = 63</td>
<td>Amount of the check was $31.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100y+x-5 = 200x+2y</td>
<td>98(63) – 199(31) = 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2y -2y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98y+x-5 = 200x</td>
<td>6174-6169 = 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-x -x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98y-5 = 199x +5</td>
<td>Teller switches dollars and cents (x and y) from $31.63 to $63.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+5 +5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98y = 199x+5</td>
<td>Customer bought five cent item at store: $63.31 – $0.05 = $63.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-199x -199x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98y-199x = 5</td>
<td>Customer has left exactly twice as much as original check: $63.26/2 = $31.63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x and y must be between 0 and 99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x = 31, y = 63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Blue Ridge CTC Mission Statement

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College is dedicated to providing a diverse student population with collaborative programs and support services to improve the quality of life and promote economic development in its service area. Its quality academic programs are learner centered and focus on career entry, university transfer, developmental education, and workforce development.

CISCO Certified Network Associate Boot Camp
January 6 – January 18, 2014

Description:
$2500 Includes all course material, exam fees, and books.
Financial Aid available for qualified WV Residents
This fast paced workshop prepares participants for the CCNA Certification Exam. Geared towards individuals with 3-5 years of experience in network environments, all topics and subject matter for the CCNA certification exam will be reviewed. The course is 54 hours total of intense classroom training.

1/6/2014 – 1/10/2014  Mon- Friday 6-9:45pm
1/11/2014 Saturday 9am – 5pm
1/13/2014-1/17/2014 6-9:45pm
1/18/2014- Saturday 9am-5pm

Registration deadline is December 20, 2013
To register online – www.Blueridgectc.augusoft.net or email askme@blueridgectc.edu for an application

Call Ce Nichols, Enrollment Specialist 304-260-4380 ext 2411 for questions or to register by phone.
WHERE DO I GO FOR???

Academic Standing ........................................ Welcome Desk
Adding Classes ........................................ Faculty Advisor/ BRIDGE
Assistance for Multicultural Issues .......... Welcome Desk
Billing Questions ........................................... Cashiers Office
BRIDGE Student ID ......................................... Security Office
Buy Textbooks ............................................. Bookstore
Career Services ............................................. 1400 Success Center
Change of Address or Name .................. Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Change of Advisor / Degree ................... Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Class Absences ............................................ Instructor/ Welcome Desk
Class Schedule ............................................. Faculty Advisor
Clubs and Organizations ............................... Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Computer Support / Help Desk ............ 1320 IT Services
Course Catalog ............................................... BRCTC Website
Disability Services ....................................... Welcome Desk
Dropping Classes .......................................... Welcome Desk/BRIDGE
Email / BRIDGE / BlackBoard ................ Welcome Desk
Enrollment Verifications .............................. Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Fee Assessment ............................................ Cashiers Office
Financial Aid Questions ......................... Welcome Desk
Graduation Applications ............................. Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Graduation Evaluations ............................. Faculty Advisor
Help with Study Skills ................................. Welcome Desk
Help Writing a Paper .................................... Welcome Desk
Loans/Grants ................................................ Welcome Desk
Orientation Information ............................. Welcome Desk
PASS Program .............................................. Welcome Desk
Placement Testing (Accuplacer) ............ 1400 Success Center
Room Reservation ......................................... Office 2300
Scholarships ................................................ Welcome Desk
Security Issues ........................................... Security Office
SKILLS 101 Program .................................... 1400 Success Center
Student Activities ........................................ Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Student / Refund Checks ............................. Cashiers Office
Transfer Credit Evaluation .......................... Welcome Desk
Transcript Request ....................................... Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Tutoring Services .......................................... Welcome Desk
Veterans Assistance ...................................... Welcome Desk
Veterans Edu. Benefits ................................. Welcome Desk
Withdrawing from Classes ..................... Welcome Desk/WEBSITE
Work Study .................................................. Welcome Desk/HR

Don’t see what you need? You can always call 304-260-4380 for assistance!