

Bruin Bulletin

Blue Ridge CTC Student Newsletter



It's that time of year when we begin to reflect on the needs of others. See details throughout this issue about all of the special ways we can come together as a community to make this season special. Best wishes from the Blue Ridge CTC faculty and staff for a happy new year filled with health, happiness, and spectacular success.

1

CELEBRATION

Read on for details about the holiday event of the year.

2

COOKIE SALE

Who's hungry? Give everyone on your list a taste of Blue Ridge from our Culinary Institute.

3

WARMTH DRIVE

Everyone deserves warmth this season. See how you can help others in need.

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MERRY and *Bright* Holiday Social

Students, please join Blue Ridge CTC's Foundation for a holiday social to benefit student scholarships.

Friday, December 1, 2017

5pm-7:30pm

Main Campus

Student tickets \$10 each

Magical carriage rides, Culinary Academy delights, student demonstrations, and more!

Purchase tickets at: blueridgectc.edu/foundationevents

COOKIE SALE!

We are happy to announce the annual [Academy of Hospitality and Culinary Arts](#) gourmet cookie box sale to benefit Blue Ridge CTC Foundation student scholarships.

Coconut Macaroons

In a decorative holiday gift box, 6 Count \$10

Assortment of Gourmet Cookies

In a decorative holiday gift box, 1 lb. \$20

Decorated Gingerbread Tree

A great centerpiece for your holiday table \$15

To order, visit foundation@blueridgectc.edu



Warmth Drive December 1-16

Assist those in need this winter. Donate new items at either campus location.

For more information: sgordon@blueridgectc.edu

- hats
- gloves
- socks
- scarves
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- floss
- soap
- body wash
- hair brushes
- combs
- shampoo

Finals Fuel Up!

Blue Ridge CTC offers two ways to recharge during finals week:

#1: Stop in at the Main Campus or the Tech Center for some complimentary caffeine and sustenance.

#2: Come to the Main Campus and meet our resident therapy dog to calm your nerves and boost your



December 6 & 7
1pm-4pm
Both Campus Locations

Fuel up for your Finals with
Coffee, Hot Tea,
and Granola Bars!



Soak up some puppy love!

Take a break from studying and spend some therapy dog time!

Come meet **Gunnar** and his handler, Sandy, from Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc.

December 6 & 7
11am - 1pm at the **Main Campus**

"GOOD LUCK ON FINALS, ALL!"

Important **Bookstore Return Policies** for Spring

Barnes and Noble is Blue Ridge's Official Campus Bookstore

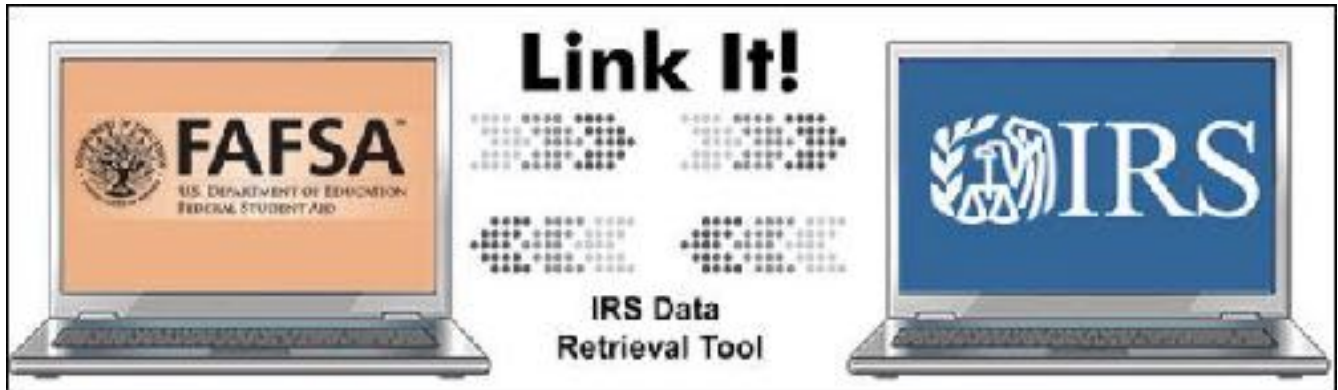
Textbooks for the current term (including new, used, customized course materials and course packs) may be refunded in the original form of payment during the first week of class, with an original receipt. After the first week of class, and up to thirty (30) days after the start of classes, a full refund will be given if the student provides proof of schedule change with an original receipt.

Medical and General Reference books adopted for the current term may be refunded in the original form of payment during the first week of class, with an original receipt. Any medical or general reference textbook not part of the current term will follow the 14-day return policy.

No refunds on unwrapped loose leaf books or activated eBooks.

Check prices and shop online on the BRCTC website under "Current Students, Bookstore."

Ideas for the next newsletter? Email TC Williams at twilliam@blueridgectc.edu



The **2018-2019 FAFSA** is now available. You should complete this online application if you plan to attend school during any of the following semesters: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2019.

When you complete the FAFSA, which needs to be completed **every year**, you will be asked for your 2016 tax information. The best method to input this information is to use the FAFSA's Data Retrieval Tool to link your tax information directly from the IRS website into your FAFSA. This will ensure the proper information is used, and it will help reduce your chances of being selected to turn in extra documentation.

Complete your FAFSA online now at: www.fafsa.gov.

STAY "IN THE KNOW"

Winter is on the way. Now's the time to enroll in **E2Campus**.

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College is excited to offer **E2Campus**, our emergency alert system, to students and employees. This system will notify you by email and/or text message with important information such as school closings and delays or other emergency situations.

While enrollment is not required, we highly encourage you to opt in so you can be notified of emergency announcements as soon as possible.

To signup, create an account online or text the word "Safety" to 79516.

**Need a Refresher Before Taking that Assessment Test?
SKILLS 101 Boot Camp May Be for You!**

Free and open to all students

SKILLS 101 **English** Boot Camp helps students practice their sentence skills prior to attempting the ACCUPLACER exam. Instruction is directly aligned with the skills tested on the ACCUPLACER exam and is delivered by qualified Blue Ridge CTC faculty. Dates and times listed below. To sign up, contact kshurnit@blueridgectc.edu

January 8 - January 12, 2018

Main campus, room 2104

9am-1pm, each day

with Heather Huggett

SKILLS 101 **Math** Boot Camp helps students prepare for the ACCUPLACER exam and is now available on Blackboard (once orientation is completed). Lessons require approximately 1 week, or 15 hours, to complete. You must set up appointments for a minimum of two live sessions with Kathy Collis, which include an orientation session and a final Q & A session, before scheduling the math placement test. The orientation session includes time for individualized help with computer and video access. The final Q & A session will be set up after completing a math problem packet. To sign up, contact Math Boot Camp Coordinator, Kathy Collis at kcollis@blueridgectc.edu

Testing Center

ACCUPLACER testing takes place at the Testing Center by making an appointment with the Testing Coordinator, April Johnson, at ajohnson@blueridgectc.edu

Retesting is allowed one week from the original testing date.

**Some Friendly Reminders from the
Blue Ridge CTC Security Department:**

Parking Permits: Every student, at every campus location, must have a parking permit (a.k.a., parking sticker). If you own two or more vehicles, you need permits for all.

Unattended Pets in Parked Vehicles: Security will make every effort to locate the owner of a trapped animal; however, depending upon weather conditions, animal control may need to be notified, which may result in severe fines and penalties.

Leaving Vehicles Overnight: Any unauthorized vehicle left in BRCTC parking lots overnight will be towed. If you believe your vehicle must remain in the parking lot overnight, please contact Security beforehand.

Should you have any questions or concerns relating to parking matters, please contact the Blue Ridge CTC Security Department at extension 2250.

NEED A LITTLE SOMETHING TO BEEF UP YOUR RESUME?

Take the **ACT WorkKeys Assessment** to earn a **National Career Readiness Certificate**

Assessment opportunities at the BRCTC
Technology Center location:

One Saturday per month, 9am–2pm

-OR-

Every other Friday, 9am–2pm

January 5 & 19

February 2 & 16

March 2, 16 & 30

April 13 & 27

May 11 & 25

Please bring a photo ID

Assessments: \$49

Students must pre-register

Contact Workforce Development:
dvermill@blueridgectc.edu



Chili Cook-Off

On Wednesday, October 25, 2017, Blue Ridge CTC held a Chili Cook-Off at the main campus. There were five participants. Each offering was put through a blind taste test by a panel of three judges: Ryan Ballenger (student), Christa Banks (Financial Aid Assistant), and Todd Cimino-Johnson (Business Program Coordinator). In addition, faculty, staff and students got to taste the chili and vote for their favorite.



The judges named **Kourtney Weld** the overall winner, and the campus community voted for **Donald Naylor** for the People's Choice Award.

Congrats, Kourtney and Don! Thank you to the panel of judges, the cook-off participants, and those who voted for the People's Choice Award portion of the competition!



Celebrating Our Veterans

Military & Veteran Appreciation Week, November 6-10

Military & Veteran Appreciation Week was marked by daily special events and anchored by a Veterans' Breakfast on Friday with Dr. Peter Checkovich, President of Blue Ridge CTC.

Lunch and Learn

On November 7th, The Student Veterans Association sponsored a Lunch and Learn workshop called "Military Experiences: A View from the Inside." Three speakers—BRCTC students Sam Rock and Shannon Carson, and former student, Nancy Mahaffey—discussed the ways the military has impacted their lives from their own unique and varied perspectives.

Sam Rock, a veteran of the Army himself, talked about his experiences while in the military, as well as the issues he still faces as he re-acclimates to civilian life. Shannon Carson, a military spouse, related how her family was affected while her spouse was deployed, as well as the issues they faced after he returned home. Nancy Mahaffey, who was born in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, told us the story of how she came to be rescued by the U.S. military and why she eventually made America her home.

Many of the attendees were moved to tears by the speakers' rich and vivid stories of devotion and dedication; all expressed appreciation for the wealth of perspectives the speakers provided.

This event was organized by Britney Norris, Veterans' Education Coordinator.

Boxed lunches for all were provided by the Bruin Cafe.

Student Veterans Association

The Student Veterans Association (SVA) is one of the student organizations here at Blue Ridge CTC. All students who have an interest in supporting those who have served our country (veterans, service members, dependents, civilians, and otherwise) are encouraged to become members.

Recently, the SVA elected new officers:

Aryeh Levi, President
Greg Case, Vice President
Sean Jenkins, Secretary
Jesse Nelson, Treasurer
Shannon Carson, Event Coordinator



All students are invited to attend the Student Veterans Association's last fall semester meeting, Wednesday, November 29, 4pm-6pm, in room 1105 (main campus).

Stay connected to the Student Veteran Association by "liking" us on Facebook!

Blue Ridge CTC Student Attends State-Wide Business Plan Competition

The 12th Annual Collegiate Student Business Plan Competition, hosted by the College of Business & Economics at West Virginia University, received 292 submissions from students throughout West Virginia. Students submitted plans within three categories, including Lifestyle and Innovation, Hospitality and Tourism, and STEM. Students are competing for a grand prize of \$10,000, to receive free legal and accounting advice, and for the opportunity to start a new business in the state. The competition is open to any full-time student at a West Virginia college or university in any major.

This year, four Blue Ridge CTC students participated in the competition, and one moved to the semi-final round: Business Administration major **Eileen Kusnirak**. Her plan, The Gaming Zone, LLC, was reviewed by judges, as well as by her peers. The Gaming Zone, LLC, will create a one-stop shop for game enthusiasts of all ages. Kusnirak then attended the semi-final event, hosted by West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia. The event consisted of one-on-one interviews and elevator pitches. On December 5th, five out of the ten student winners will be notified that they have been selected to participate in the final round.

For the first time in the history of the Business Plan Competition, Blue Ridge CTC students participated. Faculty advisor Todd Cimino-Johnson stated, "This business plan competition is a way for the students of Blue Ridge to show what the Eastern Panhandle brings to the table. We had four great ideas this year. I hope next year we can submit many more entries and start seeing these businesses open up and become successful."

The final competition will take place on April 20th, 2018, in Morgantown, West Virginia. The winners for each category will be announced at that time. Previous winners and non-winners have moved on to open successful businesses throughout the state.

For more information, contact Cimino-Johnson, Business Program Coordinator, at tciminoj@blueridgectc.edu.

Winner of Fall E-Learning Technology Giveaway



The E-Learning Department would like to congratulate **Kiki Moore** for winning the fall semester technology giveaway. Students participated in a drawing for a chance to win a Dell Inspiron laptop. The laptop was awarded as part of an E-Learning campaign to welcome students back to campus for the Fall semester.

The laptop is one of many ways to promote paperless living; it can be used to access electronic textbooks, creating fewer costs for students. In addition, the E-Learning Department hopes to arm students with technology that can enhance the use of online learning resources and the Blackboard LMS while off campus.

Be sure to visit the E-Learning table in the main campus café this spring for the chance to win our next giveaway item!

Photo: Brett Gallagher, Dean of the School of Professional Studies and University Transfer, presents Kiki Moore with a Dell Inspiron laptop.



Thinking of transferring to another institution after Blue Ridge CTC? Then the following is a must-read:

In an ongoing effort to create pathways to student success, Blue Ridge CTC seeks out articulation agreements (think “partnerships”) with four-year institutions. An articulation agreement governs the transfer of a student’s earned credits between two institutions and degree programs. The list below lists the partnerships Blue Ridge CTC has recently formed and the programs to which they pertain.

Recently-Established Articulation Agreements:

- Frostburg State University – Business Administration, A.S. to Business Administration, B.S., General Management
- Grand Canyon University – Any associate’s degree program to corresponding bachelor’s degree program, with transfer credits review
- Ohio Valley University – General Studies, A.S. to Forensic Investigative Accounting, B.S.
- Rennes School of Business, France – Business Administration, A.S. to International Bachelor Program in Management
- Shenandoah University – Business Administration, A.S. to Business Administration, B.S.
- Shepherd University – Update of Criminal Justice, A.A.S. to Sociology, B.S.--now General Studies, A.S., with Sociology concentration to Sociology, B.S., with Criminal Justice concentration
- Southern New Hampshire University – Overall articulation agreement with appendices in nursing, criminal justice, and business

administration

- West Virginia University – Business Administration, A.S. to Business Administration, B.S. (2+2 model and a 2+2 ½ model)
- West Virginia University – Business Administration, A.S. to Agribusiness Management, B.S.

For specific articulation agreement details, please visit the “Transfer-Articulation” webpage on the Blue Ridge CTC website: <http://www.blueridgectc.edu/current-students/transfer-articulation-2/transfer-articulation/>.