



There are very few occasions in my memory more beautiful and elegant than our Foundation's Merry and Bright celebration. I welcome all of you tonight and regret that I might not be with you. I have been asked to participate on a panel of distinguished members of the West Virginia Manufacturer's Association in Lewisburg, West Virginia. The panel is making a presentation on the topic of when collaboration works between education and business and industry. I am honored to be selected to participate on such a panel, even as I am missing Merry and Bright.



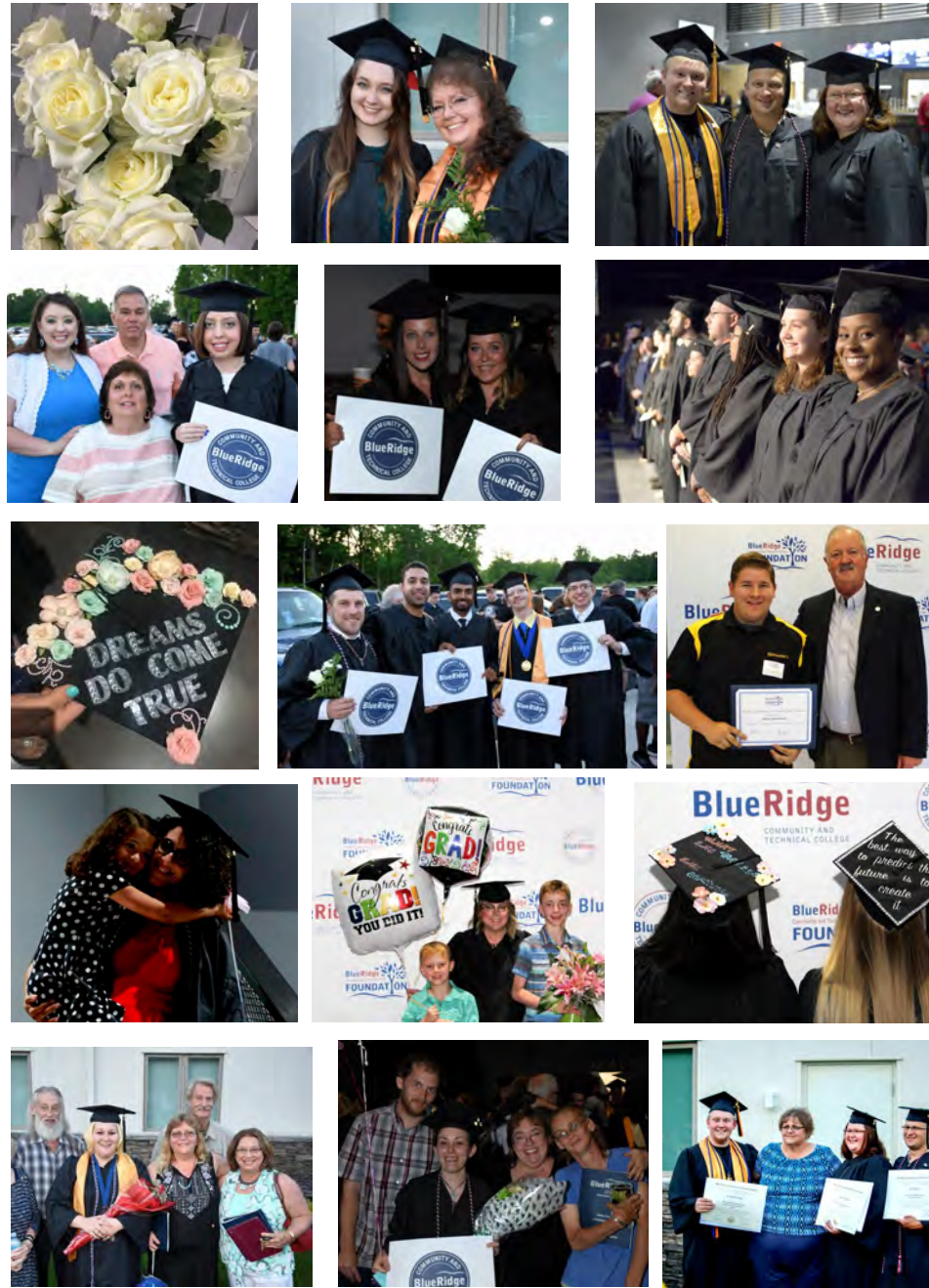
One of the discussions that I have with our students or prospective students that concerns me is when a student indicates they cannot afford to go to school or stay in school. While we try to keep our costs very low, other factors out of our control such as the cost of textbooks or lack of suitable transportation can drive up the cost of attending college. Those of you familiar with our college know that many of our graduates go into the workplace where they can earn a good living. Many others will transfer to a four year institution to pursue further education. In both cases, lives are changed for the better. So when I hear of students, many of whom could join the workplace or transfer, who are unable to begin or continue an education, it is unsettling to me.

That is where our Foundation can help tremendously. In just a few short years, our Foundation has grown to the point where it can really do a lot to help those students with demonstrated need or those who are in high demand fields. The foundation can help retain those who would otherwise drop out and not experience the life changing experience of a good, solid education. It is through the generosity and caring of those like you in the room tonight that our Foundation has been successful in helping those students. For that we say Thank You!

I hope you are enjoying the wonderful celebration of Merry and Bright. It is my distinct honor to be the president of one of the best community and technical colleges in the country. Our faculty and staff are second to none. Our continued growth is testimony to our quality. Thank you for placing your trust in our college and for supporting the many students who might otherwise not be here.

Pete Checkovich,  
Founding President

## Successful



### *Blue Ridge CTC Foundation*

13650 Apple Harvest Drive  
Martinsburg, WV 25403  
304-260-4380 ext 2423

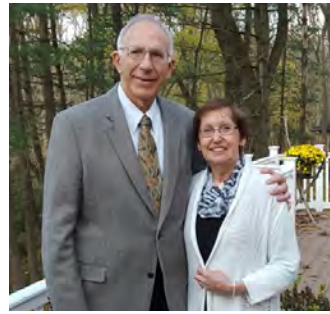
### *Please connect with us!*

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## Grateful

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- DR. TRUDIE L. HOLDER
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- HOLLYWOOD CASINO
- JEAN-LUC AZZANI
- JEFFERSON CO. CEOS COUNCIL
- KENNETH & ANNE BARTON
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- TECHNIMARK
- THE SHOCKEY COMPANIES
- TIMOTHY BOWERS
- TONY BURDITUS
- TRUE TREATS HISTORIC CANDY
- VALLEY HEALTH
- WVU MEDICINE UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE

## Faithful



Paul and Elaine Guttman are faithful supporters of early childhood education at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College.

Through their faithfulness to the education of children, the Guttman Family Early Childhood Education and Textbook scholarships, were created to support students completing their 2nd year of study at Blue Ridge CTC.

Blue Ridge CTC, Early Childhood Education students and area children are grateful for the Guttman's faithfulness



Susan and Ray Benzinger are faithful supporters of student success at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College.

Through their faithful support of one student each year; lives are changed, goals are met and communities are strengthened.

The students at Blue Ridge CTC are grateful for Susan and Ray Benzinger's faithfulness.



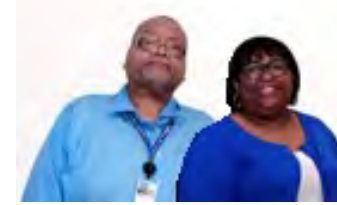
Melanie Files is a faithful supporter of the Culinary Academy students. She created a scholarship in the name of Chef Steven Weiss, Blue Ridge CTC Culinary Academy program coordinator.

The BRCTC Culinary Academy students are grateful for Melanie Files faithful gift of education.

## Thankful



## Family



Looking in all the right places!

Meet the Buckner family! James, Marlene and Michelle Buckner are living proof that "looking in all the right places" for a career building education will pay off big dividends for their professional careers.

The Buckner family began their Blue Ridge CTC college careers together two years ago. Their daughter Michelle graduated in May 2018 with a degree in Liberal Arts, James and Marlene are graduating in December 2018 with degrees in Cyber Security and Paralegal studies.

The Buckner's all agree that education is a bargaining chip in employment. James and Marlene are both following the Criminal Justice pathway in their employment; James is a member of the Homeland Security, Counter Terrorism team and Marlene is the Chief Magistrate for the City of Martinsburg Municipal Court. Marlene attributes her current position to a 20-year career focus in law enforcement and her valuable Paralegal degree from Blue Ridge CTC.

We congratulate the Buckner family on their great success and value to our community!

### Foundation Events

Join Blue Ridge CTC's Foundation at future events to benefit the student scholarships fund.

**Bluegrass & BBQ**  
**August 23, 2019**  
**5:30—8pm**



Featured Musicians:

- ~Ernie Bradley
- ~Laura Busey, Singer/Songwriter
- ~BRCTC Bluegrass Class

- ~Menu provided by The Purple Iris
- ~Beer Sampling provided by Reid's Distributor
- ~Desserts provided by the BRCTC Academy of Hospitality and Culinary Arts

For tickets, sponsor opportunities, information, and more:  
[www.blueridgectc.edu/foundationevents](http://www.blueridgectc.edu/foundationevents)