

# STUDENT NEWSLETTER



**BlueRidge**

COMMUNITY AND  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**DECEMBER 2019**



# MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

## Mission Statement

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College provides our diverse student population with life-changing education, training, and services that drive economic development within the communities we serve.

## Our Vision

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College is the first choice for higher education that drives career growth and economic development in our region and surrounding communities.



*Just like every piece is  
important to make a puzzle  
complete, every person  
is important to the mission!*

## Core Values

### Stewardship:

- Put student access, learning, and success first
- Support a safe, collaborating, and engaging environment for employees and students
- Provide an optimum learning environment for students
- Use College resources responsibly
- Demonstrate care for facilities

### Civility:

- Communicate with respect, trust, and care
- Respect differences
- Listen actively
- Be aware of your impact on others
- Discuss differences and resolve conflicts

### Integrity:

- Engage and actively contribute to the overall success of the College
- Think creatively and develop solutions
- Act honestly and ethically
- Provide accurate and thorough information
- Be courageous to be even better

### Entrepreneurship:

- Embrace our business partners
- Think proactively and innovatively
- Be adaptable and flexible for shifting priorities
- Identify areas for continuous improvement
- OWN enrollment
- Take calculated risks wisely

## Nondiscrimination Statement

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College provides opportunity to all prospective and current members of the student body, faculty, and staff on the basis of individual qualifications and merit without regard to race, color, sex, sexual preference, religion, age, national origin, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, familial status, veteran status, or disability. This advertisement is for informational purposes only. Printed and/or electronic documents produced by the College do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between an applicant or student. For important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students enrolled in Certificate Programs at Blue Ridge CTC, visit: [www.blueridgectc.edu/GEinfo](http://www.blueridgectc.edu/GEinfo)

### On the Cover:

*Annual Veterans Breakfast 2019*

*High School Night Nov. 2019*

*Boys and Girls Club Tech Center Tour*

*STEAM Night 2019*

## Locations

Main Campus

13650 Apple Harvest Dr.  
Martinsburg, WV 25403

Technology Center

5550 Winchester Ave.  
Martinsburg, WV 25405

Morgan County Center

Located at the Pines Opportunity Center  
109 War Memorial Dr.  
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

## Contact Information

[www.BlueRidgeCTC.edu](http://www.BlueRidgeCTC.edu)  
304.260.4380



## **Graduating this Semester? Congratulations!**

The Office of Career Services distributes the Blue Ridge CTC Graduate Survey to graduating students each semester. This quick survey takes approximately 3 minutes to complete and provides valuable information regarding your plans after graduation. It also connects graduates with the Career Services Office to receive assistance with resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills, job placement and more!

***Be on the lookout for an email and text message in December with the link.***

## **Ready to meet with Career Services? Contact us today!**

[www.BlueRidgeCTC.edu/CareerServices](http://www.BlueRidgeCTC.edu/CareerServices)

[Careerservices@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:Careerservices@blueridgectc.edu)



*This quick survey connects graduates with the Career Services Office to receive assistance with **resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills, job placement and more!***

# Elevate Your *JOB SEARCH* with **CAREER CONNECTIONS**



## **JOB PLACEMENT AND INTERVIEW REFERRALS**

Actively seeking a position in the workforce? Schedule a meeting with our Career Services team for our Job Placement and Interview Referral Service. Career Services may be able to match you with a potential employer and refer you for an interview!



## **MOCK INTERVIEWS**

Have an interview coming up? Meet with Career Services for a mock interview. Our team will review your appearance, professionalism, responses to questions, and more!



## **RESUME AND COVER LETTER ASSISTANCE**

The best way to get noticed in the job market is to polish your professional documents! Career Services will assist you in creating or updating a resume and cover letter to assist you in your job search.



## **CAREER EDUCATION**

Take advantage of our workshops and resources to assist you in your job search. Learn more about networking skills, resume and cover letter writing, thank you notes, active job searching, and more!

  
**BlueRidge**  
**COMMUNITY AND  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**CONTACT CAREER SERVICES *TODAY!***

Contact Siona Escoto to learn more:  
**304.260.4380 ext. 3335 or [sescoto@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:sescoto@blueridgectc.edu)**

**Main Campus: 13650 Apple Harvest Dr., Martinsburg, WV 25403**

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## Newly-Established Articulation Agreements / Crosswalks with Transfer Four-Year Universities and Colleges



Considering transferring after graduation from Blue Ridge CTC? Several new articulation agreements have recently been established or updated, including ones in digital media, accounting, mathematics, communications, and natural sciences.

- Digital Media Specialist, Computer Applications:  
Southern New Hampshire University
- Digital Media Specialist, Media:  
Southern New Hampshire University
- Liberal Arts, Mathematics Concentration:  
American Public University
- Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences Concentration:  
American Public University
- Accounting : Shepherd University
- Transfer Partnership Agreement :  
Western Governors University
- Educational Alliance Participant Agreement:  
Grand Canyon University

For a complete list of articulation agreements with transfer four-year universities and colleges, visit the 'Transfer-Articulation' webpages under Current Students on the Blue Ridge CTC website.

**For additional information, please contact  
Jackie Griggs, Coordinator of Academic Affairs:  
304.260.4380 ext. 2351**

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## Follett Bookstore Hours



The Spring 2020 semester is right around the corner so prepare now by purchasing your textbooks and course materials from the Follett Bookstore. The fall bookstore hours vary at each campus.

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

#### Headquarters

Monday – Thursday; 8:30am – 4pm  
Friday; 8:30am – 3pm

#### Technology Center

Monday – Friday; 8:30am – 3pm

**For additional information, please contact  
Kim Bickett, Follett bookstore manager:  
304.260.4380 ext. 2273**



# Sugar Cookie Showdown

December 10, 2019

Main Campus Cafe

11am-12pm

## Calling All Decorators!

Stop by the Main Campus Cafe to decorate your very own sugar cookie! Available while supplies last.

## RSVP To Participate:

[www.blueridgectc.edu/eventrsvp](http://www.blueridgectc.edu/eventrsvp)

### Main Campus

13650 Apple Harvest Dr.  
Martinsburg, WV 25403

### For more information:

[sgordon@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:sgordon@blueridgectc.edu)

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## The Bruin Café Hours of Operation

It is an exciting time to be a student at Blue Ridge CTC. To enhance your college experience, the Bruin Café and the Culinary Academy works to ensure all students have access to delicious snacks and meals. Blue Ridge CTC has a talented chef team who work diligently to prepare fresh, high quality products for students each day!



**There are two Bruin Cafes, one at Main Campus  
and one at the Technology Center:**

### Main Campus Hours

Monday – Thursday; 7:30am – 6:30pm

Fridays; 7:30am – 1 pm

*(excludes weekends and holidays)*

### Technology Center Hours

7:30am to 2 pm, daily

*(excludes weekends and holidays)*



## Did you Know?

- The Bruin Cafés are student labs where our culinary students learn customer service as well as food preparation in a co-curricular experience, which prepares them for internships and success in the workplace. Purchasing food from our cafe assists our students to develop into the Chefs of tomorrow.
- You can have “***Eggs Your Way***” during breakfast hours at both campuses.
- The Bruins are managed and operated by the Culinary Faculty, so that means campus food service is an in-house operation. This gives credibility to our culinary programs “We walk the walk and talk the talk”.
- We have a “***Jump Start your Day***” menu inspired by our Jump Start high school students, but can be enjoyed by all. Offered from 7:30 am to 10:30 am daily.
- We have a chef on staff that is a regularly competes on national television shows. Currently this chef has more than 16 appearances over the last 20 years.
- The Bruin Café offers a coffee rewards card. After every 10th coffee purchased the 11th is free. If you don’t already have a card ask for one at either of our Bruin Cafes.
- The Bruin Café also offers a food rewards card. Earn one punch for every \$7 spent. A full card is eligible for breakfast or lunch up to \$7.

If you are a student and are interested in an exciting culinary career, explore your options by speaking with a culinary team member at either Bruin Café location. You may also contact Chef Weiss, Associate Dean of Culinary Arts for more information: [sweiss@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:sweiss@blueridgectc.edu)

# MAC 'N CHEESE COOK OFF & TALENT SHOW



## BRCTC Talent Show 2019

On November 5, 2019 BRCTC held their 2019 Talent Show. There were six participants: Laura Alduende, Angeline Burgess, Alecia Burgess, Kimberly Cano, Ethan Sam-Peal and Brianna Quinene. Each of the participants showcased their unique vocal or dance talents.

This extremely talented group of students made it a tough decision for the judges as well as those who attended the event. Kimberly Cano took the title of Judges Choice and Ethan Sam-Peal was awarded People's Choice. Kimberly Cano will be auditioning for The Voice in February 2020. Congratulations to both of our 2019 winners and thank you to our judges, Stephanie Douglas-Walton, Kevi Furgason and Jessica Gill.



## Mac & Cheese Cook-Off 2019

On October 24, 2019 BRCTC held their first Mac & Cheese Cook-Off at the Main Campus. There were five participants: Chelsey Aresco, Keisha Hicks, Jared Kuse, Candy Johnson, and Susan Richman.

Each of the participants created a unique mac and cheese leaving the panel of judges and those in attendance with a tough decision to make as there could only be two winners. Keisha Hicks took the title of Judges Choice and Susan Richman was awarded People's Choice. Congratulation to both of our 2019 winners and thank you to our judges, Mercy Escoto, Andrew Gordon, David Kilmer and Izzy Kowalski!



# LUNCH AND LEARN WITH DR. C



## A View From Within

Our fourth Lunch and Learn for the fall semester was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2019. Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to have a warm buffet lunch and enjoy the guest speaker, BRCTC's very own President, Dr. Peter Checkovich.

Dr. C. told his story about serving in Vietnam and living aboard a ship. He showed pictures and shared personal belongings with those whom were in attendance. Dr. C. reminisced about his time in the service as he told stories about the right of passage ceremony, surviving a tsunami and traveling through the Arctic Circle.

*“Thank you Dr. C. for sharing  
your story and for your service  
to our country!”*

He took the opportunity to educate the thirty some people in the room on the different parts of a ship as well as how the ranking system worked. Students, faculty and staff were very attentive to his presentation and asked a number of follow up questions! Thank you Dr. C. for sharing your story and for your service to our country!



# ARE YOU DRAMATIC?



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## **A bit over-the-top? Appreciative of the fine arts?**

Then come out to the annual spring play! Or, even better, act in the play! Auditions will be held **December 1, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in classroom 1105 at the main campus.** This year, Blue Ridge CTC will be performing five separate but similarly-themed one-acts on the struggles between the sexes. These pieces include: “Poof!” by Lynn Nottage, “Hello, Out There” by William Saroyan, “Home Burial” by Robert Frost, “The Death of the Hired Man” by Robert Frost, and “Trifles” by Susan Glaspell.

This series of one-acts features directing from playwright and Assistant Professor of English James Ralston with the first four aforementioned acts as well as the directorial debut of Associate Dean Kathy Cox with “Trifles.” These five short pieces will run from March 19-22, 2020, at the Apollo Civic Theatre, and if you are indeed interested in acting, feel free to contact **Dr. Kathy Cox (kcox@blueridgectc.edu)** now to audition early. We encourage you to showcase your acting! But if you would rather watch the excitement, we understand, and we cannot wait to see you in the audience this March!

# FALL 2019 FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

## Scholarship Winners

The Foundation plays an integral role in meeting the mission of providing life-changing education, training and services to students. These students describe how scholarships help students reach their goals.



**Katherine Andrews**

### ***Katherine Andrews plans to pay it forward and help others.***

“My college and career goals are to become a pediatric/psychiatric nurse practitioner. By accomplishing this goal, I will be able to do three things. I will be able to begin to bridge the gap between the mental health and nursing professions, so they can help each other rather than work against each other. I will also be able to help combat the opioid epidemic from the prevention aspect in at-risk youth before they begin their substance use, and I will also reduce the number of care professionals involved with children who have behavioral health and autism spectrum

disorders. Consistency is what is best for them yet they have to see a psychiatrist, a therapist, a pediatrician, and sometimes other supportive professionals. My goal is to reduce those numbers.

I must work full time and attend school and it still is a struggle each month. The scholarship is helping to alleviate the added stress of paying for school out of pocket in addition to regular household responsibilities”

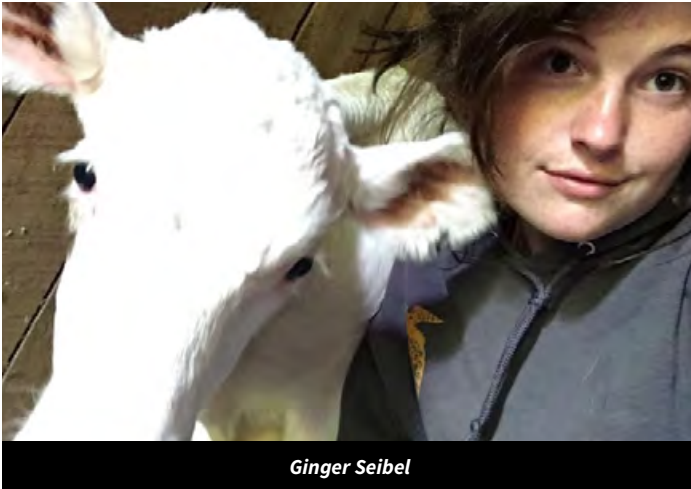
***Jennifer Segerling is currently working for WV Learn and Earn Grant working for TSPI (Technology Solutions Provider) in the Morgan County Center as a student intern.***

“My career goal is to obtain a job in the IT field, after or during my time in Blue Ridge. The scholarships have helped me save money that I would end up paying back in the future. With that being said, I can continue my education after obtaining my degree in the Cyber Security field and go for my Bachelors once I complete my current degree program. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.”



**Jennifer Segerling**

# FALL 2019 FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



***Ginger Seibel is able to attend school without going in debt.***

"I plan on taking classes at Blue Ridge for another semester so that I can get my Associates in Agribusiness. I would like to work at the USDA as an animal health inspector, and I would go to different farms and make sure the livestock are in a healthy environment.

The scholarships I have received are helping me to achieve my goals without putting me/ my mother in debt. Having a college education has always been a goal of mine, but I never wanted to deal with the burden of student loans and being in debt for the rest of my life."



***Nathaniel Beaty considers completing school without debt a huge blessing.***

"My goals are to complete my Associates in Cyber Security, then I will take a gap year or two working in the field before furthering my education. The scholarships I have received have been a huge blessing. They are enabling me to get through school debt-free, and I can spend more time studying and less time working. After I complete my associates, instead of paying back student loans for a couple years, I will be able to save money to pay for my bachelors."



***Elijah-David Grubb earned two scholarships, which has permitted him to focus on learning.***

"My goal for college is to get my Associates Degree in Culinary Arts and to gain a more in-depth knowledge into the complexity and inner workings of the culinary field. For my career, my goal is to potentially open up a cafe or to continue to work in environments where I enjoy working with the food and the people. This semester I received the Promise Scholarship and the Blue Ridge Excellence Scholarship. Both of these scholarships have helped me to cover most of my fees and focus my attention on enjoying and learning more about my career field, rather than the economic costs of getting a degree. The scholarships have also impacted my future goals by allowing me to save more money towards future expenses."



# TOWN HALL MEETING

**3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**2PM - 3:15PM**

**MAIN CAMPUS, ROOM 2105**



**Main Campus, Room 2105  
13650 Apple Harvest Dr., Martinsburg, WV 25403**

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**What is a Town Hall Meeting? The term “Town Hall” describes a meeting that is open forum and allows for participants to share preferences for their community.**

Blue Ridge CTC Student Government Association will host a Town Hall meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Any and all Blue Ridge CTC students are welcome to join to discuss emerging topics, voice concerns and requests, express ideas and, advocate for topics on campus. As a Blue Ridge CTC student, you have a voice and we want to hear your thoughts!

**For More Information:**

**Jared Kuse, SGA & Student Body President:** [jkuse01@my.blueridgectc.edu](mailto:jkuse01@my.blueridgectc.edu)  
**or Siona Escoto, SGA Faculty Advisor:** [sescoto@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:sescoto@blueridgectc.edu)

## **The Outlet Submission Deadline: Friday, April 10th 2020 by 4:30pm**

Do you enjoy writing poetry or short stories, painting, drawing, or photography? You could be published in the Spring edition of Blue Ridge CTC's literary and art magazine, The Outlet: Bloom Where You Are Planted. It is not too early to get creative and begin working on your submission! Entries will be judged for selection by Blue Ridge CTC faculty.



### **To submit written works, follow these guidelines:**

Write in a Word document and e-mail as an attachment to Dr. Kathy Cox at [KCOX@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:KCOX@blueridgectc.edu).

- Use Times New Roman 12 point font
- For poems, use single spaced lines
- For prose, use one and a half spaced lines

### **To submit visual art, follow these guidelines:**

The artwork may be any two-dimensional media: painting, photography, drawing, watercolors, collage or mixed media.

### **To submit original artworks:**

Bring original artworks to Kelly Shurnitski in Suite 2200 on HQ Campus.

### **To submit artwork digitally (flash drive or e-mail attachment):**

E-mail digital artwork as an attachment to Kelly Shurnitski at [KSHURNIT@blueridgectc.edu](mailto:KSHURNIT@blueridgectc.edu)

OR

Bring a flash drive with digital artwork to Kelly Shurnitski in Suite 2200 on HQ Campus.

- Images MUST be saved in .jpg format.
- Images should be saved in medium-to-high-resolution (at least 150-300 dpi).
- Images should be no larger than 7" or 1200 pixels on the longest side.

Participants may submit more than one written work or visual artwork. All participants will be asked to complete a submission form.

## Ingredients

2 Tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon canola oil  
One 1.25 to 1.5 lbs beef shin on the bone, trimmed of excess fat  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
1 carrot, diced  
1/2 onion, diced  
1 rib celery, diced  
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme  
6 cups water  
1/3 cup pearl barley, rinsed  
1 cup chopped canned tomato  
1 tablespoon unsalted butter  
3/4 pound medium-sized button mushrooms, brushed, trimmed, and quartered  
3 tablespoons minced flat-leaf parsley



## Directions

Heat a large soup pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat; add 2 tablespoons of the oil. Season the meat generously with salt and pepper. Sear the meat on all sides until well browned; this will take about 15 minutes. Wipe the pan out with a paper towel.

Lower the heat to medium, add the oil to the pan. Add the carrot, onion, and celery to the pan and saute until tender, about 10 minutes. Return the meat to the pan with the water.

Bring to a boil, adjust the heat to maintain a gentle simmer, cover, and cook for 1 1/2 hours or until the meat is just tender. Add the thyme, barley, and tomato; continue to simmer the soup, covered, for 45 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a medium saute pan, heat the butter over medium-high heat, add the mushrooms and saute until golden, about 10 minutes. Season the mushrooms with salt and pepper and add them to the soup, and simmer for 15 minutes more. Remove the meat from the soup; cut the meat from the bone and dice. Skim any fat from the surface of the soup with a ladle or large spoon. Return the meat to the soup with the parsley. Season the soup with salt and pepper

