

JOB SCHOLARS NEWSLETTER



FALL 2021 EDITION



WHAT IS A JOB SCHOLAR?

- Young adults seeking a career with a short training period (programs 4 weeks to 9 months)
- Young adults (16-24) needing guidance through the enrollment and job placement process
- Young adults in need of employment experience
- Young adults demonstrating a financial need
- Young adults wanting to contribute to the employment community
- Young adults needing assistance overcoming barriers to training and employment

JOB SCHOLAR OFFERS:



Tuition-Free
Training Opportunities



Hands-On Training with
On-the-Job Experience



Employment/Apprentice
Placement and Counseling



Assistance removing barriers to training and employment opportunities such as meals, transportation assistance, family needs assistance, supplies assistance and others as determined individually

BRCTC CAMPUS 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

Virtual Campus Tour:

www.blueridgectc.edu/tour

CONTACT INFORMATION

www.BlueRidgeCTC.edu
304.260.4380

BEGIN TRAINING TODAY!

Contact Alexis Dixon

adixon@blueridgectc.edu
304.260.4380 ext. 2124

or

Contact Amy Gillespie

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304.260.4380 ext 3423

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MEET THE JOB SCHOLARS TEAM!

The Job Scholars Program of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College is a grant funded pilot program through the U.S. Department of Labor that provides training in numerous fields, prepares students for the workforce, and works with and supports students in obtaining internships and job placement. Blue Ridge CTC is one of twenty-six colleges across the United States selected to participate.

Educational entities, community groups and others throughout the Blue Ridge CTC service area have partnered on this program, and the support is paying off! This newsletter provides a status report and shares program successes.



L-R Joseph Holliday, Amy Gillespie, Alexis Dixon, Lisa Osborne

The Job Scholars Team consists of six dedicated Blue Ridge CTC staff members, including Cynthia Hull-Miller, Associate Dean of Career Advancement Education, Alexis Dixon and Amy Gillespie, Personal and Career Counselors, Joseph Holliday and Lisa Osborne, Post Training Career Counselors, and Jane Peters, Outreach Coordinator.

Alexis and Amy work closely with applicants to ensure that they meet the income criteria, age criteria and other requirements of the program. This is a detail oriented and time intensive endeavor. Upon completion of a student's training, Lisa and Joe work with students throughout the first year of employment or internship to ensure each student achieves success in the workplace. All counselors coordinate the logistics of providing additional levels of support offered by the program, including transportation and nutritional support.

EMPLOYER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Employer Advisory Committee has been formed to assist the Job Scholars and WORC programs. This committee is comprised of several employers from each county and meets quarterly to receive program updates and provide input. The first meeting was held on September 23, 2021.

BY THE NUMBERS

28 
PROGRAMS OF STUDY

15 
INFORMATION SESSIONS

38 
ENROLLED JOB SCHOLARS
STUDENTS

3 
LOCAL COUNTIES SERVED BY
THE JOB SCHOLARS PROGRAM

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Established an Advisory Committee.
2. Obtained assistance and support of influential groups across the Eastern Panhandle, including the Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle, Jefferson County Community Ministries, and the Martinsburg Initiative.
3. Fourteen Job Scholars Information Sessions have been held to recruit students and showcase the training facilities at the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Technology Center and the Morgan County Center. One off-site session was held at Apple Tree Gardens Apartments.
4. Job Scholars continues to participate in College Open House events.
5. WorkKeys® and NOCTI testing are used for employment and college testing.

Recruitment efforts also included booths and information at the Berkeley County Youth Fair, the Jefferson County Youth Fair, the Charles Town Street Fair, the Martinsburg Telamon event, and the Paw Paw Block Party.



Berkeley County Youth Fair- August, 2021



Telamon Event, Martinsburg, WV



Paw Paw Block Party- August 21, 2021. This was a event for community organizations to share information, along with food and fun

RECRUITMENT AND CURRENT PROGRAMS

The Job Scholars team continues successful recruitment and initial training of students from across the Blue Ridge CTC service region in Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan County. To date, 32 applicants have met the requirements and been approved, with an additional 10 awaiting final approval. The current students are receiving, or will receive training, in the following fields:

- Agribusiness
- Animal Care
- Culinary
- Cybersecurity
- EKG Technician
- Front Office
- HVAC
- Mechatronics
- Medical Coding and Billing
- Recovery Coach
- Robotics
- Welding



Front Office Program Students: Abby and Jordyn

FRONT OFFICE TRAINING OPTION

One of the popular programs of study in Job Scholars is the Front Office program. The Front Office training prepares students to act as the front line for the businesses where they are employed. Job Scholars has two students who are working in the Front Office program. Along with gaining skills used in an office setting, they have also earned a national certification “Through the Customer’s Eyes” which focuses on customer service.

Both students have also earned a certification in ethics called “Bring Your A Game Anywhere”. In addition to certifications, the students have been working hard earning Microsoft Office Certificates in Word and Excel and are now honing skills to prepare to sit for these certification exams. The Job Scholars team are proud of Abby and Jordyn and congratulate them for their accomplishments! The team is looking forward to placing both students in internships where they will be able to use their newly acquired skills.



Blue Ridge provides TASC training through the Eastern Panhandle Instructional Cooperative (EPIC).

Lisa Osborne with Job Scholars TASC students

JOB SCHOLARS STUDENTS COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAM

One asset of the Job Scholars is that it requires potential students without a high school diploma to successfully complete the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC). West Virginia uses the TASC exam as the high school equivalency (HSE) program. HSE testing offers individuals who didn't finish high school the chance to earn a credential that's equivalent to a standard high school diploma.

West Virginia is one of only a few states offering the TASC for free to residents. The TASC exam includes five sub-tests in Language Reading, Language Writing, Science, Math, and Social Studies.

Current Job Scholars students Keith and Jordan prepared to complete the TASC assessment after only four weeks of test preparation with their instructor. Keith noted the process was easy after reviewing the training materials. Both students plan to complete their assessment once a proctor is available.

Students Samantha, Jaidyn, and Dylan have completed their pre-assessment, and are now preparing to sit for the TASC exam as well. Each student has made great academic progress in a short time.

Each of the five Job Scholars students currently preparing for the TASC assessment reported they fell behind in high school due to virtual learning caused by COVID 19. While attending in-person learning, each of the five students were academically sound. Due to the virtual learning environment, each fell behind in their course work. After beginning to review the study materials for the TASC assessment, each student agrees that the materials were easy to follow and helpful in their academic journey. By attending in person learning at Blue Ridge CTC with instructor Lisa Osburn, each student reports a positive impact upon both their academic success and mental health. Congratulations to each of the students!

"... testing offers individuals who didn't finish high school the chance to earn a credential that's equivalent to a standard high school diploma."