



LeeNichols Connection



# FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023



# MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES



## Foundation Mission Statement

The Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Foundation assists the College in its mission by increasing financial resources and expanding educational opportunities through community advocacy, teamwork and innovation.

## About the Foundation

Established in 2011, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Foundation seeks to provide our diverse student population with collaborative programs and support services to improve quality of life and promote economic development in our service area. As a community-centered college, our ambitions are mighty, but resources are essential to support our students on their paths of achievement. Whether you are a graduate, parent, corporate partner, or friend, your financial contributions create the blueprint for our future. The Foundation was granted charitable status on March 30, 2012. Classified as tax exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 27-4751626. The Blue Ridge CTC Foundation Board meets on a quarterly basis.



## Board Members

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# A LETTER FROM DR. CHECKOVICH



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## It's What It's All About

Commencement. Graduation. Final Exercises. All terms that describe the completion and awarding of degrees to students. No matter what you call it, the result is that students have completed a milestone in their educational journey. Blue Ridge recently had its graduation ceremony and it was a spectacular one. The ceremony was held outdoors at Spring Mills High School on a picture perfect night. There was low humidity (no rain!), the temperature was in the low 70's, and there were no bugs! It was a wonderful evening, and all the students decked out in their caps and gowns were awesome.



*Commencement Ceremony, May 2023*

As Stephanie Harvey and I sat on the dais with members of the executive staff we looked out on the smiling faces of students as they were ushered in and took their seats. Seeing all those happy students is a tremendous reminder of what it is that we do. We give students the opportunity to achieve something substantial: an education which can lead to a lifelong career. Almost nowhere else in our society does the outcome have so much impact.

We welcomed all the students, their families, children, parents, grandparents, and siblings. As I watched the students in their seated positions and then one by one as they received a diploma, a thought ran through my mind. How many students were here at the ceremony at least in part because of the help they received from our Foundation? If the applause for the members of the Foundation is any measure, there were a lot of students who were able to graduate because of Foundation assistance. That has to be a good feeling. There is no other way to describe it.

Our Foundation has grown substantially over the past decade. It is a success because of the folks who manage it and support it. It has been a lot of hard work that has brought us to this point. As we awarded diplomas to the students we commented to each other that this is what it's all about. The education which our students receive is a gift as precious as gold. We hear many stories from past graduates concerning the great education received at Blue Ridge and those stories could write a book.

So our Foundation can hold its head high. All the work, all the investment strategies, all the awards are things which contribute to the awesome finale of graduation. It is an investment in the future of thousands of people, their children, and their children's children. There are not many other phases of life that affect so many and do so much good for all of us. It's what it's all about. And of that we can be justifiably very proud.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Peter Checkovich, Founding President

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

## Thank you, FirstEnergy!



Thomas Butcher presents check to Anne Myers



Thomas Butcher, FirstEnergy Regional Affairs, presents a **\$22,920 check** from the FirstEnergy Foundation to Anne Myers, Director of the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Foundation, in support of the college's Workforce Engineering and Technology. This grant aligns with FirstEnergy Foundation's priorities to help support key safety initiatives, advance workforce development and education initiatives.



Dr. Peter Checkovich receives check from The Clorox Company

**Clorox: \$10,000**



Sister ACTS presents check to Anne Myers

**Sister ACTS: \$2,550**



Exceeding Expectations By Design®

**Ring Container: \$1,000**

# SCHOLARSHIP DONORS



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## Thank you Donors!

**Argos**

**Berkeley-Jefferson Extension  
Master Gardener Association**

**Bonnie Ballenger**

**BRCTC DEI Committee**

**BTM CPA PLLC**

**Caperton Furniture Works**

**City National Bank**

**Clorox**

**CNB Bank**

**David & Stephanie Harvey**

**Dr. Peter Checkovich**

**Dr. Trudie Holder**

**Eastern WV Community Foundation**

**ENCOVA**

**First United Bank & Trust**

**FirstEnergy Foundation**

**Guttman Family**

**Hedges Chapel**

**Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races**

**Jefferson Co. CEOs Council**

**Kenneth and Anne Barton**

**Leatherman Family**

**MidAtlantic Farm Credit**

**Minghini's General Contractors, Inc.**

**Raymond B. and Susan M. Benzinger**

**Ring Container Technologies**

**ROCKWOOL**

**Sister ACTS**

**Steeley Foundation**

**Technimark**

**The Schokey Company**

**The Senior Store**

**Thomas Bennett Hunter Inc.**

**TSPi**

**Valley Health**

**WVU Medicine University Healthcare**

# EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS



*Special Thanks to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation in Support of the Blue Ridge CTC Morgan County Scholars and JumpStart program!*



## Roselyn Rosas

I would like to give my utmost appreciation to the donors who have provided their support in my education. As a recipient of Spring 2023 Blue Ridge CTC Foundation scholarships, it has been a pleasant experience at Blue Ridge without worrying about the financial aspect. I have been enabled to pursue a hobby and turn it into a serious commitment! Thank you yet again, donors. You are an instrumental key in my education.



*Roselyn Rosas (middle) and family at the Blue Ridge CTC Culinary Academy's annual Grand Buffet, 2023*

For this spring 2023 semester, my course load focused on more intensive classes which have been engaging me in international pastries, pastry showpieces, and an internship. Throughout my international pastries classes, I have become involved in producing beautiful pastries ranging from French to German origin. Every class session has tested my creativity. As for my pastry showpiece course, I have been introduced to building and developing visually appealing sculptures and abstract works of art with chocolate and sugar. Lastly, my internship has provided me with a solid understanding of the bakery work environment.

## Gage McCarron

Moving to West Virginia in 2019 has likely provided me with new opportunities that may not have been available in North Carolina. West Virginia's economy has been steadily growing, and there are many industries and companies that are actively seeking skilled workers. By being open to new experiences and taking a chance at a new location, I opened a wider range of job opportunities, career paths, and education. Going to college has helped me achieve my career goals and support my family. We had a one-year-old child and another on the way, but I saw the move as a chance for personal growth and success.

Earning a college degree has given me the knowledge and skills needed to excel in my field, which in turn has helped me advance in my career and earn a higher income. By continuing to learn and grow professionally, I am better equipped to provide for my family's needs now and in the future. I am showing my children the importance of education and the value of hard work and perseverance. As a parent, I am a role model for my children, and by demonstrating the importance of education, I am setting them up for success in their own lives.

Additionally, scholarships have played a crucial role in lessening the financial burden during my school semesters. By receiving financial assistance through scholarships, I have been able to alleviate some of the financial stress associated with tuition fees, textbooks, and other educational expenses. This has allowed me to focus more on my studies and dedicate my time and energy to academic pursuits.

Furthermore, scholarships have enabled me to leave work early on days when I have classes. Attending college often requires a flexible schedule, and scholarships have given me the freedom to coordinate commitments effectively.

I have been able to ensure that I can attend classes and engage in academic activities without significant disruptions. For that, I am thankful.



*Gage McCarron, Lindsey McCarron, and their two children*

## Lindsey McCarron



*Lindsey McCarron in Graduation attire*

I worked as a florist for 12 years, but deep down, I always had a passion for working with children. When I got married and became a stay-at-home mom, I knew it was a significant change, but the longing to pursue my degree called.

An opportunity presented itself when my husband received a job offer in West Virginia. We saw this as a chance to make a fresh start, and despite the challenges of relocating and navigating through the pandemic, I made the decision that I was ready.

This decision was not only driven by my personal aspirations but by a desire to show my young children that it's never too late to pursue your dreams. I wanted them to understand that regardless of the season of life, anything is possible with determination and hard work. Also wanted to show them, you can be more than one thing in life.

Throughout my educational journey, scholarships and grants have played a pivotal role. Thanks to these resources, I have been able to hire a babysitter, when necessary, allow my husband to come home early from work to help when needed, cover textbook costs, pay tuition fees, and meet graduation requirements. I am excited to celebrate my graduation in 2023, and I am grateful for the opportunities these scholarships and grants have afforded me.

Juggling multiple responsibilities as a family has its challenges, but we have embraced the task wholeheartedly. Communication and support have been vital in maintaining a healthy work-life-school balance. Each member's contribution is valued, and we celebrate achievements and milestones together.

The educational experiences we have gained, and the opportunities provided by scholarships have been invaluable. They have not only contributed to our personal growth but have also opened doors for our children's future prospects.

Overall, as we continue this journey, we remain grateful for the support, opportunities, and growth we have experienced. Together, we are building a brighter future for ourselves and our family.



# Leave a Legacy!

## Support Our STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Many of our students are balancing employment, family care and their education. They are GRATEFUL for your support!

## WAYS to GIVE



Pledge or donate a one-time gift in support of an existing scholarship or create a scholarship for students in a targeted program area

**2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR DONOR SUPPORT:**  
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College is thankful for over 150 donors for their faithful support!

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:**  
**337 STUDENTS & OVER \$321,645**



Establish an endowed scholarship for long-term support to our students and program areas



Sponsor our annual events that directly support High School students' scholarships

Contact the Foundation for more information:  
Anne Myers, Foundation Director  
Phone: 304-260-4380, X2410  
Cell: 304-261-7106  
Email: amyers@blueridgectc.edu



Participate in a Qualified Charitable Distribution:  
Support student scholarships with a charitable rollover contribution

The Blue Ridge CTC Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax exempt organization.

# OUR STUDENTS THANK YOU!



With this scholarship, I could focus more on school and not stress so much as to how I would be able to pay for school and household bills. As a single mother, every single penny counts - this has been a very appreciated relief for my kids and me.

– Beth

It has been invaluable in helping me pursue higher education. The ability to get supplies for school to make work more efficient and quality when I wouldn't be able to otherwise has been very important towards my success.

– Ellis

Continuing classes after completing high school was always a really important goal for me, especially with the hopes of entering a bachelor's program in the upcoming year. I'm grateful to have been able to afford to continue attending due to the scholarship despite the financial roadblocks I encountered.

– Emma

The relief of knowing I won't have loans to repay after graduation is something I can't even put into words. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for your generosity.

– Emma

Thank you for the scholarship. I have really appreciated it as a mother of four trying to finish her nursing degree so that my husband and I can give our girls their best life.

– Erin

I was considering being a part-time student this year due to financial challenges before I received scholarship and I could not be more excited. I now can continue as a full-time student and get one step closer to achieving my academic goals.

– Heidi

My achievements with this wonderful scholarship have led me to great heights with the gift of learning and experience needed to understand the world!

– Jacob

I made the dean's list again and completed all the courses needed to test to be a nationally registered paramedic. I did not think I would be able to complete this program this year until this scholarship opportunity came about.

– Jeremy

As an adult learner and parent, it is challenging to balance work, family life, and school. Because of the scholarships I received, I was able to cut back a little on some of my hours at work so that I could focus on my nursing classes as well as clinical rotations at the hospital.

– Jessica

The funds from the scholarship were entirely unexpected (yes, I applied for the scholarship but I didn't think I would be granted) and was graciously applied to my account balance.

– Jessica

Your Kindness has inspired me to create a scholarship (i.e.: in my parent's names) so I can give back like you have provided for me. I can thank you 10,000 times and that would not be enough!

– Jonathan

Your donations have helped to offset my tuition and bring me confidence that I can make it through my academic programs successfully.

– Joshua

Balancing two jobs and a family while going to school with my expectation of excellent grades had a learning curve and has in each semester. One thing that has made it exceptionally easier has been financing school, It's given me not only the time but a lot less current stress to get those grades.

– Krista

This scholarship has not only alleviated some of the financial burdens of pursuing my academic goals, but it has also provided me with a sense of motivation and encouragement to strive for excellence in my studies.

– Lee



2022

# Holiday Cookie Fundraiser

**Thank you for your support!**

Victoria Barney

Diana Crouse

Alyson Lipscomb

Ann Shipway

Margie Bartles

Margaret Davis

Sue Marks

Erica Simpson

Nancy Benton

Emily DeCicco

Teresa McCabe

Catherine Slonaker

Nancy Benton

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Anne Myers

Angel Smith

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Lisa Chapman

Amy Householder

Susan Richman

Renee Woodby

Dr Checkovich

Heather Huggett

Taylor Reneau

Anthony Wright

Berniece Collis

Cynthia Hull-Miller

Lawrence Rose

Katherine Cox

Traci Hylton

Justin Ruble

Zachary Crooms

Danielle Johnson

Natasha Scolaro

# Our Students Are *Grateful* For Your *Support*



*Thank you.* **Annual Scholarship Campaign Donors!**

Presidential: \$1500



**Dr. Peter Checkovich & Family**

**Ken and Anne Barton**

**Stephanie & David Harvey**

Chancellor: \$1000



**HOLLYWOOD**  
*Casino*  
AT CHARLES TOWN RACES



Professor: \$500



Raymond & Susan Benzinger

Scholar: \$325



Community: \$100

Mark Bitner

Teresa McCabe

Employee Giving

Sandra Baker

Cindi Hull-Miller

Brenda Neal

Vickie Barney

Megan Michael

George Perry

Diana Crouse

Anne Myers

Ann Shipway

# BLUE RIDGE CTC GENERAL INFORMATION



## 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](http://www.blueridgectc.edu/tour)

## Nondiscrimination Statement

Blue Ridge CTC is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive culture by promoting diversity, inclusion, equality, and intercultural and intercommunity outreach. Accordingly, the College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, marital or family status, pregnancy, veteran status, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or gender expression in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities, or with respect to admission or employment. 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) Newsletter last updated: 6.2023

## Contact Information

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

304.260.4380

