

JOB SCHOLARS

SPRING/SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



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www.blueridgetc.edu/jobscholars

PROGRAM RECRUITMENT



*Abby and Jordan
Front Office Professional students*

As the successful U.S. Department of Labor funded Job Scholars Initiative wraps up its successful two years and moves to become an independent program of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, it is important to provide an update on the results to date. Job Scholars has provided training in numerous fields, prepared students for the workforce, and worked with and supported them in obtaining internships and job placement. Blue Ridge was one of twenty-six colleges across the United States selected to participate in the pilot program.

Educational entities, community groups and others throughout the Blue Ridge CTC service area have worked and partnered with us on this program, and we know that this support will continue with the program. This newsletter will provide a status report and will share some of the success stories of our students.

The Job Scholars Team consisted of five dedicated Blue Ridge staff members, including Cynthia Hull-Miller, Associate Dean of Career Advancement Education, Lisa Osborn and Rebecca Lewis, Personal and Career Counselors, and Joseph Holliday and Jane Peters, Employment Counselors.

Recruitment efforts and activities include:

- The establishment of a Partner Advisory Committee to assist with the program
- The establishment of an Employer Advisory Committee to support students completing their programs
- Obtaining the assistance and support of influential groups across the Eastern Panhandle, including the three Chambers of Commerce, the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle, Jefferson County Community Ministries, the Martinsburg Initiative, the Boys and Girls Clubs in all three counties, Jobs and Hope, the Day Report Centers, and Workforce West Virginia.
- Three personal financial seminars offered to students by First United Bank and Trust
- Monthly Job Scholars Information Sessions to recruit students and showcase the training facilities at the Blue Ridge Tech Center and the Morgan County Center
- Participation in Blue Ridge Admissions Open Houses
- Students who needed to complete the high school equivalency program were offered that opportunity through the EPIC Adult Education program.
- WorkKeys and NOCTI testing for employment and college testing

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selected to participate in the pilot program."*

Recruitment efforts also included setting up booths and information at the Berkeley County Youth Fair, the Jefferson County Fair, the Apple Butter Festival, various job fairs and other events, and collaboration with the three county Boards of Education.

BY THE NUMBERS:

20 programs of study,
offering a wide range
of opportunities for students.

22 on-campus
Information Sessions held.

93 accepted students
in the Job Scholars Program

50 students completed
their program of study

**44 completers have
found employment,**
obtained internships, joined the military
upon completion, or have chosen to
continue their education.

9 students
completed high school equivalency

3 counties
served by Blue Ridge CTC

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS



WELDING



CYBERSECURITY



MECHATRONICS



CULINARY



HVAC



FRONT OFFICE



ANIMAL CARE

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

JS77

This student became a Job Scholar during a difficult period in her life. She was having problems at home and moved out. This left her with no funding for her education, and also created difficulty in obtaining financial aid. She did not give up and is now receiving scholarships to cover everything.

She struggled academically her first semester, but again, stayed with it and did everything she could do with the Job Scholars Personal and Career counselors to get through. She is now a Cyber Security major, working toward an Associate Degree in Applied Science, and an enthusiastic supporter of the Job Scholars program, as she feels it has made a significant difference in her life.

JS86

This student was home schooled and did not know what he wanted to do following high school.

He found out about Job Scholars as a way to move forward with his life after seeing a flyer for the program at the Workforce West Virginia office.

He has taken full advantage of the opportunities provided by the Job Scholars program. He has successfully completed Welding and Basic Electricity, and is currently taking Programmable Logic Control. He would like to become an electrician.

He has received great support from his family in this, to the point that his mother took the welding program with him. He has now a freshman at Blue Ridge, taking degree classes for a Certificate in Applied Science, Electrical Technician Certificate and Machine Operator/ Mechatronics Assistant

JS75

This student is a resident of Morgan County and grew up in a difficult situation. He is precisely the type of student Job Scholars was designed to help- someone with a great deal of potential who had difficult circumstances to overcome and just needed some help and encouragement.

The ability to provide transportation to class through Job Scholars made all the difference to his, and a number of other students', ability to succeed.

After being accepted into the Blue Ridge Job Scholars program, he entered the welding program. He completed it successfully and immediately was hired for a full-time position by an area company, receiving an excellent salary and benefits.



*Job Scholars Team Visit
Tech Center, February 2023*

JS70

This student was home schooled. He was a senior in high school who was dual enrolled in Morgan County Adult Ed and in Blue Ridge in the Cyber Security Program. He completed the HiSET (high school equivalency) this year. He has reached a number of his goals since then, having completed WorkKeys – Gold and his NOCTI Certification. He has now completed 33 credit hours towards Cyber Security degree.

He plans to continue his Cyber Degree Classes in the fall as a degree seeking student at Blue Ridge.