



**BLACK RIVER**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Leading through collaboration

Dr. Eggensperger is committed to leading BRTC through clear planning, strong budgeting, and effective assessment based upon inclusive collaboration.

I want to commend the BRTC faculty and staff, students, Board of Trustees, and Foundation board members for their hard work and dedication during this difficult year. I applaud these groups for positively working through the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I also appreciate the strong support of our donors, local communities, and legislative friends.

It's through the collaboration of these groups that BRTC is able to provide quality academic and career education to our students.

Thank you for all you do.



## BRTC VALUES

- Community Relations
- Learning
- Quality
- Students

## Dr. Martin Eggensperger

2019 - Present  
5th BRTC President

## BRTC MISSION

Black River Technical College transforms lives through quality academic and career education to enhance the community we serve.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the college.**

Board members serve 7-year terms and are appointed by the Governor of Arkansas. Board meetings are quarterly and open to the public.



**Carolyn Collins, Chair**

2015-2022

Greene County

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

The Board of Trustees at Black River Technical College thanks all stakeholders who are part of our institution, including community, students, administration, faculty and staff. This year has been difficult for everyone because of COVID and its many challenges, but it has been especially difficult for those in education. BRTC has risen to the occasion and, despite this terrible pandemic, has come out stronger and more resilient.

The Board is fully committed to making BRTC the best two-year technical college in the state of Arkansas. This is a long-term goal requiring commitment, patience, and resolve from all!

Thank you for your dedication to this goal.

Carolyn Collins, Chair  
BRTC Board of Trustees

## Board of Trustee members nominate and vote on Board officers.

Officers are elected to 2-year terms. The officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary are elected biennially in August.

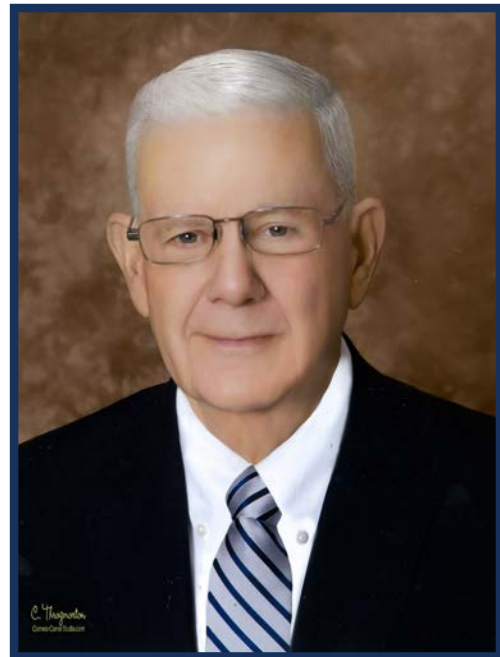


**Trustees are selected from BRTC's primary service area of Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties.**

One trustee represents each of these four counties. Two trustees represent the counties with a BRTC campus.



**David Coker, Vice Chair**  
2016-2023  
Lawrence County



**Bob Olvey, Secretary**  
2018-2025  
Randolph County



Doug Cox  
2010-2021  
Randolph Co.



Danny Moore  
2017-2024  
Clay Co.



Sue McGowan  
2019-2026  
Greene Co.



Jeremy Baltz  
2020-2027  
Randolph Co.



# COVID-19

**The 2020-2021 academic year saw serious disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

For the first time, the entire world was affected by the same health problem. BRTC addressed these challenges head-on.



BRTC worked hard to prepare employees to support students during the pandemic. *Left-to-right:* Zoom call with mental health professionals; medical professional panel updating employees on the pandemic in NEA; student at free mask handout.

## 3.4%

Highest % of the BRTC community to be quarantined

## 0.8%

Highest % of the BRTC community to test positive



1



2



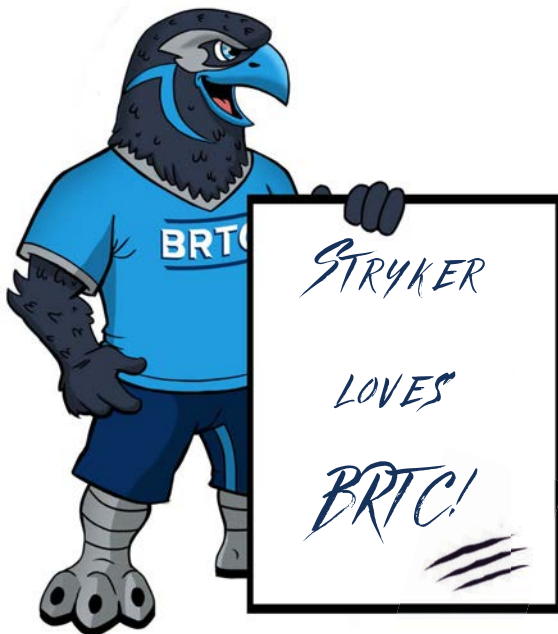
3

1 & 3-BRTC students participated in several COVID-19 vaccination clinics. 2-Even when COVID restrictions were eased, LETA students were encouraged to continue masking.

# MASCOT & LOGO

**BRTC students selected the black hawk for the college's first mascot.**

A professional design company was chosen to design BRTC's new logo and mascot. Students chose the name Stryker for their hawk.



BRTC's Student Government Association (SGA), led by students and representing the student body, funded the mascot design and creation for its 2019-2020 project. Implementation and reveal occurred in Fall 2020.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION



## BRTC Foundation Board Member Named to the AR Division of Higher Education Coordinating Board

Graycen Bigger, BRTC Foundation board member, was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson to the AR Division of Higher Education (ADHE) coordinating board. This board "is charged by state law to coordinate higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education." Bigger serves from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2025.



## Won Best of NEA for 2nd time

Chosen Best Vocational School by NEA residents



## Best LPN Program in Arkansas

By nursingprocess.org based upon quality, affordability, pass rates, and reputation



## 4th Safest in U.S.

By StateUniversity.com out of 1,585 colleges and universities based on campus crime statistics compiled by the FBI



## 2nd Best Nursing School in AR

According to rntobsnprogram.com, based upon tuition cost and credit hours



## Achieved State Co-Requisite Model Benchmark

Only Arkansas 2-year college to achieve the 75% ADHE benchmark to help incoming freshmen earn as many English and math credits as possible in their first semester



## Lowest Student Loan Default Rate in Arkansas Higher Ed

Thanks to work by BRTC staff, only 6.3% of BRTC students default on their student loans, making it the lowest default rate of all 2- and 4-year state colleges and universities



# HLC ACCREDITATION



## BRTC Received Highest-Possible Rating for Interim Monitoring Report from College's Accrediting Agency

For a number of years, BRTC struggled to achieve all of the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) criteria and expectations. HLC accreditation is essential to BRTC's operation and survival.

However, on March 12, BRTC was commended on its December 2020 Staff Analysis of Institutional Report which freed the college from further monitoring until the next regularly scheduled review cycle:

"The College is commended for the comprehensive, thoughtful, inclusive responses to the areas of focus. The interim report provided clear and comprehensive descriptions of the activities and initiatives designed and implemented to ensure assessment of student learning and using the assessment results to improve educational outcomes. . . The College should be well-prepared to demonstrate continued progress in the areas of focus during the 2022-2023 reaffirmation of accreditation."



## HLC Invites BRTC Leaders to Serve as Panelists

Because of BRTC's hard work and success in moving HLC probation in 2018 to implementing exemplary assessment of student learning and using assessment to improve educational outcomes, BRTC leaders were invited to be panelists at the annual HLC Conference.



President Martin Eggensperger (top) and Sissy Gray (bottom), Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, helped colleges and universities around the nation understand how to plan and prepare for a successful HLC additional locations confirmation visit.

## HLC Approves BRTC's New Associate Degree in Education

The new Associate of Science in Education will begin Fall 2021 and will provide students with the first 2 years of a baccalaureate program in K-6 education. University of Central Arkansas and Arkansas Tech University are excited to accept BRTC's education graduates.

## HLC Approves BRTC Locations

In January, HLC approved BRTC's request to identify 2 additional locations as instructional sites: AMMC in Paragould and BRTC's fire training center in Walnut Ridge.



**Arkansas Methodist  
Medical Center**

# QUALITY

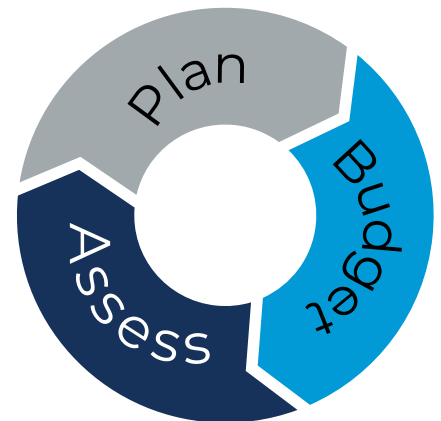
**BRTC strives to provide quality in its budgeting, operations, and planning.**

Many activities must take place and a wide variety of constituents must participate for the college to work effectively and efficiently.

## Strategic Planning, Budgeting, and Assessment

With the closure of the 2017-21 strategic plan in Fall 2020, BRTC began its new 5-year strategic planning cycle with comments from the community and support of the following BRTC shared governance committees:

- Faculty Forum
- Staff Forum
- College Administrative Council
- President's Cabinet
- Board of Trustees

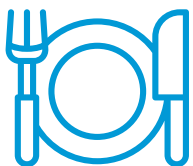


## Successful ADHE Program Reviews

Every program approved by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) must undergo a program review every 7 to 10 years. All programs on this year's cycle were successful. Some of the following were delayed to this year because of COVID-19.

- Accounting
- Auto Collision Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Technology
- Machine Tool Technology
- Medical Office Administration
- Phlebotomy
- Welding Technology

## BRTC Students Achieve 100% Pass Rate in 3 Program's Professional Certification Exams During the 2020-2021 Academic Year



All BRTC Nutrition and Foodservice Management students passed the Certified Dietary Manager (CDM) exam.



All 41 Commercial Driver's License (CDL) students in the 2020-21 academic year earned their CDL license.



All Firefighter Essentials students passed the

- AR Department of Emergency Management's Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations state exam,
- AR Forestry Commission's Wildland Fire Operations exam, and
- state certification exam.

# ACADEMICS

## Academics is the heart of an educational institution.

Whether for credit, personal enrichment, or workforce training, BRTC is dedicated to providing exceptional education.

### New Programs, Certificates, Degrees, and Special Offerings

BRTC is excited to offer a variety of new offerings for students at all campuses.

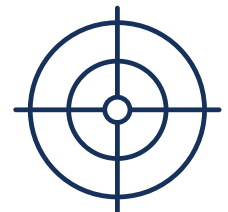


#### New Program: Industrial Computing

Industrial computing will begin Fall 2021 thanks to an Arkansas Department of Education's Phase II Regional Workforce Grant of \$598,000. BRTC purchased a FANUC robotic training arm and accessories. Students will learn how to program, train, and work on the robot, skills they will need when working in industry around NEA and the state.

### Introduction to Hunting by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

This credit course will teach students how to safely discharge a firearm, participate in multiple hunts for wild game, field dress and clean harvested game, and prepare wild game dishes.



#### Computer Science Course Partnership with ASU-Mountain Home

A partnership has been created with ASU-Mountain Home to co-offer computer science courses to BRTC and ASU-MH's students. Classes are slated to begin Fall 2021.

#### New Certificates of Proficiency

- Industrial Electricity
- Nutrition and Foodservice Management
- Pistolsmithing
- Riflesmithing
- Shotgunsmithing

#### New Technical Certificates

- Gunsmithing Technology
- Criminal Justice

#### New Associates Degrees

- Associate of Applied Science in Gunsmithing Technology
- Associate of Science in Business
- Associate of Science in Education

#### New Paragould Offerings

- Industrial Electricity/Electronics
- Machine Tool Technology
- Phlebotomy
- Welding



# PRE-COLLEGE

## BRTC's Concurrent Program and Career & Technical Center helps high school students prepare.

Many students in BRTC classes are high school students getting an early start.



### Career and Technical Center (CTC)

CTC helps high school juniors and seniors earn technical certificates or certificates of proficiency to be ready-to-work at high school graduation. For Spring 2021:

29

CTC  
certificates  
earned

36

10-hr  
OSHA  
certificates

60

completed  
CPR & AED  
training

### Concurrent Program

High school students in grades 9-12 can take college classes while enrolled in high school to earn college and high school credit at the same time.

#### Current Schools

- Corning
- Greene County Tech
- Hillcrest
- Hoxie
- Marmaduke
- Maynard
- Paragould
- Pocahontas
- Rector
- Sloan-Hendrix
- Walnut Ridge

#### New Schools

- Arkansas Virtual Academy
- Piggott
- Valley View

105

CTC  
students

204

Concurrent  
students

# UNIVERSITY CENTER

## The University Center enables students to earn a bachelor's degree at BRTC this fall.

Most classes will be offered on-campus although some will begin online.



- Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in
  - Accounting
  - Digital Marketing
  - Business Data Analytics
  - Management
- Bachelor of Science in Emergency Administration



Bachelor of Science  
in Agriculture  
Business

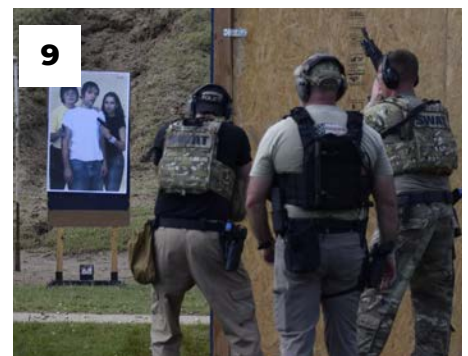
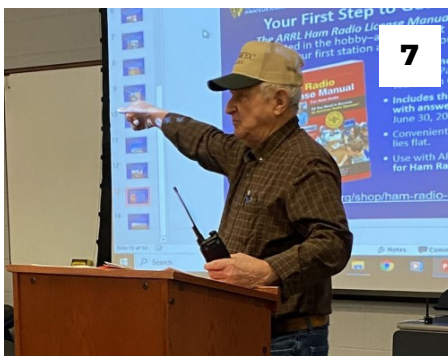


Bachelor of Business  
Administration in  
Innovation and  
Entrepreneurship

# LEARNING

**At BRTC, students learn a variety of information from diverse sources.**

One favorite activity BRTC faculty enjoy is bringing in guest speakers. Involving the community in teaching is important at BRTC.



- 1 - Regional representative for PPG Paints visited auto collision students
- 2 - History students encouraged participation in the November 2020 election
- 3 - LETA students continued learning during the snowstorm of Spring 2021
- 4 - Guest speakers help diversify topics for gunsmithing students
- 5 - BRTC's Paragould students choose and select exhibit items for the Mini Museum
- 6 - Mammoth Spring State Park Visitor Center donation helps teach AR history
- 7 - Lawrence Co. Amateur Clubs help LETA students with ham radio for public service
- 8 - Blacksmiths demonstrated ironworking skills using mobile forges fueled by coal
- 9 - Special classes like this AR police and sheriff's SWAT training held in the summer



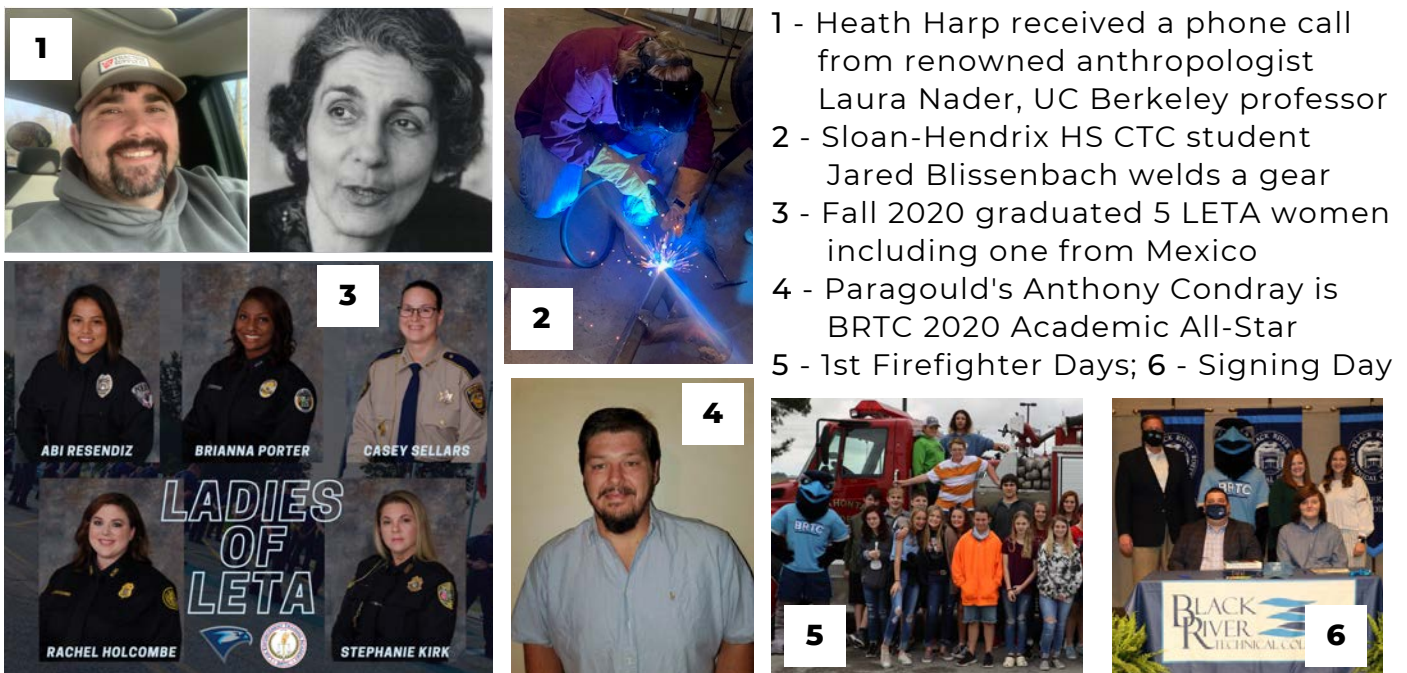
# OUR STUDENTS

**Everything at BRTC is centered around our students.**

Students matter at BRTC! That's why we offer a variety of learning, events, co-curricular, and fun activities to our students.



Stryker loves recruiting students, reminding them to register, and enrolling them!



- 1 - Heath Harp received a phone call from renowned anthropologist Laura Nader, UC Berkeley professor
- 2 - Sloan-Hendrix HS CTC student Jared Blissenbach welds a gear
- 3 - Fall 2020 graduated 5 LETA women including one from Mexico
- 4 - Paragould's Anthony Condray is BRTC 2020 Academic All-Star
- 5 - 1st Firefighter Days; 6 - Signing Day

## Financial Support Opportunities

Support beyond scholarships is often available for students

- AMMC sponsored CNA students
- AMMC, St. Bernard's Medical Center, and St. Bernard's Five Rivers sponsored some RN students
- Frito-Lay offered tech internships
- BRTC offered Federal Work Study

## Leadership Opportunities

Students are often able to participate in a wide variety of leadership roles

- Student Government Association (SGA)
- Student ambassadors
- Mascot activities
- Student Recruitment Panel offered in March



# GRADUATION

## **BRTC celebrates graduation!**

Since COVID, BRTC looks at graduation differently. We want students and families to celebrate this important accomplishment.



In 2020-21, BRTC graduations have included fireworks, free food and drinks, lawn games, drive-in theater screens, and our mascot reveal.

# ENROLLMENT & DATA

Fall 2020

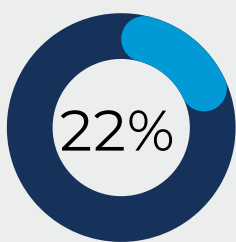
1,493

Headcount

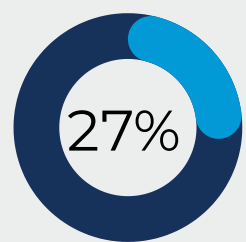
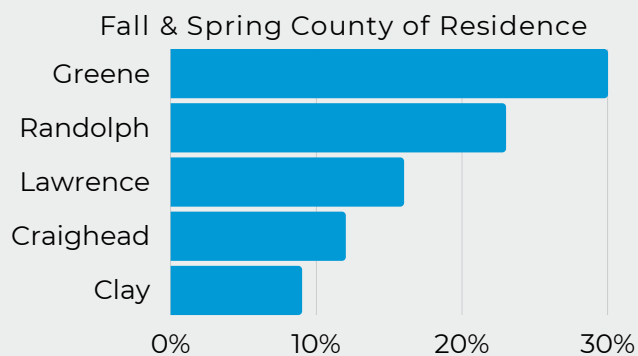
Spring 2021

1,249

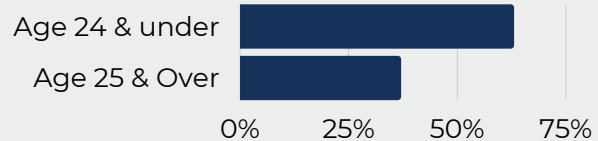
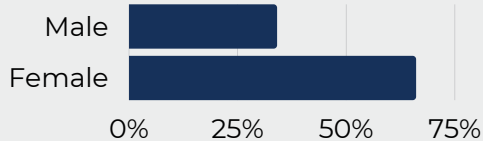
Headcount



Fall 2020  
Online-Only  
Students



Spring 2021  
Online-Only  
Students



% BRTC Graduates  
Employed  
After Graduation  
(2019 AR Economic Security Report)

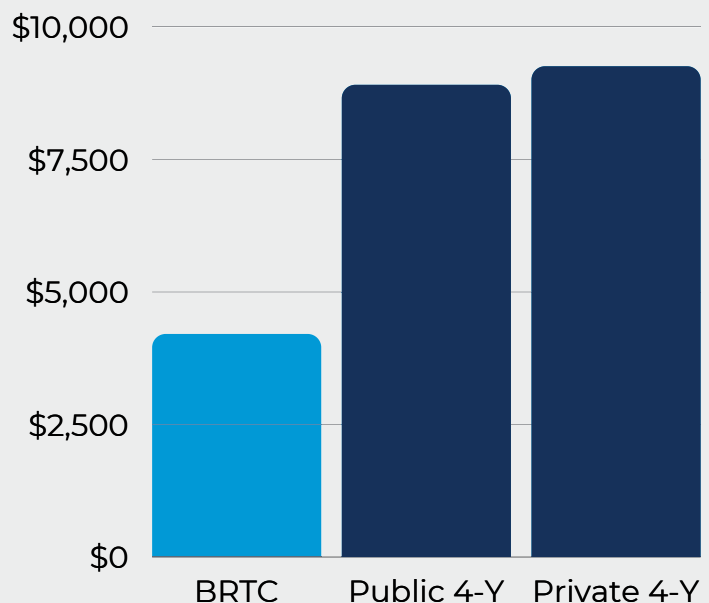
91%  
Certificate of  
Proficiency  
grads

80%  
Technical  
Certificate  
grads

86%  
Associate  
Degree  
grads

\$40K  
Avg. salary of  
Associate Degree  
grad

Tuition and Fees





# WORKFORCE

## **BRTC offers a variety of workforce training options.**

Providing corporate, community, and custom training is a large part of BRTC's mission to the community.

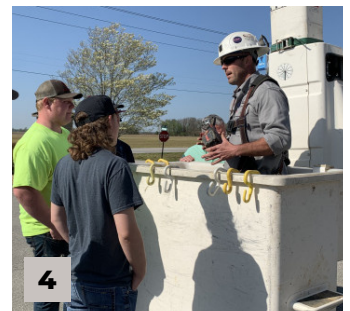
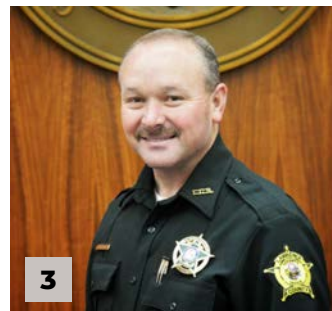
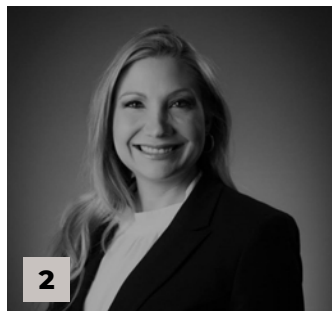


- 1 - CDL simulator purchased with Arkansas Office of Skills Development funds to be used in CDL training, for demonstration to high school and CTC students, etc.
- 2 - Hosted Paragould Local Electrical Apprentice Recognition Ceremony for those participants who completed the 4-year program
- 3 - Corporate & Community Ed hosted several industrial, community, and corporate courses including real estate, automation, personal enrichment, and leadership

# ALUMNI

## **A BRTC alumnus is any student who completes a credit course.**

BRTC is very proud of its alumni. Many have continued their education at a 4-year college and have become essential to their communities.



- 1 - Shane Baldwin of Paragould, former BRTC structural steel and pipe welding student and instructor, is superintendent of Thompson Construction in Osceola
- 2 - Stephanie Nichols of Jonesboro graduated from UA School of Law with her Juris Doctor and is BRTC's 2020 Outstanding Alumni
- 3 - Chief Deputy Tony Waldrup of Walnut Ridge graduated from LETA and works at the Walnut Ridge Police Department
- 4 - Craig Weisenbach of Pocahontas completed the Industrial Electricity/Electronics program and is construction foreman for Clay County Electric



# FACULTY & STAFF

## BRTC faculty and staff work hard in academic and community pursuits.

Employees not only earn advanced degrees but are invited to join state panels, receive college recognition, and support local efforts.

### BRTC Faculty and Staff Recognition



1 - President Martin Eggensperger & Phillip Dickson, Dean of Business & Technology, graduate from Leadership Paragould



2 - Brandi Chester, Director of Financial Aid, and family named 2020 Randolph County Farm Family of the Year



3 - Joan Linnstaedter, English instructor, recognized by the Association of College and University Educators and the American Council on Education



4 - Ashley Hankins, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor, receives 10-year pin.

### BRTC Faculty and Staff Appointments



1 - President Martin Eggensperger to Arkansas Science Olympiad Board of Directors, as Associate State Director, and Higher Education Representative

2 - Erin Kerley Mathews to Rotary Assistant Governor of Area 13

3 - Steve Shults, Director of LETA, to Governor Hutchinson's Law Enforcement Task Force

4 - Dana Bradford, Corporate and Community Ed Coordinator, to Paragould Chamber Workforce Development Taskforce

5 - Rhonda Stone, Vice President of Finance and Administration, to AgHeritage Board of Directors

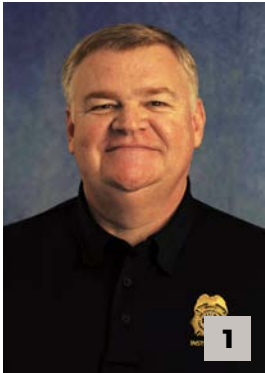


6 - Priscilla Stillwell, Executive Dir. of Para. Operations, as Paragould Chamber Ambassador

7 - Dr. Brad Baine, VP of Academic Affairs, elected as VP of the Arkansas Deans Association

8 - Vice President of Student Affairs Jason Smith to Paragould Innovation Hub Planning Committee and to the executive board for the Arkansas Student Affairs Association

## BRTC Faculty and Staff Presentations



1



2



3



4



5

- 1 - Mark Mosier, LETA instructor, spoke at Jonesboro Police Department's police academy and the NEA Society of Human Resource Managers
- 2 - Kelsie Cagle, nursing faculty, spoke at the Ralph Joseph Youth Leadership graduation
- 3 - Bridgette Kasinger, Simulation Coordinator

- spoke at Laerdal's Mini SUN conference
- 4 - Joan Linnstaedter spoke at the 40th annual ArkADE Conference
- 5 - Karen Liebhaber, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, spoke at the Arkansas Financial Center for Professional Education virtual conference



2020  
Outstanding  
Faculty  
Jessica Alphin  
Director of Clinical  
Education,  
Respiratory  
Instructor

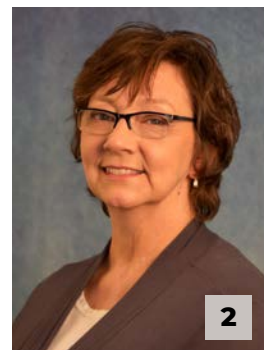


2020  
Outstanding  
Staff  
Shana Sartain  
Director of Student  
Information System  
and Research

## BRTC Faculty and Staff Give Back



1



2



3



4



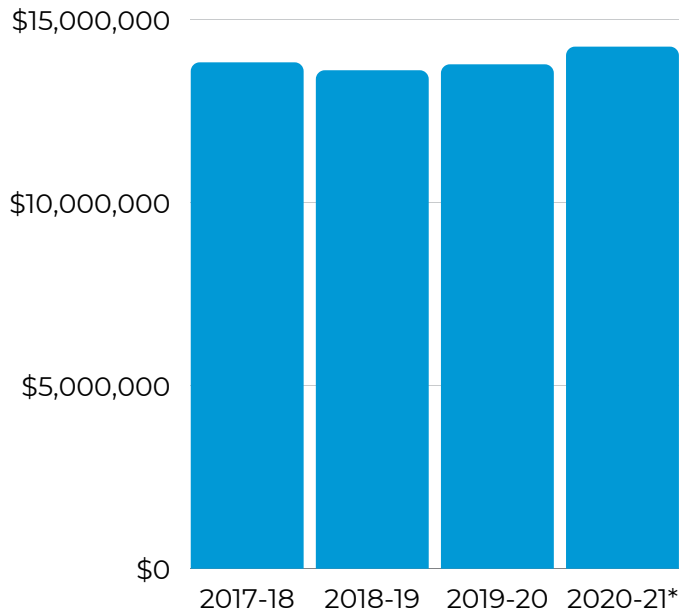
5

- 1 - Trent Ingram, Director of Physical Plant, & Joshua Earley, Tradesman, teach CTC
- 2 - Donna Statler, Dean of General Education, reaches 3 gallons of blood donated to the American Red Cross
- 3 - Donna Statler and Jessica Throesh, math

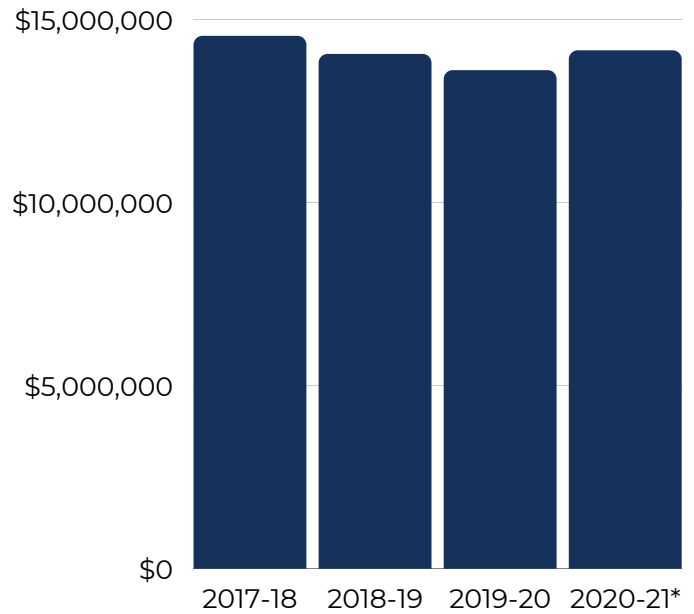
- instructor, served as 4-H judges
- 4 - Cally Shore, Corporate & Community Ed Program Specialist, spoke at Randolph County Chamber of Commerce event
- 5 - Thom Fielder, fine arts instructor, teaches line dance to Leadership Paragould class

# COLLEGE FINANCES

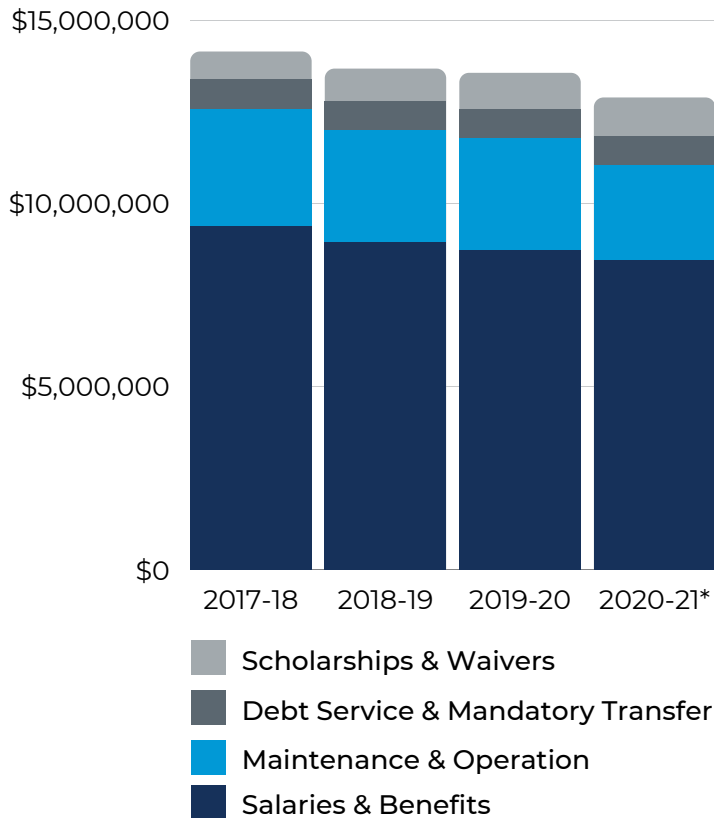
## Revenue



## Expenses



## Operating Expenses



\*Balances as of 6/23/2021



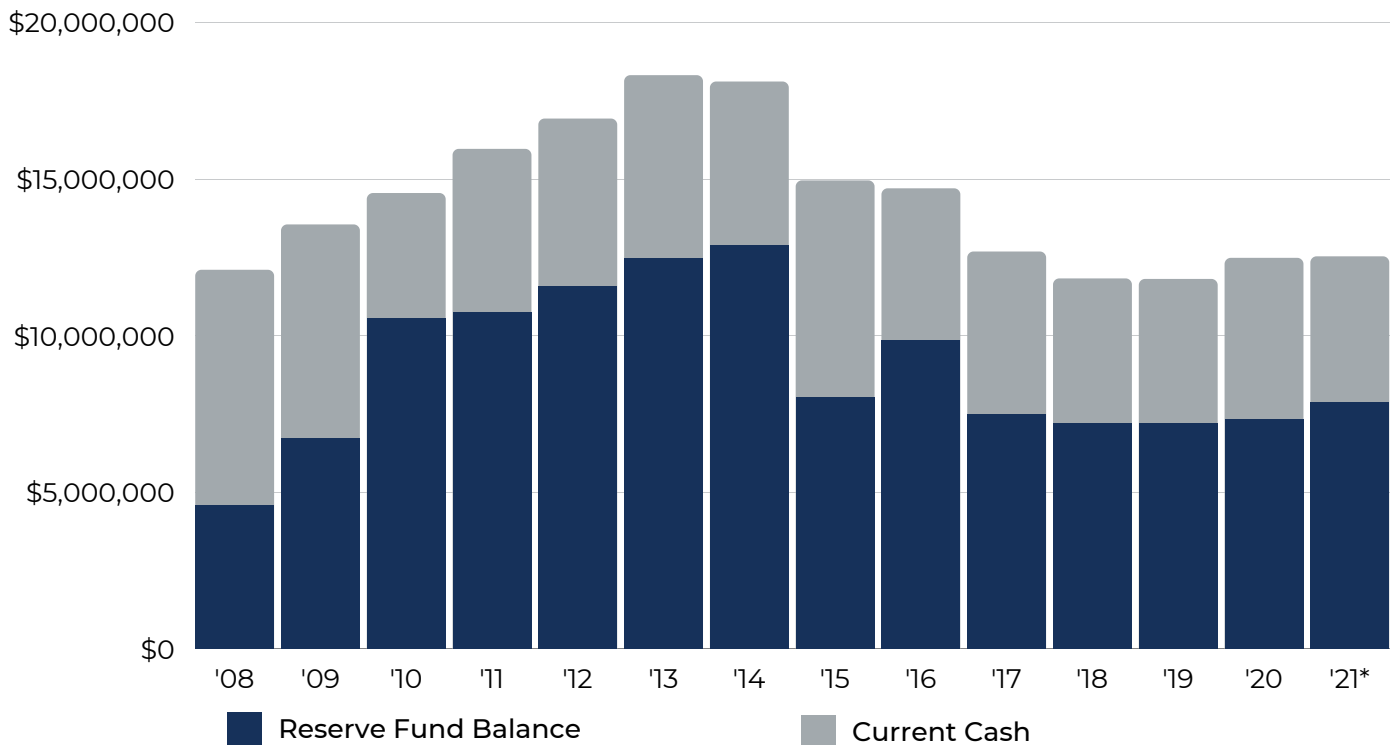
LETA purchased a new Breath Alcohol Testing (B.A.T.) Mobile through the AR State Police Highway Safety Subgrant



Berm construction to protect the BRTC Pocahontas from flooding began thanks to a \$1.2 million grant from the AR Dept. of Emergency Management and FEMA



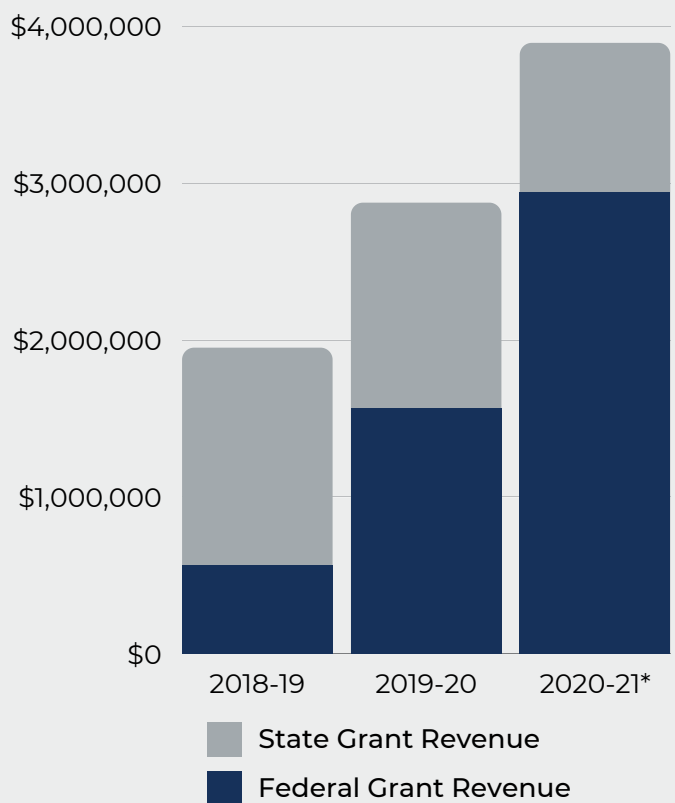
### Reserve and Cash Balance



### Grant Awards

\$4,726,060	CARES Act for institutions
\$3,403,674	CARES Act for students
\$1,253,000	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant through AR Division of Emergency Management
\$598,000	AR Department of Ed's Regional Workforce Grant
\$249,000	Reskilling and Upskilling Arkansans through the Office of Skills Development
\$155,909	Governor's Emergency Education Relief
\$153,995	TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)

### Grant Revenue

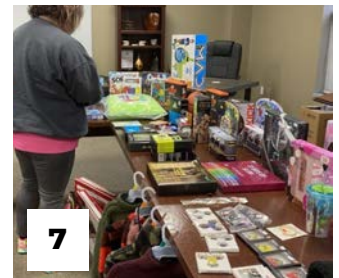




# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**The local community is very important to BRTC.**

The college encourages meetings and events on campus and partners with a number of organizations regionally.



- 1 - Hosted Leadership Paragould Class XXIV on campus
- 2 - BRTC's Spring LETA class gave \$1,500 to AR Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) to slain officer Jonathan Schmidt's widow
- 3 - Hosted Kite Flying Event for local adults and children
- 4 - Hosted two American Red Cross blood drives, collecting a total of 21 units of blood from college and local community
- 5 - Hosted Census Day at both campuses for the 2020 Census
- 6 - Hosted 25 students at 6 high schools for FFA Subarea Leadership Conference
- 7 - SGA held the 5th Annual Day of Caring at Christmas to offer Christmas presents to BRTC students' children
- 8 - Supported the Paragould Hwy 412 bypass grand opening

## Partnerships are essential to BRTC and its students

RL Transport and Encore Capital leases a truck and trailer to BRTC's CDL Program for \$1 per year; Arkansas Methodist Medical Center became an RN instructional site; The Flower Shop Network assists BRTC with computer and coding classes





**BRTC**

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