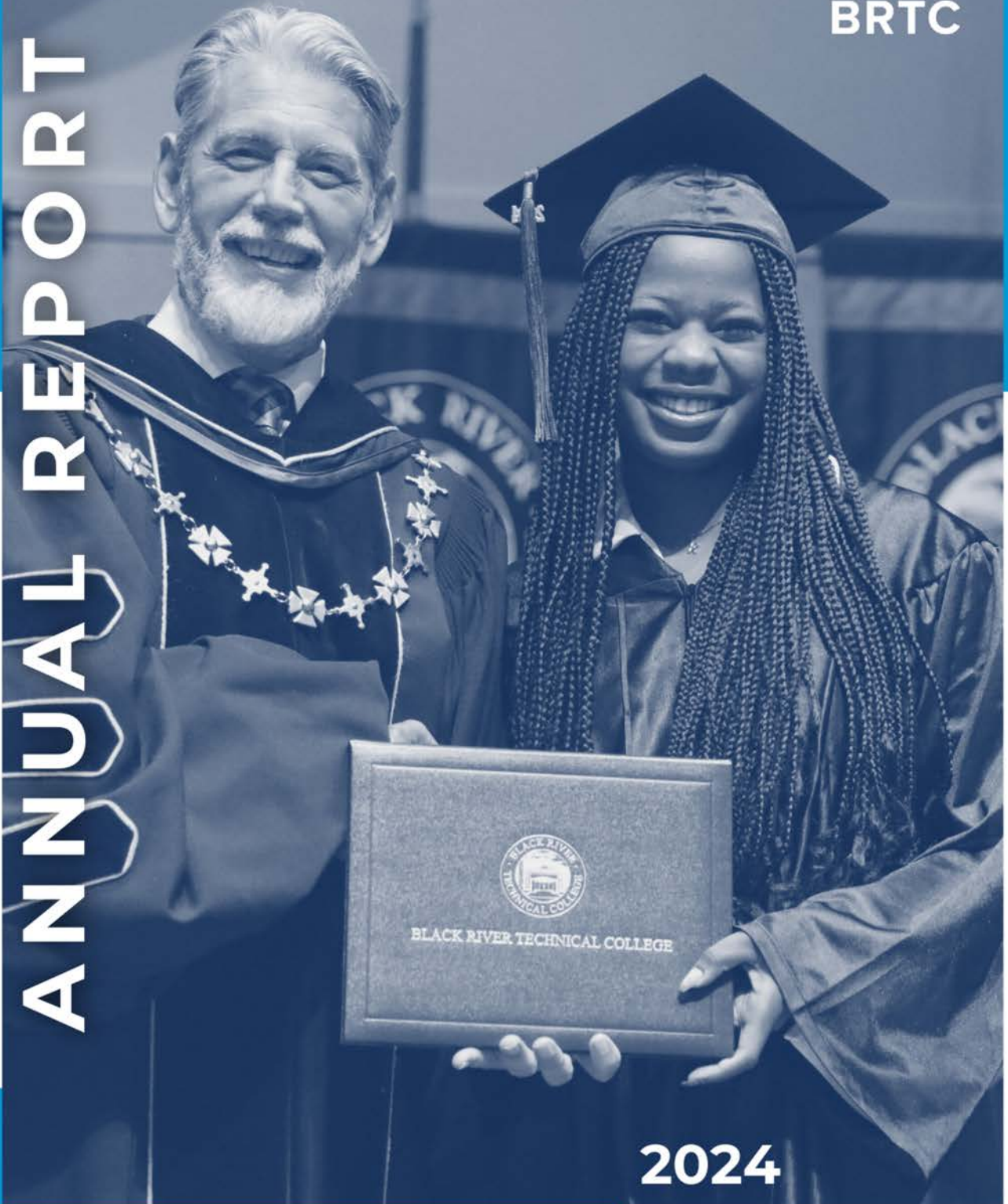


ANNUAL REPORT



2024

Black River Technical College **2025**

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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.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present to you the annual report of Black River Technical College for the 2024-2025 academic year. This report encapsulates the collective achievements and milestones we have reached together as a community dedicated to excellence in education, workforce, and service.

This past year, our college has continued to excel in providing a transformative experience to every student on our campuses. We joined forces with the Arkansas National Guard, unveiled and dedicated our machine tool lab, and broke ground with Governor Sanders for our Law Enforcement Training Academy barracks. Our faculty and staff's unwavering support continues to foster an environment where innovation and learning thrive.

Our commitment to community engagement remains steadfast. Through numerous partnerships, we have strengthened our ties with local communities and contributed to meaningful economic and workforce development. The spirit of collaboration and service is at the heart of BRTC, and I am proud of the impact we have made together.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to BRTC. We will continue to innovate, adapt, and grow, always guided by our mission to transform lives through quality education to enhance the community we serve.



Dr. Martin Eggensperger
2019 - Present
5th BRTC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Eggensperger', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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
2022 - 2029
Greene County

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carolyn Collins'.

BLACK RIVER
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, and Friends of Black River Technical College,

It is my distinct pleasure to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering support have been instrumental in making Black River Technical College a beacon of excellence and opportunity.

Over the past year, we have witnessed remarkable achievements across our campuses. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the commitment and passion of our dedicated faculty and staff who continually strive to deliver an exceptional educational experience for our students.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We remain committed to adapting and growing, ensuring the Black River Technical College continues to meet the evolving needs of our students and community. Together, we will forge ahead with resilience and optimism, embracing new challenges and celebrating further successes.

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
2016-2030
Lawrence County



Bob Olvey, Secretary
2018-2025
Randolph County



Danny Moore
2017-2031
Clay Co.



Sue McGowan
2019-2026
Greene Co.



Jeremy Baltz
2020-2027
Randolph Co.



Stephanie Sutton
2021-2028
Randolph Co.

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

COLLEGE NEWS

BRTC is proud of the many things that are happening on campus each semester.

From guest speakers to gubernatorial visits, BRTC works to create student opportunities through a variety of public outreach events.



1) Governor Sanders attended LETA barracks groundbreaking. 2) Secretary of Public Safety and Director of Arkansas State Police Colonel Mike Hagar spoke at Fall LETA graduation. 3) BRTC signed MOU with Arkansas National Guard. 4) BRTC co-hosted 30th Annual Delta Symposium with Arkansas State University. 5) LETA revealed memorial dedicated to past LETA students killed in the line of duty.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION



- 1) Trap and Skeet team placed 1st in USA Clay Target College League conference championship.
- 2) BRTC received “Most Commercial Float” award from Corning Chamber of Commerce.



#1 LPN Program in Arkansas

Based upon academic quality, NCLEX first time pass rates, and affordability according to nursingprocess.org.



Best Vocational School In Northeast Arkansas

According to Northeast Arkies Best, based on votes from the citizens in the 16-county region of Northeast Arkansas.



#2 Best Colleges with Respiratory Care Degrees in Arkansas

According to niche.com, based on rigorous analysis of key statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and millions of reviews.

QUALITY



BRTC Continues to Maintain the Highest Standards of Quality and Excellence

Black River Technical College continues to maintain its commitment to high-quality programs and maintains high standards for operations. As noted in last year's report, our most recent reaffirmation of accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission took place in April 2023, with full reaffirmation granted without stipulations. We remain on schedule for our next comprehensive evaluation in 2028–2029, and a multilocation review is set for the 2026–2027 academic year. In FY 2024–2025, there were no additions of new instructional locations or new academic programs; however, we are pleased to report that construction began on new barracks to provide on-campus housing for cadets enrolled in the Law Enforcement Training Academy, enhancing both recruitment and student support for that program.



During this past year, BRTC has also continued its exemplary work on two major, federally funded grants. Through our U.S. Department of Education grant, we will soon integrate Workforce Effectiveness Skills into the curricula of all credit-bearing programs. This initiative ensures that students receive direct instruction in, and assessment of, critical workforce skills—such as communication, professionalism, and teamwork—and that demonstration of these skills will be documented on a dedicated Workforce Effectiveness Skills transcript. In tandem, our U.S. Department of Labor-funded project to expand student services offered in our healthcare CTC programs is underway. Collectively, these efforts reflect BRTC's ongoing dedication to academic quality, student success, and continuous institutional improvement.

-Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Sissy Gray



Ranked Top 10 Best Community Colleges in Arkansas

By niche.com based on rigorous analysis of key statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and millions of reviews.

ACADEMICS

Academics is the heart of an educational institution.

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

STATLER MACHINE TOOL LAB

The Dave Statler Machine Tool Lab was named in honor of Dave Statler, BRTC's first machine tool instructor and BRTC's founder of the program, endowed by the David and Donna Statler family.



Donna Statler & Family

CAREER & TECHNICAL

BRTC's Career & Technical Center prepares high school students for a job immediately after high school.

Students graduate high school AND BRTC at the same time, ready to go to work.

Participating High Schools

- AR Virtual Academy
- Corning
- Greene Co. Tech
- Hillcrest
- Hoxie
- Marmaduke
- Maynard
- Paragould
- Piggott
- Pocahontas
- Rector
- Sloan-Hendrix
- Walnut Ridge

Enrollment & Increases



- 215%** More students enrolled from 2021-2022 to 2024-2025
- 66%** Certificates of Proficiencies awarded
- 22%** Awarded technical certificates
- 145%** College credit hours earned

Programs Offered

Auto Body Collision

Auto Service

Automation

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Industrial Electricity & Electronics

Machine Tool

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

Patient Care Technician

Phlebotomy

Welding



- 1) Team CTC Paragould won the 2nd Annual Arc @ the Armory welding competition held in Piggott.
- 2) Paragould CNA students passed the state CNA exam.
- 3) CTC Allied Health students visited and toured Arkansas Children's Hospital.
- 4) Pocahontas phlebotomy students passed the CPT exam.

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) EMT program attended a Mass Casualty Incident class with ProMed employees. 2) RN students met with an Arkansas State University recruiter to discuss continuing their nursing education. 3) CTC students attended a resume building workshops with Veronica Guinn. 4) LETA hosted the Honorable Judge Alex Bigger to speak about criminal and civil liability. 5) Dr. Dianna Fraley's U.S. History Since 1876 class curated the student-led mini-museum "Banned." 6) High school students toured the robotics lab during a CTC Preview Day. 7) Dr. Jason Self's biology class conducted a lab to learn about genetic inheritance and DNA. 8) Phlebotomy students received badge reels from their instructors as part of a Valentine's Day exchange.

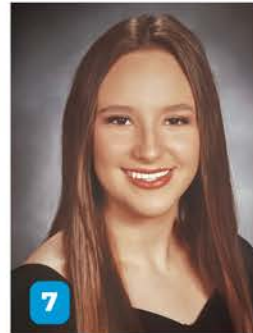
OUR STUDENTS

At BRTC, we center everything we do around our students.

That's why we offer a variety of learning activities, fun events, and co-curricular opportunities to our students.



1) BRTC students attended the Arkansas Community Colleges Student Leadership Academy. 2) Lyric Friend visited the Arkansas Bioscience Institute at Arkansas State University. 3) Phi Theta Kappa held an induction ceremony for its new members. 4) RN student Beverly Britt was appointed to the Arkansas Nursing Student's Association Board of Directors. 5) Johnathan Moody was recognized for his commitment to being the BRTC mascot, Stryker. 6) Mother-Daughter duo Michelle Knight and Kandra Knight graduated from the RN program together. 7) Sara Roland was named BRTC 2024 Academic All-Star. 8) CTC student Ava Newton won 1st Place Conference Female in the USA Clay Target College League Spring season. 9) Stryker and students attended BRTC's Bucks and Ducks Festival.



GRADUATION

BRTC celebrates graduation!

BRTC is proud to celebrate this important accomplishment with our students and their families.



BRTC has several graduations: Respiratory Care, Nursing, Commencement, LETA, and GED. We are very proud of our students' success!

WORKFORCE TRAINING

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.

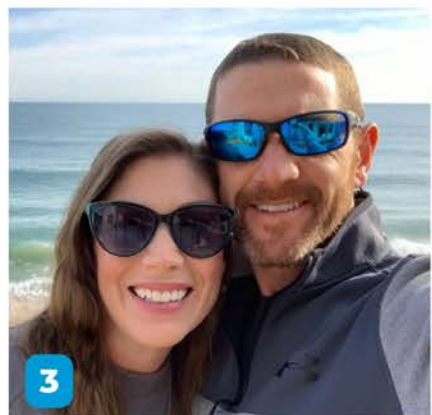


1) Students from The Greenbrier Company, Anchor Packaging, Prysmian Group, and Custom Pak completed an Electrical Safety and Lockout Tagout class. 2) Welding Instructor Ross Crain instructed his first Structural Steel Pipe Welding course at BRTC. 3) BRTC signed an MOU with Ozarka College allowing Ozarka students to continue their technical training through BRTC's Workforce Training apprenticeship program.

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) **Hannah Cagle** graduated in 2012 with an Associate of Art degree and in 2013 from the LPN program. She is an APRN at The Skin Clique, and is also the 2024 Outstanding Alumni. 2) **Brent Fisher** graduated in 2020 with an Associate of Applied Science for EMT. He has been working as a Flight Paramedic for Air Evac Lifeteam since 2021. 3) **Nathan Davis** graduated from LETA as an officer with the Jonesboro Police Department. He has worked with Senator Boozeman for Northeast Arkansas, and recently re-joined JPD. Davis attended LETA a second time in during Spring 2025.

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) Christina Derbes named Fall 2024 commencement speaker. 2) Kim Taylor graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting. 3) Dr. Karen Liebhaber graduated from Delta Regional Authority's Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy. 4) Dr. Zachary Singleton presented at ArkAHEAD conference. 5) Dana Bradford and Darenda Kersey graduated from ACC Leadership Institute. 6) Rhonda Stone appointed to AgHeritage Board of Directors. 7) Institutional Advancement attended ACC Advancement and Marketing Regional Meeting. 8) BRTC staff members attended professional development sessions at ASU Mountain Home.



9) Lisa Inman named Spring 2025 commencement speaker. 10) Kerri Zimmer attended and presented at Mountain Moot Conference in Montana. 11) Dr. Martin Eggenberger graduated Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Leadership Arkansas. 12) Jason Smith awarded Dr. Mossie Richmond, Jr., Outstanding Leadership Award. 13) Ashley Boles honored by National Highway Transportation Safety Administration at the Lifesavers Conference in California.

RETIREMENTS & RECOGNITION

25 Years of Service



Patti Blaxton
Director of
Community Education

7 Years of Service



Randall Creach
Maintenance

38 Years of Service



Larry "Butch" Dail
Automotive Collision
Instructor

11 Years of Service



Jack DeLoach
Electricity
Instructor

11 Years of Service



Rickie Gunn
Welding
Instructor

16 Years of Service



Darren Plaster
LETA
Instructor

2024 Outstanding
Faculty



Bridgette Kasinger
Simulation Lab
Facilitator

38 Years of Service



Donna Statler
Dean of General
Education

2024 Outstanding
Staff

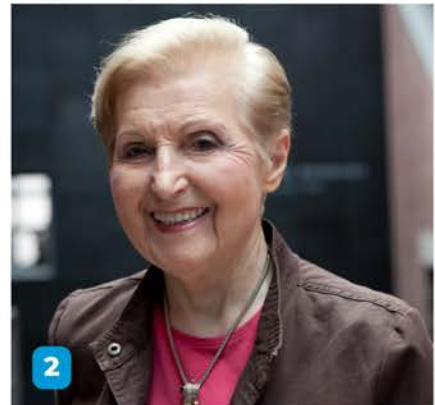


Darenda Kersey
Director of
CTC & Concurrent

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) BRTC 2025 Regional Job Fair with NEA Intermodal. 2) 20th Annual Holocaust Survivor Series with guest speaker Rachel Goldfarb. 3) Black History Month Event "What's In the Pot?" with Brain Rodgers. 4) Erin Mathews drove the Hummer in the Pocahontas High School football homecoming parade. 5) 20th Annual Holocaust Survivor Series with guest speaker Al Bromberg, 1 of 2 guest speakers. 6) Food Pantry donations from Peco Foods.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION



1) Introduction to Sushi Rolls and Poke Bowls instructed by Chef Dennis Wijaya. 2) Wilson Bickford inspired oil painting class instructed by Brenda Lawrence. 3) Stained glass flowers workshop instructed by Beautifully Broken. 4) Sourdough bread baking class instructed by Amanda Gothard. 5) Vibrational sound therapy workshop instructed by Lotus and Crow. 6) Essential oils workshop instructed by Lotus and Crow. 7) Sewing for the Stars: 4th of July Lap Quilt sewing class instructed by Three Thread. 8) Little Golden Book junk journal workshop instructed by Kandee Swift.

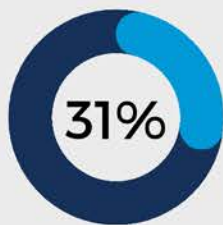
ENROLLMENT & DATA

Fall 2024
1,763

Headcount

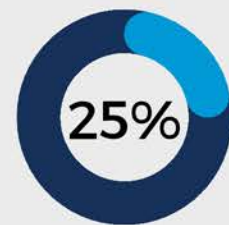
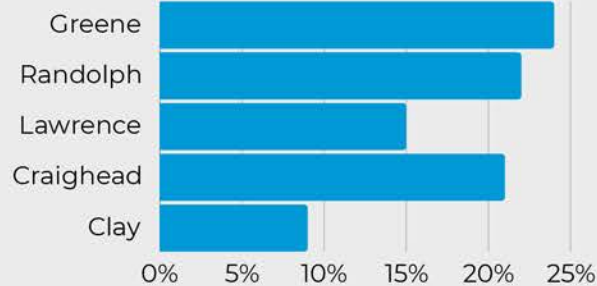
Spring 2025
1,786

Headcount

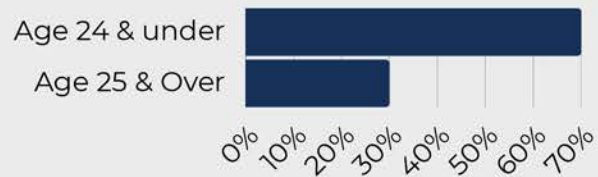


Fall 2024
Online-Only
Students

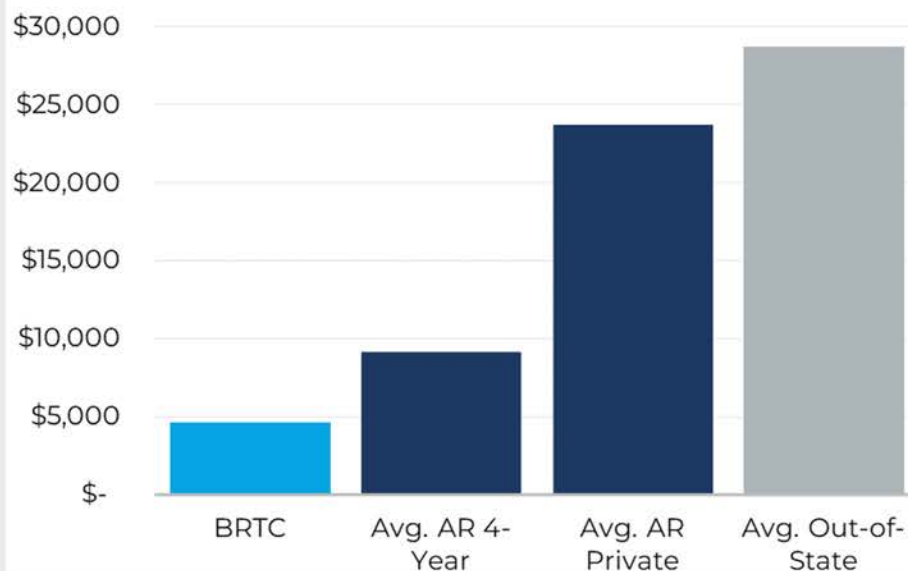
Fall & Spring County of Residence



Spring 2025
Online-Only
Students



Tuition and Fees



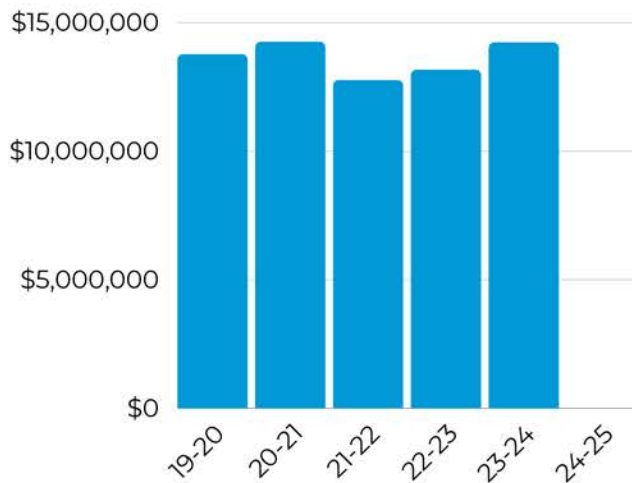
Avg. Salary of
Associate
Degree Grad

\$50K

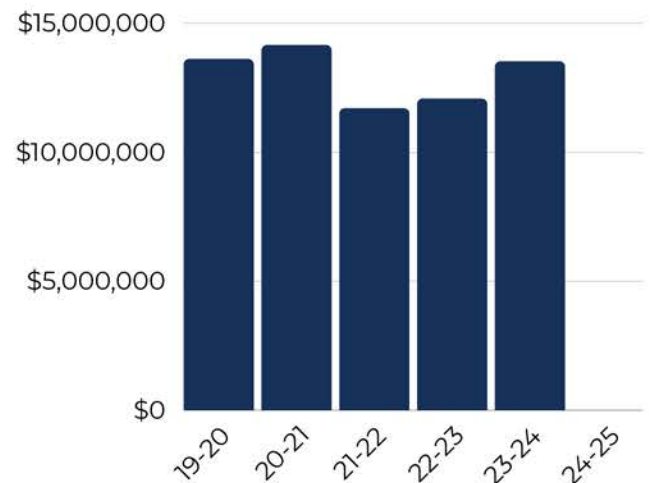


COLLEGE FINANCES

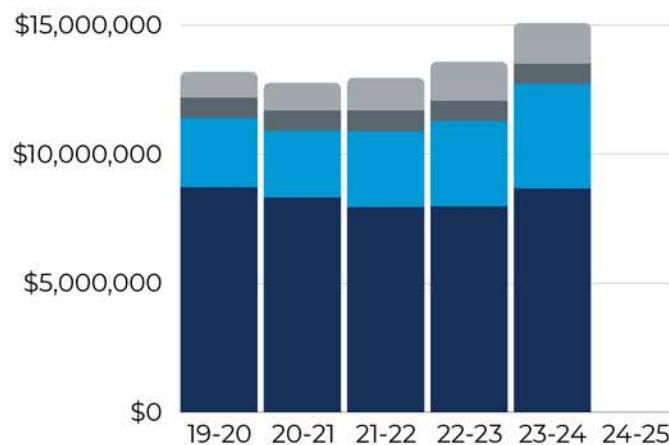
Revenue



Expenses



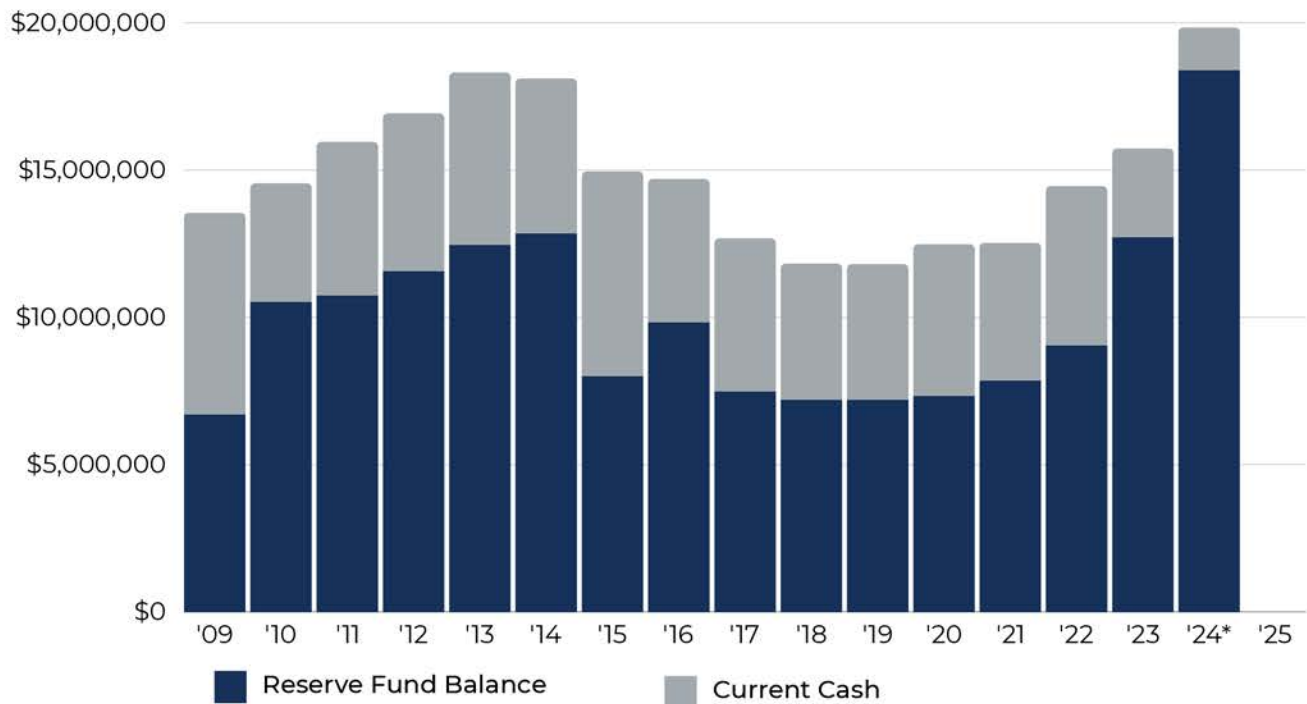
Operating Expenses



BLACK RIVER
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- Scholarships & Waivers
- Debt Service & Mandatory Transfer
- Maintenance & Operation
- Salaries & Benefits

Reserve and Cash Balance



Grant Awards

\$4,7000,000 State of Arkansas and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from American Rescue Plan for the LETA Barracks

\$1,826,242 Career Services and Durable Skills Curriculum funded by Department of Education Title III Grant

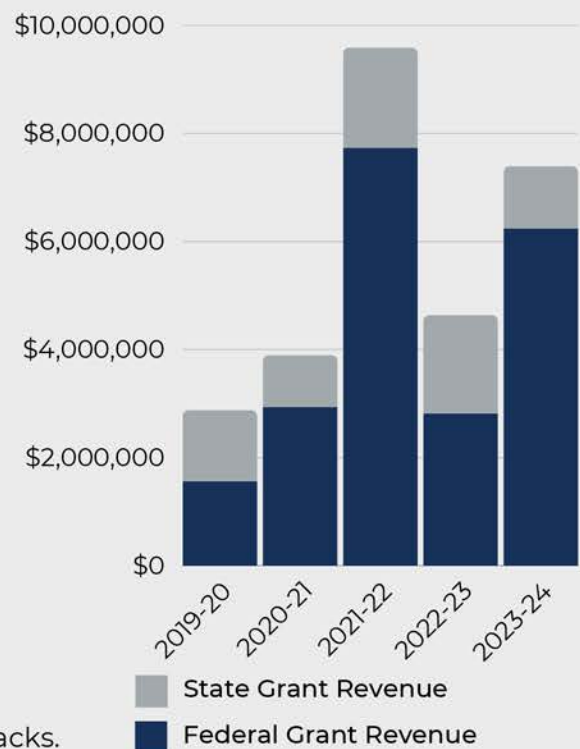
\$1,691,519 Allied Health Equitable Recruitment and Retention funded by AR Dept. of Labor

\$499,000 Welding Lab & Classroom funded by DRA SeDAP

\$3,000 MLK Day of Service Mini-Grant

*'24 includes \$4.7m for the construction of the barracks.

Grant Revenue





BRTC

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Pocahontas, Arkansas 72455
(870) 248-4000

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Paragould, Arkansas 72450
www.blackrivertech.edu