



Community & Technical College
HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINS HERE

BLUEGRASS NEWS

From the Office of Dr. Augusta Julian

Spring II 2008



Budget Realities May Derail Dreams

You have heard it and read it. The official budget news from Frankfort is grim. Just as you know about the difficulties in the Commonwealth budget—falling tax revenues, an economic downturn, and the housing crisis—you may also be dealing with personal budget woes such as higher gasoline prices and rising costs for food and household items. Now, students are facing higher tuition costs, and the college is dealing with the likely outcome of continuing reductions in credit hour enrollments or students being priced out of the education market completely. Governor Steve Beshear made the case for drastic measures in his budget address. We assume that higher education will be taking a significant additional cut in the 2008-2010 biennium to help balance the state budget. The 12% cut contained in the Governor's budget is on top of a 3% cut already absorbed by Bluegrass Community & Technical College (BCTC) and other higher education institutions this year. This translates to a reduction at BCTC of over \$3 million.

BCTC leadership is considering how to deal with this difficult budget situation to make as few reductions in services and programs as possible. We are seeking advice and counsel from throughout the college. Please understand, however, that a cut of this magnitude will affect the entire BCTC family including faculty, staff, and students.

You can be an important part of this process. You are constituents with a voice.

The 16 colleges in the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS), including BCTC, have the flexibility to develop individual plans based on local resources and needs. We hope the revenue picture for the state will improve in the coming months, particularly in light of the budget session underway in the Kentucky General Assembly. And we can influence what happens and how higher education fares in the state budget.

You can be an important part of this process. You are constituents with a voice. You can contact your state legislators and let them know how the proposed budget cuts will impact students' opportunity to build a better life or to gain education or skills on a path to a career. You can locate and contact your state representative or senator by calling (800) 372-7181 or going to the web site <http://www.lrc.ky.gov>. You can click on "Capitol Notes" for a regularly updated Web log of legislative news.

Call and email your elected representatives in the General Assembly; call and email the Governor; visit your legislators, and participate in organized activities to let your voice be heard. Tell them how important higher education is in Kentucky. Remind them that business and industry cannot thrive with unskilled or underskilled workers. Tell them that the promise of Kentucky cannot flourish with higher tuition, delayed dreams, and shattered hopes.

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BCTC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

BCTC kicked off the second annual Leadership Academy in August 2007. The mission of the academy is to provide quality training to faculty and staff who are interested in developing the strong leadership skills necessary for BCTC to succeed and grow. The nine-month program highlights leadership skills, applied leadership, community awareness, and service learning.

The eleven-member class meets one day a month. In addition to honing their leadership skills the group has also had the opportunity to tour Toyota and the NARA class and facility, visit extended campuses, and participate in panel discussions with community leaders.

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff members who are scheduled to graduate from this year's Academy on April 24: **Angel Clay, Mary Davis, Nancy Dixon, Jeanette Dodson, Jane Goatley, Jenny Jones, Kristi Key, Patricia Nation, Connie Rine, Sipera Simons, and Kim York.**

DONATION DATELINE

BCTC recognized two exceptional benefactors, East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKP) and Mark and Carlisle Mayer, at the KCTCS 8th Annual President's Gala and Benefactors Awards Dinner November 17.

East Kentucky Power Cooperative set the fund raising standard in financial sponsorship for the Winchester-Clark County Campus Building Campaign. The company sponsored a recognition luncheon last year for the "First Graduating Class" of Winchester-Clark County Campus and representatives from EKP actively participate on the BCTC advisory boards.

Mark and Carlisle Mayer have also been strong supporters of BCTC. They were among the first donors to step forward with a significant pledge when a BCTC campus was proposed for Winchester-Clark County. Their financial support and presence at college events have been a quiet force in bringing higher education to their community.

Bluegrass Community and Technical College is proud to honor the contributions of these major donors. Thanks to their generosity and the support of the Winchester-Clark County community, the target date for completion of the new campus in April 1, 2008. Visit a photo gallery of the campus construction at bluegrass.kctcs.edu/campuses/winchester_clarkcoun/photo_gallery/jan2008/

ONLINE LEARNING: THE "NEW SCHOOL"



In 2005, Bluegrass Community and Technical College created an online learning department with 179 online class sections serving 2,843 students. The office that began with one person has grown to a three-person office with an online trainer and online advisors offering 272 online class sections to over 5,580 students.

Online learning is considered today's "new school" because it serves students that do not have the time or means to attend classes in person. At BCTC online classes can be started and completed 365 days per year, 24 hours a day. BCTC's online classes are currently serving students as far away as Iraq and China.

The cost for an online class is \$115.00 per credit hour. Co-directors Bill Davis and Sandra Mullins predict distance learning to grow at an even faster rate with the distance learning office preparing for over 7,000 students in the Fall of 2008.



WAL-MART'S OPENING BENEFITS BCTC

In celebration of the opening of the Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market in Palomar Centre in Lexington, Mike Wylie, Store Manager, presented a check for \$5,000 to Linda Epling, Development Director for BCTC. The gift will be used to benefit at-risk students who are struggling with college, either financially or academically.

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Cudos to **Paul Blankenship** for earning \$600 for Special Olympics by participating in the National Polar Plunge in Virginia Beach, VA. In all, the 3,255 plungers at the February event raised \$850,000.

Michael Benton was elected the new Chair of the Two Year College Association - South East Kentucky English Area.

Congratulations to the following faculty members who have been selected to be Assistant Deans in Academic Affairs: **Tricia Miller** (Allied Health), **Pat Lefler** (Behavioral Sciences), **Jenny Jones** (Business), **Debbie Holt** (Computer Sciences & Information Systems), **Greg Feeney** (History, Languages & Social Studies), **Paul Turner** (Manufacturing Industrial Technology), **Vicki Partin** (Mathematics & Statistics), **Chad Mueller** (Natural Sciences), **Mike McMillen** (Trades & Technical). Additionally, **Ben Worth** (Humanities) and **Carolyn Lewis** (Nursing) will be returning as Assistant Deans.

GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE

BCTC's Surgical Technology Program was recognized in September by the American College of Surgeons for ranking 7th out of 435 accredited programs in the nation for its score on the Program Assessment Evaluation. The programs coordinator, **Kevin Craycraft**, has also been appointed to the Education and Professional Standards Committee. Congratulations!

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) program at BCTC recently held an open house at the Downtown Education Center to honor the accomplishments of its students. In 2007, the ABE served over 6,150 students from 34 countries with family literacy, GED preparation, ESL, civics education and college courses.



ESL students and instructor Pam Byron visit at the open house.

The Dental Hygiene Program held its annual PEDO week in March on the Cooper campus. PEDO week is held in recognition of National Dental Health Month. Ninety-one children, four to twelve years old, received a free dental cleaning including dental supplies, x-rays, exams, and fluoride treatments.

A new home inspector training course designed to teach students to conduct a thorough home inspection has been added to BCTC's non-credit, community education courses offered in 2008. The online training takes one to three months to complete. For more information visit www.ahit.com/affiliates/bctcs/index.cfm.

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BREAK OUT THE CAMPING GEAR!

The sounds of children's voices will once again fill the halls at BCTC this summer. It's time to register for



this year's summer camp, *Camp Invention*, a science enrichment program for students in grades 1-6.

At this year's camp, children will design carnival games using math principles, take apart broken machines and use the pieces to invent something new, design a sculpture garden with their own touch, and invent vehicles that won't pollute the air. During an activity called M.A.R.S. (Moving at Rocket Speed) Camp Invention participants will plan and execute a trip to Mars, becoming the first astronauts to explore the planet.

The first session (Encounter) is scheduled for June 16-20 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., and the second session (Imagine) is scheduled for June 23-27 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Classes will be taught by local teachers and para educators.

The \$205 registration fee, due on or before May 31, includes daily snacks and a t-shirt. Visit the website www.campinvention.org for more information and registration discounts, or contact the camp staff at 859.246.6666.

EMAIL

Due to budget constraints this will be our last printed issue of Bluegrass News. Keep receiving your copy by sending us your e-mail address. Contact victoria.perkins@kctcs.edu to be added to our online list.

ALERT

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GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE (continued from page 3)



BCTC's Cooper campus hosted the 2008 "Lexington Regional Science Olympiad" in March. Participants included 12 middle schools and 10 high schools, competing in the areas of astronomy, biology, chemistry, engineering, earth sciences, and math. Regional winners advance to the state competition held at Western Kentucky University on April 26.

BCTC's Theater Arts and Film Production Programs was recently awarded a \$40,000 grant from the W. Paul and Lucille Caudill Little Foundation as a part of the foundation's effort to increase availability and participation in education programs in the arts. Congratulations are also in store for BCTC's three theater students and their associate professor who were nominated for awards and who attended the Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCATF) held at the Brooks Center for Performing Arts, on the campus of Clemson University in South Carolina.

Thanks to all who helped make the Winchester-Clark County 2008 Employment Day a great success this year. BCTC partnered with the community to bring representatives from 27 local and regional businesses to the event. The day's activities included scouting prospective employees, distributing company information, receiving resumes, conducting on-the-spot interviews, and giving attendees tips on resumes and interviews.