



*Blue Ridge Center for*  
**Lifelong Learning**

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***A special message from BRCC President,  
Dr. Laura Leatherwood***

Happy Fall! Fall is my favorite time of year for many reasons. I love the crisp weather, changing leaves, football games, and being outdoors in this beautiful place we call home. But most of all I love fall because it marks the start of a new semester here at Blue Ridge Community College.

Our Fall Semester is off to a great start and we have so many great things to report. Here are just a few. Our healthcare training programs at the Health Sciences Center are bursting at the seams. Last month, we received a \$210,000 grant to expand the advanced manufacturing training programs for local industries. We have 500 area high school students who are taking college courses--tuition-free--while they concurrently complete coursework at their high school. This brings many benefits to these students and cost savings to their families. The Early College High School on our campus was recently recognized as a top-performing school. Our Student Government Association is more active than ever before with activities ranging from leading campus tours for prospective students to creating a food pantry for fellow students. As you can see, Blue Ridge Community College is growing and thriving and we are focused on our mission of training our students to meet the needs of local employers.

I am thankful for the wide-ranging program opportunities we offer at Blue Ridge Community College and Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning is at the top of the list. Your organization is to be commended for its vitality and the opportunities it presents to its members. I also appreciate your support of our students through scholarships over the years. As you well know, many of our students need assistance paying for College and generous donors like yourself have made a huge impact on our students over the years.

Speaking of scholarships, in May, Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation launched an ambitious new annual campaign—the Impact Campaign—to raise \$2 million by June 30, 2019. Money raised from this campaign will support three key areas that ensure student success: scholarships, critical needs (unexpected obstacles in the life of a student, student success initiatives, and start-up costs for emerging programs), and endowed chair positions. I am proud to report we are off to a strong start and have already surpassed the halfway point.

I invite each of you to support the IMPACT Campaign. If you are interested and have questions, I would be happy to talk with you. Your financial gift will help the College maintain its commitment to ensuring that a rigorous college education is within each student's financial reach. I hope that this year is a great year for Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning and all its members. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.

Laura B. Leatherwood, Ed.D., President  
Blue Ridge Community College

