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ON THE CALENDAR

Jingle with Kringle	December 14 3:00-7:00pm
New Student Orientation	December 15, 1:00pm
Returning/Transfer Student Registration	December 16 8:00am-4:00pm
Christmas Holiday Campus Closed	December 13-31 December 23-31
Returning/Transfer Student Registration	January 3 8:00am-4:00pm
New Student Orientation	January 4 1:00pm
New Student Orientation	January 6 9:00am
Returning/Transfer Student Registration	January 7 8:00am-4:00pm
Spring 2011 Classes Begin	January 10
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No Classes)	January 17
Spring Mid-Term Cosmetology Application Deadline	January 31
Spring Mid-Term Cosmetology Class Begins	March 7
August Nursing PN Program Application Deadline	March 7
Spring Break No Classes Campus Closed	March 21-25 March 24-25
Summer I 2011 Cosmetology Application Deadline	April 11
Awards Ceremony	April 29

**Quachita Technical College's
Annual**

Jingle with Kringle



Come visit Santa Claus at the College on

Tuesday, December 14,

from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.



in the Great Room of the main building.

Each child will receive a gift from Santa.

Enjoy a Christmas movie (sponsored by the OTC Library)

while you wait.



Hot chocolate and cookies will be served by our SGA.

4"x6" photos with Santa available for \$4.00 each.

All proceeds will benefit the Ouachita Technical College Foundation.

From the President's Desk...



The Achieving the Dream Initiative Helps the College to Continue Having Improved Success Rates for All Students

Once in awhile we hear that someone has commented that the Achieving the Dream initiative is primarily aimed at serving minority students. This is a big misperception. We sometimes hear that same misperception voiced about our TRiO student support services program and our Career Pathways initiative, both of which are

designed to help low-income students with certain other disadvantages stipulated by the grant funders.

In the earlier part of this decade when we first became committed to improving the success of students that are most at risk of failing or dropping out short of graduation (we refer to them as high risk students), we began to study their characteristics and learned that they tended to be low income students and most of them had dependent children. When we studied the data further and disaggregated it, not surprisingly, it turned out that our group of high risk students were composed of minorities at rates that were significantly higher than the minority rate for the total

student body. Because of this, the minority rates of initiative participants in the AtD, TRiO, and Career Pathways programs are also significantly higher than the minority rate for the student body as a whole. Additionally, the AtD grant funders specifically required the College to give attention to students of color if it found achievement gaps when compared to Caucasian students. We have used all three programs to improve our overall retention and graduation rates for all students, not just minorities.

Now, we have several years of hard data from our AtD initiative and we know some of the results. The results are good. In 2004 the achievement gap in fall term to fall term retention between African American (AA) and Caucasian students was 6.72%. By 2010 the retention achievement gap had been reduced to 4.74%. Additionally, the gap in student success rates (success here is defined as students who graduate, transfer to a university, or re-enroll at OTC) between AA and other students in 2004 was 8.08% and in 2010 the gap had been reduced to 6.19%. We have increased baseline course success rates of AA students in Basic Composition from 53.66% in 2004 to 66.37% in 2010. Course success rate is defined as course

completion with a grade of A, B, or C. And, the success rates for all students in Intermediate Algebra has been increased from 43.85% in 2004 to 53.10% in 2010.

We have helped our minority students succeed more, so that their success rates are much closer to the success rates of all other students. But, the main point is that **ALMOST ALL STUDENTS** at OTC have been helped by all the improvements because many more students of every color are succeeding in Intermediate Algebra (almost 90% of all new students have to take developmental math). Yes, we targeted success improvements for students of color in certain subjects. And, though we are proud to say that we achieved the targeted improvements as planned, we are also proud to say that those improvements helped a greater number of **ALL** students, both minorities and Caucasians, succeed as well. All student boats are now floating at a higher level because a caring, creative and intelligent faculty and staff feels that there is always room for improvement.

James Ballard

OTC Giving Back

As a Christmas project, the OTC employees donated items to be sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Twenty-four boxes were filled with everything from toiletries to food/snacks to foam footballs. The troops should receive the items in about two weeks.



OTC's Student Government Association (SGA) took on the project of an on-campus Angel Tree. Forms filled out for children of OTC students in need were placed on the tree. Forty children benefited from this activity.



OTC Students Get Involved in the Community

By: J. Mitchell

At the beginning of each semester, Career Pathways students discuss ideas of what they would like to do as a community project. "They always come up with great ideas. Since I am a strong advocate of service learning, I think it is important for students to be involved in their respective communities and develop an increased sense of community," stated Ms. Johnnie Mitchell, Career Pathways Counselor.

In November, Ouachita Technical College's Career Pathways' students partnered with the Cosmetology Department students to sponsor a "Holiday Beauty Extravaganza". Residents from a local nursing home were treated to manicures, pedicures and haircuts and shampoo sets. Wendy Sullivan, OTC Cosmetology Instructor, shared, "The cosmetology students thoroughly enjoyed working with the nursing home residents." For the residents that were not able to attend, students

will deliver Christmas packages which consist of lotion, shampoo, conditioner and combs donated by beauty distributors and students.

CP students also partnered with the Nursing Department this semester to provide Christmas presents to a former Nursing student's two little girls. The children's mother has been ill since summer and when asked what the students could do for her, she shared that she was fine, but worried about her children for Christmas. As a result of the generosity of these two

departments, these girls will receive boxes of new clothing and toys, which will be delivered before Christmas.

Ms. Mitchell said "We can get a lot done in numbers; therefore, I was really excited about partnering with other departments. When there is a need on campus, our students rally together and do what they have to do to help out. I am very proud of our OTC students for their dedication in these projects. They made a lot of people smile this semester."



Nursing home residents with the Cosmetology Department

Fall Events on Campus



Arkansas author Linda Palmer spoke with a group in the OTC library



College Fair - Area High School Seniors visited with Colleges from around the state.



Malvern High School Jr-ROTC on campus for Veteran's Day.

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Staff Achievements



Dr. Blake Robertson was recently appointed as the 2011 President of the Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Council. The Council is composed of representatives of five adult education districts in the State. The purpose of this Council is to “identify and assess issues and needs of adult education and literacy providers in Arkansas and make recommendations to the Deputy Director in the Department of Career Education”.

Dr. Robertson was also selected as one of Malvern Daily Record’s *The Dynamic Dozen of Hot Spring County*. This is a list composed by the MDR of individuals who are making a difference in the community.

Two of Ouachita Technical College’s SkillsUSA members have been selected as Arkansas SkillsUSA State Officers. These students are David See, Jr. (far left) and Beth Leslie (far right).



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DANA BROWNFIELD

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION



Started at OTC in 1999 part time, and became full time in 2000.

My job responsibilities include assisting the VP of Instruction and Division Chairs, which includes preparing overload contracts, faculty/course evaluations, coordinating career center awards ceremony, attending meetings and serving on committees.

My family includes my husband, Jason, and our two sons, Lance (14) and Colton (5).

My favorite movie is *Gone with the Wind* and my favorite book is the *Harry Potter* series.

My dream vacation would be to go to Italy.

My favorite food is Chinese.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I took drama in high school.

As a child, I wanted to be a writer when I grew up.

My first vehicle was a 1992 Hyundai Scoupe.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is read.

My favorite season is Spring.

My biggest pet peeve is people who wait until the last minute.

My favorite thing about OTC is all the great people I work with!

With one hour of free time I would spend it with my kids.

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The Regional Middle School Chess Tournament was held on OTC’s campus.



Malvern HS Showstopper Choir performed for the OTC employees

