

# BRCC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC

# COMMUNITY

# LINK



Spring 2025



**All In for BRCC!**  
BRCC's 3rd Annual  
**CASINO ROYALE**  
**Friday, April 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**  
**BRCC Student Recreation Center**  
Tickets \$125  
Reservations required;  
reservation deadline—April 16



### Event Timeline

- 6:00 p.m. - Doors Open, Food and Beverages Available
- 6:30 p.m. - Casino Tables Open
- 8:00 p.m. - Live Auction/Raffle Prizes (Casino Break)
- 8:30 p.m. - Casino Tables Re-open
- 9:30 p.m. - Casino Royale Concludes

See more information inside this issue, and check out the event webpage <https://www.brcc.edu/edfound/ef-support/special-events/casino-royale/> for event updates, ticket purchases, and sponsorship opportunities; contact Sally Jane Conner at (540) 453-2203 or [ConnerS@brcc.edu](mailto:ConnerS@brcc.edu) for additional information.



BRCC Educational Foundation Board							
Chair Bret F. Harrison	Kelly R. S. Blosser	Donna S. Hahn	James C. Hawkins	Paula C. Moore-McClure	Justin T. Rexrode	Keith J. VanBenschoten	
Vice Chair Holly M. Rasheed	Cynthia K. Didawick	Richard K. Halterman	Catherine H. Hughes	Mary Pavlovskaya	B. Randolph Roller	Andrew P. Vanhook	
Secretary John A. Downey	Crystal L. Farmer	Hans C. Harman	Larry K. Landes	Tassie L. Pippert	Jerry D. Sheets		
Treasurer Anastasia O. Triplett	Dinah Gottschalk		David R. Metz	Heather Ream	Courtney W. Thompson		

Community Link is an official publication of the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation. It is distributed to friends in the Shenandoah Valley, as well as BRCC faculty and staff, and is published quarterly by the Development Office, Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA 24486. If you have any questions or comments regarding this publication, please contact Angie Glenn, Development Services Coordinator, at [540] 453-2307 or [glenna@brcc.edu](mailto:glenna@brcc.edu).

# Casino Royale Moves to the Rec Center!

## More Space; More Fun!

**J**oin us on April 25 for Casino Royale – All In for BRCC! It is sure to be an exciting night of fundraising and friend-raising for BRCC. Even if you don't fancy yourself a gambler (rest-assured no real risk is involved as you will be playing with BRCC "funny money"), there will be delicious food, lively libations, live auction items, and fun for everyone. The real winners are BRCC students and our community. Dress is business casual, or glam it up for a night in Vegas!



Special thanks to our Signature sponsor, Graves Light Lenhart, as well as our Lady Luck sponsors, APB Restaurants, Daikin, Massanutten Resort, Riddleberger Brothers, Inc., Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, and Wieland Provides, and our Game Table sponsors, Augusta Health, Dental Health Associates, and Interchange. Check out all of our sponsors at <https://www.brcc.edu/edfound/ef-support/special-events/casino-royale/>. Their support is invaluable to our mission!

### Check out the Live Auction Items to date:

- **Getaway for Two to Charlotte, NC**

Head to Charlotte for a weekend including two roundtrip tickets to Charlotte from Shenandoah Valley Airport on Contour Airlines, a two-night stay in local hotel, and four general admission passes to the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

*Donated by SVA, Travel Leaders, and NASCAR Hall of Fame*

- **One-year Pass for One Quart a Month at Kline's Dairy Bar: Staunton, Waynesboro, Lynchburg, or Chesterfield.** *Donated by Peterson Enterprises*

- **\$100 Gift Card to Chicano Boy Taco, Staunton and \$100 Gift Card to Pizza Luca, Staunton.** *Donated by Peterson Enterprises*

- **Sun and Fun in St. Augustine, FL**

Enjoy seven days lodging in two-bedroom condo in St. Augustine, FL

*Donated by Foundation Board Member Paula Moore-McClure and Rex McClure*

- **Bourbon Tasting for 6 People**

*Donated by Foundation Board Member Paula Moore-McClure and Rex McClure*

- **One-year Pass for Unlimited Gold Car Wash at any Peterson's Car Wash: Staunton or Martinsburg** *Donated by Peterson Enterprises*

- **Wine and Cheese Pairing for 8 People** *Donated by Foundation Board Member Tassie Pippert*

- **Chauffeured four-hour ride—for up to 14 people—down the 151 Vineyard/ Brewery Trail.** *Donated by Roger Aldhizer, Ride with Rog*

- **Hotel Madison Overnight Package including dinner at Monty's.**

*Donated by Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg*

- **Two Night Stay in a Two Bedroom Condo, Four Rounds of Golf, and a Gift Card.** *Donated by Massanutten Resort*



**J**ames Madison University and Blue Ridge Community College have launched the BR2JMU co-admission initiative, a groundbreaking program designed to enhance and streamline the path to a four-year degree for Shenandoah Valley students.

BR2JMU offers students graduating from area high schools the unique opportunity to be admitted to both BRCC and JMU from the start of their college journey. This program aims to provide a seamless transition for students, allowing them to complete their associate degree at BRCC and then transfer to JMU without the need for a separate transfer application.

#### Key benefits of the BR2JMU initiative:

- **Dual admission:** Students are admitted to both BRCC and JMU simultaneously, ensuring a smooth transition to a four-year degree.
- **Cost savings:** By starting their education at BRCC, students can take advantage of lower tuition rates before transferring to JMU.
- **Clear pathways to degrees:** BRCC and JMU are developing optimized pathways to every major at JMU so students can take the right combination of courses at BRCC and JMU to earn their bachelor's degree in four years.
- **Personalized advising:** Participants will receive dedicated academic advising from both BRCC and JMU, helping them stay on track and make informed decisions about their education and career goals.
- **Career focus:** Students can work with the BRCC and JMU career offices from their first semester in the program and attend workshops and career fairs that will allow them to prepare for growing job fields in our area and network with employers.
- **Community and support:** Students will have opportunities to visit JMU and build a network of peers who will transfer to JMU with them, fostering a sense of community and support throughout their academic journey.

“We are thrilled to partner with Blue Ridge Community College on this innovative initiative,” said Melinda Wood, JMU’s vice president for enrollment management. “The BR2JMU program reflects our commitment to making higher education accessible and affordable for students in our region.”

“By providing a clear and supportive pathway to a four-year degree, we are helping students achieve their academic and career aspirations,” said Bob Kolvoord, JMU’s provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

BRCC President Dr. John Downey emphasized that one of the key advantages of the program is the opportunity for students to access the resources of both BRCC and JMU.

“Access to both institutions is what truly sets the program apart,” Downey said. “The opportunity for students to build a sense of belonging at both BRCC and JMU plays a crucial role in boosting their confidence and ensuring they achieve their academic and personal goals.”



# Getting in Alignment

## Auto Students Get Expert Instruction from Guest Presenter

Recently, students in BRCC's Automotive Analysis and Repair program, got training from Mike Francis, with Hunter Engineering Company. The auto program utilizes Hunter machines for both tire alignment and balancing, and according to program director, Jeff Wiseman, the equipment is, "the most updated equipment in the field today."

Thanks to support from the BRCC Educational Foundation's Automotive Analysis and Repair Endowment, Jeff was able to have Mike come on-site to provide training, and give students a unique experience and lesson.

Using the the Hunter HawkEye Elite alignment machine, Mike demonstrated, then helped students make necessary adjustments on the program's 2017 Camry (our newest car). The machine goes as far as to indicate what tools are needed for the adjustment, and also provides pictures, animations, and instructional videos on how to adjust the alignment angles. Next, Mike explained to the students how the Hunter Road Force Elite tire balancer machine worked and how to balance a tire correctly.



*"Mike Francis did an excellent job showing the students all the features of both machines. He even complimented us on having such wonderful students. We all felt that the students were really engaged with his presentation."*

*—Jeff Wiseman.*



# Veterinary Technology Moos

In other news, utilizing Veterinary Technology program funding, the BRCC Educational Foundation recently purchased a cow model, affectionately named "Wilma", along with her calf model, "Pebbles." Dr. Wynne DiGrassie is incorporating these models into the Vet 222 course, which focuses on large animal clinical practices. Wilma is being used to demonstrate techniques

for assisting with difficult calf deliveries, as well as for mastitis (milk) testing and haltering practices. Students are thrilled with this hands-on teaching tool. The use of models in the Vet Tech program provides students with valuable practice, allowing them to refine their skills before working with live animals.



## Directors Emeriti Honored



On October 31, 2024, the BRCC Educational Foundation inducted a new cohort of Directors Emeriti, honoring Karen Clark, Ken Cleveland, Bill Saxman, Matthias Smith, and Pamela Ungar. The Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation Director Emeritus program was developed in 2003-04 as a way to recognize those members of the BRCC Educational Foundation Board of Directors who have truly made a difference in support of BRCC. Those recognized have demonstrated extraordinary service and generous philanthropic leadership to Blue Ridge Community College and the BRCC Educational Foundation.

## BRCC Career Closet Open for Business

A ribbon-cutting was held in February for the BRCC Career Closet, a new initiative designed to support BRCC students in their professional journeys by providing access to free, gently-used professional attire. The closet currently contains more than 240 items, including ties, jewelry, bags, shoes, and clothes, all donated by our generous community.

Wandi Maseko, Career Services Coordinator at BRCC, had a vision for the Career Closet, and the BRCC Educational Foundation provided a grant to help transform a former storage closet in the Houff Student Center into an inviting and purposeful space. The Career Closet has already served over 20 students, helping to ensure students are dressed for success for interviews, internships, and job placements. Students can choose four items every semester at no charge, and get to keep the items.

Anyone interested in donating the Career Closet can reach out to Blue Ridge Community College by emailing [careers@brcc.edu](mailto:careers@brcc.edu) or by calling Mr. Maseko at (540) 453-2346.





Blue Ridge Community College  
Educational Foundation, Inc.  
P. O. Box 80  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486  
[540] 453-2211  
[www.brcc.edu/EdFound](http://www.brcc.edu/EdFound)

*Non Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
and Fees Paid  
BRCC*



## SAVE THE DATE

BRCC's 3rd Annual

**CASINO ROYALE**

Friday, April 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

BRCC Recreation Center

*Special thanks to our Casino Royale Signature Sponsor*



**Graves Light Lenhart**

Build. Protect. Thrive.