

BC3's first virtual program spotlights focus on academic options, affordability

July 15, 2020

(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College has announced its first series of virtual program spotlights designed to introduce recent high school graduates and prospective guest students to 16 select associate degree or certificate options, and to BC3's affordability and support services, according to BC3's dean of admissions and college registrar.

Presentations showcase BC3's programs in applied technology, creative and digital arts, education and social services, and public safety and security, Amy Pignatore said.

"Anyone from anywhere in our region can attend the virtual program spotlights," Pignatore said. "It's an excellent opportunity to highlight our academics and the programs we offer at BC3. Students will actually hear from the lead faculty member of the programs."

Those lead faculty members, with a collective 125 years as BC3 educators, will discuss their programs July 28 and July 29.

Students can learn about BC3's applied technology programs at 6 p.m. July 28 from Karen Riethmiller, Mike Robinson and Kevin Ruediger, representing BC3's STEM division, or about the college's creative and digital arts selections at 7 p.m. from Kristine Allen and Dan Osorno, representing BC3's Humanities and Social Science division.

Students can learn about BC3's education and social services opportunities at 6 p.m. July 29 from Stephanie Long and Dr. Karen Stubenbort, or about the college's public safety and security selections at 7 p.m. from Dr. Steve Shaffer and Chris Calhoun. Each represents BC3's Humanities and Social Science division.

Prospective students can register for one or more of the four presentations at www.bc3.edu/spotlights.

9 career programs to be featured

Virtual program spotlights include nine of BC3's two-year associate in applied science degree career programs, in which students can develop the skills needed to enter the workforce immediately after graduation.

BC3's applied technology spotlight features career programs in applied industrial technology, manufacturing with advanced technology, and in metrology-measurement science. Workplace

certificates in apprenticeship technology and in CNC programming technology will also be highlighted.

The college's creative and digital arts presentation showcases career programs in digital audio and video production, graphic design and photography.

BC3's education and social services spotlight features transfer programs in early childhood education (Pre K-4) and in social work. It also includes a presentation about the college's new addiction recovery certificate.

The college's public safety and security presentation showcases career programs in homeland security, park and recreation management-general option and in park and recreation management-park law enforcement option, and a transfer program in criminology. It also includes a presentation about the college's homeland security certificate.

66% of BC3 students in transfer programs

Sixty-six percent of BC3 students this spring were enrolled in transfer programs. BC3's credits transfer to public, private and online four-year colleges and universities.

BC3 is planning for a flexible fall semester with courses delivered through face-to-face, remote, blended, or online formats. The college's menu includes 37 career programs, 19 transfer programs, and 22 certificate or workplace certificate programs that take one year or less to complete.

Seventy percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.

Tuition and fees for BC3 students from Butler County pursuing 15 credits per semester for one year in 2020-2021 are \$5,100, and for students from other Pennsylvania counties, \$8,100.

Tuition and fees averaged \$11,294 for students pursuing 15 credits per semester for one year in 2019-2020 at a Pennsylvania public four-year university; \$13,945 at a state-related institution's branch campus; \$16,825 at a state-related institution's main campus; and \$36,801 at a private institution.

BC3's support services include one hour of free tutoring each week per class, access and disability resources, and options for low-income students through the Keystone Education Yields Success program.

In addition to its main campus in Butler Township, BC3 has locations in Brockway, Jefferson County; Cranberry Township, Butler County; Ford City, Armstrong County; Hermitage, Mercer County; and New Castle, Lawrence County.