

Confidence soars at Student Awards Day

April 18, 2017



A Butler County Community College student smiles after receiving an academic certificate from BC3 President Dr. Nick Neupauer during Student Awards Day in Founders Hall on BC3's main campus on April 18, 2017.

(Butler, PA) Makaila Holsinger twists up the volume on “That’s What I Like,” the Bruno Mars song playing on the stereo. She’s singing – and driving the tan sport-utility vehicle she just purchased – while her mother, Julie Bosley, and aunt, Kara Bosley, listen.

“Cool jewel be shining so bright ... strawberry champagne on ice”

The Ellwood City residents are driving toward Founders Hall on the main campus of Butler County Community College, the alma mater of Holsinger’s mother and aunt, and where on this sunny 67-degree day the 19-year-old pre-nursing student is among scores of scholars the school will celebrate for academic achievements in 2016.

The sunroof of her SUV is open.

Windows are down.

“The hair is blowing,” she says.

“Shopping sprees in Paris ... everything 24 karats”

It’s Student Awards Day at BC3, and Holsinger is about to be honored for having been named to the president’s list, which recognizes scholars who have attained at least a 3.75 grade-point average while carrying a minimum of 12 credits.

“We were all excited,” Holsinger says. “The whole way they were telling me they are proud of me and all that great stuff.”

“I love the teachers”

Great accomplishments and great feelings are rampant during Student Awards Day, when BC3 will laud the 386 students named to the dean’s list in 2016; the 691 to the president’s list; the 74 to Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities; and the 16 who completed the BC3 Leadership Series.

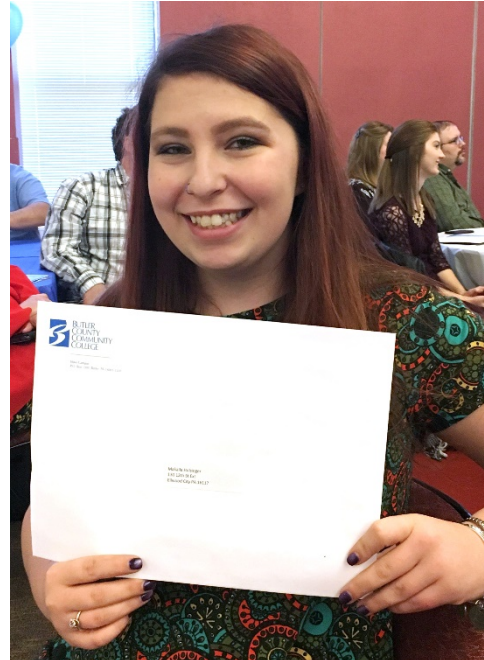
Holsinger, who attends BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing in New Castle, graduated from Lawrence County Career and Technical Center as a certified nurse’s assistant.

“BC3 is definitely an experience to have,” says Holsinger, whose mother studied early childhood education at BC3 and her aunt, accounting. “I love the teachers. I love the students and the staff. It is wonderful here. I love it. I am going to do the rest of my general studies at Lawrence Crossing and then come up here (to main campus) for my nursing studies.”

Michael Dittman, associate professor in humanities and social sciences and the keynote speaker, stands at a lectern before the 32 tables adorned with alternating blue and white tablecloths. Students, their friends and relatives surround the tables as Dittman begins to speak about popular notions of success.

“How to achieve success in six thoughts ... 21 ways to achieve wealth and success ... and nine things successful people do differently,” he says, echoing ephemeral and trendy headlines crafted to attract attention.

But, he says, “You’re already here. You are already successful.”



Makaila Holsinger, of Ellwood City, is shown at Student Awards Day in Founders Hall at Butler County Community College on April 18, 2017.

It would be more beneficial for him to speak about what to do now that they have succeeded, Dittman told the scholars.

“Help others to succeed,” he says, encouraging students to share what they know, learn what is of value to other people, and make other people aware of opportunities to attain that which they value.

Among those listening to Dittman is Adam Rothrauff, of Gibsonia.

“I really appreciate this,” the 2016 Deer Lakes High graduate would say later.

The mechanical engineering student says he chose BC3 because he liked its campus and on the recommendation of several of his cousins.

“And they all recommended it highly,” Rothrauff says.

When he first toured the main campus, he noticed that “all the teachers were very friendly. The dean, Mr. (Matt) Kovac, was a great guy. He really helped me out and made me realize that I wanted to study engineering.”

Rothrauff says he is not surprised he attained the dean’s list in his first semester at BC3, when he took 17 credits.

“I worked really hard,” he says.

“Mom, I just made dean’s list!”

Isabella Mariacher, a 2016 graduate of Jamestown High who is studying psychology, was also recognized for having attained the dean’s list.

“I didn’t think I was able to make this accomplishment, but when I got the letter in the mail I automatically called my mom,” Mariacher says. “Mom, I just made dean’s list!”

Despite making the dean’s list, Mariacher said she didn’t think she was studying as frequently as she should have in her first semester.

“But I realized that if I can do it this semester, I can definitely do it next semester,” she says.



Hugs abounded at Student Awards Day in Founders Hall at Butler County Community College on April 18, 2017.

Student Awards Day is important, she says, because it gives some scholars the “encouragement that they don’t always get at home.”

Rob Snyder, director of student life, welcomes the students; Dr. Case Willoughby, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, announces the Who’s Who recipients in attendance; Joshua Novak, dean of student development, presents certificates to those who completed the BC3 Leadership Series; William Miller, dean of humanities and social sciences, presents certificates to those students who attained the dean’s list; and Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3 president, presents certificates to those who attained the president’s list.



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Students who have earned 12 college level credits, have a semester grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.74 are named to the dean’s list.

Those who have earned 12 college level-credits, have a semester grade-point average of 3.0 and are involved in athletics, student clubs and organizations or community service are nominated by faculty and staff members for inclusion in Who’s Who.

Among the requirements for students to receive a certificate for participation in the BC3 Leadership Series include attending Leadership sessions on topics titled “Leading with a Purpose;” “Professional Development,” “Team Building” and “Community and Cultural Awareness.” Students must also complete a supporting activity or workshop.