

BC3 applauds 30 workers with 600 years of dedication

April 27, 2017



William Miller, left, Butler County Community College dean of humanities and social sciences, receives a gift from BC3 President Dr. Nick Neupauer during BC3's annual employee recognition and awards banquet on April 27, 2017. Miller retired after 37 years at BC3.

(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College honored 30 employees with a collective 599 years of service, seven volunteers who have worked with the BC3 Education Association Inc. board and Alumni Association council for 110 total years, and nine workers who were recognized for efforts that went above and beyond during the 2016-17 academic year.

Meg Ashenden, education coordinator and instructor, was selected as the individual recipient of the Above & Beyond Award, and Sara Artzberger, Kelly Flis, Matt Kovac, Dr. Josh Novak, Amy Pignatore, Renee Piovesan, Kathy Sommers and Kim Smith received the award as a unit for their work on the cross-functional student planning implementation team.

“Very often I talk about the significance of each of us going above and beyond,” Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3 president, said during the annual recognition and awards banquet at Founders Hall.

“And frankly, to a person, this hall is filled with individuals who go above and beyond every day. This is a very unique period in higher education. There are closures, mergers, layoffs. Fortunately, that has not been the case at BC3. As a matter of fact, we have enrollment growth this semester. But that is because we have individuals who perform multiple tasks and are consistently going above and beyond in their jobs.”



Butler County Community College’s “Above & Beyond” awards are shown during BC3’s annual employee recognition and awards banquet on April 27, 2017.

Ashenden, education coordinator and instructor, began at BC3 in 2001 as a volunteer tutor who worked with low-level learners, then “jumped in” to create and provide remediation to help manufacturing employees enrolled in an apprenticeship program pass the Accuplacer test, Neupauer said.

“And of course, thanks to Meg, those individuals did.”

Ashenden, Neupauer said, is also aware her students’ needs, and often helps them by providing clothing, or to capitalize on talents they have to better their lives.

One of her students crocheted scarves, and Ashenden visited local businesses and individuals to find a market for the student’s work, Neupauer said.

“This helped the student have just a little bit more for living expenses, and also helped a great deal with the student’s confidence,” he said.

Above and Beyond Awards are presented to an employee, or office, department or division, who demonstrate outstanding customer service, such as willingness to assist others by going the extra mile, acts of kindness related to his or her job, outstanding work in his or her job, new or innovate ideas or practices initiated at the college, and an extra effort to help someone or a group of people at the college.

Artzberger is a programmer analyst; Flis, associate director of academic and career planning; Kovac, dean of STEM; Novak, dean of student development; Pignatore, director of records and

registration; Piovesan, vice president for academic affairs secretary; Sommers, director of information technology; and Smith, assistant director of records and registration.

Novak and Pignatore suggested in the spring of 2016 that BC3 purchase a planning module for BC3's student information system, Neupauer said, "so we could have a system to help our students matriculate through graduation and assist them in many ways."

Purchase to implementation can be difficult, he said, adding that it "certainly requires efforts from a lot of different individuals.

"And that is exactly what those individuals did."

Piovesan updated all of the course masters into the system. Sommers made the system a priority. Artzberger led the technical implementation. Smith updated the degree audit rules for every BC3 major into the system. Kovac championed the effort with faculty and advisers. Flis, Novak and Pignatore created a training program that held multiple sessions on main campus and at various off-campus locations.

"As a result, we expect that our students will in fact have better retention, and work toward degrees in a timely fashion," Neupauer said. "Had it not been for these dedicated individuals, that certainly would not be the case."

Those honored for 10 years of employment were Tracey Brockman, admissions office secretary; Christopher Burke, custodial; Lisa Campbell, interim director of workforce development; Susan Davis, BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing student services and technology support specialist; Jennifer Dumbaugh, financial aid assistant; Ivory Dunlap, academic counselor, retention specialist and assistant professor; Tammy Fend, customer service specialist; Scott MacMaster, programmer analyst, Pam McCullough, staff accountant; Matt Miller, associate director of information technology; and Nancy Seibel, library acquisitions secretary.

Former Judge Martin O'Brien and Jim Taylor were recognized for 10 years on the BC3 Education Foundation Inc. board, and Gloria Sabatelli, for a decade on the BC3 Alumni Association council.



Sherry Neely, a nursing and allied health professor, retired after 17 years at Butler County Community College. She is shown during BC3's annual employee recognition and awards banquet on April 27, 2017.

Mike Ameduri, STEM associate professor; Katie Badura-Duke, hospitality coordinator; Brian Henry, BC3 police sergeant; and Sherri Osborne, assistant director of student activities; were honored for 20 years of employment. Lucille Shapiro and Kathleen Sommers, director of information technology, were recognized for serving 20 years with the BC3 Alumni Association. Jean Peters, BC3 @ Armstrong secretary, was recognized for 25 years of employment.

Katie Scherder, Academic Center for Enrichment secretary; and Dr. Charlene Wright, business professor, were recognized for 30 years of employment; and Amy Beiler was honored for serving 30 years with the BC3 Alumni Association council.

Martin Miller, interim dean of library services, was recognized for 35 years of employment; and David Huseman, humanities and social sciences professor, for 50 years.

Retirees honored were Dr. David Anderson, Kevin Fish, Alex Gladis, Mary Ann Hiser, William Miller, Dr. Jim Morrow, Sherry Neely, William O'Brien, Donna Pallone and Natalie Price.

William Miller, dean of humanities and social sciences, was employed by BC3 for 37 years; O'Brien, vice president of continuing education and off campus sites, 35; Anderson, humanities and social sciences professor, 32; Price, coordinator of natural science technology labs, 31; Morrow, STEM associate professor, 22; Hiser, nursing and allied health professor, 20; Pallone, bookstore manager, 18; Neely, nursing and allied health professor, 17; Fish, network support specialist, 15; and Gladis, director of BC3 @ Cranberry, 12.