

# BC3 convocation a cool day for faculty, administrators

Aug. 23, 2018



Faculty members of Butler County Community College’s Business Division talk Aug. 23, 2018, before the start of BC3’s 2018 convocation. From left, Laura Wiest, instructor; Tamatha Boice, professor; and Erika Nail, assistant professor.

(Butler, PA) As if on cue, the summer morning of Aug. 23 tied the lowest temperature on Butler County Community College’s main campus since its Class of 2018 commencement exercises in mid-May – with an autumn-like 46 degrees on the day of BC3’s convocation, the unofficial start of its academic year, when its full-time faculty returned for a fall semester after “doing any number of things,” an associate professor said.

Sherry Mack, whose summer included teaching online business courses, was among nearly 70 full-time instructors who joined administrators in BC3’s Succop Theater while outdoors, stands of stately oaks were relinquishing their first leaves on 50 tables and atop a three-peaked blue-and-white tent awaiting a lunchtime break in the presentations.

“My husband came in this morning and said, ‘It is 49 degrees,’” said Mack, entering her 12th year as a full-time instructor in BC3’s business division and whose six fall semester courses include computer programming and web programming. “It is definitely fall.”

While the official beginning of autumn was 31 days distant, BC3’s Welcome Day for new students was 24 hours off and its start of the fall semester, four days away.

Convocation means “summer’s over, school starts,” said Jennifer Sarabok, an assistant professor in BC3’s humanities and social science division who teaches at BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing in New Castle.

“It’s exciting,” said Jolene Stieb, an English instructor at BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing and at BC3 @ LindenPointe in Hermitage. “There is potential. It is all new. We’re ready for good things to happen.”

## President announces 2018-19 goals

The propitious morning inspired Dr. Belinda Richardson, BC3’s vice president for academic affairs, during her welcome address at 8:30 a.m., when the temperature rose to 56 degrees and began to warm those 50 tables stationed aside Adirondack chairs bundled in groups of twos and threes.

“Isn’t main campus beautiful?” she asked.

Richardson was the first of BC3 administrators to address faculty on topics such as enrollment initiatives, general education, the Middle States Commission for Higher Education, tenures and promotions, the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, safety training and the college’s 2017-2022 strategic plan.

During his “State of the College” address, BC3 President Dr. Nick Neupauer delivered his 2018-19 presidential goals of leading the pursuit of BC3’s 2017-2022 strategic plan, refreshing and moving the college forward, continuing to fill vacant positions while entertaining new organizational structure models during a “reset” period, and embracing BC3’s role as the “community’s college.”

Neupauer discussed staffing changes and retirements; provided updates on BC3’s 2017-2022 strategic plan and on Middle States; and enrollment increases at BC3 @ Armstrong in Ford City



Dr. Nick Neupauer, president of Butler County Community College, is shown on the stage of Succop Theater while announcing his 2018-19 presidential goals during BC3’s convocation on Aug. 23, 2018.

and at BC3 @ Brockway in Brockway. He also said the University of Pittsburgh contacted BC3 about a possible partnership with its site in Titusville, Crawford County, and that BC3 had received two separate \$1 million gifts toward its registered nursing program since September and expanded its registered nursing program to BC3 @ Brockway.

Dr. Case Willoughby, vice president for academic affairs; Jessica Matonak, executive director of communications and marketing; and Amy Pignatore, dean of admissions and college registrar, addressed enrollment initiatives; Richardson provided a Middle States accreditation update and, with Steve Joseph, dean of BC3's humanities and social science division, cited accomplishments in BC3's general education program.

Pignatore provided an update on FERPA and Dr. Josh Novak, dean of student development, and Scott Richardson, director of campus police and security, on campus safety and C.A.R.E. – Campus Awareness Response Evaluation.

## Legendary employees retire

“As an institution 53 years old, it seems each year we lose some legendary employees, people who have dedicated their lives to our college, that has made our college the No. 1-ranked institution (in back-to-back surveys by Schools.com),” Neupauer said of the retirements of Dr. Charlene Wright, Alexandria Jones, Denton Dailey, Kathy Sommers and Don Stewart.

Wright was an associate professor in BC3's business division; Jones, coordinator of tutoring services; Dailey, associate professor in BC3's STEM division; Sommers, director of information technology; and Stewart, a maintenance staff member.

The college reset included the July 1 filling of interim positions by Christine Cleary, coordinator of science and technology labs; Jerry Johnston, admissions representative and business relations; Joseph, as dean of humanities and social science; Dr. Nichol Zaginaylo, as associate dean of humanities and social science; Collin Lawson, as temporary full-time campus police officer; Kristina Lynch, as regular full-time EMS specialist; Martin Miller, as dean of library services; and Karen Zapp, as director of BC3 @ Armstrong.

Interim positions were held by Richard Benko, as bookstore manager; Lisa Campbell, as director of workforce development; Tina Fleeger, as executive director of human resources and equal



Gina Rajchel, assistant director and preschool teacher in Butler County Community College's Amy Wise Children's Creative Learning Center, talks Aug. 23, 2018, with Chris Calhoun, a parks and recreation management professor at BC3 before the start of BC3's 2018 convocation.

opportunity compliance officer; Kim Matthews, as assistant director of financial aid; and Matthew Miller, as director of information technology.

College reset moves within Academic Affairs included the appointment of Tracy Hack as coordinator of community leadership initiatives; and the hiring to regular full-time positions of Kristine Allen, as a graphic design instructor, and of Stieb, as an English instructor. Melissa Langer was named business division secretary; Jessica Woessner was hired as a temporary full-time nursing clinical instructor; and Sarah Blystone, as a regular part-time library circulation staff member.

Also within Academic Affairs, named to regular full-time positions were Alyssa Gizienski, as medical assistant program director; Jean Hall, as nursing instructor and program director at BC3 @ Brockway in Brockway; Ramin Hajave, as a business and computer information systems instructor; Heather Darrington, as a nursing clinical instructor; and Aaron Schlott, as a medical coding instructor.

Searches were under way for the grant-funded part-time position of biology and chemistry laboratory technician at BC3 @ Brockway; for a regular part-time position of biology laboratory technician; for a temporary part-time reference librarian; and for a temporary full-time library acquisition secretary.

Academic Affairs also announced moving the business learning center office support to the technology help desk support.

College reset moves within Student Affairs and Enrollment Management also included the hiring of Matthew Stoej as student services and technology support specialist at BC3 @ Brockway; of Jodi Cummings as part-time BC3 @ LindenPointe student services specialist; of Jocilyn Houk, as part-time student services specialist at BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing; and of Leah Albert to the regular full-time position of online advising coordinator and academic adviser.

Rhiannon Baron was appointed as temporary full-time adult literacy instructor and distance coordinator; Pignatore, to a position that combined the posts of director of records and registration, and dean of admissions; Becky Smith, as associate director of records and registration; and Kim Matthews, as interim assistant director of financial aid; of Heather Jewart as coordinator of tutoring services; and of Jennifer Loue as coordinator of access and accommodations.

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management also announced the hiring of Emma Lee Hartle as part-time student employment specialist; of Jennifer Huba as regular part time group supervisor and preschool teacher; and of Nancy Seibel as temporary full time financial aid secretary.

Searches were in progress for a regular part-time assistant preschool teacher and assistant group supervisor for the Amy Wise Children's Creative Learning Center; a regular part-time high school programming secretary; and regular full-time student success coaches at BC3 @ Armstrong; BC3 @ Cranberry in Cranberry Township; BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing; BC3 @

LindenPointe and on BC3's main campus. A search was also under way for a regular part-time student services specialist at BC3 @ Armstrong.

Administration and Finance announced the appointment of Michael Fabian as regular full-time system support specialist and a search for a regular full-time system administrator for data center operations.

The BC3 Education Foundation hired Mikayla Moretti as director of special events and grants; and Bobbi Jo Cornetti as a part-time secretary.

Communications and Marketing announced the hiring of William Foley as coordinator of news and media content and a search for a regular full-time coordinator of digital and social content.

Operations announced the hiring of Cynthia Kamerer as a regular full-time custodian and a search for two regular part-time maintenance employees.

## Touching base with main campus

"I think for a lot of us, especially those at the off sites, convocation and professional day is the only time I come here to this campus," said Sarabok, a BC3 employee since 2004. "It is the only time I actually get to see faces. New people get hired, and I talk to that person through email or on the phone, but I don't know who they are. For us, touching base with main campus is really important."

Convocation, Mack said, "is that time to come back and connect with everybody, see what has happened and what is new for the upcoming year."

It is for Stieb, "like Jan. 1. It's my New Year's."

The Aug. 23 low of 46 degrees on BC3's main campus tied lows on May 24 and on June 6, according to timeanddate.com.