

## **Job Corps Scholars Abstract**

- 1. Applicant Name:** Blue Ridge Community and Technical College
- 2. Project Title:** Blue Ridge Job Corps Scholars (BRJCS) Program
- 3. Area to be Served:** The BRJCS program will served targeted communities by zip code within Berkeley, Morgan, and Jefferson Counties, West Virginia. Services will be provided primarily at the Pines Opportunity Center in Morgan County.
- 4. Number of Participants:** 80
- 5. Residential Component:** The BRJCS does not have a residential component.
- 6. Funding Level Requested:** \$1,186,900
- 7. Total Cost Per Participant:** \$14,836.25
- 8. Type of Institution:** Accredited, Two-Year Community College
- 9. Experience with Job Corps Population:** Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (BRCTC) is located in a geographic area that has a large population of Job Corps-eligible youth, particularly youth in poverty who lack basic skills needed to succeed in postsecondary work. The Morgan County staff, in particular, understand the complexities and challenges of serving disadvantaged and impoverished student populations and have the experience to mitigate barriers to successful training and employment leading to middle-skills wages.
- 10. Personal and Career Counseling Services Provided:** Blue Ridge Community and Technical College provides a variety of personal and career counseling services, including skills and career readiness assessments; career coaching and navigation; mitigation of barriers and referrals to college and community services; financial aid and financial resources counseling; academic counseling; case management; development of Individual Employment Plans; intensive developmental math and reading; tutoring; referrals to community services; pre-employment advising; job search assistance; job readiness assistance; and transitional support assistance to facilitate education to employment.

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### **11. Current Technical Career Training Programs Completed in Less Than One Year:**

Quality Assurance Technician (P&G Technician) (30 credit hours); HVAC Technician (125 clock hours) (8 credit hours); IT-Cybersecurity (30 credit hours); IT-Computer Specialist (40 credit hours); Manufacturing Skills Certificate (8-10 credit hours); Agribusiness Certification (8-30 credit hours); Early Childhood Specialist (15-30 credit hours); Recovery Coach Academy (7 credit hours)

**12. Summary of Project:** Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (BRCTC) is an open access public institution that offers degrees and certificates for transfer and technical education. BRCTC is the only public community and technical college in a tri-county area and is, therefore, the foundation of efforts to improve quality of life and promote upward mobility. The college draws over 6,800 students each year primarily from Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. A primary focus of BRCTC is serving the poorer areas of Morgan County where a recently opened BRCTC facility presents new opportunities for expanding technical training. For many years, this area has been relatively isolated and suffered the economic challenges common to much of Appalachia; however, surrounding communities have experienced an influx of technology-based employers with opportunities for well-paying jobs if workers have the skills needed by these employers. BRJCS will bridge the gap between low-income youth with barriers to education and employment and employers looking for skilled workers through technical training and student support designed to eliminate these barriers.

**13. Opportunity Zones (2 points):** The BRJCS targeted communities service region does have at least one census tract designated as a Qualified Opportunity Zone Tract: 54065970800 in Morgan County, WV.