



### **Enrollment at Belmont Technical College Continues to Increase**

The number of students enrolled for spring classes at Belmont Technical College (BTC) has climbed over 20 percent compared to the same period last year. More than 2,000 students are attending BTC this spring quarter.

"With BTC's record enrollment continuing, the College is creating new programs to meet students' needs. There is a First-Year Experience for new students which aids in success and retention. In addition, we have implemented a new advising structure which allows students to plan ahead for appointments and success plans," said Dean of Student Services, Peter Law.

Dr. Brenda Lohri-Posey, Executive Dean of Academic Affairs, attributes the high enrollment numbers not only to the need to retrain displaced workers and upgrade the credentials of students, but also to the affordability of BTC's tuition, the convenient locations of the College, online and hybrid courses, and a greater selection of Friday and Saturday classes. In addition, child care/child development services remain a benefit for students who are also parents.

Belmont's recent partnership with GMN Tri-County Community Action Committee (GMN) could not have come at a better time. With enrollment growing for BTC programs in not only Belmont and Harrison Counties but also in Monroe County, the College needed to provide for the growing student population in Monroe County.

"We are very pleased to officially kickoff this endeavor to provide greater access to education and career opportunities for our growing student population and for the residents of Monroe County," BTC President, Joseph Bukowski said. "Access to broadband internet service is a real challenge in rural communities, which poses a significant barrier to education."

Bukowski also stated that the College plans to offer on-site courses and online programs at the Monroe County Center in the future. In addition, the lab will be available for students and residents to use for coursework, research, and other activities.

New students are also being attracted to BTC's new program offerings including an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Cyber Security and Computer Forensics. This program will prepare students for entry-level positions in network security. The focus on information protection and online security is in direct response to the flood of network computer access by multiple users, a scenario that is inherent to virtually all companies today. Individuals completing the degree will be prepared to take the necessary tests for three certifications offered by the Computing Technology Industry Association. Cyber Security graduates will be positioned to seek jobs in a variety of fields, including banking, health care, and any other profession where the protection of information is vital to the integrity and confidentiality of the company. They will be well trained for careers in information assurance, network systems, and

homeland security as part of the College's ongoing effort to continually upgrade programs to meet the needs of today's workforce.

For more information about BTC's programs and offerings, visit [www.btc.edu](http://www.btc.edu) or call 740-695-9500, ext. 1010.

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