



## **Belmont Technical College Hosts Blind Magician to Help Promote Student Perseverance**

**St. Clairsville, OH (October 8, 2010)**— Belmont Technical College (BTC) hosted blind magician Jeff Smith "*The Amazing Jeffo*" at the main campus in St. Clairsville on Thursday, October 7 at 7:00p.m.

The show was not only a magic act, but also a motivating story about one individual's strength of purpose. Mr. Smith discussed how he persevered through life as the first blind student to graduate from the University of Minnesota, School of Journalism. The purpose of this program was to help motivate students to work hard to achieve their goals with conviction and a positive outlook.

"This event was a great way to encourage our students to persevere in the face of challenges," said Jennifer Redrup, BTC Director of Student Engagement, Leadership, and Career Services. "We wanted to give students an example of how to face tough circumstances with a positive attitude and strong sense of self-conviction."

Over the past 17 years, Mr. Smith has performed more than 3,000 programs including appearances on television and radio. His engaging presentation is filled with understanding, laughter and most of all, hope. He uses his creativity to invent a magic show which focuses on abilities and on having a positive outlook.

"I can either see blindness and other physical challenges for the ways they may limit me, or choose to see them opportunities in disguise," said Smith. "My circumstances have enabled me to reach beyond myself and more clearly see the influence I can have in the lives of others."

This event was presented by BTC Student Engagement and First-Year Experience. The first 40 attendees to the event received a free copy of the book "*The Lemonade Stand: How To Make A Difference 101*" by David Justus.

Founded in 1971, Belmont Technical College is one of 23 community colleges in the University System of Ohio. The College offers more than 30 associate degrees and 13 certificate programs to serve the multiple needs of area citizens. Belmont offers a comprehensive array of credit and non-credit programming at the main campus in St. Clairsville. The College also has locations in Cadiz and Woodsfield, Ohio. BTC serves more than 2000 students throughout Monroe, Harrison, and Belmont Counties and beyond.

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