



Five Individuals Honored by Belmont Technical College
BTC Holds Heritage Tree Ceremony and Emeritus Reception

St. Clairsville, OH (October 29, 2010) — Belmont Technical College (BTC) awarded five individuals high honors on Thursday, October 28.

Receiving the distinguished Heritage Tree Award for their extraordinary contributions to BTC were James Riley and the late Dr. Howard McLeskey. The Emeritus designation was bestowed upon the following individuals: the late Carol Goclan, the late Dr. Howard McLeskey, Terry Puperi, and Marilyn Wildman.

“Our honorees were chosen in acknowledgement of their unique contributions and long history with Belmont Technical College,” said Mrs. Elizabeth Gates, Chair of the BTC Board of Trustees. “They have all served in different capacities by devoting their time and excellent work to the College and our students.”

The Heritage Tree Award is presented to individuals who have helped to shape the College via their leadership efforts and steadfast dedication. A symbolic tree with gold leaves adorns a prominent spot in the College to showcase the names of the current honorees and those who previously received the distinction. Inductee’s names are etched on the tree as a permanent reminder of their individual commitment to the creation, growth and development of BTC’s heritage.

The following are the 2010 recipients of the Heritage Tree Award:

- **Mr. James Riley** has been a certified public accountant for 42 years. He has served as the treasurer of the Belmont Technical College Foundation Board since its inception in 1999 and as a member of the Foundation’s Finance and Executive Committees. Mr. Riley is a founding member of the BTC Board of Trustees and served the College in that capacity from 1971 through 1977.
- The late **Dr. Howard McLeskey** began working as a part-time faculty member in 1985 and was hired as full-time faculty in 1989, attaining the position of Professor in 2002. He served as professor of Mental Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences and BTC Program Chair of Mental Health and Child Development Programs and Behavioral Sciences.

“These individuals deserve high recognition for their devotion to our institution and our students,” said BTC President Dr. Joseph E. Bukowski. “We etch their names on our Heritage Tree as a dedication to the legacy they have provided us with as we look toward a strong and successful tomorrow.”

The Emeritus designation is an honorary title given to retired faculty and staff in recognition of admirable service to the college and its students.

The following are the 2010 recipients of the Emeritus designation:

- The late ***Mrs. Carol Goclan*** began teaching full-time in the BTC English department in 1999 and continued through her retirement in June 2007.
- The late ***Dr. Howard McLeskey*** served the College for more than 20 years. He will be remembered by BTC students, alumni, and colleagues for his devotion, sincerity, kindness, and optimistic spirit and for his continual focus on maintaining the best interest of his students as his top priority.
- ***Mr. Terry Puperi*** graduated from Belmont Technical College in 1976 and he returned to his alma mater in 1982 to begin teaching as a full-time faculty member in the College's Information Technologies Department. He retired with 28 years of service.
- ***Mrs. Marilyn Wildman*** began working at BTC in 1975 as an Adjunct Instructor in computer programming. She was hired to teach full-time in 1982 and continued until 2007, when she accepted an interim appointment and later became Director of Information Services. She retired with 35 years of service.

“Our Emeritus honorees are wonderful examples of the high-quality faculty employed by the College,” said Marge Hawthorne, BTC Executive Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development. “They are a representation of the dedication that they have had to their students over the years. It is an honor to have had these individuals as an integral part of BTC, and recognize them for the affect they have had on past generations of our students.”

A reception was held following the ceremony to further celebrate the inductees.

#