

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: September 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Blue Ridge Community College – Request for Support for
Certification of Henderson County Education Channel

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Letter from Dr. Parkhill

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Dr. Molly Parkhill, President of Blue Ridge Community College, will present a request to the Board of Commissioners with respect to a Henderson County Education Channel. Blue Ridge became actively interested in an Education Channel in 2002, and Morris Broadband has now extended an invitation to BRCC to establish and operate such a channel for the community employing equipment located in the Technology Center.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

No specific Board action is requested at this time, as the presentation is for information only. Following the presentation, should the Board desire any additional information, the Board is requested to direct Staff accordingly.

Suggested Motion:

No motion suggested.



August 24, 2010

Steve Wyatt, County Manager
Henderson County Board of Commissioners
100 North King Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Steve:

As you may recall, in 2002 Blue Ridge became actively interested in a Henderson County Educational Channel. Three years later during cable TV franchise renegotiations, the College advocated for an educational channel. Now, Morris Broadband has extended an invitation to us to establish and operate an educational channel for the community employing equipment located in our Technology Center. They have agreed to provide the necessary connections to our production facilities and a place on the channel lineup at no cost to the College. We are making plans to appoint a channel advisory committee, organize programming, and assign staff to launch the channel which will be open to programming ideas from all public educators in the County.

The preliminary plan is for the College to operate and maintain the channel 24/7 using a both pre-recorded and live educational programming. Examples include: Basic Education, ESOL, cultural enrichment, distance learning courses, and other educational programming. Content will originate from our campus and run to the Morris Broadband head-end facilities. The launch date will be in 2011, but will depend on how quickly the cable company can complete final phase infrastructure.

In the near future, we will be asking the County to make a formal request to the North Carolina Department of Revenue so that the Henderson County Educational Channel can be "certified" pursuant to state law. Certification will allow us to receive a portion of the funds earmarked for PEG (Public Educational and Governmental) channel support from the state. The College will assist with both the certification process.

Please feel free to contact me regarding our progress with this initiative and with developing programming for an Educational Channel for Henderson County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly A. Parkhill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Molly A. Parkhill, Ed. D.
President

CC John McCormick
David Hutto