



**Topic: *Manufacturing Engineering Technology Program***

**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2010

**Speaker:** Jim Leech , Instructor - BRCC

**Location: Blue Ridge Community College**

Plecker Center - Room P126B  
Blue Ridge Community College  
Weyers Cave, VA 99999

**Dinner Menu:** Baked Chicken in cream sauce, Mashed Potato, Tossed salad, Bread, Desserts, and drink.

**Time:** 6:00 PM – Registration - Social  
6:30 PM - Dinner  
7:00 PM – Program

**Cost: \$15.00.**

Cash or check only, accepted at registration.

Please contact Ray Schumin at [rschumin@cadenceinc.com](mailto:rschumin@cadenceinc.com) or by phone at (540) 290-2797 by **4pm, Tuesday, January 12th.**

**DIRECTIONS:** The BRCC Weyers Cave Campus is located halfway between Harrisonburg and Staunton on Interstate 81. Take Exit 235 off Interstate 81. Turn west at the top of the exit ramp (Route 256). In a very short distance, Route 256 terminates onto U. S. Route 11. Turn left (south) on U.S. Route 11. BRCC Weyers Cave Campus is about a half-mile on the left.

Parking for the Plecker facility may be accessed by using the south entrance, beside the Criminal Justice Training Academy.

**CAMPUS MAP:** <http://www.brcc.edu/wsce/CoverPages/FiveTabs/directions.htm>

**SPEAKER: James Leech, Instructor of Manufacturing Technology,** will present an overview of the BRCC Manufacturing Engineering Technology Program and short tour of the MET facilities.



After working 30 years in manufacturing as an engineer and holding several management positions, Jim Leech took advantage of an early retirement package offered by his employer. As an advisory board member at BRCC, he helped develop a non-credit technical program for incumbent manufacturing workers. He also wrote and instructed materials as an adjunct faculty. So when the College was awarded its first Community Based Job Training Grant from the Department of Labor, Leech was the obvious choice for the full-time faculty position to develop an AAS program in advanced manufacturing specializing in automation. Now Leech heads the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program.

“The success of the plant offered job security and a better life for so many people, I felt it would be a rewarding experience to try and introduce others to the technologies and business methods used to improve plant operations and thus their job security and standard of living. This program will allow BRCC students an opportunity to appreciate the challenges and rewards the modern manufacturing environment has to offer,” explained Leech.

Backed by many regional manufacturers and businesses within the BRCC service region, the newly-launched MET program utilizes over \$500,000 of state-of-the-art, industrial training equipment in the areas of electrical-electronics, refrigeration, fluid mechanics, power mechanics and automated systems training. Leech says the MET program at BRCC will fulfill a vital need in regional manufacturing as manufacturing continues to automate their production operations.