

Press Release



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Fallen Deputy and Law Enforcement Cadets Honored at Buchanan Construction Scholarship Luncheon



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Featured Photo: Basic Law Enforcement Training cadets stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the Patton Building on April 19 as class representative Russell Saldutti reads a heartfelt statement. (Photo by Benjamin Rickert. [High resolution photos](#) for media use are available on Google Drive.)

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. – Basic Law Enforcement Training cadets stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the Patton Building on April 19 as class representative Russell Saldutti read a heartfelt statement. The Buchanan Construction Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon took place to honor the cadets, but everyone knew that fallen deputy Ryan P. Hendrix was the underlying inspiration. Hendrix lost his life in the line of duty in 2020.

“We are here today because of him,” said Saldutti. “[Hendrix] did so much more than patrol our streets. He protected the community with utmost professionalism. He loved his community and his profession. Every one of us should aspire to keep his legacy alive.”

Hosted by Blue Ridge Community College’s Educational Foundation, the event brought together Blue Ridge cadets, faculty, staff, and members of the Buchanan Construction team, who established the Buchanan Construction Ryan Hendrix Memorial Fund scholarship in 2023 through a [\\$25,000 donation](#). A community golf tournament raised the funds which now support the tuition, fees and other expenses of Blue Ridge’s law enforcement students.

“It’s a very profound donation,” said Philip Hosmer, dean of Public Safety Training. “This is the biggest impact on the Basic Law Enforcement Training program since I’ve been at Blue Ridge to help these fine young men and women who want to go into our law enforcement professions.”

In her remarks, Educational Foundation Executive Director Trina Stokes stressed that it was the impact Hendrix had on so many individuals, along with the generosity of Buchanan and Hendrix’s family, that made the scholarship a success.

As the event came to a close, Saldutti expressed gratitude toward those who supported his classmates on their journey toward public service. Thomas and Jeff Hendrix, brothers of Ryan Hendrix and Buchanan employees, were then presented with a signed certificate of appreciation.

“Your belief in us instills a sense of responsibility to make the most of this opportunity and to strive for excellence in our endeavors,” he said. “We are ready to make a difference in our community.”

Buchanan Construction plans to hold their second annual golf tournament in Hendrix’s honor later this year.

Information about Basic Law Enforcement Training and other public safety programs is available online at www.blueridge.edu/public-safety.

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