

<b>Student seeks 30 credits in high school</b>	3
<b>Your Top 10 reasons to Be A Pioneer</b>	3
<b>Why Mars students picked BC3 program</b>	4



“ This program ... offers different opportunities to explore different career paths.”  
**Alyssa Donley**

## Riv-Ell forges ahead



Mike Pisano, a supervisor at the Ellwood City Forge, discusses operations with, from left, high school seniors Ellie Davis, Jack Landis and Noah Sye on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, during a Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program field trip to the manufacturer.

### Program returns with most number of students

**R**eflected points of light slide across white hard hats as heads turn left and right. Their questions answered, their curiosity satisfied, the high school seniors glance down to follow one another’s footsteps to be taken between the yellow stripes on the deck of a hometown manufacturer, a facility many students visited for the first time through the 2022-2023 Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program.

After a two-year pause with regard to COVID-19, the program that blends classroom learning with real-world experience has attracted its largest number of students seeking free, transferrable credits to Butler County Community College

*See Forges! Page 2*

### 10 Seek 16 Free College Credits



“ With the cost of college being obviously really high, it was really nice to get these free college credits.”  
**Jack Landis**



“ I know that by taking the Riv-Ell program that all my credits are going to transfer.”  
**Ellie Davis**



“ This will pretty much make us second semester of our freshmen year.”  
**Aliya Garroway**

# Riv-Ell forges ahead

*Forges! From Page 1*  
 or to the Community College of Beaver County, and a resume-building workplace certificate from BC3.

## Debuted in 2018

The program for seniors at Riverside and Lincoln high schools launched in 2018 through a partnership among BC3, CCBC, the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce and Ellwood City area businesses.

Fifteen high school seniors since 2019 have graduated from the Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program, said Erin Cioffi, BC3's assistant director of high school programming.

Ten students in 2022-2023 are taking college courses taught by BC3 and CCBC instructors at Lincoln High or online, gaining insight through field trips to Ellwood City area businesses such as the Ellwood City Forge and preparing to create a program-ending business plan.

"The Riv-Ell program provides students with an opportunity to see if business is right for them," Cioffi said, "and an opportunity to meet and explore local leaders and their businesses."

## Donors benefit program

Financial contributions from 15 businesses, nonprofit organizations, BC3 administrators and other individuals fund tuition, fees and books for Riv-Ell students to earn the 16 tuition-free credits and a BC3 Workplace Certificate in Entrepreneurship, which represents a work-ready, post-secondary academic achievement.

"This program is free for all



Mike Pisano, a supervisor at the Ellwood City Forge, discusses operations with, from left, high school seniors Aliya Garroway, Alyssa Donley, Noah Sye and Morgan Hooker on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, during a Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program field trip to the manufacturer.



Mike Pisano, a supervisor at the Ellwood City Forge, discusses operations with, from left, high school seniors Jack Landis and Noah Sye on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, during a Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program field trip to the manufacturer.

Book, vice president for human resources, told Riv-Ell students.

The Ellwood City Forge Group states it manufactures concentric and eccentric contoured forgings and single cross-section products from carbon, alloy, stainless, aluminum, tool steels and nickel alloys.

of us because of the people who have donated," said Alyssa Donley, of Lincoln. "I think it is really helping me. It also offers different opportunities to explore different career

paths."

The Ellwood City Forge Group has positions that include those in accounting, finance, marketing and human resources, Danielle

*See Forges! Page 6*



“It just makes me feel good to know that I may have that many credits in store for my future. And I can use them in college and I can use the money that I saved for college even later.”  
**Carson Gerthoffer**

## Mars High student seeks 30 BC3 credits



From left, Lucy Huggins, Avery Beller, Kyra Harvey and Gaby Chamblin laugh during a Butler County Community College College Within the High School class at Mars Area High School on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022.

## BC3 offers 60 courses in 6 counties

**A** Mars Area High senior is working to earn 30 transferrable Butler County Community College credits by May from a BC3 program offering reduced-cost courses at high schools or learning centers in six western Pennsylvania counties.

Carson Gerthoffer is pursuing nine transferrable credits this fall through BC3's College Within the High School program and intends

to complete six next spring.

The Mars High computer club member earned 15 transferrable BC3 credits in his junior year at Mars.

Earning 30 credits through BC3's College Within the High School program would be "just incredible," said Gerthoffer, who is seeking a career in cybersecurity.

"It just makes me feel good to know that I may have that many  
*See Offers, Page 4*

## Top 10 Reasons to Be a Pioneer



**10** 60 percent of BC3's Class of 2022 graduated **debt-free**.

The BC3 Education Foundation has awarded

**9** a **record \$280,000** in scholarships to BC3 students in 2022-2023.

**8** BC3 has **partnerships** with four-year colleges and universities that offer **cost savings** and **additional benefits** to BC3 students who transfer to their institution.

**7** BC3's **salary-to-cost ratio**, a measurement of graduates' salaries 10 years after commencement for every dollar a student pays to attend the institution, was the **highest** in the region in 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

**6** BC3 offers **35** career programs, **21** transfer programs and **25** certificates.

**5** BC3 has **convenient locations** in Armstrong, Butler, Jefferson, Lawrence and Mercer counties.

**4** BC3's credits **transfer** to four-year colleges and universities.

**3** BC3 has an **11:1** student-to-faculty ratio.

**2** A BC3 education is the **most affordable in Pennsylvania** compared with tuition and fees at four-year public universities, state-related universities and branch campuses, and private institutions.



**1** BC3 has been ranked as the **No. 1** community college in **Pennsylvania eight times** since 2015.

# BC3 offers 60 courses in 6 counties

*Offers, From Page 3*

credits in store for my future,” Gerthoffer said. “And I can use them in college and I can use the money that I saved for college even later.”

BC3’s College Within the High School program enters its 24th year this fall, when it is offering 60 reduced-cost courses to qualified sophomores through seniors at 15 high schools and learning centers in Butler, Clarion, Clearfield, Jefferson, Lawrence and Mercer counties.

### 400-plus enrolled again

Tuition and fees this fall for a three-credit BC3 College Within the High School program course range from \$405 to \$429, depending on the county in which the high school is located.

“Affordability is important because you can spend that money on so many other things,” Gerthoffer said. “You can save money. Invest it. Buy a house or a car. It’s just better to save money.”

BC3’s program this fall enrolls more than 400 students for the seventh consecutive semester, according to Erin Cioffi, the college’s assistant director of high school programming.

“Not only does it allow students to have access to college credits at a much more affordable price, but it is also a program that prepares students to go to college,” said Corey Goeggelman, a Mars High teacher who has been instructing BC3’s American national government course for three years.

### “Deeper understanding”

“**T**hey get to understand what a college workload is going to be like. Once they are in college, they can skip some of those prerequisite courses. They don’t have to take some of those general education requirements when they get there.”

BC3 courses in American national government, business leadership and speech being taken by Gerthoffer are among others such as elementary statistics, general psychology and marketing being taught to Mars High students this fall.

“I think our students are really interested in getting a deeper understanding of these topics,” said Goeggelman, who himself has 19 juniors and seniors in BC3’s American national government course that he teaches five mornings a week.

“There’s a lot of interest in learning.”

### “Super cost-efficient”

Gerthoffer completed BC3 College Within the High School courses in marketing and in microeconomics in the fall of his junior year at Mars High.

He finished business math, general psychology and productivity applications in the spring of his junior year.

Gerthoffer intends to pursue courses in business law and in introduction to entrepreneurship in the spring.

“The fact that he may manage to get so many credits through College Within the High School, that is going to be super cost-efficient for him,” said American national government classmate Avery

*See Offers, Page 6*



Declan Abbey said Butler County Community College’s College Within the High School program “fits right in with your other classes and the rest of your day. It’s obviously more convenient than having to leave and go somewhere else.” Abbey is shown at Mars High on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022.

## Why Mars Students Picked BC3 Program



“It is more difficult, and more challenging.”

**Griffin Frazier**



“I wanted to learn more, and be in harder classes.”

**Malina Cameron**



“It also looks good on my transcript.”

**Chase Winstead**



“It’s a good deal.”

**Avery Beller**

### Fall 2022 College Within the High School Classes

#### Butler County

- **Butler Area Senior High**  
College Writing, Principles of Sociology, Technical Math
- **Early College Pioneers: Butler Area Senior High**  
College Study Skills, College Writing, Speech
- **Mars Area High**  
American National Government, Business Leadership, Elementary Statistics, General Psychology, Marketing, Microeconomics, Speech
- **Portersville Christian School**  
College Writing, Introduction to Philosophy, Shakespeare
- **Seneca Valley High**  
Computer Information Systems, General Psychology, Introduction to Philosophy, Microeconomics, Principles of Sociology, Speech
- **Summit Academy**  
Contemporary World History, General Psychology

#### Clarion County

- **Keystone Junior-Senior High**  
Contemporary World History

#### Clearfield County

- **DuBois Central Catholic**  
College Writing

#### Jefferson County

- **Brockway Area Junior-Senior High**  
College Writing, General Psychology

#### Lawrence County

- **Lawrence County Career & Tech**  
College Algebra, Speech
- **Lincoln High School**  
College Writing, Speech
- **Riv-ElI Entrepreneurship Program**  
Introduction to Entrepreneurship, The Business Plan
- **Union Area Middle-Senior High**  
General Psychology

#### Mercer County

- **Farrell Area High**  
Microeconomics
- **Reynolds Junior-Senior High**  
General Psychology

### Corporate Donors' Gifts Benefit High School Students!

BC3's College Within the High School program thanks the generous corporate donors for their support through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Those who have contributed through EITC gifts:

- Baglier Buick Mazda GMC, Butler
- Brayman Construction, Saxonburg
- Buncher Co., Pittsburgh
- EQT Production Co., Pittsburgh
- Farmers National Bank of Emlenton
- First National Bank, FNB, Hermitage
- Guardian Elder Care, Brockway
- Maher Duessel, Pittsburgh
- Mars National Bank, Mars
- Mercer County State Bank, Grove City

- Mercer County State Bank, Sandy Lake
- NexTier Bank, Butler
- Northwest Bank, Warren
- Peoples Gas, Pittsburgh
- Phoenix Sintered Metals, Brockway
- PPG Industries Foundation, Pittsburgh

The BC3 Education Foundation Inc. is approved by the Commonwealth as an Innovative Education Program under EITC guidelines.

If you are interested in supporting BC3's College Within the High School program, email Megan Coval, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation, at [megan.coval@bc3.edu](mailto:megan.coval@bc3.edu).



#### Contact BC3!

#### High School Programming

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Butler, PA 16003-1203  
724-287-8711 Ext. 8254  
Toll-Free: 888-826-2829  
[erin.cioffi@bc3.edu](mailto:erin.cioffi@bc3.edu)

#### BC3 Main Campus

BC3 Main Campus 724-287-8711  
BC3 Toll-Free 888-826-2829  
BC3 Extensions  
Dial 724-287-8711, then

Admissions	Ext. 8501
BC3 Bookstore	Ext. 8503
Records & Registration	Ext. 8510
Continuing Education	Ext. 8246

#### Additional Locations

BC3 @

Armstrong	724-902-7452
Cranberry	724-772-5520
Lawrence Crossing	724-658-1938
LindenPointe	724-346-2073
Brockway	814-265-1810

#### Visit BC3!



# Riv-Ell forges ahead

*Forges! From Page 2*

Final products can weigh up to 70,000 pounds. Every position on the floor, Book said, is “technical.”

### Classes and field trips

“You have to have reasoning, math and language skills,” Book said. “If you make a mistake on one of those pieces because you can’t read a measuring tape or you can’t read a 3D geometric drawing that you studied in ninth grade in geometry, or if you can’t spatially look at a part or do trigonometry to figure out an angle or a reference, one of those blocks was \$50,000, \$60,000 because you didn’t measure it correctly.”

Riv-Ell students in 2022-2023 will take courses in introduction to entrepreneurship, the business plan, speech, marketing, financial literacy and general psychology, and field trips that include those to the Ellwood City Forge, Nalco Water and McElwain Brothers Paint and



**Morgan Hooker, a student in the Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program, is shown during a field trip Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, to the Ellwood City Forge.**

Collision Center. The program’s field trip to the Ellwood City Forge introduced her to “different aspects of different jobs,” said Hannah Mosholder, a Lincoln student who plans to one day establish a business. “There is a lot that can go into one job that you may not realize,” Mosholder said. “In

other businesses, there is the manager and the associates. Here they have the same types of roles, but just in different ways. I found that to be very interesting.” Topics in introduction to entrepreneurship include entrepreneurial behavior, opportunity recognition, types of business ownership, financial

and market research, and product development. Marketing introduces the students to product, price, place and promotion.

### “Super-interesting”

The business plan guides students through the component parts of a business plan and prepares students to pursue avenues of funding for the new venture.

“I really do find the whole process of owning a business and starting a business to be super-interesting,” said Paige Wearing, a Lincoln student. “I think it’s important for us to know these types of things. Even if you don’t want to do it right now, later in life you may want to start a business. And it’s good to know the process.”

Riv-Ell students who earned BC3’s Workplace Certificate in Entrepreneurship at 17 years of age were the youngest graduates in BC3’s Classes of 2019 and 2020.

## BC3 offers 60 courses in 6 counties

*Offers, From Page 4*

Beller, a member of Mars High’s film and German clubs and of its speech and debate team.

“I know some people who have taken enough College Within the High School credits to chop down a semester and maybe even graduate from college a semester early, but that is even more than that.”

### “It’s pretty in-depth”

Beller is a senior who is seeking a career in criminology and has taken business law, general psychology and speech at Mars High through BC3’s College Within the High School program.

“It’s a good deal,” Beller said. “It’s nice to be able to just walk to second period and know you are doing

something to further your future.”

American national government is the first BC3 College Within the High School course to be taken by Mars High hockey player Declan Abbey.

“It’s pretty in-depth,” said Abbey, a junior seeking a career as an engineer.

“It definitely gets into the nitty-gritty of government and

keeps you engaged. And you don’t have to leave your high school. It just fits right in with your other classes and the rest of your day. It’s obviously more convenient than having to leave and go somewhere else.”

Added Gerthoffer: “You don’t have to go anywhere else. Everything is set up for you. And it will help you later on down the line.”