



Photo courtesy of Audrey Ashburner

Members of the Climbing Team pose in front of the "Welcome to Tennessee" sign as they head to one of their competitions.

BC presents new Climbing Team

By Florian Peyssonneaux
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For the first time in Brevard College history a climbing team will compete as a collegiate sport after recent approval from the Board of Trustees.

The team was already competing in the Appalachian Division, but now raise to a higher level of acclaim by becoming the newest officially recognized NCAA team on campus.

The climbing team will compete in the NCAA like many of the athletic sides at BC, and will following the normal athletics calendar. For the time being, nearly a dozen students are part of the team, and are looking forward to competitive competition.

The Tornados climbing team will compete against other schools under three different categories such as sport, speed-climbing, and bouldering. In sport climbing the anchors are permanently on the rock, while bouldering is a more simple form of climbing without a rope, that requires short and strong moves. In

the speed category, the climber has to scale a 10-meter wall.

Brevard College Vice President for Strategic Planning and Athletics Juan Mascaro commented on the new addition to the athletics department, saying "Rock climbing will be an exciting addition to our athletic program here at Brevard."

The climbing team follows the route that Brevard's cycling team took few years ago when the team made the switch from a successful club to an officially recognized team. Similar to cycling, BC climbing team has the geographical advantage over other schools. Indeed, Brevard has an ideal location for rock climbing with spots like Looking Glass Rock located in Pisgah National Forest, or Brevard Rock Gym if the climbers want to practice inside.

Travis Gray who is an alumni of Brevard College, and sponsor of the team, as of Monday, Nov. 21 assumes the role of head coach of the climbing team.

"This magnificent group of students are true champions on this campus, and the potential for each of them is endless. There is truly no height that each of them cannot reach on and off the wall. I am truly honored to help mentor them to many more accomplishments as their coach" said Gray.

BC student Audrey Ashburner who is also the president of the climbing club contributed to make this transition from club to competitive team.

"I have been working towards turning the climbing club into a competitive sports team for the past two years of my college career, and it has been the most rewarding experience of my life," she said.

Ashburner also added, "I am so proud of what the club has accomplished, and overjoyed with all of the support I received from Brevard College and the Brevard community in order to make this possible."