BCECHS recruits for fourth class

Three years ago, Blounts Creek resident Stephen Cutler and Belhaven resident Shaiana Ebron took a chance.

They were two of the first students to enroll in the Beaufort County Early College High School.

In January, Beaufort County Early College High School, or BCECHS, began the second half of its third year in operation with Cutler, now 17, and Ebron, now 17, as members of its junior class.

Students at the early college high school, housed on the campus of Beaufort County Community College, take honors high school and tuition-free community college courses and graduate in five years with a high school diploma and an associate's degree in the field of their choice.

They can then either head into the work force with job-related skills or transfer to a four-year college.

Recruiting for the next freshman class has already begun with visits by BCECHS faculty and staff to middle schools throughout the county.

The school will also host an open house session Monday, March 7, for students interested in applying to attend the school as freshman in the 2011-2012 school year.

Cutler said in a recent interview that he chose the school because "there are no kids here who don't want to learn."

And although he admits being "a little nervous" when he started at the school in 2008, he is "excited and honored" to be a member of that ground-breaking class.

This semester, Cutler, a future engineer, is finishing his last two high school courses - U.S. History and Geometry - and is enrolled in courses at the community college.