



JIM'S JOURNAL

I hope this message finds you well. We are extremely fortunate to have a team of highly skilled and committed individuals who consistently surpass expectations to contribute to the success of our institution and students. The varied skills, creativity, and expertise of our staff are the foundation of our achievements at BTC. What sets us apart is your dedication to ensuring student success. Our employees consistently exhibit a passion for excellence, innovation, and collaboration, fostering an inspiring environment for learning and growth. A recent example is BTC Accessibility Resources Director Mary Gerard. She co-authored an article for the Journal of Post-Secondary Education and Disability, titled "[Revisiting AHEAD's Professional Standards: Exploring Their Transformation into Competencies and Application to 21st Century Disability Resources Practice.](#)"

Mary's collaboration with other nationally recognized Accessibility Resources professionals on this article demonstrates not only her dedication to advancing the field but also her commitment to ensuring equitable access and equal opportunity for all within higher education.

The article is a testament to her expertise and leadership in the disability education domain. The comprehensive discussion on the background, methodology, and results of updating the Professional Standards to the Professional Competencies provides valuable insights for professionals in the disability resources field.

Mary's contribution to the article undoubtedly enriches the professional knowledge, skills, and traits of disability resources professionals across the country. We are fortunate to have Mary's talents and leadership here at BTC. Her dedication to advancing disability resources in higher education is truly commendable, and I am confident that her efforts will have a positive and lasting impact on our students and the field.

Warm regards,
Jim

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | DECEMBER 2023
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

GRANT AWARDS

BTC's Machining program has received a five-year Aerospace High Demand FTEs grant award from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. The program will receive \$104,000 per year to expand enrollment through a gradual shift to competency-based instruction. These funds will support instructional design and curriculum development efforts, along with related supplies.

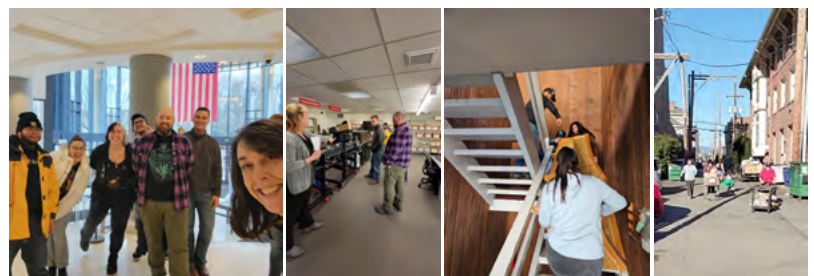
Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program faculty are participating in two new grant projects that will benefit program students. The first is a Career Connect Washington grant that will help partners build an advanced high school aquaculture course that is aligned to BTC's program. High school students taking this class will be able to earn dual credit. The second is a Washington Sea Grant through the University of Washington, which is a collaborative partnership to address mass mortalities in oyster aquaculture. This grant will support the Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program's involvement in a shellfish experiment (including paying for student workers and project supplies), along with internships and field trips.

TRIO

TRIO, a program funded through grants, caters to students meeting specific criteria: those who are the first in their families to pursue college, hail from low-income backgrounds, or have a disability.

TRIO provides students with tailored academic and career coaching, round-the-clock tutoring, peer mentoring, assistance in financial literacy and accessing financial aid, and ongoing guidance throughout their college journey. Additionally, the program hosts skill-building workshops and opportunities for leadership development.

This autumn, TRIO students actively participated in leadership and community service projects. In November, we volunteered at the YWCA, aiding families transitioning into a new apartment. During our Dec. 1 leadership seminar, we met the outgoing and incoming Whatcom County Auditor and toured the Elections Center to learn how ballots are processed.



PROCURE TO PAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

December Question: I was doing my P-Card review and I see a charge I didn't make. What do I do?

Answer: This is a great question and one that I really dislike having to answer. Many of us do a majority of our purchasing from online vendors like Amazon. Unfortunately, online credit card fraud is rampant and only getting worse; there were close to \$8 billion in losses in 2021, up \$2 billion from 2019.

([How to Protect Yourself from Online Card Fraud - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/05/technology/credit-card-fraud.html))

The first thing to do is call the number on the back of your card. Call Customer Service at (800) 344-5696 and let them know you see charges that are not your own. They will typically cancel your card and reissue you a new one with a new number.

Next, email me at mnelson@btc.edu and let me know about the issue. In US Bank, do not mark the charge(s) as reviewed and add a comment that this is a fraudulent charge.

I will receive your replacement card and process it. Once done, I'll email or call you to make arrangements to get you your new card. Your card will already be associated with your account, but if someone assists you in reallocating expenses, I will need to make sure they also have access.

The bank will send you a form to fill it out via postal mail. Contact me if you have any questions when you get the form. Otherwise, fill it out and sign it, scan a copy to me, and then send it back to the bank via fax or mail by the due date.

As vigilant as we are with our credit card information, this type of identity theft can happen to any of us. It helps to practice good credit card hygiene: secure your card in a locked drawer or in your wallet/purse; never fill out online forms with card information that are not secure pay portals or send your full card number via email; do not save your card information on websites wherever possible; and stay away from purchasing on sketchy-looking websites. When in doubt, reach out!

I still have questions! For more information about this topic, go check out the [Purchasing - Home \(btc.edu\)](#) SharePoint site or feel free to email the people listed.

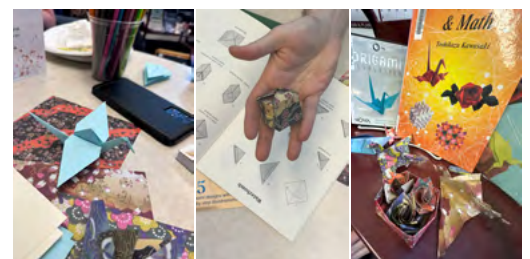
ASBTC CORNER

Bryson Sidebottom – ASBTC Director of Administrative Affairs

ASBTC has a full team! We are excited to announce that Bryson Sidebottom, a Medical Administration student, has joined us as the ASBTC Director of Administrative Affairs. Please welcome Bryson to the team when you see him around campus at ASBTC events and committee meetings.

Origami Event

ASBTC hosted an origami event on December 4. Many students and employees enjoyed folding paper and creating beautiful shapes. It was a great de-stressing event at the beginning of finals week. It also featured amazing food from local restaurant Café Rumba. Papers were folded, figures were created, and participants made creations ranging from complicated dragon origami figures to simple folds such as a fox figure shape. ASBTC is looking forward to providing more creative events like these that stretch students' imagination while creating something they can take home and show off to others. Fun fact: the \$10 billion James Webb telescope has utilized origami-style folding to unfold the golden mirrors and the shade sail that helps the telescope see deep into space and gaze back into time.



DEI NEWS

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion News

안녕하세요 Annyeonghaseyo Campus Community,

Thank you to everyone who has joined us so far for our DEI Certificate Modules. Save the date for these Winter Quarter DEI events:

January

- **Thursday, Jan. 4, 12-1 p.m.** in MC 211:
DEI Module 1 for new employees or those who did not get the certificate last year and have not seen this yet
- **Monday, Jan. 8, 12-1 p.m.** in MC 211:
DEI and Superbowl Commercials 2023
- **Monday, Jan. 15, MLK Day Event** (more information to come)
- **Friday, Jan. 26, 12-1 p.m.** in J Building Room 7:
Common Read Chapters 3-4

February

- **Monday, Feb. 5, 12-1 p.m.** in MC 211:
If BTC students were characters from "Encanto"
- **Wednesday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.** on Zoom:
Common Read Chapters 3-4
- **Tuesday, Feb. 13 12-1 p.m.** in MC 210:
DEI Module 2 for new employees or those who did not get the certificate last year and have not seen this yet
- **Thursday, Feb. 29, 9-10 a.m.** in H Building Room 17 and Zoom:
Common Read Chapters 3-4

March

- **Monday, March 11, 12-1 p.m.** in MC 211:
DEI and Is Cancel Culture Helpful or Hurtful?
- **Thursday, March 21, 12-1 p.m.** in MC 211:
DEI Module 3 for new employees or those who did not get the certificate last year and have not seen this yet

About the DEI Certificate:

Completion requires modules 1-3 and attendance at two other optional DEI hosted/approved events, for a total of five trainings. Once completed, you will fill out a certificate request stating the dates of your trainings and events, and answer assessment questions. Utilize the DEI Tracking Form to help participants keep track their work and apply for the certificate when they have completed requirements. If you received the certificate last year, this is the same program and you do not need to complete again.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Do you have some Notable News of your own? Share it with us! Your unique perspective is what makes BTC (and this newsletter) interesting.

Submit your articles, news tips, photos, and other fodder for publication in our prestigious academic campus community newsletter using the [Notable News Submission Form](#). Submissions are always open and should be made no less than two weeks prior to publication.

Notable News is published ten times annually on the third Thursday of every month, except July and August.

BTC CAMPUS READ
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE DEI FUND

FROM EQUITY TALK TO EQUITY WALK

Join BTC employee facilitators for a chance to discuss, share questions and explore ideas from BTC's first Campus Read book, "From Equity Talk to Equity Walk."

Fall Quarter (Chapters 1 & 2)
In Person: DMC 143
Fri, Nov. 17, from 12-1 p.m.
Hybrid: DMC 143 & Zoom
Mon, Nov. 20, from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Online: Zoom
Wed, Nov. 29, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Winter Quarter (Chapters 3 & 4)
In Person: J7
Fri, Jan. 26, from 12-1 p.m.
Online: Zoom
Wed, Feb. 7, from 11a.m.-12 p.m.
Hybrid: H17 & Zoom
Thu, Feb. 29, from 9-10 a.m.

Spring Quarter (Chapter 5)
Meeting times & locations TBD

Bellingham TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Bellingham Technical College is an equal opportunity institution. See the full statement at www.btc.edu/ios

Zoom: 85448708245

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Michelle Smith!**

Q: What's your position and title here at BTC? Now and in the future?

A: Program Specialist II – Enrollment Services.

Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?

A: I play video games – currently Hogwarts Legacy – so fun! Playstation 5 is my console of choice. I go to the movie theatre almost every week. I love to read – Stephen King is my favorite author. I read a lot of graphic novels – anything by Jeff Lemire. I do not believe too much tv is a bad thing; I think I have every streaming platform available right now. I will watch anything with zombies or vampires and spend an embarrassingly large amount of time watching cartoons.

Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?

A: In the '80s I was a massive heavy metal fan. Name an '80s heavy metal band and I saw them in concert. Poison, Motley Crue, Ratt, AC/DC, Def Leppard, Van Halen, Kiss, White Lion, Aerosmith, Scorpions, Judas Priest, Skid Row, Warrant - I saw them all! I had the big hair, the leather fringe jacket, platform boots and the Rob Lowe dagger earring (if you remember the '80s, you know what I'm talking about) – my glory days!

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: I have 1 husband and 5½ cats. Carl, Sassy Pants, Andy, Lucy, Goose and Maurice (a neighbor's cat that stops by every night for dinner). We took in a kitten that wandered in our back door one night. Soon she had a litter of kittens in our living room and I was instantly transformed into a crazy cat lady. I can't imagine not having a house full of kitties. My kitties run my life.

Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?

A: Well – I need caffeine (yes, that is food) and I can't live without ice cream (yes, that is also food) – so I would have to bring a very large Cruisin Coffee mocha shake. Book - Fairy Tale by Stephen King. I'm only on page 34 and I need to finish it! Movie: Something I haven't already seen so I have something to look forward to. So I pick Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (I know it's not out yet – but it will be soon). Having Jason Momoa to keep me company sure won't hurt!

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I'm very much a nerd. Any opportunity for a photo op with a celebrity or a chance to get a book autographed by an author, I'll be there! This picture is so me – Freddy Krueger T-shirt, Superman sweatshirt on my arm, Emerald City Comicon pin on my knee, Comicon badge around my neck, cup of coffee in hand standing next to a dinosaur with a light saber. How could life be any better? I enjoy being surrounded by excitement, noise, colors, lights and fun imaginative people! I also love toys. My house is decorated with Star Wars, superheroes, Walking Dead, Funko Pops, Doctor Who, Disney, Harry Potter...all kinds of awesome geeky stuff! Oh, and I own more Star Wars T-shirts than any one person should own.



On behalf of everyone at Bellingham Technical College, we wish you and yours a joyous holiday season filled with connection, well-being, and the hope for a bright future.