



## KIM'S CORNER

Dear BTC Community Members,

BTC stands with Black people. We recognize and acknowledge that Black Lives Matter, and that Black people have been targeted, brutalized and murdered through systematic racist violence. Trayvon Martin in Florida, Michael Brown in Missouri, Sandra Bland in Texas, Eric Garner in New York, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, George Floyd in Minnesota and now Rayshard Brooks in Georgia are just the latest names in a long list of names of Black Americans targeted over the past 400 years because of their race.

At BTC we must strive towards the goal that every BTC employee and student has an equal opportunity for success. For this to happen, we also recognize that every BTC employee and student needs to be safe in their identity in our community and psychologically safe in their person in order to achieve their best outcomes. We have work to do to achieve that together.

As BTC's president, I ask that our campus community come together to rise to the challenge of examining ourselves and our structures for ways that we internalize and perpetuate racist ideas and systems. In addition, we will work to educate ourselves and our campus community in the ways that systemic oppression occurs, from microaggressions to overt racism.

At BTC we will work to do a better job at standing in solidarity with the Black community.

*Kimberly Perry*

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | JUNE 2020  
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

## ASBTC CORNER

Two ASBTC Executive Team members sit on the Commencement Committee. Lindsey Hanna and Amy Gainza have been instrumental in the success of the Commencement Committee and in planning the 2020 Virtual Commencement ceremony. These Execs nominated Matty Mase, HVAC/R student, to be the student Commencement speaker. They approached Matty to be the speaker, and he agreed! Stay tuned to BTC's YouTube channel (BTCPublications) on June 30, at 7:00 p.m. to watch the 2020 Virtual Commencement ceremony and hear Matty speak!

ASBTC Executives: Amy Gainza, Christopher Sanders, Angela Occhipinti, Cynthia Nokes, Lindsey Hanna, and Anna Casey, supported the Class of 2020 Commencement participants by funding caps and tassels, providing diploma covers, and supporting shipping costs! ASBTC and the Campus Store partnered together to make this graduate package shipment happen. The ASBTC Execs supported 131 Commencement participants, which means the Campus Store sent out over 131 packages to our grads.

The ASBTC Executives are also supporting providing diploma covers to spring and summer completers, who didn't participate in Commencement, as well, since this was the wildest quarter ever!



## CORPORATE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

**New Class: The Elements of Leadership**  
**7/14-9/29 Tuesdays, 4:00 pm- 5:30 pm**

A 12-module intensive in how to get things done through others. This course gives you the 'how to' of leadership based on established models and the latest in neuroscience research. If leadership is about moving people in a purposeful direction, four things become essential for every leader. They must be able to grasp reality, envision success, engagement commitment and drive performance. This program will help you realize your strengths and development needs in these 4 areas. **Visit Take a Class to sign-up.**

## INSTRUCTION

Sheila Pfeiffer, Instructional Tech for Culinary and Pastry, successfully completed the ServSafe Exam. This test confirms Sheila's expertise in food safety. **Congrats!**

## BTC FOUNDATION

The Bellingham Technical College Foundation recently received a \$25,000 contribution from the Home Port Learning Center that will support the formation of an endowed student scholarship at the college. "This new endowment will make an impactful difference in many student's lives for years to come" said BTC Foundation Board President Pam Brady.

Home Port Learning Center (HPLC) was founded in 1994 as a private non-profit alternative school certified by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. They contracted with Whatcom County school district to provide unique educational programs for students who struggled in or had dropped out of school. HPLC served youth who were under supervision of the Juvenile Court and those with serious learning disabilities. Their teaching environment was designed to capture the attention and imagination of students who found themselves lost or disinterested in school. Success was measured by four outcomes; returning to high school, transferring to a community or technical college, obtaining a GED, or securing full-time employment. Because they were a transitional program they worked very closely with Bellingham Technical College from the start and their students benefited greatly from that relationship.

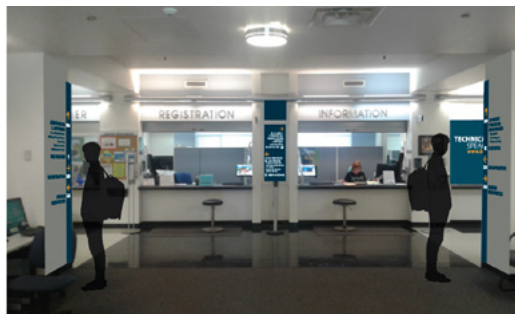
"It is our hope this endowment will assist similar students to pursue an area of study in order to develop the skills that lead to full time employment", said Stephen Paus, Home Port Learning Center Board President.

The new endowment raises the total number of established endowed scholarships through the BTC Foundation to fifty.



## BTC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

The marketing and design department is moving forward with College Service wayfinding updates. Sebastian Schoells, Graphic Designer, redesigned the interior wayfinding and we will be working on it over the summer.



## TRANSITIONAL STUDIES

Transitional Studies has over 40 HS+ students graduating with their diplomas, and 7 adult GED completers (prior to the testing closure).

IMPACT! has an exciting number of students earning degrees as we wrap up our 5th full school year. We had 1 student graduate winter quarter from the electrician program, and we will have another electrician graduate this spring. Then on track for summer completion: 1 auto tech, 1 machining, 1 cosmetology, and 1 welding. All of these students started with us at least 3 years ago and earned their GEDs with the program, and now are graduating with their AA/HS diplomas!

IMPACT! had 77 students complete their GEDs this school year (prior to testing stopping in March).

## STUDENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES

BTC's Emergency Funding committee continues to receive requests from students for CARES Act funds (The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students).

As of Tuesday, June 15, BTC Student Financial Resources department worked swiftly to help students in-need by awarding over: \$430,000 to 278 students! This will help students who are having to attend an extra quarter over summer and or fall to complete their programs. Those additional quarters of attendance are due to COVID-19 course rescheduling, which has added one to two additional quarter of college for students to pay for. CARES assistance helps with that, and our students get to graduate!

Starting July 1, the committee will begin accepting requests for summer quarter.

**Alcoa Layoff Update:** BTC's response efforts for the upcoming Alcoa layoff are well underway. Employees in Student Financial Resources and Entry & Advising are providing virtual information sessions to Alcoa employees and their family members. Inquiries from those affected by the layoff may be sent to [alcoa@btc.edu](mailto:alcoa@btc.edu).

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, our employee spotlight features the fantastic **Coley Rush**.

**Q: What's your title here at BTC?**

A: The tallest Welding Instructor

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

A: Fishing and crabbing are the mainstays along with many others, too numerous to list.

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

A: I was named after a mediocre bull rider.

**Q: Any pets or pet plans?**

A: My Pets, not too numerous to list: Lab Mix (Freyja), 12 Chickens (Tuboc, Jailbird, Summer, Chocolate, Fluff, Tater, Tots, names pending for rest), a cat (Bagel) that moved to the neighbor's house, and a cricket farm (names also pending).

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

A: Black beans, Welding: Principles and Applications, 9th Edition, and Cast Away.

**Q: Feel free to add any other short but sweet items that I didn't ask!**

A: ! I am a member of the Assiniboine Tribe and my Native American name is "Gawiga Ceda [Soaring Hawk]."



### RUMOR OF THE MONTH

Heide Willbrandt was caught trying to deposit the 25-year longevity Big Check at WECU – they came out and explained that the "Big Checks" were not real...much to Heide's disappointment.

Not true!

However, our "sources" from the Foundation tell us that one year after the Welding Rodeo an RTC student did take his big check into a bank and try to deposit it!

