



BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | JUNE 2022
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

Over 150 people participated in BTC's annual employee recognition celebration event last week 'Under the Big Top'. The planning team of Sherrie Anderson, Billie Baker, Ruth Clark, Valerie Frank, Dean Fulton, Lynda Jensen, Ronda Laughlin, Michelle Rhodes, Sebastian Schoelss, Tami Willett, and Andi Zamora created a packed event worthy of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Jill Burns and Dean Fulton served as Co-Ringmasters. They did an extraordinary job keeping the high-flying and death-defying events moving in and out of the center ring.

The first event of this 'Greatest Show on Earth' was the announcement of the brand-new Accreditation Campus Engager Award. Mike Massey was the recipient as selected by a campus-wide nomination process.

The second act in the center ring was the Longevity Awards. Twenty-two employees were recognized with five years of service each, eight with 10 years, and 11 were recognized with 15 years of service. Holly Kennedy, Caren Kongshaug, and Linda Ruthrauff were recognized for their 20 years and, rounding out the list, two employees were recognized for their 25 years of service: Mary Curran and Greg Rehm.

The sheer number of people recognized for five to 25 years (and those in between the five-year increments as well) is a testament to the fact that BTC lives our goal of 'cultivating an environment that contributes to employee engagement and satisfaction.'

The purpose of the Haskell Faculty Excellence Award - established in 1998 with private funds donated by F. Murray "Red" and Betty Haskell and matched by the Washington State Legislature - is to recognize faculty for their exceptional service to students and for their dedication, expertise, and outstanding teaching abilities. This year's recipients of the Haskell Faculty Excellence Award were Karen Camden and Lisa Dzyban, DVM.

The honoring of retirees is one of the high points of this annual event. This past academic year, there were 11 beloved people who retired. This group of individuals represents an incredible amount of talent, expertise, care, and dedication, collectively giving 144 years of their lives to making BTC a life-changing place for students, employees, and the surrounding community.

In addition to center ring recognitions, there were three 'side shows.'

- Andi Zamora created a [Padlet site](#) for attendees to post comments highlighting the inspiring death-defying feats amongst colleagues. The site is still open for additional posts.
- Andi also tested our knowledge of circus trivia with an entertaining (and enlightening!) game of Kahoot! Congratulations to 'LaughMaster', 'Billie Rhea', and 'Stale Popcorn' - whoever you are! Your lightning-fast reflexes would put any aerialist to shame.
- Valerie Frank's crystal ball (or was it a snow globe?) revealed 25 lucky raffle ticket winners.

The closing curtain act was the recognition of Billie Baker (followed closely by Valerie Frank and Andi Zamora) with the Best Costume Under the Big Top!

The special appearance of one Mr. Richard Kaiser in his real-life circus band uniform was an extra treat.

A splendid time was had by all!

Kimberly Peuy

BTC STUDENTS AWARDED \$37,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS BY FOUNDRY10

Fifteen BTC students each applied for and were awarded \$2,500 scholarships from [Foundry10](#), an education research organization based out of Seattle. The total amount awarded was **\$37,500!**

Based on the strength of our students' submissions, *Foundry10* decided to pull extra funding to be able to award scholarships to **every** BTC student who applied.

In fact, Foundry10 was so impressed by our students that they proposed creating a special scholarship next year exclusively for BTC students! Our [BTC Foundation](#) is currently working with Foundry10 to help make that happen, so keep an eye out for updates.

MEET YOUR AAR TEAM

Did you know?

Some colleges are hiring outside companies to have the new Academic Advisement Reports (AAR) (formerly Degree Audit) built for them, but BTC has our very own team right in Registration! Cierra Johnson, Diane Pollard, and Michelle Smith have been hard at work building and testing this valuable tool.

Introducing BTC's AAR team!

Cierra Johnson is now your point of contact for grades, degree verification, and AAR maintenance and questions (formerly Michelle Smith and Susan Bargewell).

Michelle Smith is now Program Specialist II in the Registration Department and assists with AAR maintenance (formerly Diane Pollard).

Diane Pollard spent countless hours learning, developing, and leading the team through the new world of AAR. She is truly the brains of the operation, and we cannot thank her enough! She recently retired from BTC in May.

Thank you, Diane, for everything you have done!

And an honorary shout out to Susan Bargewell, who built over 400 classes in ctLink before she retired at the end of February! Susan spent several years verifying degrees, and her hard work is truly invaluable.

Thank you, Susan, for your amazing work on the team!

The AAR building process started well before we went live in ctLink, and the team has put in thousands of hours of hard work to bring you this tool.

Please give these folks a round of applause for taking on this incredibly difficult, tedious, and time-consuming project! Keep an eye out for limited AAR testing that will start Summer and Fall quarters.

Sincerely,

Your friendly local AAR team!



DEI NEWS!

The National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE)

DEI Committee members joined attendees from across the country at [NCORE](#) in Portland, Oregon. The NCORE conference series is the leading and most comprehensive national forum on issues of race and ethnicity in higher education, focusing on the complex task of creating and sustaining comprehensive institutional change designed to improve racial and ethnic relations on campus and to expand opportunities for educational access and success by culturally diverse, traditionally underrepresented populations.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month

Last month's APIDA heritage events focusing on "[Raising our Voices: Our Collective Responsibility for Change](#)" were a great success with over 1,000 folks in attendance. Watch the video recordings on [WWU's APIDA page](#).

APIDA Heritage Month programming is a collaboration of Bellingham Public Schools, Bellingham Technical College, Northwest Indian College, Skagit Valley College, Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, and the City of Bellingham.

Youth Pride

Pride month is here and BTC employees and students got together to support the [Whatcom Youth Pride](#) event that took place on June 4th. The BTC table was full of fun and excitement as we celebrated and supported queer youth in Bellingham.

What is Pride?

Pride is an annual commemoration of the Stonewall uprising that took place in June of 1969 that spurred civil rights activism for the LGBTQ+ community across the nation. For more information about the history of Pride, check out [Stonewall Forever - A Documentary about the Past, Present and Future of Pride](#).



FLUKE CORP. & BTC MAINTANCE DEPARTMENT COLLABORATE ON NEW TECH

The Bellingham Technical College Facilities Department has been working closely with the Fluke Corporation on research and development for the next generation of thermal imaging cameras and advanced meters.

Fluke reached out to the facilities department for their input on real-world experience in day-to-day operations of preventative maintenance and operation on campus on three separate occasions.

The facilities team had the opportunity to use the yet-to-be-released thermal imaging cameras and volt meters on campus. In addition to reviewing 3D print mock-ups and getting a sneak peek at the newest software, the facilities department used their extensive experience to provide Fluke with constructive feedback on what they would like to see in the field.

Fluke will return this July with new mock-ups and new software designs – looking for feedback again from the BTC facilities department.



STUDENT LIFE & ASBTC

End of Year Celebration

Face painting and henna and food trucks – oh my! If you happened to be on campus May 26th between 11am and 2:30pm, you may have noticed a bit of a party going on. We held our End of Year celebration, and the turnout was amazing! We had fairies, face painting, rock painting, henna masters, and even oracle readings.

“Best in-person event to date!” exclaimed one attendee.

The food was off the charts with Simmering Tava, Tacos El Tule, Bare Bones BBQ, and Hungry Street food trucks making an appearance as well as our own culinary program contributing with enchiladas and churros.

We had a successful cotton candy run and the root beer floats flowed like sweet, bubbly rivers. Students also had a chance to play corn hole, tug-of-war, and volleyball. A dunk tank and chalk art wall (so creative!) rounded out entertainment offerings. Students enjoyed relaxing on the lawn (thankfully the rain held off), eating, and having an all-around good time! The event was a smashing success, and everyone left a little more chill and with full bellies.

ASBTC and Student Life would like to thank all the people and departments who made this event a success: **Facilities** for setting out the games equipment, setting up all the tables, chairs, canopies, providing power, helping with the food truck set up, blocking off the parking lot, and more; **Gary** for his last-minute assist with the food truck power as well, and for helping us clean up and put away at the end; **Media Services and CISS** for the great music and sound system; Jake and the fine folks in **Enterprise Services** for letting us use the root beer float station, and for the assist with some food items and supplies; **Foster, Safety Director**, for being on point and answering all our questions and helping us plan and be prepared; **Devin** and his **Culinary students** deserve a special thank you too, for the incredible and tasty enchiladas and churros – this booth was quite popular! Thank you to **Dawn and Sallie, and the fine folks in eLearning and the library** for promoting this event on Canvas. Another huge thank you to **Marketing** for the great design for our posters and digital images. A wet and cold thank you to **all the folks who braved the dunk tank** – you always popped back out of the water with a smile – thanks for making this event so fun!

Lastly, a huge thanks to all the employees who came out, participated, had fun, and encouraged students to attend. We couldn't do this event without all of you and your support!



SPRING WITH SHIFT!

SHIFT and BTC's stellar outreach team attended the **Washington Women in Trades Fair** on May 6th in Seattle Center. The event brought together industry partners and tradeswomen throughout the region.

SHIFT, in collaboration with BTC's welding department, also hosted a **steel rose making event** on June 8th. The event was staffed by a group of first-year welding students and attended by over 50 community members, BTC employees, and students. Attendees were able to make and take home their own steel roses. There was also hands-on welding, networking, and fun had by all!

This event was so popular that SHIFT plans on hosting it annually, so look for it next year.



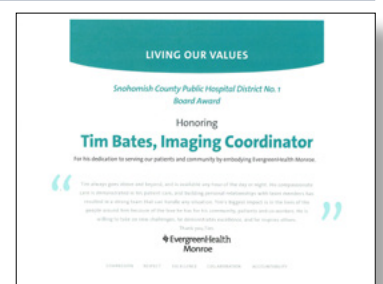
RAD TECH INSTRUCTOR TIM BATES WINS SNOCO DISTRICT 1 AWARD

The Snohomish County Public Hospital District 1 Board honored Tim Bates, EvergreenHealth Monroe Imaging Coordinator, for his dedication to patients and community by embodying EvergreenHealth Monroe.

"Tim always goes above and beyond and is available any hour of the day or night. His compassionate care is demonstrated in his patient care, and building personal relationships with team members has resulted in a strong team that can handle any situation. Tim's biggest impact is in the lives of the people around him because of the love he has for his community, patients and co-workers. He is willing to take on new challenges, he demonstrates excellence, and he inspires others. Thank you, Tim!"

Tim has been an adjunct clinical instructor in the Radiologic Technology Program since January 2020. He is a BTC Alumni and Class of 2005 graduate of the second graduating class of the BTC Rad Tech Program.

Congratulations and Kudos Tim!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Nate Marino**.

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

A: My position is Technical Trainer in the Computer and Information Services Support (CISS) group. It is a Title III SIP grant funded position that runs through 2024.

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

A: I am an avid gardener who grows tomatoes, apples, pears, blueberries, and tons of landscaping plants. I always grow more than we can eat and give the excess away to friends, neighbors, and donate heartily to the Bellingham Food bank. I also love photography mostly focusing on (pun intended) landscapes, architecture, and plants.

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

A: If you didn't already know, Dad jokes, puns, and word play bring joy to my life. For example, "I slathered ketchup all over my eyes once. It turned out to be a bad idea in Heinz sight."

I'm an avid concert goer, mostly alternative rock bands. Upcoming shows that I have tickets for are New Order, Pet Shop Boys, and the B-52s farewell tour. Looking forward to new music releases from some of my favorite bands like Muse, Metric, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and Phantogram.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

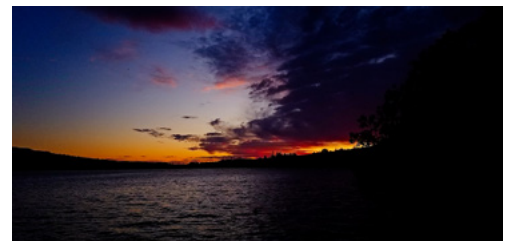
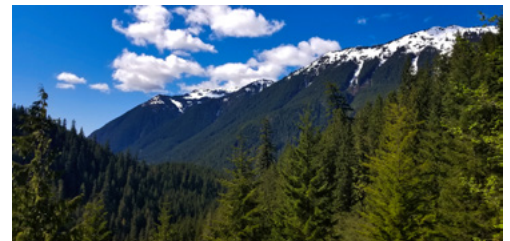
A: I have one cat named Sheridan who is a Siamese/Orange Tabby mix. He's a 15-year old rescue that I got as a young kitten.

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

A: Lasagna, *The Neverending Story*, and *Blue Velvet*. I love homemade lasagna made using a family recipe that goes all the way back several generations to Italy. The Neverending Story would be good in case it took a while to be rescued from the island...it is never ending after all. *Blue Velvet* is a David Lynch classic film that I'm still trying to figure out even though it was released in 1986.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I wear many hats here at BTC, but the bottom line is that I'm here to assist faculty and staff to be the best they can be at delivering quality instruction and service to our students and community. As a life-long learner myself, I find it fulfilling to be able to contribute to BTC's mission.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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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.

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