

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



JIM'S JOURNAL

Hello BTC,

Congressman Rick Larsen came to tour BTC on Friday, April 7. We had limited time (a 15-minute tour and 15-minutes for discussion) to spend with Rep. Larsen, but we made it count. He and his team were able to see labs in Nursing, Allied Health, Electrician, as well as the Veterans Center. We also highlighted the IMPACT program and dental clinic.

Much of the conversation focused on access. We outlined how the Pell eligibility credit amount can be a barrier for students who want short-term training and how BTC is investigating flexible options like competency-based education to meet the changing needs of our students in certain programs. Overall, it was an excellent meeting, and we will be following-up with another time he can visit campus and see more of the great work we do and meet more of the dedicated professionals we have working to educate and/or support our college and students.

Thank you to all who participated in the visit; you all were great representatives of the college.

Sincerely,
Jim

TRANSITIONAL STUDIES RANKS 3RD IN WA STATE

The SBCTC recently updated the dashboard that shows how Basic Education for Adults providers are doing across the state with “Measurable Skill Gain,” data from 2022-2023. This metric is used for program funding, and in Student Achievement funding for the college. Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs) occur when students make CASAS testing improvements, earn High School (HS+), college credits (I-BEST), or complete a HS diploma or GED.

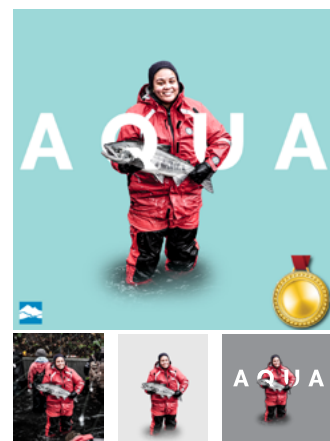
Currently BTC ranks 3rd in the state for the percentage of students making gains, which is a reflection of the dedication of staff and faculty working with students in Transitional Studies programs.

NATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS

Designs created by BTC Graphic Design Specialist Sebastian Schoelss have won regional and national gold medals for the college from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations!

BTC's information kiosks won a gold Medallion award at the regional level and a bronze Paragon award at the national level, and our bus side graphics earned a gold Paragon award at the national level for manipulated photography. The honors were announced at this spring's Paragon Awards, which drew 1,726 entries from 323 colleges across the country and was judged by more than 40 professionals from the marketing and public relations industry.

NCMPR's Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in design and communication at community and technical colleges. It's the only national competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and public relations professionals at two-year colleges.



2023 CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR

On April 7 and 10, BTC hosted the 2023 Career & Internship Fair on campus for students. With over 100 employers in attendance over the two-day period, nearly 500 students were able to connect with business and industry to start mapping out their next career steps. The event was a huge success and the biggest event on campus since COVID! We're grateful for all the folks who helped make the event happen, including all the student support services, faculty and staff.



LINUXFEST NORTHWEST IS BACK!

After three years as an online-only event, Linuxfest Northwest will be making a return to BTC's campus October 20-22, 2023. This community-driven and organized event is a collaboration between BTC Information Technology Department and the Open Source Software Community. Over 20 years old now, the event has grown from two rooms in the now gone D Building, to occupying multiple buildings and drawing speakers and attendees from across the globe.

This year, the event will be a hybrid event where attendees can participate face-to-face or online. A call for talks has been issued with up to 100 presentation slots. We're excited to start rebuilding the event and drawing the tech community back for this fun event. Sessions and activities will held in Campus Center, G building, and Haskell 108.

Read more at: <https://lfnw.org>. For questions, contact Greg Rehm, grehm@btc.edu, or Kevin Burkeland, kburkeland@btc.edu.



EMPLOYMENT LAW CONFERENCE

Thanks to funding from the ASBTC team, BTC HR students and faculty Elizabeth Miller attended the WA State Employment Law & HR conference in March. The conference provided the students with a broad range of HR-related topics that advance their learning and hopefully advance their future careers. The presentations were truly amazing. The students gained a new understanding of the role of HR as it has become increasingly complex and challenging. The knowledge obtained from the conference will also be shared with the students in the program who didn't attend to enhance their learning in the program.



ASBTC CORNER

Free Movie Night a Success

Everything Everywhere All at Once took home the Oscar for Best Picture at the 95th Academy Awards Ceremony. ASBTC had a showing for all students and faculty with refreshments provided on April 11. The event had a great turn out, and students said they hoped to have more movie events in the future.



Earth Day

ASBTC will celebrate Earth Day on the DMC Field on April 24 by bringing in plants from Joe's Garden to pass out to students. We hope everyone will enjoy painting their terra cotta pots, planting and having a free lunch from Tacos El Tule.



Clothing Swap

ASBTC held its first clothes swap this month! Clothing is an essential need for everyone and this event aimed to ensure access to clothing for our students and their families. At our clothes swap, attendees were able to pick out new clothes for themselves and their families. Thank you to all who donated and came to support ASBTC and get some new swag!



Grocery Bingo

ASBTC will host their final Grocery Bingo of the year on May 3 after the overwhelming popularity among students from past bingos. Students have a chance to win free groceries and home goods while getting to know the ASBTC team. Every student who takes part wins a prize including coffee, dog treats and other grocery items.

NEW EXCAVATOR FOR DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

Using a grant awarded from **Washington State for Workforce Development** to expand the scope of the program, the Diesel Technology program recently took delivery of a brand new Bobcat E26 mini-excavator. The students have already gotten to start using the machine during their Electrical/Electronics course this spring quarter and they look forward to working with it further in future classes.



DEI NEWS

안녕하세요 Annyeonghaseyo Campus Community,
The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office has a lot going on! Take some time to check out our events and join us if you can!

Campus Climate Listening Sessions, Spring 2023- Join Us!

Throughout May, BTC's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with the help of consultants from Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center will hold listening sessions to learn from our many campus communities. Grab some light snacks and share your insights in the May sessions listed below. We appreciate your input to BTC's equity goals and strategies for 2023-2025 focus!

Employee Listening Sessions:

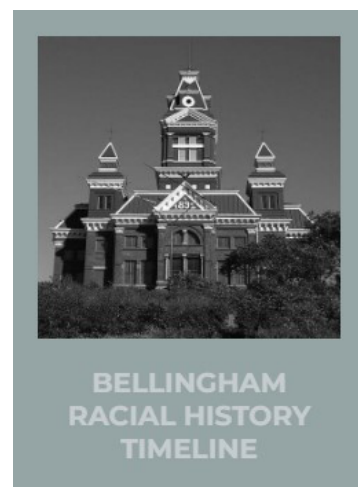
- May 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Morse Center 210 (Women Identifying Employees)
- May 10, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Settlemyer Hall (All Campus Employees)
- May 16, 3-4 p.m., Morse Center 210 (BIPOC Identifying Employee)
- May 22, 3-4 p.m., Morse Center 210 (LGBTQ+ Identifying Employees)

Student Listening Sessions:

- May 10, 3-4 p.m., Settlemyer Hall (All Campus Students)
- May 15, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Morse Center 210 (Women Identifying Students)
- May 22, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Morse Center 210 (BIPOC Identifying Students)
- May 23, 3-4 p.m., Morse Center 210 (LGBTQ+ Identifying Students)

Racial History of Whatcom County Discussion and Luncheon FREE Event and Open to the Community! Tues, May 9, 2023, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Settlemyer Hall

DEI, in collaboration with ASBTC and community partners, will host a community event at BTC featuring panelists from Western Washington University and the Whatcom community who will come together to discuss a transparent and clear understanding of the racial history of our community. Panelists will discuss the importance of understanding our racial history and how we move forward to build an inclusive future. May is Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month, and panelists will highlight some of the key moments of APIDA history in the area. Please check out the [Bellingham Racial History Timeline](#) website, a resource that panel members were involved in creating. A catered lunch will be served, and no registration is required. Thank you to ASBTC for sponsoring this event and our community partners for their collaboration!



DEI professional development training continues! Module 3 of the Employee DEI training will be offered as a breakout workshop at the Faculty In-Service on May 30. Additional opportunities to attend Module 3 will be in offered on the following dates and times, in Morse Center, Classroom 210.

April 27, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Morse Center 210
May 1, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Morse Center 210
May 18, 3-4 p.m., Morse Center 210
May 30, 9:15 a.m. -10:30 a.m. Breakout session 1 at Inservice.

BTC employees are expected to complete at least Modules 1 and 2 of the DEI training program, in accordance with WA SB 5227. Participation will count toward the **Employee DEI Certificate** which requires Modules 1-3, and attendance to two other optional DEI hosted/approved events, for a total of five trainings to be completed between Fall-Summer Quarter of the same academic year. Please see the DEI webpage for more information about the [Employee DEI Certificate](#).

Pride Events

Pride is coming up, and BTC Outreach and DEI will be joining the fun, and letting the community know that everyone belongs at BTC!

June 3: Whatcom Youth Pride, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

July 9: Bellingham Pride, 12-4 p.m.

Want to represent BTC? Sign up with our [Pride Volunteer Form!](#)



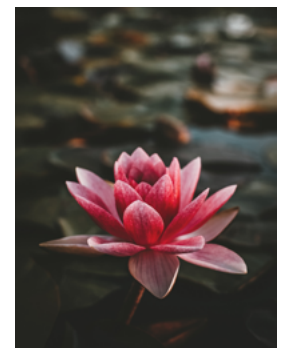
INTO THE MUD: HONORING LOSS THROUGH CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY

The lotus has been called the beautiful survivor. Maybe you can relate to that. The lotus pushes its way through the mud, rising toward the sun. As the bud emerges at the surface of the water, the first petal opens, basking in the light. A lotus is a survivor. It rises from the dark muddy waters to find warmth and nourishment. But it will only grow in the mud, signifying the common ground that humans share, no matter our circumstances. We all experience loss of varying degrees: a dream that didn't come true, a pet that comforted you through the worst year of your life, a divorce you never saw coming, illness, losing a job or a home, and of course, the physical death of a loved one. Something happens ... and we are not the same person.

Community is one means of living with what is lost. Being with others who are going through similar circumstances can lighten the load, even if it is only for the hour you are together. Affinity groups are coming to BTC, and we can begin one now by walking together, after a pandemic and three years of planetary change. **Into the Mud** will focus on discovering ways to work through our losses and honor the irrefutable changes we experience as a result. Some of our many planned healing projects:

- weekly writing prompts for keeping a *Mud Journal*
- how to create a PowerPoint video tribute
- finger-painting your *Mud Journey*
- how to write your story on Google Earth
- creating a *Mud Map* of your heart
- how to sew a T-shirt quilt

Facilitated by Jan Richards, English Faculty
Into the Mud gatherings:
Mondays in Building G Room 106
11:30-12:30 **or** 4:00-5:00 pm
First Meeting: April 24th



DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a "counseling" session and there will be no "sharing" unless you want to volunteer your work. We are gathering to practice writing and create art projects together. Professional counseling is available through BTC's Employee Assistance Program: 360.788.6565

PROCURE TO PAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Welcome to the Procure to Pay Question of the Month (QOM) section! Each month there will be a new question with answers to help with your purchasing, contract, shipping & receiving and accounts payable questions. Do you or someone you know have a question you'd like answered in a future installment? Email Melisa Nelson, Director of Purchasing, at mnelson@btc.edu with the subject: Procure to Pay QOM and your question might be answered in an upcoming Notable News!

March Question: I found some really cool/innovative/helpful technology that I want to use for my area. Can I just buy it?

Answer: Ooh. I love new technology.

TLDR: Well no, you cannot just buy it. There is a process to follow first and you definitely cannot use your P-Card for the purchase.

The full answer: BTC has an [Education Technology \(EdTech\) Checklist](#) to help you in the acquisition of educational technology. The checklist will guide you through the process and asks relevant questions about accessibility, cost, DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion), security, and more.

The form notes which areas should be a part of the conversation (Computer Services, eLearning, Purchasing), as well as links to relevant policies and resources.

The [US Bank P-Card User Guide](#) includes a list of restricted items that you are prohibited from using your P-Card for. These items include, but are not limited to:

- Computers, computer peripherals, computer software (online subscriptions and applications included)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Consultants, speaker fees, performers, and contractors
- Internal purchases, such as the Campus Store
- Office furniture

You should be aware that any computer-related purchase must be discussed with Computer Services first, prior to moving forward with the requisition process. This allows them to check for accessibility, security, and any possible integration with current systems. You should also check with them to assess the Open Educational Resource you are looking into, as well.

It is highly recommended that you regularly consult the P-Card User Guide and the EdTech Checklist for purchases that you are looking into obtaining. Buying first and then asking for forgiveness after is not an acceptable buying strategy. Let's all work together to get you what you need to be successful in your work AND follow the rules. It saves both time and headaches.

I still have questions!

For more information about this topic, feel free to stop in at office hours (listed on the [Purchasing - Home \(btc.edu\)](#) SharePoint site) or email or call the contact info above. You may also reach out to Dawn Hawley at dhawley@btc.edu or the Computer Services Help Desk at helpdesk@btc.edu for more information.

BTC ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) is beginning to work on BTC's next major accreditation milestone: the Mid-Cycle Evaluation (MCE). The purpose of the MCE is to explore our readiness to provide evidence of mission fulfillment and sustainability—with a special emphasis on student learning/outcomes assessment—leading up to our Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness self-evaluation and peer evaluation process. Our MCE report will be due to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU, our accrediting organization) in Summer 2024 and we will host a site visit in Fall 2024. ASC will plan several opportunities for our campus community to both learn more about and contribute to our MCE process in the coming 2023-24 year.

Do you have questions about this process? Reach out to [your ASC representative\(s\)](#) and/or email accreditation@btc.edu.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Kathleen Hamilton**.

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

A: I am the Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Student Services.

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

A: I spend much of my time outside of work researching, writing, and planning a Dungeons & Dragons campaign I run for friends in Idaho. Other hobbies include digital cartography, needlepoint, board games, kayaking, casual hiking, cooking, baking, and puzzles. I also love a good podcast, and heartily recommend *Ologies with Alie Ward*, *History of Everything*, and *Girls Who Don't DnD*.

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

A: I have over 10 years of experience in the theatre industry and have performed in over a dozen shows, including *Les Misérables*, *Singing in the Rain*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Steel Magnolias*. I have also directed *Hamlet* and *Twelfth Night* with a cast of 4th-6th graders, been lead costume designer for community performances of *Hamlet*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Little Mermaid*, and been an elementary music teacher, private piano teacher and vocal coach.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: I have two cats: Kodi (5) and Qwill (3). *Anyone who has been in a Zoom meeting with me will likely recognize Qwill, who has been my profile photo since his adoption (and also joined many meetings unsolicited).*

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

A: Dots® Homestyle Pretzels (original or southwest flavor); *The Forgotten Beasts of Eld* by Patricia A. McKillip (a favorite since I was young); *The First Wives Club*.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I am originally from Idaho, and spent five years in New England (Massachusetts and Connecticut) before moving to Washington in 2020. My mother's family were one of the founding families of the Coupeville/San de Fuca/Oak Harbor area on Whidbey Island, and owned the sawmill that processed most of the lumber for development there. The sawmill is gone, but the old pilings can still be seen in Penn Cove as you pass by San de Fuca on Highway 20. I also eat fries with a fork.



NURSING

Nursing Support Specialist Jen Tachiyama was tabling at St Joseph Hospital recently when our graduate stopped by to get a picture of herself with the promotional photo she was in.

It's so great to see our grads out in the workplace and see their pride in being a BTC graduate!



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.