

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



JIM'S JOURNAL

Thank you all who helped to plan and participated in last week's Try-a-Trade event. The last time we were able to host this great interactive event for prospective students at BTC was over three years ago.

The Outreach Team was able to pull together an extremely successful event. Students were able to choose hands-on experiences from 18 different BTC programs, allowing them to make authentic connections with our awesome students, staff, and faculty, and get hands-on experience in highly technical fields.

Large onsite recruitment activities have a substantial impact on students who have yet to decide their future after high school, not only to introduce them to the opportunities we can offer, but also to help reduce fears they may have about entering higher education. Transitions for many high school students are a time of uncertainty and often fear of the future. Events like Try-a-Trade are an opportunity to introduce prospective students to the first-rate education and support they will receive and to build connections to help those students take the leap into a college program. Something as simple as meeting a faculty, fellow student, or someone from the outreach team can make a lasting impression and impact their future decisions.

Great job to all who were a part of Try-a-Trade.

OUTREACH & NAVIGATION

Outreach and Navigation were thrilled with the turn out for this year's Try-a-Trade and would like to give a special shout out to our volunteers, especially the TRIO Ambassadors who were there to help all day and served lunch.

It was a full house with 280 students in attendance across 16 schools from Whatcom, Skagit, and Island Counties.

We couldn't have done it without the support of Auto Collision Repair Technology, Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, Electrician, HVAC-R, Industrial Maintenance & Mechatronics, Machining, Process Technology, Welding & Fabrication, Nursing, Dental, Radiologic Technology, Surgery Technology, Veterinary Technician, Culinary Arts, Fisheries and Aquaculture, IT, Composites Engineering, and Geomatics/Civil Engineering.

So far, we've heard great feedback from our participating schools:

"What a great time. There's quite a buzz among our kids about the experience. Thank you for all the time and effort it took to pull this together."

"Thanks for all the coordination needed to put on a great event.... all conversations I had with participants were only positive. Thanks for all your work to make this happen. Think the success box can be emphatically checked."

"My students had a great time!! Thank you so much for putting that event together!"

We are looking forward to next year and are brainstorming how to make it bigger and better. Feedback surveys are on the way!



DEI NEWS

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office is happy to share the work we are doing, in partnership with you, as we strive to make BTC a more equitable and inclusive community!

DEI professional development training continues! Module 2 of the Employee DEI training was offered as a plenary session at the Everybody In-Service. 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 at 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](#).

In honor of Women's History Month, DEI hosted an event open to the whole campus community and to the public discussing **Women's Equity in 2023**, featuring a panel of speakers who are leaders in their respective fields of automotive, electrical, agriculture and in higher education. There were **about 75 attendees**, including a majority of BTC students and employees. BTC student Bri Eaken shared, *"I am honestly so happy that I was part of it. The speakers were absolutely fantastic, the emcees were funny and engaging, the tables looked very nice...I hope to attend the next event like this!"*

Thank you to Student Life, ASBTC, and community partners including WWU, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Public Schools, Northwest Indian College, PeaceHealth and city agencies who financially supported this event. Special shout out to the ASBTC executive team, TRiO student ambassadors, facilities, and the many colleagues across campus who helped set up and provide tech and other support!

DEI and IPA are excited to announce that results from the **Campus Climate Survey** have been compiled into an executive summary and full report that are posted on the [DEI website](#). Additional opportunities to engage the survey results will take place during community forums where the survey results will be presented and discussed (calendar invites have been sent). Listening sessions with stakeholders throughout campus will take place in spring. We look forward to discussing strengths that emerged as well as how to work together to help BTC improve identified growth areas.

The DEI Fund is available and BTC students and employees are encouraged to apply for funds before the end of the academic year. Examples of proposal ideas, guidelines and the DEI Fund Proposal Form can be found on the [DEI website](#).

VET TECH

BTC's Veterinary Technician program helped assist 13-year-old Oliver, a dog who is in foster care with the Alternative Humane Society, with a new rear wheel cart. The students helped professionals fit and train him on how to use the cart on cement and grass. He now has the gift of mobility!



DENTAL

North Sound Accountable Community of Health (North Sound ACH) and the North Sound Local Impact Network provided a grant of \$90,114 to fund the Bellingham Technical College Dental Hygiene program's new student instrument kit loaner program.

The intent of this project is to reduce a financial barrier to the program and increase access by creating instrument loaner kits for all dental hygiene students. These kits will be checked out to students for the two-year duration of the program at no cost to the students. The total cost of the complete student kits will be reduced by more than 80%.

This grant will make a big difference to our community, our college and our students. We are grateful for North Sound ACH and LIN support of this project.

ASBTC CORNER

Mardi Gras Mask Decorating

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, ASBTC celebrated Mardi Gras in the Student Center by making masks out of paper plates. With plenty of feathers, sequins, and beads, a great time was had! Students showed up and showed their creative side while taking a break from school-stressors. This event was free to students (as ASBTC events always are!) and provided snacks and drinks to elevate the party. ASBTC holds a litany of student events, so come stop by for some fun!



Grocery Bingo

More exciting things are happening with ASBTC this month! On March 9, the cafeteria was full of students as ASBTC hosted the student favorite event, Grocery Bingo, for a chance for students to win household, grocery, and school supplies prizes. The event had one of the highest turnouts of any event ASBTC has hosted since last year's End of the Year Celebration. It was so popular the team decided to host another Grocery Bingo during Spring quarter. Director of Clubs and Organizations Khristopher Osborne stated, "I love how much students love Grocery Bingo. I also love bingo! I look forward to spring quarter's event; I want to get more students than ever to come." Spring's event will take place on May 3 in the Cafeteria, and more details will be posted on the ASBTC Canvas page.



New ASBTC Executive Team Members

ASBTC has welcomed two ASBTC Executive Team members! We would like to introduce you to Momčilo "Motzo" Božić, ASBTC Director of Communications, a Machining student, and Macy "MK" Ogle, ASBTC Director of Legislation, a Pre-Nursing student. We are thrilled to have Motzo and MK join our team.



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 ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We recently submitted two required ad hoc reports to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), our accrediting organization, addressing two of the seven Recommendations that BTC received in July 2022:

- Recommendation 4. *The Commission recommends that BTC differentiates the program learning outcomes for embedded certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees to ensure appropriate breadth, depth, sequencing, and synthesis of learning. (NWCCU 2020 Standard 1.C.2)*
- Recommendation 7. *The Commission recommends that BTC regularly and systematically evaluate classified and exempt employees based on clearly communicated criteria. (NWCCU 2020 Standard 2.F.4)*

BTC will report on the remaining 5 NWCCU Recommendations—which focus on external benchmarking and institutional assessment/evaluation—in September 2024.

Do you have questions about BTC's accreditation process? Email accreditation@btc.edu!

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 was asked to find out if an item or service I want is available from a vendor who is certified as a small, diverse, or veteran-owned company. What does that mean?

Answer: This is a great question and a very important part of how BTC supports our local businesses.

As a public institution, BTC is governed by federal, state, and local purchasing laws, rules, and regulations. Some of these pertain to purchasing from small, diverse, and veteran-owned businesses. While this guidance is something BTC has to follow, we also truly want to support these businesses and not just because we have to. Some of our students are potential employees of these businesses or will end up starting their own small business enterprise.

Washington State has an [Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises](#) that assists minority and women-owned businesses to become certified as such, as well as provides support to these businesses. They also work with state agencies, including higher ed, to ensure our purchasing practices are equitable and inclusive. People can search their database for certified businesses who might provide the goods and services they are looking to purchase.

In addition, the Department of Enterprise Services now has a [database](#) people can search for statewide contracts with small, diverse, or veteran-owned businesses to provide the goods and services they are looking for.

When researching your BTC purchases on Amazon Business Prime, you will note that there are messages that let you know if a business is local, small, veteran, minority, or women owned. You can even search specifically by these options on the left-side of the screen.

All of these are easy ways to find businesses in our state who you can help support when purchasing goods and services for your area. From the charcuterie board lunch from Yeah Baby Boards at the Women's Equity Event on March 6 to the businesses of some of the presenters on the panel that day to the company who provides office supplies or computer equipment, there are so many businesses out there to look into when doing your research.

I still have questions!

For more information about this topic, feel free to stop in at office hours (listed on the [Purchasing SharePoint site](#)) or email or call the contact info above.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Chris Eder**.

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

A: Student Life Director. I've been with Student Life since 2019 but have been at BTC since 2007 in a variety of roles including Outreach Coordinator and Title III Grant Director. I have worked within Student Services, Instruction, and Institutional Planning and Assessment areas. I love BTC – it is such a special and wonderful place for students, and our employees are student focused. It is an honor to work with such a high caliber of colleagues. Thank you all!

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

A: I am always up for fun! I enjoy laughing with and hanging out with friends, I like to watch movies and read books and talk about them. I love to cook and bake and am always up for trying new gluten-free, vegan recipes. I have several crafting hobbies, but especially love paper crafting, making cards, and other fun items with paper. Give me scissors, paper, ink, and glue, and I am happy! I am recently getting into rock painting which is also really fun.

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

A: Yes! First of all, I am super uncoordinated. Which surprises me that I have two varsity letters: one from high school (I managed the basketball team so I got a varsity letter for that ... even though I can't dribble, shoot, or anything else that needs coordination!), and one from college while I was on the rifle team my freshman year. I have done several half marathons, and the most fun one was at Walt Disney World in Florida. Let me tell ya, Disney can put on a great half marathon experience. And, I have done several sprint distance triathlons. I am not sporty at all. Most people who do triathlons are good at one or more of the three sports (swim, bike, run). I didn't know how to do any of those three when I signed up for a Triathlon Training group here in Bellingham. The first night of biking, I put my helmet on backwards! I rocked my vintage Huffy mountain bike for several triathlons until I got a real road bike. I even learned how to swim! If I can do a triathlon, then ANYBODY can do a triathlon! Also, I LOOOOOVE pens. I have an extensive pen collection. Come by and check them out sometime.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: I am currently pet-free, which is really weird. I have always had at least a dog, or several dogs, and other pocket pets (guinea pigs, rabbits, mice, rats, hamsters, etc.). I have had cats, squirrels, crows, parakeets, snails, frogs, fish, newts, and more. Not sure if I have any pet plans in the future. My last two dogs were so unique and amazing that no other dog could top them, so they might be the last ones. Ask me again in a year!

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

A: Food: Green salad with all the fixings. My favorite food.

Book: Tough one, I love to read, but one of the most amazing books I have read recently was "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi. I highly recommend it. So deep, so powerful, so intriguing, and a great read.

Movie: Hands down, "The Princess Bride," best movie ever made.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I grew up in a little town, Valdez, Alaska. You might have heard of it (cough, cough). No stop lights, no movie theatres, no fast food, nothing except mountains, trees, eagles, and salmon. I moved to Washington state for college, and never went back. I miss the endless Alaskan summer days. But I do not miss the dark, cold, snowy winters. My hometown gets over 30 feet of snow a year. I grew up shoveling, and have had my fair share of shoveling. I love living in Bellingham because there is so little snow! My partner, Guy, and I both enjoy Bellingham. He teaches at Whatcom Community College and is an awesome professor, if I say so myself. We try to get out and walk and hike when we can. One of my favorite places to walk is Lake Padden. I also enjoy traveling. I am game to go practically anywhere. My favorite place is on a beach in Hawaii. My favorite city to visit in the US is Washington, D.C. Victoria is my favorite city in Canada. Honeymoon Beach, at the U.S. Virgin Islands National Park, is my favorite beach in the world. There are so many more places to see! I can't wait to visit more places.

