



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

In fall 2018 my husband, Ellis, and I purchased a home in Clarkesville, Georgia, to be near family once we were both retired. Our house sits on four fenced acres which gives our eight dogs – four Irish Wolfhounds and four Australian Shepherds – plenty of room to run. On January 1, 2021, not only did I officially become a retired person, but also moved across the country!

We converted an old carpenter bee infested chicken coop into a greenhouse so we could get a head start on the growing season. We are growing tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes, carrots, green onions, radishes, lettuce, watermelon, squash, cucumbers, cantaloupe, herbs, blackberries, blueberries, and strawberries from a cutting I brought from Washington.

In late October 2021, I came across a two- or three-day-old deer mouse in the driveway. After waiting overnight to no avail for the mother to return, I spent the next four- or five-weeks hand-raising the mouse which included feeding every two hours with a small pipette until its eyes opened about two weeks later. We named the mouse Cyd since it's a name that could be male or female. However, once Cyd developed we noted that he is a male. A fun fact about male mice and rats, is that they do not have nipples. Cyd has since been successfully and safely released and still visits the area – probably because we continue to put food out! So, in addition to the eight dogs and three cats, we also have a 'pet' deer mouse.

We eventually hope to add some hobby farm-type animals – chickens, goats, and a couple of miniature donkeys [so cute!] – next year.

In addition to caring for our property and our various animals – including Casey, our resident Eastern Woodchuck – Ellis and I have spent quality time with family, learned how to play Pickleball, and connected with Habitat for Humanity.

It was an easy decision to return to BTC as interim president. I feel truly honored to have been asked. It has been great to see people around campus, as my last encounter with so many of you was via Zoom! I look forward to seeing many more of you and am especially looking forward to this year's commencement!

Kimberly Peuy

HOSTING AN EVENT ON CAMPUS? PLAN AHEAD!

The Facilities & Communications teams would like to remind folks who plan or host events on campus that **WE ARE NO LONGER USING A-FRAMES** (I.E., "SANDWICH BOARDS") for event information.

SIX (6) NEW INFORMATION KIOSKS complete with a campus map & directory – designed by our very own Sebastian Schoelss and with the needs of our campus community in mind – five of which also have built-in poster frames – have been installed across campus. They are pretty good-looking! If you haven't seen them yet, take a walkabout to Campus Center (2), College Services (2), and Morse Center (1). A (map-only) kiosk greets visitors in front of the A-building as well.

When you need posters designed and/or printed for your event:

- As soon as you have a confirmed event date, submit a [Marketing Project Request](#).
- Be sure to specify the number of days you anticipate the poster will remain on display in the kiosk (this helps determine the appropriate print medium).

When you need your posters hung in the kiosk frames:

- At least one (1) week before the event, submit a [Facilities Work Request](#).
- At least two (2) days before you want them displayed, deliver six (6) posters to the K-building.

If you have any questions on this process, please email facilities@btc.edu, or call 360.752.8744.



CAMPUS ENGAGER AWARD

We would like to announce the new, one-time (at least until our next major accreditation visit!) Accreditation Campus Engager Award. This award is meant to recognize someone who has put in the time, effort, and heart to engage our campus community in the accreditation process over this past year and includes a \$200 gift that has been generously provided by the BTC Foundation.

The nomination process is intentionally short and simple:

- 1. Identify a colleague to nominate.** You can nominate anyone – including and beyond Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) members – other than Melisa Nelson, RaeLyn Axlund McBride, and Susan Parker.
- 1. Submit your nomination by 5:00pm Thursday, May 26th** to accreditation@btc.edu. Write 1-2 paragraphs (bullet points are fine!) naming your nominee and describing how they meet these criteria:
 - Individual encouraged campus community involvement in accreditation
 - Individual offered innovative/creative ideas to engage our campus community in and educate our campus community about accreditation

Melisa, RaeLyn, and Susan will review all nominations and select the person that most closely aligns with the award criteria. The winner will be announced at our **annual recognition celebration on Thursday, June 9th**. Please feel free to contact accreditation@btc.edu if you have any questions.

LINUXFEST NORTHWEST 2022

[LinuxFest Northwest](#) took place this year on April 22-24, 2022. An online event this year, BTC IT students played an important role as session moderators. Over 20 sessions were held covering topics in OpenSource IT and Computer Science.

All the sessions were recorded and are available on the [event's YouTube channel](#).

We're so pleased to get to work with our community to put on this event for the 22nd year and we hope to be back with a face-to-face event in 2023.

FARMERS EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS BTC DIESEL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Farmers Equipment has a long history of community involvement and continues to show that by bringing a brand new 240AFS Puma down to the Diesel lab to let the students see some new agriculture technology.

The students used the machine to perform standard service routines and diagnostic tests as well as learning how to operate such a large machine. Thank you, Farmers Equipment!



DEI NEWS!

안녕하세요 Annyeonghaseyo (Hello) Campus Community,

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! Please take a moment to see a sampling of the work we have put together in our second quarter!

Winter quarter brought over a dozen learning opportunities for our campus and community. For example:

- We brought together an amazing group to learn about how to support undocumented students on campus.
- Collectively with the other schools in the area we brought renowned speaker, Ibram X. Kendi, for MLK Day.
- Educators who joined us for our presentation at the Focus on Children Conference told us that they learned “to encourage children to ask their authentic questions about people who are different from them, while coaching them to see others as full people.”
- We have tried our hardest to create fun, innovative and engaging ways to talk about DEI on campus through monthly learning opportunities and we encourage folks to share more ideas with us of what they would like to see!
- The DEI Office continues our work on over 10 campus and community committees and working groups.
- The DEI Committee meets regularly and has drafted a DEI Strategic Plan and Equity Statement that College Assembly is considering for approval this spring and is also currently drafting a Sanctuary School Statement.
- Collectively with other SBCTC colleges from the Diversity Equity Officers Commission (DEOC) we have worked toward preparations for campus climate surveys that will take place across the state.
- Single-stall bathrooms throughout campus were converted to all-gender bathrooms for the start of spring quarter. Winter also saw preparations for a larger and more equitable bathroom signage change across all bathrooms, the addition of more changing tables, and converting selected multi-stall bathrooms to all-gender bathrooms. More information on all-gender bathrooms can be found on the [DEI webpage](#).
- As we continue into spring quarter, we look forward to seeing some of our larger goals of the year come to fruition and continuing the amazing DEI work with our larger community.

감사합니다 Gamsahamnida (Thank you)!

Hannah and Danielle

APIDA Virtual Speaker Series: May 17, 18, and 19th

“Raising our Voices: Our Collective Responsibility for Change”

“You cannot change any society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it and responsible for changing it.”– Grace Lee Boggs

May is Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month! Please join us for a great opportunity to learn more about the diverse identities, experiences, histories, and cultures of the APIDA community with our speaker series. Please register in advance and learn more about each event by clicking [here!](#) (Please check with supervisors before registering).

Schedule at a glance:

- May 17, 2-3pm: “#stopAsianhate,” with Byron Yee
- May 18, 11:30am-1pm: “From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry,” A Discussion with Paula Yoo
- May 19, 11:30am-1pm: “Raising our Voices through Civic Leadership” A panel of APIDA Washington State Leaders, Rep. Vandana Slatter, Sen. Manka Dhingra, and Judge Fa’amomoi Masaniai “Moi”



APIDA Heritage Month programming is a collaboration of the following groups: Bellingham Public School District, Bellingham Technical College, Northwest Indian College, Peace Health, Skagit Valley Community College, Western Washington University, and Whatcom Community College.

Juneteenth: June 19th, 2022

On May 18, 2021, Washington state Governor Jay Inslee signed a measure making Juneteenth a state holiday beginning this year, 2022! Just a month later, on June 18, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth a federal holiday to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Since Juneteenth lands on a Sunday this year, federal/state employees will observe the holiday on Monday, June 20th.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce freedom to the last enslaved African Americans. This was nearly 2 ½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the Southern states. Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day, Emancipation Day, and Juneteenth Independence Day amongst other names. Celebrations date back to 1866, highlighting African American freedom and achievement, often with picnic gatherings, speakers, songs and more.

There are many ways to observe Juneteenth! Here are a couple of ideas:

- Attend the [Bellingham Juneteenth Celebration](#) at Maritime Heritage Park on June 18, 2022!
- Enjoy nature with a [Discover Pass free](#) day to explore Washington State Parks!



FOUNDATION RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT TO SUPPORT VETERINARY TECHNICIAN STUDENTS

The BTC Foundation recently announced a major gift to support scholarships for students enrolled in the Veterinary Technician Program at the college. The foundation, along with Veterinary Technology Instructor Lisa Dzyban, recently secured the commitment from an anonymous donor who has a passionate interest in the welfare of animals. The donor felt like the best way to assist in the animal welfare cause is to provide financial support to students in the Vet Tech Program who will be entering the regional workforce upon their graduation.

Said BTC Foundation Director Dean Fulton, "The donor felt strongly about removing any kind of barrier that may prevent the students from pursuing their education and attaining their goals of working with animals. In fact, she felt so strongly about it that she decided to **provide a \$10,000 scholarship to each of the 21 students enrolled** in their first year of the program to cover the cost of their second year. It is an amazingly generous act that will change the course of these students' lives forever."

The gift was recently announced to stunned students during one of their group lecture classes.

Added Dzyban, "It was very difficult to not immediately share the news with the students knowing that some of them were struggling to figure out their finances for next year. The reaction from the students to the news was wonderful – shock, joy, happiness, and relief. This donation was an amazing gift to our students."

Last year the BTC Foundation awarded over \$600,000 in scholarships to more than 200 BTC students. Students may apply for scholarships throughout the spring quarter through the [BTC Foundation web page](#).

PARA IN PERSON

Planning and Resource Allocation (PARA) was the first governance committee to meet IN PERSON. Last week, PARA met in G building to prepare for the accreditation visit and get a budget update from VP Chad Stiteler. **Great to see everyone IRL.**



STUDENT LIFE & ASBTC

Earth Day

The ASBTC celebrated Earth Day (a little late but just as enthusiastically!) on April 28th. We were incredibly lucky and had a beautiful sunny day to celebrate. ASBTC passed out over 700 fruit, veggie, and flower starts! Tacos El Tule provided 200 meals, which were delicious! The event was a huge hit! Thank you to all the wonderful employees who stopped by to say hi as well. The ASBTC Executive Team was overjoyed to meet so many of you in person.

Wag Wednesday

ASBTC provided some four-pawed stress relief recently. Tails were wagging and hugs were given. We have several trained therapy dogs and their handlers on campus providing a nice break from studying or classes. Thanks Whatcom Therapy Dogs for spreading joy and happiness on our campus.

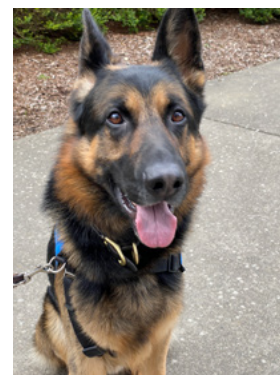
Food Pantry Update

The ASBTC Food Pantry is going strong! We switched over to a new system to track usage, so we do not have exact stats yet, but we are seeing a steady increase in daily usage. There has been so much positive feedback from the students. Thank you to everyone who has donated. And a huge thanks to the Bellingham Food Bank.

The ASBTC Food Pantry receives pantry staples and perishable foods donated by the Bellingham Food Bank once a week. We are open Monday to Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact asbtc@btc.edu! And please refer students to us!

Date and Paint

ASBTC held the spring quarter Date and Paint recently, and we all painted fairy doors in a secret garden. Elli Anderson, artist and owner of Art and Happiness, instructed us as we painted our magical portal. This event was enjoyed by all, and some incredible paintings were made, while we created community over this shared experience. It was truly magical!



MARY GERARD AT WAPED

On Wednesday, April 27, Mary Gerard presented to the Washington Association on Post-Secondary Education and Disability (WAPED) Spring 2022 Conference.

The topic was *Lecture Capture Support using Glean Audio Note Taker*. Glean is an assistive technology program used by Accessibility Resources at BTC that helps students who experience a barrier to traditional note taking. It offers a visual and interactive alternative to note taking, audio capturing lectures that may later be organized with student notes to help students study more effectively. Mary provided background on why this accommodation is used with students at BTC and how traditional note taking is not an option for all students, ending her presentation with a live demo of Glean.

If you are interested in knowing more and seeing Glean in action, please contact Mary Gerard at mgerard@btc.edu.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND DISABILITY

WAPED 2022 SPRING CONFERENCE

Theme: Avoiding Burnout and Providing Support for Disability Services Offices During and After Covid

Tuesday, April 26 - Friday, April 29 2022
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND 1:00 AM-3:00 PM

Business Meeting, Awards, and Elections on April 28th

100% ONLINE

Register now at: <http://waped.org/Conf/Spring2022/Registration.html>

THE SPEAKER LINEUP

- Adam Meyer**
Using the Learning Process Properly to Enhance Accommodations During Covid
- Jane Jarrow and Sue Huett**
Working Without a Plan: Providing Support for Students with Long Covid
- Margaret Camp**
Burn Out: Tackling the Internal and External Causes
- Laquida Williams and Mary Gerard**
Lecture Capture Support: What, How, and Beyond
- Joe Sanok**
Supporting Students and Faculty with Chronic and Acute Illness

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Foster Robinson**.

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

A: I have joined the BTC team as the new Safety Director. I am filling the role that Al Jensen filled before he retired.

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

A: When not at work I enjoy cooking – in particular, using my smoker and experimenting with new ingredients to ferment. I also enjoy camping, flyfishing, and cycling. I have slowly become more of a roadie than a mountain biker due to the influence of my wife.

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

A: I am a dual citizen and was born and raised in Prince Rupert, B.C.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: My wife and I are the proud foster parents of a 12-year-old, deaf pit bull rescue that we are fostering for the Pittie Project Northwest, a Whatcom based pit bull rescue.

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

A: Food: Jamon Imberico de Bellota; Book: The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay; Movie: Apocalypse Now.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I retired from the US Coast Guard two years ago after a 20-year career and immediately moved to Japan, where I lived for 15 months while my wife conducted research for a research fellowship that she was awarded. We arrived in March of 2020, two weeks before Japan shutdown their borders due to the coronavirus.



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.