

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | NOVEMBER 2021  
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

## PRESIDENT'S SHOUT-OUT



Below this section, you can read the details of how BTC is on the shortlist of colleges that have been invited to apply for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, a prominent and highly sought-after award. This is not the first time that BTC has made the cut in this competition and I do not expect it will be the last.

Whether we have the capacity to pursue the prize at this particular time, given that it is a fairly arduous process, remains to be determined; what is certain is that this nomination reflects the innovation, hard work, and learning-centered approach that characterize every employee at BTC and manifest in every aspect of our operations.

Faculty and instructional techs are of course the visible core of our mission, working in the classrooms, labs, shops and clinical sites as the contact point of professional technical education – the teaching and learning. And Student Services staff are conspicuous in their high-touch, wrap-around approach to student success, supporting students from entry through completion in myriad ways.

But those are just the most apparent elements of our organization; the complex mechanism that is BTC could not function without a host of other people.

Our sometimes-unsung facilities folk – custodial, grounds, maintenance, and other specialists – work tirelessly, mostly behind the scenes, to keep the infrastructure of BTC humming and ensure a sound educational environment. CISS seems to work around the clock as well, meeting the challenges of sustaining our vital technological resources and responding to critical issues.

And no organization runs without its administrative infrastructure: our business office staff make sure that the lights stay on, that material is purchased, that bills are paid, that employees are paid, that students get their financial support, and that the numbers all come out even for the auditors.

The list goes on and on – HR is always there for employee support, clerical and administrative staff in various units keep the wheels turning, books are sold, lattes are brewed, grants are written, and data is crunched for planning and decision making.

When most people think of education, they immediately and reasonably think of teachers and students. But anyone who has been around the system for any time knows that the work could not happen without the contributions of so many people in so many roles. It is trite because it is true: thank you all for all you do.



## ABOUT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

The Aspen Institute selects 150 colleges from a pool of more than 1,000 public community and technical colleges across the nation. The colleges selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community and technical colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

“Year-after-year, Washington state community and technical colleges are placed on the list of America’s top colleges,” said Jan Yoshiwara, executive director for the [State Board for Community and Technical Colleges](#). “We are gratified to see our colleges’ hard work toward student success and equitable outcomes recognized on a national scale. Faculty, staff and students should be exceptionally proud of their accomplishments.”

The 150 eligible colleges may submit data and narratives as the next steps in an intensive data and practice review process. The top ten finalists will be announced in the spring/summer of 2022, followed by on-site visits by Aspen Institute officials. A prize winner is announced in spring 2023.

## STUDENT LIFE / ASBTC

The Associated Students of Bellingham Technical College (ASBTC) hosted several events and programs over that past month, and attended some professional development events to better serve their constituents. One fun event hosted by the ASBTC was the Share Your Scare! Costume Contest on Instagram. BTC students were encouraged to snap a selfie in their Halloween costumes, tag @btc\_as and use #BTCShareYourScare. Students who did these steps received an Amazon gift card. It was fun to see the creative and scary costumes, and students' families.

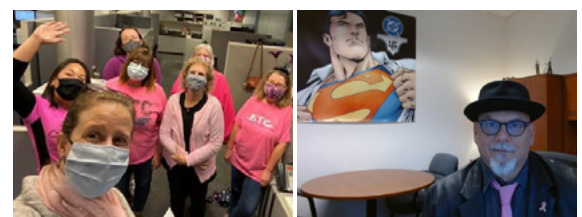
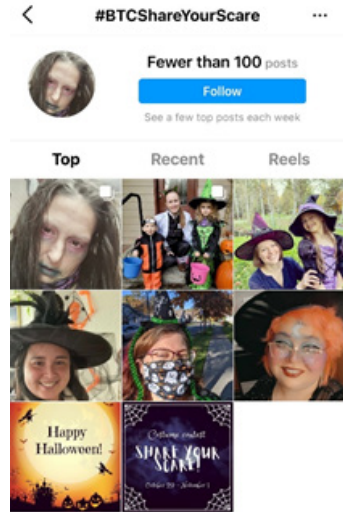
BTC's ASBTC promotes mental health on campus by featuring a Mental Health Awareness speaker on Thursday, November 18 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Josh Rivedal, a college mental health/suicide prevention specialist, author, writer for The Huffington Post, and a Philadelphia-based stand-up comedian, will present his "The i'Mpossible Project: How to live mentally well and CRUSH it in college". Please join us as we listen to and speak with Josh and learn about hope, help, and life-saving skills. Zoom link: <https://btc-tech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-mvpzMiH9VzemYBTWU0XQ-IVrIpiKLO>

The ASBTC Executive Team attended the recent virtual WA-SEN (Washington Student Engagement Network) in early November. The conference theme was "LIVE your truth. SHARE your story. LOVE your journey." The conference helped the Executive Team develop skills to tell their story when advocating for higher education with legislators. The ASBTC Executive Team will be attending the four-day Circle of Change Virtual Leadership Conference November 18-21. This conference will help culturally diverse students discover the leader from within, develop the leadership and professional skills necessary to attain career leadership success after graduation, and the inspiration and confidence needed to make a positive impact in our community, nation, and world!

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness, the ASBTC encouraged the BTC community to wear pink and gave out pink ribbons for Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Breast Cancer affects all people, and ASBTC shared information about this disease and information about self-exams. ASBTC Executives L-R: Becca Haney, ASBTC President; Destiny Rodenberger, ASBTC Director of Legislation; Ashley Harrison, ASBTC Director of Clubs and Organizations; and Josie Acevedo-Lara, ASBTC Director of Administrative Affairs

## BTC CAMPUS COMMUNITY BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Student Services gathered together in solidarity to support and promote Breast Cancer Awareness.



## DATA & RESEARCH

Benchmarking a college's performance against peer institutions is a new area of focus for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), our institutional accrediting organization. In preparation for our Year 7 accreditation visit next April, the Data & Research team has compiled some useful dashboards created by the WA State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). These dashboards allow BTC to benchmark its performance against other colleges in our system across a variety of metrics, including enrollment, retention, completion, and job placement. Links to these dashboards are available on the [Data & Research intranet](#), as well as our [public-facing website](#). The Data & Research team encourage you to explore these dashboards before our Year 7 visit, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have about the data or the accreditation process. For more info, please reach out to Shawn Minnig ([sminnig@btc.edu](mailto:sminnig@btc.edu)).

## CAREER COACH TOOL IS NOW LIVE!

BTC is excited to share that it has launched a new platform through our website called [Career Coach](#). It is a free powerful online service tool that uses Emsi's comprehensive labor market data to help students find careers, identify their interests and aptitudes, and help them discover which BTC degree and certificate programs match their unique skills, interests, and strengths. It also provides extensive information about occupations, wages, and training. As a future student, this tool will help identify a program of interest before applying to BTC.

[Career Coach Job Posting Tool](#) creates a collaboration between BTC's industry partners, providing them with an easy portal to share employment opportunities for our students and graduates. This tool for employers allows them to post open positions and for our students to search for job opportunities. Go and check out [Career Coach](#) today.

## CULINARY: ICE, ICE, BABY

Our Culinary Arts program students making ice sculptures: a penguin, a dolphin, knives (or scissors?), a Stonehenge sculpture, a star, and a cat...this is one frosty lab!



## BTC FOUNDATION



### BTC Foundation Receives \$100,000 for a New Diversity Scholarship

The Bellingham Technical College Foundation and the three other Whatcom County institutions of higher education each received \$100,000 grants for scholarships from the Mount Baker Foundation.

The Mount Baker Foundation Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Scholarship will be awarded to BTC students who are members of communities that are historically underrepresented within higher education and/or within their area of study, including but not limited to students who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color; or have overcome obstacles such as socioeconomic or educational disadvantage or disabilities, or who are the first generation in their family to attend college. "This scholarship will make a tangible difference in the lives of our BIPOC students for many generations to come. The BTC Foundation Board of Directors, college staff, and students are grateful for this partnership with the Mt. Baker Foundation," said BTC Foundation President, Mike Burke.

The combined investment in local students totals \$400,000 and was spearheaded by the Mount Baker Foundation's Equity & Health Determinants Committee, which is dedicated to addressing issues of poverty, homelessness, and lack of education, focusing on diverse communities and neighborhoods. The mission of Mount Baker Foundation is to identify and fund catalytic, transformative initiatives that result in sustainable change.

"Education is transformational," said Dr. Ken Gass, retired pediatrician, and President of the Mount Baker Foundation Board of Directors. "Mount Baker Foundation is seeking ways to mitigate racial inequalities and help underserved people and communities as they wish to be supported. We look forward to continuing conversations throughout Whatcom County and building trust through collaboration and support."

## ACCESSIBILITY

On October 26, Jacen Johnson and Mary Gerard were invited to sit on the Faculty and DS Office Relationship Building Panel at the Washington Association on Post-Secondary Education and Disability (WAPED) Conference. This conference was held virtually. Jacen and Mary answered questions regarding how they partner to support students with disabilities through challenging situations, including complex accommodations to working together when a student is not successful in their program. They discussed the collaborative process required to fully support students with disabilities at BTC.

## MARKETING

The National Council for Marketing and Communications awarded BTC's Marketing/Communication & Graphic Design department (Sebastian Schoelss and Marni Saling Mayer) with three recognitions.

A **gold** award for the College Service Interior Wayfinding design, **silver** for the SHIFT (Students Helping build an Inclusive Future for the Trades) bus side, and BTC's new website took home **bronze!** This is a peer reviewed council of which all two-year colleges participate.



## CTCLINK UPDATE:

ctcLink Student Activation and new accounts are in full swing. We are sending daily emails and texts, and social media reminders to remind students to activate and log into their account. Please encourage students to activate their accounts, get their new ctcLink IDs and keep track of their ID number and passwords! You can also direct students to our website and soon there will be posters all over campus and in our new wayfinding kiosks to help spread the word.

## DENTAL SERVICES FOR BTC CAMPUS COMMUNITY FOR WINTER QUARTER 2022

The Dental Clinic has reopened and is a resource for the BTC campus community and has some great service opportunities to share.

BTC Dental Hygiene students are looking for volunteer patients for Winter Quarter. We will be offering limited services including:

- **Exams**
- **X-rays**
- **Dental Cleanings for regular cleaning or periodontal maintenance**
- **Scaling and Root Planing for Periodontal Patients**
- **Sealants**
- **Some simple fillings**

### **Volunteer Patient Eligibility**

We reserve the right to decline any patient that is too difficult for a student including complex medical conditions, behavioral conditions or extensive dental needs. Patients who are experiencing dental pain cannot be seen in our clinic. We do not provide any emergency dental services. Patients must still have a primary dental facility to provide the rest of their care.

### **Screenings**

You will first receive a limited dental screening to determine if we are able to see you in our clinic. Once you are admitted as a patient of the BTC dental clinic, a complete dental exam and necessary x-rays will be done. After the examination process, you will be presented with what treatment we are able to provide for you in our clinic.

### **What to Expect**

As students are providing services, you can expect longer appointments and thorough care that is supervised and checked by licensed professionals. Children and adolescents may be completed in a single visit; however adults can expect care to take 2-3 appointments of 3 hours each. You will be given an estimate of time needed for treatment once your screening is complete.

### **When?**

Appointments are available Mondays and Fridays from January 10 to March 14 at 8:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. **Expect your appointment to last 3 hours.**

### **How much will this cost?**

The limited services that we are able to provide that are recommended for you are **free**.

If you are interested, please contact us at: [dental@btc.edu](mailto:dental@btc.edu) and indicate what days and times are best for you. We will place you on our list and contact you as we are able to.

## STUDENT SERVICES COUNSELING

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BTC Counselors Emilia and Nyssa partnered with Lynda from College Navigation to host a Zoom workshop for students regarding test anxiety on Tuesday, November 2. According to a recent survey, between 25-40% of US students report experiencing test anxiety. Not only is this distressing to experience, it can also interfere with performance on an exam and overall academic achievement. This two-hour workshop included information and planning tools to boost learning and reduce anxiety through effective test preparation strategies, as well as a chance to learn and practice specific coping tools to reduce thoughts and feelings that contribute to stress and test anxiety.

BTC Counseling is working to develop more workshops to offer later in the future. If you would like to suggest a topic your students would benefit from, or have other ideas about how to reach more students with helpful information, please email [counseling@btc.edu](mailto:counseling@btc.edu).

## NURSING

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Our first graduating cohort of students from the new DTA Pathway Practical Nursing Certificate all passed their NCLEX licensure examination on their first attempt for a 100% pass rate! Go Summer PN Grads!!



## SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

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Notable News publishes in the third week of each month, aligned with our Board of Trustee meeting schedule.

Please send your news and photos by the **9th of every month** to [msmayer@btc.edu](mailto:msmayer@btc.edu) (Marketing Department) and say Notable News in the subject!

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we're getting to know **Michael Lanz, IMPACT! Instructor at BTC!**

IMPACT! is a youth reengagement program that offers students the opportunity for a fresh start—another chance to succeed, and a new environment to engage with.

The program provides a jumpstart on a college education. Check out the Winter 2022 What's Happening for a firsthand student story about how IMPACT! has changed her life.

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

A: I'm an instructor in the IMPACT! program.

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

A: Drum! I love playing the drums. It all started in the 6th grade band when I did an incredible bass drum pattern for the theme song of Hawaii Five-O. I believe my part went like: Boom – Boom Boom – Boom – Boom Boom. I've become marginally better since then, but I was on fire in that somewhat filled auditorium.

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

A: At my kindergarten graduation ceremony, I recited a poem about, "A little pink pig from Arkansas who danced a jig with his mother-in-law." I honestly don't know what my parents were thinking sending their six-year-old on stage, in front of the whole school, to talk about a mother-in-law. But they did! And I'll never forget it!

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

A: My two kids desperately want a pet. Any pet at all. We had a family meeting and decided that when both kids are potty trained, we'll look into getting a kitty or a puppy. Our youngest has been potty trained for months now and we're hoping they completely forgot about that arrangement.

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

A: Pizza, The Power of Myth by Joseph Campbell and Ghostbusters. Bam.

**Q: Anything else we should know about you?**

A: I swear I'm not pandering, but I love working in the IMPACT! program. I'm surrounded by a small, tight-knit group of amazing co-workers. Everyone in IMPACT! possess an endless well of energy working with our students, and I count myself outrageously fortunate to be a part of the team.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BTC will hold a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 via Zoom  
<https://btc-tech.zoom.us/j/81147516935>.

The hearing will review the proposed revisions to  
BTC's WAC 495B-121-250; 380; and 390, of the Student Conduct Code.

For more information, please contact Ronda Laughlin, Rules Coordinator at 360-752-8334 or [rlaughlin@btc.edu](mailto:rlaughlin@btc.edu).