

Business Blog

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Bellingham Technical College's welding program earns new accreditation

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Here's a news release from Bellingham Technical College about it's welding program. This is significant for Whatcom County, given the number of local manufacturing firms looking for welders in this area:

Bellingham, Washington – February 21, 2014– Bellingham Technical College is pleased to announce that its welding program has been newly accredited as a certified test facility by the American Welding Society. BTC joins Bates Technical College as only the second school in Washington State and is the only college in Northwest Washington to offer this type of accreditation.

This endorsement allows BTC to perform many different types of welding certifications above and beyond that of Washington Association of Building Officials. BTC is teaching manufacturing skills to students to industry standards which is an added benefit to BTC's students.

AWS is the gold standard of steel welding and construction standardizing agencies, and their certifications are recognized in all welding and fabrication industries, locally, nationally, and internationally. This new accreditation will help our students meet workforce demands after graduation, will increase their mobility and options in seeking career opportunities, and will benefit local industries, many of which do work for projects outside Washington State.

“Accreditation through the American Welding Society will allow Bellingham Technical College to provide students with a more competitive education and give them the skills our industry needs in a graduating work force.” Said Gabriel Mast, BTC Dean of Professional Technical Education.

About Bellingham Technical College Welding: Students choose to specialize in one of three areas: structural steel welding & fabrication, pipe welding & fabrication, or aluminum welding. In our state-of-the-art welding and fabrication facility, students learn valuable skills that high-wage employers are looking for. From industry safety practices and blueprint reading, to technical skills like metallurgy, codes & standards, FCAW, SMAW and GTAW welding, BTC's hands-on training prepares students for a career in heavy construction, manufacturing, refining, boat and ship manufacturing & repair, and transportation industries.