

**BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**WELDING RODEO**  
 & Skills Competition

Dates: **May 13 & 14**  
 Times: **8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

[www.weldingrodeo.com](http://www.weldingrodeo.com)

Including an American Culinary Federation Sanctioned Culinary Competition

Mythical Creatures  
  
**2016**



Bellingham Technical College  
 Press Release  
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**BTC WELDING RODEO BRINGS MYTHICAL CREATURES TO LIFE MAY 13-14;  
 CULINARY COMPETITION HEATS UP KITCHENS MAY 14-15**

Bellingham, Washington – April 14, 2015 – Watch welders transform scrap metal into art of mythical proportions at this year’s **Welding Rodeo: Sculpture Competition and Skills Challenge**. The event, held annually on Bellingham Technical College’s campus, will take place Friday and Saturday, May 13-14, with welders following the theme Mythical Creatures.

The public is invited to attend this free, one-of-a-kind event 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Saturday. Friday’s event will feature amateur and student teams, and Saturday’s event will feature professional welding teams. The event also includes a skills challenge for welders of all levels interested in being evaluated on their technique.



Sparks will fly in BTC's kitchens as well, as the college plays host to an American Culinary Federation and Washington State Chefs Association Culinary Competition on Saturday and Sunday. The public will be able to watch the culinary magic happen from viewing areas adjacent to the kitchens.

BTC extends its gratitude to BP Cherry Point, who has generously supported the Welding Rodeo as the 'Title Sponsor' since the event's inception in 2001.

### **Team Welded Sculpture Competition- Theme: *Mythical Creatures***

Join in the fun, flare and sparks as each team strategizes, designs, fabricates and welds a finished sculpture in eight hours, providing a rare glimpse into the real-time world of welded steel fabrication and fine art creation.

A mix of professional and college teams from Washington State have been invited to come create scrap metal masterpieces, with students competing Friday and professionals on Saturday. There is a 30-minute timed lunch break on both days and then everyone dashes back to finesse their creations.

Artists are encouraged to produce finished sculptures with special emphasis on high finished quality and sizing within the limitations of no more than 10 feet in height. All but one of the amateur sculptures will be sold through a silent auction, with bidding beginning Friday at 3:30 p.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. when the horn signals the end of welding for the teams. Auction winners will be announced on Friday and need not be present to win. The juried winning sculpture will move to Saturday's professional-level live auction. This auction is an incredible opportunity for collectors and art fans to purchase a one-of-a-kind piece of metal art for their home, business or garden. Money spent goes to a great cause, as a portion of proceeds raised at auction goes to the sculpting team and the remainder goes to help support BTC welding students.

### ***Individual Skills Challenge: Open to All***

Welders of all ages and skill levels are invited to compete in BTC's *Welding Skills Challenge*, held inside the welding labs in Morse Center at this year's rodeo. Prizes will be awarded for each level on both days of the competition.

Welders will be tested on basic to advanced cutting and welding techniques and can choose the skills on which to be evaluated. Competencies will be judged by Certified Welding Inspectors. The format is based on the SkillsUSA Model. Official rules and competency expectations for the challenge will be posted at the event. Those interested can sign up at [www.2016skillschallenge.eventbrite.com](http://www.2016skillschallenge.eventbrite.com)

## **BTC Culinary Arts Program Hosts an American Culinary Federation-Sanctioned Culinary Competition:**

Come and watch Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15, as culinary professionals and students battle it out against each other in timed competitions. This is a rare opportunity to see a popular event first hand, as talented chefs create elaborate platters and recipes before your eyes. For those with a sweet tooth, there will be a judged area that includes chocolate showpieces, tiered wedding cakes, and beautiful centerpiece creations. There will also be an Iron Chef-style competition, in which chefs will have to use innovation, improvisation and skill to create dishes featuring items from a mystery basket revealed at the start of the competition. Limited viewing is available adjacent to the kitchens.



## **Welding Rodeo Story:**

It began with the instructor's idea to generate emphasis and interest about the welding field, BTC's welding program, and the BTC campus. It quickly became clear that the public was curious to see "what goes on under the hood," getting a firsthand look at the welding process that most of us never have the opportunity to see. This idea was a mix of a Welding Skills demonstration and competition, a welding product & equipment showcase, and a take-off of "Junk Yard Wars" with a fine arts twist. All this evolved into the BTC Welding Rodeo, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year.

## **About Bellingham Technical College**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers seven direct transfer degrees such as pre-engineering, pre-nursing, electronics, mechanical engineering, and technology and business. Completion of these degrees prepares BTC students to transfer with a junior status to participating colleges and universities in Washington State. BTC offers 37 associate degree and 51 certificate options providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to [www.btc.edu](http://www.btc.edu). For more news, events, and photos from the college follow us on [www.facebook.com/bellinghamtech](https://www.facebook.com/bellinghamtech), [www.twitter.com/bhamtechcollege](https://www.twitter.com/bhamtechcollege) and [www.instagram.com/bellinghamtechcollege](https://www.instagram.com/bellinghamtechcollege).

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