



Bellingham Technical College  
Press Release

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## **BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE RECEIVES \$40,000 GRANT FROM ALCOA FOUNDATION FOR ESTABLISHING INDUSTRY SKILLS CERTIFICATIONS AT BTC**

Bellingham, Washington – October 17, 2012 – Bellingham Technical College (BTC) received a \$40,000 two year grant from Alcoa Foundation presented by Alcoa's Intalco Works in Ferndale. BTC's grant project called *Establishing an Industry Skills Certification System in the Pacific Northwest* will contribute essential funding for the development of specific coursework for industry certifications within existing BTC program degrees. The grant was awarded in September.

The Alcoa Foundation funding will help BTC obtain industry certification for instructors and provide the means to certify current students and graduates in nationally-recognized certificates. The College will develop and align curricula in three program areas: Electro Mechanical Technology, Precision Machining, and Welding Technology. Students in these programs can complete nationally recognized industry certifications endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and in the Manufacturing Skills Certification System of the Manufacturing Institute (MI). The College will also work with partners to make the National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) available to students.

"We're always excited about the investments that Intalco is able to make through Alcoa Foundation," said Barry Hullett, Intalco Works Plant Manager. "Bellingham Technical College, like many other local organizations we award grants to, has a demonstrated track record of success and commitment that allow them to have a deep impact in the Whatcom County community."

"Thank you to Alcoa Foundation. This grant is an example of a BTC-Industry partnership where education and business work together to create a high quality workforce and provide the opportunity for our students to achieve national certifications. This further validates the excellence in our educational programs and the quality of our students. Alcoa is a valued, forward thinking industry partner that invests in our community and our residents," said Patricia McKeown, BTC President.

### **About Bellingham Technical College**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 34 associate degree and 55 certificate options providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to [www.btc.ctc.edu](http://www.btc.ctc.edu)

### **About Alcoa Foundation**

Alcoa Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the U.S., with assets of approximately \$420 million. In addition to addressing local needs in communities where Alcoa operates, Alcoa Foundation is focused on promoting environmental stewardship, enabling economic and social sustainability, and preparing tomorrow's leaders through education and learning. Alcoa Foundation was founded more than 50 years ago and has invested more than \$515 million since 1952. [www.alcoa.com](http://www.alcoa.com)

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Additional Information:

National Association of Manufacturers: [www.nam.org](http://www.nam.org)