



Bellingham Technical College

**Press Release**

**December 29, 2011**

Media Contact:

Marni Saling Mayer, Director of Communications

P: 360.752.8325 E: [msmayer@btc.ctc.edu](mailto:msmayer@btc.ctc.edu)

## **BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS ONE OF 13 WASHINGTON TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES AWARDED PORTION OF \$1.58 MILLION FOR AEROSPACE TRAINING**

Bellingham Washington – December 29, 2011– As part of the Aerospace Consortium for Employment (ACE), a collaboration of Washington community and technical colleges, thirteen Washington two-year colleges will share \$1.58 million in Governor’s Investment in Aerospace (GIA) grants to develop fast turnover training in aerospace.

A mix of Gov. Christine Gregoire’s discretionary Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds and state aerospace training funds, the grants are designed to assist community and technical colleges throughout the state develop new training in aerospace industry-identified areas.

In response to the governor’s direction of the discretionary WIA funds and the grant RFP, community and technical colleges in Washington collaboratively formed the Aerospace Consortium for Employment (ACE). The consortium’s mission is to meet urgent workforce needs with short-term training programs in the areas of precision machining, machine maintenance, fiber optics and quality assurance/inspection. The consortium worked with The Boeing Company to identify areas of immediate need in the aerospace industry and identified two to six month training program opportunities to meet those needs.

BTC participated as a partner college in the Aerospace Consortium for Employment (ACE) which submitted a successful application in response to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC’s) Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop and implement the certificate programs. The consortium was awarded the full amount of \$1 million, of which BTC will receive \$113 thousand.

BTC will use the funds to lead the development of certificates in machine maintenance and quality assurance, which are projected to be added to the existing Electro Mechanical Technology, Precision Machining, and Welding programs, giving students in those programs additional options and potential exit points. The certificate programs are expected to be implemented during the 2011-12 academic year. It also expected that BTC will use grant funding to add a two-quarter certificate in Precision Machining that is being developed by Shoreline Community College.

“BTC welcomes the opportunity to serve as a lead college in this project to help meet the increasing demand for a well-trained and skilled workforce in this essential industry. Our strong and proven technical programs, dedicated faculty, and engaged students make us a natural choice for the role. We are also excited about the chance to

collaborate with the other college partners to address the aerospace industry's needs with a system-wide approach," said Robert Costello BTC Dean of Professional Technical Education.

ACE applied for and was awarded a GIA grant, which will be applied toward developing programs that retrain or enhance skilled aerospace workers in precision machining, machine maintenance, fiber optics and quality assurance/inspection. Fund allocation and usage vary between the schools. On a whole, the monies will go toward equipment purchase, additional faculty and program and curriculum development.

**Below is a listing of the ACE colleges and their portions of the grant:**

Bates Technical College (Tacoma) \$91,229  
Bellingham Technical College (Bellingham) \$112,944  
Columbia Basin College (Pasco) \$111,232  
Everett Community College (Everett) \$114,466  
Green River Community College (Auburn) \$167,234  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology (Kirkland) \$172,431  
Olympic College (Bremerton) \$101,677  
Shoreline Community College (Shoreline) \$80,856  
South Puget Sound Community College (Olympia) \$53,188  
South Seattle Community College (Seattle) \$3,432  
Yakima Valley Community College (Yakima) \$38,600  
Two additional colleges received GIA grants:  
Clover Park Technical College (Lakewood) \$356,000  
Spokane Community College (Spokane) \$176,887  
For detailed information and interviews regarding individual schools' plans for their grant money, please contact the school directly.

**Contact information for the schools is as follows:**

Bates Technical College (Tacoma) 253-680-7102  
Bellingham Technical College (Bellingham) 360-752-8325  
Clover Park Technical College (Lakewood) 253-589-6048  
Columbia Basin College (Pasco) 509-547-0511 x2235  
Everett Community College (Everett) 425-388-9554  
Green River Community College (Auburn) 253-288-3360  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology (Kirkland) 425-739-8236  
Olympic College (Bremerton) 360-475-7721  
Shoreline Community College (Shoreline) 206-546-4634  
South Puget Sound Community College (Olympia) 360-596-5214  
South Seattle Community College (Seattle) 206-934-6875  
Spokane Community College (Spokane) 509-434-5150  
Yakima Valley Community College (Yakima) 509-574-6870

For more information on the grant please contact Marie Bruin, at the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges at 360-704-4360.

**About Bellingham Technical College**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 35 associate degree and 64 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)

# # # # #