

# Bellingham Tech opens new Campus Center building

by BBJ Staff

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Bellingham Technical College is ready to open its new Campus Center building after the facility's completion last summer.

The three-story, 72,885-square-foot center features a variety of classrooms and other campus facilities.

"The Campus Center is a wonderful addition to BTC," said Patricia McKeown, BTC's president, in a press release. "This facility represents a major step in modernizing our campus and providing a leading edge teaching and learning space for today and tomorrow's workforce."

The center's first floor is the new home of BTC's culinary arts program. The space includes a learning kitchen and lab space equipped with a donated wood-stove oven.

Nearby the class spaces is Cafe Culinaire, the school's culinary arts restaurant.

The first floor also features the Settlemyer Hall auditorium, a campus store, coffee shop, classrooms and BTC's Donor Recognition Wall, which is located at the building's main entrance and honors the college's supporters.

The second floor includes the computer networking and business and computer information systems departments, along with sitting areas, classrooms and conference rooms. On the top floor sits a new library and a student center.

College administrators said the center will meet standards for a LEED green-building gold rating.

The center was designed by HKP Architects. The building's contractor was Exxel Pacific General Contractors.

BTC plans to host a grand opening event near the end of October.



*Bellingham Technical College's new Campus Center is designed to be energy efficient and will offer high-quality, industry-standard learning environments for students, according to school officials. Outdoor sitting areas with native-plant gardens and an outdoor sculpture by artist Ilan Averbuch are set to be installed by December. Photo courtesy of BTC*