



Bellingham Technical College

Press Release

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Media Contact:

Marni Saling Mayer, Director of Communications

Phone: 360.752.8325

Email: msmayer@btc.ctc.edu

3028 Lindbergh Ave. Bellingham WA 98225

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE AWARDED \$168,000 JOB SKILLS PROGRAM GRANT WITH HEATH TECNA FOR EXPERTISE IN PROVIDING CUSTOMIZED TRAINING FOR UP AND COMING BUSINESSES IN MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES

Bellingham Washington – January 27, 2011 - Bellingham Technical College's (BTC) expertise in customized training was recognized in the \$168,000 Job Skills Program (JSP) funds allocated by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

This is BTC's second customized job training grant in partnership with Heath Tecna. A June 2010 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) contract for \$75,000 laid the groundwork for a collaborative venture between BTC, Heath Tecna, Northwest Workforce Council, Impact Washington, WorkSource, Manpower, Kelly Services and Northwest Economic Council. The Northwest Workforce Council played a pivotal role in securing these funds and coordinating this many faceted project.

BTC's capacity to deliver job training skills and upgrades to increase business productivity and market competitiveness has long been recognized throughout the region.

The central focus of the current \$168,000 grant is for BTC to provide training and develop cutting edge skills of existing Heath Tecna employees in CATIA (a computer aided design and drafting software program often used in the aerospace industry),

as well as classes in Program Management and Lean Manufacturing (provided through a subcontract through Impact Washington). The training will conclude in spring of 2011 and is being conducted at the Bellingham Heath Tecna facility.

The Job Skills Program (JSP) provides funding to Washington State companies for customized, short-term and job-specific training for eligible businesses using dollar-for-dollar matching grants. Grants are awarded to educational institutions that partner with employers to undertake a JSP project. The participating employer must match the grant amount with cash or in-kind program support as Heath Tecna has. Providing financial incentives to state businesses and industries via JSP grant funds helps keep companies in Washington State. This is a win-win situation, as a company can either add new highly trained employees or educate their existing pool of workers. Either way the financial benefits remain local.

“Matching state resources (JSP) to technical training expertise (BTC) with a local business (Heath Tecna) grows jobs, supports employees and is vital to ensuring our Washington businesses can compete globally. Specialized advanced technical skills and knowledge are critical for businesses to succeed in niche markets. This project is a great example of how BTC fulfills its mission of providing professional technical education for today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities,” said Dr. Patricia McKeown, BTC President.

About BTC’s \$75,000 WIA Fund Grant

BTC’s previous Heath Tecna \$75,000 customized training project was awarded by the Northwest Workforce Council and funded by Governor Gregoire as a deliberate step to help stimulate economic growth in Whatcom County. The resources came from the federal Workforce Investment Act.

At that time, BTC provided customized training for Heath Tecna when they obtained several new contracts requiring them to add 150 technically qualified employees to their workforce. In order to meet this three month objective, a new-hire training curriculum

was developed and delivered. That curriculum included basic skills, math, composites and industrial manufacturing concepts.

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 34 associate degree and 57 certificate options providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to www.btc.ctc.edu

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