



Bellingham Technical College Press Release

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Bellingham Technical College Receives HEET Grant to develop innovative education and employment programs in hospital and high demand health care fields.

Bellingham Washington.- October 13, 2009 - Bellingham Technical College was awarded \$359,575 for the Hospital Employee Education and Training Program by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

This grant was awarded to BTC, which will be working with partners Skagit Valley College, Whatcom Community College, Northwest Workforce Council (NWC), and SEIU Healthcare (1199NW) to expand access, participation and quality of training programs and support services for workers from five hospitals in Northwest Washington (St. Joseph, Island, Whidbey General, United General and Skagit Valley).

This support will aid the development of high demand, high wage career pathways for incumbent workers to become medical records, surgical , radiologic or pharmacy technicians, nursing assistants, LPNs, RNs, billing and coding specialists or health unit coordinators.

The purpose of the funds is to increase diversity through recruitment and retention plans for low earner and first-generation hospital workforce, improve access to training, restructure current training programs to increase quality, add mentoring opportunities, restructure job responsibilities based on career interests of incumbent workers and establish advisory and support systems with a hospital-based Career Specialist and defray costs in the following areas: tuition, computer access, ESL classes, developmental and prerequisite course work, child care and transportation.

“This grant represents ongoing collaboration between hospitals, colleges, and the Northwest Workforce Council to help train local hospital workers in a career pathway of their choice. BTC will take the lead role to ensure our objectives are met.” Carol Lager, Dean of Professional Technical Education at Bellingham Technical College.

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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