

Want a high-paying job? Get Tech School Training

Bellingham Technical College offers programs that prepare students to do wonderful jobs that pay a lot.

Amazingly, some of the programs are not filled for this fall.

The college had 129 openings, as of Aug. 26, in programs that train people in skilled jobs such as welding, process technology and ventilation systems. The jobs BTC can train people to do are better paying than most in our state.

The average wage for an operator at an oil refinery, for example, is \$29.93 an hour. An electrical engineering technician makes, on average, \$32.14 an hour. There are many other high-paying examples.

Students who get a degree almost always immediately land a job. The job placement rate for 2005 graduates of the process technology program, for example, was 95 percent.

Companies are so desperate for workers with that kind of training they pushed for the college to get a grant that will allow 50 additional student openings at BTC this fall.

We hope all of the spots are filled. This kind of opportunity should not go to waste in our community. If you or someone you know is interested in getting on a career path that comes with great wages, call the college at 752-8450 or check out its Web site at www.btc.ctc.edu.

This blog received 60 comments. <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/289/story/172655.html>

Why aren't more young people entering the trades? Vacancies exist in training programs that lead to good-paying jobs.

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THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

comments (60)

Herald business editor Dave Gallagher recently reported that there are empty spots in training programs at Bellingham Technical College that put people in good positions to land good jobs in the trades.

There's demand for power plant and refinery operators, maintenance and repair workers, and other positions, with starting wages from \$19 to \$36 an hour.

Another recent news story says Snohomish County PUD is having a hard time finding power line workers, a job that starts at \$55,000 a year.

What's up? Why aren't more people taking the training that puts them in high demand for such jobs?

Do young people look down on so-called "blue collar" jobs?

Are schools and counselors too focused on kids going to a university?

Are you nudging your kids into the trades?