



Bellingham Technical College
Press Release
July 20, 2010
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For Immediate Release

DR. PATRICIA MCKEOWN NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT OF BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Bellingham, Washington – July 20, 2010 –At a meeting today, Bellingham Technical College’s Board of Trustees unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Patricia McKeown as Interim President of the College.

McKeown holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Washington and came to BTC in 1984. She has been an administrator and educator for more than 26 years in the technical college system and most recently served an eight year term as BTC’s Vice President of Instruction. Prior positions at BTC include Dean of Professional Technical Education from 1988 to 2002; Curriculum Specialist, Home and Family Life Program Coordinator, and Program Developer from 1984 to 1988. She played a pivotal role in the formation and accreditation of many programs that exist at BTC today. Her main priority is to make education accessible to all.

“Dr. McKeown is a state-wide leader in educational and workforce policy, and thoroughly understands the intricacies and issues of the State community and technical college system and how they impact BTC. She possesses outstanding leadership skills and has a proven track record of defining emerging educational programs for our college. We are very pleased and fortunate that Dr. McKeown has accepted the role as interim president,” said Yvonne Cartwright BTC board chair.

McKeown has long been a leader in her field and in 2008-2009 served as the President of the Instruction Commission for the State’s Community and Technical College Workforce Education Council. She is adept at building local partnerships with key community stakeholders—the NW Workforce Council, the Economic Development Council-Whatcom County, St. Joseph PeaceHealth Medical Center, and industry employers—to advance economic development and job opportunities for BTC graduates. She has a successful history of securing government and private foundation grants and has received numerous higher education awards. These include The Outstanding Service to Education Award, which she received twice from BTC and the 2010 YWCA Hall of Fame award, both of which recognize her outstanding contributions to the field of education.

“It is a privilege and honor to be able to serve the College and this community as Interim President. BTC plays a pivotal role in the region by training and educating thousands of students’ who fix our cars, nurse our sick, build our roads and light our homes. My first task as Interim President will be to make the transition as seamless as possible and to continue the College’s excellent technical education work” said Dr. McKeown.

Dr. McKeown is replacing former president Thomas Eckert, who recently took the position of President at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, Wisconsin. She will begin her duties as Interim President September 1st, 2010.

Bellingham Technical College is a leading educational institution and the only technical college in northwest Washington. BTC's campus is located in the heart of Bellingham and educates a diverse population of 8,000 students each year in more than thirty associate degree and fifty certificate programs. BTC is recognized for collaborating with local industry, employers and state and local governments to identify the skills our workforce requires to keep the economy strong. Programs include professional/technical careers, college transfer, e-learning and basic academic skills. BTC excels at providing students with hands-on, high-tech training coupled with solid academic instruction.

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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