



Bellingham Technical College
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For Immediate Release

**BTC DIESEL INSTRUCTOR JEFF CURTIS WINS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
AWARD AT NATIONAL AUTO INDUSTRY EXPO**

Bellingham, Washington — March 10, 2016 —Bellingham Technical College (BTC) Diesel Technology instructor Jeff Curtis was presented with the Educator of the Year award at this year's Vision Hi-Tech Training and Expo, held March 3-6 in Overland Park, Kan.

The conference and expo hosts more than 3,500 automotive service professionals from 37 states and Canada, combining management training, technical training and educator-specific training. Jeff was at the conference to teach a class called "Students Break Things," which focused on how to create positive learning experiences for students as they grapple with new concepts and procedures, and occasionally break things in the process.

He was surprised by news of the award on Friday, March 4, and was officially recognized with the award at the event's packed gala banquet on Saturday night. The Educator of the Year award is presented each year to an instructor who has demonstrated innovative and successful teaching methods, a strong commitment to their program and students, and a drive to adapt to their field.

Though he usually shies from the spotlight, Jeff was happy to see the diesel program get accolades at such a large automotive event.

"I have always felt that bringing our programs into the national spotlight, within their individual industries, benefits our students in ways that are not always immediately visible or measurable," Jeff said.

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers seven direct transfer degrees such as pre-engineering, pre-nursing, electronics, mechanical engineering, and technology and business. Completion of these degrees prepares BTC students to transfer with a junior status to participating colleges and universities in Washington State. BTC offers 37 associate degree and 51 certificate options providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to www.btc.edu.

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