



Bellingham Technical College
Press Release

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BTC IMPLEMENTS HIGH-DEMAND LEAN TRAINING FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN MANUFACTURING & TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Bellingham, Washington – October 26, 2015 – Bellingham Technical College (BTC) is proud to announce that the college is incorporating efficiency-focused LEAN training into several of its programs to give students experience sought after by many manufacturers and industries.

BTC is working with Chris Ortiz of Kaizen Assembly, a global LEAN implementation and training firm that specializes in LEAN process improvement, to implement LEAN principles, practices and training in several of BTC's programs: Industrial Maintenance & Mechatronics, Precision Machining, Process Technology, Diesel Technology, and Automotive Technology. Funding from the Alcoa Foundation has helped bring this training to BTC and provides paid internships for students implementing LEAN projects in their programs.

“Integrating this training into our manufacturing and transportation programs is absolutely critical in order to meet workforce needs for employees who have LEAN process design and project management skills. We thank Kaizen Assembly for providing this training for both faculty and students, and the Alcoa Foundation for supporting this project and providing paid LEAN student internship opportunities. This work will help us continue to produce highly qualified and successful graduates,” said Frank Powers, Vice President of Instruction at Bellingham Technical College.

Over the next six months, faculty and students from each participating program will identify and implement 10 to 12 LEAN projects in the program labs. Upon completion of the projects, the faculty will earn the LEAN Champion Certification from Kaizen Assembly and the students will earn a certificate in LEAN Implementation.

What will this mean for BTC Students graduating from these programs?

By incorporating LEAN into ongoing curriculum and lab projects, and through the implementation and practice of LEAN projects, students will have knowledge, skills, and experience in this sought-after skills area. BTC students graduating with LEAN experience will be highly qualified for employment in the fields of manufacturing and transportation.

What is LEAN?

LEAN is a business methodology of process improvement through the removal of inefficient tasks and steps. The primary goal of LEAN is to improve a variety of metrics such as productivity, floor-space use, cost, delivery, and quality.

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and 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. For more news, events, and photos from the college follow us on www.facebook.com/bellinghamtech, www.twitter.com/bhamtechcollege and www.instagram.com/bellinghamtechcollege.

About Alcoa Foundation

Alcoa Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the U.S., with assets of approximately \$470 million. Founded 62 years ago, Alcoa Foundation has invested more than \$590 million. In 2013, Alcoa Foundation contributed more than \$22 million to nonprofit organizations throughout the world, building innovative partnerships to improve the environment and educate tomorrow's leaders for careers in manufacturing and engineering. The work of Alcoa Foundation is further enhanced by Alcoa's thousands of employee volunteers who share their talents and time to make a difference in the communities where Alcoa operates. Through the Company's signature Month of Service program, in 2013, a record 62 percent of Alcoa employees took part in nearly 1,300 events across 24 countries, benefiting more than 505,000 people and 1,900 nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.alcoafoundation.com and follow @AlcoaFoundation on Twitter.

About Alcoa

A global leader in lightweight metals engineering and manufacturing, Alcoa innovates multi-material solutions that advance our world. Our technologies enhance transportation, from automotive and commercial transport to air and space travel, and improve industrial and consumer electronics products. We enable smart buildings, sustainable food and beverage packaging, high-performance defense vehicles across air, land and sea, deeper oil and gas drilling and more efficient power generation. We pioneered the aluminum industry over 125 years ago, and today, our 60,000 people in 30 countries deliver value-add products made of titanium, nickel and aluminum, and produce best-in-class bauxite, alumina and primary aluminum products. For more information, visit www.alcoa.com, follow @Alcoa on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Alcoa and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Alcoa.

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