



Bellingham Technical College

Press Release

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Media Contact:

Marni Saling Mayer, Director of Communications
P: 360.752.8325 E: marni.salingmayer@btc.edu

For Immediate Release

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE HOSTS LINUXFEST NORTHWEST APRIL 23-24

Free Event. Bellingham, Wash.— Explore virtual reality, build a robot and talk tech at Bellingham Technical College this weekend as BTC hosts the annual LinuxFest Northwest Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24.

LinuxFest Northwest is an annual Open Source event that usually draws 1,500 to 2,000 people interested in learning and sharing ideas about accessible technology. The Fest runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days, and admission is free.

This year's event will feature more than 90 presentations, with session topics that range in complexity so there are activities to interest novices and professionals alike. Topics for sessions include finding Open Source jobs, creating your own music-streaming software, building Open Source apps, encryption and security, and more, with additional roundtables available for people to discuss their interests. For a complete list of sessions, go online to www.linuxfestnorthwest.org.

"This year's LinuxFest has something for just about every level of technology user, from the weekend warrior to the skilled professional," said Greg Rehm, Computer Network Technology instructor at BTC. "It's a great opportunity to dig deep into challenging topics, explore new ideas and approaches, and play around with fun technology."

In addition to the sessions, the event also will include an Open Source hardware lab where attendees can build Lego robots and work with Arduino microcontrollers. The lab will include demonstrations from BTC's Engineering Club, Western Washington University's BAIRS (Bellingham Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Society) and Sehome High School's robotics team, the Seamonsters, who will attend depending on their competition schedule.

Video game fans can stop by the Game Den to try computer gaming on open source operating systems and enter a gaming tournament with prizes. A demo of the Oculus Rift Development Kit v2 will allow attendees to experience the virtual world through VR goggles.

Where & When:

Bellingham Technical College
3028 Lindbergh Avenue
Saturday and Sunday, April 23 & 24
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.-Both days
Buildings: Campus Center Building; Settlemyer Hall (ground floor), Haskell Building, and G building, (middle of campus)
The nearest street (in front of Haskell building) is [3000 Lindbergh Ave.](#), Bellingham, WA 98225.

About LinuxFest Organization Committee:

LinuxFest Northwest is a Washington state non-profit and Federal 501(c) (4) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. We have a lively organization committee and are always looking for new members. Please contact us if you're interested in donating to the fest, or becoming part of the organizing committee. www.linuxfestnorthwest.org

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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