



Bellingham Technical College  
Press Release

**February 17, 2012**

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## **BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$12,500 GRANT FROM SAFECO INSURANCE FOUNDATION**

BELLINGHAM Washington, February 17, 2012— Bellingham Technical College (BTC) has been awarded \$12,500 from Safeco Insurance Foundation to support and expand its Reaching Out to East 542 Program, bringing case management services, basic skills and college-level courses to low income and underserved youth and young adults (16-24) in East Whatcom County at a reduced rate. BTC may be eligible for a second year of funding for this project.

Two years ago, the Safeco Insurance Foundation launched an education initiative with the auspicious goal of improving educational achievement and opportunities for youth in Washington and Oregon. Today, through its \$12,500 grant to the Bellingham Technical College Foundation – one of 32 grants totaling \$770,000 – the philanthropic foundation of Safeco Insurance took a step closer to achieving that goal.

“We are very excited to receive this grant,” says Carol Lager, BTC Interim Vice President of Instruction. “This program has proven to be very successful. Word of mouth from those who have taken our courses has helped fill each class, and to have the much needed dollars to be able to give at least 150 students targeted career advising and case management services this year is fantastic,” she added.

Since the inception of Safeco Insurance Foundation’s education initiative in 2009, more than \$2 million has been donated to programs in local communities across the Northwest that expand academic opportunities and highlight the path to further education for low-income and limited-English proficient students.

“The Safeco Insurance Foundation gives priority to educational programs that encourage disadvantaged youth to excel academically and create opportunities for life-long success through learning,” says Paul Hollie, the foundation’s director. “Safeco believes that investing in education is an investment in our community at large.”

This year’s grants are expected to positively impact an estimated 10,000 young people. A full list of recipients can be found on the [Safeco Insurance Foundation website](#).

### **About Bellingham Technical College**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 35 associate degree and 64 certificate options providing

professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to [www.btc.ctc.edu](http://www.btc.ctc.edu)

### **About Safeco Insurance**

In business since 1923 and based in Seattle, Washington, Safeco sells insurance to drivers and homeowners through a network of independent agents in eight regions throughout the United States.

Safeco is part of Liberty Mutual Agency Corporation, a strategic business unit of Liberty Mutual Group, consisting of property and casualty and specialty insurance carriers that distribute their products and services primarily through independent agents and brokers. Liberty Mutual Group ranks 82nd on the Fortune 100 list of the largest U.S. corporations based on 2010 revenue. The company has financial strength ratings of A (Excellent) from the A.M. Best Company, A2 (Good) from Moody's Investors Service, and A- (Strong) from Standard & Poor's.

For more information about Safeco Insurance, visit [www.Safeco.com](http://www.Safeco.com)

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