



Bellingham Technical College
Press Release
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For Immediate Release

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS A MILITARY FRIENDLY CAMPUS AND HOSTS FREE VETERANS-SUPPORT WORKSHOPS OCT. 24 AND NOV. 8

Bellingham Washington – October 17, 2012 – Bellingham Technical College (BTC) has been named a *Military Friendly School* by G.I. Jobs magazine in the 2013 Guide to Military Friendly Schools. In being named a *Military Friendly School*, BTC is tasked with augmenting its efforts to continue to improve its commitment to *military friendliness* on an ongoing basis. As testament to BTC's commitment of supporting and educating student veterans, members of the military, their families and the community on veterans' issues, BTC is hosting two free veterans-support workshops on Wednesday, October 24 and Thursday, November 8 on the BTC campus. Individuals and community members can attend one or both sessions.

"BTC is proud of the service of our Veterans and honored to be recognized as a *Military Friendly College*. We have a special obligation to make sure our veterans and military families can move into promising careers and thrive after their years of service and sacrifice to our country. It is important that our college community understands the issues our veterans face and bring to our campus. We need to determine the best strategies to support veterans, members of the military and their families," said Patricia McKeown, president of Bellingham Technical College.

BTC approached Peter Schmidt of the Veterans Training Support Center (VTSC) to bring some of the veterans support training workshops to Bellingham. VTSC is a project of the Center for Learning Connections at Edmonds Community College and they provide all-day, stand-alone workshops for free. In their commitment to increase awareness and understanding of veteran's issues, VTSC began providing these workshops at no cost, to Washington State community and technical college campuses and local agencies that support veteran populations.

Participants attending this two-day interactive workshop will gain:

Day 1: Wednesday, October 24, 9 am to 4 pm
Supporting Our Veterans & Their Families

1) A better understanding of military & veteran culture; 2) increased awareness of readjustment issues and a brief overview of invisible wounds; 3) strategies to better support veterans and their families; 4) information about community based resources that serve veterans and their families; and 5) insight on how to continue one's journey toward veteran cultural competence.

Day 2: Thursday, November 8, 9 am to 4 pm

Readjustment, Invisible Wounds & Resources

1) In-depth understanding and awareness of combat-related PTS(d) and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury; 2) an overview of Military Sexual Trauma and its impact; 3) awareness of how invisible wounds contribute to readjustment issues such as homelessness, suicide, chemical dependency, and employment; 4) confidence in how to support Post-Traumatic Growth; and 5) information about community based resources that serve veterans and their families.

Trainers: Peter Schmidt, Psy. D. Project Director and trainer for the Veterans Training Support Center of the Center for Learning Connections at Edmonds Community College. He provides outreach and consultation to colleges, universities, and community based agencies in Washington State as well as nationally. A veteran of the United States Air Force and Washington Air National Guard, Peter has offered numerous trainings on veteran's issues in higher education, veteran best practices, invisible wounds such as post-traumatic stress disorder and mild-traumatic brain injury.

Timm Lovitt, TBI Project Coordinator and a U.S. Army Veteran, who served two combat tours with the 10th Mountain Division; Afghanistan (2003-2004) and Iraq (2005-2006).

When: Wednesday, October 24, and Thursday, November 8
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: Bellingham Technical College
G-Building, Conference Room 102A/B
3028 Lindbergh Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Cost: Free of charge and open to the public-
Registration required (but bring your own lunch)

Contact: For More Information and to Register
Contact: Peter Schmidt
Phone: 425-640-1463
Email: peter.schmidt@edcc.edu

Free Continuing Education Units & Clock Hours!

Workshop certificate documents hours of instruction toward Continuing Education Units. Clock-hour forms are available free upon completion of the workshop.

About Bellingham Technical College:

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 34 associate degrees and 55 certificate options providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to www.btc.ctc.edu

The Center for Learning Connections (CLC):

CLC designs training and manages projects to help individuals and organizations respond to change and improve quality. CLC is especially effective in working with educators (at all levels and locations), welfare and workforce development professionals, and community based organizations and is a self-supporting office located at, and legally part of, Edmonds Community College, Lynnwood, Washington.
www.learningconnections.org

Veterans Training Support Center is a project of Center for Learning Connections Center and is funded through a contract with Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.
www.veteranstrainingsupportcenter.org