



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S WELDING PROGRAM DESIGNATED AS AN AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY ACCREDITED TEST FACILITY

Bellingham, Washington – February 21, 2014– Bellingham Technical College (BTC) is pleased to announce that its welding program has been newly accredited as a certified test facility by the American Welding Society (AWS). BTC joins Bates Technical College as the second school in Washington State and is the only college in Northwest Washington to offer this type of accreditation. This endorsement allows BTC to perform many different types of welding certifications above and beyond that of Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO). BTC is teaching manufacturing skills to students to industry standards which is an added benefit to BTC's students.

AWS is the gold standard of steel welding and construction standardizing agencies, and their certifications are recognized in all welding and fabrication industries, locally, nationally, and internationally. This new accreditation will help our students meet workforce demands after graduation, will increase their mobility and options in seeking career opportunities, and will benefit local industries, many of which do work for projects outside Washington State.

"Accreditation through the American Welding Society will allow Bellingham Technical College to provide students with a more competitive education and give them the skills our industry needs in a graduating work force." Said Gabriel Mast Dean of Professional Technical Education.

About Bellingham Technical College Welding: Students choose to specialize in one of three areas: structural steel welding & fabrication, pipe welding & fabrication, or aluminum welding. In our state-of-the-art welding and fabrication facility, students learn valuable skills that high-wage employers are looking for. From industry safety practices and blueprint reading, to technical skills like metallurgy, codes & standards, FCAW, SMAW and GTAW welding, BTC's hands-on training prepares students for a career in heavy construction, manufacturing, refining, boat and ship manufacturing & repair, and transportation industries.

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.ctc.edu

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