



Bellingham Technical College
Press Release
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For Immediate Release

BTC'S VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION, PATRICIA MCKEOWN INDUCTED INTO YWCA HALL OF FAME

Bellingham, Washington – March 23, 2010 – On March 21st, BTC's Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Patricia McKeown, was recognized by the YWCA and inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame for her exceptional contributions to this community. For more than 25 years, Patty has dedicated her life to making sure women of all ages get the education and skills-training they need to pursue good-paying careers and become financially independent.

"I can think of no one more deserving of this honor. Patty has dedicated her life to helping people better their lives, often to levels of accomplishment that were higher than even they expected to reach," said Bellingham Technical College President, Thomas Eckert.

McKeown came to BTC from Fairhaven Middle School in 1984 to fill in as a Program Coordinator for Home and Family life for 6 months to fill in for an employee on maternity leave. She then took on that position at half time with the other half dedicated to Program Development. BTC had many active programs at that time, and McKeown was pivotal in working to get the necessary elements together for the formation and accreditation of many programs that exist at BTC today. Her main agenda is to make education accessible to all.

She continues to make a difference in students' lives in countless ways: securing funds to start new degree programs and hire faculty, collaborating with business, higher education institutions and non-profit partners to boost student success in the workplace and, providing counsel to staff and faculty so they too can advance our students' lives.

Known for mentoring those working around her, she consistently works to motivate women and men at BTC to reach the next step and continue with their education. She has offered support for employees moving into new positions or different jobs that better suited those individuals. Her biggest desire is to see people succeed at what they do and has been outspoken that education is key to that process.

"She is a leader, a friend, an outstanding mentor, and an unflagging champion of BTC," said Bellingham Technical College Executive Director College Advancement, Mary Humphries.

She herself was a great example, as she is the first in her family to earn a baccalaureate degree. Later while working full time at BTC she commuted for four years to the University of Washington in order to receive her Doctorate.

Her advocacy for women and girls includes tirelessly promoting programs that were previously considered and targeted more for men. She has worked to educate and popularize the mindset that women and girls have the skills and abilities to succeed in programs such as: Instrumentation and Control, Process Control, Electronics, Welding, Electro Mechanical Technology and Automotive. She let women know that BTC welcomed them and that these living wage careers were just as applicable to women as men.

“For those working with her, she serves as a role-model to the highest degree. She is smart, well-spoken, very direct, and strategic. She can speak her mind, direct a large staff and oversee the multitude of responsibilities that comes with her job, yet she leads by motivation and honesty. Rare traits in today’s world, she just makes you want to work with her”, said Chris Eder, Project Director, Department of Labor Pipeline to Advanced Manufacturing Careers, Bellingham Technical College.

Academic Background:

Ed.D. Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, 2002, University of Washington, Seattle WA

Dissertation: *A Study of the Development of the Community College’s Governing Board- President Relationship*

M.ED. Curriculum & Supervision - 1983, 5th and 6th year, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA

B.A. Education, Vocational Home Economics Education -1973, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA

Academic Experience and Teaching:

1984 – present: Bellingham Technical College, Bellingham, WA

Vice President of Instruction: 7/2002 – present

Dean of Professional Technical Education: 9/1988 – 7/2002

Curriculum Specialist, Home & Family Life Program Coordinator, Program Development, 2/1984 – 9/1988; Faculty: 9/1984 – 9/1988

1979-1984: Bellingham School District, Bellingham, WA

Teacher, Fairhaven Middle School

1974-1979: Bremerton School District, Bremerton, WA

Teacher, Bremerton Junior High Bremerton Alternative School

Program Development: Registered Nursing, Surgery Technology, Radiology Technology, Computer Software Support, Process Technology, plus others

Grants: High Demand Nursing Expansion, Construction Expansion, Workforce Program Development: Surgery Technology, Radiology Technology, Dental Hygiene, Carl Perkins, State Innovation Grant.

Professional Organizations:

Washington State Community and Technical College Workforce Education Council, Instruction Commission – present

Washington Association of Occupational Educators, 1991 – present

Honors and Credentials:

The Washington Association of Community & Technical College Administration, 1991 – present

Governor's Best Practice Awards: Welding Recruitment and Retention 2005, Process Technology program 2004, Radiology Technology Consortium, 2003

Executive Committee Washington State Community and Technical College Instruction Council, 2006; President, WA Community & Technical College Continuing Education Council, 1998-99

Outstanding Vocational Educator, 1993, Bellingham Technical College

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 34 associate degree and 57 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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