



## JIM'S JOURNAL

Hello Team BTC,

I had the great fortune this month to join some of our fantastic ASBTC students and Director of Student Life Chris Eder for Legislative Advocacy Day in Olympia on February 2.

It was an amazing opportunity for me to get to know our students and their priorities, and to share those priorities with our legislators. We met with Rep. Joe Timmons and aids for Rep. Alex Ramel, Sen. Liz Lovelett and Sen. Sharon Shewmake so our students could speak to them about child care support, textbook costs and open educational resources, mental health support, and expanded financial aid. I was impressed with the professionalism and presentation of our students. They all did a great job answering questions and giving a student voice on these vital issues students face.

I'm proud to be part of the work these students are doing on behalf of BTC!

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | FEBRUARY 2023  
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

## DEI NEWS

안녕하세요 Annyeonghaseyo Campus Community,

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office is happy to share the work we are doing, in partnership with you, as we strive to make BTC a more equitable and inclusive community!

New signage was installed for the [Equitable Bathroom Project](#), a collaboration between DEI, Facilities, Communications & Marketing and their committees. Signs for all bathrooms across campus now provide improved visibility, access and communication of amenities for all users, as well as consistent design. The team will be updating campus maps and continue to install amenities to complete the project by the end of the school year.

Constituents of Morse Center jump for joy at the installation of the Equitable Bathroom Project signage. Director of Communications Zoe Fraley demonstrates exceptional height in her jump.



**DEI professional development training continues!** Module 2 of the Employee DEI training will be offered as a plenary session at the Everybody In-Service on Tuesday, February 21. BTC employees are expected to complete at least Modules 1 and 2 of the DEI training program, in accordance with WA SB 5227. Participation will count toward the **Employee DEI Certificate** which requires Modules 1-3, and attendance to two other optional DEI hosted/ approved events, for a total of five trainings to be completed between Fall-Summer Quarter of the same academic year. Please see the DEI webpage for more information about the [Employee DEI Certificate](#).



Photos above: DEI Director Hannah Simonetti presents information and DEI training from Module 1 to employees to support BTC's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and increase a sense of belonging for students and employees.

## WINTER 2023 EVERYBODY IN-SERVICE!

We are looking forward to the Winter Quarter Everybody In-Service professional development for faculty and staff on **Tuesday, February 21. All full-time employees are expected to attend and all offices will be closed to students during this time.** We have a full and exciting program planned, as outlined below as well as a list of workshops!

### SCHEDULE:

7:30 am	Snacks, coffee, tea & ice water provided
8:00 am	President's Message
8:20 am	Public Service Announcements (PSA's)
8:30 am	Plenary: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training Module II
9:45 am	Break
10:00 am	Workshops
11:15 am	End for staff – Lunch Break
12:15 pm	Faculty In-Service

### \*WORKSHOPS:

- **MS Teams – A Deeper Dive** (Nate Marino, CC 208)
- **Understanding Safety & Security in a Chaotic Online World** (Dr. Carl Willis-Ford & Alex Pieke-Dahl, HC 103)
- **Hosting Hybrid Meetings** (Tracy Reilly, CC 235) Also available remote: <https://btc-tech.zoom.us/j/89196000611>
- **Badgr Pro & MicroCredentials** (Sallie Davis, CC317)
- **The ChatBot That Can Pass Your Class: Teaching, Learning, and Assessment with ChatGPT at your Students' Fingertips** (Calhan Ring, CC200)
- **Leading for Transformation in the Age of Information** (Sarah Murphy-Kangas, Settlemyer Hall)
- **De-Escalation in the Workplace** (Kris Jorgensen, HC 108J)
- **Hue Are You? True Colors Personality Assesment** (Laura Singletary & Melissa Nelson, CC 236)
- **BTC 2023+ Strategic Plan Refresh: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** (RaeLyn Axlund-McBride, Shawn Minnig, Susan Parker, CC 115)
- **From Injury to Employment: That is the Hope! How BTC Supports Vocational Retraining Students and Lightens Instructors' Loads** (Mary Gerard, Ray Kubista, & Jacen Johnson, CC 114)

\*Sign up for the workshop session of your choice when you arrive the morning of Tuesday, February 21. Sign-up tables will be located in the foyer outside of Settlemyer Hall. Pre-registration is not required; however, please note that all full-time employees are expected to attend. Workshops with class caps will be filled on a first-come/first-serve basis.

See you then!

Planning Committee: Andi, Billie, Danielle, Ruth, Val, & Veronica

## FOCUS ON CHILDREN

On Saturday, Feb. 4, BTC's Child & Family Studies program put on its 39<sup>th</sup> annual Focus on Children conference. The conference is a professional development opportunity for early learning professionals and hosted over 200 attendees this year. The keynote speakers, Mike Browne (he/him) Senior Director of Community Engagement for Cultivate Learning at the University of Washington, and Nick Terrones (he/him) Program Director of Daybreak Star Preschool, kicked off the event in Settlemyer Hall, followed by 22 workshops presented by various professionals in the field offered throughout the day, in Campus Center, Haskell Center, and G Building, with both English and Spanish options.

Although this event is coordinated by the Child & Family Studies program, it is truly a campus-wide effort to make it a success each year. A special thanks goes out to BTC's Registration & Cashiering, Facilities, CISS, and Marketing teams. We would also like to thank our conference sponsors: Mt. Baker Foundation, Opportunity Council, Northwest Indian College, PNW Chapter of WAEYC and BTC.

We look forward to celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> annual conference in 2024, and our program's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025!



## BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

In honor of Valentine's Day, the BTC Library invited the campus community to enjoy a **Blind Date with a Book!** Staff covered and decorated favorite library books with hearts, flowers, treats and hints for the BTC community to borrow.



## SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS AT BTC

Culinary and Pastry Arts hosted and participated in the [Sustainable Connections Farm to Table Trade Meeting](#) in Settlemyer Hall on Feb. 7. Students had the opportunity to work with 10 local chefs to prepare lunch for 180 participants, including chefs, buyers, farmers and more.



## BUSINESS & IT LUNCH

Business and Information Technology students and faculty gathered for lunch in the Student Center on Feb. 8 between classes. Sponsored by the ASBTC, the event included pizza, games and raffles, with about 25 students in attendance.



## HVAC/R DONATION

Andgar Mechanical made a surprise delivery to BTC's HVAC-R program on Jan. 18! We are so happy to receive a dual fuel, high-efficiency, variable speed, split system heat pump, with communicating and connected smart comfort controls so BTC HVAC-R students can learn on the most modern equipment possible.

We value Andgar's commitment to BTC and our students who will be entering into the job market trained and ready to help our community. A big thank you to John Fakkema at Andgar Corp. for putting this together and surprising us. Andgar's support of our program is invaluable.



## PROCURE TO PAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What's a P-Card? Where's my delivery? Do we use ACH? These are all great questions! Each month there will be a new question with answers to help with your purchasing, contract, shipping & receiving and accounts payable questions. Do you or someone you know have a question you'd like answered in a future installment? Email Melisa Nelson, Director of Purchasing, at [mnelson@btc.edu](mailto:mnelson@btc.edu) with the subject: Procure to Pay QOM and your question might be answered in an upcoming Notable News!

**February Question:** I found a desk/whiteboard/chair I want to buy. Can I just buy it?

**Answer:** Oh, thank you for asking before just buying! You are now the favorite.

BTC has standards for furnishings here on campus, from chairs to whiteboards to bigger pieces of office furniture. These standards have been identified as part of a team effort between Purchasing and Facilities. There really are reasons behind having to purchase vetted office items like cork boards, whiteboards, and furniture.

Most of the reasons for these standards are quality-related. Some of the reasons have to do with building certifications, such as what can go into Campus Center, a LEED building. And some reasons have to do with WA State regulations on the environmental impact of what the item is made of.

What is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)? It is a global rating system for building green structures and is the most widely used green building system rating in the world. If a building, like Campus Center, is certified, we have to be mindful of what goes into the building, from flooring to furniture to lighting.

### I still have questions!

For more information about this topic, feel free to stop in at office hours (listed on the [Purchasing SharePoint site](#)), email or call the contact info above, or reach out to [facilities@btc.edu](mailto:facilities@btc.edu).

## SURG TECH

BTC Surgery Technology students got a behind the scenes look at the DaVinci surgical robot at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center earlier this month. Intuitive representatives, PeaceHealth staff and general surgeon Dr. Mike Higgins guided the students through the practice of moving, draping and docking the robot and robotic arms. This hands-on training allowed students to practice the applicable skills to properly assist surgical team members in robotic assisted surgical procedures.



## BUSINESS & IT LUNCH

### Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating

February been a busy month for the ASBTC team! On Valentine's Day students met in the Student Center to decorate their own cookies, freshly baked by local bakery Pure Bliss. One student rep said, "It is great seeing so many students coming out to events again. And the cookies are incredible! Pure Bliss is a favorite bakery of mine in town, they always have great sweets!" The event was opened to families of BTC (Bellingham Technical College) students to celebrate the day with significant others and their children.



### Paint with Us

ASBTC hosted the Paint with Us event on January 31. Local artist, Elli Anderson, owner of local art shop, Art and Happiness, led a painting demonstration of a beautiful spring day cherry tree with the sun shining through. We had a great turn out and all participants painted a beautiful cherry blossom spring themed scene.



### WA-SEN (Washington Student Engagement Networks) 2023 Olympia Days

Executive Team members Ashley Harrison, ASBTC Director of Finance, and Miguel Garduño Muñoz, ASBTC President, had the amazing opportunity to meet with some legislators and representatives of Washington State on February 13, 2023. The theme this year was "Equity in Education", and students all over the state gathered at the Capitol Building to share their personal stories achieving higher education. Our very own Miguel also had the chance to chat for a moment with Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee. Governor Inslee and Miguel ran into each other in the Capitol Gift Shop inside the Legislative Building. Governor Inslee encouraged BTC to "keep producing hard working students."



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Nyssa Howell**.

**Q: What's your position and title here at BTC? Now and in the future?**

A: Counselor

**Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?**

A: I'm pretty good at bar trivia (prob helps that I don't drink—is that cheating?). I love movies, reading, writing, and singing along to YouTube mixes of mostly 90s grunge or alternative and 80s / early 00s emo music when I'm bored. I moved into a place with a ton of garden beds and now I have to figure out what to do with them...I can apply for a couple of packets of heirloom seeds from my tribe at the end of February, so I'm hoping to get selected!

**Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?**

A: I spent most of my life without a car, but somehow am still an absolute menace on a bicycle. I had my first broken bone falling off a bike, somehow crashed front tire to front tire with another biker (our heads hit so hard my helmet cracked), almost biked straight off a wooden bridge in front of my entire village (in my defense, it was missing a few planks—thankfully managed to tilt my fall in the right direction at the last second!), and I tried biking in a pencil skirt once and have never pedaled SO FAST in my entire life (competitors in the Tour de France don't know what they're missing). So if you see me on a bike—look out! If you see me on the ground next to a bike—please help!

**Q: Any pets or pet plans?**

A: This might finally be the year I adopt a cat and/or dog! Any tips on how to live with pets you are allergic to, and what makes it worth it, please share/send my way as motivation.

**Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?**

A: Food: my oldest sister makes these massive, soft ginger cookies—I'd take a batch of those.

Movie: Elf? Something I can laugh about.

Book: The Stand (I've read almost every Stephen King book and this one remains my fave—I will NEVER finish Pet Semetary)

**Q: Anything else we should know about you?**

A: Y'all, my first day working at BTC was FOUR years ago this month, which is officially the longest I've ever stayed at one job. Thank you to everyone who's welcomed me into their classrooms or programs, who ever answered a question or shared a tip or sent a student my direction, collaborated on a project, or let me make them laugh. Covid made it a wild ride at times, but I honestly love and I'm so grateful for the work I get to do here and the people I get to do that work with. THANK YOU! Here's to the next four lol!



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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Do you have some Notable News of your own? Share it with us!

Your unique perspective is what makes BTC (and this newsletter) interesting.

Submit your articles, news tips, photos, and other fodder for publication in our prestigious academic campus community newsletter using the [Notable News Submission Form](#). Submissions are always open and should be made no less than two weeks prior to publication.

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