



JIM'S JOURNAL

We are incredibly fortunate to have a team of exceptionally talented and dedicated individuals who consistently go above and beyond to contribute to our institution's success. The diverse skills, creativity, and expertise of our employees form the backbone of BTC's achievements, and it is your commitment to student success that sets us apart. Our employees consistently demonstrate a passion for excellence, innovation, and collaboration, creating an inspiring environment for learning and growth. The recent recognition of Sebastian Schoelss, our Creative Services Manager, with national acknowledgement, serves as an excellent example of the outstanding work all BTC employees do.

I am thrilled to announce that Sebastian has been honored with the NCMPR Rising Star Award. NCMPR is the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations, representing marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges throughout the country. The Rising Star Award recognized Sebastian's contributions to BTC over the past five years as he helped reshaped our campus's identity and bolstered our presence in the community. His extensive design expertise and creative vision have played a pivotal role in our institution. He has masterfully executed various projects, including print, social media, outdoor and online advertising, web design, and campus wayfinding and branding.

In addition to his significant achievements in design, Sebastian demonstrated exceptional leadership in marketing initiatives, including the successful launch of a new comprehensive campaign this year.

Please join me in congratulating Sebastian on this well-deserved recognition. His talent, creativity, and dedication have helped to elevate the profile of Bellingham Technical College.

Warm regards,

Jim

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AUDIT AWARD

BTC's Finance Department received a well-deserved recognition award during the annual audit conducted by Pat McCarthy and her team from the State Auditor's Office. Out of approximately 2,500 statewide audits, only 10 departments were honored, and BTC's Finance Department, led by Controller Sherry Minninger and Vice President of Administrative Services Chad Stiteler, is one of the proud recipients of this rare distinction, the State Auditor's Stewardship Award.

Sherry Minninger, along with her dedicated team in the Business Office, including Brienne Lewis, Deborah Gervais, Amanda Ruthrauff, Becky Cox, Bonita Chiono, Danica Nielsen, Joanna Baxley, Lauren Gaiser, Lesya Melnik, Lindsey Putnam, Marina Polishuk, Melisa Nelson, and Rena Pope, displayed dedication and talent, earning this prestigious recognition. We also fondly remember Becky Jones, who recently retired, for her significant contributions to this achievement.

Several standout characteristics define this exceptional team, making them deserving recipients of this recognition:

- 1. Genuine Commitment:** BTC's business office professionals go beyond merely following rules to understand the people behind the rules and recognize the purpose of our college. Their commitment extends to the welfare of our employees and students, ensuring the integrity of our processes and ultimately contribute to the college and student success.
- 2. Teamwork Excellence:** This team exemplifies teamwork, and their collaboration and cohesion set a high standard. They not only work together efficiently but also foster an environment of mutual respect and enjoyment.
- 3. Work Ethic:** Their unwavering dedication and hard work, especially during the challenging ctcLink implementation, have not gone unnoticed. Despite being a smaller institution, we have outperformed better staffed and resourced schools, providing valuable tools that have aided other institutions and even the auditors themselves.

This award not only highlights the exceptional talent within our Finance Department but also underscores the culture of our entire campus community. Each member of this team has contributed significantly to this achievement, and their dedication reflects the spirit of BTC.



PROCURE TO PAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Welcome to the Procure to Pay Question of the Month (QOM) section! 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 with the subject: Procure to Pay QOM and your question might be answered in an upcoming Notable News!

Question: I missed the Faculty In-Service session on Donations, Assets, and Surplus. Did I miss anything important?

Answer: Yes! Yes, you did. There was chocolate. Also, a lot of good information and cool new forms and resources.

Val Frank shared info on the donation of items process and the brand-new item donation form that is now live at www.btc.edu/itemdonation. Questions? Reach out to Val at vfrank@btc.edu.

Lauren Gaiser, Danica Nielsen, and Lindsey Putnam shared information on fixed assets and the helpful resources created for the asset process. This information can be found on the [Purchasing SharePoint site](#) and soon to be live Fixed Assets SharePoint site. Questions? Reach out to Lauren at lgaiser@btc.edu, Danica at dnielsen@btc.edu, or Lindsey at lputnam@btc.edu.

Annie Johnston and Lauren Gaiser shared information on the Surplus Equipment process and the news that there will be a new Surplus Equipment form coming soon; here's the current [Equipment Transfer Form](#).

Questions? Contact Annie at ajohnston@btc.edu, or Lauren at lgaiser@btc.edu.

There is a PowerPoint of the presentation on the [Purchasing SharePoint site](#), along with links to the resources.

I still have questions! For more information about this topic, go check out the [Purchasing SharePoint site](#) or feel free to email the people listed.

ASBTC CORNER

Grocery Bingo

The ASBTC will be hosting Grocery Bingo on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Students can come play games of Bingo, and winners can choose from bulk snacks, cleaning supplies, home goods, blankets, to storage containers! With a larger prize pool than previous years, the ASBTC are hoping to send most students in attendance home with a little something for Thanksgiving.

Pumpkin Tossing

On Nov. 2, ASBTC hosted our first annual pumpkin tossing tournament! We gathered in the disc golf field behind Morse Center from 1 to 3 p.m. with some drinks, snacks, a pumpkin-tossing tournament, and a trebuchet that was able to throw a pumpkin backwards! The top three finishers in the tournament even went home with some Amazon gift cards for their efforts! We look forward to hopefully being able to do this again next year.

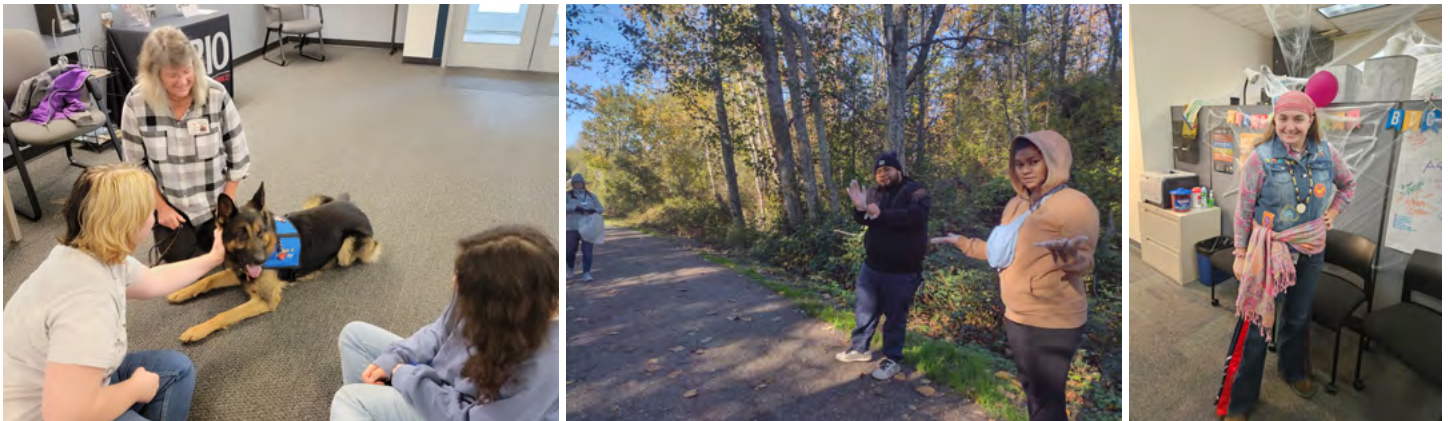


TRIO

TRIO Tail Tuesday was possible with a visit from Whatcom Therapy Dogs. The team of handlers and friendly pups came to support TRIO by sharing companionship with many of our TRIO students on Oct. 17 in the College Services Building.

TRIO Ambassadors Joel, Bryan, and Jocelin had their first Service-Learning project on October 27, cleaning up the Squalicum dog park. We were happy the sun was shining for this day to be a success.

TRIO Ambassadors also hosted a costume contest on Halloween in the TRIO Lounge with some very spirited visitors.



DEI NEWS

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion News

안녕하세요 Annyeonghaseyo Campus Community,

Thank you to everyone who has joined us so far for our DEI Certificate Modules. We'll have additional opportunities to join us in winter quarter.

Starting this week, we have upcoming discussion sessions for this year's Campus Read, "Equity Talk to Equity Walk."

Join facilitators for a chance to discuss, share questions and explore ideas related to chapters 1 and 2 of the book at the following sessions:

Friday, Nov. 17: 12-1 p.m. in person in DMC 143

Monday, Nov. 20: 11a.m.-12 p.m. hybrid on Zoom and in DMC 143

Wednesday, Nov. 29: 3:30-4:30 p.m. over Zoom

Check Outlook for the link to the Zoom discussions.

You can sign out a free copy of the book (and grab a bookmark!) in the library (G102-103). All are welcome to attend the discussions even if you haven't read the book yet. Campus Read events will count as one of the two additional events required for completion of the DEI certificate for the 23-24 academic year.

Save the date:

December 4 Movie/Show Day with DEI: 12-2 p.m. in MC210

Bring your lunch and we will select from a variety of shows and options depending on the topic folks want to cover, and we will watch and discuss!

IMPACT!

The IMPACT! Team and A building faculty and staff collaborated for a Halloween group costume with a theme of Mario Party!

The IMPACT! classrooms also held a student voted costume contest for those who wanted to dress up. The winners were: The Joker, Shaggy from Scooby Doo, A fairy and a skeleton.

Everyone received participatory candy.

From left to right: Mike Lanz (IMPACT instructor) as Luigi, Caren Konshaug (College Readiness Instructor) as a Witch, Jessica Munter (IMPACT Office Coordinator) as Mario, Rowan Salton (IMPACT Director) as Rainbow Road, Cynthia Cruz (IMPACT Student Navigator) as Toadette, Ruth Clark (IMPACT Coordinator) as Bowser, and Sebastian Perez (LEP/ELA Coordinator) as Yoshi.



VACCINE CLINIC SUCCESS

BTC Nursing partnered with Hoagland Pharmacy for two on-campus vaccine clinics Oct. 16 and 17. The students administered flu vaccines, COVID vaccines or both to over 130 people! Thank you for making this a successful clinic, and we'll see you next year!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Kendrick Jackson!**

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

A: Financial Aid Assistant IV, Student Financial Resources in Student Services.

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

A: I love going on walks, watching sunsets, playing board games, and going to as many concerts as I can -- I got to see Beyoncé last month!

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

A: I have 11 siblings! That is the total between my biological family and the family I was adopted into. Since I'm the second to the youngest, I also have many nieces and nephews.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: No pets right now, but I really want to have a cat someday.

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

A: The food I would bring is Chicken Pad Thai, maybe not the most logical but it's my favorite food so it is what came to mind. The book I would bring is A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara. It is incredibly sad but it's also very beautiful, so I think it'd be a great distraction. It is also over 800 pages, so it would not get as old as quick. The movie I would choose is Hairspray. It's a fun and light-hearted musical to balance out my book choice. I've also seen it many times already, so I know I enjoy watching it over and over.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I look forward to continuing to meet more of the BTC community! I started my position in April, so I'm still new, still learning lots and meeting folks! I also am now serving on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, so if you have anything you'd like to bring to the committee, feel free to reach out.

