



Bellingham Technical College
Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**HISTORIC MOMENT: FOUR-YEAR DEGREE APPROVED AT TWO-YEAR TECHNICAL COLLEGE
— BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE APPROVED TO OFFER ITS FIRST BACHELOR OF
APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE**

Bellingham, Washington — February 5, 2016 —Bellingham Technical College (BTC) received approval to offer its first bachelor's degree from the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) Thursday, Feb. 4. BTC anticipates offering its new Bachelor of Applied Science in Operations Management starting in Fall 2016.

This is an historic moment for BTC and all technical colleges in our system. BTC has continued to augment its offerings to students in order to give them the highest rate of return on their investment. This degree is unique in that it allows for multiple entry points for many types of students: those coming in with existing experience or college credit, new students, or worker retraining students who are given the opportunity of additional education by their employers.

"We are thrilled with the approval from the SBCTC for our Bachelor of Applied Science in Operations Management: our first ever four-year degree!" said Kim Perry, BTC President. "Our college's mission and commitment is to provide the best possible degree options to our students. In a time when families are struggling to pay for college, it is essential to our students that we give them transferable degrees. Regardless of where they start, they need to be able to add to their educational investment and have it be mobile, competitive and targeted toward what employers are looking for. BTC's faculty and administration worked diligently in tandem to create this new degree for our students. I am proud of their efforts, and excited to offer it to our students. Bellingham and the surrounding counties are rich with manufacturers that need graduates in the area. This is a landmark moment and we are pleased to have a new degree to support our community."

Operations management is management of processes, people, technology, and organizations that produce goods or services. Graduates can find careers in businesses and industries ranging from fisheries to the automotive industry, but our initial focus will be on manufacturing and information technology. Graduates will be on track for higher level, higher pay positions such as production supervisor, manager of operations, VP of operations, facilities managers and more. This bachelor's degree will be a two-year degree that can be added on top of an existing associate degree or even a previous bachelor's degree.

When will BTC be able to offer this new degree? The goal is to get operations management launched in Fall 2016.

What was the process?

BTC's Operations Management degree was presented as a first step to the SBCTC on May 5, 2015, by Dr. Frank Powers, BTC's Vice President of Instruction, and Jill Davishahl, BTC Engineering faculty. BTC's Board of Trustees reviewed the degree on Nov. 19, 2015, and it was submitted for peer review on Friday, Jan. 8, where BTC received feedback and questions from the vice presidents of other colleges. Yesterday's final presentation to the SBCTC was made by Dr. Kimberly Perry, BTC President, along with Dr. Steve Addison, BTC Director of Applied Baccalaureate Development, and the degree received unanimous approval. Our next step is to submit a proposal to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities for final approval. We

expect to hear back from the commission in May or early June and, pending approval, hope to open the program to students starting in September 2016.

“This degree is important for our students and our college. It allows our college to offer the types of education pathways that today’s students need,” said Frank Powers, BTC Vice President of Instruction. “Our Operations Management degree will be especially attractive to working adults with AAS or AA degrees in almost any discipline. We are dedicated to continually looking for new ways to support our students and our stakeholders. This was a labor of love for all involved in the development, and I am so happy to see it launched. We also are excited to be working on additional proposals for BAS degrees, including Engineering Technology.”

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers seven direct transfer degrees such as pre-engineering, pre-nursing, electronics, mechanical engineering, and technology and business. Completion of these degrees prepares BTC students to transfer with a junior status to participating colleges and universities in Washington State. BTC 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.edu.

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