



Bellingham Technical College  
**Press Release**

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***For Immediate Release***

**SIEMENS DONATES CUTTING-EDGE ELECTRICAL PANELS, CIRCUIT BREAKERS AND TRAINING MATERIALS TO BTC'S ELECTRICIAN PROGRAM AND WILL TOUR LABS ON NOVEMBER 7**

**Bellingham, Washington – November 5, 2018** – Bellingham Technical College (BTC) Electrician program students will be able to enhance their technical training following the donation of cutting-edge service panels and panel boards (breaker boxes), including standard and combination AFCI/GFCI circuit breakers, from Siemens.

Representatives from Siemens — a global leader in power distribution, control, energy management equipment — will tour BTC's Electrician program and work with students on the new equipment Wednesday, November 7.

"Siemens' generous donation allows students to gain hands-on, industry-standard training on the newest leading-edge distribution panels and circuit breakers, giving them the skills, understanding, and application of the current codes being rolled out by the National Electric Code," said William Wells, BTC Electrician Instructor. "BTC's labs now are able to feature side-by-side comparative set-ups including older panels and the new Siemens-donated panels, allowing students to study and train on both. This helps our students enter the workforce with skills needed by industry and is an enormous benefit."

Siemens' donation and visit are part of the SIschool program, which gives students hands-on experience with advanced wiring skills and the opportunity to become familiar with the technologies used in today's electrical industry. This donated power distribution equipment retails for approximately \$10,000 and includes single-family, multi-family, and commercial building services and panel boards that provide vital improvements in operation and safety for the public and efficient installation for the electrical worker.

"We're thrilled to partner with Bellingham Technical College to provide hands-on training for the next-generation of electrical industry workers," said David Quatela, Brand Strategy Manager at Siemens. "This program will help address the industry's skills shortage by bringing the technology directly into the classroom, preparing these students to fill open positions and shape U.S. infrastructure for years to come."

Siemens' combination circuit panels solve a vital issue that the National Electric Code (NEC, or NFPA 70, a regionally adoptable standard for the safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment in the United States) has long been working to resolve by combining both types of circuits: the GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter), which is designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks, and AFCI (Arc

Fault Circuit Interrupter), which protects against fires caused by arcing faults. Arcing faults often occur in damaged or deteriorated wires and cords. AFCI is an advanced circuit breaker that, as a way to reduce electrical fire threats, breaks the circuit when it detects a dangerous electric arc in the circuit that it protects.

This donation allows BTC Electrician students to train on and familiarize themselves with the advanced equipment that they will see on the job when they start their careers as electricians.

## **About Bellingham Technical College**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers seven transfer degrees such as pre-engineering, pre-nursing, computer science 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, 51 certificate options and two bachelor of applied science degrees providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to [www.btc.edu](http://www.btc.edu).

For more news, events, and photos from the college follow us on [www.facebook.com/bellinghamtech](https://www.facebook.com/bellinghamtech), [www.twitter.com/bhamtechcollege](https://www.twitter.com/bhamtechcollege) and [www.instagram.com/bellinghamtechcollege](https://www.instagram.com/bellinghamtechcollege).

## **About Siemens: insert text**

Siemens Corporation is a U.S. subsidiary of Siemens AG, a global powerhouse focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is a leading supplier of systems for power generation and transmission as well as medical diagnosis. With approximately 372,000 employees in 190 countries, Siemens reported worldwide revenue of \$92.0 billion in fiscal 2017. Siemens in the USA reported revenue of \$23.3 billion, including \$5.0 billion in exports, and employs approximately 50,000 people throughout all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

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