



Press Release
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BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE RECEIVES \$2.25 MILLION TITLE III GRANT

Bellingham, Washington – October 8, 2019 – Bellingham Technical College (BTC) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a Title III Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This award is for \$2,250,000 dollars over the next five years.

BTC employees will engage in intensive planning and professional development to redesign workforce training pathways to increase access to the college's high-wage, high-demand programs for non-traditional students, including those who have family and work responsibilities outside of school. The college will also provide intensive navigation support services, including personalized student advising, tracking and relationship-building, beginning with enrollment and persisting through graduation. This work will benefit all BTC students, with a focus on serving non-traditional student populations, who are often low-income working adults and/or first-generation students.

"BTC will restructure program pathways to increase student access and success, and create and strengthen support systems that will help our students develop needed skills and navigate higher education systems. We now know that students persevere and succeed when we provide them with wraparound support both inside and outside of the classroom. This work is made possible with the support of the Department of Education, for which we are incredibly thankful. Providing this support will change lives," said Dr. Kimberly Perry, President of Bellingham Technical College.

BTC will use grant funds for faculty and staff development, improvement of academic programs, and strengthening student services. Advancing these systems will help the college increase the number of students it serves, enhance its capacity for early identification of student needs and barriers, and provide students with strong academic and social support.

About Title III Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP)

This program helps eligible institutions of higher education to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen their academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

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-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 39 associate degree, 55 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.

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