



Bellingham Technical College
Press Release
March 25, 2016

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For Immediate Release

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO OFFER NEW VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP WITH ENDOWMENT FROM LOCAL VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER

Bellingham, Washington — March 25, 2016 — Veterans at Bellingham Technical College will have a new opportunity for scholarships, as Whatcom County's Ron Davenport Memorial Chapter #165 of Vietnam Veterans of America has established an endowment for BTC students with a gift of \$36,000.

The endowed scholarship will be named for Randy Hansen, a veteran of the United States Navy and a longtime veterans' counselor at the Bellingham Vet Center. Randy died unexpectedly when he was just 46 years old, after suffering from a heart attack on his way home from a veterans' conference. Randy was known in the veteran community for his kindness, his true commitment and affection for all veterans, and his effectiveness in dealing with issues common to veterans and their families. He touched so many lives in such positive ways, and his legacy of good deeds will continue through this endowment.

"We talked a lot about the idea of playing it forward," local VVA chapter President Gene Goldsmith said of the decision to start the endowment at BTC. "We have a lot of confidence in the people who attend Bellingham Technical College — that they'll have real jobs with real income, that they'll be able to put back into the economy and help it grow."

The Randy Hansen scholarships will go to Vietnam-era veterans, their spouses, and direct descendants, or US military veterans of any era. With this scholarship, VVA Chapter 165 not only honors Mr. Hansen, but helps future veterans and their dependents get the training they need to transition to a civilian workforce as well. During the first year of the scholarship, BTC plans to award two \$500 scholarships. The recipients will be selected through BTC's scholarship process, with applications accepted throughout spring quarter and selections beginning in July.

The Bellingham Technical College Foundation has received a record five endowment gifts this fiscal year, from groups including Anvil Corporation, the Brent K Marshall

Family, Healthy Pet, the Pete and Naida Jane Deitsch Family, and Vietnam Veterans of America. These gifts, including pledges, total \$180,000 and will provide scholarships to BTC students in perpetuity.

More information about the BTC Foundation can be found by going to www.btcfound.org.

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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