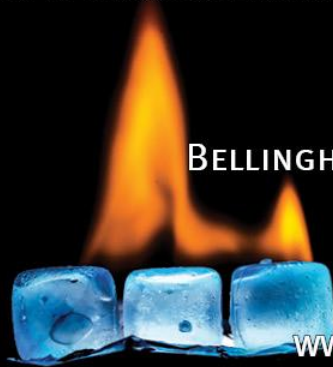


BTC WELDING RODEO: SCULPTURE COMPETITION & SKILLS CHALLENGE

**WELDING  
RODEO  
2015 FIRE  
& ICE**



BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
MAY 15 & 16  
8:00AM-5:00PM  
FOOD | FUN | FREE  
[WWW.WELDINGRODEO.COM](http://WWW.WELDINGRODEO.COM)

AND AN AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION SANCTIONED CULINARY FOOD COMPETITION!

**Title Sponsor**



**Press Release**

May 7, 2015

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*For immediate release*

## Welding Rodeo, Culinary Competition bring Fire and Ice to BTC May 15-17

Bellingham, Washington – May 7, 2015 – Bellingham Technical College (BTC) will hold its annual **Welding Rodeo: Sculpture Competition and Skills Challenge** on the BTC campus on Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 2015. BTC extends its gratitude to BP Cherry Point, who has generously supported the Welding Rodeo as the 'Title Sponsor' since the event's inception in 2001.

BTC continues to feature the *skills-challenge* portion of this event, which is enhanced by BTC's welding program having received the new accreditation status as a certified test facility by the American Welding Society (AWS). BTC is the second school in Washington State and the only college in Northwest Washington with this type of accreditation. This endorsement allows BTC to perform many different types of welding certifications above and beyond that of Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO).



BTC is teaching manufacturing skills to students to industry standards, which is an added benefit to BTC's students.

### **Team Welded Sculpture Competition- Theme: *Fire and Ice***

Join in the fun, flare and sparks as each team strategizes, designs, fabricates and welds a finished sculpture in eight hours. Get a rare glimpse into the real time world of welded steel fabrication and fine art creation.

A mix of professional and college teams from Washington State have been invited to come create welded sculpture and turn scrap-metal to finished art work in only eight hours. There is a 30-minute timed lunch break on both days and then everyone dashes back to finesse their creations.

On Friday, May 15, four amateur teams compete in a *weld-off*—two from BTC and two from Renton Technical College. On Saturday, six professional-level teams are participating. A horn blast signals the start of the competition, and each team makes a mad dash to the donated scrap metal piles to select the prime pieces of steel for each sculpture. It's every team for themselves!

All of our competitors are trained Welder/Fabricators, including exhibiting artists and professionals that work in the trade and also have a love for sculpture and fine art.

**This year, all participants must utilize the theme of *fire and ice* in an active form in their sculptures to qualify. This is a new challenge!** There will be 300 lbs. ice blocks for them to use—the rest is up in the air!

Artists are encouraged to produce finished sculptures with special emphasis on high finished quality and sizing within the limitations of no more than 10 feet in height.

Three of four Amateur sculptures will be sold through a silent auction with bidding beginning at 3:30 p.m. Friday and ending at 4:30 p.m. with the sound of the horn that signals for welding to stop.

Winners will be announced on Friday and need not be present to win. The juried winning sculpture will move to Saturday's Professional-level live auction.

The public is invited to attend this free, one-of-a-kind event Friday 8 a.m. to about 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

### ***Individual Skills Challenge: Open to All***

Welders of all ages and skill levels are invited to compete in BTC's *Welding Skills Challenge* at the 2015 Welding Rodeo, May 15 & 16 at Bellingham Technical College. Prizes will be awarded for each level on both days of the competition.

Welders will be tested on basic to advanced cutting & welding techniques and can choose the skills on which to be evaluated. Competencies will be judged by Certified Welding Inspectors. The format is based on the SkillsUSA Model. Official rules and competency expectations for the inaugural challenge will be posted at the event.

High school students can perform one free skill; then it's \$5 for each additional skill and \$10 per skill for all other competitors. More information, including a list of the competency tests, can be found on the registration website. Event day registration will be cash or check only, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Online pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Please go to [www.weldingrodeochallenge.eventbrite.com](http://www.weldingrodeochallenge.eventbrite.com) for more information and to register.

### **BTC Culinary Arts Program Hosts an American Culinary Federation-Sanctioned Culinary Competition:**

Come and watch Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, as culinary professionals battle it out against each other in timed competitions. This is a rare opportunity to see a popular event first hand! Talented chefs will create elaborate platters and recipes before your eyes. For those with a sweet tooth, there will be a judged area that includes chocolate showpieces, tiered wedding cakes, and beautiful centerpiece creations. There will also be an Iron Chef-style competition, in which chefs will have to

use innovation, improvisation and skill to create dishes featuring items from a mystery basket revealed at the start of the competition.

To go along with the Fire and Ice theme of the Welding Rodeo, there will also be an ice carving competition. Witness as the ice chips are hacked off with a vengeance and fly high in the air — with sweat on everyone's brow — as ice carvers create works of art.

**Wood carving:** Whidbey Island artist Jessi Stack will be hard at work demonstrating the process of turning slabs of wood to art from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

**Blacksmith demonstrations:** See metal from another angle, as Bob Thomas of Sunset Forge and other trade professionals demonstrate blacksmith work.

**Other BTC program and event offerings:**

- **Our American Welding Society Student Chapter (AWSC)** will sell smaller unique specialty welded items, including butterfly garden stakes, bottle openers and metal hedgehogs, cats and dogs. These sales benefit the BTC student chapter and help send them to welding technology conferences and competitions.
- **Public *Hands-On* Welding Booth:** If you have always wanted to try your hand at welding, this is your chance. An experienced student welder will guide you through the actual process of creating your own weld, and you get to keep it! All protective gear is provided. Free!!
- **BTC Program Information Booths with prizes to raffle** – Various programs including Adult Basic Education, General Education, College Admissions, Nursing, Dental & BTC's Foundation will have information and prizes possible for prospective students.
- **Donuts and coffee** by the BTC Veterans club.
- **Vendor Show and Industry Representatives:** More than a dozen vendors will be on hand to advertise professional opportunities in their industries.
- **BBQ:** Instrumentation and Control department will be selling burgers, hot dogs, and drinks. All funds will support student club activities.
- **Raffles:** Pre-made welding items, professional welding gear, art and more will all be up for grabs for only \$1 per ticket. All funds go toward scholarships.
- **Snowballs and ice cream** will be provided by the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Department.



**Proceeds Support BTC's Welding Program and Student Scholarships**

All finished sculptures will be auctioned Saturday afternoon between 5-5:30 p.m.

Cash and prizes will be awarded to the top teams, and auction funds will be used to support BTC's Welding Program for competitions and Student Scholarships.

### **Open to the Public and Free**

Everyone is invited, with many people spending the entire day watching the sculptures come together.

**Dates:** Friday, May 15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 16, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### **Specifics about Art and Teams:**

- Teams have four members, and there are 8 teams
- Each team gets their own work station (20' x 20')
- Each team has 16 hours over two days to build and complete their sculpture. All sculptures must be in a finished state, ready to be installed, with a base and fixture accommodations.
- Sculpture must incorporate (actually use) both fire and ice
- Size limit: 10' height limit
- All of the scrap metal is donated from local business.

### **Judging for Welded Sculpture:**

A panel of recognized professionals from the field will judge each piece for quality and aesthetics.

**Prizes:** \$2,500 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$2,000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$1,600 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$600 for President's Choice, and \$400 for People's Choice.

New this year: Amateur 1<sup>st</sup> place prize-winning team receives \$800.

### **Welding Rodeo Story:**

It began with the instructor's idea to generate emphasis and interest about the welding field, BTC's welding program, and the BTC campus. It quickly became clear that the public was curious and had the demand to see "what goes on under the hood," a firsthand look at the process that most of us never have the opportunity to see up close. This idea was a mix of a Welding Skills demonstration and competition, a welding product & equipment showcase, and a take-off of "Junk Yard Wars" into metal sculpture with a twist; all this evolving into —The BTC Welding Rodeo – now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year.

### **About Bellingham Technical College:**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and 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.ctc.edu](http://www.btc.ctc.edu)

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