



DATE: May 17, 2022
TO: Bellingham Technical College
FROM: Richard Kaiser and Jim Groves, Co-Chairs, Presidential Search Advisory Committee
RE: Presidential Search Announcement & Invitation to Attend Public Forums (Progress Report #1)

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that we have begun the search to identify the next president of Bellingham Technical College. The Board is committed to conducting an equitable, inclusive, and transparent national search that will attract a strong and diverse pool of candidates from throughout Washington and the nation. The Board has selected the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to assist us with the presidential search process. ACCT's assistance will include providing support with the development of the Presidential Profile, recruiting highly competitive candidates, supporting the search committee in its goal to select qualified semi finalists, and working extensively with the Board. ACCT has conducted over 750 community college searches and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our process. ACCT's mission is to strengthen community college governance through education and advocacy. Dr. Debbie DiThomas will serve as our ACCT Search Consultant, and will assist the Board and College community throughout this important process. Her bio is located at: [Debbie DiThomas, Ed.D.](#)

Electronic Survey - Presidential Profile Development

The entire Bellingham Technical College community is invited and encouraged to participate in an electronic survey and share your thoughts about the qualities, characteristics, and qualifications we are seeking in our next president, and the opportunities and challenges facing Bellingham Technical College in the years to come. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the presidential search process.

The anonymous responses to the survey will also be used to inform the development and revision of the draft Presidential Profile.

The survey is available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bellingham-technical-college-presidential-search>

Please submit your survey feedback no later than 12:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) on Monday, June 6.

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC) will review the confidential applications, interview semifinalist candidates, and recommend the final candidates to be submitted to the full Board of Trustees for further consideration. The Board is working to finalize the composition of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and the membership will be posted once finalized.

Final Candidates

The Board will interview the final candidates and all finalists will participate in open forums at Bellingham Technical College. We anticipate the open forums taking place the week of October 10, and will provide the dates, times, and location once they are confirmed. All college employees, students and community members will be invited to attend the open forums. Feedback forms will be provided to all attendees, and the completed forms will be collected at the end of each forum and provided to the Board for review as part of its deliberation process.

Recruitment

Our recruitment efforts will involve an open and thorough national search seeking qualified candidates from all regions of the country. ACCT specializes in one-to-one recruitment of community college leaders. Additionally, to assist with this process, advertisements will be placed in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and other major publications and websites.

Presidential Search Webpage

The Bellingham Technical College website will include information on all aspects of the search, both for the College community and candidates. The presidential search webpage will be developed in the coming weeks and will include key information including the timeline, regular progress reports, information on how to apply, etc.

We will continue to keep you updated on this important process. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to our ACCT Search Consultants:

- Debbie DiThomas, Ed.D., ACCT Search Consultant, ddithomas5@gmail.com, or (951) 961-6533 (mobile)
- Julie Golder, J.D., Vice President of Search Services, ACCT, jgolder@acct.org, or (202) 775-4466 (office)