Dear Campus Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am pleased to provide you with information and an update on the status of the emergency funding for our Campus Center building.

Campus Center stands as BTC’s largest building, encompassing nearly 70,000 square feet of space that serves as the heart of our campus, from housing the Associated Students of BTC’s Student Center to providing essential resources like our Campus Library, eLearning, Campus Store, Settlemyer Hall, Student Food Pantry, Café Culinaire, student study space, a substantial percentage of the college classroom and office space, and Tutoring Center. Campus Center plays a pivotal role in our community, and is where students gather to study, collaborate, and grow together. It’s one of the areas at BTC where ideas are born and futures are shaped.

The closure of the Campus Center building for structural and seismic repairs has been difficult for our students and BTC employees who learn and work in the building. I’m thrilled to share that the necessary funding for its repair and restoration has successfully navigated through various state government channels and has been included in the final 2024-25 Supplemental Capital Budget presented to the Governor.

While we await the Governor’s signature later this month to officially secure the funding, we are optimistic and foresee no hurdles in the process. This state capital funding, amounting to $19.4 million dollars, is a testament to the dedication and support of our community and the support of our legislators in the House, Senate, and Governor Inslee.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the legislators from the 40th and 42nd Legislative Districts who advocated tirelessly for this crucial funding: from the 40th District, Senator Liz Lovelett, Representatives Debra Lekanoff and Alex Ramel; and, from the 42nd District, Senator Sharon Shewmake, and Representatives Alicia Rule and Joe Timmons. Each played a vital role in getting this needed funding.

These resources not only ensure the restoration of our Campus Center building but also underscore our commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for our students to thrive.

Sincerely,
Dear Faculty,
The BTC Accessibility Team needs your feedback. You received a survey from A-Team Chair Mary Gerard about two weeks ago. Here is the survey link once again for the [Course Material Selection Survey](#).
Please make responding to this survey a priority to help support your colleagues' work.

**ASBTC CORNER**

**Let’s Taco About It**
Our ASBTC students recently hosted an innovative event that invited students to gather over lunch and delve into discussions ranging from school life to the intricacies of student government. This unique initiative, aptly named “Let’s Taco-about It,” provided a relaxed yet stimulating environment for students to share their perspectives and ideas.

**Game Night**
Game night was a big success! We bought 13 new board games that can be accessed through ASBTC during students’ downtime. Everyone that came made a new friend and learned a new game; a couple of people even brought their own board games, and we all played those together. Students got the chance to relax, win some prizes, make some friends and were fed by the wonderful Sandwich Odyssey. Join us next quarter for two more game night events!

**Barbie Movie**
ASBTC recently transformed its campus into a movie lover’s paradise with a special screening of the beloved Barbie movie. Accompanied by slices of cheesy goodness, students gathered for an evening of cinematic enchantment and culinary indulgence.

**Chainmail Weaving**
Our ASBTC team held a wonderful two-hour Chainmail Weaving Workshop, taught by local artist Kat (Good Boy Mercantile)! Attendees were taught to make Byzantine and Box weaves with just jump rings and pliers! Kat was a fantastic teacher, channeling their passion for the craft into encouraging our students to experiment. Once they learned the basics, everyone was encouraged to embrace their creativity and play with what they had learned, making their own unique bracelets, necklaces, and chokers; combining the weaves, inverting them, and incorporating spikes to make a piece that they will keep forever. They also talked about finding resources, guides, and how to find your own process. The class filled up quickly, and there was even more interest outside the doors. But to those who couldn’t attend, don’t worry! Kat enjoyed the community at BTC and teaching our technically minded students. They are already planning to come back in spring quarter to teach another class! A big thank you to all who attended and showed their creativity!
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE
NOTABLE NEWS: MARCH 2024

WELDING FAB WEEK

BTC Welding students competed to see who could create the best sculptures from scrap metal during Welding Fab Week, and now the campus and community can bid on their fantastic space-themed creations. Items are open for bidding through the event’s online auction site now until 12 p.m. on Friday, April 5. Those interested in participating can find instructions for how to register for the auction and bid on the auction site: https://new.biddingowl.com/BTC.

Money raised from the auction goes toward scholarships and support for BTC Welding students. Thank you to BP Cherry Point and Central Welding for supporting this year’s Welding Fab Week. The sculptures are on display now in the Morse Center breezeway.

LIBRARY AWARD

Congratulations to Eleanor Bishop, BTC Library Specialist, for receiving this year’s Anna M. Roberts Award for Scholarship, Service, and Professionalism from the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Named in honor of the first Professor and Chair of Library Science at USM, this award is presented to a student who “possesses an outstanding scholastic record, who provides evidence of distinguished service to the School of Library and Information Science, the University, and the Community, and who displays promise and leadership in the field of library science.” Eleanor, who joined the BTC Library team in August, is a quick learner, and with guidance from a local BTC expert, has also mastered the art of book truck painting.

PROCURE TO PAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Welcome to the Procure to Pay Question of the Month (QOM) section! Each month there will be a new question with answers to help with your purchasing, contract, shipping & receiving and accounts payable questions. Do you or someone you know have a question you’d like answered in a future installment? Email Melisa Nelson, Director of Purchasing, at mnelson@btc.edu with the subject: Procure to Pay QOM and your question might be answered in an upcoming Notable News!

March Question: What is BTC’s sales and use tax (SUT) rate?

Answer: What a timely question! BTC’s SUT rate will change from 8.8% to 9.0% on April 1, 2024 due to a new public safety tax increase. Vehicle sales tax will stay at 9.0% as they are exempt from this increase. Please make sure to let your vendors know and to check that sales tax on your P-Card charges and quotes are 9% as of April 1.

Whatcom County Local Sales Tax Change Notice

I still have questions! For more information about this topic feel free to email Joanna Baxley at AcctsPay@btc.edu or Melisa Nelson at mnelson@btc.edu.
ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

Mary Gerard, Director of Accessibility Resources at BTC, was invited to lead the AHEAD Management Institutes (Feb 1-3) in San Diego, offering a deep dive titled “An Introduction to Managing Accommodations for Students in Health Science Programs.” This session, with forty participants from colleges and universities across the country, centered on the unique challenges of providing accommodations in health science programs.

The Institute was designed to equip clinical program administrators and disability resource professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate complex accommodation requests, an overview of the most pertinent Office for Civil Rights (OCR) decisions and court cases, as well as provided discussion of how disability laws apply specifically to health science clinical settings. The Institute included an overview of the interactive process between disability professionals, faculty, staff and how a student-requested accommodation might affect the integrity of learning outcomes, compromise patient safety, or challenge technical standards.

OUTREACH

Outreach has been busy! Thanks to the dedicated efforts of numerous volunteers across campus, we’ve successfully organized a series of middle school tours, and there are more on the horizon. Additionally, we recently held a Spring Program Highlight night, drawing a significant crowd eager to explore a couple of our Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering programs set to kick off this Spring. The turnout was fantastic, and prospective students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these outreach initiatives!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology hosted its quarterly mid-term social lunch with students and instructors. Beginning winter quarter, the department developed a recognition program to honor graduating students. Also, Dean Katie Honeycutt handed out medallions the department had made to congratulate 37 IT students who received CompTIA Certifications in Network+, A+ Software, Cloud Essentials, and Security+. These industry specific certifications add significant leverage for students in their future careers.

MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION FOR STUDENTS

Starting Monday, April 15, Bellingham Technical College is adopting multifactor authentication (MFA) for students to increase security for ctcLink and Canvas.

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges requires multifactor authentication for additional security to protect confidential and personally identifiable student information contained in ctcLink. BTC’s switch to MFA will allow students to use either email addresses, Okta verify app, Gmail, phone call or text as additional factors to confirm identity. This means that when students log into ctcLink or Canvas, they will be asked to check either their text messages or emails for a verification code to complete their sign-in process.

MFA in ctcLink will use the information students have stored in their ctcLink account for phone and email. Students should verify and update their preferred phone number and email address in ctcLink before April 15 to ensure a smooth transition.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month’s employee spotlight is shining on Maryn Gunning.

Q: What’s your position and title here at BTC? Now and in the future?
A: Tutoring Services Coordinator, Program Specialist

Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?
A: I love traveling – especially to explore beaches, swimming and walking in nature. My favorite beach for swimming is Kaanapali beach in Maui – we would always visit the old banyan tree in Lahaina. (Picture from 2023 before the fires.) Here’s hoping the magnificent tree makes a recovery and continues to welcome visitors and bless the ancestors!

Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?
A: I enjoy finding places to swim with dolphins and whales in the wild. Listening to a whale’s song while floating in the water can cast a spell upon you!

Q: Any pets or pet plans?
A: We’ve had big dogs in the past, but recently getting our pet hugs in while visiting my son’s two dogs and very verbal cat, while enjoying our two little grandbabies Emmett and Lewis!

Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?
A: I’d bring Bacon, a photo album and leave the movie at home and just step onto Gilligan’s Island and be Mary Anne!

Q: Anything else we should know about you?
A: The Portable has arrived, and we’ve moved Tutoring and are open for business!

Come visit our new study space in the DMC parking lot, Building 2. We are looking forward to a great Spring in our new Study Hub. We have student computers and a printer, tutors available to assist students, Zoom areas for online meetings and a comfortable atmosphere to enjoy collaborating with others. We look forward to seeing you sometime soon!