Hello Team BTC,

You may notice some of our legislators at BTC this summer. On Friday, June 2, Representative Alex Ramel was on campus touring some of our labs and learning about our contributions to the workforce through educational pathways as well as customized training. Rep. Ramel, Ray Kubista and I had some great conversations as we toured BTC’s lab spaces to see where the hands-on learning takes place for our Process Technology, Instrumentation & Control Technology, Welding, Electrician and Machining programs, as well as Cafe Culinaire. Thank you to Ray, Russell Mitchell, and Zoe for your efforts on the visit.

On June 29 Representative Debra Lekanoff is scheduled to visit campus. I look forward to showing her the great things we do for our students and the community. We have extended invitations to all our local legislators for visits this summer. Hopefully, we will have an opportunity to host all of them before the next legislative session begins.

Sincerely,

Jim
AUTOMOTIVE

Internship Preparation
The Automotive Technology students, in preparation for their summer internships, were treated to a tour of Toyota Mercedes Benz of Bellingham. Student exposure to the real world is a significant component in establishing a realistic expectation of what they will see during their internships and what options and opportunities lie ahead.

New Tesla
On Friday June 2, Automotive Technology Instructor Dan Beeson and I.T. John Palmer made the journey to Tesla’s Lynnwood service center to pick up the college’s new Model 3. Along with the vehicle pick-up they were able to get a tour of the facility led by two former BTC Auto Tech grads, Bailey and Felix, who were among the first BTC students to complete the Tesla Start Program. “Being able to visit with them and see how far they have come since graduating is a great inspiration to us. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments,” Beeson says.

OUTREACH & P-TECH

Brian Aries with Process Technology joined Outreach at Oak Harbor High School’s second annual Skilled Trades Career Fair. This was a great event to connect students with potential employers, apprenticeships, careers, trades or any type of position that allows a student to develop a connection into a field of interest where they can earn a living. Brian had a great presentation, and we had a great group of interested prospective students throughout the day. Thank you, Brian!

GROUNDS

The much-loved lavender circle has returned from its rejuvenation day at the spa with a new face lift. The recent water meter project ran through the middle of the north half of the circle, and Facilities took the opportunity to replace the old, woody and poorly shaped lavender with new ones. Lavender have a short life span in the plant world and we look forward to enjoying these new Provence Lavender. As a bonus we purchased these beauties from local nursery, The Garden Spot, proudly owned and operated by BTC graduate Paige Lanham.
TECHNOLOGY TRAINING AT BTC

We’re striving to improve employees’ access to technology training at BTC! Nate Marino, our Technology Trainer, now offers regular (virtual) office hours. Do you need training on an application, or are you experiencing a pesky issue with one? Click to view Nate’s availability and schedule an appointment for assistance.

ACCESSIBILITY

The BTC Accessibility Team (A-Team) will be launching a pilot program of our new BTC Accessibility Training for all employees. This summer, our Student Services division will be our beta testers. There are four Canvas Courses in this training, the first of which was developed specifically for BTC. The remaining three are part of the SBCTC Micro-Courses, developed and provided by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: Accessibility at BTC; Understanding Accessibility; Accessible Design Concepts; Accessibility Skills: Word. There will be badges awarded for each completed course in the sequence. Completion of all four courses is required to earn the BTC A-Team A11y badge. If anyone has already completed the Micro-Courses from SBCTC listed above, they do not need to repeat those specific courses. BTC eLearning will have the ability to transfer your previously earned badges to your BTC A-Team A11y Pathway. This opportunity will be available to all BTC employees Fall Quarter 2023. Questions? Please direct questions to Mary Gerard or Sallie Davis.

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!

June Question: When does purchasing start again?

Answer: Thank you for all of your work in adhering to the end of year purchasing deadlines. We appreciate it very much. Purchasing opens again July 10, 2023.
For those of you out of the office this summer quarter, enjoy your time away! For those of you not out of the office this summer, we will get to work on annual purchase orders and such starting on the 10th.

I still have questions!
For more information about this topic, feel free to email or call the contact info above.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Do you have some Notable News of your own? Share it with us! Your unique perspective is what makes BTC (and this newsletter) interesting.

Submit your articles, news tips, photos, and other fodder for publication in our prestigious academic campus community newsletter using the Notable News Submission Form. Submissions are always open and should be made no less than two weeks prior to publication.

Notable News is published ten times annually on the third Thursday of every month, except July and August.
Machining Club Forging
Machining class and Machining Club students went out to a blacksmithing class at Thorne Metals, funded by ASBTC. It was such a wonderful experience to meet and learn from Paul Thorne about ancient ways of forging metals. The Metal shop is tucked away outside of Anacortes with an amazing view of Mount Eerie. Paul Thorne is a 75-year-old blacksmith whose work covers his shop walls: intricate designs of flowers, birds and many designs he has made for clients in the past. We made a small flower out of a bolt after heating it up and hammering it and heating it up and hammering it to form a flower shape. Paul made sure that safety was the priority since we were dealing with about 1800 degrees Fahrenheit (which made the steel a bright orange color).

As a second part of the day we all forged a knife by working quickly but safely, hammering the hot steel rod in shape. First by flattening and then twisting the handle, we were all able to create a knife that will last forever. In Paul Thorne's words "Blacksmithing is like ballet." Paul was amazed by the fact that we were the first-ever class in his shop that consisted of all machinists. One of the things that stuck with us is the fact that all metal and all the things that we machinists create nowadays were all created by the hands of a blacksmith 150 years ago. We highly recommend other programs take his class or maybe even to bring him to be a guest teacher or a spokesperson at an event.

End of Year Celebration
Every year we get together to celebrate the end of the school year, and this 2023 was no exception. This year we had three food trucks and one ice cream truck. One of the food trucks was Bry’s Filipino Cuisine, owned and operated by Bry, a former Culinary student. Bry was so honored and happy to come to his alma mater and serve delicious food for all of us. BTC employees and ASBTC students came together and worked hard to organize this celebration for all to enjoy. The rock painting and face painting booth was a hit and was visited by many students and employees. As the day progressed, we handed out 600 meal tickets and lots of delicious ice cream. Students were able to relax in the afternoon in between classes and do some bonding with classmates over some outdoor games and food. It was great way to close out the year and start off the summer. Thanks everyone who came out and supported this event, and made it special for us all.

May Day Paper Flowers
ASBTC celebrated May Day with tissue paper flowers and fresh n’ fruity snacks. We had a fantastic turnout with many students stopping by to make a bouquet of their own! May Day represents the first day of spring in many European countries, as well as doubling as International Labor Day!
Earth Day
ASBTC was amazed to see so many students attend the Earth Day Event! The sun was shining, which allowed for a beautiful day in the DMC parking lot. Students had fun picking plants and decorating their terracotta pots while eating a delicious lunch from Tacos El Tule. Thank you to all the faculty who brought their students, Facilities department for all the help with setup and tables and power, and Computer Services/Media for the music.

Mental Health Awareness Workshops
In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, students gathered in the Student Center recently for a Stress Management event in which they explored different ways to manage stress as a college student. Students were invited to participate in a guided mindfulness activity, with Counseling Center counselors Nyssa and Emilia, leaving students to feel refreshed and relaxed. Participants learned about the importance of sleep hygiene, healthy eating, spending time in nature, and taking time to yourself to simply breathe.

Cookie Decorating
After the overwhelming success of the Valentine’s Day Cookie Decorating event, ASBTC invited students back for another cookie decorating event. Graduating students were able to decorate their cookies in a graduating theme, however all students were welcome to join. Once again, we provided the popular Pure Bliss Desserts cookies and frosting after students voiced their love of them.

Open Mic
ASBTC put on an Open Mic event that featured students showcasing their singing and spoken word poetry talents at the Student Center. Singers signed the “platinum record” as a memento. Attendees enjoyed delicious sandwiches and desserts catered by local restaurant Café Rumba.

Machining Tool Expo
ASBTC funded the Machining students to attend the Northwest Machine Tool Expo, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon, May 10-11, 2023. The Machining students visited the Exhibitor floor to check out all the new technology and meet with industry leaders. Students also attended the conference sessions to learn about machining best practices, 3D printing, and more. Students were able to make connections within industry and future employers. The BTC students said this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a wonderful experience to enjoy educational presentations, learn about new technology, and connect with industry professionals.

I-BEST
At a recent training on I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) at Renton Technical College, BTC’s I-BEST instructor extraordinaire, Shasta PettiJohn helped Will Durden, Director of Basic Education for Adults at the SBCTC, award Representative Phyllis Gutiérrez Kenney with an achievement and appreciation award for her work in support of Workforce Education through I-BEST programming. Representative Kenney is also the chair of the SBCTC Board.
This month’s employee spotlight is shining on Katie Honeycutt.

Q: What’s your position and title here at BTC? Now and in the future?
A: I have had many positions and titles over my years at BTC, I am happily (officially 07/01), Dean of Professional and Technical Education.

Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?
A: Anything outside, especially in the mountains or woods! I love to run, hike/backpack, bike and often try to bring my 10-year-old son along on all of the above. I also love to read, cook, and watch TV/be lazy...that’s a hobby, right? I enjoy history (was my major in college) and music, but the latter only as an appreciator... I would like to take piano lessons someday.

Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?
A: I might be the world’s worst bowler, I am impressively bad. The IMPACT! team went bowling once, and I think they will vouch for me in this regard.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?
A: I have a 7-year old dog named Pupperz and a gecko I call Lizard. No additional pet plans, please.

Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?
A: Burritos (if that isn’t cheating), and I guess if I am on a desert island I’d like a pretty epic book, maybe Doctor Zhivago or something, and for island life I would prefer a TV show like Succession or Mad Men, but if there are only movies on this island, most anything Coen brothers would be fine with me.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?
A: I have lived in Bellingham almost 20 years, but I am from Spokane and I love being on the east side of the mountains!