Dear BTC Community,

I am thrilled to share the highlights and pictures of our recent BTC Employee Awards Ceremony and Olympic Competition with you. This event was a wonderful celebration of the dedication, hard work, and exceptional talents within BTC. During the BTC Awards, we proudly recognized several outstanding individuals and groups with the Haskell Faculty Awards, Outstanding Employee Awards, and Employee Enrichment Awards.

**Haskell Faculty Award Recipient**
Nicole Carter, Culinary Arts Chef Instructor

**Employee Enrichment Award Recipient**
Sebastian Schoelss, Creative Services Manager

**Outstanding Employee Awardees**
Nicole Carter, Culinary Arts Chef Instructor
Meghan Lippert, Veteran School Certifying Official and Funding Navigator
Annie Johnston, Central Receiving
Mike Mills, College Navigator
Academic Support Team: Library, eLearning & Tutoring

Additionally, we honored our retirees and presented longevity awards to those who have dedicated many years of service to BTC. The positive impact these individuals have made on our students, college, and community cannot be overstated. We extend our gratitude to each of you for your commitment and service.

The Olympic events and costume competition showcased the remarkable creativity, athleticism, and talents of the BTC community. It was a fantastic occasion that, while competitive, I feel fostered unity and strengthened our sense of community. The enthusiasm and spirit displayed by all participants were truly inspiring, and also hilarious.

A special thank you goes to the Employee Celebration/Olympic Planning Committee and everyone who contributed to making this such a resounding success. Your hard work and dedication made this celebration possible, and we are deeply appreciative of your efforts. Also, I would like to recognize BTC Board Chair Ann McQuade, Trustee/Olympic event judge Rick Kaiser, and Foundation Board Member/Olympic commentator Lin Nelson for their attendance and support of the celebration.

Thank you all for your continuous support and for making BTC a wonderful place to learn, work, and grow. Enjoy the photos of some of the festivities.
BTC OLYMPIANS GIVE IT THEIR ALL
ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

Mary Gerard from Accessibility Resources presented a national webinar on Thursday, June 13. The webinar focused on Mary’s journal article published in the Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability this past December. Webinar information is below.

Mary’s presentation “The AHEAD Professional Competencies: Supporting Excellence in Disability Resource Practice,” also included co-authors Enjie Hall, MRC, Director of the Disability Resource Center on the Twin Cities Campus and ADA Coordinator for the University of Minnesota, and Spencer Scruggs, M.S., Director of the Center for Accessible Education at UCLA.

The presentation discussed Professional Competencies (formerly Professional Standards) developed by AHEAD to serve as a guiding document for professionals in the disability resources field. The Professional Competencies were revised in 2022 by an institutionally and demographically diverse task force appointed by the AHEAD Board of Directors. Mary and her co-authors discussed how and why the Standards became Competencies; the practical implications for Disability Resource Professionals; how changes in the Disability Resources field provided impetus for this change; and a break down of the nine competencies to five themes that provide a roadmap for individual and team professional development.

TRANSITIONAL STUDIES

The Transitional Studies Graduation Celebration was held June 13, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to celebrate the graduates and completors for the 2023-2024 school year. Over 300 people were in attendance.

• 103 Impact students received their GED
• 10 Impact GED students also received their associate degree
• 67 Basic Education Adults received their High School Diplomas and GED

It was a lively turnout, with music, slides of the graduates, hat decorating, picture taking and cake. BTC Outreach department provided a table for prospective program students and Student Financial Resources provided a table with information.
Grocery Bingo

Grocery Bingo was a blast! We diversified our prizes and made sure to give a prize to every student that attended. We had a huge attendance, and we hosted the event over 2 hours during lunchtime to make sure we could work around more student schedules. Stay posted for next fall, when we’ll make sure to have another!

End of Year Celebration

On Thursday, June 6, ASBTC hosted a very successful end of the year celebration! Hundreds of BTC students and employees had the opportunity to come out and join us for games, face/rock painting, root beer floats, Cirque Cadia performers, a dunk tank featuring some of your favorite people, and a collection of delicious food trucks. We want to offer our biggest thanks to all those who volunteered to help us make this year’s end of year celebration a huge success.

Cap Decorating

On Tuesday June 11, ASBTC hosted a lively and creative cap decorating event on campus, adding a personal touch to the traditional graduation festivities. This event provided graduating students with an opportunity to express their individuality, achievements, and future aspirations through the artful customization of their graduation caps.

Play-Doh Power Hour

Play-Doh Power Hour was a fun time for everyone, as people played with Play-Doh and got creative with the Legos! Held on June 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., we had plenty of people for cap decorating in the same space, and there were lots of cool caps for commencement. The event was meant to end at noon, but people were having fun with it, so we kept the supplies for the art out to give students more time to relax before finals!
DEI NEWS

Thank you to those of you who volunteered for Whatcom Youth Pride! We had an amazing time and more engagement than ever from employees, students and community members. And we got to use our new T-shirt cannon, courtesy of Industrial Maintenance & Mechatronics!

Sign-up is still open for folks who would like to volunteer for Pride IN Bellingham: [sign up form](#)

As previously mentioned, June is Pride Month, a month dedicated to the uplifting of queer (LGBTQ+) voices, a celebration of queer culture, and support of queer rights (especially as they are being threatened in so many parts of our country).

In honor of pride month, here are some LGBTQ+ book recommendations:

- **Fruiting Bodies: Stories** by Kathryn Harlan
- **This is How You Lose the Time War** by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone
- **On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous** by Ocean Vuong
- **Bad Gays: A Homosexual History** by Huw Lemmey and Ben Miller
- **Terrorist Assemblages** by Jasbir Puar
- **Revolting Prostitutes: The Fight for Sex Workers’ Rights** by Juno Mac and Molly Smith
- **Time Is the Thing a Body Moves Through** by T. Fleischmann
- **Fiebre Tropical** by Julián Delgado Lopera
- **Amateur: A Reckoning with Gender, Identity, and Masculinity** by Thomas Page McBee
- **How Far the Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures** by Sabrina Imbler
- **The Women’s House of Detention: A Queer History of a Forgotten Prison** by Hugh Ryan
- **We Want It All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics** edited by Andrea Abi-Karam and Kay Gabriel

BTC FOUNDATION

The Bellingham Technical College Foundation recently elected two new members to its Board of Directors.

**Rob Hope** is the Process Controls and Instrumentation Manager at the HF Sinclair Puget Sound Refinery (PSR) in Anacortes and **Perry Herrick** is the Maintenance Manager at Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery. Rob and Perry will each serve a three-year term on the Foundation board from 2024-2027.

“The Foundation is excited to add these members and their unique perspectives to our board as we work together to support student success at BTC,” said Dean Fulton, Director of the BTC Foundation.
DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

Diesel and Automotive Technology students were treated to a tour of the King County Metro South Campus in Tukwila in May. This facility is one of seven that maintains its share of the 1,400-bus King County fleet. The King County bus fleet is transitioning to electric propulsion at around $1.5 million for each bus and the Tukwila Campus is leading the switch.

Students' eyes were opened to out-of-the-box career opportunities with exceptional pay and benefits. King County’s goal is to hire more than 100 technicians over the next 18 months.

TUTORING

The Tutoring Team had a great time connecting at the end of the year celebration! Good times!

Pictured (left to right): Sivan Steffens, Aria Nguyen, Brian Compton, Grace Chargualaf, Maryn Gunning, Michael Walbrun, Robert Lee and Partick Taylor.

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 would 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: Has the purchase requisition approval process changed?

Answer: Yes, it has!

BTC has recently updated our purchase requisition Approval Workflow Engine (AWE) in ctcLink which means we updated the order in which approvals happen.

Previously, Purchasing received the requisition first and would review it for issues like errors, completeness, missing attachments, and correct coding. Now, Purchasing is the last to receive the requisition. That means that the following people will review and approve the requisition: the requester, the budget authority(ies), their HR supervisor if over $2,000 per line, their VP or President if over $10,000 total, and possibly others if any of the budget departments used have a 145 fund code or there is an IT or Facilities-related category code. Purchasing will review and push back the requisition if there are any issues when it comes to them. This process change should remove approval barriers and speed up the process.

Budget authorities, remember to delegate authority if you are out of the office more than a day or two, especially as we are headed into summer. Otherwise, requisitions will sit and wait until you get back. Note that your delegate should have equal or higher budget authority and you should check with them first before delegating in ctcLink. There is a resource on the Purchasing - Home (sharepoint.com) site to walk you through the process.

I still have questions!

For more information about this topic, feel free to email Melisa Nelson at mnelson@btc.edu.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month’s employee spotlight is shining on Lou Plitkins.

Q: What’s your position and title here at BTC? Now and in the future?
A: I am Project Director of the TRIO Student Support Service program.

Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?
A: I enjoy most things outdoors—running, hiking, backpacking, XC skiing, cold plunging. I’m happiest when I have a dog around and time to go on walks, drink tea, read for fun, and cook yummy food for friends.

Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?
A: I’m a Scorpio sun sign raised by a Scorpio mother with a brother less than 12 months apart who is also a Scorpio!

Q: Any pets or pet plans?
A: I have a 4-year-old mutt baby who is 60 pounds and loves to snuggle, nap, and chase squirrels. I got her from a shelter in Texas where she was born into a dog hoarding situation. The shelter took in the litter and shipped several of them up to Washington, so I’ve had her since she was about 3 months old.

Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?
A: I would bring ice cream (very practical), a book on survival skills (actually practical), and a home video of my partner and doggo.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?
A: I’m five years into a PhD in Education at UW and writing my dissertation in the mornings before work and on the weekend, so if I look tired….But I’ve mostly really enjoyed my dissertation work. I spent a year studying a civics ed. and leadership development course for adult immigrant/refugee learners and really enjoyed the students!

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.