I would like to welcome you to the beginning of the Fall Quarter at BTC! I hope this message finds you refreshed and excited for our new academic year that lies ahead.

This new year will bring with it many opportunities, fresh perspectives, and a chance for all of us to grow, learn, and help our students thrive together. I know we will have challenges; the unavailability of Campus Center will certainly impact our work. I do have every confidence we will continue to pull together and best meet the needs of our students and campus community.

It was inspiring to witness the BTC community coming together with such energy and spirit at the Campus Kickoff. The event was a testament to the strength of our community, as we rekindled old friendships and forged new connections with our new employees. It served as a reminder of the remarkable sense of unity and purpose that defines our college.

The shift out of Campus Center and the alternate Campus Kickoff event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our BTC team. I want to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to making BTC a vibrant and thriving community well positioned to serve our students and prepare them for their future careers.

Once again, welcome to the Fall Quarter at BTC. Let's make it a year filled with growth, learning, and success. I look forward to what we will achieve!

Warm regards,
Jim

JIM’S JOURNAL

The Bellingham Technical College Foundation recently elected four new members to its Board of Directors: August DeLuca, CEO of Blue Dog Bakery; Bernardino Garcia, Branch Manager at US Bank; Casey Morriss, Technical Services Manager at Phillips 66; and Manuel Pacheco, Operations Superintendent at BP Cherry Point will each serve a three-year term on the Foundation board from 2023-2026.

“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.

Under the guidance of the Foundation Board of Directors, the foundation raised a record $2.4 million dollars to support BTC and its students. More than $900,000 in scholarships and emergency support was provided to students in 2023 and total institution support exceed $2 million last year.

TRAINING THE FUTURE STATE

This summer BTC delivered a customized training program for process technology operators from Group14 Technologies, in Woodinville, WA. This 60-hour, 10-day training course took place at Group14’s site as well as the PTEC Lab here on campus. Faculty member Scott Cory worked closely with Group14's Training Manager, BTC graduate Josh Quayle, to design the curriculum to expand the operator knowledge base on key areas of safety, hazard analysis, and an introduction to process controls, among other topics.

The company aims to enable the electrification of everything - from tiny medical, consumer and commercial devices to every possible flavor and size of transportation- using novel composite materials and industrial processes to reliably address the cost, scale and performance barriers that have slowed the world’s transition towards the all-electric future.

FOUNDATION
**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!

**Question:** What's the deal with supplier diversity?

**Answer:** Supplier diversity is definitely a popular and important program in the procurement world, from the local level to the national stage. That being said, it might be a little confusing. What actually is supplier diversity?! What can I do to support supplier diversity at BTC? Let’s break it down a little.

Supplier diversity started as federal legislation in the 1960’s to stabilize social unrest and has continued to grow and expand into what it is today. Search for supplier diversity online and a multitude of options pop up, from definitions of what supplier diversity is to information on supplier diversity programs for states, large businesses, and institutions of higher education. Relevant to us here at the college, the State of Washington updated their policy and procedure in 2022 based upon the results of a disparity study done in 2019. BTC is in the process of updating our program through a cross-constituency group of people that includes faculty, classified, exempt, and administrative employees. Stay tuned for more information on that in the coming months.

Note: Supplier diversity and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are not the same thing. Supplier diversity is a function of procurement that is a business strategy, a resource for small and diverse businesses, and an economic driver. DEI is focused on building and maintaining a diverse workforce and inclusive work culture and is more of a human resources function. Huge shout out to Hannah Simonetti as the Director of DEI and Rachael Wright for SHIFT in leading the efforts in this area.

Here are ways to support small, veteran-owned, and diverse businesses right now at the college in your everyday purchasing:

- Pay attention to the notes on Amazon that indicate if a business is a BTC-preferred business, or a small, veteran-owned, or diverse business. You can also filter for these businesses on the left-side of the screen.
- Utilize statewide contracts that the state has already entered into with by searching the Diverse Business Contracts (wa.gov) database on the WA State Dept. of Enterprise Services (DES) website.
- When obtaining quotes for items, make sure to reach out to these businesses. There is a search function on the OMWBE website. Use the Directory of Certified Businesses | Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (wa.gov) to look for small and diverse businesses who might provide what you are looking for. There’s even a “How to Use” video to help you with your search.
- Use the Search for Veteran Owned Businesses | WDVA (wa.gov) on the WA Dept. of Veterans Affairs site to find veteran-owned businesses.
- Encourage businesses that you already work with to obtain certification from OMWBE as a small or diverse business or the Department of Veterans Affairs as a veteran-owned business.

I still have questions! For more information about this topic, feel free to email me or stop by the office for a chat. More information on supplier diversity to come in the next couple of months.

**I still have questions!**

For more information about this topic, feel free to email or call the contact info above.

**DATA DASHBOARDS**

The Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA) team has released two data dashboards this summer: the Enrollment dashboard and the Retention dashboard. The enrollment dashboard displays quarterly and annual trends in student enrollment. The student retention dashboard summarizes the enrollment, completion, and attrition paths of students enrolled in degree/certificate programs. The IPA team is working to restore all of the dashboards that were frozen during the college’s transition to ctcLink as well as develop new dashboards that align with BTC’s evolving needs.

These dashboards will cover a range of areas, including student completion, program-level outcomes, course success, and credentials awarded. BTC employees can access the data dashboards on the Institution Research and Assessment Intranet page in the “Data and Research” section.
SUMMER GRANT AWARDS!

BTC received grants in Summer 2023 through the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, including a Perkins Non-Traditional Gender Training and Employment Grant for $12,000, which supports BTC’s Students Helping Build an Inclusive Future in the Trades (SHIFT) project, and a $250,000 SBCTC Hospital Employment & Education Training (HEET) grant, which supports our new part-time Registered Nursing pathway and incumbent hospital workers pursuing a nursing education at BTC. The college was also awarded $150,000 through a Workforce Development Funds grant to help support our Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program as they develop shellfish, microalgae and kelp culturing curriculum.

ASBTC CORNER

We are excited to announce that we have an amazing group of student leaders for this year.

Our ASBTC Executive Team for 2023-2024 are:

Josie Acevedo, President, Radiologic Technology
Ale Garcia Casillas, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Administrative Affairs & Human Resources
Michael Carnahan, Director of Finance, Information Technology
Tori Ulm, Director of Legislation, Information Technology
Jacob McMillan, Director of Clubs & Organizations, CNC Machining
Momčilo “Motzo” Božić, Director of Communications, CNC Machining

ASBTC & TRIO Team Building

The ASBTC Executive Team and TRIO Ambassadors did team building and ziplining at Canopy Tours NW recently. We traveled to picturesque Camano Island to Canopy Tours NW to do a series of team-building exercises, including tight-rope walking. The tight-rope exercise required teamwork, trust, and balance. The only rule was you had to touch a rope, tree, or a person at all times without touching the ground. Trusting each other and getting more comfortable with asking for help and learning how to trek in uncharted territories was what we learned. We had a great time bonding with and learning about each other. After our team-building exercises, we went ziplining! We ziplined on six different lines, one of which was longer than the height of the Space Needle! Facing our fears, growing, and lots of laughter made for the best Tuesday of our teams’ summer.
CUSP Student Leadership Conference

The ASBTC Executive Team and TRIO Ambassadors attended the Council of Unions and Student Programs (CUSP) Student Leadership Conference (SLC) at Green River College in Auburn for three days in early September. The SLC was an excellent educational trip for our new student leaders. Our ASBTC Executive Team learned how to support students on campus and become better leaders. With many opportunities for growth, our Executive Team members were part of a group of over 300 students from 20 Washington colleges and created new relationships and made a lot of memories. We learned a lot from the three keynote speakers and four educational sessions, and were able to network with other student leaders across the state.

ASBTC and Campus Store Video Collaboration

Motzo, our ASBTC Director of Communications, collaborated with Laura Fornalski and the BTC Campus Store to create a video updating students about the new/temporary location for the Campus Store, and the preferred process for ordering and obtaining bookstore items. Motzo filmed the video on his cell phone, edited the video, and shared it with the Marketing and Communication department to share on our Canvas website. Check out the video!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month’s employee spotlight is shining on Tracy Weber.

Q: What’s your position and title here at BTC? Now and in the future?
A: Program Specialist for Allied Health Programs.

Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?
A: I like to read, travel, and go to Mariners and Husky games.

Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?
A: I played piccolo in the Husky Marching band all four years I was an undergrad at UW. I got to play at the 2001 Rose Bowl and as the TV camera passed by, I ended up with a real good close-up during the half time show. I’m famous!

Q: Any pets or pet plans?
A: At my house we have two black and white cats named Sammy and Trixi. They’re my kids.

Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?
A: The food I would bring is my mom’s lasagna. I have no idea what book I would bring, I can’t pick just one! And the movie I would bring is “Moonrise Kingdom”.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?
A: I love working at BTC and the community here. I’m happy to be a part of it!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BTC will hold a public hearing at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27, in College Services, Room 214. The hearing will review proposed revisions to sections of BTC’s Washington Administrative Code 495B. For more information, please contact Ronda Laughlin, Rules Coordinator, at 360.752.8334 or rlaughlin@btc.edu.