



JIM'S JOURNAL

Dear BTC Community,

It's almost time for Welding Fab Week, when BTC's Welding students put their technical and creative skills to the test to see what kind of fantastic art pieces they can create from scrap metal.

This year's fab week will run from April 21-25 with a Pacific Northwest theme, followed by an online auction that will run through May 2. Proceeds from the auction directly support BTC's Welding Technology program, helping students continue their education with access to modern equipment, materials, and scholarship opportunities.

If you want to see the craftsmanship in action, you can stop by Morse Center during class time to get a sneak peek at the items you might want to bid on. This event is such an excellent example of the unique kind of hands-on, innovative learning that our students get to experience in our programs, and I look forward to seeing what our teams make.

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | APRIL 2025
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION.

DEI UPDATES

Campus Read

It's been gratifying and exciting to engage with so many students and employees at our recent Campus Read programs in March and April!

Thank you to everyone who attended our **Watch Party for Scha'nexw Elhtal'nexw Salmon People: Preserving a Way of Life**. We love being able to offer events like that where we can learn and share together with flexible attendance options that allow more employees and students to participate. With both our in-person group, which included an entire English class who requested to attend together and tie the film back to their coursework, and our zoom group, which included many employees across different areas, there was such robust and thoughtful discussion around the history of the region, our connections to place, environment, community and culture, and how we can create space to have more of these conversations in a way that supports future generations.

It was also fantastic to see so many of you at our 4/14 **Luncheon with Children of the Setting Sun Productions**, featuring Darrell Hillaire, Michael Vendiola and Sky Scholfield from CSSP! They provided a very interesting, educational and powerful presentation and conversation for campus from their perspective as indigenous people, artists, changemakers and neighbors and spoke of the importance of building community, shared their goals and work they do, future plans, and free educational resources for us to utilize.

They have a couple of exciting films coming out soon:

[West Shore](#), which follows the Westshore Canoe Family as they journey through their ancestral waters on the 2023 Paddle to Muckleshoot. The film celebrates Coast Salish culture and highlights how Tribal Journeys strengthens identity, community, and the ongoing cultural resurgence of Indigenous peoples across the region.

[Story Pole](#), a 35 minute documentary that follows the remarkable story of Jason LaClair, a Native American artist from the Pacific Northwest, as he restores a story pole started by an elder from his community. The film is a reflection on his life as he recovers from drug addiction, and finds healing in his art and community. His journey leads him into the public school district, where he teaches young people about his people's history, art and healing.



Pride

Whatcom Youth Pride and Pride in Bellingham are coming up May 31 and July 12/13, and we are getting ready and gathering info from folks who are interested in volunteering through [this form](#)! Volunteering for either pride event is a pretty fun time & we'll have some sweet black BTC pride zip-up hoodies to offer the first 30 or so folks who sign up. More info to come as it becomes available.

Upcoming DEI Listening Sessions, Programs and Trainings & Community Events

April:

Children of the Setting Sun "Wake up, Stand up" Earth Day Rally: April 22, 12-3 p.m. Bay Street (Downtown)

Indigenous Education History: April 23, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Morse Center 211

May:

DEI Employee Listening Sessions (open to all employees, attend any that work for your schedule)

May 13, 3-4 p.m. Morse Center 211

May 14, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Morse Center 211

May 15, 12-1 p.m. in Morse Center 210

DEI Module 2 Training: May 20, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in Morse Center 211

Whatcom Youth Pride Parade & Festival: May 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bellingham High School (more details to come!)

June:

DEI Module 3 Training: June 10, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in Morse Center 211

July:

Pride In Bellingham: July 12 & 13 (more details to come!) For more info, check out the DEI Sharepoint Site!

RESOURCE REBOOT

Several campus and community partners came together for the Resource Reboot tabling event on March 12 in G Building, providing students with valuable connections to essential resources. Approximately 50 students attended, many bringing friends to explore the available services together. This quarter's event featured representatives from ASBTC Clubs, Basic Needs, BFET, Counseling, TRIO, Tutoring, Veterans Benefits, and Worker Retraining. Additionally, off-campus partners from the Opportunity Council and veterans services were on hand to assist students. Beyond tabling, the BTC Food Pantry was open for students to access, with staff distributing personal hygiene items. Students not only gained valuable information about available resources but also enjoyed a fun, interactive experience. Attendees had the chance to pick up a delicious snack and spin the prize wheel for a chance to win. Many thanks to the BTC Foundation for supporting this event and helping make it a success!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BTC will hold a public hearing at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 in College Services, Room 214. The hearing will review proposed revisions to sections of BTC's Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 495B-121 Student Conduct Code; WAC 495B-140 Use of College Facilities; WAC 495B-168 Use of Library-Fines; and WAC 495B-276 Access to Public Records. For more information, please contact Ronda Laughlin, Rules Coordinator at 360-752-8334 or rlaughlin@btc.edu.

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 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.

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 to have 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!

Again, not a question this month, but an opportunity to highlight green purchasing because we observe Earth Day, Earth Week, and celebrate Earth Month in April each year.

Fun fact - did you know that BTC went to using 100% tree-free paper in our printers and recycled content in some of our laptops? We have been doing this for a few years now. Simple switches like this can help BTC lessen our impact on the environment and abide by state laws.

I know paying attention to the purchasing rules here at BTC can be daunting, not to mention the rules and laws at the state and federal level. Sometimes, it is easier to tackle one thing at a time. Take office supplies for example. When shopping on ODP Solutions, one way that you can move towards greener products is to look for the green "ECO" Eco Conscious and the green Recycled content icons. These identify greener purchasing options. There is often a filter option for recycled or eco conscious products.

Another way is to identify where you might switch from items that use single-use batteries to rechargeable or battery-free options. Flashlights are an easy switch, as is the use of rechargeable batteries for clocks, keyboards, and mice, or even finding items that are rechargeable themselves.

Minor changes count. Many of us already do this at home, so why not here at work? I have personally switched to using a rechargeable headlamp for hiking and camping and have the tiniest, brightest, LED rechargeable flashlight in my car.

I know that for some items we purchase, it is just not possible to find greener alternatives. Making the switch where we can has a positive impact and helps us in compliance with state laws and policies. There are resources on the Purchasing SharePoint Site to help you in your research, including a link to the Department of Enterprise Services Green Purchasing info page, the WA State Dept. of Ecology infographic on Waste & Toxics Reduction laws, and compostable plastic product labeling info page. For more information, feel free to email me or stop by the office in CS206 for a chat during office hours. Spring office hours are currently posted on the Purchasing SharePoint Site.

ACCESSIBILITY

The BTC Accessibility Team has been hard at work streamlining ways for employees to ask questions about digital accessibility and document the digital accessibility work they've been doing. If you have a question about making your digital content (Canvas Courses, documents, emails, webpages, etc.) accessible, or would like to document the work in progress or completed, please visit www.btc.edu/digitalaccessibility.

Stay tuned for Digital Accessibility Workshops during Spring Quarter!

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

[Home](#) / [About BTC](#) / [Digital Accessibility](#)

EMPLOYEE QUESTIONS

EMPLOYEE DOCUMENTATION

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility Info

Bellingham Technical College is committed to ensuring that all students and employees have equal access to information and technology. Digital accessibility is not only a legal requirement but also a fundamental aspect of inclusive education.

INFO SESSION NIGHT

BTC is hosting Info Session Night on May 6, starting at 5:30 p.m. in G Building. The event will include opportunities for prospective students to tour two program spaces, learn about resources and learn about how to get started at BTC.

CLASSROOMS

Portable Building #1 has two classrooms that are now available to be scheduled! The rooms are listed in 25Live as Room A and Room B for those who would like to book the space.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Kathryn Asher**.

Q: What's your position and title here at BTC? Now and in the future?

A: Currently, I serve as Director of Finance on the ASBTC Executive team, and starting April 16 I'm stepping into a new role as Human Resources & Payroll Assistant!

Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?

A: A few things that I do for fun include crocheting, attempting to grow flowers/veggies in my yard (sometimes successfully!) and cooking.

Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?

A: I used to work at a restaurant with a pickle bar (yes, that's a thing), and that's where I discovered the magical, slightly unhinged creation known as a pickle sandwich: bread & butter pickle chips on a saltine with a little mayo. Sounds weird, tastes amazing. Now I low-key stalk Costco waiting for them to restock Bubbies so I can recreate the magic at home.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: I currently have three rescued chihuahuas: Chiclet, Chloe, and Walter. I also share my home with Athena (a bearded dragon) and a freshwater fish aquarium.

Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?

A: Tacos (yum!), the Complete Calvin & Hobbes (can't take being stranded too seriously!), and The Replacements - one of my favorite movies with a great soundtrack to boot!

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I'm excited to be joining the team full-time at the same school I'll be graduating from this year. It's been such a meaningful place for me, and I'm looking forward to giving back in a new way. Also, if I'm not at work, I'm probably daydreaming about the Big Island of Hawai'i — it's my favorite place on Earth!

INFO SESSION

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE

MAY 6

Tours: 6 & 7 p.m.
G Building
3028 Lindbergh Avenue

Explore new career pathways that help you Be You at BTC!

Discover how a technical college can be the perfect fit for your goals as you learn about BTC's programs, resources, and support to get started on your journey. Meet instructors, tour two program spaces of your choice, and find the path that fits you best. This is a community event open to all!

Bring your circle of support:
Family, friends, mentors, or anyone who's rooting for your success!

FORGE YOUR OWN PATH
www.btc.edu

Questions:
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