



Bellingham Technical College
Press Release
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For Immediate Release

GOVERNOR INSLEE APPOINTS WILLIAM MIRAND AND RICHARD P. KAISER AS NEW BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE TRUSTEES

Bellingham Washington, July 20, 2020 - Governor Jay Inslee has appointed William (Bill) Mirand and Richard (Rick) Kaiser to serve on the Board of Trustees of Bellingham Technical College (BTC). Mirand's term began in March 2020, and Kaiser's term started in July 2020.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Bill and Rick join BTC as our new trustees," said BTC President Dr. Kimberly Perry. "Their industry experience and dedication to community involvement are wonderful additions to our board."

Bill Mirand is a past Chairman of Puget Sound Electrical; Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, an Apprenticeship Council member and an Apprenticeship Program Manager. William has over 40 years' experience as a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W) serving as a Journeyman Electrician and has held numerous elected and appointed leadership positions including Business Representative, Business Manager and Senior Advisor and Mentor with I.B.E.W. 46 and I.B.E.W. 191. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Western Samoa from 2009 – 2010.

Bill has a Bachelor's Social Work from State University of New York at Buffalo, a Masters of Social Work (MSW), from State University of New York at Buffalo and a Washington State Approved Electrical Apprenticeship with Puget Sound Electrical Workers. He and his wife are avid hikers often accompanied by their two Standard Poodles, and they have travelled to over 30 countries, are keen jazz connoisseurs and are home designers and builders having built their own tiny house, tree house and glampsite.

"I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve as a Trustee for Bellingham Technical College. BTC provides the community with a strong workforce, giving students the hands-on experience needed to enter the workforce competitively. I look forward to working with the board, staff, students and faculty," Bill Mirand said.

Rick Kaiser has over 36 years' experience in computer programming, mechanical engineering, and industrial database management in the oil refining and manufacturing industries, and he is a licensed Professional Engineer in Washington State and Alaska. He began his career working as a development engineer for Rocket Research in Redmond WA for 6 years, then moved to Anvil Corporation in Bellingham, where he

held multiple positions over 9 years, including Mechanical Field Engineer, Equipment Engineer, Assistant Drill Site Development Manager, and Field Support Engineer. His career then took him to the oilfields on the North Slope of Alaska where he worked as a Database Analyst for Glacier Services, Inc. for over 12 years, followed by his current position of Project Manager for AIS Software, Inc. for the past seven years here in Bellingham. He is also a passionate supporter of education, he teaches science classes to 1st and 2nd grade at Silver Beach Elementary, he also taught Advanced Placement Computer Science at Sehome Highschool, Intertidal Marine Ecology at Whatcom Community College and Oceanography at UW.

Kaiser has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Washington, a Master of Science in Engineering, Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington, and Professional Engineering Licenses in Mechanical Engineering for both Washington State and Alaska. He has held leadership positions on numerous community-based organizations including Western Washington University College of Science & Engineering Community Advisory Board, Northwest Technology Alliance Group, Northwest Washington Engineers Club, Rotary Club of Bellingham, and Port of Bellingham Marine Life Center Renovation.

“BTC serves an important role in our community. They provide the highly technical, real-life training needed to provide living-wage jobs to support the infrastructures in our community and beyond. I am passionate about education at every level. Having the opportunity to contribute to BTC’s future by sharing my work experience is an honor and something I am very enthusiastic about,” said Kaiser.

BTC’s Board Chair, Dr. Brad Smith says "Bill and Rick’s distinguished careers and extensive work experience in such relevant programs to BTC, will be of great value to Bellingham Technical College and the community at large. We welcome them both and are very pleased that they are joining our board."

Bill Mirand and Rick Kaiser join the existing BTC Board of Trustees, comprising Bradley Smith, Chair; Debbie Ahl and Jeff Callender. They replace outgoing members Jim Groves and Lisa Woo.

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers seven transfer degrees such as pre-nursing, computer science and business. Completion of these degrees prepares BTC students to transfer with a junior status to participating colleges and universities in Washington State. BTC offers 39 associate degree, 55 certificate options and two bachelor of applied science degrees providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to www.btc.edu.

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