

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | JANUARY 2022
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

PRESIDENT'S SHOUT-OUT



It is pretty common knowledge that I start my day early, way before the sun comes up. What you may not think about is that during inclement weather, I have plenty of company. After all, the decision to stay open, close, or delay our start, and to announce it, doesn't make itself – it takes a village to call (or not call) a snow day. Since we have just gone through a cycle of challenging weather, I thought I'd give you a peek into the process.

When there is a winter weather event, the work often actually starts the night before. The Custodial Crew – Lead Tim Hawkins, Gary Plummer, Kevin Engels, Stas Kobets, Glen Erickson, Randy Heffley, Brody Hazan, Antonio Coniglio, Nathan Weissenborn, Eric Higashi, Cheryl Riley, and Jody Micono – typically prep building entrances by shoveling snow and spreading de-icer in addition to their normal responsibilities cleaning up from

the previous day. Facilities Director Dave Jungkuntz will often check in with them in the middle of the night for an early evaluation of campus conditions.

About 4:30 am or so, Vice President of Administrative Services Chad Stiteler will get in his truck and start cruising the county to check on road conditions (I think he actually kinda likes this part). Dave checks in from Ferndale as he comes in early and we've even dragged Interim Executive Dean Heidi Ypma into the mix to get the Lynden report.

The Grounds Crew will come in early as well – Lead Chris Glatz, Shelby Stamey and Tim Kassiotis – along with Maintenance Crew – Lead Todd Saulsbury, and Kurt Kraft, Dave Talbot, and Barry Wolten. All of them will deploy plows, brushes, snowblowers, and plain ol' shovels with de-icer to try to make the campus safe for operation.

Once we have all consulted and have reached consensus on the go/no-go call, it is then up to Marketing & Communications Director Marni Saling Mayer (who has been standing by) to get the word out, through campus alerts, website updates, social media, and press contacts.

It's a lot of work from a lot of people, and it makes for a long day, but it's what we need to do to balance community safety with our educational mission. We appreciate all the "oh-dark-thirty" work that these folks put in to make sure we are as safe as possible.



THE FOUNDATION

BTC's Foundation shares a positive mid-year report on fundraising progress to date.

The Foundation raised \$610,811 through December 31, 2021, which constitutes 102% of their fundraising goal for the entire fiscal year. This amount constitutes the most money that they have raised from July 1 through December 31st in our foundation's history.

\$591,554 has been raised in scholarship dollars to date, which constitutes 197% of their fall scholarship campaign goal of \$300,000. A few other of their successes include:

- Receiving 14 gifts of \$10,000 or more, including two \$100,000 gifts.
- Establishing five (5) new endowed scholarships to date.
- Receiving a total of 127 gifts - 58 renewals, 21 lapsed gifts (former donors who did not give last year) and 48 new gifts.

Dean Fulton, Foundation Director and Valerie Frank, Foundation Specialist, continue to work on cultivating many new, lapsed and renewal prospects to partner with during the next half of their fiscal year, with the hopes of hitting the one million dollar mark prior to June 30, 2022.

The Foundation could not have achieved this success without the dedicated support and active advocacy from the Foundation's Board of Directors, BTC staff members, and the dedicated foundation donors.

STUDENT LIFE / ASBTC

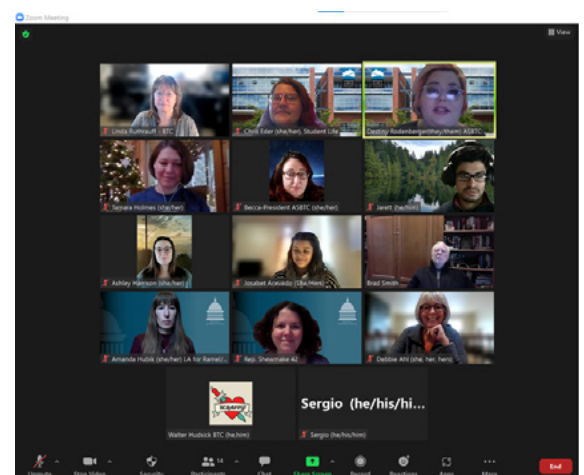
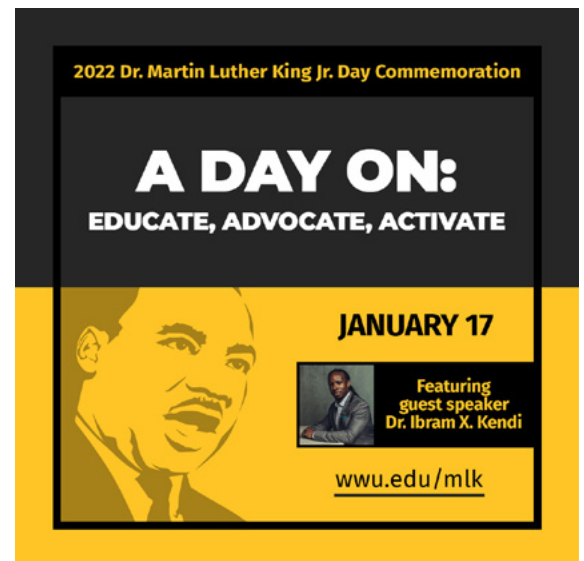
One upcoming event to highlight is our Date and Paint painting class on January 28. This virtual class will be over Zoom, and most supplies are provided. You must sign up to attend, and attendance is limited. Thank you to Art and Happiness, a local art supply store, for teaching this class for our students!

ASBTC is having a Food Drive to help fill our Food Pantry. The Food Drive is January 18 – 25. Please bring your food donations to the Student Center, Room 300, in the Campus Center. Suggested food items are: canned fruits and veggies, canned meat, canned beans and soup, cereal and granola bars, whole grain pasta and rice, peanut butter, and nuts. Thank you for supporting the ASBTC Food Pantry!

The Associated Students of Bellingham Technical College (ASBTC) hosted several events and programs recently. One of them was the 2022 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration: A Day On: Educate, Advocate, Activate. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. This was a collaboration between BTC, Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, Skagit Valley College, Northwest Indian College, Bellingham Public Schools, City of Bellingham, PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, and Veritas Media.

On December 13, 2021, the ASBTC Executive Team and advisors, Interim President Walter Hudsick, and Board of Trustees members Bradley Smith and Debbie Ahl, met with Representative Sharon Shewmake, 42nd District, and Legislative Assistant Amanda Hubik, who supports Representatives Alex Ramel and Debra Lekanoff, both of the 40th District. We discussed the upcoming legislative session. The brunch was a huge success! Everybody shared their thoughts, priorities, and platforms. Items discussed by the ASBTC included text book prices, food insecurity on campuses, and mental health resources.

And a reminder that we are all in this together. As fellow students and members of our community, the ASBTC Executive Team would like to say thank you for the patience and understanding as we all continue through COVID-19. We are grateful for the cooperation of all Bellingham Technical College employees and students as we continue into the unknown. We would all love for normalcy and gatherings to happen but unfortunately COVID has flared once more. So please continue to be flexible and adjust with us to keep everyone as safe as possible. And remember we are all in this together.



STUDENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Emergency Grants Available: Please share this with your students!

Eligible BTC students may apply for an emergency grant from the Student Financial Resources office. Grants are available for students who face unforeseen expenses due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Examples of expenses may include:

- Purchasing a computer or software for participation in an online class,
- Emergency child care expenses due to changes in your class schedule,
- COVID-related medical expenses required for participation in class,
- Food expenses due the temporary closure of the campus food pantry.

If you are currently taking classes at BTC and facing expenses similar to the examples above, we invite you to complete an Emergency Funding Application. Applications must include a personal statement regarding the type of expense you are facing and how it is related to a change in campus operation due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please note, receiving this email or applying does not guarantee that you will receive a grant.

Students should have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) on file.

Students who have a FAFSA or WASFA on file and experienced a loss of income for any reason, may submit a Petition for Special Circumstance form and applicable documentation. Petition forms are available on our website under Forms & Resources.

For questions regarding emergency grants or other funding-related questions, please contact our office at finaid@btc.edu or call (360) 752-8151.

GET READY FOR OUR SITE VISIT: KNOW YOUR KPIS

BTC's year seven accreditation visit is set to take place in a few short months on **April 27th-29th**. To help prepare, we'll be using this space to review a selection of our campus' Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) each month until our visit. The KPIs were developed by employees and students on campus to evaluate our success in achieving our 2018-23 strategic plan goals, and ultimately, fulfilling the school's mission. In this edition, we'll review our quantitative KPIs related to **student employment**.

KPI 7b. Job Placement measures the percentage of BTC students who leave with a degree, certificate, or 45+ credits and a 2.0 GPA who are employed within 9 months of their last enrollment at BTC. Each year, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) uses unemployment insurance records obtained from the Washington State Employment Security Department to determine how many "completers" (as defined in bold above) gained employment in any field within 9 months of leaving the school. BTC benchmarks its rate against the average of all the community and technical colleges in the state. In 2020-21, BTC set a target of achieving an employment rate 6% above the system average but fell just short, obtaining a rate 4% above the system average (81% at BTC, 77% across the SBCTC system). Still, the rate met BTC's standard/minimum of maintaining a rate at least 3% below the SBCTC system average for this KPI.

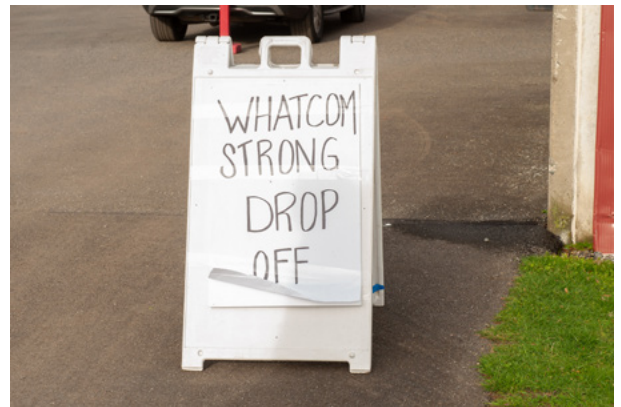
KPI 7c. Workplace Performance measures the percentage of employers who are satisfied with the performance of BTC graduates. Each year, IPA administers a survey to BTC Advisory Committee members asking employers of BTC graduates about graduate workplace performance. IPA then calculates a satisfaction percentage, comprised of the employers who agree or strongly agree that their BTC graduates have the soft skills and technical skills necessary to do their work. **In 2020-21, 96% of respondents indicated satisfaction with the workplace performance of BTC graduates, exceeding the annual target that had been set of 95%. In 2021-22, 90% of respondents indicated satisfaction with the workplace performance of BTC graduates, falling short of the annual target of 95%, but exceeding the standard/minimum of 75%.**

As a reminder, BTC employees can use their network login to find [more detail on each KPI](#) and find the most up to date results for each KPI on the [Key Performance Indicator Dashboard](#). Feel free to contact Diana Knight (dknight@btc.edu) with any additional questions.

VET TECH

The Vet Tech club really wanted to do something to assist with flood relief before going on break so they worked in conjunction with Furhaven (a local pet supply company) to donate 30 beds to Whatcom Strong for flood victims' pets that may have lost theirs in the tragedy. We also facilitated a donation of some Purina Dog food to the Hayburner Project. This group has been working to donate feed and beds to livestock as well as domestic home pets. They distributed it to flood victims in need!

Here is the blog post the Fuhaven wrote about the experience: [FurHaven Cares Donates to Whatcom Strong to Help Flood Victims — Furhaven Pet Products](#)



MARKETING: PROJECT REQUEST UPDATE

The Marketing & Communication department has created a **new Project Request Form**. It is redesigned/branded with additional fields and flows into a data base with improved trackability. You will need to clear the old one out of your cache. We hope you enjoy it. You can find the link to the new form on the intranet under Marketing and Communication as well.

Here is the new **Project Request Form** link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/84888d17ecbd4aba933f9e02158fc9ab>

And here is where you will submit all **Notable News** from now on:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d78cd45219b845d493f04711c049e527>

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we're getting to know **Danielle Humphreys (she/her/hers) at BTC! She is new to BTC and a big part of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion department.**

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

A: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Specialist. Perhaps in the future, "Justice" will be added to my title, so I'll finally become a professional JEDI. May the force be with you.

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

A: I love to grow, cook and eat food, and spent two years working on a diverse farm in Everson, so my happy place is going out to eat, trying new recipes, and seeing what magic happens in my garden. I built a hoop house last year and start everything from seed from my massive seed collection! My goal is to successfully grow Okinawan goya (bitter melon) this year. I'm reconnecting with my Indigenous Okinawan (Shimanchu) roots, and am trying to learn some of the Uchinanchu language which is endangered.

Other things I enjoy are sauntering through nature and noticing beauty around me. (I took on mushroom foraging during the pandemic). I love the mountains but would choose the sea if I had to pick. You might also find me building or crafting things, playing board games or video games with my 3 kids, or at a Brandi Carlile concert at the Gorge (if it's safe, with the pandemic and all).

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

A: My co-parent and I built a yurt on a pig/barley farm, and our family lived there, off-grid (no running water or electricity) for a whole year, which included the devastating Solstice Eve Windstorm of 2018. We didn't know what we were doing. The roof blew off a few times that winter. A million ladybugs joined us in the summer. The kids had to scramble up a climbing wall to get to their loft room. It was a gritty, introspective, intense time of connection to the land, dotted with the most amazing sunsets. The kids still miss it.

Ah, here's a good one: I've been paid (more than once) to have someone eat peanut butter out of my armpit. Have fun figuring this out! You'll have to read through the end.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: Buster is my friendly little rescue mutt with a big bark and a fierce underbite. Jace is the big English Cream Retriever who loves to play ball and thinks he's a fish, and Morgan is the inherited old cat that my daughter loves. So, he stays, for now. We have always had chickens, but our new HOA won't allow them here. Someday, I'd love to have both chickens and a few mini Nubian goats on a homestead.

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

A: Food: Sticky rice! Because it goes with fish, seaweed, coconut milk, and other things I imagine I'd find on an island!! Book: Learning to Walk in the Dark, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Movie: The Life Aquatic.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I was the first in my family to complete a degree in higher education and have a B.S. in Aquatic Biology, and an M.A. in Theology. I was a youth pastor for about 20 years, which included all manner of silly camp skits and games (remember the peanut butter?). In more recent years, I've embraced a more expansive spirituality and became certified as a Spiritual Director through a program which centers social justice and liberation traditions. I identify as a bi-racial, cis-gender lesbian and have a beautiful, non-traditional family. I'm an extroverted introvert with a penchant for puns and bad dad jokes.

