

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

## PRESIDENT'S SHOUT-OUT



We have been talking about this on campus for some time and the conversation has recently become more timely. So, here's a summative statement on accreditation from our accrediting body, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU):

*Accreditation is a process of recognizing educational institutions for performance, integrity, and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public. In the United States this recognition is extended largely through nongovernmental, voluntary membership associations that establish accreditation criteria, evaluate institutions against that criteria, and approve institutions that meet the criteria.*

*Institutions accredited by the NWCCU are required to examine their own missions, goals, operations, and achievements. The Commission then provides expert analysis by peer evaluators, commendations for accomplishments, and recommendations for improvement from the accrediting body. Since the accreditation status of an institution is reviewed periodically, institutions are encouraged toward continued self-study and improvement.*

As part of our participation in this accreditation process, BTC's Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness report and all supplemental materials have been submitted to NWCCU in preparation for a (virtual) site visit April 27 through April 29, 2022. This report and the subsequent visit represent the culmination of a long-term, ongoing process of self-assessment that has touched all areas of campus, but the coordination, oversight, and heavy lifting has been done by the Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC), one of the eight governance committees in BTC's participatory governance model.

Kudos to our dedicated ASC membership: **Andrea Olah, Caren Kongshaug, Matt Ziels, Mike Massey, Tiffany Schuman, Curtis Perera, Traci Taylor, Brijean Richardson, Joanna Baxley, John Palmer, Tracy Weber, and Ashley Harrison.** Special thanks to **Diana Knight** for her data and research work and to **Damien Carlson-Prandini** for administrative support. **Susan Parker** took the lead in turning all our ideas and observations into exceptional prose, and co-chairs **Melisa "Icebreaker" Nelson** and **Raelyn Axlund-McBride** kept the committee on track to readiness for this moment.

Thanks to the work of ASC and the involvements of all of our campus community, I am looking forward to a successful and valuable accreditation visit.



## ACCREDITATION NEWS

Our (virtual) year seven site visit from NWCCU will take place this spring quarter, from April 27-29. In order to keep everyone on track for this important event, the Accreditation Steering Committee has reached out to various campus constituency groups and committees to schedule **short informational presentations**, as well as arranging for some drop-in sessions for anyone to join. While some groups have met already, here's the list of outstanding events:

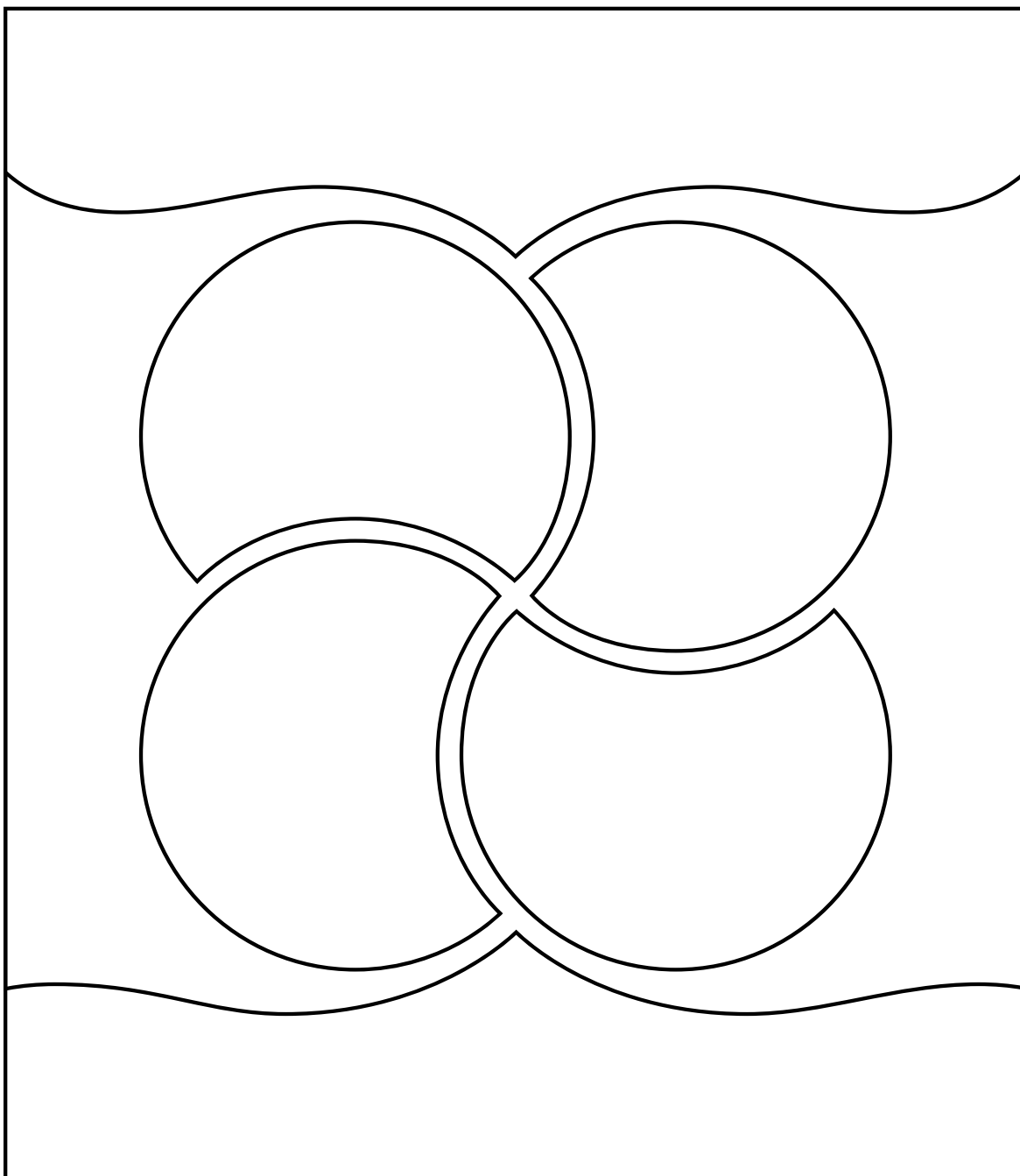
- **Facilities Planning Meeting** – Thursday, March 17
- **ASB Execs** – Tuesday, March 22
- **Exempt Consortium** – Thursday, March 24
- **All Student Services** – Friday, March 25
- **Drop-in Session** – Tuesday, April 12 @ 11 am
- **Drop-in Session** – Thursday, April 14 @ 3 pm
- **Drop-in Session** – Wednesday, April 20 @ 11 am

If your campus group would like a visit from the ASC, please contact Susan Parker [sparker@btc.edu](mailto:sparker@btc.edu) to make arrangements.

## COLORING CONTEST

To help you prepare for our accreditation visit and for a chance to win a prize, here's the **BTC Strategic Plan Coloring Contest!** Below is the schematic for the BTS Strategic Plan poster. Simply print this off and complete it in manner that represents your role in fulfilling BTC's mission. Use whatever colors you want to express your particular contribution; reword the four Themes to illustrate your perspective; add details on Goals or use illustrations instead – do anything you want that will engage with the mission.

Once your masterpiece is finished, take a photo or scan it and send it to [accreditation@btc.edu](mailto:accreditation@btc.edu) by April 1. Winners will be announced in the April Notable News!



## STUDENT LIFE & ASBTC

The Associated Students of Bellingham Technical College (ASBTC) have been really active this past Month. Here are some great events participate in and learn about.

### Blood Drive

The local and national blood supply has hit emergency levels. There is a critical need for blood donors in the weeks ahead. ASBTC is encouraging campus members to schedule a lifesaving blood donation at a place and time convenient for you. The local blood collection agency, Bloodworks Northwest, has an office in Bellingham and will be hosting several popup blood collection sites in Whatcom and Skagit in March and throughout the Spring quarter. If you donate blood in March or into the Spring quarter, tell the Bloodworks NW staff that BTC sent you!

For information about donating blood or to schedule a blood donation, visit [bloodworksnw.org](http://bloodworksnw.org)

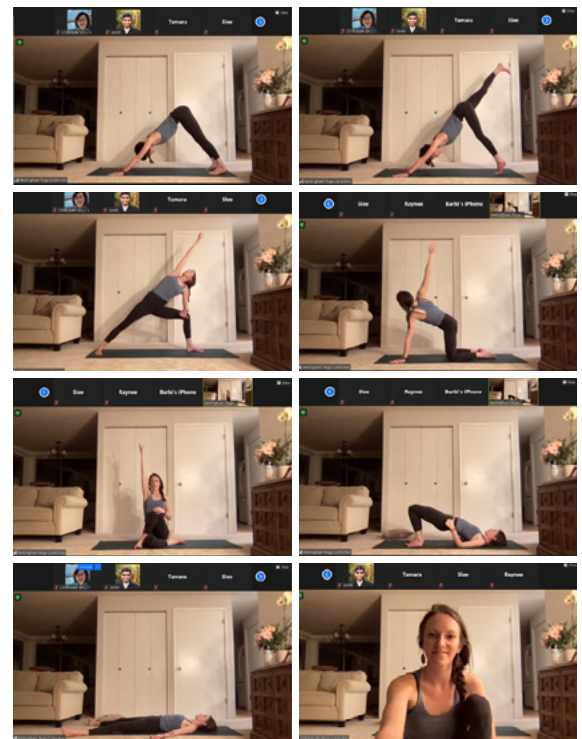
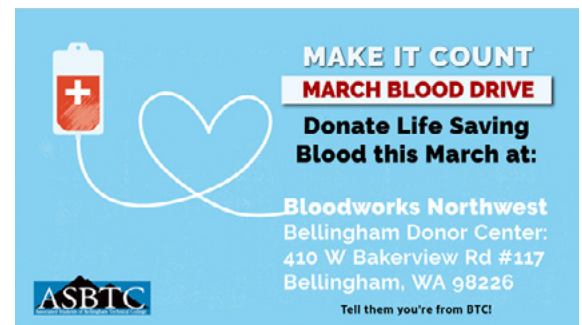
### Yoga

BTC partnered with local yoga studio, Bellingham Yoga Collective, to facilitate an all-levels yoga class through Zoom. Led by Jenna Darfler, students performed static and dynamic poses to release tension throughout the body.

To learn more about classes offered by Bellingham Yoga Collective, visit [bellinghamyogacollective.com](http://bellinghamyogacollective.com)

### Switchboard Games

ASBTC has partnered with Walla Walla Community College, Edmonds Community College, Yakima Valley Community College, and Tacoma Community College to provide some fun and entertainment, while getting to know students at our own college and students at other colleges. We meet every three weeks to play different games, such as Game Shows, Trivia, Bingo, and more. These games are hosted by Switchboard Games.



## PACCAR DONATION

PACCAR technical research center in Mt. Vernon, WA has donated a new Kenworth T880 cab to the Diesel Technology program for use in training. They are also working to support the internship model and hope to partner with BTC more in the future.



 HOSTED BY: SWITCHBOARD GAMES	<b>FUN EVENTS</b> SELECT WEDS. 5:00-6:15 PM ON ZOOM	
<b>INCLUDES</b> VARIOUS ROUNDS OF UNIQUE FUN FRIENDLY AND FUNNY HOST		<b>BENEFITS</b> EASILY MEET OTHER STUDENTS NEW TYPE OF FUN AT EACH EVENT
	<b>DATES</b> 2/02 GAME SHOWS 2/23 CREATIVE FUN 3/09 GAME NIGHT 4/06 SOCIAL BINGO 4/27 GAME NIGHT 5/18 GAME SHOWS	

## DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

### はいさい Haisai (Hello) Campus Community!

As part of Disability Awareness Month, DEI and Accessibility Resources hosted a virtual watch party of the Academy Award Nominated Film, CODA, on Friday, March 11th. As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults), the main character, Ruby is the only hearing person in her family. When the family's fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music by wanting to go to Berklee College of Music and her fear of abandoning her parents (Click here to [see the trailer!](#)).



Those who attended had a robust conversation about the ways in which ableism shows up in everyday life, the unique experience and challenges of able-bodied folks who have disabled family members, and the role of teachers and other community supports in helping create a more inclusive community.

Creating opportunities through the shared experience of media such as this heartfelt story is a great launching point for conversations around inclusion, class, gender and more!

### COMING UP!

#### DEI Video/Reading Group: Wednesday, March 23, 11:15-12pm



To continue our learning around disability and DEI, please join us for our next DEI Video/Reading Group with Accessibility Resources who will help facilitate a conversation about the rock climbing group, ["The Gimp Monkeys"](#) and the ways that challenging what we think we know about disability opens up possibilities. Click here for the [Zoom link](#), or check your calendar invitation!

For further learning, we also greatly urge people to watch:

- TED Talk with Stella Young, [Ted Talk with Stella Young: Stella Young: I'm not your inspiration, thank you very much](#)
- Interview with the Gimp Monkeys: [Gimp Monkeys in Interview - Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2013](#)

하나 Hannah, Danielle, and Mary

### All-Gender Bathroom Update:

The DEI Committee, Marketing and Facilities are excited to announce the progress on our all-gender bathrooms project. Below is a list of all of the single occupancy bathrooms that now have our updated all-gender bathroom signage. The all-gender bathrooms project is a step toward access and inclusivity for all students, employees and visitors and provides a safe option for transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming individuals. We are currently working on completing our goal of transitioning selected multi-stall bathrooms to be all-gender restrooms. Please come to our campus forum later in Spring Quarter or at the faculty meeting to help us continue this genderful work!

Building	Room	Building	Room
Campus Center (CC)	CC136	Morse Center (MC)	MC113
Campus Center (CC)	CC137	Perry Center (PC)	PC102
Campus Center (CC)	CC228C	Perry Center (PC)	PC103
H-Building (H)	H23D	Perry Center (PC)	PC201
J-Building (J)	J8B	Perry Center (PC)	PC202
K-Building (K)	K1D		

### Diversity Equity and Inclusion Resources from BTC's Library

The BTC Library has two Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Collections in [OneSearch](#), the library's online catalog. The [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Collection](#) contains 209 physical books and videos that are available in the Library for you to check out. If you can't make it to campus, we also have the [DEI eBook Collection](#) that contains 2,814 eBooks. To access and search these collections, select [Collection Discovery](#) in the top navigation menu in OneSearch.

## GET READY FOR OUR SITE VISIT: KNOW YOUR KPIS

BTC's year seven accreditation visit is set to take place virtually in just over a month on **April 27th-29th**. We'll continue to use 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 **transition, retention, and completion**.

**KPI 4a measures the percentage of students who transition from Transitional Studies coursework to any college-level coursework within 2 years (8 quarters).** Transitional Studies includes Adult Basic Education (ABE), Advanced English Language Acquisition (ELA), GED Prep, High School Completion, and IMPACT! courses. To count as a transition, students must complete at least one college-level course with a C or better. **In 2020-21, 24% of students enrolled in Transitional Studies successfully transitioned to college-level coursework within two years, exceeding the annual target of 23%.**

**KPI 4b measures the percentage of students who transition from developmental education coursework to college-level coursework within 2 years (8 quarters).** Developmental education courses at BTC include Math 90, 98, and 99, English 92, and Reading 85. To count as a transition, students must complete at least one college course in the same subject (Math or English) with a C or better. **In 2020-21, 45% of students enrolled in developmental education coursework successfully transitioned to college-level coursework within two years, exceeding the annual target of 42%.**

**KPI 4c measures the percentage of students who transition from their first college-level course as an early program student to core program coursework within 2 years (8 quarters).** Early program students are students who are enrolled in general education courses and have not begun taking courses specific to a program (e.g., an Engineering student who is taking a Math course and has not yet taken any Engineering courses). Core program students are students who are enrolled in courses specific to a program (e.g., an Engineering student enrolled in Engineering courses). To count as a transition, students must complete at least one program-specific course with a C or better. **In 2020-21, 35% of students successfully transitioned from their first college-level course to core program coursework within two years, which failed to meet BTC's standard of 37%.**

**KPI 5 measures fall-to-fall retention rates among both new and returning award-seeking students.** Students are considered retained if they either re-enroll in the following fall or receive a credential at any time between the two fall quarters. **In 2020-21, 64% of award-seeking students were retained from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021, which fell slightly below BTC's standard of 65%.**

**KPI 6 measures the percentage of students who complete a certificate or degree within 3 years (12 quarters) of first becoming a core program student.** Students complete if they earn any credential (excluding short certificates) within that three-year period – it is not necessary for the award to match their original program of enrollment. **In 2020-21, 60% of students completed a degree or certificate within three years of first becoming a core program student, exceeding the annual target of 56%.**

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

## REGGIES CAUGHT DRINKING ON THE JOB

Now that we have your attention, Registration is challenging you to drink your way to better health! All you need is a bottle, 64 oz of water, and a drinking buddy (drinking is a lot more fun with a friend). Did you know that drinking water is great for maintaining hydration and helps improve the function of your heart, brain and muscles? It also increases energy and relieves fatigue, promotes weight loss, flushes out toxins, improves skin complexion, and maintains regularity.

So, what are you waiting for ... **grab some water and get to drinking!**



## PURCHASING UPDATES

As out there as it sounds, year-end purchasing deadlines are coming up soon. Keep your eye out for emails that contain pertinent purchasing cut-off dates and information. With the conversion to ctCLink, we are navigating new processes for year end in the Business Office and thank you in advance for your adherence to these deadlines.

Need help with a purchase requisition? Stuck on a transaction while reallocating your PCARD? Have questions about a contract you are working on? There's somewhere you can go to get the help you need!

Purchasing drop-in hours: Tuesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 pm during spring quarter through June 14, 2022. Hours will be updated if there are any changes and posted to the [Purchasing SharePoint site](#), where you can also find the Zoom meeting ID and a direct link.

### Contracts Have Moved to SharePoint

Did you know there was a [Contracts SharePoint site](#)? The site previously held only the contract routing process and related form. It recently underwent some renovations and is now your one-stop shop for all things contracts here at BTC. Contracts are no longer placed on the P Drive, they are all housed on SharePoint. You will also find the links to the Contract Tracking Log and the Contract Access Database.

Take a minute or two to head on over to the [Contracts SharePoint site](#) and take a look around. If you are looking for something specific and cannot find it, please reach out to me at [mnelson@btc.edu](mailto:mnelson@btc.edu) and I will help you find it.

## INSTRUCTIONS - FISHERIES

After solving a low flow issue from a clogged intake pipe, the students got straight to work with ponding our Chinook. These Chinook will be released later this spring at a larger size (and adipose fin clipped) to help support our local fisheries and ecosystems. Great job to all the students for their attentive husbandry skills during the winter incubations!

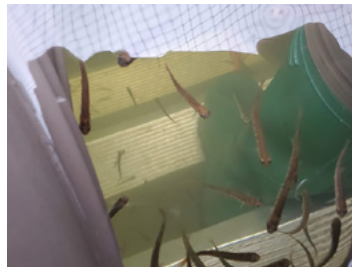
### Videos from Chinook Ponding

<https://www.facebook.com/BTCFisheriesAquaculture/videos/pcb.945965106063569/1556079194763499>

<https://www.facebook.com/BTCFisheriesAquaculture/videos/pcb.945965106063569/308479171146319>

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<https://www.facebook.com/BTCFisheriesAquaculture/videos/pcb.945965106063569/304184548360034>



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we're getting to know **하나 Hannah (소희 Soo-Hee) Simonetti, BTC's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion..**

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

A: Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Danielle took the JEDI Star Wars joke during her notable news so I'll go Dr. Who and hope that my future title will be Stormageddon Dark Lord of All.

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

A: I love to read, bake, and play with my kiddos (Jinora 4 and Katara 1.5). Before I had young children I read 100 books a year. I am a really, really big fan of young adult fiction (YA) and love to talk YA with others! I am a Korean Transnational Adoptee and am working really hard on learning Korean and decolonizing my mind by working toward reclaiming Korean culture in my life and my children's lives! Which means when I consume media I consume a lot of Korean Dramas, movies, and music!

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

A: I wrote my Masters Thesis on Korean Adoptee identity development through tattooing! I really love tattooing as an art and to hear peoples tattoo stories. I have several tattoos, the first one I ever received was at age 18 on my foot and it says "Made in Korea". I see it as one of the first steps I took towards acknowledging my own racial and ethnic identity.

**Q: Any pets or pet plans?**

A: I have a dog named Wicket Doodlebutt (Wicket or doodle for short) who is a blue merle mini Aussie! She loves to play Frisbee and would play until she drops! And is absolutely named after Wicket the Ewok from Star Wars!

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

A: **Food:** potatoes, not only are they a comprehensive food that humans can live off of but you can grow potatoes from sprouted potatoes!

**Book:** War and Peace; it's really, really, long, and I kept trying to get through it but couldn't, and I suppose the only place that might get me through war and peas is a desert island and if not I will have a lot more fuel to burn when I still fail to read it! Or How to Build a Boat.

**Movie:** First... can we watch a movie on a desert island? This is a pretty great desert island if I can watch a movie! I'm also going to choose a K-Drama not a movie sorry! Itaewon Class.

**Q: Anything else we should know about you?**

A: I am a geek at heart, I named my kiddos after a cartoon, and I am happy to talk geek with anyone at any time! I believe the best education I received in my college career was from the folks who do student services, not in my classroom, which has driven my passion for working in higher education. I am a Transnational (cross nation) Transracial (different racial identity then my family) adoptee from South Korea. I identify as a woman with a disability, I have ADHD and a chronic pain disorder. My identities inform the work I do and I am growing every day, making mistakes and always learning more!



## CHILD & FAMILY STUDIES – A NONNA AT LAST

After over 34 years of wonderful employment at BTC, I, Ann Marie Read, will be retiring at the end of winter quarter. I will really miss working with families but I think the timing is right. My oldest son and his wife are due with their first child (a boy) in early June. I will be a nonna (Italian for grandmother) at last! And they live a 40-minute walk from our house! I picture myself with the stroller walking through Whatcom Falls Park between our houses!

And our middle son will be getting married to his lovely long-time girlfriend in a traditional Hindu ceremony in India this October. I will even be wearing a sari! So much to look forward to!