



Bellingham Technical College

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Media Contact:

Zoe Fraley, Director of Communications

Phone: 360.752.8325 Email: zfraley@btc.edu

For Immediate Release

BTC FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE SCIENCES PROGRAM GETS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AT ACCT LEADERSHIP CONGRESS THIS FALL

Bellingham, WA — Bellingham Technical College has been selected to present about the collaborative, community-connected work of the school's Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program at the 2023 Association of Community College Trustees 2023 Leadership Congress this October.

BTC President James Lemerond, BTC Trustee Bradley Smith, Dean Matthew Santos and Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences Instructor Brittany Palm will present "Feeding Knowledge, the Economy, and the Planet" at the conference, which will run from Oct. 9-12 in Las Vegas.

The BTC team will discuss the college's work with tribal and state partners to expand the production of the program's student-run salmon hatchery to meet community demand for an increased skilled workforce in fisheries and aquaculture fields. With updated curriculum and expanded community partnerships, the college started a new program to release 500,000 Chinook salmon annually to support tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries, and an endangered whale population. BTC is Washington state's only two-year college to run a fully operational salmon hatchery; graduates from the program are employed statewide and along the West Coast to help our nation grow sustainable and healthy seafood.

"BTC's relationships with industry, our community, and state and tribal governments are part of what make our programs so valuable for our students," Dr. Lemerond says. "What we teach at BTC doesn't happen in a vacuum. Every class is informed by the needs of our community, industry and economy to ensure that our students will have the skills and training they need to succeed in their careers and be vital members of our community when they graduate. The work in our Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program has been a tremendous example of the power of this collaboration."

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College provides student-centered, high-quality professional technical education for today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities. Accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, BTC offers more than 50 associate degree, over 30 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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