



PRESIDENT'S SHOUT-OUT

A shout-out is a short public acknowledgement of someone or something, especially by name. It's usually to recognize someone in appreciation of them or something they did. Shout-outs are typically given in a public setting, such as on the radio, during a live performance, or on social media. Shout-out is informal.

BTC Supports Community with Large-Scale Vaccine clinic. Recognition to BTC's Campus Community!

As my earlier email announced, I am very proud that BTC is able to step forward and offer integral support for our community by housing a large-scale vaccine clinic starting in March. Our college's ability to do this is completely due to the willingness and initiative of our campus Allied Health programs, the Facilities Team, our Emergency Management Team, the Business Administration Team, Marketing & Communication, and all the frontline team members collaborating for the common good of our community.

I want to recognize everyone at BTC who participated in this challenging effort – we are living up to our reputation of being a nimble and responsive technical college for the area, and our effort to help our community recover from a global health pandemic is a historic moment.

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | FEBRUARY 2021
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES: FOCUS ON CHILDREN 2021

On Saturday, February 6, BTC's Child & Family Studies program hosted their 37th annual Focus on Children conference as planned - but virtually. This conference provides high-quality professional development to early learning professionals around the state. The conference is typically held on BTC's campus in Settlemyer Hall, but due to the pandemic, this year's conference was held virtually via Zoom. We hosted over 100 attendees, 17 presenters, and 13 workshops. The keynote address, *Cultivating Compassion in our Community and Ourselves*, was given by Maryam Abdullah, PHD., of the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley.

Pulling off a large-scale conference remotely took some quick adaptive footwork. The conference was coordinated by Jen Knudsen, Program Manager for the Child & Family Studies Program and Heide Willbrandt, Program Office Coordinator. Special thanks to Melissa Mejia, Curtis Perera, Craig Perry-Ollila, Bernard Salvatierra, Bonita Chiono, Marina Polishuk, Sebastian Schoelss, and Marni Saling Mayer for all of their help with this event. Sponsors for this event included BTC, the Opportunity Council, the PNW Chapter of the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC), and the Whatcom Early Learning Alliance.

This year's conference was a great success, and we are hoping to be back in person in 2022!

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Where there's a will, there's a way!

This story is a testament to our faculty's creative ways of finding solutions. John Palmer, Automotive Technology, along with the help of Gary Patterson in Welding, and Andrew Riggs, Auto Collision collaborated to build a second engine test bench for their trainer engines. It began last quarter with John completely gutting a car and Gary welding up a frame. Then this quarter it got paint and all the necessary wiring and components installed on it. This was something that Auto Tech desperately needed to alleviate a pinch point during the engine disassembly and rebuilding course. **Check it out online:**

<https://youtu.be/Y6l3EzLbEGI>



STUDENT LIFE/ASBTC CORNER

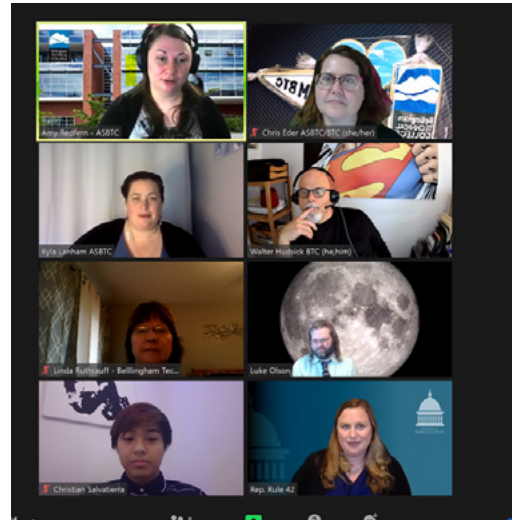
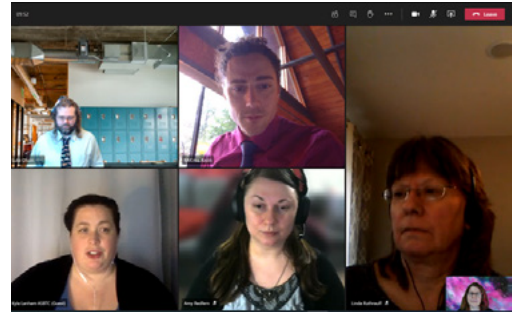
The first week of February was CTC Advocacy Week! BTC's ASBTC Executives met with our local legislators and advocated for increasing college affordability and financial assistance for CTC students; increasing resources for mental health counseling; and expanding the Working Connections Child Care program. We met with Senator Liz Lovelett's staff and with Representative Alicia Rule. It was a whole new world to participate in advocacy work remotely, but we still made connections, supported BTC students, and strengthened our relationships with our local legislators. BTC Interim President Walter Hudsick also attended our meeting with Representative Alicia Rule.

Thanks to those who attended Senator Liz Lovelett's staff meeting:

Luke Olson, ASBTC President
Kyla Lanham, ASBTC Director of Communications
Amy Redfern, ASBTC Director of Administrative Affairs
Linda Ruthrauff, ASBTC Program Office Assistant
Chris Eder, Student Life Director
Kevin McCrea, Legislative Aide to Senator Liz Lovelett

Thanks to those who attended Representative Alicia's Rule meeting:

Luke Olson, ASBTC President
Kyla Lanham, ASBTC Director of Communications
Amy Redfern, ASBTC Director of Administrative Affairs
Christian Salvatierra, ASBTC Director of Clubs & Organizations
Linda Ruthrauff, ASBTC Program Office Assistant
Chris Eder, Student Life Director
Walter Hudsick, BTC Interim President and Chief Academic Officer
Representative Alicia Rule, 42nd District



MACHINING PROGRAM

The Precision Machining program building is now 99% complete and holding classes in the new space.

The floor has been repaired and epoxied to a nice light grey, overhead lighting has been replaced with the latest in LED technology, and all machines are powered from a new overhead bus system, which allows for easy modification /addition of machines.

BTC's Machining Instructors (Jacen Johnson, Jeffrey Halfacre and Damon Donner) look forward to inviting visitors to see the newly updated space once we are all back on campus!



WELDING TECHNOLOGY & AUTO COLLISION PROGRAMS

Welding & Fabrication Technology and Automotive Collision Repair Technology programs do good for the community.

BTC's Welding and Auto Collision programs collaborated on a project to create and donate a huge wheelchair to the Lion's Club to help promote their community **Al Boe Wheelchair Warehouse**, a medical equipment lending program that serves both Whatcom and Skagit counties. This program collects donated medical equipment and lends the equipment to anyone in need. BTC's wheelchair is posted outside their warehouse off Maplewood Avenue and helps draw attention to the program and its location. Kudos to both BTC departments!



ALLIED HEALTH

And the grant goes to...our Dental Clinic! BTC's Dental Clinic has recently been awarded a \$200,000 Professional/Technical Program Restart Grant to assist with getting Clinic ready to meet COVID health and safety guidelines and re-opened. The Dental Clinic closed due to COVID-19 in March 2020 of last year and has remained closed to patient care. The grant will be used to ensure that the highest level of safety can be ensured for our students and their patients.

A new Nursing program is coming! The SBCTC approved BTC's RN-BSN Program Proposal on February 4th at the State Board meeting. Our next step is working through the approval process for the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission. This process is underway, and we are planning for a Fall 2022 start for our initial cohort of 30 students.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: DISCOUNT FOR BTC EMPLOYEES!

ALL REGISTRATIONS FROM BTC EMPLOYEES ARE AVAILABLE AT 50% DISCOUNT!

Keep up on your learning with a variety of classes in our Continuing Education portfolio! Did you know that you can obtain training on your own terms and time schedule with our new asynchronous CE classes? BTC's Continuing Education portfolio is ever expanding with classes for both employee and students. There are over 250 new asynchronous classes to choose from—check it out at www.btc.edu/ContinuingEd.

CTC LINK UPDATE

The month of February puts us one month closer to our GO-LIVE date in late October, 2021! Because of your tireless work during 2020's BPFPG period, BTC is on track to switch to PeopleSoft, along with the 7 other colleges that comprise DG5. You have heard it many times before, and you will hear it many times to come: THANK YOU!

The end of February also marks the month when DG4A – Centralia, Edmonds, Highline, Wenatchee – and DG4B – Seattle College District (three colleges) – will go-live with ctclink. We wish them a successful transition to the new system, and look forward to learning more based on their experiences. In order to provided DG4 with a high level of support, the various state Project Teams will be focused solely on DG4 go-live activities for the next several weeks. This provides BTC with the opportunity to focus on SME Canvas training that is typically delivered later in the project schedule.

We are working on a web page which will be coming in March and it will be your one stop shop for everything ctclink!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's fantastic featured employee is **Mina Lebitz, an Anatomy and Physiology Instructor at BTC.**

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

A: I am currently an Anatomy & Physiology Instructor at BTC, and hopefully the future too! I moved to Whatcom County from Brooklyn, NY in July 2019. I lived in Brooklyn my entire life except for college (I moved a whopping 3 hours away, to upstate NY) and grad school (wandered even less far, 45 minutes to New Brunswick, NJ).

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

A: I'm a very physical person and I love to move, particularly dance (freestyle, street dancing). I enjoy defying gravity with (aerial) fabric, lyra, pole, and climbing (so much so that I have my own aerial gym). I also love to hike, which is one of the reasons I am so happy here in Whatcom County. Although I normally wear very comfortable, practical clothing with lots of pockets, when I can make the time, I enjoy sewing (and then wearing) fun and silly costumes. I also watch a lot of standup comedy, live when possible. I'm an insatiable nerd and take any chance I get to learn.

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

A: I regularly write snail mail letters and postcards. I like glamping and have been to Burning Man five times. I love being an aunt to two amazing nieces.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: Most people have never seen (in real life) my very shy cat named Hidey. I live on a farm with a pet cow named Rustina. I am looking forward to having a house (and farm) full of dogs and cats. My goal is to be one of those crazy pet people (but I take excellent care of my animal friends).

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

A: Pizza, Children of Time, and any Taiki Waititi film (although Das Boot would be a close contender).

Q: Feel free to add any other short but sweet items that I didn't ask!

A: My spirit animal is a spider monkey. I am a wackadoodle at heart, I try to find the funny in even the worst situations. I'm an amateur aviator and especially love helicopters (I've got about 150 hours in the Schweizer 300, R22, & R44).



Flying over the North Cascades! Took off from BLI

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Notable News publishes in the third week of each month, aligned with our Board of Trustee meeting schedule. Please send your news and photos by the 9th of every month to msmayer@btc.edu (Marketing Department).

RUMOR OF THE MONTH

Student Financial Services has a member of Airpocalypse (the preeminent Air Guitar group) in its midst.

Almost!

Gabe Fauber placed 3rd in the 2008 Air Guitar Championships in Seattle. He was a walk-on with no planned performance, having heard about the contest that day. After his performance of "Rock You Like A Hurricane" from the Scorpion's 9th album, Love at First Sting, the reigning US champ at the time spoke with him and said he had the "real stuff". A couple of the other guys competing that night decided to form an all-air band called Airpocalypse and asked Gabe if he wanted to join. He did end up turning them down... too bad... <https://agt.fandom.com/wiki/Airpocalypse>. We are happy he is here at BTC!