



BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | MAY 2024
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

JIM'S JOURNAL

Dear Campus Community,

I am excited to recognize that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the BTC Nursing Program. As we reflect on this significant milestone, we honor not only the program's rich history but also its enduring impact on our graduates and the broader community.

It is worth noting that our Nursing Program has a remarkable legacy, predating the establishment of BTC itself. Since its inception seven decades ago, it has been a beacon of excellence, consistently producing highly skilled nurses who play a crucial role in providing quality healthcare to individuals and families in our community.

Over the years, the graduates of our Nursing Program have become synonymous with compassion, dedication, and professionalism. They serve as caregivers, advocates, and leaders, making a profound difference in the lives of people in our community. Their commitment to the well-being of others is a testament to the values instilled by our program.

Moreover, the reputation of the BTC Nursing Program extends beyond our campus borders. It is widely respected in the region for its rigorous curriculum, training facilities, and outstanding faculty, staff and administrators who are leaders in their field. Our graduates are sought after by healthcare institutions, locally and beyond, recognizing the caliber of education they receive at BTC.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary, we also acknowledge the ever-changing landscape of healthcare. Our Nursing Program continues to evolve, adapting to emerging trends, technologies, and healthcare needs. We remain committed to providing our students with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to excel in an increasingly complex and dynamic healthcare environment.

In commemorating 70 years of excellence, let us express our gratitude to all those, past and present, who have contributed to the success of our Nursing Program – faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners. Together, we have built a legacy of excellence that will continue to inspire and empower future generations of nurses for years to come.

Sincerely,

70 YEAR
Anniversary
NURSING PROGRAM 1954-2024

NURSING 70TH ANNIVERSARY

BTC's Nursing program celebrated its 70th anniversary with an event Monday, May 6, in G Building.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate seven decades of nursing education, with attendees including program graduates, community partners, students, Nursing faculty and employees.



DEI NEWS

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our DEI Listening sessions last month! We were thrilled to have so much engagement from both students and employees, with robust participation from approximately 115 students and 48 employees. The report about the findings from these sessions will be completed and shared with the campus community this summer.

Upcoming DEI Events

May:

May is **Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi American Heritage Month**, which uplifts and honors the identities, experiences, histories and cultures of Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi-identified individuals. Resources to learn more: [APIDA reading list from New York Public Library](#), [History of this month](#), [Pew Research Documentary: Being Asian in America](#), [More Reading & Resources via WWU](#).

May is also **Jewish American Heritage Month**, which celebrates the contributions and experiences of Jewish Americans and highlights how America's Jewish communities have shaped and been shaped by the cultural, social, and economic fabric of the United States. Resources to learn more: [A Short History of Jews in the American Labor Movement](#), [Seattle's overlooked Jewish history](#), [Activist ancestors: Reaching towards the Jewish Labour Bund's strategies for cultural organizing](#), [Many American Jews Celebrate Christmas with Chinese Food](#).

Wednesday, May 22, 12-1p.m.:

DEI Module 3 (DEI Certificate) ZOOM

June:

Saturday, June 1, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.:

Whatcom Youth Pride at Bellingham High School ([more info about this event](#))

July:

Sunday, July 7, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.:

Pride IN Bellingham Parade & Festival ([more info about this event](#))

COMBINED FUND DRIVE AWARDS

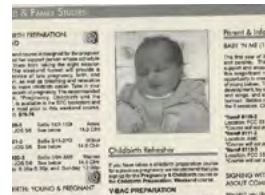
Congratulations BTC Employees! Bellingham Technical College has received two awards from the Combined Fund Drive for the 2023 campaign.

The awards are for the Highest Percentage of Participation by a Community or Technical College and the Highest Number of Volunteer Hours by a Community or Technical College. Thank you all for your generous donations and volunteer time to various charities.



BABY IS ABOUT TO GRADUATE!

Fun Fact: Before Colleen Bell left BTC in 2006, a photo of her baby Audrey was featured in the catalog alongside the childbirth classes. Now that Bell has returned as a Fiscal Technician IV in the business office, her daughter is about to graduate from high school!



TRIO BACK IN ACTION

The TRIO program is back in action and fully staffed! Please send students who meet the eligibility requirements our way. Information can be found on our website: www.btc.edu/trio and on the attached flyer.



BASOPS VOLUNTEER EVENT

BASOPS Instructor Erwin Swetnam, alongside our dedicated team including Lydia, Jacki, Josh, Brian, Ashley, and our invaluable volunteers, came together to tackle a significant challenge on Saturday, May 11.

Together, we managed to clear an impressive 3,840 lbs. of garbage from the homeless encampment situated at the end of Maplewood Road. Surpassing our initial target of 2,000 lbs., this cleanup was a resounding success, made possible by the support of ASBTC, who graciously approved our funding request to facilitate this community initiative.



PROCUREMENT QUESTION AND ALL CALL FOR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

May Question: I have equipment I no longer need. What do I do?

Answer: Let's do a clean out! If you will be off this summer, take a moment to identify equipment you no longer need and submit a [Surplus Equipment and Supplies Form](#) (EXCEPT if it is IT Equipment or fixtures - call ext. 8417 for those) prior to the end of June. Make sure to check for bar code tags and fill out the form completely. If someone on campus has already called dibs on it, you can check the "Reallocate to Another Program/Department" radio button on the form. As a reminder of how this all works you can review the [Donations, Assets, and Surplus](#) processes PowerPoint. Don't forget to put a sticky note or some identifier on the equipment that is being surplused so that Annie and/or Facilities can find it.

Going to be around this summer? You can still do this process; you just have a little more time. We are hoping to have all forms in, and equipment identified, by the end of July.

I still have questions!

For more information about this topic, feel free to email Annie Johnston at ajohnston@btc.edu or Melisa Nelson at mnelson@btc.edu.

EMPLOYEE AWARDS NOMINATIONS & CELEBRATION

As we get ready for the BTC Olympics: Work Together, Play Together **employee celebration on June 12**, don't forget to turn in your nominations for employee awards!

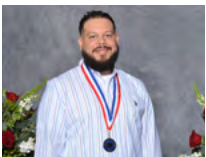
Nomination forms must be completed and returned by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 20, to Tami Willett, Human Resources, either in person or via email.

See your email for nomination forms and award criteria for the BTC Outstanding Performance Award, the BTC Enrichment Award and the Haskell Faculty Excellence Award. Let's recognize our colleagues and celebrate the excellent work that is taking place on BTC's campus!



ALL WA ACADEMIC TEAM

Three of BTC's students were chosen to be on the 2024 All WA Academic Team and were recognized at the 2024 All WA Academic Team ceremony, at South Puget Sound Community College, on April 25, 2024. The All WA Academic Team recognizes high achieving college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and services that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. The national program is sponsored by Cengage, with additional support by the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa. State sponsors include KeyBank, WSECU, Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, and the Washington State Association of College Trustees. BTC's three students were among the 91 students on the 2024 All WA Academic Team. BTC's students are Mitchel Monge Torres, Computer Networking; Josie Acevedo Lara, Radiologic Technology; and Hailey Hill, Radiologic Technology.



Mitchel Monge Torres is finishing a Computer Networking AAS, specializing in Cloud Computing and Computer Programming. He was an electrician for eight years in Puerto Rico, and five years in Washington. Mitchel moved to Washington after he and his family lost everything in Hurricane Maria. After a career-ending injury, Mitchel chose CNET as a new way to provide for his family, and will be graduating from BTC in Spring 2024, with plans to obtain his four-year degree and work in Cyber Security.



Josie Acevedo Lara is a first-generation student, completing her AAS-T in Radiologic Technology from Bellingham Technical College. Josie is a life-long Washingtonian with plans to remain in Washington employed as a Radiologic Technologist, preferably in a hospital setting. Josie loves taking care of others and looks forward to a career providing caring and supportive health care needs to all. Josie is currently the Associated Students of BTC President, and is extremely thankful for scholarship opportunities for students.



Hailey Hill grew up in the Pacific Northwest. Her varied past work experience includes working in a small-town diner, child development, and running her small business. She always wanted a career in a helping field but it wasn't until her mom lost her battle with cancer that Hailey made the choice to go to school for a degree in Radiologic Technology. As a first-generation college student, Hailey is looking forward to graduation in Spring 2024 and beginning her career as a Radiologic Technologist.

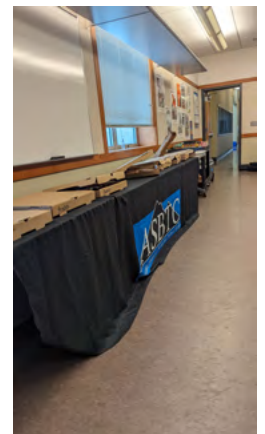
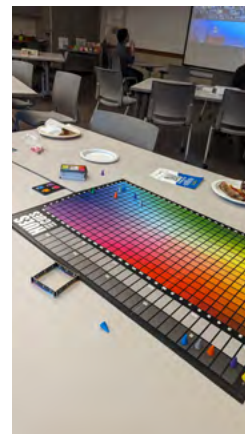
ASBTC CORNER

Game Night

The Game Night and Magic Tournament event was Monday, May 13. We had board games, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, and a Magic Tournament! The tournament was very casual in commander format. Every Magic player got a prize, and board game winners picked up a board game as their prize. We had good times and enjoyed pizza from Fiamma Pizza.

Earth Day

ASBTC hosted an awesome Earth Day event! ASBTC provided plants, terra cotta pots, and snacks to everyone who attended. Students decorated their pots and we saw a lot of creative drawings and designs on the pots. All in all, it was like bringing a bit of nature and yumminess right to our campus, and each tiny plant found a new home with eager students who were thrilled to add a touch of nature to their homes or study spaces.



ASBTC CORNER

Donut Tabling

ASBTC tabled in the Lavender Circle on a gorgeous day in May, and handed out free donuts to students! ASBTC Execs handed out 15 dozen donuts in less than 3 hours. Lots of students stopped by, learned about ASBTC, heard about all the great upcoming events and commencement pickup dates and times, and picked up applications for the 2024-2025 ASBTC Executive Team. We loved seeing so many happy faces and talking to students. The spring events posters are up all-around campus to keep you updated, as well as the commencement ticket pick up posters.



WACTCSA Student Voice Academy

On May 4, two ASBTC Executive Team members participated in the WACTCSA Student Voice Academy at Clover Park Technical College to begin the process to create next year's student Legislative Agenda. Tori Ulm, ASBTC Director of Legislation, and Michael Carnahan, ASBTC Director of Finance, presented BTC's Basic Needs student platform. After all participating colleges presented, students caucused and voted on the platforms and narrowed down to the final three: Housing Insecurity and Affordability, Textbook Affordability and Implementing OERs (Open Educational Resources), and Free Tuition for 2 years in the CTC system. It was an all-day event. Everyone had wonderful questions and the presenters did a wonderful job answering all the questions during caucusing.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Ashley Misanes!**

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

A: I'm the Program Office Coordinator in the Student Life department in Morse Center 220.

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

A: I find solace in capturing the breathtaking landscapes of the Pacific Northwest through my photography. Another hobby is finishing my bachelor's in Operations Management at BTC.

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

A: Growing up in a bustling household with four siblings, I've become accustomed to the lively, spirited, and sometimes chaotic atmosphere.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: I have two cats Rajah and Bandit and two 14-week chihuahua and multipoo babies named Daisy and Magnolia.

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

A: For sustenance, I'd opt for the versatile and delicious potato. My literary choice would be anything from National Geographic's Wild Kingdom series to immerse myself in the wonders of nature. As for a movie, I'd bring The Book of Eli.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: I'm always eager to connect and engage with animals and nature, whether it's photography or snuggling my fur babies.

