

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | DECEMBER 2020  
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

I am proud to share that BTC Dental Hygiene program student Tamara Holmes was nominated for a Washington State Association of College Trustees (ACT) Transforming Lives Award by the BTC Board of Trustees. Dr. Bradley Smith wrote a letter of support that was included with Tamara's personal statement. The ACT created the Transforming Lives Awards program in 2012 to recognize current or former students whose lives have been transformed by pursuing higher education at a community or technical college. Each of the college districts' Boards of Trustees selects an awardee from among its current and former student body. From among the 34 students chosen across Washington State, the ACT Awards Committee selected six awardees to serve as keynote speakers at the February 17, 2020, Transforming Lives Awards dinner. All nominees will receive a \$200 award from ACT.



Tamara showed immense initiative and perseverance as she worked to attain her degrees after immigrating from Russia only 5 years ago, learning medical terminology while learning English and assimilating to a new country. She is an inspiration to us all by illustrating how tenacity and use of BTC's resources, such as tutoring and [TRIO](#), can help a student succeed. We applaud her efforts.

If you would like to [read more](#) follow the [Transforming Lives Awards story](#).

## GEORGIAN PASTURES

As many of you may be aware, I am coming up on the last two weeks of my tenure here at BTC. My retirement from BTC officially starts December 31, 2020 at midnight—which will make for a wild New Years Eve! I will be in Georgia at our new farm house celebrating with my husband Ellis, and our 7 dogs and 3 cats. I am looking forward to having more time to cherish my family and pets and ride out the rest of the pandemic on our 4 acre soon-to-be hobby farm. Who knows what we will hatch up, as neither of us stay still for long!!

I wish you all a fond farewell, and I know you will do well with Walter Hudsick, Interim President, at the helm.

*Kimberly Perry*

## IN RECOGNITION

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Earlier this year, Ann Marie Read, BTC's long-time Child and Family educator (serving over 30 years at BTC) was nominated for the Whatcom Family and Community Network's Community Builder Award. Ann Marie was not only chosen as an honoree, but also as the sole recipient of the Geof Morgan Legacy Award. Here is a description of what this award represents:

*"Each year, the Ken Gass Community Building Awards recognizes a diverse and outstanding group of individuals, businesses, and organizations for increasing community caring, empowerment, and connections that improve the lives of children, youth, and families. It honors individuals and groups who show evidence of skills, talents, interests and passions that result in leveraged resources to increase community planning; increased access to services for children and families, increased connection among community members at the local level, and bringing together residents to collectively improve their local community. You reflect our community's highest values and deepest commitment to the well-being of all members of the community."*



**Profile:** Ann Marie Read has a background as a pediatric emergency nurse. She graduated from UW School of Nursing and worked at Seattle Children's Hospital for many years in the emergency department. She has also worked in a pediatric Intensive Care Unit (ICU), neonatal ICU, pediatric floor and pediatrician's office in Oregon. After moving to Bellingham, Ann Marie worked in the adult ER. She found she really missed working with children and families, and began teaching an infant and parent class one night a week through BTC. That was back in 1988! Ann Marie did clinical nursing and teaching for a long time. She now focuses on teaching, spending about half of her time in the Child and Family Studies department. She also teaches some allied health classes, including Diseases of the Human Body, Medical Terminology, CPR, and Health, Safety, and Nutrition for Young Children. She is married, with three grown sons and three black cats.

## ACCREDITATION STEERING COMMITTEE (ASC)

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BTC is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities (NWCCU). Maintaining this accreditation is what allows BTC to, among other things, offer Federal financial aid to students and apply for Federal grants and other funding. It also enables our students to transfer credits to other institutions. The Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) is a long-standing governance committee that guides BTC's self-assessment and reporting processes related to accreditation. This year, ASC welcomes a new co-chair, Melisa Nelson (Procurement & Contract Coordinator); and four new committee members, Joanna Baxley (Accessibility Resources & TRIO Program Office Assistant), Kristina Daeley (ASBTC Director of Legislation), Matthew Ziels (Instrumentation & Control Technology faculty member), and Tracy Weber (Central Curriculum & Schedule Coordinator). Thank you, Joanna, Kristina, Matthew, Melisa and Tracy!



BTC is nearing the end of its current seven-year accreditation cycle and the ASC is currently preparing two final reports for NWCCU review:

- **The Year 6 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR)** report will be due in September 2021, and will be used to assess our compliance with NWCCU policy, regulation, and financial review standards. This winter, ASC members will be reaching out to specific employees and our campus in general to help further develop BTC's Year 6 report.
- **The Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE)** report will be due in March 2022, and will include a peer evaluator visit in Spring 2022. These peers will use our Year 7 report and talk to employee and student groups to help assess BTC's educational quality, institutional effectiveness and improvements, and how well BTC is fulfilling its mission. Stay tuned!

## FACILITIES

Facilities has been busy these last two months.

**Facilities** recently got an emergency repair call from Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences. After years of faithful service down at Perry Center, the raft supporting the hatchery water pump failed and the 200-pound pump sank to the bottom of the 15' deep "Pond 0".

**Have no fear!** The dynamic duo of Todd Saulsbury (Maintenance Lead) and Gary Patterson (Welding/Autobody Instructional Tech) were dispatched and quickly assessed the situation. They retrieved the pump (working alongside the new Fisheries "Tug-of-War" team) and then utilized their creative skill sets to install a removable hoist to make future pump and raft maintenance work easier and safer. Thanks, Todd and Gary, for saving the day...again!

**BTC's facilities team** is responsible for most of the building and grounds development and maintenance work that we enjoy - but we may not realize how much work goes into these improvement efforts. This Fall quarter has been one for the history books with COVID-19 and all the herculean efforts that teams are doing across campus to serve our students (or as Walter puts it, "heavy lifts"). Your Facilities teams have been a critical part of this effort. Here are just a few of the examples of work being done that you may notice when visiting campus or "Zooming" around.

**Custodial crew** (practicing social distancing and mask wearing) consistently work to wipe down and clean daily the regular touchpoints throughout campus that get used by people on campus. Whether it's the handrails, door handles, restroom cleaning, or even watering the plants in A Building's "garden oasis," the team is here and has your collective back.

**Our Grounds crew** never know what they'll find around campus when they report to campus after the weekend. Their treasures have included increased "garbage drops" from the public or even the occasional tree limb falling. There is always something to clear off, or departments to support in moving fixtures like the upcoming re-carpeting efforts around campus. If you are in the neighborhood, enjoying the park perhaps, please walk through campus and enjoy BTC's well-maintained grounds, which help keep everyone smiling.

**The maintenance crew** has continued working behind-the-scenes as they always do, including checking power and lighting, or heating/cooling in classrooms or offices. Systems still need to run and equipment to function for us to keep working with our students successfully during the pandemic. For example, when PSE scheduled a power outage to the neighborhood for some power pole maintenance, it was Todd and his crew that coordinated a temporary generator that could keep the CISS server room operating so that most of us could keep working remotely.

**And then there are the efforts of Annie Johnston**, who keeps our mail flowing and the incoming and outgoing packages moving around campus and around the world (don't ask her about international UPS packages...what an experience!). Of course, Wendy Reidy, while working remotely, continues to keep our p-card receipts, requisitions, Prevailing Wage documentation, and other administrative processes working smoothly. Without her, BTC's Business Office would have to audit many of us all the time!

We also have a number of construction-related projects going on, including updating flooring in A, J, and C Buildings, which can be done more easily now that we have less people on campus. These projects wouldn't be happening without the likes of Jake Fowler and his "enterprising" abilities. BTC's ability to sell surplus materials has really been improved with his retailing abilities, as well.

**All in all, things are good on campus and Facilities looks forward to everyone's...eventual... return!**  
**Facilities, please take care, be safe, and continue being awesome!**



## STUDENT LIFE & ASBTC

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ASBTC Executives will continue doing Snack Patrol to continue to reinforce safe, social distancing practices during the lunch hour during winter quarter. ASBTC Execs will be doing Snack Patrols from 11am to noon, Tuesday through Thursdays on campus. Find the Execs at the top of the parking lot stairs, say hello to a friendly masked face, and grab a snack! Thanks everybody for keeping safe.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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This month's employee spotlight is shining on **Annie Johnston**.

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

A: My title has been Hospitality Services Associate for 25 years. In January I moved to Common Grounds Coffee Shop as lead barista for two and a half months, BC (before COVID-19), and now my current temporary position is Warehouse Worker. I hope to be back in the coffee shop when life as we once knew it goes back to normal.

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

A: I sing with two local choral groups: Lynden Choral Society, with whom I have sung Handel's Messiah for the past 25 years, and Bellingham Community Chorus. Their motto is "We sing for fun."

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

A: I completed the BTC Culinary Arts program in 1990. At that time it was a one-year program, which was all BTC had to offer back then. We were a part of the Bellingham School District K-12. I was the "poster child" (hence the picture) to promote the BTC Culinary Arts program to high school students and food industry businesses across the state.

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

A: I adopted a wonderful dog named Blue 5 years ago. He was 8 years old, black lab and pit bull, surrendered by his owner, and was scheduled to be put down the next day because he was not adopted in the 20 day time frame. He has brought so much joy and companionship. His hobbies are swimming, going to the dog park and Saturday morning trips to The Bean Stop Coffee for treats (I get an Americano).

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

A: Bellingham's Westside "Death by Pizza" pizza, and the books I would choose are The Stand by Steven King and Gone With the Wind.



### WARM HOLIDAY GREETINGS

This has been a long and trying year for everyone.  
Thank you for your commitment & support throughout.  
On behalf of all of us at Bellingham Technical College,  
we wish you and yours a joyous holiday season  
filled with light and hope.

