

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

BTC community,

In this time of crisis and unknown it is vital that we first and foremost take care of ourselves, our families and chosen families well-being and mental health which then allows us to turn and focus on jobs and other responsibilities. Below I offer you a system by which to process and interpret our current circumstances, with the hope it brings you some relief and understanding.

The Zunin/Myers Phases of Disaster, as adapted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHAS), is a thought-provoking graph which tracks a community's response to a disaster. A large-scale disaster can take many forms, natural (earthquakes, hurricanes, fire, etc.) or human-caused (violence, terrorism, also fire, etc.). The COVID-19 disaster is somewhat unique in that there isn't a single point where we all first were impacted by the virus, and as such our movement along the phases will be different.



Pre-disaster Phase

This is the period of time before a disaster takes place and is characterized by fear and uncertainty. In the case of COVID-19 this would have been prior to the Washington's first confirmed case in late January 2020. This phase is also characterized by feelings of guilt or self-blame for failure to heed warnings, such as the period of time after the outbreak at Lake Washington Institute of Technology in late February.

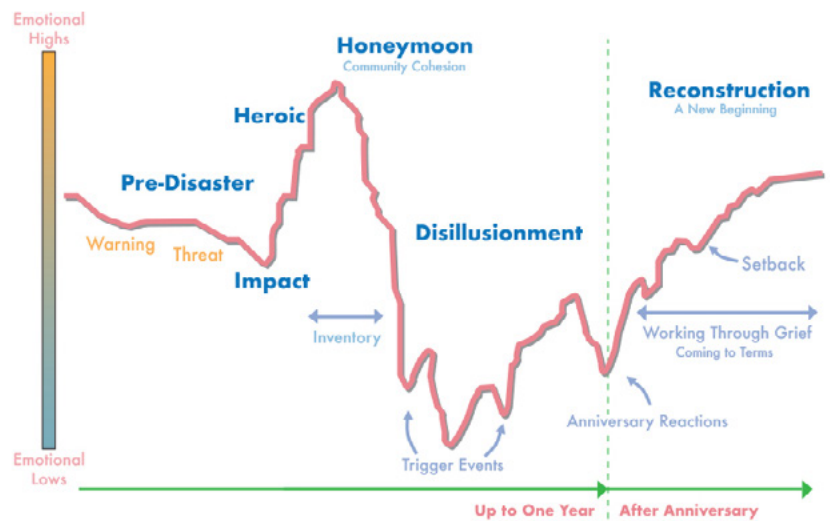
Impact Phase

This is when the disaster takes place with reactions ranging from shock to overt panic. For many, this phase of the pandemic began with the Lake Washington outbreak, or when Whatcom County schools and businesses closed, or when BTC went into remote operations or when you and/or a loved one contracted COVID-19 or when someone close to you died due to the virus. We can all remember those initial feelings of being unnerved as our normal routines drastically changed. Primary concerns are for safety and basic needs for shelter, food, medical care, and in the case of this virus, disinfectant and toilet paper.

Heroic and Honeymoon Phases

During these phases communities come together to help one another. There is a sense of cohesion and relief, along with hope that things will shortly be back to normal. All BTC employees sprang into action to quickly move to remote operations. Some examples include: course schedules adjusted from spring to summer; courses converted online as possible; technology provided to employees and students; books and other instructional materials provided to students through the mail or drive up services; deep cleaning protocols implemented; BTC Virtual Assistance portal for students created; CARES, Emergency Funding and the Foundation disseminated hundreds of thousands of dollars to students; phased plans for returning to campus created and implemented; and so much more. All of this happened while other campus functions were completed remotely such as payroll, human resources, and business office operations. The base on which all of this occurred is our dedicated Computer Information Services Support team.

We really were and are All In, Together.



Disillusionment Phase

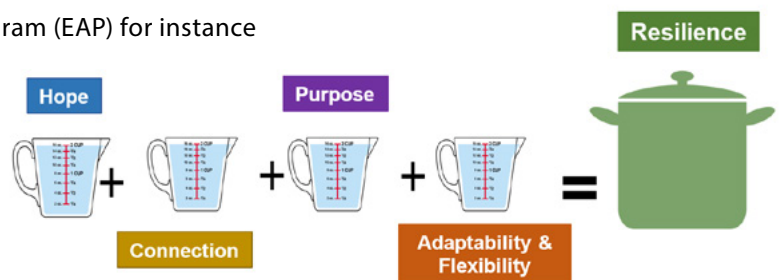
This phase is a stark contrast to the Heroic and Honeymoon Phases. This phase is marked by fatigue and a realization that recovery is likely to take some time. There is some return to business as usual, however, as we have seen with COVID-19, there are setbacks. As optimism turns to discouragement and stress continue to take a toll, negative reactions, such as physical exhaustion or substance abuse, may begin to surface. This phase can last months or even years. It is often extended by one or more trigger events, usually including the anniversary of the disaster.

Reconstruction Phase

This phase is characterized by an overall feeling of recovery. Individuals and communities begin to assume responsibility for rebuilding their lives, and people begin adjusting to new circumstances while continuing to grieve losses. There is a recognition of growth and opportunity that may last for years.

What can you do?

- Eat regular, nourishing meals; maintain a regular sleep schedule; exercise, etc.
- Seek professional help – the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for instance
- Become Resilient:
 - » Hope is the belief that things will get better
 - » Develop and enhance social connections
 - » Focus on your sense of purpose
 - » Become adaptive and psychologically flexible



FOUNDATION

New Endowment Established through the BTC Foundation

Bellingham Technical College recently received a \$100,000 endowment gift from Blaine resident, Ron Martinez.

Ron served in the US military and traveled around the United States doing odd jobs after he left the service. He returned to school as an older student and earned an associate degree at a technical school in the Midwest. After traveling throughout the United States, he ended up in Blaine where Ron lived for many years while working for BP Cherry Point and Phillips 66.

Ron began working at the Ferndale Refinery in 1991 as an operator, holding multiple positions including Boiler “B”, Boiler “A”, Treater “B”, Reformer “B”, Treater “A” and Crude “A”. Ron is most proud of the capital construction and demolition projects that he was also able to work on.

Ron became a skydiving instructor and traveled during his free time after his retirement from Phillips 66 in 2013.

Ron appreciated the life that a trades type of job afforded him and wanted to give back to support an organization that promoted those types of skills. He wanted to provide assistance to BTC students who require extra financial support while obtaining their education. “I know that things were very tight for me when I was attending college, and I wanted to do something to help support those hardworking BTC students,” Ron said.

Sadly, Ron was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and he estimates that he only has a few weeks remaining on his life journey. He does not have any surviving family, so Ron decided to give the remainder of his assets to a veteran’s organization and to Bellingham Technical College. “Ron’s generosity will positively impact the lives of countless students for many generations to come,” said Mike Burke, President of the Bellingham Technical College Foundation.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BTC will hold a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27 via Zoom <https://btc-tech.zoom.us/j/92859208664>. The hearing will review the proposed repeal of BTC Washington Administrative Code 495B-121-305 *Grievance Rules – Discrimination and Harassment*.

For more information, please contact Ronda Laughlin, Rules Coordinator, at 360.752.8334 or rlaughter@btc.edu

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Matthew Santos recently returned from Lake Charles, Louisiana where he supported disaster relief efforts as a volunteer with Team Rubicon, a 501(c)3 nonprofit which utilizes the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. He flew in and supported a weekly wave of approximately 60 volunteers and worked directly with a team of 20. Their team provided chainsaw operations, roof tarping, debris removal and damage assessments. Arriving five weeks after Hurricane Laura, his volunteer team was a clear signal and welcome reminder to the residents of Lake Charles that America had not forgotten about them and cared about their recovery.

Matthew reported, "one of the most moving things during my experience there was that people were so grateful because they told us they felt ignored and forgotten. Honestly, it was the worst damage I have seen in all of my disaster relief efforts. Homes and properties were decimated, people were still without power, water, and internet. I had to leave early because of the mandatory evacuation from the oncoming Hurricane Delta and it was difficult to leave knowing so much more needed to be done to help residents and circumstances would be worsened by Delta."

Matthew has served as a volunteer and participated in Team Rubicon efforts to provide relief to those impacted by disasters since 2016.

HAPPY NEWS

Sallie Davis and Mike Massey became engaged over the summer. It happened on a beautiful Sunday afternoon on June 28. They were walking way out into Birch Bay at low tide looking at sea critters, one of their favorite pastimes in the summer, when Mike proposed with a very sparkly engagement ring. They will be married in the not too distant future and are very excited!

STUDENT LIFE & ASBTC

Student Life created new 2020-2021 ID cards for 326 students and employees during the first week of fall quarter. ASBTC wants to thank all the BTC employees who brought their students and sent their students to them to receive these IDs. The ASBTC is happy that it will be easier for students to scan into buildings during fall quarter!

SURGERY TECH

Surgery Tech's pass rate success is something to celebrate. **100% of the 2019-2020 Surgery Technology students passed** their national certification exam on September 15, 2020.

HVAC

Social Distancing in HVAC while taking a Unit Test on Canvas.



CTCLINK: ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

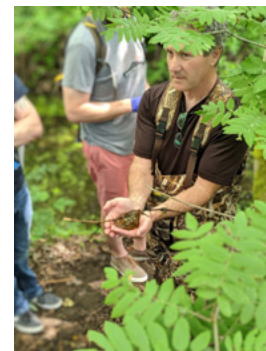
Over the course of the next few years, SBCTC and all 34-college systems will transition to a single, centralized system of online functions to give students and employees access to modern and efficient ways of doing their college business. This entire process includes new software (PeopleSoft), improved ways of conducting business (Business Processes), and opportunities for growth in all areas (Change Action). BTC is part of Deployment Group 5 (DG5), along with Bellevue College, Skagit Valley College, Green River College, Whatcom Community College, Everett Community College, and Big Bend Community College. This cohort of 8 colleges are all scheduled to go-live with the new system in October of 2021. And BTC will be the very first Technical College to fully implement PeopleSoft.

This summer, nearly 60 BTC employees embarked on the next phase of our ctclink journey: Business Process Fit/Gap sessions. These sessions are the first steps in understanding how our local data and processes will work with the ctclink PeopleSoft systems. Our local Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) have dedicated hundreds of hours engaging in full and multi-day workshops, collaborating across departments, and completing homework assignments to prepare our BTC Community for transition next year. Supporting and working alongside the SMEs have been a stellar group of Pillar Leads – Chantel Fields, Joan Kammerzell, Matthew Santos, Sherry Minninger, Tami Willett, and Walter Hudsick.

Although Fall quarter has started, the work needed for ctclink has not slowed down one bit. In fact, many of our SMEs can attest that we are in a constant state of acceleration. With all of the unknowns faced over the past six months, it is with pride that BTC continues to remain on schedule, within project scope, and on budget. It is because of the commitment and dedication demonstrated by employees like ours that this project is still able to progress forward, even in times of tremendous change and uncertainty. During this academic school year, you may experience longer than usual response times from offices, departments, or individuals that are balancing BTC responsibilities with ctclink deliverables. On behalf of the Project Team, we want to thank everyone for your patience, understanding, and unyielding support. Please know that the effort and work put forth now will make the final experience for our employees, students, and community that much more positive.

INSTRUCTION INSIGHTS: FACULTY

Mike Massey contributed a piece to the September 23 publication of this Faculty Focus article In **TEACHING AND LEARNING:** Encountering Nature: Outdoor Walks to Reduce Stress and Increase Focus in Students. You can [read the article online](#).



INSTRUCTION INSIGHTS: NURSING DEPARTMENT DOES GOOD

Jennifer Tachiyama just adopted out her eighth foster dog to BTC Nursing Staff last week. These dogs were all adopted through a local rescue – Alternative Humane Society. Featured in the photo are several of these fortune dogs and their new people.



NURSING

BTC's Nursing students are back in labs and working hard on their skills. They will be heading out to clinical sites across the county over the next few weeks. All of BTC are so proud of them and honored to be training the next wave of badly needed healthcare workers!

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

New resources: Instructors now have the ability to see their students' Letters of Accommodation from Accessibility Resources all in one place!

- **Log into Instructor Access in myAR.**
- **Use your network credentials**
- **View the LOAs for all of your classes in one place!**

Questions? Contact **Mary Gerard**.



DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

BTC is a member of the Noregon Education Program, and they recently recognized the value that our Diesel Technology program offers in training future technicians. To support our efforts, **PepsiCo and Noregon donated a complete diagnostic laptop kit with state-of-the-art diagnostic and repair software** to the Diesel Technology program. Noregon Education Program's mission is to help colleges provide students with opportunities for hands-on training with the tools and technology they will use to advance their careers, which aligns well with BTC.

Truck Donation

Marshall Link, Diesel Instructor, is pleased to share that the program has also had a 2015 Freightliner M2 truck donated by Daimler Trucks North America due to a nomination by Freightliner Northwest. And it could not have arrived at BTC without the generous transport from Bruce Zender of Zender Equipment Repair as he coordinated the transport from Portland to BTC free of charge.



FIRST-GEN COLLEGE STUDENT CELEBRATION

Save-the-Date(s) for **BTC's First-Generation College Student Celebration**

When: November 2–6, 2020

Where: Online and in Canvas (stay tuned for details)

What: All students and employees are invited to participate in a week of virtual activities and events leading up to National First-Generation Celebration Day. Join the BTC community in sharing and celebrating the stories, strengths, and successes of first-gen students and employees. Questions: Email FirstGen@btc.edu

Who are first-generation college students? First-gen students are those whose parents or guardians have not obtained 4-year (bachelor's) degrees from a US college or university. More than half of degree-seeking students at BTC are first-generation college students! Some are blazing a trail by being the first person in their family to go to college, some are following their family's legacy in attending a two-year college, and others are somewhere in between. There are many ways to "be" a first-generation student, which means we have many reasons to celebrate!

Calling all first-generation college students and graduates: If you are interested in sharing parts of your experiences as a first-gen student in a way that could be shared widely with students, please contact Lynda Jensen. Lynda is working on a project to collect and collate BTC employee first-gen stories to share with students in an on-going project. **Interested? Curious?** Reach out to Lynda! ljensen@btc.edu

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, our employee spotlight falls on the fantastic **Sybil Sanchez , Completion Coach in Admissions & Advising!**

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

A: I am currently a Completion Coach under the "old" Title III CAD Grant. In the future that role may transition to a "Navigator."

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

A: Outside of the office, I am a homebody but I have multiple interests and hobbies. I've written poetry, I played the violin and want to pick that back up. As a kid growing up in the 80's and 90's I am an older gamer compared to this newer generation so I do have a PlayStation and wholeheartedly try to bend the gender norms around gaming. I'm an avid movie buff in that I watch the Academy Awards/Oscars every year and I prefer to say I "experience cinematic stories" as simply saying "I watch movies" does not encapsulate the power of film.

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

A: A fun fact is that I can bark like a couple of different types of dogs. I think I was bored as a kid and just tested out a few sounds. So now if you're lucky and you're talking to me around barking dogs in the background, I may or may not randomly bark back as though I am totally talking to them too. Fun times. Lots of weird looks though.

Q: Any pets or pet plans?

A: I currently do not have any pets. We briefly had a cat, however my 17-year-old is allergic so I have been limited in being able to experience the lasting passive-aggressive love of a feline. But I hope to get a dog in the next couple of years or when the nest is empty.

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

A: If I could bring either food, a book or a movie to a desert island it would be a movie. And I think I would choose "The Imitation Game." Benedict Cumberbatch's portrayal of Alan Turing and the various issues in the film highlight a world that at times I would be okay being free from and deserted on an island. The genius of a mathematician and cryptographer during a time of war and also persecution against those who identify as homosexual simultaneously occurring is enthralling. Alan's difficulty in social interactions I can relate to all too well as you watch his experiences with his colleagues. And then Keira Knightley's portrayal of Joan Clarke at a time where women were limited in the ability to pursue their passion and reach their potential, she was still very much an integral piece to cracking Enigma. And the creation of Christopher, his beloved Turing machine, is just amazing.

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

A: The backstory to my favorite photo myself is that it was taken on my birthday that I spent in Los Angeles. There was a vendor selling Star Maps and my eldest daughter and I went a few places. By nighttime we hadn't really seen any houses up close so I did some research and found Josh Brolin's house in Venice Beach and had my daughter snap a picture of me quickly passing by and stopping to look at a "Lost Cat" poster in front of his house while whispering under my breath "just take the pic - just take the pic - do you got it? - does it look obvious we know it's his house? - oh my gosh I heard something let's go!!" I wonder how I would be in New York City...stay tuned!

