

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



## PRESIDENT'S SHOUT-OUT

Well, for the second year in a row, it would seem the president's message to campus at the start of a new academic year – not just this one, but similar messages over the state and the country as well – can't follow the usual format of recognizing the achievements of the past year, looking forward to the challenges of the coming year, and encouraging the camaraderie and collegiality of the campus community. At least, not without recognizing the extraordinary circumstances in which we have found ourselves and to which we continue to respond and adapt.

I don't think any of us knew 18 months ago that we would still be responding to the pandemic and that it would consume so much of our time, energy, and will. And yet, at the same time that we have had to do so much in so many ways just to keep moving forward, we have managed to continue to achieve and to meet challenges and to create community.

We've learned how to serve our students in real spaces from six feet away and in virtual spaces on a computer screen. We developed service models and curriculum changes that will increase our effectiveness with underserved populations while we moved through preparation for a major computer change that is now just around the corner. We kept true to our strategic plan and now look forward to an accreditation visit that isn't much farther down the road.

All of us have dug deep and found reserves we may not have known we had. We managed to do this because we had no other choice, and because we had each other. It was the heart of BTC that has kept us going – the shared commitment we all have to our mission and our students and the teamwork that we all demonstrate every day.

I guess this has done what a president's Fall message usually does, after all. I am proud of us and appreciative of you all, and I'd like to leave you with this image from a chalk art event on campus way back before COVID. It always makes me feel both gratified and delighted to work at BTC, and hope it does the same for you.



## CTCLINK EMPLOYEE TRAINING REMINDER

**Complete by October 15 (or before).**

Now is the time for personal preparation by doing the Self-Service trainings. **This training is required for every employee.** It will allow all of us to be prepared for the switch over when we hit GO-Live and better prepare us to help our fellow employees and students alike. The due date for our trainings is October 15. These are vital towards understanding how to submit Time and Leave, Vacation Requests and more! Find your Self-Service Training at <https://www.btc.edu/AboutBTC/ctcLink%20Training.html#EmployeeTraining> and see All Employees or All Managers. Go Team.

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>CTCLINK TRAINING</b> | <b>All Employees or Managers</b>  |
| Employee Training       | + All Employees<br>+ All Managers   |
| Faculty Training        |   |
| How Do I...?            | <b>Student Services Employees</b>   |
|                         | A common core of courses is set for all student services employees; employees in specific functions/roles.  |
|                         | + Core Training for All Student Services Employees<br>+ Admissions - Additional Training<br>+ Advising & Student Support - Additional Training<br>+ Curriculum Management - Additional Training |

## COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE SHOP



**Common Grounds Coffee Shop is now in a New Location.** Fancy a Bite to Eat or a Coffee? Visit Common Grounds Coffee Shop's new location in **Building G** and grab something to eat! Serving light breakfast and lunch items, espresso, coffee, drinks, snacks and fresh baked goods. Plenty of space and seating to reconnect with colleagues and students. Open M-F, 7:30 a.m – 1:30 p.m. They look forward to serving you.



## STUDENT LIFE / ASBTC

The Associated Students of Bellingham Technical College (ASBTC)...2021-2022 Executive Team began training in late August. We would like to introduce our new Execs: Becca Haney, ASBTC President and Radiologic Technology student; Sergio Acevedo Arreola, ASBTC Director of Diversity and Inclusion and Electrician student; Ashley Harrison, ASBTC Director of Clubs and Organizations and Business Management student; and Tamara Holmes, ASBTC Director of Communications and Dental Hygiene student. Please say hello when you see them on campus!

### The Focus of This Year

This year's focus for the ASBTC Executives is about building bridges. They want to connect students to campus, communicate with our student body, create an even more welcoming campus, foster opportunities for student involvement, and to build a sense of community. One of the goals this year is to think outside the box. The ASBTC wants to find out what students need, increase student involvement, and to acknowledge the collective loss from last year and help our students heal and grow. Another focus is Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Sergio, our first Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, is excited for this year and is looking forward to making more connections on campus and supporting diverse and inclusive programming, student advocacy, and support for students. Overall, they want to cultivate and share BTC pride!

### Become an ASBTC Executive Member...

ASBTC is also hiring! There are three vacant positions: Director of Finance, Director of Legislation, and Director of Administrative Affairs. Applications are available on the 2021-2022 ASBTC Canvas page, and are due on Monday, September 27.

You can self-enroll at: <https://btc.instructure.com/enroll/CWBENR>. Another way to connect with the ASBTC Executive Team is to attend weekly Executive Team meetings, Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. or the bi-weekly Student Senate meetings on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### Weekly ASB Meetings

Student Life is offering Student and Employee IDs, who need them for clinicals, on Mondays and Thursdays, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. After BTC switches to ctcLink, we will schedule more ID times for students and employees to come and get their new ID!

## LIBRARY

On July 15, 2021, the Library opened its space to student and employee patrons for the first time since March 17, 2020! Along with being open Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the Library continued to offer virtual technology and research support, as well as materials reservations and pickups.

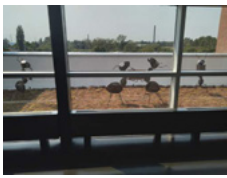
For fall quarter, BTC's Library will continue to provide virtual and reservation services, and the space will be open additional hours.



Left to right: Sergio Acevedo Arreola, Tamara Holmes, Becca Haney, Ashley Harrison







## PURCHASING

### Important Purchasing Info and Dates for 2021—Add these to your calendar!

#### Any new tax rate information?

- Yes! The tax rate for us is now 8.8% as of July 1, 2021. Make sure your vendors know this and that your purchase requisitions show the new rate when purchasing starts up again!

#### Wait, what? No purchasing? When did purchasing using annual POs and purchase requisitions, as well as the ability to submit reimbursement requests end?

- The cutoff was on Friday, September 10 – This was the last day to have all reimbursements, annual PO and purchase requisitions submitted.

#### Can we use our P-Cards?

- Your P-Card will remain available to use during the purchasing cutoff. If you do not have one, your department or area supervisor most likely does. Please reach out to them if you have a need to purchase something before we are back online. Please be judicious in the use of P-Cards and only buy what you may need, not what you “want”. Wait for the wants until we are up and running on ctcLink.

#### What about reimbursements?

- Unfortunately, reimbursements will not be processed between September 10 and November 15. You will be able to submit for those after that time. Make sure to get the approval of your supervisor for these expenses first.

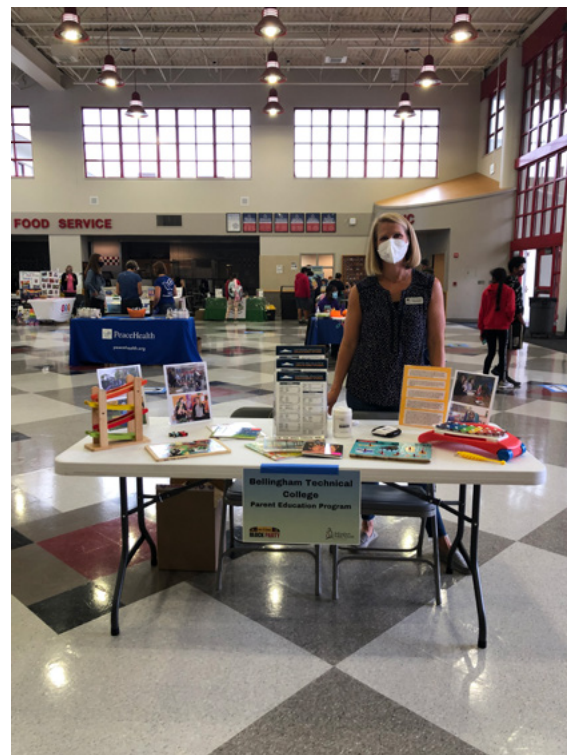
#### When does purchasing resume?

- Purchasing activities are scheduled to resume in mid-November, barring any unforeseen circumstances. There will be more information to come about this as we get closer to that time.

**Questions?** Please contact Melisa Nelson, Procurement & Contracts Coordinator, at [mnelson@btc.edu](mailto:mnelson@btc.edu).

## CHILD & FAMILY STUDIES

On Saturday, August 21, Jen Knudson, BTC Child and Family Director attended Bellingham Public School’s Back to School Block Party to promote our Child & Family Studies Program. Over 1,000 people attended from the Bellingham School District, and they offered sports physicals, immunizations, hair-cuts, dental appointments, info on Apple Care and other resources. Other community partners in attendance included Common Threads Farm, Vamos, YMCA, Blue Skies, Opportunity Council, and several others who will provide direct services including the health department, Unity Care, and Peace Health. It was great for BTC to have a presence at our public schools and showcase our offerings.





## TUTORING CENTER

The Tutoring Center has been relocated to Campus Center (CC) rooms CC234 and CC240. CC234 will be the main room for Math and Science. CC240 will be the computer lab for CAP courses and the Writing Center. The new space is shaping up and they are anticipating students requesting some tutoring on campus for fall. We will continue to offer online tutoring through Zoom will continue to be offered as well as adding hours to the in-person tutoring options by appointment. Stop by to see the new Center and say hello!



## BTC FOUNDATION

Last year the BTC Foundation partnered with the United Steel Workers (USW) Local 12-591 to establish an endowed scholarship to benefit students perusing career fields traditionally represented by USW.

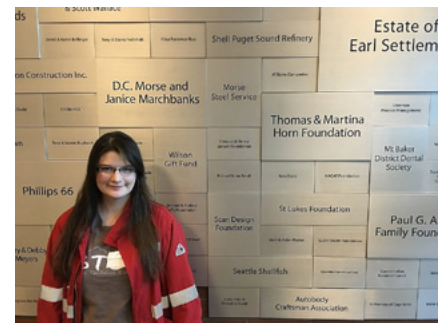
The United Steel Workers builds communities and supports local education through scholarship giving. They are a labor organization which represent a collective of skilled workers in a variety of different industries including healthcare, transportation, and manufacturing. Among these skilled workers are the generous and hardworking members of Union Local 12-591. This local is a subgroup inside of USW that represents employees at the Anacortes Puget Sound refineries, PAR Hawaii, Brinderson, Island Energy Services, and Chemtrade.

Although the members within Local 12-591 are always finding ways to give back to the community, over the course of the pandemic their generosity grew. Every month the local donated thousands of dollars to support local food banks, community sports teams, and education in Whatcom, Skagit, and Island counties. Recently, they also passed a motion to donate \$25,000 dollars the Bellingham Technical College Foundation to support student scholarships.

BTC Foundation Director Dean Fulton says scholarships like those that will be given through the USW Local 12-591 Endowment make an incredible difference for students who simply wouldn't be able to attend otherwise. Many of BTC's students have children and are forced to cut back on their work hours to attend school full-time. This poses significant financial challenges.

USW knows that high paying union jobs change people's lives, and they're proud to work with a school whose mission is to help students pursue their dreams and achieve meaningful careers in industries represented by USW.

Alyssa Willis, Local 12-591's current Women of Steel representative and BTC alumni says, "Our local's donation helps to serve both USW's mission and the mission of Bellingham Technical College. Many of our members are Bellingham Technical College graduates like myself, so the local has experienced firsthand how BTC helps bring people from all walks of life into the union ranks. USW is proud to support education which helps people to better themselves and their communities."







## FACILITIES

Over the summer the Facilities team has worked with Jake Fowler and contractors to replace and update the doors of BTC's Marine Drive Annex (MDA) warehouse building. As the old Oak Harbor Freight terminal, this building and its large wooden roll-up doors have needed some TLC over the years. A new roof was added a couple years ago and then with these new collaborative efforts of the Facilities team led by Todd Saulsbury, the building is taking on a new look. More to come on this project also as facilities also add some additional finishes to the "door infills" over the rest of fall quarter.



## MARKETING & FACILITIES

Over the past year a capital project for campus wayfinding has been in process. It has included intense work and coordination from Dave Jungkuntz, the Facilities Planning Committee, and Marketing/Design. Collaboration included Chris Glatz, Shelby Stamey, Sebastian Schoelss, Tim Kassiotis, Marni Saling-Mayer and Todd Saulsbury (lighting) working diligently to get this project concluded by the start Fall Quarter 2021.

The new wayfinding kiosks were designed by Sebastian Schoelss, BTC's graphic designer as part our college rebrand. They were produced at the end August and installed across campus this past week. There are six in total so our visitors can more easily find their way around BTC.

Check them out! Bet you cannot get lost now!



Another key element of the Capital Project; the Beautification Committee spearheaded a coordination between Facilities, Grounds, Media Services, and Marketing/Design to bring new life to A Building. Working against the northwest fall weather and under cover of darkness, Craig Perry-Ollila applied his artistic expertise to project a BTC logo mural designed by Sebastian Schoelss, onto the side of A building, while Chris Glatz took the lead on color and planning, and Shelby Stamey and Tim Kassiotis on implementation. BTC's west campus corner is now successfully defined by our logo mural.



## INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

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Did you know that last March, Institutional Planning and Advancement posted a newly revamped and improved Course Success dashboard? The new version of the dashboard includes many highly requested features such as the capability to customize how success is defined, and the ability to view success by course modality, type, level, and delivery method (e.g., face-to-face, online, hybrid, synchronous, asynchronous). Additionally, the dashboard gives users the ability to compare course success outcomes across student demographic groups – both overall and at the individual department and course level – giving faculty another tool to use when completing student learning outcomes. If you are interested in learning more, a recording of IPA's live demonstration of the dashboard recorded during BTC's Opening Day will be available for review. Feel free to contact Shawn Minnig ([sminnig@btc.edu](mailto:sminnig@btc.edu)) for more info!

## DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

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하나 Hannah Simonetti is the new Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), here at BTC. She is a PNW at heart and grew up in Oregon. She has a M.A. in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State and has worked in higher education for over a decade. She has a passion for social justice, all things nerdy, and playing with her kids and dog! Hannah will be putting together Fall DEI sessions so keep your eyes peeled for more info to come!

BTC has been infested with ants

RUMOR  
OF THE MONTH

...well, sort of true.

The ants you see on the top of every page were thought of, produced, and installed by our incredibly creative Grounds team. Now it's your turn to find out where the ants have taken up residence...

