Bates Tech President's Newsletter | March 2024

President's Update

1 - President Lin Zhou

Dear college community,

I hope this message finds you refreshed and reenergized after our Spring Break. As we welcome back our students and faculty, and welcome our brand-new students, I'm excited for the opportunities and achievements that the Spring Quarter brings for each of us.

It's also a time to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our soon-to-be graduates. I encourage all 2024 graduates to participate in our upcoming Commencement Ceremony. The best event of the year, our ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 30, at the Tacoma Dome—an occasion that marks the culmination of your effort, perseverance and success. It's a day for you and your loved ones to celebrate the milestones you've achieved and to look forward to the bright future that lies ahead.

To participate in the ceremony, please go to BatesTech.edu/Commencement. Apply early and note that the last day to order your cap and gown is in early May.

In other exciting news, I had the honor of delivering the keynote address at the Phi Theta Kappa Spring Conference of the Greater Northwest Region, which was held on Saturday, March 23 at the Downtown Campus Auditorium. It was an enriching experience to engage with such a vibrant community of scholars and leaders. Special thanks to our Cybersecurity program instructor and Phi Theta Kappa regional coordinator Joseph Kauer and Emily Stech, our Phi Theta Kappa President, for their significant contributions to the event. Your leadership and dedication are inspiring.

Also, our DEI Officer Marcus Harvey has received the results report from our climate survey. You can read it here. We are currently reviewing the outcomes and opportunities for improvement. If you have any questions, please email Marcus at mharvey@batestech.edu.

As we step into this new quarter, let's carry forward the momentum and enthusiasm from these events and achievements. I'm eager to see how we continue to grow, innovate, and support one another in the coming months. Here's to a successful and fulfilling spring quarter at Bates Tech!

Sincerely,

Lin

Dr. Lin Zhou, President

Department Updates

INSTRUCTION

Professional Development Day 2024

The Professional Development Day Planning Committee, comprised of staff from the Instruction office, and Faculty and PTE unions worked to put together a robust and informative day of learning on March 15 at Downtown Campus. This year, the college hosted Kate Reynolds from the Executive Ethics Board, Charlie Best, a consultant for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Sara Sanders Gardner, a neurodivergence consultant, and Stephen Whitmore, a financial wellness counselor from WSECU. The college also held several breakout sessions facilitated by faculty and staff on topics including managing classroom behaviors, empowering inclusivity with disability services, Competency Based Education, AI and IT support.

Basic Skills Program

Bates Technical College has recently been granted an LEP Pathway program grant along with an additional Refugee Grant to support eligible refugees and immigrants, including those benefiting from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash and Refugee Cash Assistance. Catering to refugees in Pierce County and with a distance learning site in Kennewick, Washington, the program started with just three students but has now expanded to serve more than 70 participants. To manage these new grants effectively, we recently hired a DSHS Program Coordinator in January. Further, we are collaborating with Tacoma Goodwill to enhance educational services for our HS+ program. This partnership will focus on digital skills, financial education and career readiness workshops. These short-term training courses will benefit HS+ students, providing them with opportunities to earn credits towards a high school diploma and may also be integrated into our BSEP 70 curriculum and training course.

Central Campus

Media Production and Communications students produced the 16 games of the WIAA State Basketball Championships at the Tacoma Dome from February 28 to March 2. You can view many of the live broadcasts on YouTube with commentary and multi-angle coverage.

2 - Two Bates students broadcasting the WIAA Championships

3 - Bates students broadcasting behind the scenes

4 - Bates students filming from the stands

STUDENT SERVICES

Outreach Updates

Three Enrollment Blitz events were successfully held in March, which brought many new students to the college for Spring Quarter 2024. We also hosted the Ignite Conference at Central Campus on March 5, 2024, which focused on recruiting local female high school students into our STEM programs at Central Campus.

Enrollment Updates

We successfully filled the nursing program with qualified candidates for Spring Quarter after implementing a new application and qualifications process for that program.

Campus Life & Activities

Bates CLA is still looking to fill the role of ASG VP for Downtown Campus and we are actively recruiting via Student eNews publication and on the Bates website.

Currently recruiting a Student Program Representative. This volunteer role will act as liaison between programs and ASG, voting in General Assembly meetings and sharing information/events.

A big push by CLA to notify students of new financial support options is currently underway.

- Sea Mar Scholarship Program is accepting applications until April 15, 2024. Sea Mar will be awarding $1,000 scholarships to students who are of migrant or seasonal farm worker backgrounds. In addition, Sea Mar offers a $2,500 scholarship to students who demonstrate a

history of advocacy, responsibility, accountability, and perseverance. Funds can be used to cover expenses while enrolled in college including tuition, books, housing, food, etc.

Registration

417 reminder letters were sent to students regarding balances that were due by March 11, 2024. Drop for non-payment processes will take place on March 18, 2024. Students will also be emailed both before and after drop for non-payment occurs. Resources are available in the Cashier's office, and students are encouraged to clear or manage these account balances.

Advising and Conduct

Advising and Conduct team piloted a new program for New Student Orientation (NSO) that seeks to increase student engagement and retention. Vendor and Resource Fairs that provide students with needed support and resources for success have been offered. A DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) presentation has also been incorporated into New Student Orientation in compliance with state requirements. Downtown and Central Campuses have combined NSO with Technical High School to provide consistent support to all students.

The Steps to Enrollment have been updated to simplify the process for students. These changes are live on the website and in Bates admission letters. In addition, a new student webpage has been launched to provide specific information to students.

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office continues to prepare for the upcoming changes due to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Simplification Act. The Director attended a 2-day workshop with SBCTC in mid-March to perform the first round of configuration for the new award year, often referred to as 'aid year rollover.' SBCTC is waiting for the release of ISIRs by the Department of Education to complete their testing and estimate that the necessary changes to accommodate the FAFSA Simplification will be moved into ctcLink production mid-May. Once the changes are moved to production, Bates can start processing 2024-2025 applications.

Tawnya Lea, Director of Financial Aid, along with other Bates representatives, served as panelists at the Career Counselors Breakfast held at Clover Park Technical College January 25, 2024.

We partnered with Graduate Tacoma to provide expert financial aid assistance at local high schools' FAFSA completion events in the Tacoma School District, Fife High School, Bethel School District, Franklin Pierce, and Clover Park District. FAFSA Workshops will be offered on campus for our current students and classroom visits are available if Faculty makes a request.

We continue to review 2023-2024 applications and have received 7,261 applications, 4,958 which were unduplicated. As of Feb 29, 2024, our office has disbursed $1,545,479 in Federal Pell Grant funds along with an additional $1,470,498 in WA College Grant funding.

Our office is preparing for the end of Winter quarter processes and will have Spring Quarter funding available for disbursement to eligible students on the first day of Spring classes. WES Staff continue to leverage funding to best support our students. Worker Retraining, WorkFirst, and ESL Grant staff provide

a weekly presence at Worksource and DSHS offices in an effort to increase outreach and strengthen community partnerships.

Financial Aid is currently running a marketing campaign on all 3 campuses to identify current students who may be eligible for WES funding.

FOUNDATION

Student Success

Spring Quarter 2024 Scholarships

The Bates Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that 38 students will receive up to $35,000 for Spring Quarter.

Congratulations to the following students!

First Name	Last Name	Program	Award	Scholarship
Tony	Alan	Electrical Construction	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Alana	Allen	Accounting	$750	Eleanor Halmo Scholarship
Zayne	Ball	Broadcasting/ Video Production	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Krista	Baysinger	Occupational Therapy Assistant	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Walid	Beniamin	Practical Nurse	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Adrian	Benton	HVAC-R	$1,500	Henry T. Schatz Endowed Scholarship
Juanita	Bernard	Occupational Therapy Assistant	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Caelick	Bradley	Facilities Maintenance Engineer	$750	Boiler Symposium Endowed Scholarship
Vanesa	Campos Ojeda	Dental Assisting	$500	Arcora / Washington Dental Service Foundation Scholarship
Vanesa	Campos Ojeda	Dental Assisting	$750	Pierce County Dental Foundation Dental Auxiliary Scholarship
Bianca	de la Torre	Practical Nurse	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Zoey	Eldridge	Dental Assisting	$500	Arcora / Washington Dental Service Foundation Scholarship
Martin	Fimbres	Cybersecurity	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Charita	Fletcher	Practical Nurse	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Grace	Gachie	Practical Nurse	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Eliah	Garcia	Information Technology Specialist	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Asiya	Hassan	Denturist	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Kelli	Kaelin	Practical Nurse	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Candy	Kelley	Accounting	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Trever	Kessler	Auto Body Rebuilding and Refinishing	$500	Rod Knocker's Club Auto Body Scholarship
Rhett	King	Machinist	$750	Gene Haas Scholarship
Natalka	Kuchabsky	Early Childhood Education	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Diego	Lugo	Fire Service	$750	BIPOC Scholarship
Jessica	Marquez	Electrical Construction	$1,500	Henry T. Schatz Endowed Scholarship
Rachel	Martin	Digital Media	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Jacob	Matter	Electrical Construction	$1,000	Schatz/Quasim Endowed Scholarship
Rina Merz	Mc Glay	Practical Nurse	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Micah	Montstream	Automotive Technology	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Esther	Mwaura	Practical Nurse	$750	Ruth Murphy Evans Practical Nurse Scholarship
Katie	Naar	Occupational Therapy Assistant	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Yoslynn	Olmos	BIO MED Tech	$1,500	Henry T. Schatz Endowed Scholarship
Arika	Palmer	Occupational Therapy Assistant	$750	Associated Student Government (ASG) Scholarship
Jadey	Parrott	Practical Nurse	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Candace	Rank	Practical Nurse	$750	Ruth Murphy Evans Practical Nurse Scholarship
Eddie Jo	Santos	Fire Service	$750	Veterans Scholarship in Memory of Brownie Braunsteiner
Brielle	Sestito	Broadcasting/Video Production	$2,500	Washington State Association of Broadcasters Scholarship
Timothy	Squire	Welding	$1,000	Biella Foundation Community & Technical College Scholarship
Jason	Walker	Mechanical Engineering Technology	$1,000	Rottler Manufacturing Scholarship

This is Bates Tech

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following March employee anniversaries!

March

Name	Job Title	Years
Kimberly Herring	General Services Coordinator	27.0
Galina Jalba	Early Childhood Specialist	11.0
Jim Androy	Electrical Construction Instructor	9.0
Melinda Gauley	College Receptionist	9.0
Amy Mackey	Child Studies Instructor	9.0
Rosemary Pavageau	KBTC Administrative Assistant	7.0
Sonia O'Flaherty	Family Support Specialist	5.0
Adam Cabeza	Fire Service Instructor	4.0
Robert Hayes	Dental Lab Instructor	4.0
Brian Wiwel	Fire Service Instructor	4.0
James Belsvig	KBTC Assistant Chief Engineer	3.0
Janet Frostad	HR Generalist	2.0
Angela Driver	I-BEST Instructor	1.0
Michelle Earthwright	High School Counselor	1.0
George Jones	Executive Director of IT	1.0
David Koehler	EMT Coordinator	1.0
Maria Mendez	Practical Nursing Instructor	1.0
Anastasiia Obushchak	Early Childhood Specialist	1.0
Eddie Sanchez	Welding Instructor	1.0
Anthony St. Clair	Electrician Instructor	1.0
Mark Wegley	English Instructor	1.0

NEW HIRES

- David Jackson, Campus Public Safety Officer
- Connor Simons, IT Cloud Specialist
- Bryant Klaniecki, Nursing Administrative Assistant
- Sarah Zhang, Interim Human Resources Director

5 - Sarah Zhang, Interim Human Resources Director

Please welcome Sarah Zhang, our new Interim Human Resources Director. Sarah has more than12 years' experience as an HR professional. In her free time, she enjoys dancing, skating, and hanging out with friends and family. Welcome, Sarah!

PEER APPRECIATIONS

Do you know a stellar student, a fantastic faculty member or a superior staff member? Email your Peer Appreciation to **communications@batestech.edu** to be featured here!

Rob Renfro, HVAC Instructor

I am excited to be starting the new HVAC program as Rob was extremely helpful. I had some hesitations in starting this program, but Rob made me feel comfortable in my decision. I am looking forward to starting his class in the upcoming Spring quarter.

Thank you, Rob!

Jared Jones, Student Records Specialist

I just wanted to give major props for implementing the changes to the NSC Reporting for Summer 2245. Bates was the only college out of the 4 at our aid year rollover workshop with SBCTC to have this

completed. The change impacted Financial Aid and our packaging, so this made my job during this workshop so simple! I was able to update our necessary fields, while the other colleges now must wait for their Registration Office.

Elmer Hill and Joey Mola, Campus Public Safety Officers

Officer Elmer Hill has demonstrated outstanding situational awareness, always attentive and responsive; and both he and Officer Mola have been as helpful and courteous as can be. I am just one of many employees that appreciate their excellent service to the college.

Dorali Mitre, Database Analyst

I am grateful to Dorali for being such an incredible thought partner and collaborator. Dorali is always looking for ways to contribute in meaningful ways. When I asked her for help with a last-minute survey, she put together a detailed, well-thought-out survey without hesitation. I am so grateful to have her as a colleague and appreciate her passion for problem solving. Thank you, Dorali!

Bobcat Buzz

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

6 - Digital Media Instructor Kevin Gibson

Meet Digital Media Instructor Kevin Gibson!

1. **How long have you worked at Bates, and what is your role?** I began working at Bates in 2018 as a classroom assistant. In 2019, I started my current role as an instructor in the Digital Media program

2. **What is your favorite thing about working at Bates?** I love the faculty here. Getting to work with many talented people who are passionate about our students is one for the plus column.

3. **What do you like to do when you are not at work?** More work, of course! I build many personal creative projects in animation, music, game design, and more to keep my skills sharp. When my brain is full, nothing helps me unwind after a long day like finding new and interesting ways to glitch Donkey Kong Country for Super Nintendo. Super therapeutic, would recommend.

4. **Why did you choose to enter the Digital Media field?** It was difficult when I was young to settle on a pathway because I had so many different areas of interest. To pursue one seemed like neglecting all others. I discovered Digital Media has a little bit of something for everyone: writers, artists, musicians, coders, storytellers, etc. It was the “yes, and” path instead of another “either/or” one.

5. **What is unique about your teaching style?** Sharing my outside creative adventures is one of the most fun parts of what I get to do. My style emphasizes discovery and play, and inspiring that playful spirit in students so they become learners for life.

6. **What do you find most rewarding about teaching?** In the end, everything we do at Bates centers around transforming and empowering people. When a student uses what they learn in class to realize their own creative vision and tell their own stories, it is like seeing them learn to

fly. Or maybe like an "I know Kung Fu" moment. Either way, that catharsis makes it all worthwhile.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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7 - Welding Student Dominique Sampson!

Meet Welding Student Dominique Sampson!

1. **What led you to pursue a career in welding?** I'm originally from California, and before starting my journey in welding at Bates, I worked as a certified behavioral technician. While I loved working with children, I felt a strong desire to pursue a career that allowed me to work more with my hands and engage in hands-on, technical work.
2. **You've just completed your first quarter in the welding program; how has your experience been so far, and what have you enjoyed most about the program?** Completing my first quarter in the welding program has been an incredible experience, and I've learned so much in a relatively short amount of time. What I've enjoyed most about the program is the opportunity to immerse myself in a new skill set and challenge myself in ways I never imagined.
3. **How do you balance your responsibilities with your studies?** One thing I appreciate about pursuing a career in welding is that it allows me to separate my work life from my home life. As

someone who previously worked with children as a certified behavioral technician, it's nice to have that separation and focus on something different during my studies. It allows me to fully immerse myself in my work when I'm at school, and then switch gears and be fully present for my son when I'm at home.

4. **In honor of International Women's History Month, what does being a woman in tech mean to you?** Being a woman in the tech world means to me no limitations. I know that as a woman, there isn't anything I cannot do!

Nurse Pinning Ceremony

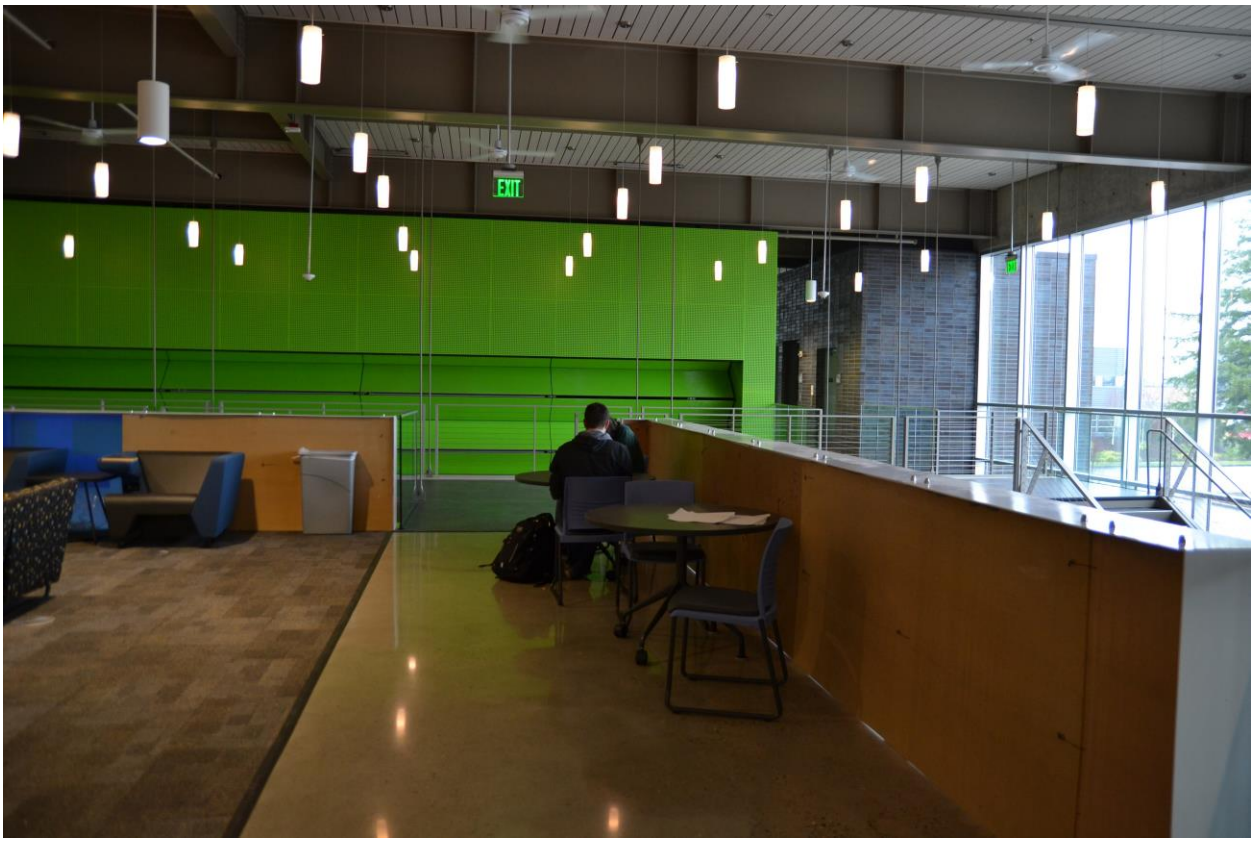
On Wednesday, March 13, the Practical Nurse program hosted its pinning ceremony to honor the March 2024 cohort. With 21 graduates in attendance, the event took place at the downtown campus auditorium, where families, friends, and loved ones gathered to commemorate this significant milestone in our students' journey. Congratulations to all our Practical Nurse graduates! We extend our best wishes for a rewarding and prosperous nursing career ahead.

2024

Bates Technical College ESPORTS

Come watch Bates Technical College's Esports Varsity Team Competition on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Watch as our student athletes compete in Super Smash Brothers Ultimate against schools across the nation in a battle of wits! Go to the Campus Life and Activities (CLA) Center at Downtown Campus Room A125 and enjoy snacks, or you can view live here on Twitch.tv.

Dates to Remember



Find additional details on events and important dates view the **college calendar.**

- Leadership Listening Session, **April 9**
- ASG General Assembly meeting, **April 10**
- Bates Open House, South Campus, **April 16**
- President's/Dean's List celebration, **April 23**
- Board of Trustees meeting, **April 29**

Bates Technical College | www.BatesTech.edu

Access our social media accounts and connect with us at linktr.ee/batestech

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