



# P R E S I D E N T ' S   N E W S L E T T E R

Bates Technical College | January 2022



Center for Allied Health and Education

## President's Update

Dear college community,

Student mental health has been a growing concern nationwide. And two years into the pandemic, we have seen an increasing amount of attention given to the mental health and wellness of students and employees.

At Bates, the health and wellbeing of our college community is one of our top priorities, and we must remember that this includes mental health. I would like to share some helpful resources for coping and thriving during this stressful time.

Students can meet with the college's counselor, Diane Shepard. You can contact her through the [Counseling Center's webpage](#). You can also find a variety of links on topics like stress management, meditation, worry and anxiety on the college's [Student Resources webpage](#) under the 'Counseling, resources and wellness' tab. We have included some tips to help boost your mental health in the Bobcat Bits section of this newsletter.

Employees can use the Employee Assistance Program, Fully Effective Employee, SafeColleges training, SmartHealth, and various programs at the Department of Enterprise Services. You can read more about these resources on the [Human Resources Intranet Page](#) or [on this recent intranet news post](#). We are also planning to open an employee meditation/work out room at the Downtown Campus within the next few months. More to come on that project.

Be well,

*Lin*

## Department Updates

### Instruction

The Instruction team is happy to welcome the following new faculty and staff starting in new roles at Bates.



**Kristopher Bauer - Meat Cutters Apprenticeship Instructor**

Kris has been in the meat industry for 15 years as a meat cutter for Safeway. He is a local 367 union rep and represents meat department members in Pierce and Grays Harbor Counties. He himself went through the apprenticeship program here at Bates to start his career in meat cutting.

---



**Visweswari Cherukuri (Visu) - Gen Ed Instructor, Adjunct**

Dr. Cherukuri has had experience working with students while pursuing her doctorate degree and working as a psychologist in Indian School of Kuwait. She works well with students of all ages and finds her core in such settings. She has been a judge for the Future Business Leaders Association (FBLA) for the past 12 years. Dr. Cherukuri has been a Volunteer Teacher's Aide for Five Schools.



**Dr. Josephine Harris - Gen Ed Instructor, Adjunct**

Dr. Harris majored in criminal justice administration and holds a Master of Science in psychology, both from the University of Phoenix, Arizona. She also holds a Master of Philosophy in psychology from Walden University. After pursuing her post-master online teaching psychology certificate, she started international teaching and counseling and pursued Teaching English Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). She has been an internationally-licensed mental health professional serving the Seoul Counseling Center in South Korea, since 2018. While working on her Ph.D., Dr. Harris worked extensively in mentoring and teaching foreign students and worked extensively with the military community.



**Ravenna Dexter - Gen Ed Instructor, Adjunct**

Ravenna was an instructor and curriculum developer for more than 20 years for two state agencies: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Developmental Disabilities. She has a master's degree in psychology and a B.S. in education from Eastern New Mexico University. She is also a former vocational counselor and deaf specialist, and yes, fluent in ASL.

She is passionate about teaching, and her philosophy is to make learning fun (because people open up more when they are enjoying themselves). In her spare time, she enjoys playing Euro-style board games and re-decorating her house. She enjoys arts and crafts, and upcycling found objects. She also loves animals and currently has a cat and a dog (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) who is quite a character!

**Lara Cooper – Practical Nursing Instructor**

Lara Cooper has been a nurse for more than 20 years and a nursing instructor for over 10 years. Lara started her nursing career as a respiratory nurse at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle. Since then, she has worked as a nurse, nursing faculty and a diabetes educator. Lara holds a baccalaureate degree in nursing from Seattle University, and a master's degree in nursing education from Western Governors University.



**Andrea Green – Barber Instructor, Tenure Track**

Andrea Green has been in the barbering industry since she graduated from Bates in 1996. She owned a barber shop in Pike Place Market and was also a substitute barbering instructor for several years until she began teaching the evening program in 2016. She still currently works in the industry in a very busy shop in Des Moines as well as being a full-time instructor.



**Troy Atwell, M.B.A. – Marketing Instructor, Adjunct**

Troy has been in the marketing industry for more than 16 years. He has experience in business development and growth strategies for small to medium size businesses as a business advisor for a national marketing and business software company. He specializes in professional sales, online marketing, website development, social media and business efficiencies. He served in the United States Navy for seven years as an accountant assigned to the USS Frederick LST-1184 in Pearl Harbor, HI, and the Personal Support Detachments in Moffett Field, CA and New Orleans, LA.



**Dr. Faye Houshyari – Economics Instructor, Adjunct**

Faye joined Bates in 2020. She has an Ed.D. and an MBA from Seattle University, and a B.S. in economics from Tehran University in Iran. Dr. Houshyari also teaches economics and business courses in the Albers School of Business and Economics at Seattle University, Cascadia College, and Digipen Institute of Technology. In addition to her expertise in business, she brings an international perspective and diversity to educational programs and academic development.

**Roland Brown – Machinist Instructor, Adjunct**

Roland has 25 years in the tool and die trade at Boeing and worked in the automotive industry as an engine assembler and machinist for 15 years.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

Vice President of Instruction Dr. Johnny Hu would like to invite Bates faculty and staff to his open drop-in office hours for Winter Quarter. Below are the dates and times. The Zoom link is embedded in the date.

- [February 4, 10-11am](#)
- [February 25, 11am-12pm](#)
- [March 11, 11am-12pm](#)

If you would like to request a one-on-one meeting with Johnny or to meet as a group/department, please reach out to [Jenifer Keltto](#).

**Student Services**

**Staff Updates**

Student Services has now completed staff changes as previously planned. As of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, our new Director of Student Outreach, Advising and Conduct and Director of Enrollment (formerly Director of Registration) have launched into their new roles. Recruiting and interviews for three Retention Specialist positions, funded by Title III, have been completed. Reporting to Juliette Kern, once filled, these positions will offer critical services, providing needed support to students as they overcome obstacles while completing their educational goals. We will be recruiting for a Records Specialist soon.



### **Director of Enrollment – Cielito Lane**

Cielito Lane comes to Bates with a solid career and background at both the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges and Tacoma Community College. Her expertise in the implementation of ctcLink in her previous positions will be of great support in terms of knowledge, resources, counsel and education around the implementation and Go Live process. She has already brought so many positives in the early days of her time at Bates, providing amazing insights and advice as we move to our Go Live date in May.



### **Director of Outreach, Advising and Conduct – Bob Traufler**

Bob Traufler's lengthy career here at Bates is one we have come to rely upon, and we thank him for his valuable services as Director of Registration. His background as a past advisor has already served him well as the Director of Outreach, Advising and Conduct. Bob has some wonderful ideas for improving outreach efforts and is well prepared to make a smooth transition into his new role here at Bates. He will also be providing some support Cielito in her role as Director of Enrollment.

### **ctcLink Updates**

Student Services is currently in the process of completing User Acceptance Testing (UAT), which allows our staff to test information and processes within the setup that we have built in ctcLink. With this testing, we can determine if and where there are issues/obstacles and make the necessary corrections prior to going live. All staff continue to focus on training and participation in ctcLink coaching in order to navigate to full implementation.

### **Guided Pathways Updates**

The Guided Pathways Committee is working to develop a list of metrics for measuring Guided Pathways efforts/results. Good work has been done by Jon Bolas creating retention and other dashboards within Tableau software. These dashboards can be filtered to provide useful info regarding measured results. However, it is important that each of the committees ensure that all the necessary metrics are being captured.

The college has also received the template for our 2022-23 Guided Pathways Work Plan. This annual plan is completed by the Guided Pathways Committee and shared with the State showing progress on the project and goals for the upcoming year. The data collection mentioned earlier is vital to our development of this plan.

With the recent departure/retirement of GP committee members, we are looking to fill vacated committee and subcommittee positions in order to further Guided Pathways goals and efforts. Dr. Peter Speelmon will fill the role vacated by Lori Keller. Other changes/additions to be reviewed and announced soon.

### **Financial Aid and WES Data Updates**

- 2021-22 AY Federal and State Aid Awarded
- PELL Grant- \$10,346,379.37
- Washington College Grant- \$7,880,172.04
- College Bound Scholarship- \$27,257.00

- FSEOG-\$127,775.00
- Total Financial Aid awarded- \$22,000,382.91
- As of January 18, 2022, we have received 4,289 unduplicated financial aid applications.

#### **Other Student Services Information**

**The Student Food Pantry Is Open – New Hours!** An announcement to visit the food pantry has been communicated to all Bates' students! Prepared lunches (Cup o' Noodles, bar, chips, and water) can be delivered to classrooms with students only needing to fill out a request form with their instructors.

Hours of operation: **Monday, Wednesday & Friday – Noon - 4:30 p.m.**

---

## **Finance and Administrative Services**

### **New Employees / Promotions**

We have been working on a reorganization within the Finance and Administrative Services Department. A warm welcome to Christine Winskill, Interim Controller, who has hit the ground running! Besides having to clean up multiple months of operational accounting activity, Christine will be active as the ctcLink Finance Pillar Lead. She will also serve as the lead for fiscal month and year end closing, as well as for audit activities.

Kathy Valenzuela has been promoted to the position of Director of Business Operations. In this role, Kathy will lead the accounts payable and receivables efforts of the business office. Her role will continue to include contract and grant management and overall knower of things.

Neph Drummer has been promoted to the position of Director of Budget and Enterprise Services. The biggest change in this operational shift will be Neph's inclusion in the budget development and implementation process. In addition, he will lead our efforts to develop a stronger presence in Student Financial Services. His office will oversee cashiering and the intersection and application of revenue policy to student enrollment activity. Finally, he will continue in a leadership role for Bates' enterprise activities in the bookstore, vending services, as well as the internal services provided to the college through the General Services Division.

In the Safety & Security department, Trent Aldan was promoted to Public Safety Sergeant in November. With more than a decade of service to the Bates community, Trent was the natural choice for this promotion.

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Christine, Kathy, Neph and Trent.

## Facilities Capital Projects Updates

### **Center for Allied Health Education – New Building**

The Allied Health programs moved from the East Annex building to the new building at the end of the fall quarter. Classes officially started in the new building on January 3, 2022.

Furniture, fixtures and equipment continue to face supply chain challenges, but most should arrive sometime in February.

The site perimeter fencing and gates to secure the parking area are now scheduled to be installed late February.

### **Bottle Filler Stations**

As part of COVID response improvements, the college is replacing seven drinking fountains with bottle filler stations – three at the Downtown Campus, three at South Campus and one at Central Campus.

---

## General Services

### **Disinfectant Spray Bottles**



General Services is happy to continue providing the appropriate PPE to the college so that we can keep our community safe and healthy. Please remember that some items, such as the refillable disinfectant spray bottled pictured above, should be returned to the General Services Department via intercampus mail once usage has been completed. Please do not throw away these empty bottles. PPE requests can be made via the [following link](#).

---

## Events

### **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration**

The DEI Taskforce Co-Chairs Dee Nelons and Marcus Harvey hosted an in-person Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the Downtown campus. The theme of the celebration was “Together We Stand”.

The event featured keynote speaker Tacoma City Council Member Keith Blocker, and student speaker George Matthews. Employees and students attended the celebration.

### **DEI Taskforce - Inclusive Workplace Training**



Joanne Lee from Global Competency Solutions provided a series of workshops on inclusive approaches to learn about creating a safe and respectful environment where everyone can thrive.

The first workshop was titled, “Creating Psychological Safety in the Workplace”, and were held on January 10th and 24th via Zoom. (Click image at left to enlarge training flyer.)

## Accreditation Update

Few people would place policy-review at the top of their favorites list. But it’s been a focus of College Council’s work over the past few years. Over that time, in part to meet accreditation requirements, Council reviewed more than 80 college policies, covering everything from smoking areas to academic freedom. Once the final versions are posted in BTC’s [Policy Library](#), they’ll provide documentation for BTC’s Standard 2 report to NWCCU, due March 1.

## This is Bates

- **Did you know Bates has a Vet Corps Navigator on campus?** [Meet Austine LeBlanc.](#)
- **Interested in learning more about the public art piece in front of the Center for Allied Health Education at the Downtown Campus?** [Read this piece to find out how it pays tribute to our community.](#)

---

## Spotlight on Faculty

### Meet Barbering program faculty Andrea Green



I chose to enter the barbering field because my mother is a barber and it’s unique to be a female in an industry that is predominantly males. I feel that my teaching style is unique because I incorporate my 26 years of experience in the field, in conjunction with book theory. The most rewarding aspect of teaching is when my graduates become successful in the industry.

My biggest inspiration is Jeff Olson, he was my instructor here at Bates in 1996. He taught me everything that I needed to know to be a success in the barbering industry as well as giving me the opportunity to be an instructor and he continues to mentor me. I am eternally grateful for everything he has done for me.

---



## Spotlight on Students

### Meet Sophia Ratajczak, Dental Assisting program student and student government leader



#### What program are you in, and why did you choose that program?

I am in the second quarter of the Dental Assisting program. I chose this program because I have worked multiple office jobs and have found that they were not a good fit for me. I began to consider making a career change and going into the dental field, as I enjoy working closely with others and helping people. When I spoke to some dental assistants about my interest in dentistry, they suggested I look into the program at Bates Technical College.

#### What drew you to Bates Technical College, and what do you like the most about your educational experience?

I was drawn to Bates Technical College because I heard great things about the Dental Assisting Program, and I also live nearby. I like the fact that I have a small class, and teachers that are always willing to provide extra help when needed.

#### Were there any obstacles or challenges that you worked through while in school?

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated some preexisting mental health issues I struggle with, so it has been a struggle to balance working on my health and returning to school.

#### When are you graduating, and what are your three- or five-year plans?

I graduate this summer! My three-year plan is to move to a larger nearby city with my cat (Portland or Seattle) and work as a dental assistant.

#### Any advice you'd offer to prospective students considering technical education?

Consider technical education after you complete high school, or at any time in your life! I graduated from UW Tacoma in 2018 and found that I wanted to return to school for a technical degree that would prepare me for a job in an in-demand field. Four-year degrees are not the only option!

---

## Employee Milestones

Congratulations to the following **February** anniversary employees!

- Debra Olson, Office Assistant, 23
- Denis Alekhin, Computer Technician, 2
- Denise Holt, Administrative Assistant, 29
- Jamie Whitman, Production Assistant, KBTC, 3

- Jean -Pierre Garcia, Program Assistant KBTC, 6
- Ken Witkoe, Broadcast/Video/Audio Instructor, 8
- Kim Preston, Public Security Officer, 5
- Leonard Staten, Multicast Program Assistant KBTC, 1
- Lidia Stratienco, Early Childhood Specialist, 6
- Michael Wood, Librarian, 7
- Nichole Baker, Early Childhood Program Manager, 17
- Raelene Randall, Finance Assistant, 9
- Ruriko Holloman, Administrative Assistant, 5
- Svetlana Levchuk, Campus Store Specialist, 19
- Vladimir Popescu, Facilities and Operations Supervisor, 2

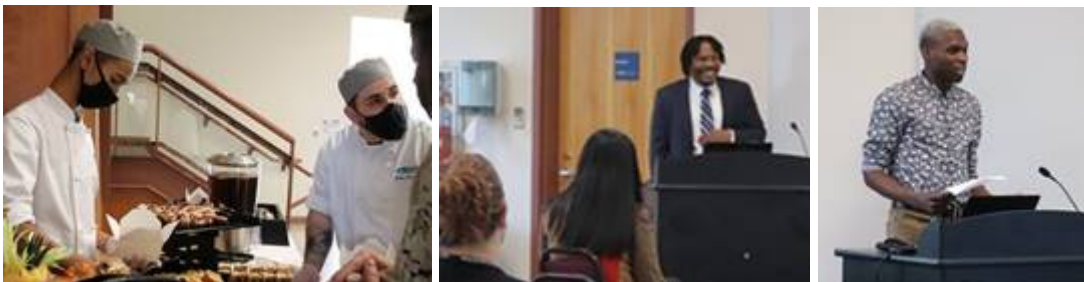
### Peer Appreciations

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

## Bobcat Bits

### Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: Together We Stand

A group of students and employees gathered on Jan. 13 to hear from Tacoma City Council Member Keith Blocker and student speaker George Matthews in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. The college's Culinary Arts program provided small bites to take following the event. Special thanks to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce for planning the event.



### KBTC's Northwest Now features new allied health building

Northwest Now contributor Linda Byron spent the morning at the new Center for Allied Health Education facility during the first week of the quarter. She interviewed a handful of students and faculty to highlight how the college is well-positioned to fuel the county's skilled health care employee needs. [Watch here it here!](#)



### **Mental Health Highlight**

Are you looking for a few tips to boost your mental health? Try these:

1. Track gratitude and achievement with a journal. Include 3 things you were grateful for and 3 things you were able to accomplish each day.”
2. "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." - Martin Luther King, Jr. Think of something in your life you want to improve and figure out what you can do to take a step in the right direction.
3. Go ahead and yawn. Studies suggest that yawning helps cool the brain and improves alertness and mental efficiency.
4. Experiment with a new recipe, write a poem, paint or try a Pinterest project. Creative expression and overall well-being are linked.
5. Keep it cool for a good night's sleep. The optimal temperature for sleep is between 60- and 67-degrees Fahrenheit.



Dates to Remember (find details on the [college calendar](#))

- Spring Quarter registration for continuing students begins, Feb. 1
- ASG General Assembly, Feb. 4
- Bates Spirit Wear Friday, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25
- Spring Quarter registration for new students begins, Feb. 7
- Leadership Listening Session, Feb 8
- Last day to receive a 'W' on transcript, Feb. 16
- College closed for President's Day holiday, Feb. 21
- Winter Quarter ends, March 15

[www.BatesTech.edu](http://www.BatesTech.edu)



Bates Technical College © Copyright 1940 - 2021