



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

Bates Technical College | October 2021



Message from President Lin Zhou

Dear college community,

November 11 is Veterans Day, a day where we pause to honor and thank those who served, and those who continue to serve, as members of the armed forces.

On Friday, Nov. 5, please join us as we celebrate Veterans Day with an event at South Campus, 11 a.m.-Noon. The theme, A Proud Legacy, will focus on the contributions and sacrifices of the Buffalo Soldiers. This is also an opportunity to join together to honor our student veterans, as well as our faculty and staff veterans.

We are fortunate that our student veterans represent all branches of the military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. As they transition to the next phase of their lives following military service, our college community is ready to support them as they pursue their degree or certificate.

Thank you,

Lin

Department Updates

Instruction

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



Eric Johnson-Welding Instructor

Eric has been in the welding industry for more than 15 years. He has experience in underwater welding as a commercial diver on ships in the Puget Sound Naval Station and with various other employers, including hydraulic and crane work. He has specialized in stainless steel, copper-nickel, and mild steel with TIG, SMAW, and FCAW.



Hongying Douglas-I-BEST HVAC program instructor

Hongying received her MA in education with a focus on language and literacy in Virginia. She taught English for several years at the University of Arizona before returning to school to earn my MBA at the University of Colorado. Her teaching career spans more than 20 years in various universities and community colleges. She has taught in the Intensive English Program, Graduate Teacher Education Program, Language Assisted MBA, MBA, and I-BEST. Hongying is a frequent TESOL presenter, and in January 2019, she presented at the Nile TESOL in Egypt. In her spare time, she enjoys exploring nature and reading books.



Tim Bacon-CNC Machinist Instructor

Tim’s journey started with a two-year stay at Bates, attending machinist and manufacturing programs. He holds a BS degree in Technical Education, spent 12 years teaching with the AJAC Machinist Apprenticeship, and has almost 20 years of work in the aerospace industry. Tim currently sits on the AJAC advisory committee as the secretary where he assists and recommends program direction to help stay current with industry needs.



Mark Ojeda-Machinist Instructor, Adjunct

Mark started his teaching career at Bates soon after graduating from a bi-lingual certification program. He taught at Texas State Technical College for two years and has been an instructor for five years.



Maria Mendez-Nursing Instructor, Adjunct

Maria has been a nurse for more than 22 years, with most of her experience in emergency nursing. She has worked at a few local area hospitals and expanded into wound care, with some medical mission trips here and there. She has always been passionate about teaching new co-workers, preceptees and students.



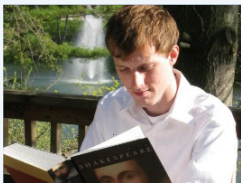
Dennis Butler-English Instructor, Adjunct

Dennis is native to Pierce County. His background is unusual, combining engineering, philosophy and creative writing. Dennis earned a Master of Arts in interdisciplinary studies in psychology and English (2015), from Western New Mexico University, in Silver City, New Mexico. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in western philosophy (2011), from American Public University, in Charlestown, West Virginia.



Damita Gomez-Data Project Manager

Damita Gomez is a recent graduate from the University of Washington’s informatics program with a focus on data science. Her background also includes web design and social media research. In addition to working at Bates, she is interning at Troy Consulting and looks forward to entering a Data Science Master's program in the coming year.



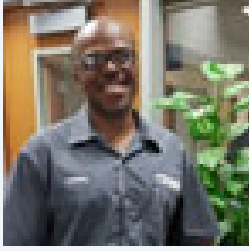
Joseph Donaldson-English Instructor, Adjunct

Joseph began teaching for Bates in 2019 shortly after graduating from Northern Illinois University with a Ph.D. in English. He has instructed both online and face-to-face classes. He is originally from St. Louis, and currently resides in Seattle. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, skiing, kayaking and reading science fiction.



Jesse Galaviz-Welding Instructor

Jesse is a former union ironworker from the Los Angeles, California area. He also taught welding at San Bernardino Valley College for 17 years. He has a strong background in the Weld Inspection field. He is a license Certified Welding Inspector as well as a Certified Welding Educator. He is also a WABO license weld inspector and a ASNT Level III. Teaching is his passion, and he is thrilled and excited to be back in the classroom. Above is a picture of Jesse and his class during a field trip to Jesse Engineering.



Anthony Hickonbottom- HVAC/R Instructor

Anthony is very passionate about learning and teaching. He obtained his HVAC/R degree at Bates six years ago and continues to provide HVAC/R support to friends and family. While obtaining his degree, he worked with the Mechanical Specialist on the swing-graveyard shift at the Tacoma Dome and the Downtown Tacoma Convention Center. He attended classes daily while completing work-study duties.

In this age of information, Anthony is excited to help students eliminate learning curves, so their natural talents will lead to success in industry.



Denise Holt-Administrative Assistant, South Campus

Denise has been an employee at Bates Technical College for more than 25 years, working in the finance office as Accounting Assistant and Lead Cashier. She looks forward to the experience and growth in the Instructional department as an Administrative Assistant.



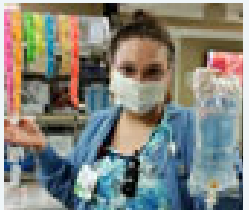
Nicole Hancock-I-BEST Instructor

Nicole Hancock is the I-BEST instructor for the Electrical Construction program at South Campus. She has been a general education adjunct instructor at Bates since 2011, teaching math, science and engineering courses. Prior to working at Bates, Nicole worked for the Department of Defense as a chemical engineer. She is married with two kids and enjoys hiking, camping and sports.



Abdalkhuddus Uraiet-Biomed Instructor, Adjunct

Abdalkhuddus instructs biomedical technicians with an emphasis on teamwork and collaboration. He was trained by SIEMENS Healthcare as an X-Ray Service Engineer. He graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in science and mechanical engineering.



Carly McMacken-Clinical Instructor

Carly has been working as a nurse in the acute care setting for the past 10 years. She is usually the nurse that her co-workers call when they need help or have questions. She has a strong passion for teaching new nurses, as she feels they are the future of nursing. She enjoys working with the geriatric population and calls herself an 'old-person nurse.'

Student Services

Guided Pathways

Vice President Ashpole and Vice President Hu met with the chairs of all five subcommittees and set goals for the year for each committee. The focus is to complete Guided Pathways tasks that are aligned with ctcLink. This will maximize our efficiency in the current year.

Friday Closures

To complete the training necessary for ctcLink, Student Services will be closed on Fridays for the remainder of the quarter. This training is vital as we prepare to go live in the new system in May. Thank you for your patience as we work to complete this critical training.

Title III Grant

Student Services is excited about the impact the new Title III grant will have on supporting students. Students will directly feel the impact of our hiring three retention specialists. These positions will support students who are struggling with the variety of issues that can keep them from completing their program. This support is vital to improving our retention and completion rates. More to come on these positions and how we plan to build wraparound services on all three campuses for our students.

Winter Registration

Winter Registration is underway. We look to continue to build on the growth in enrollment we saw during the fall quarter. Please encourage returning students to register for winter quarter so we can evaluate the seats that are remaining and fill them. Thanks to advising and faculty for all your hard work to get students into programs and grow college enrollment.

CLA/ASG Highlight

Campus Life and Activities is Moving

As the Center for Allied Health Education is gearing up to support all the students and programs from the C-Wing, Campus Life and Activities has also found a new home. The CLA (as students affectionately call it) will now be in the A Building, next to the water feature, library and auditorium. This space is perfect as it has direct access to the courtyard to facilitate summer events and to the auditorium for large scale activities. Located next to the library, this space will become the heartbeat of the college and a hub for students. We look forward to serving all our students from the new location soon.

Financial Aid

Classroom Presentation

The Financial Aid and Workforce Education Services staff will provide in-class presentations to work closely with our faculty in getting information directly to students. The presentations will cover FAFSA/WASFA, grants, scholarships, WES (Workforce Education Services) programs, Gi Bill® benefits, financial literacy, and the Education Opportunity Center. Please click on the [bookings page](#) to schedule a time for your classroom visit.

Which Way

To help you make smart choices about your finances, we've teamed up with [Student Connections](#) to provide financial education through an interactive website called Which Way. Which Way provides [Financial Literacy](#) modules to assist students with a variety of topics. These are all free self-paced modules you have access to. Details are on the [Financial Literacy](#) webpage. The Financial Aid office can also create special groups if faculty would like to implement modules into their curriculum. For additional information, please contact Jamie Huey jhuey@batestech.edu.

Student Connections

We know how hard it can be to navigate the processes of repayment plans and options.

Through our partnership with [Student Connections](#), we can offer students:

- free student loan counseling
- help students establish the best loan repayment options

Community Resources Hub

The Community Resource Taskforce has finished the [Community Resource Hub webpage](#), resources are posted for Crisis Hotlines, Food, Housing and Utilities, Emergency Funds, Health and Wellness, Childcare and Parent Support, Transportation, Money and Employment, Legal Support and Veterans Resources.

FAFSA/WASFA Assistance

We offer walk-in assistance to help students complete their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or WASFA. If you are currently enrolled, you should complete the 2021-22 application using your 2019 tax forms. The 2022-23 application is now available and requires your 2020 tax form.

MDC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER (EOC)

The Education Opportunity Center (EOC) and Bates Technical College are partnering to help you reach your educational goals. The EOC offers free educational and career advising to everyone. Students will receive one-on-one support, connections to educational resources, and navigating the college enrollment process. Our EOC advisors assist you with:

- Identifying a career path
- Creating educational goals
- Applying to a college or career of best fit and,
- Applying for financial aid in order to pay for college as well as,
- Assisting students with grant over-payment and student loan default.

The target demographics are low income and first-generation college students. If you meet income standards, we can pay for college assessment test and college admission fee. Please complete the form to request services. Our goal is to respond within 24 hours. To [enroll in the EOC](#) or for more information about the EOC program, please contact our EOC Advisor, Yesenia Varela at yvarela@mdc-hope.org, or 253.318.4945

Student Admissions

Recruitment and Activities

Virtual Sessions

Virtual college information sessions are currently taking the place of on-campus visits followed by Zoom Q&A Steps to Enroll. These weekly sessions answer questions about admissions, academic programs, scholarships, financial aid and more. Eight sessions were held this past month, with 176 registrations.

Presentations

Bates participated in the Fall Washington State Career Counselor's presentation to more than 350 career counselors.

Career Fairs

Bates participated in four career fairs working with White River School District, Bethel School District, Puyallup School District and Franklin Pierce. Bates participated in two career fairs serving military veterans and spouses.

Partnerships

Vocational Rehab-Strategic Consulting Services

Bates has partnered with Strategic Consulting Services to provide solutions to students with disabilities and vocational needs.

SBCTC Partnership

Bates is an active partner with SBCTC in creating and running statewide marketing campaigns aimed at student recruitment. This campaign is specifically looking to attract unemployed or underemployed adult workers, people of color, males and people who qualify for financial aid.

WA State Fair

Bates completed the collective college participation at the Washington State Fair. The fair had 816,000 attendees. Attending the fair provided an impactful way to solidify Bates' presence and voice as a leading technical college.

Rise Center/Hilltop

Bates has partnered with the R.I.S.E. Center to provide training resources to underserved community members in Tacoma Hilltop. The R.I.S.E. Center is a local non-profit organization based in Tacoma. It aims to help people restore their lives through faith, community support, and a wide variety of services.

Student Life and Activities

New Student Orientation (NSO)

76 percent of incoming career training students (305) completed the online NSO fall of 2021.

Finance and Administrative Services

Facilities Capital Projects Updates

Substantial completion for the Center for Allied Health Education was obtained on Oct. 1, and the opening of the parking lot followed on Oct. 4 for use by students, employees and visitors.



An outdoor art feature at the Yakima Ave. Entrance to the new building was installed on Oct. 9. [Click here to see photos of the installation.](#)

Inspired by the healing arts, each tree of this free-standing sculpture represents allied health disciplines at Bates Technical College. The trees not only show the various branches of the educational institution, but also represent the growth of students as well as the college itself. The materials, stainless steel and gold, are reflective of tools used in the medical and dental fields. The leaves of the trees are filled with historical and present-day maps of the surrounding area, illustrating the symbiotic relationship between the college and the neighborhood. Each tree is kinetic, turning in the wind to signify the revolving connection between Bates and the Hilltop community. The medical, technical and dental symbols at the top of each tree represent Bates Technical College, the heart of the community, on the map. The veins of the leaves, the area's streets, symbolize the life-line that the neighborhood is to Bates.

Finance and Administrative Services



The Department requests your patience as we are undergoing some changes, both for position advancements, and new vacancies that need to be filled. We are experiencing a staffing shortage because of the movement, but will do our best to continue to assist you in every way we can.

Speaking of advancements, we would like to congratulate the following employees for obtaining permanent titles in their currently interim roles:

- **Dee Nelons, Director of Facilities and Operations**
- **Ray Richardson, Director of Safety and Security**

New Childcare Center!

The Bates Early Childhood Center for Childcare, Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Early Head Start has been busy the past few months rehoming our Eastside ECEAP into a licensed childcare facility located off East Portland Ave.



With the move we have the opportunity to expand our ability to serve infants and toddlers. For students that are PELL grant eligible there is financial assistance available to help with childcare tuition from the CCAMPIS grant. Please call Cynthia Covarrubias for enrollment forms and information. 253.212.9258 or email cycovarrubias@batestech.edu.



COVID Corner

Updated guidance from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges notes the following:

Faculty are allowed to lecture without wearing a mask, provided they:

1. Consider all other alternatives before unmasking, like using a microphone.
2. Are able to maintain physical distance from all observers.
3. It's recommended that faculty consider feedback from their students before faculty opt to unmask for lectures.

Get up-to-date COVID information at BatesTech.edu/Coronavirus.

Spotlight on Staff

Meet **Dionne Bonner**, Graphic Designer -----



How long have you worked at Bates, and what is your role?
19 years, and I'm a graphic designer.

What is your favorite thing about working at Bates?

I enjoy the work that I do as a graphic designer. Using color, shapes, texture, text and images to tell a story about the college, technical education, and enhance our brand is fulfilling. I believe in the benefit of technical education for personal and professional enrichment, economic growth and stability for anyone with a desire.

What do you like to do when you're not at work?

I'm a visual artist, I paint murals and create public art. My art business keeps me pretty busy after hours, and I'm drawn to work on projects that amplify the voice of marginalized communities. I am excited about a project I'm starting, working with the [Tacoma Art Museum](#) on a Black Lives Matter mural because I'll be collaborating with the communities most affected. My family has a history living in the Hilltop neighborhood, which is in close proximity to the college. Recently, I served on a community advisory committee that partnered with [Fab5](#) and [Forterra](#) to help activate a space on Martin Luther King Jr Way primed for an affordable and market rate housing development. I was hired to paint a mural displayed on the current structure. I titled the mural "Interconnections" and it represents unity and is dedicated to each community member's contribution (longtime, displaced and new) to the lively and diverse Hilltop neighborhood. I believe the indelible mark the Black community has had in shaping this neighborhood is unmistakable. But Hilltop has not always been reported on or seen in its true light. There has been a narrowness of thought about Hilltop in the past, and through a skewed lens, the resiliency of the Black community here has been ignored and disrespected.

To relax, I enjoy the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Our landscape is amazing, especially right now in the fall, so doing anything that involves being outdoors is ideal if I'm warm enough.

Congratulations to the following **November** employee anniversaries!

- TERESA CIOLKOSZ, Administrative Assistant to Facilities, 23
- JEFF LLAPITAN, Electrical Construction Instructor, 22
- EILEEN BECK, Practical Nursing Instructor, 20
- BETH CUMMINGS, Organizational Change Implementation, 20

- TIM TRUSSLER, Director eLearning and Instructional Support, 17
- ANDREY DOSTAN, Custodian II, 14
- SERGEY FRANKOV, Custodian II, 14
- TAMI HILL, EC Specialist II, 14
- INNA KLASSEN, Administrative Assistant to Instruction, 14
- PATRICIA CHASE, Outreach and Recruitment Specialist, 14
- SHONDEA CHAPMAN, Worker Retraining Specialist, 13
- RAY RICHARDSON, Director of Safety & Security, 13
- STEVE NEWSOM, Chief Engineer, 12
- MIKE SARTORE, Diesel/Heavy Equipment Instructor, 8
- MEGAN BURKE, Enrollment Management Specialist, 7
- JULIETTE KERN, Assistant Director Student Activities, 7
- PAM SIMPSON, Commercial Truck Driving Instructor, 7
- JULIA CAMPBELL, Nursing Program Technician, 6
- ALLA VEREMEYKINA, EC Specialist 2, 5
- ACHARA THONGPAN, EC Specialist 2, 4
- RACHEL ANDERSON, Campus Store Assistant, 3
- HENRY REISCH, Commercial Truck Driving Instructor, 3
- DANIELA BELTRAN, EC Specialist 4, 2
- MARCY WARREN, Student Records Clerk, 2
- KAREY BRYSON, Executive Assistant to the President, 2
- MARCUS HARVEY, Dean of Instruction, 2
- ISABELA REED, Community Engagement, 1

Special recognition of missed August anniversary to **Rhonda Sample**, 20 years, Assistant Coordinator for Disability Support Services. Congratulations!

Welcome our New Bates Employees!

- I-Best, Instructor, Hongying Douglas
- I-Best Instructor, Nicole Hancock

Peer Appreciations

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

Bobcat Bits

Welding program students bring life to Big Foot at Fantasy Lights

Most commonly spotted in the Pacific Northwest, the sly Sasquatch will ditch the remote wilderness and make an appearance at this year's Fantasy Lights

at Spanaway Park. Built by Bates Technical College's Welding program students, the bipedal Bigfoot will beguile everyone big and small driving through the park at this annual holiday light display.

For nearly 30 years, Bates students have crafted countless pieces for Fantasy Lights as part of a valued partnership between the college and Pierce County Parks and Recreation, offering our students valuable hands-on experience.

[Read more here.](#)

Broadcasting/Video Production program feeds video and more for culinary show

Did you know that our Broadcasting/Video Production students receive a festive real-world experience at the annual Holiday Food and Gift Festival, held at the Tacoma Dome? Students provide broadcast video services to shoot the cooking shows during the four-day event. Our students set up the entire production and project the shows on a large screen. It is also streamed live. [Check out the photos here.](#)

KBTC, a service of Bates Technical College, recognizes PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion

KBTC recently announced Amy Reed-Ferguson, a kindergarten teacher at Puyallup School District's Pope Elementary School, is one of 11 educators from across the country to be named a PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion.

The award, established in 2018, recognizes and celebrates passionate educators who work with young children from infants to second graders, and offers professional learning and networking opportunities provided by PBS KIDS and KBTC, a service of Bates Technical College.

Reed-Ferguson was selected for her deep experience with tools and resources available from PBS KIDS through the station, and her creative approach to applying them in the classroom, said KBTC's General Manager DeAnne Hamilton. [Read more here.](#)

Denturist program students network and learn at national conference

Denturist program students took part in the National Denturist Association Conference in Las Vegas. The students attended advanced classes and were introduced to leaders in the denture industry. Way to go, future denture techs!

In case you missed it:

- [KBTC recognizes Puyallup teacher named 2021 PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion](#)
- [Shave and a Haircut](#)
- [Bates Technical College awarded \\$2.25M grant](#)
- [Articulation agreement between EWU and Bates helps students pursue career goals](#)

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

- Registration for Winter Quarter, New Students – Monday, Nov. 1
- Veterans Day Event: A Proud Legacy – Friday, Nov. 5
- Leadership Listening Session – Tuesday, Nov. 9
- Veterans Day Holiday, College Closed – Thursday, Nov. 11
- Half Day for Faculty and Students – Wednesday, Nov. 24
- Thanksgiving Break, College Closed – Thursday, Nov. 25-Friday, Nov. 26
- Board of Trustees Meeting – Monday, Nov. 29
- ASG General Assembly Meeting – Friday, Dec. 3
- Fall Quarter Ends – Friday, Dec. 10

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