

From: [President](#)
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P R E S I D E N T ' S N E W S L E T T E R

Bates Technical College | April 2023

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President's Update

Dear college community,

As you are aware, we successfully completed a site visit with the NWCCU accreditation team. I am extremely proud of each one of you who shared your experiences and thoughts, and helped paint a picture of who we are to our guests.

During the exit meeting on Friday, April 21, the NWCCU team commented on our beautiful facilities and safety elements, making it a great place to work and learn, and noted that our students and employees were actively engaged. They specifically mentioned our hospitality and the Culinary Arts program for the excellent food.

The team provided us with three commendations and three recommendations. There were no surprises in the team's findings, and this was a very positive outcome. We will receive the full report soon, and then it will be moved forward to the NWCCU Commission meeting for approval in June. This information will be key as we begin our strategic planning process this summer. More importantly, this evaluation will assist in our continued efforts to improve as an institution.

The evaluation team commended the college for its student-centered mindset and high-quality education; evident culture of cooperation and collegiality at all levels of the institution; and excellent and active program advisory committees.

The team recommended that we incorporate committee structures, program review, resource development, and reporting in our planning process (Standard 1B1); establish meaningful and measurable goals against the strategic plan (Standards 1B2 and 1D2); and continue our work with college wide student learning outcomes and assessment that will show measurable improvement (Standards 1C6 and 1C7).

We will share the team's full report when we receive it, and it will serve as our springboard for the strategic planning process.

I am so honored to serve as the President of Bates Technical College. Each one of you makes me proud. We will take the opportunity to celebrate this achievement during our May 25th [Commencement Ceremony](#) activities.

Thank you,

Lia

Department Updates

Instruction

Accreditation

The Office of Instruction collaborated with the Marketing and Communications office to publish key information on our public website, including the new [Program Effectiveness Review](#) (PER) process and schedule of programs under review for 2023-2026. Additionally, we developed a public site for [advisory committees](#) that includes a list of community partners serving in committees, as well as individual advisory committee pages for each program.

Central Campus

Broadcasting and Video Production (BVP) students and instructors produced the first "live" Staff Spotlight show with Vice President Dr. Johnny Hu. For 90% of the students, it was the first live studio production they had ever been involved in. Students are super excited and pumped to try it again each week! Thank you, BVP faculty members **Ken Witkoe** and **Roland Robinson**, for leading an incredible group of BVP students!



Downtown Campus

Downtown Campus hosted nearly 50 high school students at the beginning of this month for a tour and program visit.

Kudos to our librarian **Mike Wood** for always going above and beyond to provide resources to students, staff, and faculty. This month, Mike assisted a student with downloading Office 365 and accessing her email for the first time...she was pleased to discover that she had received a \$3,460 scholarship award!

The Machinist program students, led by instructor **Tim Bacon**, toured Boeing this month. By visiting industry leaders, students gain an understanding of the type of work being done, and the environment in which it is being performed.

Practical Nurse program students were thrilled to be working with local hospitals in a new partnership for clinical rotations and preceptorships this quarter.

Student Services

1. Staffing Updates:

- a. Financial Aid Office Assistant position has been posted. We are actively recruiting to fill two positions.
- b. Two positions in Student Services management have been revised. Cielito Lane is now Dean of Enrollment/Registrar and Niraj Swami is now Dean of Outreach and Advising.

2. Outreach & Advising

- a. Recent strategies have been developed to maximize the use of the Engage 2 Serve, Customer Relationship Management software. The focus will be on enhancing intake information and data collection. We are also looking into software expansion to consider Engage 2 Retain, which we hope may be of benefit to our Retention Specialists.
- b. Advisor Brandon Held will be taking on the advising role at the South Campus, with Advisor Jason Carroll taking over that position at South Campus effective 4/13/2023.

3. Registration

- a. Admissions has updated our Residency Webpage to provide more information to prospective students with Residency questions. A new Residency Questionnaire Packet has been included to assist prospective out-of-state students. In addition, a link has been added to assist applicants whose Residency status requires more information. Check out the Forms section of our [Residency Webpage](#) for the new information.
- b. We are pleased to announce that Admissions has implemented the automated process, Batch Matriculation, streamlining our daily application processing. We are one of only 9 colleges in our system actively using this process.
- c. Registration began the project of collecting missing grades from past quarters, Winter 2020 to Winter 2022. We have collected and posted 1,254 missing grades. We are halfway to all grades being submitted for this range of quarters.
- d. With all grades for Winter Quarter 2023 submitted by 3/31/2023, credentialing is in full swing. To date, Angie has reviewed and posted 62 credentials for Winter 2023. This includes all Phlebotomy course students and HS21+ students.
- e. With all grades for Winter Quarter 2023 posted, the Registration Office has identified our President's List and Dean's list Students. We congratulate our hard-working students. Letters and Certificates will be distributed in April.

4. Campus Life and Activities

- a. A new ASG President has voted in on April VP at South, Adrian Benton was voted into the President's role effective April 4, 2023.
- b. Esports held a successful event on April 7, 2023 at Central Campus. We had 11 participants, with some high school, alumni, central campus and ASG students. The event was fun and fulfilled its mission to support student interest in Esports and student engagement. The event was Super Smash Bros. and was live streamed on Twitch TV. There were a few technical difficulties, but overall, the event went well.
- c. More events are planned for the future, including a watch party and tournaments throughout the greater Pacific Northwest.

Finance and Admin Services

Vice President's Office –

Christine Winskill, Executive Director of Finance

- Negotiating high wage high demand salary appropriation.
- Negotiating new lease with Pierce County Television
- Developing 2024 base budget

Finance and Business Services –

Christine Winskill, Executive Director of Finance

- College staff prepared and updated federal IPEDS data for the 2022 academic year.
- There has also been a large effort to implement the 'drop for non-payment' process for

- spring. This effort has been successful in moving customers to address delinquent accounts.
- The team is involved with the effort to secure equipment purchases before the end of the fiscal year, the primary task being to make sure everyone knows how to use the new system to acquire the equipment and material.
 - We have been catching up on house cleaning, by shipping over 30 boxes of fiscal records to the state records center for long term storage.

Capital Projects Update –

Dee Nelons, Director of Facilities & Operations

Fire Services Training Center – The project is included in both the House and Senate versions of the 2023-25 Capital budget and is likely to be authorized. Once authorization has been received, the college, along with the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) will start an aggressive process to solicit, receive, review, and award the construction contract (with notice to proceed) by July 31st of this year.

Install Permanent Lights at Lab Benches – This project replaces the temporary lights that were installed when the building was occupied with permanent fixtures that are more functional and suitable to lab bench work. Project is in progress.

Downtown Campus Bldg. A Level 1 HVAC Upgrades – The Early Learning Center relocated temporarily to Bldg. C during construction. The project is underway and scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2023.

Board Room Improvements – The Board Room is available for limited Trustee-related meetings. The lead time for some critical components of A/V equipment has pushed and their installation won't occur until the third quarter of 2023.

IAQ Improvements at KBTC – This project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will address flooring replacement, abatement of asbestos and biological matter and localized ceiling work to support these activities. The second phase, now in design, will replace the HVAC system, replace all old spline suspended ceiling and upgrade the old lights and control system to LED.

South Campus Overhead Exterior Coiling Doors – This project replaces the balance of doors at Building B underfunded from previous biennium. This work is substantially complete with only punch list items remaining to correct. This project is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2023.

South Campus Building E Masonry & Building Envelope Repairs - Water intrusion issues have been identified at the ground floor in two locations. Engineers have provided a design to correct the drainage issues. Final pricing for the project is being developed. This project is scheduled for completion prior to June 20, 2023.

South Campus Sidewalk Improvements – The mature landscaping as well as the sidewalk disrupted by old root systems have been removed. The site was relevelled, and the sidewalk/curb infrastructure has been replaced. Final landscaping is underway. The project is scheduled for completion prior to June 20, 2023.

South Campus Site Safety Improvements – Contractor secured to develop a long-term landscape masterplan to recommend landscape revisions and best practices to support campus safety, sustainability, and maintenance procedures.

Central Campus Building A - Fire Alarm Panel Replacement – This project is near completion. A final inspection sign-off continues to be delayed until all the parts arrive to make the connection of the three roll up doors to the new fire alarm system (2 of 3 have been received) The elevator remains out of service until the new fire alarm system passes final inspection.

South Campus Building B – Replace Obsolete HVAC units – This project has been awarded to Capital Heating and the Notice to Proceed was issued on December 2nd. The contractor will mobilize the week of March 20th, 2023. This work is scheduled for completion prior to June 30, 2023.

Downtown Campus East Annex HWT Replacement – Replace water heater tank, transformer, and pumps. This work is scheduled for completion prior to June 30, 2023.

2411 S. 19th Street Building -- Preliminary design work has commenced, with the first deliverable, feasibility studies expected by the end of March.

Accreditation Update

After two-plus years of build-up, our accreditation visit is suddenly behind us. The participation of faculty, staff, and students is much appreciated. It's probably impossible to recognize everyone else who played a role in our preparations, but a few key groups include College Council, the Culinary Program, the Assessment Task Force, ASG, Executive Cabinet, and the team's guides – Madeleine Kiuttu, Paul Hendrick, Jenifer Keltto, and LeAnn Dreier. The visitors were impressed with Bates' readiness and hospitality.

Now that the accreditation visit itself is over, what happens next? For the two or three weeks immediately after April 21, the focus is on correcting any errors of fact in the team's report. The document will not be released to us until that phase is completed. Next, the report goes before the NWCCU commissioners at their June meeting, where Pres. Zhou will attend. Soon after, probably in July, we will hear our final accreditation status.

This is Bates

Employee Milestones

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

Name	Job Title	Years of Service
Ingrid Smith	Information Technology Instructor	31
Svetlana Pashkovskiy	Accounting Technician	24
Ivan Mishchenko	Maintenance Engineer	23
Jason Carroll	Career Specialist	23
Steven Wood	BFET Admin. Compliance Specialist	20
Lee Williams	Re-Entry Navigator/ Opportunity Grant	17

Teodoro Oreiro	Welding Instructor	4
Michelle Reid	Library Technician	3
Jenifer Keltto	Executive Assistant to HR	3
Morgan Antush	Early Childhood Specialist 1	2
Hector Perez	Student Retention Specialist	1
Lauren Taga	Campus Public Safety Officer	1
Jared Jones	Student Records Specialist	1
Delores Vorse	Account Receivable/Cashier	1
Karah Burkel	Early Childhood Specialist 4	1
Svitlana Shulak	Early Childhood Specialist 2	1
Kameil Borders	Executive Director of HR	1

Peer Appreciations

- To Landon Johnson, faculty, Jason Carroll, advisor, and Registration office staff:** Thank you for all of the collaboration and teamwork to help a student update their academic plan so they can complete their program. You used the college's business processes efficiently and were able to assist to ensure a positive outcome for the students.
- To Hector Perez, Student Retention Specialist, and Hongyu Zhan, ctLink Business Analyst:** Thank you for the work you both did on the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for the upcoming enhancement update to the advising notes security. UAT testing is always involved and requires extensive testing. Hector was willing and took the time to assist, and we were able to meet SBCTC's deadline for input.
- To Madeleine Kiuttu, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction:** While on her way into work, approaching the ramp to employee rooftop parking, she observed an individual standing near the lower entrance to the ramp being inappropriate and harassing other staff in their vehicles as they drove up the ramp. Once she was parked on the roof, she quickly notified Campus Public Safety with a good description of the individual and a precise location of where the individual was located. Because of her action, CPS was able to properly deal with the individual. It's everyday actions like these from staff like Ms. Kiuttu that keep the college on track with its mission and goals and she's a great asset to the Bates team.
- To Donovan Holter, Facilities and Operations Custodian:** While covering two campuses, one of Mr. Holter's many duties is to each morning, rain or shine, remove all types of debris and trash around the outside of the Downtown and Central Campuses and surrounding college parking lots. He has also alerted Campus Public Safety to unusual, and sometimes criminal, behavior around the perimeter of the campuses in the surrounding neighborhood. He, like so many employees and students at Bates, is an extra set of eyes for CPS that is always appreciated, and he quietly lives up to the term: "one team, one mission."
- To Michael Cabrera and Kim Zapanta, Student Records Clerks-South Campus:** These two often go above and beyond with assisting students and sometimes employees with information at the South Campus. They are very observant and very quick when it comes to spotting trouble and problems with non-student/employee individuals in the Administration Building at South Campus and contacting Campus Public Safety. Service to students, and safety and assistance to fellow employees, is one of their goals, and they excel at it. Thank you!

Commencement Is Coming!

Graduation is at the Tacoma Dome on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 6 p.m. If you are a Class of 2023 graduate, it's time to purchase your regalia:

- Order your cap, gown and tassel online **before Wednesday, May 3, 2023**
- Order online at jostens.com. Graduates must wear a cap and gown to participate in the ceremony.
- Online ordering ends Wednesday, May 3, 2023.** If you miss the deadline, please call Jostens customer care at 800.854.7464, Monday – Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. (central time). *Expedited*

orders are not guaranteed and will include a \$20 express fee.

For more information, please [read this flyer](#), or [visit the commencement webpage](#).

Bobcat Bits

Spotlight: Leah Thompson, Lead Instructor for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program

1. How long have you worked at Bates, and what is your role?

I am the lead instructor for the OTA Program. I started as an adjunct faculty in September 2022 and was hired as full-time faculty in December 2022. However, I have been involved with Bates OTA program (Advisory Board member and chairperson) since 2014.

2. What is your favorite thing about working at Bates?

Coming from a clinical/corporate background I have found Bates Technical College to be a breath of fresh air. Everyone has been supportive, generous with their time, plenty of "learning" opportunities for me, and encouraging.

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

When I am not at work, I like to spend time with my family, hike, read, and hang out with my dog, Huckleberry. The ocean is my favorite place, and my goal is to see salt water every day.

4. Why did you choose to enter the OTA field?

Originally, I was going to school to become a nurse, but my daughter was gravely ill and in the hospital for over a month. The occupational therapist helped my daughter make tremendous strides in her recovery by using their therapeutic use of self to bring interventions to a very sick little girl and get her interested in participating in activities to strengthen her. I started to look into the program because I was fascinated by the approach and the many settings and clientele, we are able to work with. I would like to add that my daughter had the best nurses and they helped her tremendously as well.

5. What is unique about your teaching style?

I am not sure I have gleaned a unique style yet. I think my students would say that I am approachable, flexible, and genuinely my biggest goal is for them to feel supported in their learning environment.

6. What do you find most rewarding about teaching?

Technical colleges often have a strong focus with hands-on learning and practical skills, which can make the work feel impactful and meaningful. I find it very rewarding when the students realize (have that ah-ha moment) they actually know more than they thought they did as they move through their program.

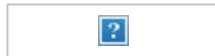
Dates to Remember (find details on the [college calendar](#))

- Summer Quarter 2023 registration open for new students, May 1
- Student Shoppe Day, May 2
- Mental Health Resource Event, May 3

ASG General Assembly, May 5

- Leadership Listening Session, May 9
- Last Day to Withdraw and receive “W” on Transcript, May 10
- Board of Trustees Meeting, May 22
- Commencement, May 25
- Memorial Day Holiday, May 29
- Summer Quarter Tuition Due, May 30

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