



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

Bates Technical College | February 2023

This newsletter is best viewed using the desktop version of Outlook.



President's Update

Dear college community,

First, please join me in congratulating Fire Service program instructors Chief Adam Cabeza and Chief Brian Wiwel for being granted tenure at yesterday's Board of Trustees meeting!

In less than two months, on April 19-21, the college will host a team of peer reviewers from our accrediting body, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). As you know, accreditation is about the continuous improvement of the college and its processes that support students in achieving their educational goals. Moving through this 7-year reaccreditation cycle is an opportunity to help the college thoroughly evaluate our programs and services.

To help prepare for this important visit, faculty, staff and students are invited to **mock forums on Tuesday, March 7**. Details are in the accreditation update below. I encourage you to participate in the forums so you can learn more about the peer review process and evaluation in April.

Once re-accredited, Bates Technical College will continue to have access to federal financial aid and other programs, and continue to improve so that we can ensure vision and mission fulfillment. You can read more about accreditation [on our website](#).

Sincerely,

Department Updates

Instruction

The Office of Instruction submitted a Statement of Need to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) proposing a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree program in Public Safety Administration. If approved, this will be the first BAS degree for Bates Technical College!

Open Houses

Kudos to Aja Cheslik for coordinating the Allied Health Program Open House on February 9, where faculty and representatives from various departments including Financial Aid, Advising, Retention Specialists, and Disability Support Services met with new and prospective students. Faculty librarian Mike Wood had a fantastic display that demonstrated Visible Body 3D anatomy software.

The EMT and Fire Service Open House took place on February 16 at South Campus to allow prospective students an opportunity to explore associate degree and firefighter career possibilities.

Technical High School

The Federal Way School District visited Bates Technical College as their first in-person field trip last month. Over 60 high school students toured the Fire Service, Architectural Woodworking/Cabinetmaking, Early Child Education, Auto Body and Welding programs.





Transitional Education

Bates Transitional Studies Department completed the four-year program evaluation process with SBCTC Basic Education for Adults (BEa). From the exit interview, the SBCTC BEa team shared that “Bates is a role model with supporting basic skills students by achieving the number one student measurement skills gains in the State of Washington.”

Administrative Services

Childcare Center Update

Eastside Center – Our eastside location (at Bethlehem Baptist Church) experienced a ceiling leak requiring the temporary closure of the site. The program supports 20 children through an ECEAP grant through the Puget Sound ESD. The program will temporarily be relocated to Building C at the Downtown Campus.

Capital Projects Update

Fire Service Training Center – Work is underway to obtain approval from the State Board and the Office of Financial Management for revisions to the proposals predesign the Fire Service program training facility. The revision is to locate the building on the site of the current CDL program at the north end of South Campus. In March/April, the college will work with the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to develop and advertise a two-part RFQ/RFP for use in identifying and selecting a progressive design-build team to execute the project.

Clyde Hupp Board Room Improvements – The interior remodel work for this project is near completion. Long lead times for critical components of audio/visual (A/V) equipment have pushed final completion of the project to the third quarter of 2023. Until the long-lead communications equipment can be installed, A/V equipment and two flat panel displays have been installed, which will allow for the room to be used for the March 2023 board meeting.

IAQ Improvements at KBTC – An Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Assessment was on Central Campus’ Mohler Building. The study identified multiple factors that would contribute to poor air quality as expressed by staff in the building. Much of the building’s HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system is part of the original construction and, when compared to new technology, is too inefficient to warrant repair. We are currently working with engineers and contractors to define the scope of HVAC replacement. This will include ductwork replacement and ceiling repairs. Finally, the old carpets and tile flooring need remediation and replacement. Due to the timing requirements of the HVAC system upgrades, this project may be divided into two separate projects.

2411 S. 19th Street Building – With ownership secured in April of last year, the college has engaged a vendor to evaluate options for the repair of the building envelope and to prepare a feasibility study for interior modifications to support future instructional activity in the building. A final report is expected by the end of March.

Student Services

1. Staffing Updates:

- a) The successful candidate selected to fill the role of Enrollment Management Specialist will now report to the Registrar/Director of Enrollment. Congratulations to our own Jessyka Bridges!
- b) Office Assistant position in Financial Aid, which Jessyka previously held, will be posted for recruitment soon.
- c) Still recruiting and interviewing for:
 - i. Student Retention Specialist for Downtown Campus
 - ii. Manager of Campus Life and Activities

2. Financial Aid:

- a) Disbursements for Winter Quarter
- b) **Total awards-2463, total disbursed \$1,709,967.06**
- c) **Federal Grants-** 551 awards totaling \$606,540.00
- d) **State Grants-** 505 awards totaling \$510,579.50
- e) **Student Emer. Assistance Grant-** All funding was depleted in fall, using 3.5% now
- f) **Bates 3.5% Grant-** 17 awards totaling \$26,043.38
- g) **Scholarships & 3rd Party funding-** 111 awards totaling \$122,837.52
- h) **Worker Retraining-** 140 awards totaling \$102,674.99
- i) **BFET-** 43 awards totaling \$65,262.56
- j) **Early Achievers Grant-** 71 awards totaling \$73,976.11
- k) **Opp. Grant & Opp. Health Grant-** 82 awards totaling \$85,875.92
- l) **WorkFirst-** 23 awards totaling \$9,713.84
- m) **CDL Grant-** 6 awards totaling \$20,441.50
- n) **Loans-** 99 awards totaling \$104,005.00
- o) **VA Benefits Certified-** 71 awarded totaling \$145,655.39
- p) **GoldStar Stipend-** 15 awarded totaling \$2,458.24

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Information 🔗			
Select Award Year <input checked="" type="radio"/> 2022-2023 <input type="radio"/> 2023-2024			
TOTAL COUNT OF ISIRS	TOTAL UNDUPLICATED APPLICANTS	UNDUPLICATED PELL ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	UNDUPLICATED APPLICANTS SELECTED FOR VERIFICATION
5,868	4,117	2,459	413

3. Federal Data

- a) The financial aid office has received 5,868 ISIRs and 4,117 unduplicated FAFSAs.

4. Outreach Advising and Conduct

- a) New intake process has been implemented and is being used by all intake staff
- b) More in-depth training across other student services positions is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.
- c) Will be using the data collected to help us foster continuous improvement in customer service for our students.

5. Registration

- a) The process of placing holds on Student Enrollment for past due accounts with the college has been re-established for Spring Quarter 2023 and will be ongoing from this point forward.
- b) An in-depth student audit of student accounts had to be performed by Finance prior to the implementation of this process where account balances were verified

and adjusted to avoid unnecessary holds.

6. Campus Life and Activities

- a) Modified department lead responsibilities; former director position modified to a manager role.
- b) Jon Bolas will now manage the Title III grant
- c) Open ASG positions: Public Relations Officer and VP South Campus

7. Commencement

- a) May 25, 2023 at the Tacoma Dome at 6 p.m.
- b) Planning is well underway and we're looking forward to another wonderful commencement celebration.

Accreditation Update

Please join in the mock forums!

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars to join one of Bates' mock accreditation forums on Tuesday, March 7.

The staff forum is at 11 a.m. and the faculty forum is at 1 p.m., both will be held in the Downtown Campus Auditorium.

A student forum will follow at 2 p.m. at the Downtown Campus Room B409.

At the forums, an experienced evaluator will ask the kinds of questions we can expect in April. It's a no-risk opportunity to practice our answers and to get feedback on our readiness.

Commencement

The Commencement Committee is currently accepting nominations for this year's student speaker! Employees may nominate a student who is eligible to walk in this year's commencement.

Please [submit your nominations](#) by **Wednesday, March 22.**

After a committee reviews the applications, finalists will be asked to present their speech to the committee. The committee will then make the final selection for the ceremony speaker. The selected speaker will deliver an address no longer than 5-7 minutes during our commencement on May 25 at the Tacoma Dome.

[Please click here to nominate a student speaker.](#)

Thank you.

Spotlight on Students

Meet Ellington Hunter, Fire Service program student and South Campus Associated Student Government Vice President

Why did you choose to enroll in the Fire Service program?

I chose this program because I have a passion for helping others in the community through public service.

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

My grandfather graduated from the Bates Technical College Electrical Construction Program, so I was already familiar with the name, I just wasn't aware of the fact that they offered a Nationally accredited program for the fire service. I like how in the Fire Service Program here at Bates you are taught to work as a Team to complete drills, assignments, and duties.

When are you graduating, and what are your plans?

I graduate in May of 2023, and I plan on taking my Emergency Medical Technician portion of the course in Summer, after successful completion of the EMT course I plan on either taking up the Emergency Vehicle Technician class or the bachelor's degree in public administration if Bates offers the courses, if not, I will continue to apply for departments in my jurisdiction.

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

I advise you to start as soon as you can, use the resources available to you, and get involved as much as you can because all the faculty and staff here at Bates are dedicated to helping you succeed and reach your goals.

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Employee Milestones

Congratulations to the following February employee anniversaries!

Name	Position	Years at Bates
Svetlana Levchuk	Accounts Receivable Specialist	20
Raelene Randall	Finance Assistant-KBTC	10
Ken Witkoe	Broadcasting/Audio/Video-Instructor	9
Vera Sviridovich	Early Childhood Specialist 2	8
Michael Wood	Librarian	8
Lidia Stratienco	Early Childhood Specialist 3	7
Jean-Pierre Garcia	Program Assistant KBT	7
Kim Preston	Campus Public Safety Officer	6
Jamie Whitman	Production Assistant KBTC	4
Denis Alekhin	Lead IT Support Technician	3
Vladimir Popescu	Supervisor/Facilities & Operations	3
Leonard Staten	Multicast Program Assistant-KBTC	2
Alan Fry	Computer Technician	1

Nathaniel Stringfield	Custodian II	1
Margaret Stengel	Practical Nursing -Instructor	1
Corey Vasquez	Diesel/Heavy Equipment -Instructor	1
Imani Mccain	Early Childhood Specialist 4	1
Evelyn Panayi	Student Retention Specialist	1

New Hires

- **Paige Stewart, Administrative Assistant (Fire Service)**
- **Liuba Kundilovskaia, Early Childhood Specialist**
- **Andrew Min, Interim, Dean of Instruction**
- **Peter Speelmon, Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator**

Peer Appreciations

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

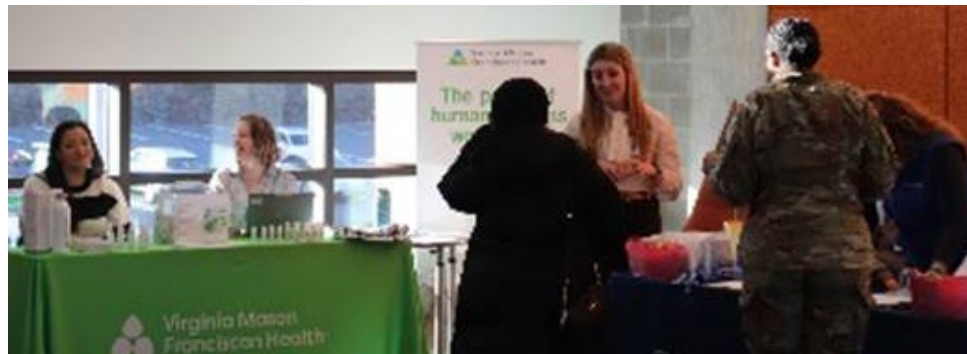
- **To Aja Cheslik, Administrative Medical Assistant/Certified Medical Assistant director and instructor:** Special thanks for leading the planning of the Health Sciences programs Open House on Feb. 9, and all her heavy lifting on the day-of to make sure the event was a success. We appreciate you!
- **To LeAnn Dreier, Foundation Director:** Thank you for the fun employee donation drives at all three campuses during the month of February, and for your work in planning the super fun Bates Bunker Gear event!
- **To Ray Richardson, Director of Safety and Security, and all the Campus Public Safety Officers:** I appreciate the hard work the Campus Public Safety team put into the emergency lockdown drills this month. For our students and employees to practice what to do if the unthinkable happens, and to increase our knowledge surrounding such critical incidents, are so important to keep our students and employees safe. Thank you!
- **To Tami Hill, Lead Teacher Early Childhood Specialist:** Thank you for the joy and inspiration with which you fill your classroom. From Dr. Seuss events and winter wonderland fun to friendship week and Whole Child work, we appreciate you!
- **To Evelyn Panayi-Student Retention Specialist, and Jacob Colby-Digital Media program student:** Mr. Colby, while taking a break from his Digital Media class at the Advanced Technology Building at Central Campus, observed a suspicious person in the front parking lot that may have had a weapon. He immediately told Ms. Panayi, who contacted Campus Public Safety, with a good, precise description of what the individual looked like and where he was. Even though it was determined that the person did not have a weapon, Mr. Colby observations and Ms. Panayi quick action notifying Campus Public Safety, their actions should be commended, fellow students and staff members should be proud how everyone works together at Bates to keep one another safe.
- **To Nichole Baker-Early Childhood Assistant Director-Downtown**

Campus: Ms. Baker contacted Campus Public Safety to report a suspicious male passed out in a chair in the hallway where the Early Learning Center is located, and another suspicious female passed out in the nearby restroom. Ms. Baker's quick action to keep the area clear of children and staff until the individuals could be safely removed was a major help, as both individuals were impaired and somewhat aggressive. Ms. Baker's care and attention in handling the situation was highly commendable and very professional. Her actions kept children and her fellow staff safe.

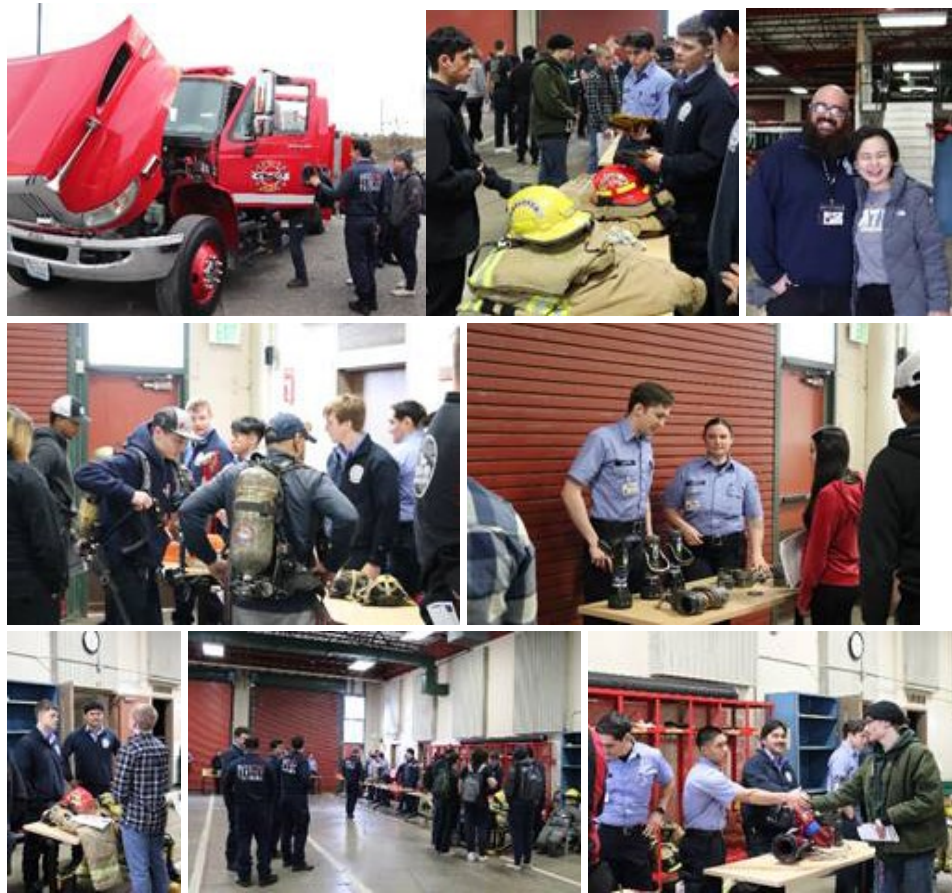
Bobcat Bits

Open houses showcase programs and students

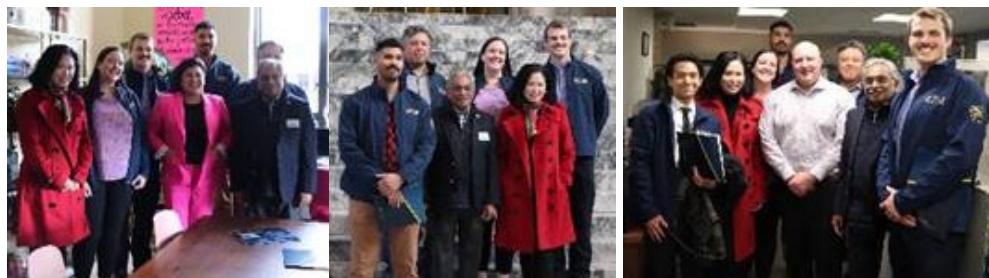
Health Sciences program open house, Feb. 9



Fire Service program open house, Feb. 16

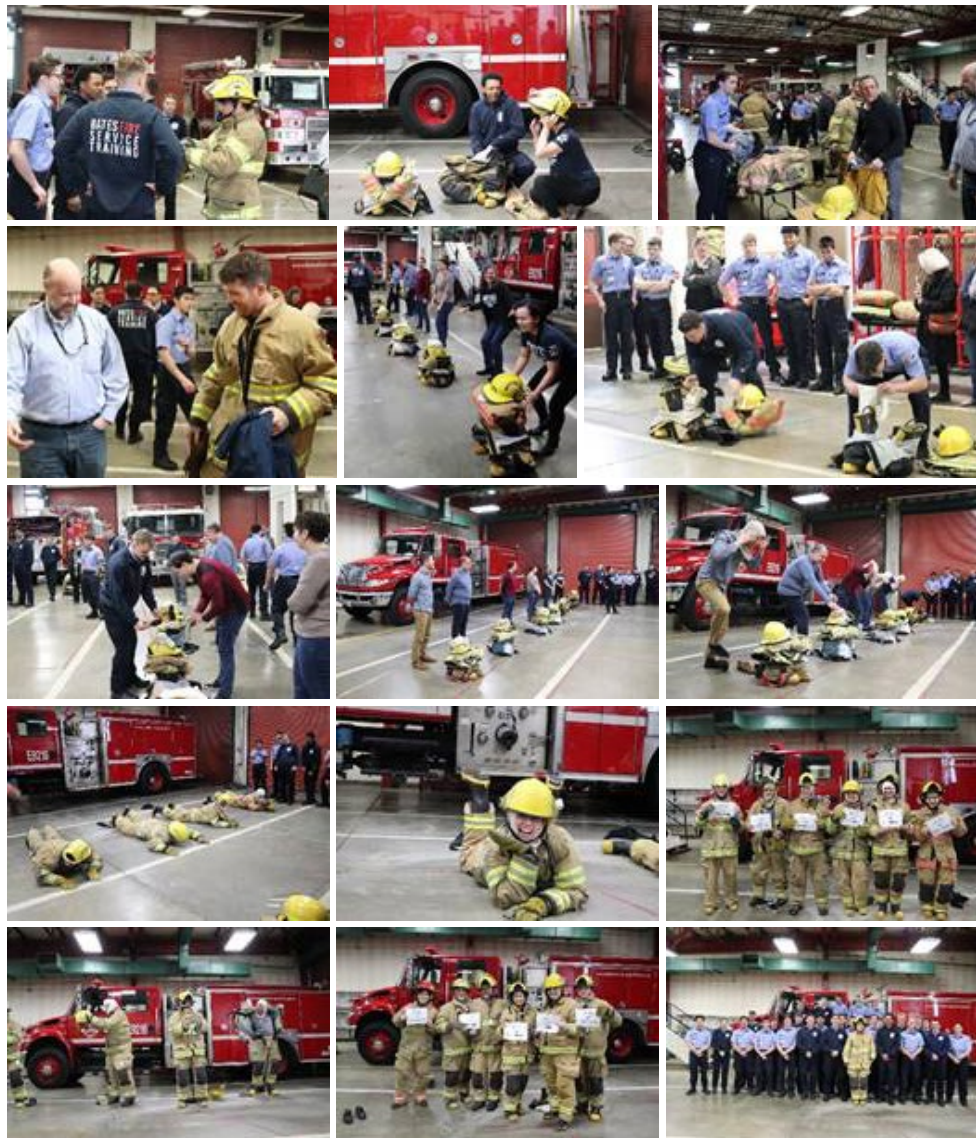


Bates group visits Olympia



On Monday, Feb. 13, president Lin Zhou, trustee Tom George, faculty member and union president Jim Androy, communications assistant director Chelsea Lindquist, Fire Service program and Technical High School student Calvin Abegglen, Electrical Construction program student Jarreau Boyd, Occupational Therapy Assistant program student Cassandra Johnson, and Digital Media program student Noah Hill visited 13 Pierce County legislators in Olympia. The students shared their thoughts on providing fully funded competitive compensation for faculty and staff and supporting workforce development programs through investments to keep our programs sustainable, modern and responsive to employers' needs.

Bunker Gear Challenge supports Bates Foundation



How long do you think it takes a firefighter to put on their gear?

President Zhou joined members of her cabinet and several other employees who raced to find out exactly how long it took to don the firefighter gear this fun Bunker Gear Challenge fundraiser, benefiting the Bates Foundation. If you didn't have a chance to donate, [there's still time!](#)

Oh, the Place You'll Go! Fife/Milton ECEAP gears up to celebrate Dr. Seuss in March

Children in the Fife/Milton Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) will have a fun week with "green eggs and ham" to eat, and counting "one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish." The works of Dr. Seuss promote predictable word families with lots of fun rhyming and encouraging children's eyes to look from left to right, and the characters are positioned to move from left to right and off the right-hand page.



Fife/Milton ECEAP finds fun in Friendship Week

The Fife/Milton ECEAP children also celebrated Friendship Week on March 13-17, with all children receiving new toothbrushes!



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

- ASG General Assembly, March 3
- Mock Accreditation Forums, March 7
- Leadership Listening Session, March 14
- Last day of Winter Quarter, March 15

- New Employee Orientation, March 16
- Spring Break, March 20-24
- New Student Orientations, March 20-22
- First day of Spring Quarter, March 27
- Board of Trustees meeting, March 27

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