From: President
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October 2023

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Dear college community,

As we find ourselves at the midpoint of the fall quarter, the holiday season is fast approaching, and there is much to look forward to!

In anticipation of Veterans Day, we have an event planned to honor the day and pay tribute to those who have served. The Veterans Day celebration is on Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to noon at the South Campus Auditorium. This gathering will feature valuable insights from Jeremie Bianes, VA's Community Employment Coordinator, who will share information about veterans' resources. The event will also spotlight the work of the student-led Bates Veterans Club, include an alumni speaker, and offer light refreshments.

Also, please note that Interact Communications representatives will visit with several groups Nov. 1-3 to perform research and develop strategic initiatives and tactical steps to improve recruitment,

enrollment, marketing and onboarding processes. Special thanks to those who are participating in these group meetings and to Vice President of Student Services Steve Ashpole and Director of Communications, Marketing and Advancement Chelsea Lindquist, who are leading this effort. The visit will end with a final presentation open to the entire college on Friday, Nov. 3, 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Downtown Campus Auditorium.

Thank you all for your continuous dedication and hard work throughout this quarter. Congratulations on reaching the halfway mark, and I look forward to the successes that lie ahead!

Warmly,
Lin

Department Updates

Instruction

Central Campus

October 15-17, the Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering programs had their ABET accreditation site visit. This visit gave accreditors an opportunity to see the campus and lab rooms and interview departments supporting Bates Technical College Engineering programs.

Downtown Campus

On October 24, the Practical Nurse program held their Focus Site Visit with the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA). During the visit, the representative met with administrators, staff, faculty, and advisory committee members to learn more about the Practical Nurse program and its community partnerships.

The Culinary Arts program will compete in the Washington State Chefs Association "Bite of Apprenticeship" on November 13, 2023, in Seattle. The competition highlights local culinary programs in various institutions ranging from college level to high schools, and professional businesses/restaurants. Competitors will be judged on two small, single bite hors d ’oeuvres for a chance to take home awards for their respective categories and a people's choice. The Culinary Arts program secured sponsorship agreements with US Foods and Peterson's, who will donate products for competing. The program looks forward to signing on with other sponsors too. The last time Bates Technical College competed; we won our category but fell just short of winning the people's choice award.

South Campus

Fall Quarter 2023 for South Campus had an incredible kick off with almost all classes at full capacity.

The Auto Body program welcomed Mr. David Brower, who brought in his classic Ford Mustang in need of some tender loving care. Mr. Brower shared his disappointment about the diminishing presence of auto body repair programs in high school and technical institutions and was pleased to discover that Bates still offers this invaluable program. Mr. Brower expressed his intention to contribute $6,000 to the program and is exploring the possibility of involving other business partners to match his contribution to help update equipment and provide additional resources for students.

Student Services

Staffing

We are glad to announce the new hires Tina Muller (Director of Advising and Retention), Aubrie Swain (Disability Support Specialist) and Nesreen Al-Muzayen (Retention Specialist) have been onboarded and are working with their staff to familiarize themselves with our processes, seeing students and engaging with the remainder of the team.

Enrollment Update

Fall Enrollment has been a remarkable success and due to the hard work of everyone at the college.

- We have increased enrollment by approximately 10% as compared to last Fall 2022
- The final area of enrollment we are waiting on for this fall is apprenticeship. Those enrollments come in during October and November and we will update the college when these enrollments come in.

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid and Workforce Education Services Office has had a busy month. Financial aid staff worked diligently the week before Fall Quarter began to prepare Fall Quarter disbursements. Funding was disbursed on the first day for 592 students, with $830,713 in refunds being sent to Bank Mobile the following day. We continue to review applications and send financial aid offers to potential students. Bates received 5,741 financial aid applications with 4,100 unduplicated. Worker Retraining representatives attended the Westrock Rapid Response event on August 24, where they connected with the 400 employees being laid off at the end of October. Seven work-study students have been onboarded with the start of the Fall

Quarter and we continue to look for opportunities to grow the program.

WES staff also attended the WorkSource Pierce Partnership Conference on September 13. One breakout session, titled ‘Collaborative Strategies for Transforming Lives: Breaking Barriers, Building Futures’ introduced WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and explained how it partners with other organizations to help clients get on track toward self-sufficiency. Shondea Chapman co-presented a session ‘Exploring Pierce County Colleges’ to build awareness around what each college offers and the funding available within the Workforce Education Services Departments. ‘Customer Service, Engagement and Experience: Delivering the VIP Experience’ was also attended where participants learned customer service vs. customer engagement and why it is important. The conference also offered staff the opportunity to connect with community partners.

Disbursements for Fall 23 Quarter

- Federal grants: 425 awards totaling $764,056
- Direct student loans: 86 awards totaling $362,302
- State grants: 519 awards totaling $749,875
- VA & Military: 132 students certified totaling $288,539
- Opportunity grants: 55 awards totaling $109,313
- BFET: 38 awards totaling $42,842
- Worker Retraining grants: 192 awards totaling $144,834
- Workfirst: 18 awards totaling $35,856
- Early Achievers grant: 68 awards totaling $75,955
- Scholarships & 3rd party funding: 101 awards totaling $127,983

Registration

Registration has been implementing a drop for non-payment processes within ctcLink and is working with Financial Aid to ensure only appropriate students are dropped. We are excited to have this process in place as it should prevent students from being sent to collections and has us in compliance with SBCTC (State Board of Community and Technical Colleges) guidelines for 10th day enrollment.

Campus Life and Activities

- Welcome Back student recruiting event was held on Wednesday, October 11, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the South Auditorium.
- President’s & Dean’s List Celebration was held on Monday, October 16, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. in the Downtown Auditorium.
- Food Locker Pilot Program – LeMont Lucas and Oleksandr Burlakov have completed their portion of this initiative, to include identifying spaces at South Campus; Food Security Survey ran on Canvas and in email; The partners, Bonney Lake Food Bank and a SBCTC are working to secure the

funding through the state.
- LeMont Lucas served as an advisor, along with Chelsea Lindquist, for nine Bates students who participated in the Rising Star tour in China October 10 – 24.
- Natalia Giovengo attended the Council of Unions and Student Programs conference in Walla Walla, October 19 and 20.
- Caleb Rivers attended the Strategic Planning Retreat in Union October 19 and 20.
- Nat and Caleb joined a large group of Bates employees who attended the Faculty and Staff of Color Conference in Vancouver on October 25 – 27.

Foundation

This Fall, the Foundation offered its' first merit-based scholarship in partnership with Tacoma Urban League, the T'wina Nobles Young Professional's Scholarship. Four students were selected for the scholarship, awarded $2,500, and invited to attend the Empowerment Awards Gala to celebrate this achievement. On Friday, October 20, the recipients were recognized at the annual awards hosted by the Tacoma Urban League alongside mutual scholarship recipients from Clover Park Technical College, Tacoma Community College, and Pierce College. Thank you to Senator T'wina Nobles and the Tacoma Urban League for their continued investment in our student's success and congratulations to the following four recipients:

- Arika Palmer
- Julius Nyangusi
- Lamont Spencer
- Yoslynn Olmos

This is Bates

Employee Milestones

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

Name	Job Title	Years
Vicki Valdez	DIR. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, KBTC	32.0
Robert Gunter	CDL FACULTY	32.0
David Leenhouts	ELECTRICAL CONTSTRUCTION FACULTY	28.0
Vasiliy Shkarin	MAINTENANCE ENGINEER II	26.0
Alissa Turner	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEC. 3	23.0
Qiana Velez	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	23.0
Beth Reichenbach	LEAD LIBRARY TECHNICIAN	23.0
Jeanene Pedee	PROJECT IMPLEMENTAION SPEC	22.0
Brian Parker	DIGITAL MEDIA FACULTY	22.0
Nicole Hancock	I-BEST FACULTY	14.0
Tom Layson	MANAGING EDIT.PROD, HOST NW, KBTC	10.0
Landon Johnson	INDUST.ELECTRONIC&ROBOTICS FACULTY	10.0
Jonathan Bolas	DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL RESERACH	8.0
Angela Driver	I-BEST FACUTLY	8.0
Dequan Garnett	GENERAL SERVICES ASSOCIATE	6.0
Brian Umpstead	ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORKING FACULTY	3.0
Wen Qing Lei	CONTRACTS & GRANT SPCLST	1.0
Leah Thompson	OTA (OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT) FACULTY	1.0
Alisha McDonald	OTA FIELDWORK COORDINATOR	1.0

New Hires

- Nesreen Al-Muzayen, Student Retention Specialist
- Socheata Lee, Associate Director of Payroll
- Tina Muller, Dean of Advising and Retention
- Aubrie Swain, DSS Coordinator

Congratulations to the following employees on their new positions!

- Michael Cabrera, Foundation Manager

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 Soreya Steen, Administrative Assistant**: Soreya is truly a shining star at Bates. Every student and staff member who interacts with her is met with positivity and utmost respect and support. Even in challenging situations, I

have seen her deliver exemplary customer service time and again. Her unwavering willingness to extend a helping hand showcases her team spirit and dedication to our collective success. We are so fortunate to have such an absolute GEM on Central Campus!

Bobcat Buzz

Spotlight on Faculty

Meet Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology Instructor, Mike Sartore

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

I am one of four Diesel and Heavy Equipment instructors at the South Campus. I first came to Bates in the late fall of 2013. I was employed at that time at a local school district in their bus garage. I was asked by my supervisor if I wanted to sit on the diesel advisory board, which was his responsibility. At about the same time, the Dean at that point was working with Employment Security on a cohort class of transitioning veterans. They needed an instructor, so they contacted me. I took a leave of absence from my employer and came here to teach 20 students all the courses in the diesel program, building each just as I was delivering the instruction. At the end of that year, August 2015, I returned to my position at the bus garage. Six months later I received another call from one of the instructors here (Mick McGuire) who told me a permanent position had opened. I applied and

was eventually offered that position. That was February 2015, and I have been here since.

I work with three other brilliant faculty members in this 6-quarter course. We are also fortunate to have an awesome I-Best instructor providing additional (lifesaving, really) support to the students. Our area of expertise is diesel powered vehicles and equipment. That is everything out there that is not a car. Our machines make car manufacturing possible.

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

One of the remarkable things I like about working at Bates is the other faculty, and the way we all work towards the goal of creating the next work force. I was not an instructor until I came here, so I really needed a lot of help getting started. I came from industry, I had the experience and knowledge, I just needed some help getting it into the classroom. My tenure committee, the other faculty in this department, and several others at the south campus were vital in my upbringing. It is the dedication, willingness to help, advice that makes this unique and rewarding place. It is the people doing the instruction here, for sure.

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

That is easy: Motorcycle. I got my first bike when I was just 16, right after I got my license. It has been two wheels since then. In the last few years, I have ridden to the southern border along 101, went to Kansas to see mom, which required me to cross the Rocky Mountains. (11,000 feet in altitude is different on a bike than in a car.) And of course, there is that trip to Sturgis with many of my friends etched into my memory. I have seen some amazing things on my bike that I would not have seen in a car. After that it is the outdoors. We have a small place near Belfair that is quiet and clean, with nature running rampant.

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

I have always been interested in machines, and realized at an early age I had a talent for understanding what I was looking at. I took several small engines apart as a youth and put them back together again. From there it was off to cars. But at that time, I remember thinking that there were lots of people who could fix a car. I wanted something other than that. I learned there was a new program at South Seattle Community College in the diesel field that had a reputation for turning out in-demand students. I left there around 1977 and have not looked back yet.

5. What is unique about your teaching style?

I came from industry and teaching is my second career. After 40+ years in industry, my belief is that the best learning comes from working in the lab,

with your hands. The students will take something apart, see the parts and how they work to become a whole component. Then put it back together again and make it work. This is absolutely a hands-on competency-based career field. Of course, there is classroom learning, but that just leads to lab work, where the real learning occurs. I am lucky enough to be working on live vehicles and equipment. These are whole machines, not just parts. This is a great opportunity for the students to have what I call "structured free time." They are assigned a task, and I help them with questions, but they are responsible for time management, planning and organizing the work area and workflow. Almost like a real shop but I am there to guide them as they make their decisions.

6. What do you find most rewarding about teaching?

Seeing the light bulb come on. That is common among faculty here, but I like that part. I get the students near the end of their program, so they have already been here for a year, and have been exposed to so much. I get to help them wrap it all together. They know how the engines work, how the brakes work, and all that. But now they put that knowledge together into something with context and get to see something greater than the sum. The other thing is, for me, there were a good many good men who taught me, helped me along, and were examples for me to follow. I would not be here if it were not for them. I feel like this is my chance to give that back to them. To share what they gave me, and make sure that the next group has more than what we had. Seeing students come through the program and leave with living wage careers, with national or international businesses is all that we can hope for. And I get to see that every quarter.

OSPI Superintendent Visit

On the morning of Friday, Oct. 13, we had the honor of hosting State Superintendent Chris Reykdal at our South Campus. His visit included a tour of various programs and conversations with several of our Tech High students. This opportunity allowed us to spotlight Bates Tech High as well as the remarkable work of our students.

President’s and Dean’s List Celebration

On Monday, Oct. 16, students and staff gathered to recognize and celebrate the dedication and accomplishments of this year’s President's and Dean's List recipients. The event highlighted the achievements of a combined total of 82 President's and Dean's List Award winners. An incredible turnout, supportive friends and family joined in the celebration and enjoyed cake following the event.

Congratulations to this year’s President's/Dean's List award recipients!

To access pictures from the event, click **here**. To view a list of recipients, please visit the **website here**.

Strategic Planning Retreat

Continuing in our efforts to develop the new strategic plan, faculty, staff, and students joined together for the Strategic Planning Retreat at the Alderbrook resort in Hood Canal. Facilitated by Dr. Jeff Wagnitz, the retreat engaged participants in a series of collaborative activities designed to align our college's strategic goals. Thank you to all who played a role in organizing and participating in the retreat. Your contributions and engagement were instrumental in progressing our strategic plan forward. And a special thank you again to Dr. Wagnitz for his guidance through this pivotal planning period.

Job and Resource Fair - Collaboration for a Cause
Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Tacoma Dome

Brought to you by The Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force, United Healthcare, and the Metropolitan Development Council, we proudly present the next Collaboration for a Cause event where you can connect to services including:

- **Basic Needs** – Supportive resources for daily living, such as housing, SNAP, legal services, free phones, and tablets, and more
- **Employment** – Over 100 employers ready to hire now, with resume assistance on site
- **Education and Training** – Tools to start a new job, career, apprenticeship, and connections to education
- **Health** – Resources for personal health, including vaccinations, addition help, insurance, and more
- **Youth** – Specialized resources for youth (ages 0-24) such as childcare connections and resources for parents & young adults
- **Veterans** – Specialized resources for the Veteran & Military community, spouses, and dependents
- **Disabilities** – Specialized resources for those living with disabilities

This event is open to the public, free parking, free entrance. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. All are welcome!

Dates to Remember (find details on the college calendar)

- ASG General Assembly meeting, November 3
- Leadership Listening Session, November 7
- Lockdown Drill (all campuses), November 8
- Veterans Day, College closed, November 10
- Board of Trustees meeting, November 20
- Holiday Employee Luncheon, November 21
- Half day for students and faculty, November 22
- Thanksgiving Holiday, College closed, November 23 - 24

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