From: President
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September 2023

Logo

Dear college community,

Welcome to Fall Quarter 2023! It is exciting to see our campuses buzzing with enthusiasm, and I am honored to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new and returning students. Each of you brings a unique story, a passion for learning, and a commitment to your future.

I appreciate the dedicated student services team, who, over the summer, worked hard to ensure that new and returning students are supported and receive the assistance they need. As I mentioned in earlier newsletters, we are in the middle of assessing our efforts related to marketing, recruitment, enrollment and onboarding students. We will host a three-day site visit in early November with a research team from Interact, a firm that focuses solely on two-year colleges. Vice President of Student Services Steve Ashpole is leading the project, with Director of Communications, Marketing and Advancement Chelsea Lindquist.

As we step into this academic year, I'm eager to begin the strategic planning efforts, led by Jeff Wagnitz, who shepherded us through last year's accreditation visit. Together, we will forge a vision that not only upholds our longstanding values but also sets us on a path to new frontiers of excellence. Our collective resilience, dedication, and innovation will continue to shape the trajectory of Bates, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of technical education.

I look forward to a transformative 2023-2024 academic year filled with limitless possibilities!

Warmly,
Lin

Department Updates

Instruction

Central Campus

Beginning in Winter of 2024, Bates will offer an Applied Business Management (ABM) program, which prepares graduates to plan, organize, direct, and control the functions and processes of a firm or organization. The program offers a six-quarter ABM Associate in Applied Science Transfer (AAS-T). The AAS-T also has three embedded certificates that align with specialized tracks. Students may also choose to pursue a certificate of competency (CoC) as a stand-alone credential for 55 credits.

Congratulations to Cybersecurity program students Trystin Peterson and Daniel Samoylenko, who are officially TestoutCyberDefense Pro Certified. This honorable certification typically happens at the end of a bachelor's degree pathway.

Downtown Campus

Our Downtown Campus was busy in late August and early September with the Enrollment Blitzes. Thank you to all who helped register new students!

The Board of Denturists has renewed the Denturist program as an approved training program. This approval is valid for five years.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program will host the president of the American OT Association, Alyson Stover, during her visit to Tacoma the week of October 12-17. Program Director Andrew Min is working with the Washington OT Association for this event.

Technical High School

On August 26, Technical High School participated in an outreach event at the Hilltop Street Fair. The department distributed flyers and shared information about available educational opportunities at Bates with people in the community**.**

Welcome to Bates!

Wen Zhao-Pliske, Instructional Designer

Wen Zhao-Pliske (pronounced: WEN JOW-PLIS-KEE) joined the Bates Technical College community as an instructional designer. Before joining Bates, she worked as an instructor and e-learning developer at Colorado State University. As a first-generation immigrant, Wen's international perspective gives her a deep appreciation of diversity in all its forms. Her extensive experience in cross-national teams has honed her skills in cross-cultural curriculum development and pedagogical strategies. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from South China University of Technology, as well as a master's degree and a PhD candidacy in Nature-based Tourism and Recreation from Colorado State University. Wen's passion for travel and the outdoors has led her to explore 35 national parks, 26 states, and 6 continents over the past decade. When she is not on the road or at work, you will find her indulging in marathon video game sessions at home.

Student Services

Staffing

- Congratulations to Charlene Floyd on her new job with the Pierce County Library. Best of luck in this new position. You will be missed.
- Congratulations to Michael Cabrera who is moving to the Foundation. Do not be a stranger and make sure you come downstairs (and out to South Campus) to visit.

- Welcome to the following staff
    - Jeannie Vorse, who will be moving from Cashiering to join the Financial Aid Team
    - Tina Muller, the new Director of Advising and Retention (start date of October 2)
    - Aubrie Swain, the new Disability Support Specialist (start date of October 2)
    - Nesreen Al Muzayen, the new Retention Specialist working at South Campus

Outreach & Advising

- Outreach and advising staff (with the help of all Student Services) completed three Enrollment Blitz events focused on giving students easier access to enrollment. At these events students could be admitted, get assistance with filling out financial aid forms, meet with an advisor and enroll in a single evening. This was done on three consecutive Thursday nights from 4pm to 7pm. At these events we added 40 new students. Thanks to everyone for all their amazing work on this event.

Enrollment Update

- As of the first day of class, adult career training enrollment is up over 22% compared to the first day of class last year and general education enrollment is up 11%. Technical High School enrollment is also growing, up 25% compared to the same date last year. However, with programs filling up, it will be harder to place students in their chosen program.

- Looking at head counts by pathway; every pathway is showing a higher headcount than last year. By headcount we have 1519 students in career training programs compared to 1388 last year.

Financial Aid

- The Financial Aid and Workforce Education Services Office has been focused on processing 2023-2024 applications. We began sending out financial aid offers (previously referred to as ‘Award Letters’) in mid-August.

- Bates received 5,520 total financial aid applications with 3,977 unduplicated. We have awarded 451 students Pell grant with a total disbursed so far of $664,510 and another $509,539 in WA Grant. Along with all other sources of funding (i.e.: scholarships, WES grants, VA, and Early Achievers)

- Staff participated in the Student Success Summit held virtually September 5th-8th.

- Metropolitan Development Council (MDC) assisted with FAFSA and WASFA completions during all 3 Enrollment Blitz events, while Financial Aid

and WES staff were available to answer specific funding questions.

- We are currently recruiting for the English as a Second Language (ESL) Grant Compliance Specialist position to help support the new Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA)/DSHS contract, with the goal of having someone on boarded by the end of September.

Registration

Registration is now running the Repeat Checking Process on our Summer Quarter 2023 student records. This process checks for previously repeated courses and adjusts the student's records to calculate the cumulative GPA, automated, not manual…automated, and in batch. The Repeat Rule will recognize the highest grade of repeated courses. We will now run this process quarterly, after all grades have been posted.

- Students will view more accurate (and typically improved) cumulative GPAs on their ctcLink Student Homepage.

- Staff will also view more accurate cumulative GPAs, improving our ability to assist students with their education planning.

- Previously, credentialing was where most of these repeats were processed manually, so this reduces the review time for credentialing.

- In the past, accurate repeat coding only occurred for credentialed students. As mentioned already, all students will view a more accurate value of their cumulative GPA.

About the REPEAT CLASS FORGIVENESS FORM, ***YES***, we still need this form. We need to progress through all current students and their records. As we run Repeat Checking each quarter, we will 'catch-up' to every Repeated Course taken. We will need the form less and less. Eventually, only unique circumstances will need the form.

Student's Transcript: you will see notation indicating which repeated Course was *excluded* and which course was *included* in the GPA. This notation is the standard notation used by all the colleges in our system.

We are able to be here, running the batch process, due to the data clean-up work completed every quarter by the Registration Team. ***Thank you, Registration Staff, for your efforts!***

Campus Life and Activities

- Welcome Back student recruiting event: Wednesday, October 11, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the South Campus auditorium and October 16, 1 – 2 p.m. in the Downtown Campus auditorium.; this event is in collaboration with Campus Deans to provide students with information regarding student government, clubs, and activities.

- Campus Life will be collaborating with the Deans to get program representatives (2 per instructor) to present CLA (Campus Life and

Activities) and Associated Student Government (ASG) current events each week. This initiative will also bolster the student voice and participation in S&A decisions. They are asking programs to help get students involved this fall.

- Please join us for the President's List and Dean's List celebration on Monday, Oct. 16, 1-2 p.m. at the Downtown Campus Auditorium. A celebration cake and refreshments will be provided.

This is Bates

Employee Milestones

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

August

Name	Job Title	Years of Service
Kathy Valenzuela	DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPER.	38
Joan Rapkoch	HOME & FAMILY LIFE	33
Sharon Netter	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE ASST	32
Kellie Moody	CULINARY EVENTS COORD.	32
Kurt Schaefer	GENERAL ED/HIGH SCHOOL	31
Sherri Stanton	DIRECTOR, KBTC DVLPMNT/MRKT	30
David Skeen	ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN	24
Jannica Scott	EDUCATION SYSTEM SPECIALST	23
Bob Traufler	CAREER SPECIALIST	21
Dionne Bonner	GRAPHIC DESIGNER	21
Ana Kotilevskiy	CUSTODIAN II	20
Sarahlynn Chargualaf	WORKFORCE COMPLIANCE SPEC.	18
Emilie Puildo	MATH	18
Theresa Arrington	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEC.2	18
Raisa Yurina	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEC.2	15
Daniel Brewer	AUTOBODY/COLLISION REPAIR	11
Curt Meyer	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	10
Matt Spitzer	MOTORCYCLE & MARINE TECH	10
Jeff Axtman	MULTIMEDIA COORDINATOR	9
Christopher Anderson	ASSOC MGR OF PROGRAMMING	9
Natalya Alyabyev	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEC.2	9
Karen Ford	CHILD STUDIES	7
Lisa Meier	CHILD STUDIES	7
Jose Suchite	ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	7

Neph Drummer	DIRECTOR GENERAL SERVICES	4
Tirriona Antush	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEC. 4	4
Joseph Kauer	CYBERSECURITY TECHNOLOGY	4
Maria Obando	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEC. 4	4
Wynton Dillard	CAMPUS PUBLIC SFTY OFFICER	3
Tim Bacon	MACHINIST	3
Hongying Douglas	I-BEST FACULTY	2
Krystina Hansen	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEC. 3	1
Julian Ogans	EX. ASSISTANT FINANACE	1
Aja Cheslik	ADMIN.MEDICAL ASSISTANT	1
Leah Thompson	OTA (OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT)	1
Mark Wegley	ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR	1

New Hires

Welcome to Bates!

August

- Breah Furlong, Early Childhood Lead Teacher
- Lisa Greenfield, Adult Basic Ed Instructor, I-BEST
- Keyonjenae Henderson, Early Head Start Specialist
- Trishena Jett, Early Childhood Lead Teacher
- Mahealani Palepale, Early Childhood Family Support Specialist
- Martyna Tecl-Reibel, Early Childhood Lead Teacher

Congratulations to Jennine Vorse on her new position as a Financial Aid Specialist!

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 Jenae McCabe, Financial Aid department:** I would like to give a peer appreciation to Jenae McCabe for her amazing customer service. A student recently wrote "I have dyslexia...She really took the time to educate me on my program, my financial aid. She went beyond what a financial aid person is supposed to do. She has compassion, sympathy...and does everything she can. She really does have the passion, the goods, to want you to succeed." Jenae's passion for helping our students in any way possible does not go unnoticed and makes an impression. We have seen multiple students connect with Jenae while getting financial aid assistance and come to her for guidance. She also demonstrates the same level of care toward her colleagues and is always asking if there is anything she can help with. We are lucky to have her on

our team and appreciate all that she does.

- **To Central Campus staff and IT department:** I just wanted to take a few minutes to express my pleasure and gratitude with the team on central campus during the first day of the fall quarter. I have done many years of "first days" in the fall, and I feel like this first day was the best one so far in terms of teamwork and putting out fires. With Bob gone, Robin, Soreya and Evelyn were really efficient and effective - and gave service with a smile and empathy. Furthermore, IT staff were on hand and helped several students fix IT problems on the spot. Darrell was engaging and inviting to all the students. This teamwork was/is all very important to get students moving in the right direction on the first day. I was very pleased. I realize there is a long way to go and there will be hiccups, but if this first day is any indication of the effort and attention to detail that central admin and staff embrace, I believe we will continue to provide great customer service to our students.

- **To Marcus Harvey, DEI Officer:** Way to go to Marcus for earning a DEI Certificate through the UW Foster School of Business, Executive Education. The multi-part certificate program includes courses on inclusive leadership, achieving equity through corporate DEI action, managing diverse teams, and more. **Congratulations, Marcus!**

- **To Denis Alekhin, IT department:** Denis goes above and beyond when providing tech help no matter how busy he is. He was instrumental in assisting with the tech set-up for the Back-to-School Institute training while also juggling the New Student Orientations. During each NSO, Denis went out of his way to help multiple new students navigate logging in and getting set up, making sure each student was able to access their information or would have a solution to their technical issues by the end of the day. Denis' hard work is essential to keeping Bates running, and we really appreciate him for it!

Congratulations to those who made it on the Presidents List for Summer 2023 Quarter!

At Bates, we take pride in acknowledging and applauding the academic accomplishments of our exceptional students. With a grade point average ranging from 3.75 to 4.00 and a minimum of 12 quarter credits earned, these students have demonstrated their incredible potential for growth and surpassed their academic aspirations. As a token of recognition, any student who fulfills the GPA and quarter credit requirements for the Dean's List or President's List during an academic quarter will be eligible to receive a certificate. Join us in celebrating their remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication to their academic goals. [View the Summer Quarter 2023 President’s List Recipients.]

Bobcat Buzz

Meet Broadcast and Video Production student Reece Smoak

I have lived and grown up in Columbia, SC for 24 years. My fiancé and I decided to move to a new city together in 2022, and we chose the beautiful state of Washington. I am so glad to have taken this leap of faith because it has opened a new world of possibilities, and the move led me here to Bates Technical College for broadcasting/video production. I have come to Bates for the opportunity to continue doing something I have always loved. Watching YouTube, following sports, movies, and reality tv. I have always had a love for watching content, as well as creating it. It has always been a family tradition to make a fun, yearlong video with my 3 siblings and parents to watch on Christmas eve. These are some of my most cherished memories. I think one of the greatest freedoms is to work doing something you enjoy. I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of a broadcast team and produce videos that bring me the same amount of joy.

Meet Practical Nurse program instructor Rebekah Heath

1. How long have you worked at Bates, and what is your role?
I started working at Bates in 2018 as an adjunct clinical instructor in the nursing department. I am now a full-time nursing instructor.

2. What is your favorite thing about working at Bates?
I love the population that we serve. Most of my students are non-traditional college students: many are older than traditional students, are immigrants, are working for a second career field. Most of my students desperately want to better themselves and have a stable job that will support their families, and earning this degree and becoming a nurse will make a significant impact for them.

3. What do you like to do when you are not at work?
I love to dance! I just taught a country line dance at my local gym, and it was SO FUN! When I am not dancing or teaching, I usually spend time with my family.

4. Why did you choose to enter the Nursing field?
My mom was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer when I was 12. She spent most of that next year in the hospital, and I was able to see how much a person's illness can affect an entire family. I also saw how impactful the healthcare

providers were. The nurses were especially amazing. I still remember some of the nurses; if we saw they were taking care of mom, then we knew it was going to be a good day. I decided that I wanted to have that kind of impact on others, to help them feel safe, seen, and secure. I have been a practicing nurse for over 20 years, and I love that I also get to have a part in training the next generation of nurses to give that same kind of compassionate care**.**

5. What is unique about your teaching style?
My classes are student centered. When I am lecturing, I use software that allows me to take polls and quiz students through my presentation which allows the students to engage with the material and have fun while doing it. Concepts are presented in multiple formats, and I am always trying to find new and engaging ways to interact with the students not only in class, but through the week in the canvas class as well.

6. What do you find most rewarding about teaching?
The lightbulb moments are my favorite. A student will struggle with a concept or skill, and they usually are quite frustrated. We work through the issue together. Sometimes it takes minutes, sometimes days, but eventually they get it, and they light up from the inside. Watching the pride and delight they experience is the most rewarding.

Opening Day 2023 featured awards, updates and training
College employees gathered on Tuesday, Sept. 19 for a day of fun and training. Congratulations to those who earned their anniversary pins, and to the four Employee of the Year awardees. Special thanks to the Bates Foundation for the BBQ lunch and the Bates-branded vests. See photos here.

2023 Employee of the Year Award Recipients

Jim Androy, Electrical Construction faculty

Janet Frostad, Human Resources Generalist/Talent Acquisition Manager

Beth Reichenbach, Lead Library Technician

Allen Sutherland, Maintenance Engineer I

Dates to Remember (find details on the college calendar)

- Leadership Listening Session, October 3
- ASG General Assembly meeting, October 6

Emergency Evacuation Drill, Downtown Campus, October 10
- Emergency Evacuation Drill, Central/Mohler Campus, October 11
- Emergency Evacuation Drill, South Campus, October 12
- President’s List and Dean’s List Reception, October 16
- Washington ShakeOut, October 19
- Non-Instruction, no classes, October 20
- Board of Trustees Meeting, October 23

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