At Bellingham Technical College, our goals for our students go beyond graduation. We want our students to go into the workforce trained and ready to start jobs that support industry needs and local economies. Advisory boards of industry representatives inform our programs, and talented faculty with experience in their fields teach our students what they need to know to succeed. We’re proud to have the highest job placement rate of Washington’s two-year public colleges, with 82 percent of BTC graduates employed within nine months of graduating.

BTC offers a variety of advanced manufacturing programs that train students for high-paying, in-demand jobs to support our state’s manufacturing industries, including Welding, Machining, and Process Technology. Our Process Technology program has an 86 percent job placement rate and trains students for jobs overseeing processing and safety in industries such as refining and fuel production, food processing, and water and wastewater treatment.

BTC’s recent Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant supports BTC employees as they engage in intensive planning and professional development to redesign workforce training pathways. The pathways will increase access to the college’s high-wage, high-demand programs for non-traditional students, including those who have family and work responsibilities outside of school. The college also will provide intensive navigation support services — including personalized student advising, tracking and relationship-building — beginning with enrollment and persisting through graduation. This work will benefit all BTC students, with a focus on serving non-traditional student populations, who are often low-income working adults and/or first-generation students.