



## Press Release

### Contacts:

BTC: Marni Saling Mayer, Director of Communications  
P:360.752.8325 E: [msmayer@btc.ctc.edu](mailto:msmayer@btc.ctc.edu)

Local Alcoa Intalco Works: Raina Clark, Public  
Relations Manager  
P:360.384.7316 E: [Raina.Clark@alcoa.com](mailto:Raina.Clark@alcoa.com)

### ***For Immediate Release***

## **BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND ALCOA FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE PAID INTERNSHIPS FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH**

**Bellingham, Washington – February 7, 2014** - Bellingham Technical College (BTC) was awarded a grant of \$125,000 from the Alcoa Foundation to equip unemployed youth with the skills and experience needed to start successful careers in manufacturing.

The grant is administered by the Institute of International Education and will provide workforce readiness training, career counseling and internships with local manufacturers. It is part of the Alcoa Foundation Global Internship Program for Unemployed Youth, a \$1.25 million foundation initiative impacting 500 unemployed youth (ages 18 to 24) in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Jamaica, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

This internship program will allow BTC manufacturing students to develop their hard skills and will specifically serve low-income students who need the boost of real-world work experience to better support themselves and their families. It will also enable them to create important relationships with a variety of local manufacturers. Funding from the Alcoa Foundation will provide interns a salary of \$10 an hour for 100 hours of direct work experience with a number of local companies.

“ALCOA Intalco Works has been a long-standing supporter/partner of BTC. This grant exemplifies Alcoa’s dedication to our college, students and local industry. This project provides BTC’s students the advantage of learning real-world, on-the job skills and, equally important, these paid internships extend the opportunity for smaller companies to participate as internship sites. This is a forward-thinking approach and idea and we are excited to be part of it!” said Patricia McKeown, BTC President.

“Alcoa Intalco Works is pleased to be the local liaison between BTC and the Alcoa Foundation and to bring this internship program to unemployed youth in our area. We are proud to make a difference in regional youth unemployment and to bring greater awareness to the opportunities manufacturing careers provide,” said Raina Clark, Alcoa Intalco Works Public Relations Manager.

### **About Bellingham Technical College**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 37 associate degree and 51 certificate options providing professional

technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to [www.btc.ctc.edu](http://www.btc.ctc.edu)

### **About Alcoa Foundation**

Alcoa Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the U.S., with assets of approximately \$470 million. Founded 62 years ago, Alcoa Foundation has invested more than \$590 million. In 2013, Alcoa Foundation contributed more than \$22 million to nonprofit organizations throughout the world, building innovative partnerships to improve the environment and educate tomorrow's leaders for careers in manufacturing and engineering. The work of Alcoa Foundation is further enhanced by Alcoa's thousands of employee volunteers who share their talents and time to make a difference in the communities where Alcoa operates. Through the Company's signature Month of Service program, in 2013, a record 62 percent of Alcoa employees took part in nearly 1,300 events across 24 countries, benefiting more than 505,000 people and 1,900 nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit [www.alcoafoundation.com](http://www.alcoafoundation.com) and follow [@AlcoaFoundation](https://twitter.com/AlcoaFoundation) on Twitter.

### **About Alcoa**

A global leader in lightweight metals engineering and manufacturing, Alcoa innovates multi-material solutions that advance our world. Our technologies enhance transportation, from automotive and commercial transport to air and space travel, and improve industrial and consumer electronics products. We enable smart buildings, sustainable food and beverage packaging, high-performance defense vehicles across air, land and sea, deeper oil and gas drilling and more efficient power generation. We pioneered the aluminum industry over 125 years ago, and today, our 60,000 people in 30 countries deliver value-add products made of titanium, nickel and aluminum, and produce best-in-class bauxite, alumina and primary aluminum products. For more information, visit [www.alcoa.com](http://www.alcoa.com), follow [@Alcoa](https://twitter.com/Alcoa) on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Alcoa](https://www.twitter.com/Alcoa) and follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Alcoa](https://www.facebook.com/Alcoa).

### **About the Institute of International Education**

Founded in 1919, the Institute of International Education (IIE) is a private not-for-profit leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. In collaboration with governments, foundations and other sponsors, IIE creates programs of study and training for students, educators and professionals from all sectors. These programs include the flagship Fulbright Program and Gilman Scholarships administered for the U.S. Department of State. IIE also conducts policy research, provides resources on international exchange opportunities and offers support to students and scholars in danger. For more information, visit [www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org).

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