

BENSON TECH

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The Official Newsletter of the Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association (BPHSAA), February 2016 Edition

Support the Benson Site Council Team

*by Curtis Wilson, Principal,
Benson Tech*

What is the role of the Benson Site Council Team?

The school site council plays an important role in decision-making at Benson Tech. A school's site council is a group of teachers, parents, classified employees, alumni, and students that work with the principal and his/her administration to develop, review and evaluate school improvement programs, safety protocols, parent engagement opportunities and overall goals of the school for the current school year and beyond.

The school site council also looks at how to best serve the whole school and how to best move policy and guidelines along that affect the school holistically in collaboration with the school principal. Benson Tech's Site Council team meets the third Tuesday of every month and will be meeting from 3:30pm-5:00pm on Tuesday February 16th in the library classroom. Please come by and support and/or be a part of Benson's Site Council Team.



Message from the BPHSAA chair

Dear Benson Tech Alumni:

2016 is already running full steam ahead and I wanted to take a moment to provide you with some information and updates on BPHSAA efforts, as well as encourage you to get involved in the alumni association. I know that Benson Tech made a difference in the lives of a lot of our alumni, and there's no time like the present to give a little back! Whether you're interested in helping out at an event, making a monetary or in-kind donation or participating in a longer-term capacity, there are numerous ways to get involved and help support Benson Tech! The BPHSAA welcomes your participation and your input!

Centennial Celebration

As we look out at one year from the Centennial Celebration (2016 – 2017), we are making plans for an all-alumni set of gatherings to celebrate all of our alumni reunions for the Centennial. We are looking for those of you in the various classes who were instrumental in planning and creating your class reunions in the past. We need to reach as many alumni as possible for the June 2017 Centennial Celebration. Of particular importance, for those classes ending in "7," we would like to coordinate as much as possible

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Benson Tech enrollment is growing!

Benson Tech had an enrollment of 275 freshmen in the fall of 2015. The many efforts of the alumni and Benson Tech Principal Curtis Wilson and his staff served to maintain communications during the summer so we would see as many of the lottery-selected freshmen show up in the fall.

The entire school attendance is now more than 900 and this is the highest its been in more than six years. Next year, for Fall 2016, 300 freshmen will be allowed to attend, and the year after that, 365 for Fall 2017.

Employment opportunities for Benson Tech students

Information for these jobs and more can be found in the Career Center (CC). Text @ccinfo to 81010 to get updates about job openings and other career events:

- Multnomah Athletic club (two positions - check out the Job Board)
- Marshalls (applications in the CC)
- Bath & Body Works (applications in the CC)
- North West Youth Corps - check out the Job Board
- Conservation Projects - check out the Job Board

Message from the BPHSAA chair, continued from front cover

with you. More to follow, but we have a skeleton crew of alumni and we welcome more help in this effort as it will take a strong effort to pull this off. For more information or if you'd like to help, contact me at robjohns@comcast.net and/or Dale Bajema at dalebajema@comcast.net.

Modernization Planning

Portland Public Schools (PPS) is planning a bond measure for Portland voters in November 2016, which will include a plan to renovate and update Benson Tech. We are anticipating the planned costs for modernization to run from \$80 to \$100 million, depending on how much of the school updating will be to retain its historical needs, earthquake-resistive construction, access needs and class space updates. This school is being planned for 1,700 to 1,750 students, which is encouraging, as we have pushed hard to increase enrollment limitations imposed by PPS. Your BPHSAA board officers, Dale Bajema, Dick Spies and me, are participating on the Benson Tech Master Planning Committee. We will need voter support to make this happen and we will need Benson Tech partners to help be part of this process. More to follow on this in the coming months.

Benson Tech Foundation

Our new foundation is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and financially supporting Benson Tech career technical education (CTE) and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs.

The foundation received \$5,000 of dedicated funding for the manufacturing programs in December 2015 from a father/son alumni team. We encourage any of you with a strong passion for your Benson Tech majors to step forward to support those programs as the operations of the CTE programs always need financial support for supplies, maintenance and updating.

We also thank Ziba Design for its second consecutive year of matching proceeds from its Design Day Dinner. If anyone would like to learn more about the Benson Tech Foundation, please contact me robjohns@comcast.net or Dale Bajema at dalebajema@comcast.net.

Attend a BPHSAA board meeting or join a committee

We welcome alumni from all years to come and visit a BPHSAA Board meeting, which is held routinely on the second Monday of each month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the library conference room at Benson Tech.

We need help on a variety of committees and in particular, for the Centennial Celebration planning to make it a success. Having more alumni participate assures us all that our voices are heard. Help continue the Benson Tech legacy!

-Rob Johns, Chair, BPHSAA Board of Directors (Class of 1977)

CTE career mentoring and educational events for students

Apprenticeship in Science and Engineering: The application for 10th, 11th and 12th grade is open! Mentors are offering more than 150 amazing opportunities including: 3D Printing on the Micro Scale Using Nanoparticles at OSU; Behavioral Neuroscience and Genetics II at the Portland VA Medical Center; Visually Engaging Graphic Development for eLearning at the Bonneville Power Association; Environmental Chemistry: Natural and Human-Impacted Processes at OHSU. For more information, visit <http://www.saturdayacademy.org/ase/student-information/how-to-apply> Application deadline: Friday, March 4, Midnight (From Sally

Niedermeyer, Nursing Instructor, Benson Tech)

Career Day Opportunities PACE (Plumbing, Air, Carpentry, and Electrical) Mentorship Program:

PACE is a free after-school mentorship program that gives students the opportunity to work with plumbers, sheet metal workers, carpenters and electricians to learn about well-paying jobs in the trades. (From Miranda Ryan, Career Coordinator, Benson Tech)

Engineer Day Event: February 25, 2016 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Students will be exposed to a variety of engineering disciplines through hands-on learning workshops, a tour of an active construction site

and a mini-job fair staffed by local engineering firms and colleges. Lunch will be provided. (From Miranda Ryan, Career Coordinator, Benson Tech)

Microsoft Career Day - March 9, 2016 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m./ Didi Girlz Career Day- March 10, 2016 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00p.m.: A day full of hands on activities, creative presentations, experiencing great products, engaging with employees, and interacting with experts in STEM. Learn to code, create a sales pitch, and have fun with technology. To sign up for this event, go to www.hillsborochamberor.com/stw. (From Miranda Ryan, Career Coordinator, Benson Tech)

Benson Tech NTHS chapter recognizes outstanding CTE student achievement

by Amy Henry, Counselor, Benson Tech

For more than 30 years, the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) has been the acknowledged leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides scholarships to encourage the pursuit of higher education (more than \$225,000 in scholarships is awarded annually to its members, and cultivates excellence in today's highly competitive, skilled workforce. For more information regarding NTHS, please visit its-website at <https://www.nths.org/>

This is the first year that Benson Tech has an NTHS chapter. In order to be an NTHS member, a student needs to be a sophomore or junior with a minimum of an overall 3.0 GPA and a minimum of a 3.25 GPA in career technical classes. In addition, Benson Tech NTHS members must complete a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer work in the community.

Most of our students have chosen to participate in volunteer activities in the Benson Tech community in such activities as the NTHS leadership team, BATS, the Centennial Committee, and providing assistance with the Tech Geo/Tech Algebra program.

The BPHSAA generously sponsored the induction ceremony for our 45 NTHS members and their parents/guardians at the 2016 Tech Show.

Young Entrepreneurs (TYE) Program now at Benson Tech

The indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), an international association whose local Portland chapter has sponsored a program for Benson Tech students — who last year were part of the newly created Algebra Tech program — are now the first class to have a program focused on entrepreneurship, with a national competition in Atlanta to compete for scholarship money with a successful "pitch".

The TiE has purchased laptops for the TYE student members and Benson Tech is quickly becoming the model for how this program can involve other PPS students in entrepreneurship. For more information on TYE, contact outstanding Benson Tech alum and electrical instructor, **Tim Hryciw**, at thryciw@pps.net.

SAVE THE DATES

The annual Benson Tech Community Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 20 this year and the School Clean-Up event for Benson Tech will be a week later on August 27, so mark your calendars!

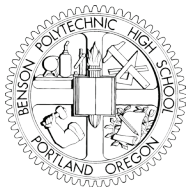
More information to come!

Wellness Center opening in February

Have you heard the great news? The Benson Tech Wellness Center has finally arrived!

Former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts will be on site to cut the ceremonial ribbon for the grand opening of the center on Thursday, Feb 11, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., a special event that marks the culmination years of work and effort.

The mission of the Wellness Center is to promote healthy lifestyle choices, and provide culturally sensitive and age-appropriate health care. The center will offer primary care, physicals, immunizations, counseling, and much more through a partnership with Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) Family Medicine, Multnomah County, Multnomah Education Service District (MESD) and Western Psychological. If you have any questions, please contact **Caroline Bleckman**, Wellness Center Coordinator, at cbleckmann@pps.net.



Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association

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