

EMPLOYER OF THE QUARTER

WINTER 2023

CASCADE CONNECTIONS
opportunities for everyone

VOCATIONAL



Cascade Connections Selects Burlington as Employer of the Quarter

Burlington

Bellingham location currently employs Christopher and Katya, both of whom receive services from our Vocational Services department.

Cascade Connections Vocational Services has chosen Burlington on Meridian Street in Bellingham as Employer of the Quarter for Winter 2023! Founded as Burlington Coat Factory in 1972, this national department store operates over 1,000 stores in 40 states. The

Christopher started his job as a Backroom Associate at Burlington in November of 2019. His main task is to break down cardboard boxes for recycling, load them into the cardboard compactor, then operate the compactor. On a given morning, he may process pallets stacked eight feet high! He also straightens shoes when time permits. Christopher loves when his coworkers blast music in the back while he works. Proud of being a hard worker, he often expresses his satisfaction at a job well done.



Christopher's coworkers and managers also really appreciate Christopher's work ethic. His Cascade Connections job coach, Karen, observes: "It is a whirlwind when Christopher goes in, as his coworkers are unpacking merchandise to prepare it for the sales floor. His tasks help with clearing space in the backroom to prepare for more merchandise to come in. He's an integral part of their team!" Store Manager Jesse Williams affirms this: "Christopher has been with Burlington for over three years now, and he has proven that he is a core member of our team. He brings an admiring attitude each and every shift, and everyone loves having him around as much as he loves working with us. Thank you, Christopher, for your dedication and loyalty!"

Katya, a more recent hire at Burlington, has worked there as a Receiving Associate since September of 2022. As a member of the processing team, Katya unpackages clothing and accessories, organizes it, places items on hangers, and adds price and security tags. She also stocks, faces, and zones products on the sales floor. Manager Jesse Williams told Katya's Cascade Connections Employment Specialist Tanya: "Katya is a strong member of our Burlington family. She puts forward her best effort every shift and has become a very valuable part of our Receiving team. Thank you, Katya, for your superb attitude and willingness to learn and grow with us."



Burlington treats Katya and Christopher just like they treat their other employees by recognizing their work, inviting them to take

employee surveys, and encouraging their learning of new skills and tasks. Jesse Williams told Cascade Connections staff: “We at Burlington believe in equality and that all individuals deserve a chance to be a part of a working society. Cascade Connections gives us a chance to connect with hard-working individuals to find a place where they can grow and be a valuable part of a team.”

Burlington shares Cascade Connections’ beliefs in equal opportunity and in the dignity of work, and the store’s staff have manifested these values beautifully in the ways they have supported both Christopher and Katya. We appreciate Burlington’s inclusive work culture, and we are happy to award them their well-deserved status as Employer of the Quarter! We look forward to continued partnership with Burlington in the years to come.

THOSE THAT ARE DOING IT RIGHT!



Since 2005, Cascade Connections has recognized local employers who are “doing it right” in their hiring of employees with disabilities. Employers who receive this recognition have contributed substantially to Cascade Connections’ mission. By offering meaningful employment, these local partners have helped us to empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.

What does it mean to do it right? Our recognized employers have been open to looking at their hiring practices a little differently. In collaboration with our employment consultants, these employers have formed partnerships that benefit business and support our applicants. By working together, we have changed the face of employment in our community.

Please join us in thanking all of Whatcom County’s current and former employer recognition recipients for helping Cascade Connections to provide opportunities for everyone.

A Child’s Life Learning Center	Family Care Network	Target
Among Friends Adult Family Homes	FastCap	The Seedlings Early Learning Center
Anvil Corporation	Fred Meyer	Walmart
Avamere Bellingham Healthcare	Haggen Food & Pharmacy	Whatcom Transportation Authority
BAAY	Hannegan Home and Farm	WFC Country Store
Bellingham Pet Supply	Marlin’s Auto Service	Woods Coffee
Burlington	Marshalls	
Cascade DAFO	Millard Mall Services	
Connections Speech Language Pathology	Northwest Health Care Linen	
Costco	Rusty Wagon	
Denny’s	Safeway	
Downtown Bellingham Partnership	Samuel’s Furniture	
Elenbaas Country Store	Soy House	

Cascade Connections Vocational Services has been providing employment services throughout Whatcom County since 1992. We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce. Join us to create opportunities for everyone. For more information, contact us at **360-647-9087** or visit our website at: cascadecommunity.org/services/vocational-services