

## **Tom Hanks on Community Colleges – Fun and with a Message**

While this message from Tom is tied to the USA, the context is applicable in Canada. "It is good to see prominent public personalities talking about the value of the 'middle path' of careers whose foundation is the community college, technical institute and, in BC, some universities," said ASTTBC CEO John Leech, who has been a champion for technical careers for the last 40+ years.

View the [TOM HANKS PIECE](#) in the New York Times.

Provincial Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Shirley Bond and federal Minister of Employment and Social Development, Jason Kenney, join Tom Hanks as strong supporters of community colleges. "Many parents do not fully appreciate the value of a 'middle path' career and have, most certainly in the past, directed their children to university education. This is changing, slowly, as more and more parents and youth opt for a trades career."

ASTTBC has invested significantly during the past decade in promoting technology education and careers. This includes working with and through the BC and federal governments on programs and resources designed to enhance opportunities for Internationally Trained Technology Professionals; which in the process elevated awareness of technology careers. "ASTTBC led initiatives through partner agreements with Employment and Social Development Canada and the BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training," enthused John Leech. "These agreements have served as a catalyst for action, producing resources that will assure a much more effective service by ASTTBC."