

**Title:** Bellevue College Unveils GradeFast: A Game-Changing Web Application Streamlining Student Feedback

**Subtitle:** Professors in the Pacific Northwest are utilizing Bellevue College's new web application tool to enable a broader spectrum of students to excel in computer science courses. This feature helps professors by offering a simple grading platform with easy-use tools, saving time lost in grading assignments and generating insights for each assignment.

**Intro Paragraph:** BELLEVUE, WA—June 15th – Bellevue College's Computer Science Department launched a new feature accessible to computer science professors across the Pacific Northwest. This feature allows existing computer science professors to provide artificial intelligence based solutions to the subject's most basic problems. The aim is to reduce workload for professors and help professors narrow their lesson plans to cater to the unique needs of each classroom.

**Customer Problems:** The COVID-19 pandemic facilitated a seismic shift in the professional landscape, fostering an unprecedented reliance on technology. Businesses began to adapt to remote work models and a digital-first approach leading to a surge in demand for professionals skilled in automation and technology. Despite a rapidly increasing demand, the existing infrastructure and techniques for students has created an enormous burden for computer science educators. Imagine if there was a feature designed to identify frequently asked questions and common mistakes. One of the biggest burdens for computer science professors is the repetitive tasks of grading programming assignments for students. Imagine an all-in-one grading platform with user-friendly tools for coding assignments that simplifies this task.

**Solution:** GradeFast, a new web application based grading tool from Bellevue College, offers professors a simplified grading experience that saves their precious time, allowing them to focus on the most important tasks. The code review interface allows graders to easily move through code and comment code. Professors can classify comments through the use of tags. Comments will be stored in the comment bank system so that professors can easily reuse and recycle without manually retyping. After the grading process is complete, GradeFast will generate color coded reports so that students can quickly identify which areas of their code need improvement.

**Leader's Quote:** "What started off as a capstone project in the beginning of the year has led to a record-breaking number of professors adopting this new tool. We are excited to see the positive feedback from professors!" - Steve Wozniak

**Customer's Job-to-be-Done:** Instructors will find that it is a seamless and efficient process to begin using GradeFast. Teachers can easily access our web application, complete the registration process, and immediately start utilizing the application for their students' computer science projects. The application is designed to allow a single zip file upload that contains all student assignment submissions which will separate and organize the submissions. During the grading process, instructors will find that the user-friendly interface will assist in providing feedback quickly without repetitive actions. Instructors may conveniently use previously recorded comments and export graded submissions for students. This web application will streamline the grading workflow and ultimately solve the problem of a time-consuming and cumbersome grading process.

**Customer Quote:** "Before discovering GradeFast, grading assignments was a tedious and boring task. This tool saves me time so I can focus on helping my students learn material instead of constantly grading programming assignments!"

## **External FAQ**

### **Q. Is this feature exclusive to professors?**

**A.** Yes, students will not have access, but will be able to view the program's output at the professor's discretion.

### **Q. Would the GradeFast application be available in all regions?**

**A.** At launch, we plan to make the platform available in one region first to ensure a smooth and reliable user experience. Our goal is to gradually expand to more regions over time. The initial availability will be only in the USA; however, we are committed to making the platform accessible to users in other regions after. Our expansion roadmap will depend on factors such as demand and regulatory requirements.

### **Q. How often can we expect this product to be updated?**

**A.** Our aim is to update the product regularly with both larger and smaller scale updates. Big updates will be every 6 months to a year, where we introduce major changes or new features. Small updates may be every 2 to 3 months where we will fix bugs and add small improvements. Security issues will be prioritized and fixed immediately. Our team will also focus on user feedback and make adjustments accordingly.

### **Q. How can I get support with the app?**

**A.** The best of our development team is standing by to assist with any issues and guarantee satisfaction with our product. Support contact details are included in a welcome email upon subscription to any of our services.

### **Q. Will GradeFast have integrations with Learning Management Systems (e.g. Canvas)?**

**A.** While leveraging Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) to include GradeFast as a Canvas plugin would be a welcome addition to any professor's class page, it is wholly contingent on the institution's IT & cybersecurity departments to allow its inclusion. Unless approved, GradeFast will not be able to integrate with Canvas LMS.

### **Q. How will teacher's assistants be granted access to the application?**

**A.** Teacher's assistants will later be granted permission by the instructions for access to the class. This functionality will not be part of the MVP; however, will be added in a later version of the web application.

## **Internal FAQ**

### **Q. What does the rollout plan look like?**

**A.** Our rollout plan is designed to ensure the most successful and smooth introduction of our product which includes multiple phases. The phases will include the Pilot phase which will start with a group of early adopters. This phase will allow our team to gather valuable feedback, identify any issues, and make any necessary improvements. We will include phases such as Feature Enhancement, User Feedback, and Teacher Report Improvement. At the very last phase, our end goal is to make the product available to as many schools that want to access this tool

### **Q. What is our subscription/license policy?**

**A.** The product will be available as a free standalone application as opposed to a SaaS model. We acknowledge the benefits of SaaS for a commercial product, but this is not feasible as our developers graduate from the computer science program. Every effort will be made to optimize code readability, the team will consider creating a wiki for future students/staff to reference.

### **Q. Are there currently any plans to implement a plagiarism-checking function to the application?**

**A.** No, we currently do not have any plans to implement a plagiarism-checking function at this time. We continuously assess and prioritize feature enhancements, but plagiarism-checking is not on our current development roadmap. Our current focus remains on Submission Management, Commenting, and Report Generation.

### **Q. How will the successful completion of this project benefit our organization and stakeholders?**

**A.** The successful completion of this project will bring several benefits to Bellevue College. Some benefits include, but are not limited to the following. This project will streamline the process of code submission for instructors which allows for better management and assessment of student assignments. Instructors will be able to provide detailed feedback to students and enhance the quality of education by fostering better communication between instructor and student. Usage of rich text and code snippets within comments will help students grasp complex concepts more effectively.