



July 10, 2012

### *Summer Legislative Update III*

- ***Dan Clancy Announces Retirement as WTCS President***
- ***Governor Walker Appoints Philip Baranowski to the WTCS Board***
- ***Summer Commissions and Councils Affect Technical Colleges***  
*Governor, Legislature and independent organizations convene a range of study groups -- Focus on "Skills Gap" and "Workforce Paradox" issues is prominent.*

### **President Clancy Announces Retirement**

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dan Clancy announced his retirement as president of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). Clancy has served as president since 2004. He will retire in mid-September. Prior to becoming president, Dan served as WTCS vice president for finance, planning and policy from 1996 to 2004. He also served a distinguished 16-year career in state service at the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau before coming to the WTCS. He is still well known for his expertise at the Fiscal Bureau advising the Wisconsin Legislature in the areas of K-12 finance and higher education policy.

As president, Dan has established an extremely strong relationship with the District Boards Association and local district boards. He has reported to the Association's membership at almost every quarterly meeting statewide over the past eight years, has attended numerous other Boards Association events before and since becoming president, and visited each district board and college over the years. He has consistently sought to assure there is a district board voice in the leadership activities of his presidency, his agency, and the WTCS Board.

WTCS Board President Mark Tyler will soon announce a search committee to recommend Clancy's successor to the WTCS Board. He has already asked Boards

Association President Pat Costello (Mid-State) to serve as a member of that committee. Clancy plans to spend more time with his family and to focus on volunteer work and on avocations like running. A veteran of several half marathons, he already has his sights set on running a full marathon this fall.

A detailed WTCS press release on this topic is available by clicking [HERE](#).

## **Governor Walker Appoints Phil Baranowski to Serve on the WTCS Board**

Governor Walker has announced the appointment of Green Lake resident Phil Baranowski to the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board. Baranowski has a distinguished record of technical college leadership including a record 32-year tenure on the Moraine Park Technical College Board spanning 1979 through June, 2011. He was elected as the District Boards Association's president from 2003-2005 and was an officer and member of the Association's Executive Committee from 1999 to 2007, among numerous other leadership roles over the years. Prior to retiring, Phil served as superintendent of the Green Lake School District.

He has been appointed to a 5-year term through April, 2017, and succeeds Brent Smith of La Crosse. Smith, who was recently elected president of the UW Board of Regents, resigned from the WTCS Board upon Baranowski's appointment. The resignation clears the way for Baranowski to begin serving immediately while a Senate confirmation hearing and confirmation vote is pending. Those actions are not likely to take place until the new Legislature is inaugurated in January, 2013.

For a complete current WTCS Board roster, click [HERE](#).

## **A Summer of Commissions and Councils**

Both the State of Wisconsin and outside groups are engaged in studying topics of interest to technical colleges this summer. The "interim" summer between a general legislative session's adjournment and fall general elections is prime time for such study groups. 2012 is no exception. First, following the regular legislative session (January, 2011, through March, 2012), a variety of groups convene that were created by the state biennium budget bill, by stand-alone legislation, or by Governor's executive order. Second, the Legislature typically creates a series of interim Joint Legislative Council "special study committees" that convene in the summer of even-numbered years. These are special citizen-legislator panels tasked with studying a certain topic and recommending legislation in the upcoming session. Finally, outside public policy-oriented organizations convene additional study processes and groups.

Here is a summary of the key groups and processes underway across the state, what they are working on, their key membership, and timeframes for reporting and action:

## **1. Governor's College and Workforce Readiness Council**

In January, 2012, Governor Walker announced a series of steps and projects comprising the "Wisconsin Working Jobs Plan." Part of this effort was contained in Executive Order 56, creating a new "College and Workforce Readiness Council." The Council consists of 15 members including former Bucyrus CEO Tim Sullivan, who is serving as the Governor's designee and council chair. The group also includes legislative and state agency/cabinet leaders, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, leaders of the WTCS, UW System, private/independent colleges and universities, a representative of the state's Native American tribes, and others representing business and industry.

The group is assigned to report to the Governor on:

"Reducing dropout and remediation rates as well as income and racial achievement gaps therein; Increasing the number of degrees and certificates awarded by educational institutions; Designing shorter, less costly degree programs aimed at filling high need positions while promoting and supporting technical career pathways for students beginning at a young age; Encouraging students to pursue trades and professions in high demand or of particular importance to the State of Wisconsin; Easing transitions between systems and institutions, specifically through the transfer of credits and the awarding of credit for prior work or other experience; and Expanding dual enrollment and dual credit opportunities to elementary and secondary students statewide."

The Executive Order requires the Council to "...base its recommendations on credible data relating to current and future workforce needs." "All recommendations must focus on immediate job creating strategies."

The Council is to issue a "strategic plan detailing progress" toward these specific goal areas to the Governor by December 31, 2012.

### **Sullivan Wearing Many Hats**

In addition to serving as the Governor's designee for the College and Workforce Readiness Council, Governor Walker announced in mid-February that Mr. Sullivan would serve as "Special Consultant for Business and Workforce Development" for the State of Wisconsin. Prior to these appointments, Sullivan had served as CEO of Bucyrus International, a global mining equipment manufacturer headquartered in Milwaukee that was sold and recently became part of Caterpillar, Inc. As special consultant, Sullivan reports directly to the Governor, while working closely with the

Department of Workforce Development, other agencies, and with leaders across the full educational spectrum. Sullivan is also heading up the state's Office of Business Development, and is serving as chair of the Council on Workforce Investment.

Since the Governor's January and February appointments, Mr. Sullivan has been visiting technical college campuses and meeting with college and workforce leaders. In June, he addressed the WTCS Presidents Association and noted that he would be making a detailed report to the Governor this summer, likely in mid-July. The report will include policy recommendations for the Governor's consideration across the state's educational and workforce systems. The recommendations will likely cover everything from K-12 preparation for transitions to the workforce and higher education, to significant policies and funding issues for K-12, technical colleges, the UW System and workforce development and training programs. The report is being made at the Governor's request and will not likely be made public for some time after its initial submission. The report's contents may then be shared more publicly by late summer. The extent to which the Governor then chooses to include any of its recommendations in the upcoming 2013-15 state budget bill, or in other public policy initiatives, will unfold over the fall and early winter.

## **2. Legislative Council Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities**

Interim "Leg Council" special committees are created by the legislature to study specific policy issue areas. They include both citizen experts and legislators as members and recommend legislation to be introduced in the upcoming session that responds to the study's issues.

The Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities is one of ten 2012 Interim Committees. It is charged with developing legislation "... to create and enhance opportunities for both lower and higher achieving students in high school." To do this,

"The committee shall:

- evaluate current options available to high school students for both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the Youth Options Program;
- examine both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment options available to high school students in other states; and
- determine how to promote coordination between high schools, technical colleges, universities, and employers to ensure that high school students have the skills necessary to meet the workforce needs of employers in this state."

The Committee is led by Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon), Chair, and Representative Paul Farrow (R-Pewaukee), Vice Chair. Among the group's 17 additional members are:

- Sheila Ruhland, President, Moraine Park Technical College;
- Mark Tyler, President, Wisconsin Technical College System Board;
- Bill Fitzpatrick, Superintendent, New London Schools, and a member of the Fox Valley Board Technical College Board from 2007 through June, 2012; and
- Bill Hughes, a former MATC Milwaukee Board member who recently retired as Superintendent of Greendale Schools to become a director with Schools that Can Milwaukee.

The Special Committee's inaugural meeting is scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to follow the group's proceedings, click [HERE](#).

### **3. Temporary Commission on Financial Aid Consolidation and Modernization**

This Commission was created by legislation (AB 144 signed as 2011 Act 176) recommended by an earlier Leg Council study committee. It charged the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) with convening a temporary commission on consolidating and modernizing state-level student financial aid. Based on materials circulated for its first meeting in May, 2012, the Commission will consider:

- “(A) The potential for consolidating all grant programs administered by the higher educational aids board into a single, comprehensive, need-based grant program, and
- (B) Options for providing grant aid for students who are attending Wisconsin institutions of higher education at less than full-time credit loads.”

The legislation also established categories of individuals to serve as its membership. Members and/or their affiliations include:

- Senator Fred Risser (D-Madison);
- Representative Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan);
- Morna Foy, Vice President, WTCS;
- Mary Jo Green, HEAB Board Chair and Mid-State Technical College Financial Aid Supervisor;
- Tim Jacobson, Financial Aid Manager, Waukesha County Technical College;
- UW System administrators Freda Harris and Jessica Tormey;
- Private/independent college and university representatives Rolf Wegenke (Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities) and Scott Flanagan (Edgewood College); and
- HEAB representative Verna Fowler (HEAB Board and College of the Menominee Nation) and HEAB Executive Secretary John Reinemann.

The Commission is also to include three student members. Their appointments are pending.

The Commission held a May organizational meeting and a first working meeting in June. It is to report its recommendations to HEAB and to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2012. For a link to its materials and activities, click [HERE](#).

#### **4. WMC “Workforce Paradox” Meetings**

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) Foundation President Jim Morgan convened more than 50 meetings across Wisconsin to hear from 300 business and industry leaders and economic development professionals. These discussions led Morgan to help identify and better understand the state workforce paradox: How can Wisconsin face a shortage of qualified manufacturing workers while continuing to see relatively high unemployment and underemployment?

Morgan took the results of these meetings on the road for an ambitious agenda of report-out sessions visiting all 16 technical college campuses across May and June. His report-out presentation suggests that the paradox is real. As he crossed the state, manufacturers accepted significant blame themselves for not adequately telling the story of well-paid jobs available and the increasingly high level of skills required to obtain them. These workers need solid high school preparation and technical training post-high school, but not - in most cases - a bachelor's degree. The mismatch between our long-held concept of educational success and the reality of today's workplace is well-summarized in an op-ed column excerpt Morgan penned:

“What seems to be missing in the current system is a broad understanding by today's students of the jobs available. They simply cannot select an occupation that they don't know exists. They do not know what a welder does; they do not know what a CNC Operator is; they have never seen the inside of a modern day, advanced manufacturing facility; and they do not have accurate job data and salary information. The same applies to their parents. And all of us (business, educators, parents, media) should share that blame.”

The complex set of questions and issues Morgan tackled can't be addressed easily. Morgan has established an agenda as to what WMC itself can do including sharing best practices, raising public awareness, providing community assistance, and promoting strategic partnerships.

For detailed coverage of these issues and the WMC sessions, click [HERE](#).

#### **5. Competitive Wisconsin's “Be Bold 2”**

Competitive Wisconsin, Inc. describes itself as “...a nonpartisan coalition engaging business, higher education, agriculture and labor ... uniquely positioned to provide the

opportunity to bring groups together to provide analysis and recommend action on issues affecting Wisconsin's economy and quality of life." Its earlier work helped establish a series of policy initiatives under the "Be Bold (1)" umbrella ranging from recreating the former Wisconsin Department of Commerce as a public-private Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), to initiatives promoting increased venture capital investment in Wisconsin start-ups, among other activities.

Competitive Wisconsin recently launched "Be Bold 2" focusing on job creation, workforce development, and workforce training. The BB2 process will parallel Be Bold 1, beginning with independent research and leading to strategic planning and public outreach efforts that build on the research findings. Those efforts are underway now, and are intended to conclude with a series of "summits" on jobs workforce development from late Summer to Fall, 2012.

Be Bold 1 was embraced by public policy makers from the Governor and cabinet leaders to legislators and local officials. The outcomes of Be Bold 2 could also help shape successful policy initiatives. Such recommendations may well proceed in confluence with the work of the WMC Foundation and the Governor's Council on College and Workforce Readiness.

Additional updates concerning these councils, commissions and processes will be provided as relevant.

*This report was prepared by Paul Gabriel for the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association. Any analysis or opinion in this report is the author's.*