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## Higher ed shrinks: number of colleges falls to lowest point in two decades

Submitted by Doug Lederman on October 14, 2019 - 3:00am

Higher education enrollments have been falling for years, a well-documented outcome that can be attributed to some combination of a strong U.S. economy, changes in birth rates and, perhaps, growing doubts about the value of a college degree.

Another decline is also unfolding -- this one attributable to a mix of economic and political forces: the number of colleges and universities in the United States is at its lowest ebb since at least 1998.

[Data released](#) <sup>(1)</sup> by the U.S. Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics Friday included statistics on a range of topics, including total head count of enrolled students through 2017-18 and the number of colleges and universities in the most recent academic year, 2018-19.

The enrollment data confirm what most college officials who've been paying attention already know: that the number of people enrolled in U.S. colleges has tumbled since the recession, dropping from a total head-count peak of 29.5 million in 2010-11 to 26.4 million in 2017-18.

The overall decline of more than 10 percent has been fueled by drops of 47 percent and 23 percent in total head-count enrollments in for-profit and community colleges in that seven-year period, and despite increases in enrollment at public four-year colleges (12.2 percent) and four-year private nonprofit colleges (5.2 percent) during that time.

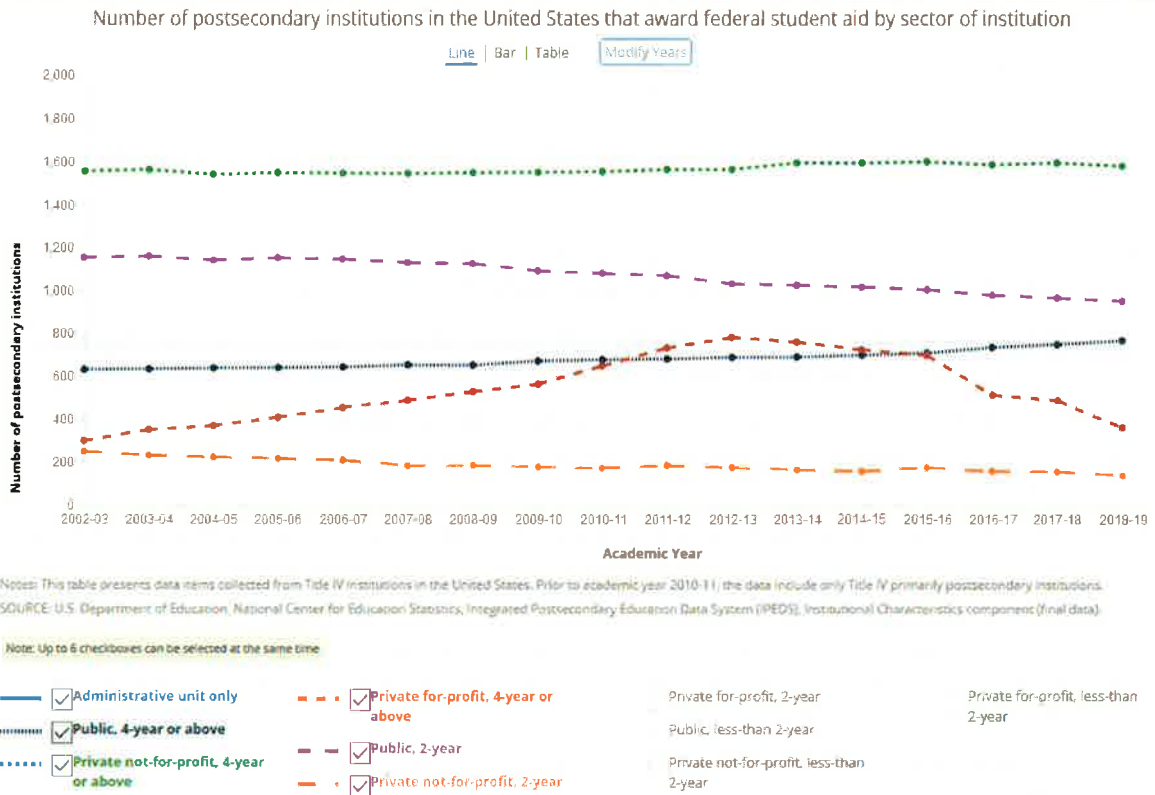
Those enrollment trends have been fairly well documented, both by federal data and those reported regularly by the National Student Clearinghouse.

Less frequently examined, however, are what has happened to colleges and universities themselves over that time. In total, the number of American colleges and universities eligible to award federal financial aid fell to 6,138 in 2018-19, down 5.6 percent from 6,502 the year before.

As seen both in the chart below and the table at bottom, different sectors of higher education have experienced very different patterns over the last decade -- some better understood than others.

- For-profit colleges exploded in number during the (countercyclical) boom years during and immediately after the recession, when displaced workers flooded into vocational programs, drawn both by the sometimes realistic promise of more training and better wages and by sometimes cynical (if not illegal) marketing tactics. The improvement of the economy in the early part of this decade, combined with the regulatory crackdown on for-profit colleges by the Obama administration, cut those numbers almost in half.
- The number of public four-year colleges has grown fairly steadily throughout the last 20 years, although a fair bit of that growth has resulted from the transformation of what were once community colleges into four-year institutions, as they began offering significant numbers of bachelor's degrees. The resulting decline in the number of public two-year institutions, of more than 20 percent, can also be at least partially attributable to that shift.
- The number of four-year private colleges grew during most of the last two decades but has dropped by a little over a percentage point in the last three years. That may be due to an uptick in the number of closures and mergers of private institutions.

[Click to exclude this image from printing](#)



#### Number of U.S. Postsecondary Institutions Awarding Federal Aid, by Sector

Academic Year	All Institutions	Public 4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year	Private for-profit 4-year	Public 2-year	Private nonprofit 2-year	Private for-profit 2-year	Public < 2-year	Private nonprofit < 2-year	Private for-profit, < 2-year
2002-03	6,354	632	1,558	300	1,155	251	764	264	112	1,318
2003-04	6,412	635	1,564	351	1,162	233	783	250	116	1,318
2004-05	6,383	640	1,543	370	1,143	225	793	244	107	1,318
2005-06	6,463	641	1,551	408	1,154	219	821	218	96	1,355
2006-07	6,536	644	1,548	453	1,148	211	844	217	89	1,382
2007-08	6,551	654	1,547	490	1,132	181	857	218	87	1,385
2008-09	6,632	653	1,551	530	1,127	183	893	217	75	1,403
2009-10	6,742	673	1,553	564	1,094	176	963	222	80	1,417
2010-11	7,021	679	1,556	650	1,083	174	1,018	253	82	1,526
2011-12	7,234	683	1,566	734	1,072	185	1,048	256	79	1,611
2012-13	7,253	690	1,566	782	1,035	176	1,030	256	78	1,640
2013-14	7,236	692	1,597	761	1,028	162	1,019	260	75	1,642
2014-15	7,151	701	1,596	726	1,020	158	954	243	73	1,680
2015-16	7,021	710	1,602	700	1,007	171	881	248	86	1,616
2016-17	6,606	737	1,588	514	981	158	830	240	77	1,481
2017-18	6,502	751	1,597	488	969	154	782	235	75	1,451
2018-19	6,138	769	1,583	358	955	138	612	228	59	1,436

Source URL: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/10/14/higher-ed-shrinks-number-colleges-falls-lowest-point-two-decades>

**Links**

[1] <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/search/View?resultType=table&sortBy=relevance&query=&query2=&surveyComponents=12-month+Enrollment+%28E12%29&surveyComponents=Completions+%28C%29&surveyComponents=Institutional+Characteristics+%28IC%29&collectionYear=19&sources=Tables+Library&sc-source=fall>



# Department of Workforce Development Secretary Caleb Frostman Visits Blackhawk Technical College

October 4, 2019

Blackhawk Technical College welcomed Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Caleb Frostman to its Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Milton on Friday, Oct. 4. Secretary Frostman's visit was a part of the college's Manufacturing Days celebration. Nearly 1,000 high school students participated in the two-day event that included hands-on learning in advanced manufacturing. The goal of Manufacturing Days is to provide early exposure to the wide variety of advanced manufacturing careers available in our region.



October is Manufacturing Month, and for the third year, Blackhawk is proud to offer this unique opportunity to area students in cooperation with many business, education, and industry partners.

“Manufacturing Days allow students the opportunity to see and really get a feel for what’s happening in our local manufacturers; many of which have global impacts. The tours highlight the opportunities for students to go into a number of different STEM-related careers,” said Blackhawk Technical College Director of Workforce and Community Development Mark Borowicz.

DWD Secretary Frostman agreed, “It is important that we make introductions between employers and students earlier and make them more often. We need to find ways to connect our youth sooner to the pathway of their choice. It is through partnerships with economic development, workforce development, K-12, government entities and the business sector that we can provide opportunities such as Manufacturing Days to show our youth the opportunities that await them.”

Through Manufacturing Days, businesses can inspire the next generation of innovators. In Wisconsin, there are 475,000 jobs in manufacturing; a \$63 billion industry. Secretary Frostman travels throughout Wisconsin meeting with employers in all sectors learning how to remove barriers for residents to get into the workforce. Throughout his travels, he has learned that the largest challenge facing employers is finding a skilled and qualified workforce.

To address that challenge, the Department of Workforce Development aims to provide opportunities for young people; thus creating a robust pool of skilled workers. “We are investing in programs like pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, employment training, work-based learning opportunities, and reentry programs. There is a sense of urgency and we cannot afford, as a state, to let folks slip through the cracks,” said secretary Frostman.

“Manufacturing Days is an excellent way to connect our students to high-tech, lucrative career opportunities. Blackhawk is proud to welcome the students to our Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Milton, where they will experience an educational environment to help them build the skills they need for manufacturing of tomorrow,” said Blackhawk Technical College President Dr. Tracy Pierner. There are strong opportunities for young adults to fill skilled vacancies in the 10,000 unique manufacturers in Wisconsin.

Secretary Frostman concluded, “We are just really, really pleased to be here today. Manufacturing is a place where we can grow, drive economic growth, and fill jobs that are open to help our manufacturers grow and help residents get into jobs that pay an annual average salary of \$65,000.

# Future of local manufacturing could start with student tours of factories

By Neil Johnson [njohnson@gazettextra.com](mailto:njohnson@gazettextra.com) Oct 5, 2019

Clinton High School student Carlos Arroyo-Orozco sat at a shiny marble boardroom table at GOEX with more than a dozen of his classmates.

He had a Golden State Warriors ball cap twisted down over one of the hairnets GOEX had issued to him and his classmates Friday before they took a walking tour of the plastics extrusion manufacturing plant on Janesville's north end.

When Arroyo-Orozco learned from a GOEX official how many millions of pounds of plastics the Janesville company produces every year, he did a double take through his eyeglasses.

"Wait ... What?" Arroyo-Orozco said, incredulous over just one knowledge bomb from a local manufacturer that he and his classmates previously knew little about.

In fact, when a GOEX official asked the guests, a group of about 22 Clinton High School students ages 15 to 18, if they'd ever been inside a manufacturing plant, none of the students raised a hand.

But then Arroyo-Orozco fired off a volley of questions, including: "Do you guys make plastic business cards? Do you guys make that one kind of plastic fast food container? Do you guys ..."

Arroyo-Orozco was one of about 1,200 local high school students who Thursday and Friday got a shot at hands-on tours of a few dozen local manufacturers who had partnered with Blackhawk Technical College Manufacturing Days.

Manufacturing Days is a once-a-year, two-day immersion BTC uses to try to kindle high school student interest in manufacturing careers and the potential of job training and learning manufacturing skills through enrollment at BTC.

In an address Friday at BTC's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Milton, BTC President Tracy Pierner said manufacturing in Rock County now employs about 14,000 people. The sector has made a steady comeback since the dreary days following the Great Recession and closure of Janesville's General Motors plant. All told, manufacturing now accounts for the largest slice of jobs in Rock County, and the sector has added about 2,000 new jobs in the last five years, Pierner said.

Manufacturing has outpaced two of the fastest-growing job markets in the county, including the health care field and the distribution and logistics industry, Pierner said. The technical college is seeing massive growth in local demand for manufacturing work that is centered on automation and engineering, and the college has responded by adding new two-year programs in those areas.

Nationally, the manufacturing sector has seen minor slowdowns in hiring over the last few months, in part because of uncertainty involving an ongoing trade war between China and the U.S. Overall, it has gotten harder for companies to fill immediate job openings or launch hiring expansions because historically low unemployment for the last two years has kept the labor pool its slimmest in decades.

That's no different in Rock County, where Pierner said BTC hopes to ride events like Manufacturing Days to cultivate interest in local manufacturing jobs starting with students who are in high school or even younger.

Overall, Pierner said, 60,000 people in Rock County's 90,000-person workforce are set to retire in the next decade. That represents unknown thousands in the manufacturing sector alone—a loss of experience and talent that will have to be filled somehow.



That's why, Pierner said, it's so important that Blackhawk Tech partners with local manufacturers to host outreach programs such as Manufacturing Days, which was in its third year this year. The 1,200 students who attended events through Manufacturing Days came from more than a dozen local school districts.

Although BTC's enrollment has continued to grow despite low unemployment, Pierner said, only 10% to 12% of local high school graduates initially enroll at BTC after high school.

A larger share of students venture off to pursue four-year college degrees, and many of those students never complete a four-year program. That's a factor that technical college officials such as Pierner are quick to seize on as a main culprit in a national student loan debt crisis.

"Dig into the numbers. That is a result of people going away to college and dropping out after their sophomore year, freshman year with student debt and no way to pay it off. And do you know where they come after that?" Pierner said.

He pointed to the walls around him in a classroom at BTC's Milton campus.

"They come here."

Laura Benisch, a business and marketing teacher and work-based learning coordinator at Clinton High School, was in a hairnet alongside the Clinton students during their tour of the plant floor at GOEX. She said there's tangible value in immersing students in visits to local manufacturing plants.

Benisch manages high school students who have internships and apprenticeships through local manufacturers that partner with the high school and Blackhawk Tech through initiatives such as Manufacturing Days.

One of her male students landed a high-school internship at SSI Technologies, a manufacturer of high-tech controls in Janesville. The student has since graduated. He now works full time at SSI.

“Here’s what happened,” Benisch said. “He went to a Manufacturing Days tour of SSI. That’s literally how the kid got interested.”

# Fresh start



Staff photo by Dan Reiland

Lisa Arendt, director of the school of business at CVTC, writes on a Learning Glass in an instructor's video production lab on the newly remodeled second floor of the Business Education Center. While the words appear backwards on the other side of the glass, a Web camera captures the image of Arendt writing, reverses the image so it is readable, and records a video of the lesson being presented. The lab's main use will be for production of such videos for online classes. View more photos at [LeaderTelegramPhotos.com](http://LeaderTelegramPhotos.com).

## CVTC unveils \$2 million-plus in renovations to business center

By RYAN PATTERSON

LEADER TELEGRAM STAFF

Rachael Winterling doesn't usually look forward to the start of school, but this year feels different.

Winterling, a second-year paralegal student at Chippewa Valley Technical College, will embark on a new academic season next Monday with classmates, but many of her courses will not have the same look as last year. Winterling's excitement stems from changes to the second floor of the business education center, where CVTC recently unveiled more than \$2 million worth of renovations to classrooms, conference rooms, study areas, instruc-

tor offices and hallways.

Instead of the dim, brick interior that marked the second floor since it was built about a half-century ago, the upgrades showcase brighter, open areas with more room for collaboration and utilization of technology. Hues of gray, blue, white and brown accentuated new furniture and rooms, some of which were highlighted by natural light streaming in from new windows.

"It's night and day," Winterling said of the differences.

Lynette Livingston, CVTC dean of business, arts, sciences and academic initiatives, said the new spaces ideally serve as proving grounds for the 600 to 700 business students to work more with others and improve in their career fields.

"We have upgraded from what looks like a high school with lockers to a modern-day business facility," Livingston said. "... It's the signature piece, if you will, that really brings all of our

programs and student life and the community together."

Conversations about the renovations began several years ago between members of the business center and student life. Alisa Schley, CVTC director of student life, said the two entities both wanted more room for career development, modern innovation and collaboration, so they mutually agreed to work together on the projects.

The implementation process began about two years ago, and faculty, staff and students have worked intensely on it for the past year. All of the physical remodeling occurred this summer. Construction began May 17 and workers will put the finishing touches on a few minor areas this weekend before classes start.

"I have a feeling that the team is going to be working pretty hard over the weekend, but things are looking really nice," Schley said.

SEE CVTC PAGE 4A

# Upgrades may bring more enrollment

» CVTC

FROM PAGE 3A

The most prominent upgrade is the LINC center, which stands for learn, innovate, network and collaborate. It is composed of several classrooms, conference rooms and study areas. Much of the LINC is enclosed by glass, giving it a more inviting feel that allows passersby and potential students to see what is occurring.

Livingston said one of the overall goals involved making the second floor more of an appealing place for students to stay before and after class, so there are study areas for group meetings and study pods for individual work.

While conceptualizing the remodeling, staff members took in-person and virtual tours of different colleges and business offices around the state to gain a better idea for what to do. Winterling and other student organizations also provided ideas on furniture and how to spend resources.

Margo Keys, CVTC vice president of student services, said it was challenging to bring all of the ideas together from different organizations, while Schley mentioned the difficulty involved in maintaining existing classrooms space while creating and designing new classrooms. Despite some challenges,



Staff photo by Dan Reiland

Lisa Arendt works at a lab in Chipewa Valley Technical College's refurbished Business Education Center. The college is hosting an open house from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29.

the work seems to have paid dividends.

Keys said the CVTC student government association paid for about \$500,000 of the total renovation costs. A point of emphasis involved creating areas and conference

rooms for student organizations to host meetings and conduct practice interviews. Winterling said meetings often occurred in coffee shops last year due to limited space, but that will no longer be the case.

Winterling called the upgrades a game-changer, and Schley concurred.

"If we're really trying to have them showcase their professional skills, having them practice in the environment in which they're going to be working makes a lot of sense," Schley said.

Schley and Livingston most look forward to the students' reactions upon seeing the space and said the upgrades could possibly increase student enrollment going forward.

Schley said the college aimed to create flexible spaces that can be adjusted to fit different technology and learning styles if necessary.

"Everything changes with time, so we want to make sure that the ideas and how we want to utilize the space today — if that doesn't work five years from now, the space is still going to be there," Schley said. "We want to make sure that it is flexible enough for us to be able to use it for many, many years to come."

For Winterling and classmates, the renovations should serve as a warm introduction to the school year and potentially attract more students in the years ahead.

# CVTC surveys area for possible referendum

**If board proceeds, question could be on April ballots**

By CHRIS VETTER

LEADER-TELEGRAM STAFF

Chippewa Valley Technical College will be sending out a community survey in coming weeks about a proposed referendum to pay for a variety of expansions.

If the CVTC's board moves forward, the referendum could occur April 7.

The CVTC Board approved conducting the survey at its meeting on Thursday.

CVTC President Bruce Barker said college officials are exploring adding student housing, constructing a new transportation education center and expanding the Emergency Services Education Center.

"We had our annual board retreat, and that's really where our discussions started," Barker said. "We're in the final stages of preparing a survey. That will hit mailboxes around the middle of the month. That should hit about 20,000 mailboxes, and there also will be an online version."

The CVTC Board has hired Slinger-based School Perceptions, a research firm that specializes in school referendums. School Perceptions worked with

the Chippewa Falls school district in getting its referendum passed last year, and also worked with the Fox Valley Technical College on its recent referendum, Barker said.

Barker hopes to get positive feedback when people look at the items they are seeking.

"I think we'll get a reasonably positive response," he said. "I think people see the value of a technical education, especially since the recession."

The results could be back by mid-November. If they are ready, the details will be shared with the CVTC Board at its Nov. 21 meeting.

The survey has several

categories for the proposals, and it lists the costs of each option within that category, he explained. Barker said the more important number will be the tax impact on residents for each project.



Barker

In July, the CVTC Board released its three-year facilities plan, which included an 80,000-square-foot dorm building that would cost \$20 million. It would

be paid for through a public/private partnership and through borrowed dollars, the document states. Two years ago, CVTC performed a feasibility study on building a dorm, which indicated a 300-bed facility could be

filled.

Barker said a housing shortage is definitely a problem.

"That really impacts our students' lives," he said. "They have to commute farther. So, they tend to take fewer classes, and more time to complete."

The facilities plan also proposed a \$25 million transportation center for the automotive maintenance program. Barker said that the lab still looks the same as it did in the 1970s, but there are more innovations in cars, particularly the growth in electric vehicles.

The facilities plan also called for adding 7,000 square feet of space to the Emergency Services Educa-

tional Center, 3623 Campus Road, at a cost of \$1.75 million, and remodeling another 24,000 square feet of the center at a cost of \$1.5 million. For instance, a new firing range would be built.

Barker said it's important to have updated facilities to prepare students for their jobs.

"The more real-life scenarios they can practice on, the better prepared they will be," Barker said.

CVTC last held a referendum in 1997, when voters approved a \$10.7 million measure to build manufacturing and emergency services education centers and a campus in River Falls.

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# Sen. Baldwin proposes plan to train veterans to be commercial pilots

By Emily Matesic | Posted: Tue 4:28 PM, Sep 24, 2019 | Updated: Tue 6:37 PM, Sep 24, 2019

**OSHKOSH, Wis. (WBAY)** - A proposal by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) to help fund training for veterans to fulfill needs in the commercial airline industry moves forward. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved funding to expand flight-training services for veterans to become commercial airline pilots.



Pilot training simulator (WBAY photo)

Fox Valley Technical College has a very successful aeronautics program and it's constantly growing, especially with recent local expansions at places like Gulfstream and Air Wisconsin.

"Just two years ago we had 19 total. Last year we had 47 or 48, and this year we have 61 active at this time, and so we expect that for the foreseeable future we'll be graduating anywhere between 20 and 30 pilots per year," says Jared Huss, chief instructor and department chair of the Aeronautics program at FVTS.

Graduates of the Fox Valley Tech program are finding 100% job placement. And, according to Boeing, over the next 20 years, in North America alone, there will be a need for 200,000 commercial airline pilots and another 200,000 aviation techs.

To help meet the demand, Sen. Baldwin is reintroducing the American Aviator Act. Baldwin says, "We have a very significant shortage in terms of commercial pilots right now and the skills gained in the military and the discipline, etc., really lends itself to allow former servicemen and women to train as pilots."

Baldwin secured a million dollars in funding through an appropriations committee, would help to fund aeronautics educations for some veterans. The proposal would not only help those who've sacrificed for our country, but it would fulfill a need in the airline industry.

Fox Valley Tech officials worked with Sen. Baldwin on the bill and they're excited for what the future could hold.

Huss adds, "We anticipate that it will be a competitive grant process, but we're optimistic and confident that our flight training program will be a great fit for those grant specifications."

The funding bill still needs to pass the Senate, but Sen. Baldwin says it has strong bipartisan support. She's hopeful it will be approved and implemented within the next year.



## National conference focuses on missing, unidentified persons

by Renee Santos

Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

LAS VEGAS (KSNV) — For the first time, [the National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference](#) hosted by the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College is being held in Las Vegas.

The three-day conference focuses on highlighting effective strategies to improve the outcomes of missing person cases across the country.

Many of the people in attendance are passionate about finding missing persons.

“Unfortunately, it seems to be a growing issue in our country,” said Brad Dennis with The KlaasKids Foundation.

The conference is a time where agencies and groups on the local, state and national levels meet, providing training and educating each other.

“Really pay attention. It’s all, everything is interconnected,” said Heather Doto with Nevada Child Seekers.

According to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, every day there are anywhere between 80,000- 85,000 active missing person cases nationwide.

“Our job in NamUs is to support these agencies across the country and provide them with database technology, forensic science, investigative support to help them resolve cases,” said B.J. Spamer, Executive Director with NamUs.

Locally, search efforts are vital.

Nevada Child Seekers, F.R.E.E. International and KlaasKids Foundation are sharing why [The Big Search](#), which happens every [Super bowl weekend](#), works.

"The point is just having all these likeminded people. All these people with hearts coming together," Doto said.

"Send a message to every single parent that has a child that could be missing that we actually care, and we are going to do something about it," Dennis said.

# Gateway center will help meet high-tech, fast-paced need of manufacturing

Sep 29, 2019



Michael Cook, director of Rockwell Automation's Automation University Partnerships Program, is pictured in a lab named in honor of the company he works for at the SC Johnson iMET Center in Sturtevant. Cook says the center's advanced manufacturing technology will help to train the workers of today — and tomorrow — for the fast-paced career field of manufacturing.

Today's manufacturing industry and worker skills look much different than they did even a decade ago, business leaders say.

By and large, advanced technology and digital transformation culture (cleanliness) drive the industry, requiring many of its workers to be technologically savvy as well as able to fully implement all the strengths new tools bring to the workplace. One training facility for aspiring and current manufacturing workers to gain the advanced manufacturing skills needed in today's industry is Gateway Technical College's newly remodeled SC Johnson iMET Center, one local industry leader says.

“The center brings in the first broad-based industry programs that we’ve seen at a technical college in this area,” says Michael Cook, director of Rockwell Automation’s Automation University Partnerships Program. “The learning there aligns exactly to what’s needed today. It has a modern, integrated learning environment that has all the best elements of learning Manufacturing 4.0 in one facility.”

Cook says the worker of today — and the future — adeptly uses cutting-edge technology and grasps the reality of the need for continual learning, two elements that are part of the education in the upgraded SC Johnson iMET Center.

“It’s one thing to have the technology and to have one or two who know how to use that technology. It’s much different when you have many who know how to unlock the value of technology from a profitability perspective as well as a customer satisfaction perspective.”

Cook says manufacturing workers must possess technical skill sets as well as the ability to collaborate with others within their working group and across their company.

“It’s very fast-paced and requires high emotional intelligence, collaboration and the ability to constantly learn,” says Cook. “The pace is significantly higher than it was 20 or even 10 years ago.”

“Industry itself sees that rapid pace of change, and it has accelerated the upskilling of our current workers. Older workers are going back to receive additional training. That’s where technical colleges come in. Colleges like Gateway are magical in their ability to connect education, workers and industry. There, a worker can receive additional training and return to the workplace quickly with fresh knowledge and skills.”

Gateway, with its SC Johnson iMET Center, has become a model college for that training. Rockwell has also invested in the center through the gift of equipment and knowledge in a lab space named after the company.

“Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht is a great leader and collaborator. He has a very brave and bold vision for the SC Johnson iMET Center which is supported by industry — and I think it will be very successful.”

# FORMER GATEWAY STUDENT, LEADER BECOMES NEWEST BOARD TRUSTEE

Submitted by tenagliak on October 2, 2019 - 11:03am



September 24 was a homecoming of sorts for Zaida Hernandez-Irisson – except that she really never left home.

Gateway Technical College's newest board of trustees member was sworn in Tuesday, marking a full-circle story for the Racine engineer. In the past decade, she's earned two degrees from the college, successfully entered her career and represented and shared the Gateway story to area communities, the state of Wisconsin and even the nation.

Now, she'll serve on the board of trustees to help mold and shape its future with a foundation forged as a student and now career professional.

"Zaida is highly qualified to serve in a trustee leadership role for Gateway, having firsthand experience as a graduate from both the Cosmetology and Engineering programs," said Gateway Technical College President and CEO Bryan Albrecht. "Her knowledge and experience will enhance the future direction and provide a student perspective on critical issue facing college students today."

## BOARD APPOINTMENT A "SURREAL" COMING HOME MOMENT

Hernandez-Irisson called the moment she realized she was a board member "surreal" and extremely rewarding.

"It's a very surreal moment that, as I tour the Kenosha Campus, I remember the first time I began as an English as a Second Language student – and now I am walking those same hallways as a member of the board of trustees," says Hernandez-Irisson.

"Being able to serve the college that helped me to get a start on my career is very rewarding for me, knowing that I get to give back to the community that saw me go through middle school, high school, college, off to a four-year college and into my career. I get to come back with all of those skills and now I get to serve on the board."

Hernandez-Irisson was 11 years old when her family moved to Kenosha. At the time, her father was the only one who spoke even a little bit of English. She began her educational journey at Gateway by enrolling in the college's English as a Second Language program to learn English. She knew she needed the English skills to succeed at school at first, then college and work. She excelled in the program.

Hernandez-Irisson first earned her Barber/Cosmetologist technical diploma in 2012 and entered that career field. Even so, her sights were firmly set on her lifelong dream of becoming an engineer. She used the money she earned as a barber-cosmetologist to pay for her Gateway engineering degree.

Along the way, she honed her public speaking skills as a member of the Society for Women Engineers and as Gateway's 2015-16 District Star Ambassador. In that role, Hernandez-Irisson was the student voice to the communities of Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties through speaking engagements and other public events.

"I gained self-confidence in being more comfortable around speaking in front of others and saw the impact my story was having on other students, how it motivated them," she said.

The student who didn't speak much English 16 years ago is now an accomplished and poised public speaker, illustrated through the many public speaking engagements and the interviews she's done with members of the media.

Hernandez-Irisson earned an associate degree in Electrical Engineering Technology, a Barber/Cosmetologist technical diploma and an EET Concentration in Biomedical Engineering from Gateway.

## **JOURNEY INSPIRES OTHERS**

"I find Zaida's journey to be very inspirational to all of us," said Engineering instructor Pat Hoppe, who was Hernandez-Irisson's instructor and mentor. "She is a shining example of how the technical college system can help people achieve their goals throughout their educational journey.

"Zaida's hard work and perseverance has enabled her to achieve every goal she has set for herself. I am very proud of her."

Hernandez-Irisson's other goals were to enter the workforce as an engineer and earn a bachelor's degree.

Hernandez-Irisson currently serves as an electrical engineer for a Racine high-speed spindle manufacturer and has completed her engineering degree from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Her work at Fisher USA focuses on wire harness development, which ensures communications from sensors in the spindles to the drive controlling it. The most common application is where spindles are used in manufacturing in computer numeric control machining.

Hernandez-Irisson also held a goal of becoming a board of trustee member, but said the opportunity to do so presented itself much earlier than she had expected.

"I'm a planner. I have a five-year goal and this wasn't in that plan. However, I'm a strong believer in that things happen for a reason, and when this position came across, I knew I had to apply."

Earlier this year, NBC News Learn featured Hernandez-Irisson in a video collaboration for her work as a female engineer and her efforts to mentor teenage girls in her community, specifically to become engineers.

“Zaida not only serves as an ambassador for our college but a role model for those seeking career success,” says Albrecht. “Her determination to excel both at Gateway and MSOE have positioned her for this new leadership role as a trustee for Gateway Technical College.”





# Lakeshore Technical College: \$2 million grant a game-changer | Paul Carlsen

Dr. Paul Carlsen, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

Published 9:52 a.m. CT Oct. 6, 2019

The United States Department of Education recently notified us of our success in a competitive bid for a national grant under the Title III Strengthening Institutions program. The total award Lakeshore Technical College will receive is just more than \$2 million over the next five years to deliver new and innovative programming and services to our college's students.

This is a noteworthy accomplishment for LTC faculty and staff who have thoughtfully designed strategies to serve LTC students in even better ways, and for our students who can expect even greater support from the No. 2 two-year college in the U.S.



Lakeshore Technical College campus in Cleveland, Wisconsin. (Photo: Courtesy of Lakeshore Technical College)

We will be using this funding to develop high-wage, high-demand programs in a competency-based learning format where students can learn at their own pace by progressing when they have proven specific, job competencies.

Students can also obtain college credit for the skills they have already mastered on the job — saving time, money and allowing them to earn their LTC degrees faster.

The competency-based format offers unprecedented convenience where students can start on their own schedule, versus waiting for the beginning of a typical college semester, and choose for themselves the best times to learn on campus.



**Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College president** *(Photo: Provided)*

The grant will also be used to deploy support services so each and every student, including those who are low-income, of color or with disabilities, reaches their goal of a college degree and a career. This includes implementing a holistic student support system where students' advisers will assist in solving challenges in obtaining their education and career goals.

The programming and services provided under this grant will be a game-changer for students. It allows us to take what we already do well — providing flexible programming for adult learners aiming for high-demand local jobs, and deploying innovative support systems to ensure every student has the opportunity to reach their goals — to an even higher level.

*Dr. Paul Carlsen is president of Lakeshore Technical College.*

# Early Estimates Indicate Madison College South Campus Exceeds Enrollment Target

By Nicholas Garton Sep 16, 2019



The Goodman South Campus is up and running for Madison College and even after just two weeks of classes, it has become clear that the long-term impact the school is going to have on Madison will far exceed what was ever imagined.

Madison College's new building, in the heart of the south side of the city, is a sparkling, beautiful, state-of-the-art facility, set to serve as the beacon of revitalization for the city's most underrepresented area. But, for the faculty working there, it has been a surprise just how spectacular and impactful than it already is.

On Friday evening the faculty of the new South Campus got together for a meeting to debrief on how the first couple weeks of school had been. Goodman South Campus Dean Valentina Ahedo said the meeting lasted hours as people marveled at the journey they are undertaking.

"One staff person was surprised at just the beauty of the building," Ahedo told Madison365. "There was surprise at the beauty of the building and the welcoming warmth of the interior design."

Ahedo describes the entrance of the building which was designed in such a way that a person coming in would have to walk by the service desk. There is a Welcome Circle above that service desk that says "Welcome" in 17 different languages. Making sure that people come in by the service desk where they will have interaction with faculty was intentional, Ahedo said.

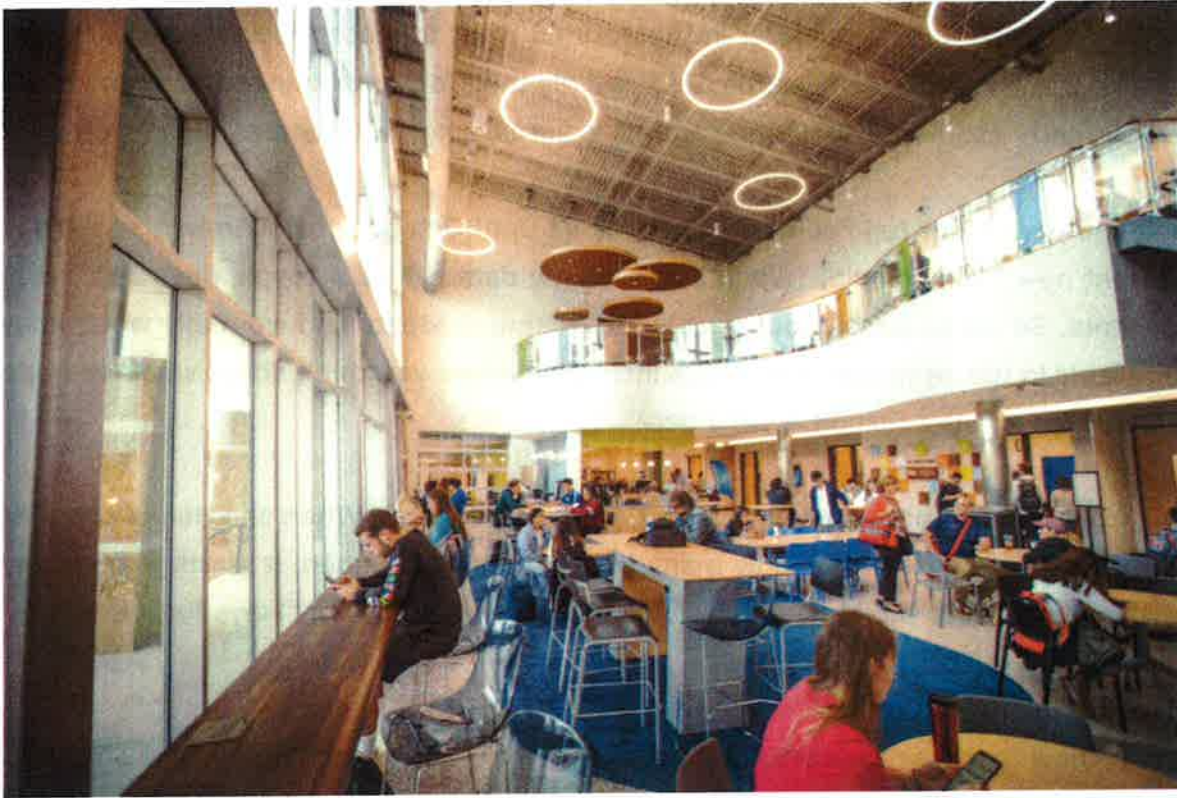
"We were very intentional that when you came in the building, you had to come by the desk," she said. "That allows us to have the opportunity to build and continue relationships with people. This building is three times bigger than the old South Campus and the concern was that we'd lose some of the intimacy with our students and staff. But at Goodman South, we're out there and they have to see us. So we're on all the time. So as people come by we have the opportunity to build all those relationships. And so we're even busier because people take us up on the opportunity to connect."

But Ahedo says it's more than just students or their families who are coming into the building. She points out that the Truax Campus sits in the middle of endless parking lots that one has to traverse (treacherously as students who attend in winter know) in order to get inside the building.

The Goodman South building is right on the sidewalk. People can and do just walk right in.

"This campus, the way it is designed, is very different than Truax," Ahedo told Madison365. "Here there is no parking lot we sit in the middle of. We're right on the sidewalk, so people are crossing the street walking right in front of our front door. We're in the neighborhood. We're right there. And to me, that is such an awesome experience because people truly can walk in just to see the building and just to see what we offer."





When people walk in to see the building they are experiencing enormous amounts of natural light. There is breathtaking artwork, including a [mural dedicated to the powerful African-American leaders in Madison's past and present](#). There's an array of little nooks and places students can be together and sit to study or socialize. There is a cafeteria and a library, along with a student achievement center.

Madison College has partnered with entities like Badger Rock Community Center, Centro Hispano and Urban League of Greater Madison to make sure that it has programs for students from all walks of life and all levels of educational experience.

The South Campus is home to the STEM Academy, which is for high school students who are interested in science, technology and math. Students who are juniors and seniors in high school take a full load of classes at Madison College for dual credits. Ahedo says the presence of the high school-aged youth has added tremendously to the energetic vibe of the Goodman Building.

Which, to be honest, is already bustling and energetic in and of itself. In addition to the beauty of the building, Ahedo said the second thing faculty said they were surprised at is just how busy the building is.

Madison College won't know until later in the autumn what the most accurate enrollment numbers are. But Ahedo said they estimated and planned for enrollment to be around 1,500 students, but early estimates show the campus is surpassing that number significantly.

"We won't know what our full Fall enrollment will be until October or November, so we have an estimate right now," Ahedo said. "When I opened my data e-mail a couple days ago, we had 1,849 students. So we surpassed our goal by 300-some students and we really won't know how many until later in the semester. But that's incredible when you think about what we hoped this campus would be and the response we'd get."

For Ahedo, that is a microcosm of the South Campus in general. When she thinks about how busy and beautiful the building is, how many lives are being changed, it starts to feel like the Goodman South Building will have a massive impact on what in many ways has been a forgotten part of the city.

"For me, I'll know that we're successful if people are able to go out and get job," she said. "One job to support their families instead of three jobs. So making sure we're able to connect them with businesses and employers. I think that's where the support of the business community is important. Because as much as they can do to support these workers, the better off our whole community is going to be and the transformational impact of this campus will be realized."

## Laboratory research enhances student experience

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October 2, 2019

According to Madison College Provost Turina Bakken, finding new insights to complex problems requires people with the ability to ask the right questions.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, Madison College instituted the first cohort of Course-Embedded Undergraduate Research Experience students. These students, in partnership with instructors, set out to apply research to learning by asking questions.

Student engagement in meaningful learning experiences increases the likelihood that they will complete their degrees. Engagement also increases students' grade point averages.



Dalia Macias presents her research on the effect of soil sample storage conditions in antibiotic research.

At the end of the year, 75 students presented their findings at the Celebrating Student Research and Scholarship Symposium. Todd Stebbins, Ph.D., dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, calls them “innovative and creative discoverers.”

A panel of Madison College directors and administrators judged the presentation posters. Many of the research projects addressed the need for sustainable food sources to solve hunger problems caused by increased population and climate change throughout the world. Other projects focused on finding new sources for antibiotics.

Through research and scholarship students develop communication, critical thinking and the ability to ask the right questions. Employers value these skills in their employees.

“CURE resulted in new skills-based digital badges, internship opportunities, new research-based curricula and a new structure for faculty-mentored open-lab opportunities,” Stebbins said.

A Madison College Innovation Grant and a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant supported the CURE initiative.



# Mid-State ranked in top 20 two-year colleges for adult learners

Washington Monthly has ranked Mid-State Technical College in the top 20 two-year colleges for adult learners.

## For the Rapids City Times

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Washington Monthly released its 2019 annual rankings in August, naming Mid-State Technical College among the top 20 two-year colleges in the nation for adult learners.

Factors that specifically affect adult students, including ease of transfer, flexibility of schedule, and services for adults were considered in the evaluation of 978 two-year colleges in the US.

Washington Monthly, a bimonthly nonprofit magazine of United States politics and government, annually ranks American colleges and universities. According to the magazine's website, it is the only publication to rank the best two-year and four-year colleges for adult learners.

## Mid-State cracks top 20 list for two-year colleges

📅 September 3, 2019

Metro Wire Staff

A national news magazine has listed Mid-State among the top 20 colleges for adults in the country.

Washington Monthly released its 2019 annual rankings in August, naming Mid-State Technical College the 20th best two-year college in the nation for adult learners.

Factors that specifically affect adult students, including ease of transfer, the flexibility of schedule, and services for adults were considered in the evaluation of 978 two-year colleges in the country.

According to Mid-State officials, ranking among the top two percent of two-year colleges nationwide for adult students is a result of many factors working together to support adult learners.

"We are thrilled to receive this recognition of our efforts to support adult students as we strive to remove barriers to college and help every student excel," said Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management Dr. Mandy Lang.

Lang pointed to Mid-State's simplified enrollment process combined with a variety of other factors appreciated by adult students, including flexible program and scheduling options for part-time students and a dedicated academic advisor for every student who acts as a "go-to person" for any question, as well as financial aid and scholarships, counseling, emergency grants, tutoring, career advising and other services.

"We recognize adults are making a big change in their lives by coming back to school, and we want to support them as much as possible to help them be successful," she added.

*Washington Monthly* is a bimonthly nonprofit magazine featuring news on United States politics and government and is known for its annual ranking of American colleges and universities. According to the magazine's website, it is the only publication to rank the best two-year and four-year colleges for adult learners. Unlike other well-known rankings of colleges, the *Monthly* rankings highlight colleges that serve students of modest means.

Learn more about Mid-State's offerings for adult students on the college's website at [mstc.edu/adult-students](http://mstc.edu/adult-students) or call [888-575-6782](tel:888-575-6782).



Point/Plover Metro Wire 08/22/2019

Wisconsin Rapids City Times 08/23/2019

## **Mid-State celebrates 'Metal Mania' graduation - Point/Plover Metro Wire**

*editor1*

By Patrick Lynn

Mid-State Technical College is marking its second annual graduation of Metal Mania.

The trades-focused program graduated 14 students during a special celebration on Aug. 16. The eight-week program was designed for those interested in a career as a machinist, with five graduating from the introductory program and nine from the advanced program for those continuing their training as a machinist. F

According to a news release from Mid-State, the Central Wisconsin Metal Manufacturers Alliance (CWIMMA) covered the cost of tuition and books for the students.

"Metal Mania is all about building a pipeline of young workers for this region of the state to keep industry and manufacturing alive and well in our area," said Ron Polum, CWIMMA representative and Pointe Precision vice president of operations. "This is a great opportunity for students to become familiar with a career in machining prior to actually committing to a full two-year degree."

Advanced Metal Mania graduate Caleb Cline calls the free summer program a "no-brainer" for students considering a career as a machinist.

Cline was first attracted to the machine tool field during high school, which led to a Youth Apprenticeship with current employer Pointe Precision while still enrolled at Port Edwards High School.

"I chose machine tool because it's not just hands-on; it's thinking, and it pays really well because employers are always looking to fill jobs with Baby Boomers now retiring," he said.

Cline now serves as the vice president of the Wisconsin Chapter of SkillsUSA, and will, along with seven of his peers, soon enter his second year in Mid-State's Machine Tool Technician program.

From the introductory Metal Mania program, three out of five graduates will continue in high school, one plans to enter the workforce, and one will start in the Fire Protection Technician program.

Mid-State plans to continue Metal Mania again next summer, with the help of CWIMMA, to help students discover the machine tool field and address the projected shortage of skilled workers in the industry.

To learn more about Mid-State's programs and services, please call 888-575-6782 or visit [www.mstc.edu](http://www.mstc.edu).





# MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SERVICE

MILWAUKEE PRESS CLUB GOLD AWARD WINNER 2018  
REGIONAL EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD WINNER 2017

## 'You can make a new start': Job-training program offers those who've been incarcerated a lucrative new career

OCTOBER 3, 2019 BY [EDGAR MENDEZ](#) [3 COMMENTS](#)

*Editor's note: This story has been updated to correct the first name of Wilberto Velez.*

As he stands in front of a Computer Numerical Control machine in a first-floor workshop at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Justin Ashford, 32, reflects on the multiple job offers he's received.



*1*"It's not just about the money either. I want an opportunity to grow with the company," said Justin Ashford, 32, who recently completed the Computer Numerical Control training program at MATC. (Photo by Edgar Mendez)

"It's not just about the money either. I want an opportunity to grow with the company," said Ashford, who was days away from completing the school's accelerated

four-month CNC training program that was made available to inmates in 2018. CNC machining is a process in which precision parts are produced through computer inputs.

Ashford and seven other participants were in the classroom for eight hours a day, five days a week and even some weekends to complete the intensive course. They received training in how to read blueprints, metrology as well as other technical skills. He will walk out with a certificate in a high-demand field in hand — as a free man.

It's something that would have been hard to imagine a year ago, said Ashford. At the time, he had just begun serving an 18-month sentence at the Milwaukee County House of Correction in Franklin. As a condition of completing the program, all incarcerated participants are released from jail.

"It's a perfect opportunity to make a new beginning," said Ashford, who hopes to become a tool and die maker.

Ashford is a participant in the UMOS TechHire program, a federally funded initiative to provide accelerated training in technology fields and other skilled trades. The CNC component of the program was developed through partnerships with the South Side nonprofit UMOS, the Department of Children and Families, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and several local manufacturers, said Joni Theobald, director of the program. Ashford was a member of the third cohort of the CNC program.

### **Filling a need**

Theobald said manufacturers are struggling to find skilled workers so the program provides incarcerated individuals a career opportunity.

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"Unemployment is low and about 40 percent of the manufacturing workforce will be retiring within 20 years," she said. Demand is so high for graduates of the CNC training program that starting pay averages between \$16 and \$22 per hour.

"These companies are pitting against each other to hire these students," she added.

Bryan Obst, human resource manager for Trace-A-Matic, a Brookfield-based company that produces parts for aerospace, mining and other industries, said almost half of his company's workforce will be entering retirement age within the next 10 years.

In inmates, they've found eager students looking for a second chance and to keep learning, Obst said. Supervisors of companies, including Trace-A-Matic, Reich Tool & Design and Senior Flexonics, observe students in the classroom and conduct "pitch sessions" and tours at their respective companies. Eventually, they hire some participants as interns.

"These guys are getting jobs even during their incarceration period. They have taken a sense of pride and ownership of their accomplishments because this program was difficult with high standards," said Jose Hernandez, assistant superintendent at the House of Correction.

In addition, the program allows participants the chance to view the correctional facility as a place where they can find opportunities to improve their lives, he said.

Once participants go back home and begin their internships, the TechHire program continues to support them in obtaining their licenses, finding transportation to work and overcoming housing and other challenges that can increase the odds that they will be incarcerated again, Theobald said.

### **'Moving forward'**

Wilberto Velez, 40, a military veteran who said he fell on hard times in recent years, is among the participants eager to launch a new career.



*Wilberto Velez, 40, said he has received several job offers. "No matter what happens in your life, you can still accomplish anything," he says. (Photo by Edgar Mendez)*

"I'm completing my sentence, doing what I'm supposed to do and moving forward," Velez said. "No matter what happens in your life, you can still accomplish anything." He said he's already received several job offers.

Another is Andrew Anderson, who became a father seven months ago. He grew up in Cudahy, a manufacturing heavy suburb, and took shop classes in high school. But, he said, he never applied those skills.

Until now.

"It was time to start using those skills and also learn new ones," he said. "I did it because I want to have a good career and be a good father."



Dale Howser Sr., who's been an instructor at MATC for 25 years, said the students from the House of Correction actually do better in the course than traditional students, who also take the training.

"They're here every day and leave here with the skills and commitment to get a good job and career," Howser said.

Ashford's hope is that other inmates take advantage of that opportunity.

"Things happen in life, but you can better yourself," he said. "You can make a new start."

## **Your neighborhood. Your news. Our community.**

**How to reach us:** Email is highly effective. We can be reached at [info@milwaukeeenns.org](mailto:info@milwaukeeenns.org). Our newsroom phone number is (414) 604-6397.

**Here's how to get your news published on our site.**

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# M-Cubed Partnership Wins National Recognition at Higher Education Conference

Oct. 8, 2019

The M<sup>3</sup> partnership has earned national recognition for its work to boost student achievement and close equity gaps in Milwaukee by winning an award at the University Economic Development Association conference.

M<sup>3</sup> (pronounced M-cubed) prevailed over two other finalists in the “Talent + Place” category at the UEDA national conference in Reno, Nevada on Oct. 1. Talent + Place recognized projects that showed how putting the right people in the right environment benefits the community and economy.

Representatives from each of the M<sup>3</sup> partners – the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College and Milwaukee Public Schools – traveled to Reno to deliver the winning presentation, “M<sup>3</sup>: Harnessing the Power of Education for Talent Development.”

“It’s wonderful to see the partnership earn national recognition,” MATC President Dr. Vicki J. Martin said. “This is truly an honor for MATC, MPS and UWM. Thanks to all who make this a special partnership for our students and our communities.”

The three institutions together represent more than 130,000 students in Milwaukee. The collaboration and coordination will increase the retention, graduation and career success of students and provide a prepared workforce and citizenry for the Wisconsin economy, Martin said.

The award represents another encouraging sign for the M<sup>3</sup> mission.

“We see the impact of the M<sup>3</sup> partnership in the outcome of our students,” MPS Superintendent Keith Posley said. “The success of more students graduating and entering college will make a huge difference in our greater Milwaukee community. This collaboration is well on its way to transforming the city through education.”

M<sup>3</sup> reached a major milestone with the graduation of the partnership’s first Early College program class in May. The ceremony celebrated 32 MPS students who got a taste of higher education and earned 10 college credits during the Spring 2019 semester by taking courses at MATC and UWM.

Early College has doubled in size this fall, with more than 60 students now taking 19 college credits over the course of the new academic year.

Another positive development is the rising graduation rate at MPS. The four-year high school completion rate was 66.7% for 2017-18, the last certified figure, up from 59.7% in 2015-16. The target for 2020 is 72%.

Building on these positive signs, leaders and stakeholders from UWM, MATC and MPS are considering new goals that would measure progress well beyond 2020 and include postsecondary achievement.

“We are honored to receive this award,” UWM Chancellor Mark Mone said. “The ultimate winners

are the students in Milwaukee whose lives are so positively impacted by the M<sup>3</sup> collaboration. The award reinforces our shared commitment to build on a promising start as we strive to forge a true public education network.”

Established in 1976, UEDA has more than 160 members. The association describes its work as bringing together “higher education institutions, private sector businesses, non-profits, government organizations, and community economic development stakeholders to create local and regional economic opportunity.”

# Apprenticeships Lead to In-demand Careers

*Apprentices can avoid student debt while preparing for strong future*



When David Polk talks to future apprentices, he speaks from experience.

After graduating from Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School (now Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology and Trade School) with three years of plumbing courses, he was at the top of the list to enter a plumbing apprenticeship program.

He started one week after walking across the stage and earning his diploma.

The apprenticeship was fully paid by his employer, where he worked four days per week. Polk took classes one day each week, including three at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

The son of a plumber and the grandson of the first African-American union plumbing apprentice in Wisconsin, he thought about breaking from tradition and entering another field. But after learning more about the opportunities and the family-sustaining income plumbing provides, he chose to continue the family trade into its third generation.

Polk completed his five-year apprenticeship before working as a licensed plumber for another five years and then serving as a plumbing inspector for the city of Milwaukee for 10 years.

Today, he is an associate dean at MATC, managing 26 different apprenticeship programs from his office at the college's Oak Creek Campus. Apprenticeship opportunities at the college span from arborist, barber, construction electrician and cosmetologist to steamfitter, telecommunications installer, and tool and die maker.

"It feels great because I'm in a position to empower more individuals to get involved in the trades," Polk says. "I've always been a longtime trades advocate, but now this position allows me to speak directly to high school students and individuals changing careers who want to go into apprenticeship now."

At a time of record-breaking college debt — and with area school districts increasingly connecting students to career pathways in middle and high school — apprenticeships present a unique opportunity, he notes. As was the case when he was an apprentice, the programs are employer-paid.

"It is not your general entry-level type job. It's a career," Polk says. "Going through an apprenticeship is preparing an individual for something they can do for the rest of their life and raise a family on."

High school students and families interested in an apprenticeship can contact him — or their high school to explore curricular options.

MATC's Oak Creek Campus partners with local high schools to offer apprenticeship preparation programs in fields including carpentry, tool and die, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) and power engineering. Students earn both high school and college credit for the courses they successfully complete at MATC. Some area high schools offer their own pre-apprenticeship courses that prepare students to enter an apprenticeship program at the college.

By senior year of high school, Polk recommends that an interested student begins to focus on a specific trade or apprenticeship option. MATC can provide information about the next steps depending on the program, including whether a prospective student should apply to the college or to a local trade union.

An apprenticeship program can lead to a decades-long, high-paying career working directly in the trades, or, in Polk's case, the opportunity to earn his bachelor's degree while working and ultimately, to share with students his knowledge of and passion for apprenticeship.

"A trades career can be working out in the field, or transitioning into management, or instruction," he says. "You never know where a trade will take you."

# MERCURY MARINE FUTUREMAKER PARTNER AWARD

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 / [DAILY DODGE](#) / [NEWS](#)



(Fond du Lac) Mercury Marine has received recognition from Moraine Park Technical College and the Wisconsin Technical College System board and has been selected to receive the 2019 Futuremaker Partner Award.

This award recognizes the unique and dynamic partnerships between technical colleges within Wisconsin and their employer partners. For more than 20 years Mercury marine has joined forces with Moraine Park to help influence the local economy, provide jobs, and as a supporter of the Moraine Park Foundation.

Wisconsin Technical College System board president, Becky Levzoe praised the partnership saying “Mercury Marine is a household name in Wisconsin and a highly regarded brand across the globe. Mercury looks to Moraine Park as an entry level talent pipeline and for customized instruction that keeps team members skills sharp, a testament to the strength of the partnerships between Wisconsin’s Employers and our colleges.”

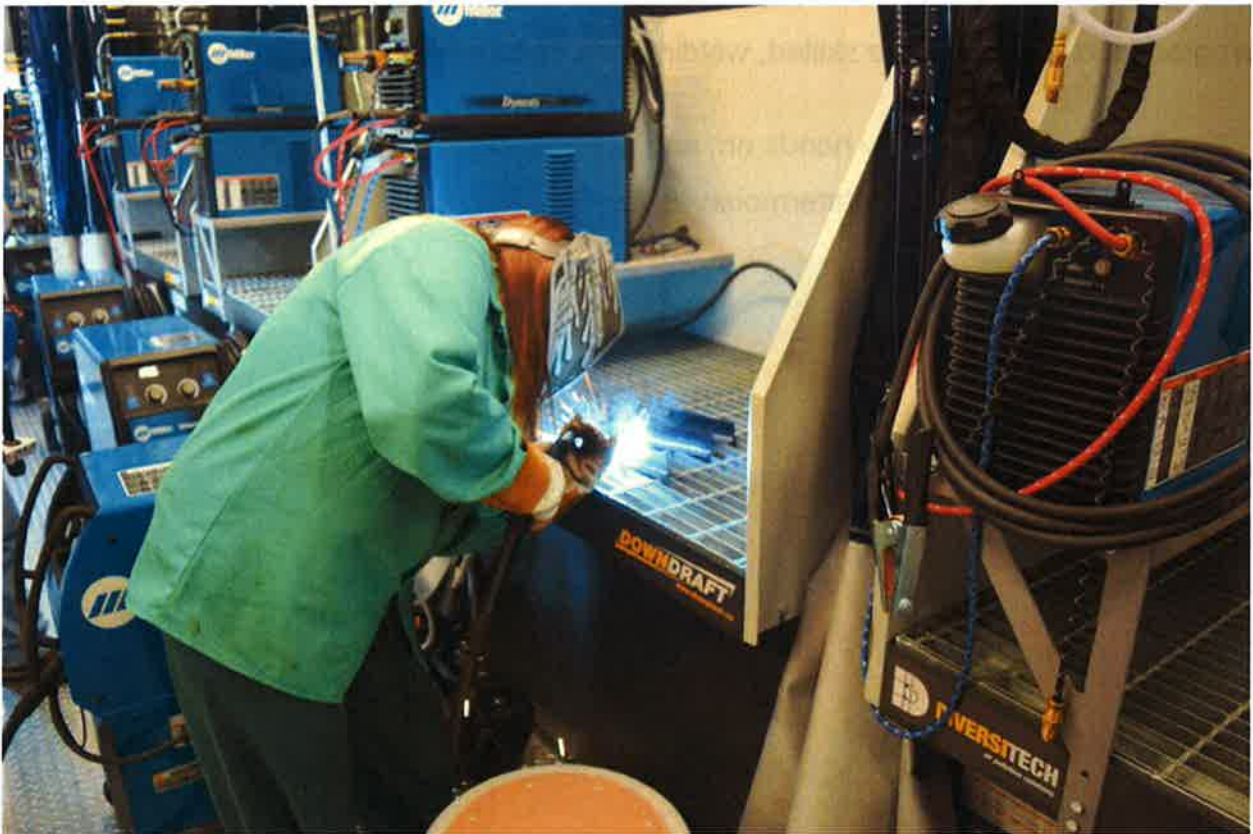


Since 2011 Mercury has donated nearly \$200,000 to the Moraine Park Foundation alongside being active on school advisory committees and acting as an advocate on behalf of the college in support of technical education legislation.

More information about Moraine Park Technical College and their business partners is available online at [morainepark.edu](http://morainepark.edu).

## Wisconsin Women's Prison Tries To Fill Need For More Welders

By [CHUCK QUIRMBACH](#) • OCT 2, 2019



*Miranda Watermolen welds in the Welding Mobile Lab. The lab is currently at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution, which is near Fond du Lac, Wis.*  
CREDIT CHUCK QUIRMBACH

Many of Wisconsin's 23,000 prison inmates will eventually be released. A new program tries to get more ready for the world of work, including training some women at Taycheedah Correctional Institution to be welders.

The women's prison near Fond du Lac also has a new state-staffed job center, which helps inmates search for work. The Evers administration says similar [job centers](#) are coming to two Milwaukee-area correctional facilities by the end of 2019.

Most of the welding instruction at Taycheedah takes place in a new truck trailer called the Welding Mobile Lab. The [Department of Corrections](#) and [Department of Workforce Development](#) recently brought the trailer to the prison and contracted with [Moraine Park Technical College](#) to provide teaching.

During a tour for the news media, inmate and student Miranda Watermolen stood in a welding booth, wearing protective gear. Sparks were flying as she connected two pieces of metal.

Outside the trailer, Watermolen says that as she's taken part in the 2 1/2-month training program and become more skilled, welding has become attractive.

"I love how primal it is. How hands on, and hot and dirty. I like to be that woman, working in a man's world, in all reality," Watermolen said.



*The Welding Mobile Lab, presently at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution.*  
CREDIT CHUCK QUIRMBACH

Federal data show that if Watermolen gets a job in welding, she'd be entering a profession about 95% male. But the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the number of welding jobs will continue to grow, and that women will get some of the work.

After being in Taycheedah for 19 months on a drug conviction, Watermolen's ready for a new start.



"Drugs were a heavy part of my life and it's something I'm really looking forward to putting behind me with this," she says. "It's something I've always wanted to do. My brother was a welder. I really looked up to him. He had everything he ever wanted, and finally, I was like, 'This is my opportunity. This is my chance at a new life right here — because I can't fail after this.' "

Watermolen is scheduled to be released from Taycheedah early next year.



*Welding program graduates Amanda Franzen (left) and Miranda Watermolen.*  
CREDIT CHUCK QUIRMBACH

Another welding program graduate, Amanda Franzen, is due to be released this fall. Franzen says learning the trade makes her feel empowered.

"It wasn't something I ever thought I'd be doing. Like the blueprint readings, that was hard. But I have a knack for it. I'm like, 'All right, I can do this.' Welding is fun. Just being able to lay a nice bead, putting things together. It was really cool," Franzen said.

Franzen is at Taycheedah for parole violations after a conviction for theft. She and the other handful of welding graduates will get job search help at the prison's new job center before getting out.

During the media visit to the center, soon-to-be-released inmate Kayleigh Selig was filling out a job application. She's not a welder. She has experience in factory jobs and the restaurant industry, but she's pretty flexible on her next line of work.



*The state-staffed Job Center at Taycheedah.*  
CREDIT CHUCK QUIRMBACH

Selig, originally in prison for a drug violation, says the Job Center has helped her with her resume, and with mock interviews. She says she's pretty confident about leaving Taycheedah with a job waiting.

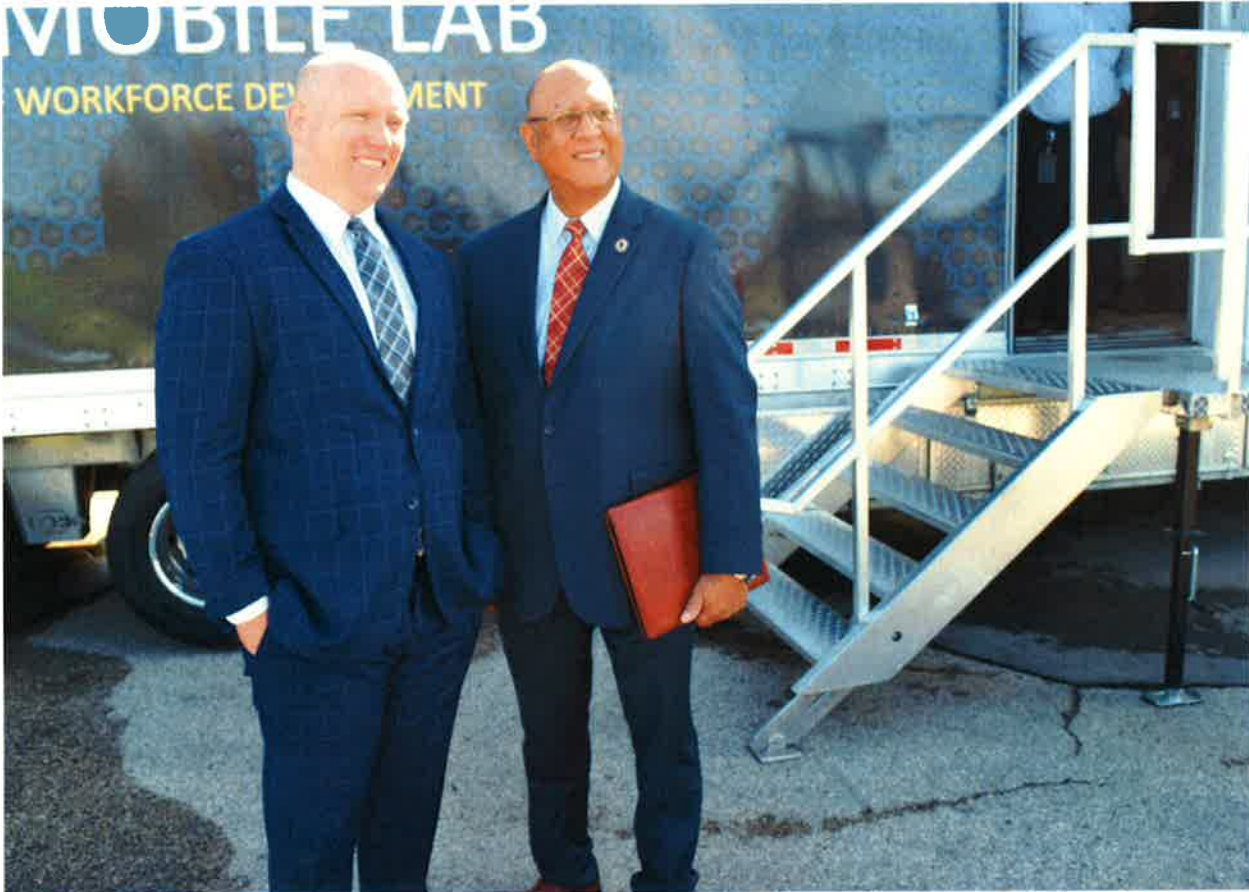
"This is my third time here. This time, I actually get to leave with something set up, you know? I'm not just leaving with nothing and starting fresh out there," Selig said.

Selig says the prison's social workers saw her potential and chose her for the job assistance. But she says too many inmates do leave prison with nothing.



That's a situation state officials say they hope to change. The Wisconsin Legislature approved \$1 million for two welding labs. It also OK'd job centers at four correctional institutions. One center opened at Oakhill, a facility near Madison, earlier this year. Two more are scheduled to be added soon — at the Milwaukee Women's Center, and the Ellsworth Correctional Center near Union Grove.

But there are more than 23,000 state inmates. Many will eventually be released.



*Department of Workforce Development Sec. Caleb Frostman (left) and Department of Corrections Sec.-designee Kevin Carr.*

CREDIT CHUCK QUIRMBACH

Plus, even if more are hired, there is the stark issue of recidivism. A [2016 study](#) showed 25-30% of former Wisconsin inmates commit a new offense resulting in a conviction and prison sentence within three years of release. State Corrections Secretary-designee Kevin Carr says a good job can make a dent in those numbers.

"I can certainly tell you that when a person has the opportunity for employment that provides for a family-supporting job and gives them a sense of self-worth, that is really important for personal growth. It's the best antidote to recidivism," Carr said.

Department of Workforce Development Secretary Caleb Frostman says more businesses want to hire former inmates. With the state's workforce shortage, he says there's a "heightened sense of urgency."

*Support is provided by Dr. Lawrence and Mrs. Hannah Goodman for Innovation reporting.*



## **Nicolet College receives \$350,000 grant from Lumina Foundation to apply more learning toward degrees and other credentials**

### **Nicolet College News Release**

Monday, Sept. 30, 2019

Media contact: Terry Rutlin (715) 365-4681

Nicolet College has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from Lumina Foundation to build clearer pathways to degrees and other credentials for adults, especially for people of color and Native learners. Lumina's All Learning Counts initiative will support Nicolet to ensure that knowledge, skills, and abilities gained outside of formal higher education—through work, military, and other experiences—can be recognized and applied toward programs leading to credentials of value.

Nicolet received one of nine grants awarded nationwide from a pool of 78 applicants. Other recipients include: District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund, Mi Casa Resource Center, Minnesota State, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation, SUNY Empire State College, the University of Maine System, the University of Wisconsin System, and Virginia Community College System.

Nicolet was awarded the grant to increase the post-secondary educational attainment of American Indians in Wisconsin. According to Lumina's Stronger Nation report for Wisconsin, in 2018 the post-secondary credential attainment for Wisconsin residents was 48.4%; and the rate for American Indians in Wisconsin was 25.5%. One of the significant barriers to increasing education attainment beyond high school is the lack of cultural relevance to indigenous people in the typical post-secondary curriculum.

"Through All Learning Counts, we are recognizing exemplars who want to ensure many more Americans will have skills they need to thrive by earning college degrees, certificates, and industry certifications," said Haley Glover, the Lumina strategy director who will oversee

the grant program. “We need to think in new ways about the recognition of learning after high school. We must see that all college-level learning, regardless of how and where it is gained, can be applied toward meaningful post-high school credentials.”

Nicolet partnered with the Wisconsin Indian Education Association to create the *The Many Ways of Knowing: American Indian Culture Competencies for Community College Career Pathways* project proposal.

“The project will design curriculum that reflects American Indian cultural competencies across liberal arts and general education courses,” said Susie Crazy Thunder, Nicolet tribal outreach coordinator. “It will also create a methodology for recognizing indigenous community learning and knowledge toward increasing the number of tribal members qualified to teach American Indian Studies curriculum.”

The project will also develop a framework and criteria for recognizing and awarding credit for prior learning and experience to students for competencies in American Indian language and culture.

### **About Lumina Foundation**

Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. The foundation envisions a system that is easy to navigate, delivers fair results, and meets the nation’s need for talent through a broad range of credentials. Lumina’s goal is to prepare people for informed citizenship and for success in a global economy.

# **New Paramedic training program comes to Nicolet College; classes begin in January**

## **Nicolet College News Release**

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019

Media contact: Terry Rutlin (715) 365-4681

A higher level of emergency care will soon be available throughout the Northwoods with the launch in January of the new EMT-Paramedic training program at Nicolet College.

“This opens the door to a whole new level of emergency medical response,” said Jason Goeldner, associate dean of Public Safety at Nicolet. “With a certified paramedic, it’s like bringing an emergency room right out into the field. They have the advanced level of training needed to provide so many more emergency services to individuals in need.”

Paramedic classes start on Nicolet’s Rhinelander Campus Jan. 20, 2020.

The new one-year, 44-credit technical diploma is being made possible through a partnership between Nicolet and Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Wis., just north of Sheboygan.

“The beauty of the program is that students will be able to complete all of their classes right here in the Northwoods,” Goeldner explained.

In the past, any Northwoods residents looking to become a paramedic had to complete the program outside of the area. Northcentral Technical College in Wausau was the closest college offering paramedic training.

“Training to become a paramedic is a commitment and we wanted to make it as convenient as possible for Northwoods residents to learn these advanced skills,” said Ray Lemke, Nicolet’s new Fire and Emergency Medical Services Specialist. Lemke started at Nicolet in July.

“By having the training here in the Northwoods, there’s a far better chance that individuals will stay and live here to provide care to Northwoods residents rather than moving somewhere else and taking their skills with them.”

Paramedic training is a significant step above Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, which were the highest levels Nicolet offered in the past. Paramedic skills include providing a variety of advanced cardiac care life support techniques depending on the situation, administering pain management in the field, giving IVs, and dispensing about 75 different medications, among others.

The partnership is structured where students will take all of their classes on Nicolet’s Rhinelander campus. Instruction will be over the latest interactive television network technology known as BlueJeans and face-to-face instruction with Lakeshore instructors who will travel to the Nicolet Campus.

Students who graduate from the Paramedic technical diploma program can apply those credits to the the two-year Paramedic associate’s degree program at Lakeshore. Funding from a grant from the Wisconsin Technical College System made it possible to expand the paramedic program to Nicolet.

Goeldner and Lemke have known each other for many years and each of them have also known their counterparts at Lakeshore for just as a long.

“We’re all dedicated to public safety and I can’t tell you how great the people at Lakeshore have been in putting together this partnership,” Goeldner said. “We’ve been talking about this for a couple of years, putting all of the pieces together, and it’s exciting to finally be able to open the Paramedic program to the public.”

Lemke replaces Dana Baumgartner, who is now studying at Nicolet to become a registered nurse. He comes to Nicolet after serving in a variety of roles in the public safety field, including

15 years at Northcentral Technical College. There, he worked his way up from adjunct instructor to director of the Fire and EMS program.

“I’ve been to all 16 of the technical colleges in the state, and they’re all great, but if I could pick just one to work for, it’s Nicolet,” he said. “The staff and leadership are just fantastic. You really can’t ask for a better set up, you really can’t.”

For more information about the EMT-Paramedic program at Nicolet, call the college at (715) 365-4600 or email [publicsafety@nicoletcollege.edu](mailto:publicsafety@nicoletcollege.edu).

To enroll in the program, call the Nicolet Welcome Center at (715) 365-4493 or email [admissions@nicoletcollege.edu](mailto:admissions@nicoletcollege.edu).



Staff from Lakeshore Technical College recently visited Nicolet to debut the paramedic ambulance that will be used for training. Pictured here are, left to right, Jay Steuer, Emergency Medical Services Instructor, Lakeshore Technical College, Ray Lemke, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Specialist, Nicolet College, Ryan Skabroud, Energy and Public Safety Dean, Lakeshore Technical College, Vicki Nelson, Administrative Assistant Public Safety, Nicolet College, and Jason Goeldner, Associate Dean of Public Safety, Nicolet College.



# Wausau Pilot & Review

MORE NEWS. LESS FLUFF. ALL LOCAL.



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## NTC opens new learning commons

*Published on September 6, 2019 — in Schools*

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**WAUSAU**— Northcentral Technical College has opened the doors to Timberwolf Learning Commons, a 12,440-square-foot collaborative learning space that serves as a one-stop shop for academic and technology support for students.

The Timberwolf Learning Commons features a collaboration room where students can gather to work on group projects or hold study sessions. It also features a large learning lab, quiet study areas and access to the IT Help Desk, Academic Resource Center and Library.

“Student success is at the heart of everything that we do at NTC and Timberwolf Learning Commons is designed to support that success,” said Brooke Schindler, dean of NTC’s School of General Studies, in a news release. “We are excited to open this innovative space to increase accessibility to the free support services that are available to NTC students.”

The commons also features charging stations and several bring-your-own-device stations where students can connect their personal devices to large, dual screen work stations.







# Learning restaurant

BY B.C. KOWALSKI

## Northcentral Technical College to add an operating restaurant to its culinary program, with a focus on local foods

There's just no better way to learn than being on the job. That's the premise behind a new restaurant being built at Northcentral Technical College. The restaurant will be an addition to the kitchens of the school's culinary program, which itself is pretty new.

A Wausau city committee recently gave preliminary approval for a beer and wine license at the restaurant, so it can serve local beer and wines. The liquor license goes before the full city council for final approval this month.

The restaurant will provide much needed space. "When we first started the culinary program we had to choose between a walk-in cooler and a dining room. We chose the cooler," says NTC Culinary Arts Instructor Jon Reinke. The program was able to hold special dinners in the kitchen by transforming prep areas into dining tables so students could get in at least a little practice.

The new restaurant will seat 60 and have a bar, Reinke says, and be open for limited hours for lunch and dinner. Prices will be affordable, with no gratuity. Customers will provide evaluations for the students to learn from. "It completes our program," Reinke says.



NTC's Jon Reinke and Brandy Breuckman in the kitchen of the tech school's culinary program. The wall behind them is where the restaurant addition will be built, seen in this architectural rendering.

The restaurant will have an outdoor dining space, too, and will just about double the footprint of the culinary program, which has two kitchen labs and stainless steel prep tables.

NTC will introduce growing towers to raise some of its own produce, to give students experience with the farm to table concept, says Brandy Breuckman, NTC's Dean of Business, Community Services and Virtual College. The restaurant will use food from local farmers such as Red Door Family Farms. "We want to make sure to retain that feel of natural, seasonal ingredients," Breuckman says.

The menu will be built by students, to provide experience in creating a menu people will actually order from, and in customer interactions, including happy and maybe not so happy customers, Reinke says. The program has already partnered with the YMCA to bring in seniors for students to serve, Reinke says. A recently purchased food truck furthers the educational experience, especially for students hoping to start their own businesses.

The liquor license helps for a couple of reasons. Cooking with wine and beer is an important part of the program, Reinke says, and they also plan to focus on local beers and wines to retain a local flavor.

Construction is slated to start in October, and finish in December.

### Tags

[northcentral technical college](#) [Restaurant](#) [culinary](#) [Wausau news](#)



Competitive Gaming

## 6 Colleges Launch or Expand Esports Programs

By Dian Schaffhauser | 09/24/19

Recently, [Northcentral Technical College](#) in Wisconsin said it was launching a varsity team that would compete as a member of the [National Association of Collegiate Esports \(NACE\)](#), a governing body for college esports. Northcentral is seeking to put together a roster of between 14 and 28 players who will each initially compete in one of three games: [Overwatch](#), [League of Legends](#) and [Rocket League](#).

Soon, according to the college, teams will have access to a new "state-of-the-art" esports arena. The 1,200-square foot space will accommodate 24 high-end computers, chairs and desks, as well as a 98-inch TV for team film review and three additional 55-inch TVs with console gaming stations for Nintendo Switch, PS4 and Xbox One. That facility will be available for use by student groups, K-12 schools and other community organizations when it's not in use by the college players.



To participate, students will need to take at least 12 credits each semester and maintain a grade point average of 2.0.

The State University of New York Canton, another NACE member, will be adding two new teams to its esports lineup for the fall 2019 semester: Rocket League and Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege. The university also participates in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC), which has some 50 member schools.



The institution launched its esports program in 2018, when it also built an 1,800-square-foot esports arena outfitted with Alienware Area 51 computing gear for 25 players and a networking infrastructure powered by Extreme Networks. The room includes indirect lighting, lockers for students and a team meeting space that will double as a station for live streaming of games. Funding for the space came from the SUNY Canton Provost's Office to encourage additional expansion of programs related to esports. The university already offers courses in game design and development, cybersecurity, graphic and multimedia design and technological communications.



Nichols College announced it would add esports as the 22nd varsity sport. It's the first one that will be available as a co-ed sport on its Massachusetts campus. Players will compete in two different games -- Rocket League and NBA2K -- "with additions to come as the program evolves," the college noted.

Nichols' Director of Business System Strategies and Web Applications, Charles Tousignant, will serve as the inaugural head coach; Marketing Director, David Leary, will serve as an assistant.

"Nichols students have been expressing an interest in esports and holding their own tournaments for a while," said Tousignant, in a statement. "We realized that it was time for the institution to recognize the value that video games and collegiate competition can bring to their education. Team strategies in video games translate directly to business acumen, and we believe that by encouraging a sense of togetherness and competition, we can positively affect the futures of our players."



On the west coast, [Pepperdine University](#) has launched an esports program. According to [student reporting](#), the school launched its esports program over the summer, pulling together a team that participated in a collegiate Overwatch tournament hosted by professional esports team the [Los Angeles Valiant](#).

The esports effort kicked off last spring when an informational meeting drew some 100 students. According to the director of campus recreation, Robb Bolton, "that's by far the most" interest he's seen in "anything we've ever put out there."

The [University of Central Missouri's](#) new esports team will grant participants scholarships of \$1,000 apiece. The effort will be led by Steven Shattuck, an assistant professor in the [School of Computer Science and Mathematics](#). Shattuck said the university had been working with NACE to set up the esports program. The initial structure will have two teams of six students each with three additional students serving as alternates. Play will take place in the cybersecurity lab.

[Michigan Technological University](#) also announced plans to launch a varsity esports program in fall 2020. The program will be affiliated with NACE. The school already has several student gaming organizations and found in a survey that about seven in 10 first-year students identify as gamers. Currently, the institution is seeking a program director and developing plans to convert two racquetball courts into a gaming arena.

### ***ABOUT THE AUTHOR***

Dian Schaffhauser is a senior contributing editor for 1105 Media's education publications *THE Journal* and *Campus Technology*. She can be reached at [dian@dischaffhauser.com](mailto:dian@dischaffhauser.com) or on Twitter [@schaffhauser](#).



# Helping Poor Students Graduate from College Requires Care and Listening

Anne Eigeman  
September 16, 2019



September 10, 2019; [New York Times](#)

Today, [Anthony Abraham Jack](#) is an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. But when he was a student at Amherst College, he was frequently food-insecure, fearful of vacations (no dorm meals during spring break), and, on top of that, was trying to financially support family members back home.

During his junior year, when he was holding down four jobs, he was panicked to learn his financial aid office wanted to cut back on his work hours just as his family in Florida

was dealing with recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. He recalls of this time, “In truth, I was really just pushing through; I became a robot, hyper-scheduled and mechanical in my interactions.”

Although Jack earned his bachelor’s degree a decade ago and completed his PhD in 2016, this experience of feeling like an outsider even after making it still fuels much of his [work](#). Jack prevailed despite the obstacles, but too many students like him are unable to do so.

Earlier this year, Jack published *The Privileged Poor*, which explores the challenges that low-income students face making it in college from a sociological perspective. He also teaches a class called “C.R.E.A.M.” (named for a Wu-Tang Clan song that stands for “Cash Rules Everything Around Me”) that explores how inequality shapes different aspects of the college experience, from admission to career destinations.

What can be done? To start, Jack recommends that universities hire more teaching staff and administrators with diverse backgrounds. He also emphasizes the institutional value of climate and exit surveys, which can “take the pulse of the community and reveal blind spots among administrators, faculty, and staff.” In addition, he asserts that training sessions on institutional bias and partnerships between universities and student groups can serve to “keep lines of communication open.”

Jack cites many institutions that have taken active steps to address student food insecurity— including Connecticut College, Smith College, Bunker Hill Community College, Appalachian State University, and Columbia University, as well as the nonprofit [Swipe Out Hunger](#), which works with over [80 campuses](#) nationwide. [Sara Goldrick-Rab](#) has also been an advocate, working on campuses in Wisconsin and most recently at Temple University’s [Hope Center](#) in Philadelphia.

A 2018 report by the [Lumina Foundation](#) entitled *Beyond Financial Aid* provides a look at the challenges of low-income college students along with strategies that universities can use to build internal and external supports to optimize student success.

Among the findings:

- Eleven percent of students living below the poverty level graduate within six years.
- Thirty-eight percent of students with additional work, financial, or family obligations leave college within their first year.
- Fifty-three percent of student parents leave college without a college degree

- High-performing low-income students are less likely to graduate than their low-performing but high-income peers.

The Lumina report also includes an appendix of “campus based exemplars for serving low-income students,” including [Northampton Community College](#), [Seminole State College](#), the nonprofit [Working Students Support Network](#), and [Northeast Wisconsin Technical College](#).

Recalling his own struggle, Jack is upfront about the fact that he understood that asking for help “was how you got what you needed.” He notes, “I eventually lobbied Tony Marx, then the president of Amherst, to provide support during spring break, which he agreed to in my junior year.” The question that remains is how to ensure this kind of “deeply human touch” is the rule rather than the exception.—Anne Eigeman



# Local middle school girls find career inspiration in male-dominated fields

October 8, 2019

**GREEN BAY, Wis. (WBAY)** - More than 200 girls from local middle schools spent the day learning about trades that have traditionally employed men.

The Girls in Trades event was held at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay. The goal is to inspire girls to consider careers in fields like masonry and firefighting.

The girls were chosen from Wrightstown, Seymour, Kewaunee and Oneida Middle Schools.

"Quite frankly, we don't have enough women in these fields. And we find by the time they get into high school, they've lost interest," says Pam Mazur, Associate Dean, Trades and Engineering Technologies.

"So if we can pique interest while they're in middle school, and hopefully they'll carry that into high school and maybe we'll see them in one of these trades or into some sort of non-traditional trades after high school."

The girls tried their hand at fire protection engineering. The field includes designing and troubleshooting sprinkler systems.

"I didn't think about it, but knowing how cool it is to be a firefighter and you get to save lives and everything, I think it's pretty cool," says Alexis Webster, 6th grader, Oneida Nation School District.

Some of the girls are interested in math and science.

"I want to be a marine biologist," says Anani Burgos, 6th grader, Oneida Nation School District.

The Girls in Trades event gives them a chance to apply what they learn in school to careers.

"I've never thought about any of the stuff we've done so far, but a lot of them seem cool," says Kiara Litz, 8th grader, Seymour Middle School.

"I thought it would be fun because my parents don't do this, so I wanted to see if maybe somebody else in the family could do it," says Chayse Nelson, 6th grader, Wrightstown Middle School.

Seymour teacher Angie Arneson has been bringing girls to the event since it started. She's watched it grow. She's watched it transform her students' thinking.

"And I do have girls that are excited to go into those as a possibility of a career someday," says Arneson. "So it does really impact the girls in a bigger way that I could ever imagine."

More than 1,000 young girls have taken part in the event.



WBAY Photo





# Women in Carpentry on the Rise

By [Jeff Alexander](#) | Posted: Tue 3:18 PM, Sep 24, 2019 | Updated: Tue 6:50 PM, Sep 24, 2019

**SUAMICO, Wis (WBAY)** According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of women in the trades is on the rise, accounting for nearly 10-percent of all jobs last year.



Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's carpentry program mirrors that trend.

Kate Fix and Hannah Clemens are at different stages in their lives, but both pursuing a dream.

"And as a child I was always drawn to construction and carpentry and here was this great opportunity that came to me, it is a blessing in disguise," says Fix.

Until recently Fix had worked for decades as a warehouse manager for Shopko, but lost her job when the company went out of business.



For Clemens, a degree in the health care industry simply wasn't fulfilling.

"I was recently placed on a new shift at the hospital and I just realized that that's not what I want to do with the rest of my life, and it's been my dream to be a finish carpenter," says Clemens.

Four weeks into NWTC's carpentry program, students are building a boardwalk and shelter at Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, and they aren't the only women in the program.

"We started out with five in our program and it's quite an increase from the last couple of years where we really didn't have anybody," says NWTC Carpentry Instructor Jeff Schlag.

And according to Schlag, the women have some advantages.

"They definitely have an eye for detail and they sure smoke the guys on that part of it," says Schlag with a chuckle.

"The reason why women stay out of the trades is because one, they haven't been exposed to it, and two, they don't think they have the strength for it but if you think about how women work, they're lifting and lugging continually because they have children, laundry, groceries, so they always have their hands full," adds Fix.

As for working along side the guys, no problem.

"This day and age I don't think we have a problem with that, I think everyone understands it's the gender and we work with them side by side," says Schlag.

"It's like we're a family here, so far so good and if anyone gives me any flack I give it right back," adds Clemens with a smile.

News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Daniel Wackershauser, Marketing Specialist

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Date: September 27, 2019

## Students and community benefit from campus housing

Fennimore -



In the shadow of the Fennimore, Wisconsin water tower, students in the Building Trades – Carpentry program at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College erect the frame of what will soon be student housing. The quadplex, located on Brownwood Road, will include four two-bedroom apartments and is expected to be opened in fall 2020.

The Southwest Tech Real Estate Foundation owns and develops student housing, while Southwest Tech officials are in charge of its operation. Students can choose from 40 apartments, with four styles. There is enough housing for up to 140 students and this year capacity is at 99 percent.

Craig Peterson, first-year instructor, is leading the group through the build. “Here we concentrate on the construction fundamentals, the fundamentals of site layout, safe tool use, wall and roof framing, and closing-in techniques,” he said. “We do a lot of safety (education) and then we learn about the building process itself and different types of building materials that are used in constructing a home.”

This year’s design is brand new. It has a similar footprint and overall size as last year’s student-lead construction, but includes four 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom apartments, rather than two 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartments.

The opportunity for students to gain a full academic year’s worth of hands-on experience is invaluable as they learn about a career in carpentry and everything associated with that pursuit. In the five-county district that Southwest Tech serves, the demand for carpentry-related employees is expected to rise over 11 percent from 2015 to 2025. Additionally, between September 2016 and August 2019 there were an average of 50 hires per month in the carpentry-related trades in the Southwest Tech district (Emsi, 2019). “By providing our Building Trades – Carpentry students the opportunity to work on a such a dynamic, real-world, building project, they are able to gain valuable construction experience in a diverse range of skillsets that employers are looking for,” said Derek Dachelet, executive dean of Industry, Trades and Agriculture.

# Southwest Tech



“A lot of the students definitely have an interest in construction,” said Peterson. “Some of them have a construction background. They may be right out of high school, but they had a technology program that offers some type of building in their high school already, which is very helpful.”

One of those students is Caleb Lenzendorf, 18, from Woodman, Wisconsin. “I’ve always kind of been a builder,” he said. “I like to make things

and I always thought it was neat doing blueprinting.”

Even though it’s early in the academic year, Lenzendorf is happy with the choice to attend Southwest Tech. “I know it’s been a really good school,” he said. “I got friends, family that went here, and I know they had this carpentry program going on. It’s in the area and it’s really an awesome school.”

The ability to offer a housing option to students is a unique concept at a two-year technical college. And it is even more rare that students help build some of that housing. “We are the only college we’re aware of where students are building housing for future students because of our unique partnership with the Building Trades – Carpentry program,” said Holly Clendenen, executive director of the Southwest Tech Foundation and REF. “The Southwest Tech Foundation supported the need for student housing starting back in the 1990s and student housing has continued to grow on campus ever since with higher waiting lists than available beds.”



Not only are Southwest Tech students involved in construction of some of the new housing options on campus, local businesses benefit from the growth as well. “During the construction, the REF buys almost all of the needed construction materials from businesses and companies within our district, including many local Fennimore and Grant County businesses and companies,” said Clendenen. “In addition, local businesses are used to complete parts of the construction that are outside the scope

of the carpentry program – things like electrical, plumbing, and excavating work. Prior to building three new units in 2018-19, the SWTC REF received proposals from three local businesses to build two 2-story units. These 2-story units were built in addition to one unit constructed by our program students in 2018-19. The three local businesses had competitive proposals, and Midwest Builders from Fennimore was selected and completed two units in July for students to move into in August.”

Moving forward, a strategic plan is in place to keep up with the increased demand for student housing. “The REF board created a 5-year plan to not only build new units to increase total capacity but also to tear down our four older units over the same timeframe,” said Clendenen. “With maintained demand of student housing, the goal is to have 176 total beds by 2022. The 5-year plan is reviewed every year, demand is considered, and new construction decisions are made annually by the REF board.”

# Southwest Tech

"I think it's been five or six years ago since we partnered with Southwest Tech and that just added to it," said Mark Brown, animal nutrition consultant at Reddy Ag/Ross Soil Service in Sitzer. "We've got the Pioneer folks with the seed, as well as Rock River. We utilize the team approach here at Reddy Ag as much as possible; Hubbard and Alltech on the feed side, the whole group on the agronomy side. And so, they are part of our team and they are here to answer questions and help out, just like always."



In addition to the sampling, Bill Powell-Smith, Dairy Account Manager with DuPont Pioneer, offered a presentation on "Best Practices for Corn Silage Harvest and What to Expect for 2019 Corn Silage Digestibility."

New cover crop seeding equipment was on display as well, and lunch was served.





News Release

For Immediate Release

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Date: September 5, 2019

## Faculty assists producers at annual Chipper Day event

Fennimore -



Agriculture faculty from Southwest Wisconsin Technical College assisted area producers during the annual Silage Chipper Day event in Stitzer, Wisconsin. Producers had the opportunity to bring whole plant corn stalks to Reddy Ag/Ross Soil Service from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for sampling on Sept. 4.

“We want to make sure we’re harvesting our corn silage at the optimum time,” said Kory Stalsberg, farm business and production management instructor at Southwest Tech, in Fennimore, Wisconsin. “We only get one shot at harvesting corn silage. It’s not like hay, where you have multiple crops a year. We have one crop, so we want to make sure that it is at the optimum point of maturity on the grain side as well as the moisture side.

“I anticipate producers making multiple harvests of their corn silage,” added Stalsberg. “They might fill one bunk here coming up shortly, within the next week to 10 days and then take a break, come back here in another 2-3 weeks and do another storage structure, maybe lay some bags or fill a silo at a later date, just to spread that window out, and really try to maximize the starch levels in their corn silage, so allowing that corn to mature a little bit longer, before they take it for corn silage.”

The annual event is a partnership between Reddy Ag/Ross Soil Service, Southwest Tech and Rock River Laboratory, Inc. It drew dozens of area producers, all wanting to learn about their corn crops. “I think it’s a great partnership with our community,” said Stalsberg. “Reddy Ag Service and Ross Soils, they do a ton of business in our local area here, and just being present in the community, as well as helping out with our partnership and expertise, talking with producers about storage techniques, harvest techniques, and then optimizing that harvest timing.”

Judging by the numbers, this year’s event was a clear-cut success. There were 250 samples processed, 66 more than during last year’s event.





## **WCTC celebrates official launch of the Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA)**

Pewaukee, October 17, 2019

Waukesha County Technical College, along with 17 other higher education institutions throughout Southeastern Wisconsin – and several partner organizations -- celebrated the official launch of the Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA) Oct. 15 at We Energies headquarters in downtown Milwaukee.

HERA, first organized in 2018, represents more than 150,000 students across southeastern Wisconsin who are key to driving the economy. It is dedicated to closing the achievement gap and educating students of today to become an innovative and nimble workforce that meets the needs of the region's industries tomorrow. HERA was founded with the notion that this challenge is too large for any one college or university to solve alone, but together the impact can be stronger.

“WCTC has always found strength in collaboration and is proud to be a founding member of the Higher Education Regional Alliance,” said Kaylen Betzig, president of WCTC. “Thanks to colleges and universities in the Milwaukee 7 region along with community partners, we can work together toward common educational goals that support student outcomes and provide a skilled pipeline of workers vital for a thriving economy.”

The launch event welcomed business, education and community leaders from the M7 region and beyond to discuss the alliance's three primary goals of increasing college completion rates, aligning and evolving programs to better meet the needs of a changing economy, and expanding talent bridges -- connecting businesses with workers.

As part of these objectives, HERA is hoping to move Wisconsin to a postsecondary attainment rate of 60 percent by 2027, for those ages 25-64, meaning adults earn a credential (degree, diploma, certificate or apprenticeship) beyond high school. This attainment rate is currently around 48 percent statewide; it is an indicator of greater participation in the labor force and increased earnings.

To learn more about HERA, visit [www.herawisconsin.org](http://www.herawisconsin.org).

**Milwaukee 7 Region (counties)** -- Waukesha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Walworth, Washington, Racine and Kenosha,

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## **Students, instructor travel from Hessen, Germany to visit WCTC**

October 05, 2019

Four students and one instructor from the Hans-Böckler-Schule (HBS) in Frankfurt, Hessen, Germany, traveled to Waukesha County Technical College as part of the Hessen-Wisconsin Exchange Program to experience American life and study at the College.

The exchange program provides a rich, international learning experience for participating students and their host families. Each fall, a group of HBS students travel to Wisconsin and spend two weeks at WCTC, and in spring, a group of WCTC students travel to Germany and spend two weeks at HBS. The exchange gives students opportunities to learn about the host country's educational system, and businesses and organizations related to their fields of study; explore historical and cultural sites; and broaden their global perspectives.

Visitors to WCTC this fall were Elena Beslic, Lia Hack, Karolin Keiner, Josefa Weil (students) and Kathrin Matterne (teacher). During their visit, the international guests participated in classes and explored the campus, attended sporting and cultural events, and shared meals and other activities with their host families.

For Keiner and Hack, it was also a reunion. Last spring, Keiner's family hosted WCTC Global Business student-now-alumna Silvia Castro, and Hack's family hosted Global Business student Evan Koch. Just a few weeks ago, Castro and Koch welcomed Keiner and Hack, respectively, into their Wisconsin homes.

The Hessen-Wisconsin program dates to 1976 when Wisconsin and the German state of Hessen signed a partnership agreement. Since then, the states have cooperated in many areas, including commerce, research, colleges, universities and k-12 education programs. Many public and private colleges and universities along with select technical colleges in Wisconsin participate in the student exchange with Hessen universities and schools. Specifically, the WCTC-HBS partnership began in 2007, and since then, more than 60 German and American students have participated.

HBS is a vocational school with more than 1,000 students and provides training for students to work as legal clerks, legal secretaries, tax clerks, administrative assistants and real estate clerks. The school offers a combination of hands-on and theoretical training; students spend two days a week in classes and three days working at a company. At the end of their schooling, which is about three years in duration, students take a final exam in their program area and earn a certificate.

In a presentation to WCTC staff, the exchange students were excited to explore American culture.

“I’m doing this exchange program because I’ve never been to the U.S. before and I really wanted to see it,” Weil said. “That’s why I’m really glad to be here.”

**BREAKING** Wisconsin lawmakers could force drivers to put down their phones

[https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/education/western-technical-college-honored-for-building-partnership/article\\_e47597a8-9e55-5203-ad7a-d5b2deb78976.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/education/western-technical-college-honored-for-building-partnership/article_e47597a8-9e55-5203-ad7a-d5b2deb78976.html)

CAMPUS CONNECTION

## Western Technical College honored for building partnership

Sep 22, 2019

LAST CHANCE: JOIN FOR \$3



Celebrating Western's Talent Development from the state are from left: Western Technical College Wood Tech instructor Scott Erdman, La Crosse Planning Director Jason Gilman, ACE Academy member Nick Kalina, Western Wood Tech instructor Alan Paulson, La Crosse School District supervisor Stacey Everson and Western Wood Tech instructor David Hahm.

Contributed photo

Western Technical College was the recipient of the Talent Development award last week by the Wisconsin Economic Development Association for its housing replacement program with the city of La Crosse and Central High School.

The Talent Development award honors initiatives or programs that have driven successful talent development efforts to strengthen the Wisconsin workforce.

In the partnership, students in Western's Wood Tech program help build new single-family homes in La Crosse neighborhoods with Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnership funds for the city. Since the program began in 1996, 35 homes have been built, adding more than \$2.5 million in new investment into some of the city's most distressed neighborhoods.

Students in the class do all of the carpentry work for the home, including framing, roofing and installing windows. They also build and install the cabinets, construct interior trim and complete the exterior work. Western provides the labor, and the city provides the materials.

"This partnership has been a win-win for both the city of La Crosse and Western," said Caroline Gregerson, community development administrator for the city of La Crosse. "It's provided meaningful learning experiences for students, all while providing quality, affordable housing opportunities for families and eliminating blighted properties."



Once completed, the homes are then sold, on behalf of the city, to families earning 80 percent of the county median income or less, including first-time homebuyers, families, or the elderly.

“It’s not just about the house, it’s about the whole attitude of the community,” said David Hahm, Wood Tech instructor at Western. “It’s beneficial to the neighborhood, it’s beneficial to the city, and it’s beneficial to us because our students are building real houses with real materials with real money for real people.”

To learn more about the Wood Tech program at Western, visit [www.westerntc.edu/wood-tech](http://www.westerntc.edu/wood-tech).

### About the series

Campus Connection appears Sundays in the La Crosse Tribune to spotlight student and faculty achievements at the UW-L, Viterbo and Western Technical College. The campuses provide these features on a rotating basis.



## **Western Technical College celebrates opening of new Student Success Center**

Years of planning, four months of construction and thousands of hours of labor are the best ways to describe the process for remodeling one of Western Technical College's most important buildings.

Last week, the final vision was unveiled — a \$5.7 million renovation of Western's Student Success Center, a building designed to help students succeed on campus. The project significantly upgrades the facility, which was built in 1995, creating an open concept for college staff to interact with students. The first floor of the new space includes the Welcome Center, Learner Support and Transition, the Assessment Center and the Veterans Military Center.

“The new Student Success Center is specifically designed to provide students a positive first experience with Western,” Western President Roger Stanford said. “We believe in every student, every day, and that success with support is success.”

Creating a sense of belonging was critical to the overall design of the project. Since Western launched its strategic plan, Experience 2025, the college's goal has been to become a college of first choice. Western administration said this project was critical to that goal.

“With that goal in mind, we wanted a space where students feel welcomed with a sense of belonging,” Stanford said.

The second floor of the space is designed for continuing student and retention services, which includes the Learning Commons; Counseling; Access

Services; Career Services; and Equity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement. Western's food pantry, the Cavalier Cupboard, was also moved inside the building.

"This building is the physical manifestation of a transformation and a promise come true," said Cooper Richason, Western's student body president, who also serves on the Wisconsin Technical College System board. "This is a change and a promise to always put our students first."

Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, who also attended Monday's ribbon-cutting ceremony, echoed those remarks. Since becoming the state's first African-American lieutenant governor, Barnes has championed student support services for college students, especially those historically underserved. He, along with Gov. Tony Evers, increased funding to the WTCS during the last budget cycle, ensuring additional support for technical colleges throughout the state.

"This is such a great day for Western," Stanford said. "We truly believe these changes will enhance the student experience at Western, and help all students reach their goals. We couldn't be more proud of this space."

Richason says the space will create a lasting impact on students for years to come.

"Thank you to everyone who made this happen," he said. "This building is going to change lives."

# WITC Celebrates Completed Renovations

Construction work is on the move at WITC for the first time in forty years

*September 25, 2019*

[Ryan Compeau](#)



SUPERIOR, Wis.- Wednesday night, WITC in Superior celebrated a new \$1.5 million dollar renovation project. It's part of a multi-year effort to update the aging campus.

For the first time in 40 years, construction work is on the move at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

Over the summer of 2018 during phase one, the main building got an exterior paint job and preliminary construction began on the front entrance on Catlin Avenue.

Throughout the summer, new staffing and student parking lots were put in, as well as a new front entrance to the conference center and back door of the building with a patio with it.

“You hear more about the value of career and technical education and I think by delivering a campus that looks like a college campus we are going to be able to further our stature of career and technical education and hopefully more students will want to come here and take advantage of the opportunities we can provide”, said John Will, President, WITC-Superior.

The new parking lot will be using underground technology called bioswales designed for stormwater treatment to remove silt and pollution from surface water runoff. A student we caught up with today says this construction is only bettering students to be the best they can be.

“I think it shows that they want us to succeed because they want to be the best they can be so we can be the best we can be”, said Georgia Eggers.

WITC-Superior is set for more construction next summer where they will complete the final phase of remodeling in classrooms on the third floor, as well as bettering work spaces for students.