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BTC manufacturing training boosts student opportunities

By HILLARY GAVAN Senior staff writer | Posted: Friday, November 13, 2015 4:00 pm

MILTON — Phase II of Blackhawk Technical College's advanced manufacturing training center was completed this fall, giving students better laboratories, more space and updated curriculum and equipment.

"We are really excited about the opportunities we are able to offer for students, potential students and displaced workers," said Dean of Advanced Manufacturing and Transportation Garry Krause.

In February of 2013, the college announced it had leased a building at 15 North Plumb St., Milton, to house several of its advanced manufacturing programs. The hope was that the space would bring all vocational programs closer together and allow for more collaborative projects between students.

The entire renovation cost about \$12 million and the college entered into a 10-year lease at the location.

By the fall of 2014 half of the building had been renovated and new equipment was moved in. Three programs were moved to the campus including welding, computer numerical control (CNC) technician and industrial maintenance technician.

By the fall of 2015 five more programs were moved in including heating, ventilation, air conditioning/refrigeration; manufacturing information technology specialist; electromechanical technology; mechanical design and computer service technician.

The advanced manufacturing training features modern science laboratories where students can learn practical science which can be applied to industry. In the loading dock area, for example, students can practice working with a crane to hook, rig and lift objects on uneven ground to place on even ground. In another laboratory, a beam is mounted below the ceiling where students can practice using pulleys to help lift heavy objects.

To keep up with demand, BTC has hired a new welding instructor as well as an additional computer



Learning about computers

De'Ron Pegeese is in his second year of Blackhawk Technical College's manufacturing information technology specialist program. He's shown reading his textbook and studying online.

numerical controlled machine technician instructor. There are 225 students at the advanced manufacturing training center this year.

BTC is continually upgrading its curriculum. Currently, it is seeking National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) accreditation for its CNC machine technician program.

There are also a number of embedded certificates within each program, so students can develop a niche in their respective industries.

BTC's new partnership with the Milton School District will also help give students more opportunities. Students in the Milton school district can take gas metal arc welding, blueprint reading, and two math courses to earn a state approved certificate from BTC while attending high school.

"When they graduate they can go straight to industry or come back for more training," Krause said.

Blackhawk Technical College expands culinary program offerings

Chef Joe Wollinger gets excited when he talks about how many students want to enter the culinary program at Blackhawk Technical College.

By Nick Crow

JANESVILLE—Chef Joe Wollinger gets excited when he talks about the numbers of students who want to enter the culinary arts program at Blackhawk Technical College.

"I think it's a passion for being in the kitchen, an interest in doing well and having immediate feedback," Wollinger said. "One of the nicest things of being in the industry is not knowing it all. There's always so much to learn. Different ethnic groups within our country each have their own twist on food. It's always exciting."

The problem, Wollinger says, has been getting everyone who is interested in the program into the kitchen in fall. The program has filled up early in the summer for several years.

"Our fall semester is loaded up to the point where they are full," Wollinger said. "Would-be students are frustrated they can't get in."

However, BTC recently increased the number of culinary courses it offers. Now, students interested in the culinary program will have the option of entering the program in the fall or spring semester.

"Opening sections in January will have more students hopefully satisfied and take care of that pesky waiting list," Wollinger said. "It's a big disadvantage when we can't get students in when they wanted to. They move on to other things and sometimes never truly come back to what they wanted to do."

Barrett Bell, director of enrollment services for BTC, said the college will offer entry-level culinary classes beginning the second semester of this school year. That will allow those students to take classes in the spring and summer, putting them on the same track by fall 2016 as students who began the program in fall 2015.

"It will reduce the waiting list, build enrollment and accommodate more students," Bell said. "The program has been filled by mid-summer over last three years. If students weren't early or proactive, they may have missed out."

"The overall benefit to Blackhawk is potentially doubling the graduating class for this program," he said. "In May 2017, there is the potential that there could be twice as many graduates for this program."

Bell said other programs at the college may follow the culinary program's lead and offer sections in spring.

"Five years ago, in the GM era, programs were busting at the seams," Bell said. "That has since changed since the GM students have went through. That has hit enrollment in a negative way. As economy has gotten better, students want to go more part time. A lot more people in the community are able to secure at least part time, so as they build their education, they want to do it part time or evenings or some

alternative ways."

Seventeen students are on the waiting list for the culinary program, which is one of BTC's strongest, Bell said. The program's capacity is about 80 students.

"Normally, those on the waiting list would have to wait until August of the next year," Bell said.

"It's a good opportunity for more students to go through the program."

Wollinger said culinary graduates can find jobs as restaurant managers, executive chefs, sous chefs, line cooks and cooks for hospitals, restaurants and country clubs.

"There's more jobs than there are students," Wollinger said. "We will be able to fill the new section with students and hopefully satisfy them.

"It's just hard to talk to a student who's trying to get into a class and saying, 'Sorry, there's not enough room. You'll have to wait a whole year.' Saying we have something in January makes it a lot more current."

LEADER-TELEGRAM

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Partnership between CVTC, high school benefits students

Partnership between CVTC, high school helps students

posted: January 03, 2016 12:00a CST

by / Chippewa Valley Technical College

CHIPPEWA FALLS — Dylan Goss will be nine credits ahead when he starts classes in information technology programs at Chippewa Valley Technical College next fall.

The Chippewa Falls High School senior already has been accepted into CVTC and plans to enroll in the IT-network specialist program.

“I eventually plan on getting a second degree from CVTC in software developer too,” Goss said.

That’s when the nine credits he’s earning at the IT Dual-Credit Academy at Chippewa Falls High School will come in handy.

“It’s definitely going to save me some money and some time in classes I won’t have to take,” he said.

Images:



CVTC photo - Chippewa Falls High School students, from left, Nadine Porzondek, Dylan Goss and Alex Pederson work on assignments in the Chippewa Valley Technical College class they are taking at their school. Students receive CVTC credits for a series of such classes known as the IT Academy.

Dual credit is nothing new for CVTC and the many partner high schools in the 11-county CVTC district that have dual-credit agreements with the college. What's different at Chippewa Falls High School this year is a cluster of dual credit classes in the information technology field created at the school, mirroring the classes taught at CVTC and taught by a CVTC instructor right at the high school. These courses lead to an IT-user support technician technical diploma.

This academy approach to dual credit is a first for CVTC. But it's probably not the last, since it's an arrangement that works well for the college, the high school and, most importantly, the students. Goss is one of 13 Chippewa Falls High School students enrolled in the program.

"This meets the Chippewa Falls school district's goal of graduating all students prepared to succeed in post-secondary education and careers," said Angela Stokes, the district's career and technical education coordinator. "IT is one of the skills gap areas in the Chippewa Valley."

With that in mind, Stokes approached CVTC about forming a partnership that would help the school reach its goals for students.

"We looked at what students can earn credits in and what they can do in the future," said Sara Scovil, career pathways coordinator at CVTC.

Dual credit partnerships between CVTC and area high schools can involve the creation of new classes. But often they involve upgrading existing high school classes with curriculum that will lead students to exhibit the core competencies expected from a college class. Dual credit classes usually are taught by high school faculty with credentials to teach college-level classes who work closely with a CVTC faculty member.

Chippewa Falls High School did not have classes that could be upgraded to fit into CVTC programs, and the school lacked a qualified instructor. The IT Dual-Credit Academy proved to be the solution. CVTC and Chippewa Falls school district officials worked out a plan in which technology classes would be taught at the high school by CVTC instructor Julie McFadden. Each class is worth three credits at both the high school and at CVTC.

Teaching skills

McFadden vouched for the level of student success she's seeing in the program. "I have very bright students, and they are mastering things very quickly and are eager to learn more," she said.

Participating students say they're learning a lot in the class. Goss said the work will help him attain his career goal.

"I want to work as a system administrator, setting up and monitoring networks," he said.

Even students who don't have immediate plans to bring the credits to CVTC or to a university that will accept them as transfer credits are learning valuable skills.

"I am interested in learning more about computers because they're such a big part of everyday life," said Emma Burlingame, a Chippewa Falls High School senior who plans to attend the University of Alabama on a full academic scholarship, where she is considering studying economics.

Stokes sees value in what the students are learning beyond understanding computers.

"Julie's classes are helping students build critical-thinking and problem-solving skills," she said.

CVTC named veteran-friendly school

Posted: Wed 3:28 PM, Jan 06, 2016

By: Media Release, CVTC Email

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (RELEASE) -- Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) has been named a Military Friendly School for 2016.

This is the third consecutive year CVTC has earned the designation.

The Military Friendly School designation by Victory Media is awarded to the top colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students and ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation. The list serves as a resource for service members and military families seeking education and has played a significant role over the past seven years in advancing best practices in supporting military students on campuses across the country.



“We serve approximately 175 veterans annually,” said Deb Ludwikowski, who works directly with veterans at CVTC. “This honor is based off the services we offer specifically for our student veterans.”

In 2013 Ludwikowski received a Federal Certificate of Appreciation from the Federal Executive Board for her outstanding work with veterans. “I help them apply for their benefits and work as a go-between if there are payment issues with the Veterans Administration. I’m a point of reference for them,” Ludwikowski said.

Institutions competed for the elite Military Friendly School title by completing a survey of over 100 questions covering ten categories, including military support on campus, graduation and employment outcomes, and military spouse policies. Survey responses were scored against benchmarks across these key indicators of success.

Automation is here: FVTC welders learn robots



Nate Beck, Oshkosh Northwestern Media

8:05 a.m. CST November 10, 2015



(Photo: Joe Sienkiewicz /Oshkosh Northwestern Media)

The welder of the future may trade a torch for a remote control, but that doesn't mean he or she won't know how to weld.

As more companies invest in automation technologies, Fox Valley Technical College now requires students train on new robot welding stations, installed this summer with a \$2.9 million U.S. Department of Labor grant.

Ben Cebery, a Fox Valley Tech welding instructor, said welding is more than the physical action of forcing a hot torch to fuse steel. A welder must know how metal interacts to make a strong weld, not just how to run software or pull a torch trigger.

"The industry has been progressing in this direction for some time," Cebery said. "I think we'll begin to see many of the smaller companies updating their technology"

FVTC began training students on a host of upgraded robotic welding arms this semester. The college has had robotic welding arms for years, but were not current with industry. Some dated back to the mid-'90s.

An Advanced Manufacturing Pathways PLUS Grant through the U.S. Department of Labor helped fund in-part this technology upgrade.

Michele Zick, Fox Valley Tech's manager of the AMP grant, said once Department of Labor awarded those funds, the college had to whittle down what would best equip students to enter the industry. An advisory board comprised of local industry leaders recommend the college invest in automated welding arms.

"Our advisory board indicated that robotic welding is a high-demand part of their field," she said. "And we respond based on what they tell us."

So the college invested in eight welding arms from different brands, because software on those arms differs. For example, a welder trained on a Panasonic arm alone may not know how to run a Yaskawa arm.

The grant funded six robotic welding arms equipped with high-end software many manufacturers use now, or will soon transition to. And Fox Valley Tech now requires each graduating student to have some exposure to this technology.



Trevor Jackson, student in the Basic Robotics Class, tries to set points around the object to figure out the program to run the Panasonic robotic welder at the Fox Valley Technical College Advance Manufacturing Center in Oshkosh. The robots are used to give the students some real world programming and welding experience. (Photo: Joe Sienkiewicz/Oshkosh North)

According the college's executive summary of the grant, Fox Valley Tech seeks to do three things with grant dollars:

- Offer more "industry-recognized credentials" to better prepare workers for high-skill good-paying jobs
- Introduce a curriculum at the school that meets industry needs
- Better-equip students to land jobs

Students learn to program a handheld computer, which commands the arm to perform a sequence of welds on a hunk of metal, over and over. Before students start the machine, they close safety gates surrounding the arms, triggered to shut off the arm if they open.

At big manufacturing plants – think Detroit auto-makers – a robot may fetch metal to feed an automated arm that executes these welds. And behind all that action, a trained welder operates the controls. Though welders of the future may not hoist reams of steel by hand, they'll need more than how to run a software program.

Cebery said though automation largely exists at bigger welding companies, smaller "job shops" abundant in the Fox Valley area will make the plunge into automation eventually, as these machines become more accessible.

"There's just going to be more opportunity for welders with automation skills," he said.

Reach Nate Beck at 920-858-9657 or nbeck@gannett.com; on Twitter: [@NateBeck9](https://twitter.com/NateBeck9)

New Fox Valley Tech 'manufacturing mall' built around collaboration

By [Rick Barrett](#) of the Journal Sentinel
Nov. 14, 2015

It has been named the "manufacturing mall," a central location for advanced manufacturing products and services in one building.

On Monday, Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton will dedicate the facility that's started with four businesses collaborating on projects and sharing customers.

The 12,000-square-foot building in Neenah is home to Grassroots Machining, Industrial Machine Services, J.W. Welding and Northern Compressor.

It's a one-stop shop for everything from engineering and product prototypes to metal fabrication and machine maintenance.

"What they're trying to do is package and market themselves as a mall that meets the needs of the majority of our manufacturing companies," said Fox Valley Technical College spokesman Christopher Jossart.

In addition to sharing products, services and sometimes customers, the four businesses all have strong ties to the college, and they've all come from humble beginnings.

Grassroots was started by Chuck Duginski, a machinist for 30 years who launched the business as a part-time venture in his garage five years ago.

"It rapidly evolved to the point where I was very busy. I was working full-time, and then I was coming home and working in the garage — sometimes until midnight," Duginski said.

Now, Grassroots is a custom machine shop that, among other things, makes parts for equipment used in the paper industry.

That's how it connected with Industrial Machine Services, owned by Nick Vander Heyden.

"Our businesses work well together," Duginski said.

"When Nick goes to a plant to work on a piece of equipment, often it's older and the replacement parts are very difficult to get. So he brings the parts to us, and we back-engineer it and make the replacement parts."

The industrial building that houses the four companies originally was used for a small printing plant.

Duginski and Vander Heyden were at a similar point in their business lives when they formed a

partnership to buy the facility.

"For us, including the property taxes, the payments were no more than what we were paying for a lease. There's also a substantial chunk of property, so we could double the size of the building," Duginski said.

He and Vander Heyden then asked Jason Harold, owner of J.W. Welding, to join them in their new location.

Harold started his business, also at home, while working as a second-shift welder at Oshkosh Corp. building military vehicles.

After he was laid off from Oshkosh, he worked at a couple of other companies before going full-time with his own business in August.

"Now I do all of the welding for Chuck and his machine shop, and I get a lot of metal fabrication work from Industrial Machine Services," Harold said.

The shared building is a big improvement for each of the businesses. Also, the three business owners often help each other with knowledge they've gained from their experiences.

"It's a good way to get started. We try to promote each other, but we are responsible for our own individual billings and any problems," Duginski said.

Harold said he's gained confidence to pursue work that, before moving into the manufacturing mall, he probably wouldn't have pursued.

Duginski also recruited Jack Roberts, a retired engineer from the paper industry, to work with his company in the mall.

"We let some customers know that Jack's services were available, and they jumped all over it. Now we can offer very high-end engineering capability at a reasonable price," Duginski said.

Fox Valley Technical College provided help in launching Grassroots Machining and J.W. Welding.

Cooperation between small businesses makes sense when they have common interests, said Amy Pietsch, director of the college's [Venture Center](#).

"In 21st-century business, collaboration is the stuff of growth," Pietsch said.

The college's [E-Seed business start-up training](#) has helped launch more than 350 businesses in the past 15 years, creating thousands of jobs in the Fox Valley and New North region.

"We are building a community of entrepreneurs and business owners who are able to stay connected and collaborate," Pietsch said.

Find this article at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/new-fox-valley-tech-manufacturing-mall-built-around-collaboration-b99613824z1-348862341.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

New Veterans Honor Home could be coming to Northeast Wisconsin

BY: Raquel Lamal (mailto:raquel.lamal@nbc26.com)

POSTED: 6:30 PM, Nov 11, 2015

UPDATED: 6:31 PM, Nov 11, 2015

KAUKAUNA, Wis.- In Kaukauna Richard Pomeroy, a U.S. Veteran is attending a Veteran's Day ceremony with about 100 other people.

"It really warms the heart to find out that people really care," said Pomeroy.

People showing care for Veterans far and wide Wednesday. In Appleton the Veterans Honor Home Task Force announcing their findings from a study lasting more than a year. They've designed a Veteran's Village concept to fit four specific areas they say are lacking.

"In our studies we have not found one like this concept of a Veteran's Village anywhere in the country," said Fox Valley Veterans Honor Home Task Force member, Dr. Tom Wiltzius.

Nothing is finalized yet, but a site is already being eyed-up from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"They really like the site, they like the location of the Fox Valley Technical College," said Outagamie County Housing Authority executive director, Jim Lincoln.

The Honor Home would be built near the tech college so Veterans could get educational services while living near the VA Clinic for health care.

"It's finally something that's needed in the area," said Pomeroy.

The Outagamie County Housing Authority says in the next few months their hoping to submit a request for proposal to furnish a building that would meet the state's needs for Veteran end of life care.

Tech college helps launch new career

Grace Ebert, Post-Crescent Media 7:58 a.m. CST November 17, 2015



(Photo: Dan Powers/Post-Crescent Media)

APPLETON — Dan Geiser knew that if he didn't go back to school, he wouldn't be able to keep up at work.

"I didn't know the amount of technology I wanted to know or needed to know," Geiser said. "I wanted to look for a highly technical degree."

Geiser worked as a carpenter for 20 years before deciding to further his education at Fox Valley Technical College. He now is eight weeks into his first semester studying automated manufacturing systems and manufacturing engineering technologies.

"I'm really enjoying it and things are progressing pretty well for me," Geiser said. "But it's a challenge."

He plans to finish his associate's degree in two years and then attend a four-year university to study engineering and earn his bachelor's degree. Eventually, Geiser hopes to develop the technologies used in woodworking and carpentry.

Janet Braun, applied engineering technology department chair, said she's seeing growing interest in manufacturing and engineering fields. Many FVTC students are like Geiser, returning to college to get a degree to advance their careers after being in the workforce for a number of years.

"Students get hands-on experience," Braun said. "So, they're immediately productive after graduation."

Braun said the college has reacted to the increasing need for technologically skilled employees in the workforce and has created accelerated degree programs and specialized classes to fit the needs of employers. She recently helped launch the manufacturing engineering technologies program, which Geiser is enrolled in, because she and other faculty members realized a need for the skills it teaches.

Buy Photo



Dan Geiser of Brillion works on logic gates and digital circuitry during an electronics lab on Oct. 28 at Fox Valley Technical College in Grand Chute. (Photo: Dan Powers/Post-Crescent Media)

Through the program, students study manufacturing processes, automated manufacturing, computer-aided design and manufacturing, fixture and tooling design and mechanical and electrical system design. They also learn lean production principles, project management and engineering economic analysis.

Braun said these skills are in high demand.

In 2015, all 13 FVTC graduates who studied automated manufacturing systems were employed six months after graduation. In all technology programs across the college, 93 percent of graduates were employed in that same time period.

In the past year, 85 full-time positions in the Fox Valley region were open to graduates who studied automated manufacturing systems, while nearly 1,000 positions needed to be filled with graduates who have technology degrees.

Geiser is confident he'll be able to return to the workforce with skills that will make him employable anywhere when he finishes his degree at FVTC.

"I'm trying to build on what I already know," Geiser said. "I need to get back to the workforce. I really want to do well."

Grace Ebert: 920-993-1000, ext. 252, or grace.ebert@postcrescent.com; on Twitter [@grace_ebert](https://twitter.com/grace_ebert) (https://twitter.com/grace_ebert).



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Gateway finalizing free tuition plan



22 HOURS AGO • MARK SCHAAF
MARK.SCHAAF@JOURNALTIMES.COM

RACINE COUNTY — It was almost a year ago when President Barack Obama proposed making the first two years of a community or technical college free.

While the idea has failed to gain traction in Congress, officials at Gateway Technical College are moving forward with their own version.

Gateway officials are finalizing details of a new program that would allow some high school graduates to get a two-year education without any tuition or fees. The program would be open to students in the greatest financial need, said Zina Haywood, Gateway executive vice president and provost. Officials are still working out details on who would be eligible.

“We are in the development stages of it,” Haywood said.

The college wants to raise \$1 million to get the program started and a total of \$3 million to make the program sustainable long-term, Haywood said.

Officials hope to finalize plans by the end of January and begin the program in the 2017-18 school year, making this year’s high school juniors the first class eligible.

Haywood said the plan was inspired by Obama’s proposal last year and follows a movement in several other states and communities to create free two-year college programs. Free two-year college plans are in place in Chicago, Tennessee and Oregon, with other states considering their own programs, according to an Associated Press report.

Obama, meanwhile, proposed a \$60 billion plan providing two years of free community college to most anyone with a family income under \$200,000 and who maintains a 2.5 grade-point average, according to the report.

At a Glance

Gateway Technical College hopes to raise \$3 million to fund a program providing free two-year college to those in greatest financial need.

SCJ donates \$1.5M to Gateway boot camp program

NOVEMBER 06, 2015 6:30 PM • JOURNAL TIMES STAFF

RACINE — The Gateway Technical College Foundation received a \$1.5 million grant from SC Johnson to underwrite the continuation of the Gateway to Careers Boot Camp program over the next three years, the college announced Friday.

In 2012, SC Johnson made an initial investment of \$1.7 million to advance the existing Boot Camp training program and fund Gateway's expanded, state-of-the-art SCJ integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology Center, 2320 Renaissance Boulevard in Sturtevant.

Gateway has relied on area companies to help identify the skills critical for entry-level positions. Using this information, Gateway has created Boot Camps that teach the skills people need to get good jobs in the community.

Each Gateway Boot Camp offers an intensive, hands-on training environment that lasts from 14 to 20 weeks, depending on the training topic.

Session topics change periodically to meet the evolving needs of local employers and industry trends. Past training sessions have included computer numerical control, logistics, telecommunications, certified nursing assistant and English Language Learner/basic education skills training, among others.

Gateway also is working to meet the needs of younger audiences while filling the pipeline with skilled manufacturing employees in the future.

An initial pilot Youth Boot Camp program, funded by SC Johnson, built the foundation for Gateway to pursue and secure grants for future youth sessions.

Transfer agreement means more options for nursing, human services graduates

NOVEMBER 09, 2015 9:00 PM

RACINE — Gateway Technical College and George Williams College of Aurora University, located in Williams Bay, signed two transfer agreements giving students in nursing and human services expanded educational and career opportunities.

The agreement provides a seamless opportunity for Gateway Technical College graduates to continue their education and complete a bachelor's degree in human services and nursing science from George Williams College. Prior academic coursework will be fully recognized and transferable toward the completion of those degrees, saving tuition costs and providing a smooth transfer to a four-year college for those wishing to do so.

The articulation agreement was signed at George Williams College and extends an existing partnership with Gateway Technical College in other areas of study.

The nursing agreement provides for Gateway Technical College students to enter the bachelor of nursing program at George Williams College, while the human services agreement provides for students to enter the bachelor of social work program at George Williams College.

LTC offering firearm safety for concealed carry weapons course

Sheboygan Press Media 10:12 a.m. CST December 24, 2015

LTC offering firearm safety for concealed carry weapons course

Lakeshore Technical College is offering the firearm safety for concealed carry weapons course from 8 a.m. until noon on Jan. 23 at Lakeshore Technical College in the Public Safety Building.

This class meets the state's education requirements for students to acquire a Wisconsin CCW license/permit. The course will provide participants with an overview of handgun safety practices and concealed carry considerations. It is designed as a safety course, not a training course.

Participants will also learn the Wisconsin Department of Justice process for obtaining, maintaining and renewing a concealed carry permit, analyze considerations regarding the carry of a concealed weapon and discuss the legal implications of carrying a concealed weapon.

The instructor, Jason Wilterdink, has 15 years of experience as a law enforcement officer. In addition to his experience as a law enforcement officer, he is currently a full-time instructor at LTC, a master instructor in use of force, and certified by several organizations as a firearms instructor and has served as an instructor in self-defense, training, safety, security, health, wellness and fitness.

He also served in an international police mission for the United Nations where he served in Liberia-West Africa as the team leader for the crowd control team and lead instructor for physical security, operational security, and civil unrest in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1509.

The cost is \$85 and the class number is 21851. To register call 1-888-468-6582, extension 1366. For more information visit www.gotoltc.edu/seminars, call 920-693-1167 or email ruth.semph@gotoltc.edu.

Hurdles remain as Manitowoc economy rebounds

Peter Wills, For HTR Media 7:19 a.m. CST December 15, 2015



(Photo: Yi-Chin Lee/HTR Media)

Manitowoc County saw a strong economic performance and was firing on all cylinders in 2015.

The manufacturing sector, which represents the largest percentage of the economy, benefited from the increased output in energy, mining and construction sectors. The equipment and transportation sectors drove the demand for components that many Manitowoc County manufacturers supply.

Local companies that held back on expansion plans in recent years saw continued growth to support expansion in 2015. These companies include Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry, Manitowoc Tool & Machine, Kaysun, Lakeshore Industrial, Federal Mogul and KNM.

As more local manufacturers increase innovation and quicken production turnaround time, they have become more competitive than overseas counterparts in serving the just-in-time requirements of equipment and transportation manufacturers.

While the pace of technological advancement continues, this bodes well for local manufactures that can continue to innovate in their equipment, workforce training and continuous improvement.

As the recovery has occurred, is not without challenges. Companies are now finding it more difficult to recruit the workers they need, develop the skills needed for those workers and the related capital costs of continuous innovation.

In August, there were 1,500 job openings across the manufacturing, service, finance and hospitality sectors in Manitowoc County. These positions reflect both new jobs being created as companies expand, as well as those those vacated by retiring employees.

Efforts are being made by local technical colleges, universities, high schools and state and local agencies to coordinate the training needed to fill these positions.

As companies continue to innovate in order to be competitive, the workers needed to fill these positions require improved skills to remain competitive.

In addressing these skills, the training for these roles are more frequently starting while students are still in high school.

Apprenticeships and training programs ranging from health care, finance, welding and food production in conjunction with Lakeshore Technical College and local high schools are helping to fill some of the needed positions at local employers while keeping graduates in our community.

As 2015 comes to a close and we look ahead to 2016, the local economy remains strong, although risks remain.

The impact of the decline in energy and mining sectors, driven by lower oil and materials prices, has reduced demand at manufacturing companies that are dependent upon those industries.

As prices are predicted to remain low coming into 2016, this may hamper growth at some companies and result in some job reductions in the short term, until prices begin to recover.

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A project that sets the stage for redevelopment of the past is the renovation of the former Mirro plant #3 building in downtown Manitowoc into an affordable housing and market-rate loft-style apartment complex, called Artist Lofts.

The project broke ground in mid-December and renovations will continue into next year. The project is designed to provide two- and three-bedroom apartments, community spaces and an art gallery in the former manufacturing facility.

This and other projects moving forward in the area help put the challenges of the economic downturn in the rear-view mirror and set the stage for a resurgence on the lakeshore.

Peter Wills is executive director at Progress Lakeshore in Manitowoc.

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Jan. 5, 2016, 10:09 a.m.

[winter-beauty-explore-forests-under-coat-white/78273492/](http://story/life/2016/01/05/winter-beauty-explore-forests-under-coat-white/78273492/)



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Jan. 4, 2016, 5:31 p.m.



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South Madison leaders come out to support proposed comprehensive MATC campus

PAT SCHNEIDER | The Capital Times | pschneider@madison.com 22 hrs ago



A proposed expanded campus of Madison Area Technical College holds the promise to transform south Madison and the lives of its residents, said several people attending a community forum on the plan Tuesday.

The crowd of about 60 at the Village on Park in south Madison included MATC staff members, representatives of the Madison Metropolitan School District and community activists.

Several speakers supported development of a comprehensive campus not only to spur economic development, but also to raise the aspirations of residents in one of Madison's most diverse and highest poverty neighborhoods.

"The 'Race to Equity' tells us we have to do something out of the box. This would be a good first step," said Percy Brown, director of equity and student achievement at Middleton High School whose family has deep roots in south Madison.

The 2013 Race to Equity report on disparities in academic achievement and employment between African-Americans and other Dane County residents spurred renewed determination by community organizations to work to right those inequities.

That sense of mission animated much of the discussion of the MATC facility plan, which has been dubbed the South Madison Initiative by the college's president, Jack Daniels.

Daniels envisions a facility that will allow students to complete work for a certificate or degree on-site and receive "wrap around" services like advising and financial aid assistance.

"This area demands this type of facility," Daniels said to a round of applause from the audience. "It's incumbent on me and my staff to insure that the board has ample information, that their questions have been answered so that they make the decision that is in the best interest of the community and focuses in our mission. It's about serving the community and helping these folks get jobs. "

Daniels unveiled his plan to sell the downtown campus to fund an expanded facility in south Madison last spring. Board members delayed action on the proposal in May, asking Daniels for more information on the options. He expects to make a recommendation on a specific south Madison site in April, for board action in May.

Frances Huntley Cooper, chair of the MATC Board of Trustees, encouraged those attending the session to articulate their support to the board. "It's important to hear your voice," she said.

Asked by an audience member what his fallback plan is if the MATC Board of Trustees fails to approve the development of a south Madison campus and the sale of the downtown campus to it, Daniels said he doesn't have a contingency plan yet.

Owners of five south Madison sites have expressed interest in an MATC campus being developed on their property:

- 1702 S. Park St., former site of Thorstad Chevrolet
- 1312 S. Park St., site of a Copps grocery store
- 2300 S. Park St., adjacent to the small space currently leased by MATC in the Village on Park
- 2550 Novation Parkway; off Rimrock Road
- 30 Nob Hill Road, off the Beltline Highway
- 208-210 Olin Ave., near the Goodman Pool
- 76 W. Beltline Highway, east of Rimrock Road

The site owners variously propose to employ build-to-suit leases, new construction or tear-down and new construction. Capital costs are estimated at \$10 million to \$17 million, with operating costs of \$400,000 to \$700,000 a year.

The biggest hurdle to overcome in development of the campus will be opposition to the sale of the Downtown Education Center at 211 N. Carroll St. Some staff, community leaders and city alders representing the area aren't thrilled about MATC leaving downtown. Some 15 developers have expressed initial interest in buying the downtown site, which has been appraised at \$12.3 million.

"There are a lot of community issues and political issues around what that facility means to the city," Daniels said. "So we have to make sure we are providing substantial information from which the board can make its decision."

Opponents of the facility's sale also challenge the estimated \$30 million price tag to bring the building up to date.

Real estate purchases, and lease costs totaling more than \$1.5 million over the life of the lease, would require a referendum under the rules of the Wisconsin Technical College System, even if MATC has funding from the sale of the downtown campus and doesn't need to borrow money.

A so-called "no-cost" referendum would likely be needed on any of the prospective sites in south Madison that have emerged so far, Daniels said. "But when you say 'no-cost' referendum, a lot of people don't hear 'no-cost,'" he said.

Daniels would not speculate on the likely odds for a successful no-cost referendum in 11 outlying counties that are part of the MATC district along with Dane County.

But Daniels did say he will not recommend that the district, which borrowed \$133 million approved in a 2010 vote, go to referendum to borrow money to fund development of a comprehensive campus in south Madison.

Daniels said a campus located at the former Thorstad site would be at the center of south Madison economic development, but later in the meeting declined pick a favorite location and stressed that a show of interest in selling the site to MATC was a long way away from offering a deal to suit the college district.

Alex Fralin, chief of secondary schools for the Madison Metropolitan School District, supported the Thorstad site because of its proximity to Wright Middle School.

School district representatives and Daniels talked about the enriched possibilities of "pathways" programs preparing students for post-high school education with the presence of a comprehensive college campus right in the neighborhood.

MATC marketing specialist Gwen Jones said the presence of the campus and the opportunity it represents could change kids' expectations for themselves.

Just as there are politics opposing the sale of the downtown campus, there are political influences pressing for developing a facility in south Madison as well.

Ald. Sheri Carter put her desires succinctly: "I don't care if you build it. I don't care if you lease it. I don't care if you put it together from Legos. It has got to be in District 14."

"I'm looking at how this facility can help put people to work," said Kaleem Caire, president of One City Early Learning Center, located in south Madison. "I hope people can look at this as an investment, not a cost."

Brown said development of the campus would be "huge" for south Madison as both a practical way to bring educational opportunities to a historically African-American area and a means of demonstrating the community's commitment to provide those opportunities.

"It is a symbolic move that would give marginalized communities some hope," he said.

<http://host.madison.com/tncms/asset/editorial/9ea98935-e823-54f1-b7ea-90cb69794beb/>

EDITOR'S PICK

'Promise' program aims to cover tuition costs for some MATC students

NICO SAVIDGE nsavidge@madison.com, 608-252-6147 Jan 7, 2016



M.P. KING — capital newspapers

Madison Area Technical College President Jack E. Daniels wants low-income students to be able to attend his college free for their first two years.

At a time when more than half of the jobs in the American economy require education or training beyond high school, a tuition bill shouldn't be what keeps someone from going to college, Madison Area Technical College President Jack E. Daniels says.

That's why Daniels and other MATC officials are working on an initiative — inspired by efforts at a number of community and technical colleges across the nation — to make the first two years of tuition free for qualifying low-income students as soon as this fall.

"No one should have a barrier to attending college to get the skills necessary so that they can go to work," Daniels said.

Called the Madison Promise, the program aims to fill the gap between the financial aid students receive and the cost of their tuition.

College officials are still working out the program's specifics, but they say it will likely be open to students coming out of high school who are eligible for the federal Pell grant — taxpayer assistance for low-income students that often doesn't cover all of their tuition costs.

Grants are capped at \$5,775 for the 2015-16 academic year, but not all students get the full grant. Full-time MATC tuition costs about \$4,700 for in-state students.

Under the Promise program, the Madison College Foundation would step in to pay for the remainder of a student's tuition after the Pell grant.

Keith Cornille, MATC's senior vice president for student development and success, said officials have not yet decided whether they will factor students' other grants or scholarships into the tuition assistance, or if students will be allowed to put that aid toward other costs such as books.

Without help from something like the Promise, officials say, students often take out loans and work at jobs that could take time away from their studies.

Tammy Thayer, CEO of the Madison College Foundation, said having tuition costs covered "can be life-changing" for students.

"It can be the difference between going to college or not going to college for a lot of these students," Thayer said.

Daniels said he hopes to have the Madison Promise in place by fall, but added it might not be ready until the spring term of 2017.

The initiative is modeled on similar "Promise" programs championed by President Barack Obama and Democratic lawmakers, including U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, who introduced a bill last year to pay the first two years of community college students' tuition. Milwaukee Area Technical College announced a similar program last fall.

Those initiatives come as the topic of college costs and student loan debt have commanded national political attention.

UW-Madison professor Sara Goldrick-Rab, who worked on the legislation Baldwin introduced and supports making the first two years of all public higher education free, said she was happy to see MATC join the growing number of schools nationwide that are working to address tuition costs.

But Goldrick-Rab, who leads a research organization that will evaluate the Milwaukee program, cautioned that covering only students' tuition costs won't make college affordable for everyone.

The \$4,700 students must pay for tuition represents only a fourth of the total cost many pay to attend MATC, according to the college's estimates. Students who don't live at home can expect to pay \$14,094 on rent, food, books, transportation and other expenses.

"It isn't going to do much if all it (covers) is tuition and fees," Goldrick-Rab said of the program. "Until we start addressing living costs, we are not addressing student debt."

Still, she called the Promise program "a huge step forward" in making college more affordable. Cornille said officials estimate the program will cost \$175,000 in its first year.

Funding will come from the Madison College Foundation, not state or local tax dollars, Thayer said. The foundation is still trying to determine how much money it will have to raise for the program and an endowment to support it in the future, she said.

An analysis of previous MATC classes found 102 students each year whose Pell grant did not cover all of their tuition, Cornille said, with amounts of need that ranged from \$14 to over \$2,400. But he cautioned that the number of eligible students could swell if the promise of free tuition encourages more local students to enroll at MATC. "We don't know how many folks are sitting out there at this moment that would become eligible," Cornille said. And Daniels said the program could have a ripple effect that extends beyond current students "That student who's in fifth or sixth grade starts to think about the expectations," he said. "If we can remove that financial barrier for them, they can start to see, 'Yes, I can go to college.'"

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MATC students build bike rack for pool

By Ryan Whisner rwhisner@dailyunion.com | Posted: Friday, December 18, 2015 9:53 am

Fort Atkinson Parks and Recreation Department director Scott Lastusky takes pride in trying to make each greenspace unique with something special that really catches the eye.

Thanks to the Madison Area Technical College metal fabrication and welding program, the city continues to do just that, most recently adding a fish-shaped bicycle rack at the Fort Atkinson Family Aquatic Center.

Designed and built at the Fort Atkinson MATC (Madison College) campus by local students, the rack cost the city only about \$200 for the powder coating paint job at B&K Powder Coating in Milwaukee.

“What we get out of it — between the training for the students at Madison College and what we get for our users and the look — is certainly something that does not happen very often,” Lastusky said.

Madison College Metal Fabrication Program director and instructor Jimmy DeGidio said the idea for the bike rack originated with Madison College instructor Jack Reinhardt.

“We were looking for a project and we didn’t know what we were going to do,” he said.

Reinhardt proposed building a bike rack and then came up with the idea of designing it as a fish.

At the time, Reinhardt and instructor Tom Schroeder were working with the Madison College middle college students.

The “middle college” program was developed through a partnership with the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin following a visit during the opening of the new fabrication lab in 2012.



SOMETHING’S FISHY

SOMETHING’S FISHY — A fish bicycle rack was designed and built in the Madison Area Technical College-Fort Atkinson metal fabrication lab and then placed outside the Fort Atkinson Family Aquatic Center. The jig the rack is sitting on was built separately as a project for the students in order to assist in assembling the bike rack within the lab. The powder coating was completed by B&K Powder Coating in Milwaukee to give the bike rack a unique finish and glimmer. Edges of the pipes were carefully capped and the “teeth” of the fish were rounded to ensure no sharp points. The teeth were intended as being just for fun, but were found to be perfect for younger children’s bikes.

Juniors and seniors in high school who meet criteria established by the Workforce Development Board are eligible to participate in the middle college program. Madison College officials describe these at-risk high school students as those who perform better in a more hands-on environment than sitting at a desk in a classroom.

Interest in the program is high in the Jefferson County area in light of the strong manufacturing base.

Upon completion of middle college, the students can apply the credits they have earned into the diploma or associate degree in manufacturing or move right into the workforce with a skill set that is more than they might have had coming right out of high school.

“It was a really a unique learning opportunity for our students,” said Cindy Bowen, Madison College Fort Atkinson campus operations manager. “They were able to follow the whole process of manufacturing from start to finish.”

Through building the bike rack, she said, the students learned about product design, fabrication, the property types of materials, safety and quality.

“The different students who worked on it were perfecting the various kind of forming and welding and cutting,” Bowen said. “They were learning and perfecting the different skills they needed to complete such a project.”

The campus manager pointed out that it wasn’t just a matter of deciding to build a fish bike rack.

“It was worked into the curriculum, so it was kind of a win-win for everybody,” Bowen said.

DeGidio noted that this is where he envisions the fabrication program going.

“This is what I hear employers telling us they want their students to learn,” he said.

During a recent tour of the Fort Atkinson campus metal fabrication lab, an employer was overheard stating, “If I could hire all the students that graduate from your program doing what you guys are doing here, I would hire every one of you.”

“Everything we are hearing (is that) we have done the right things,” DeGidio said, noting that there is a waiting list for students interested in the fabrication specialist one-year diploma program. “All we can do is keep pushing.”

The students and Madison College instructors initially approached the Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce seeking ideas for placement of a bike rack. The chamber, in turn, directed them to the city.

From the city’s standpoint, the ability to get such a quality product for only \$200 is significant. Lastusky said that a simple bike rack of that size typically would cost around \$1,000.

However, parks staffer Rob Stine knows B&K Powder Coating general manager Conrad Johnson, a

former Fort Atkinson resident. When approached about the paintjob, he offered the city a fair price.

The concept of adding bike racks in Fort Atkinson is not new. Lastusky said a discussion has been ongoing since the Glacial River Recreation Trail was extended through the city.

“We’ve been trying to find ways to be creative in areas of town that maybe need something a little nicer than just a galvanized steel rack,” Lastusky said. “They just didn’t want it to look like an unattractive metal structure.”

He noted that a company in Waunakee charges up to \$10,000 to produce unique or personalized bike racks.

“To have this one come into play, this is the finest looking bike rack I have seen,” the parks director said. “We’ve been trying to find a way to show that something like this can take place. Madison College did an incredible job in the planning and everything else. This is a one-of-a-kind piece and probably the best bike rack I’ve ever seen.”

Lastusky said he is excited at the prospect of this potentially growing if some sponsors step forward to support the program.

“For a bike town like ours, as bike crazy as it is — with, a bike shop and a bike trail — I’ve got to believe this is something that is going to be usable for the community and the students going forward,” he said.



Marshfield 28 °F Wind speed: 12 k/h Direction : South Sunrise : 7:37 am | Sunset : 4:34 pm Humidity 54 % | Visibility 10 km | Pressure 0.03 bar

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SEARCH



Mid-State Technical College and Pittsville students install a photovoltaic system at Pittsville High School. (Digitized photo)

Home > Education

by Hub City Times -Jan 5, 2016

PARTNERSHIP CONNECTING AREA STUDENTS WITH BUSINESSES RECEIVES GRANT

Program focuses on promoting renewable energy, educational opportunities

For Hub City Times

WISCONSIN RAPIDS — Based on the success of two previous grants, Constellation Energy has awarded a third \$45,000 grant to Incourage's Business Education Partnership. The Business Education Partnership is a collaboration of four public and two private school systems, Mid-State Technical College, and 10 area businesses focused on narrowing the skills gap in science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

"Building Energy Education Pathways," or Project "BEEP," engages participating schools in energy curriculum and instruction and includes capital projects to demonstrate renewable energy systems. To date, the grants have provided energy education to over 1,100 area students.

"This grant provides opportunities for ongoing collaboration among school systems, community organizations, and engaged businesses," said Rick Merdan, Incourage grant coordinator. "Incourage is pleased to facilitate collaborative sustainability educational opportunities that help to shape a strong and inclusive local economy in south Wood County."

This grant will expand solar photovoltaic installations to area middle schools and provide high school students the opportunity to earn scholarships to attend one of Mid-State's three

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renewable energy programs: renewable energy specialist, solar electric technician, and sustainable heating and cooling.

“These renewable systems designed by Mid-State students and installed by high school students create a lasting educational tool while delivering free, clean, and sustainable energy to the schools,” said Mid-State Technical College instructor Ben Nusz. “This project has so many unique benefits on so many levels.”

The grant also incorporates further energy education curriculum from Mid-State’s renewable energy programs into additional schools and provides sponsorship for the area’s first “Solar Olympics” competition, which will be held at Mid-State’s Wisconsin Rapids campus.

“The Constellation grants have provided needed resources to further help contextualize science and technology curriculum. The students aren’t just learning about renewable energy from a book. They are actively optimizing real systems through hands-on learning,” said Eric Siler, Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools career and technical education coordinator.

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Mid-State Technical College's Marshfield location. (Submitted photo)

Home > News > Local

by Hub City Times -Dec 21, 2015

MID-STATE LAUNCHES STEM DISCOVERY SEMINAR SERIES IN JANUARY

For Hub City Times

MARSHFIELD — Mid-State Technical College is hosting a STEM Discovery Seminar Series. Each seminar is focused on a different element of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Industry experts from Mid-State Technical College will lead two hours of scientific inquiry into innovative ideas and practices.

The first session will focus on technology. On Jan. 19 attendees will learn about unmanned aerial vehicles, how they differ from drones, and how they can be used in a multitude of technological applications. The seminar will also investigate the capabilities of GoPro cameras and the unlimited opportunities they hold for users.

During the Feb. 23 engineering-themed session, participants will be treated to seminars on practical application of STEM in careers. The series wraps up with a science-themed session on March 15 when a number of experts will discuss sleep apnea.

All seminars are free to attend and open to the public. Each one will be held from 5-7 p.m. in the Community Engagement Room at Mid-State's Marshfield Campus. For more information about the STEM Discovery Seminar Series, contact Megan Kunderinger at 715-389-7027.

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Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele donates \$250,000 to MATC for free tuition program

Nov 16, 2015, 8:46am CST



Mark Sabljak
Publisher- *Milwaukee Business Journal*

One of the most promising educational initiatives to be launched in a while in the Milwaukee area got a vote of confidence recently. Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, who is also a philanthropist, has provided a \$250,000 gift to the **Milwaukee Area Technical College Promise** program.

The program offers free tuition and fees, after federal and state financial aid has been applied, for eligible Milwaukee-area high school graduates for two years. While enrolled, students must maintain full-time student status and a 2.0 grade point average. They must also participate in service learning projects and academic success and career planning workshops.

Abele challenged the Milwaukee school to raise another \$250,000 to broaden the donor base. Additional gifts came from attorney Rob Potrzebowski and his wife Maggie, who donated \$100,000; \$25,000 from MATC alumnus and former ManpowerGroup exec Terry Hueneke; \$55,000 from the MATC Giving Campaign; and \$5,000 from the MATC Retirees Association.



Abele said he will continue to help the school raise more dollars for the program.

"Everyone deserves the opportunity to further their education beyond high school, but for far too many, that opportunity is blocked due to lack of resources," Abele said. "In fact, quite often the students who need that extra hand up the most are the ones with the least access to it."

Abele's past efforts in this area include an appointment by former Gov. Jim Doyle to serve on the Wisconsin Covenant Foundation board and years of service in helping raise funds for multiple scholarships from the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee.

MATC grad overcomes the odds and earns his dream

BY: Shannon Sims

POSTED: 9:51 PM, Dec 11, 2015

UPDATED: 10:30 PM, Dec 11, 2015

MILWAUKEE -- Charles Linyard is getting some help with the final touches of his cap and gown. Linyard admits graduating from Milwaukee Area Technical College was no easy feat.

"I never thought I would be here," he says.

After a life of substance abuse, Charles decided he wanted more. So, he got his GED and at age 57 he went back to school to earn an Associate's Degree in Human Services; putting him one step closer on the path to becoming a substance abuse counselor. For the first time he feels like he has accomplished something meaningful.

"Man, after all the things that I have been through to finally know I have something to offer to someone else and be able to encourage them to go through."

His passion to help other addicts gave Charles the motivation to face his fears of attending classes and writing papers. Friday night he stood tall - ready to start a new chapter.

He is one of 850 winter session graduates realizing the possibilities their education now affords them.

His daughter, also a student at MATC, gets a little teary when speaking of her dad's accomplishments.

"I am really proud of him, he has been through a lot. And to see him get here that is really awesome and inspiring."

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Nearly 3,000 students clear first hurdle for MATC Promise

By [Karen Herzog](#) of the Journal Sentinel
Dec. 16, 2015

Milwaukee Area Technical College announced Wednesday that 2,944 applicants from 100 high schools cleared the first eligibility hurdle for a privately funded program for low-income, academically qualified high school seniors to attend the tech school tuition-free starting next fall.

The school also announced that it raised nearly \$500,000 toward its \$1 million goal to fund the first three cohorts of students in the program [called the MATC Promise](#).

"Everyone deserves the opportunity to further their education beyond high school, but for far too many that opportunity is blocked due to lack of resources," said Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, who donated \$250,000 and is serving as honorary co-chair of the fundraising campaign.

The college considers the MATC Promise a game-changer for families who otherwise could not afford to send their kids to college. But the first hurdle — proving either residency or attendance at a high school in MATC's service area — is the easiest.

The high school senior applicants still must fill out the FAFSA form to apply for financial aid, take the ACT and score at least 16, and maintain a 2.0 grade-point average and 90% attendance through the remainder of the school year. Once they're in, they will have to do community service, attend workshops and attend four consecutive semesters to remain eligible.

MATC will work closely with high school guidance counselors at the 100 schools to ensure that applicants receive the guidance they need to fulfill the first set of requirements, MATC spokeswoman Kathleen Hohl said.

The college hopes an influx of new high school graduates will help reverse a trend of declining enrollment since the end of the recession. Enrollment went up at MATC when displaced adult workers had to reinvent themselves. It went down as they returned to the workforce.

This time last year, 166 high school seniors had applied to MATC, according to Hohl. Typically, only 7% to 9% of MATC's students enroll directly from high school.

The technical college's average student is 30 years old and enrolled part time. In addition to offering low-income kids an opportunity for a college education, the MATC Promise over time could also bring down the average age of MATC students and increase full-time enrollment.

Eighty-three percent of Milwaukee Public Schools students identify as low-income, so paying for college is a significant barrier for many area families. First-generation college students also may need additional support to navigate the process of applying to college and paying for it — something both MATC and

MPS officials are keenly aware of as the MATC Promise launches.

Abele challenged MATC to raise an additional \$250,000 in gifts of \$25,000 or less to broaden its donor base.

A total of 316 donors so far have contributed to the campaign, Hohl said. A third of them (110) are new donors.

Find this article at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/nearly-3000-students-clear-first-hurdle-for-matc-promise-b99635915z1-362697441.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.



(<https://www.insidehighered.com>)

A horizontal banner with a light blue background. On the left, text reads 'Reach more than 1.2 million talented higher ed professionals with your job posting' in dark grey, followed by 'CLICK to POST NOW' in orange. On the right, there is an 'INSIDE HIGHER ED' logo and a photograph of three modern chairs (one orange, two white) against a grey wall.

Milwaukee technical college board under fire for lack of minority representation

Submitted by Ashley A. Smith on November 5, 2015 - 3:00am

At Milwaukee Area Technical College, more than half of the students are from the city of Milwaukee. Most are minorities. And low income. Yet many at the college are concerned their interests aren't -- and can't -- be addressed by a college district board that disenfranchises those communities.

So a coalition of Milwaukee-area community leaders and students and faculty from the college want new legislation to alter the MATC board appointment process to restore the balance of power to align with the college and city's demographics. Some members of the coalition lay the blame at the feet of the local chamber of commerce.

"This is a public institution that should be controlled by the citizens it serves and they want it controlled by one small slice of the business community," said Michael Rosen, an economics instructor at the college and president of the local branch of the American Federation of Teachers, a faculty union. "There have always been major employers on the board, but they wanted control over the board. It's really a corporate takeover."

The MATC board composition wasn't always so controversial. But in 2011 the two-year college was singled out from the other 15 members of the Wisconsin Technical College System by the state's Legislature, which changed the appointment process for the institution. Prior to the change, the nine-member board consisted of one K-12 school district administrator, one elected official, three at-large members, two employers and two employees.

But the Republican-controlled Legislature ^[1] changed the composition ^[2] of the board to make it more business heavy. It currently includes:

- Five employers
 - Three representing businesses with 15 or more employees
 - Two representing businesses with 100 or more employees
 - Two of these members must represent manufacturers
- One school district administrator
- One elected official
- Two additional, at-large members

The new rules included additional racial, gender and geographic requirements. At least three members of the board must be women and at least three must be members of minority groups, with two of the three minority members residing within the city of Milwaukee. And seven of the nine members must reside in Milwaukee County.

"The rationale they gave was that MATC was out of touch with the business community, but that was just public relations," Rosen said. "This was a Republican power grab to put MATC under their control."

The appointment committee, which selects the board members, also was changed. Originally the committee included chairs from the K-12 school boards within the MATC district. Now it's composed of the county executive of Milwaukee County and chairpersons from the Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Washington Counties boards of supervisors.

The business chamber, which was a major proponent of the legislative change in 2011, has a different view of the changes.

"They fundamentally misunderstand the law. Nothing changed with geographic or minority representatives. The changes that were made to the composition had to do with increasing business representation so we could have a better, responsive connection between the board and the customers they're serving, who are the employees they will hire," said Steve Baas, senior vice president of governmental affairs and public policy for the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

"From our perspective it's been a resounding success and the technical college has been on a nice roll this past few years and it's created some innovative new programs like the Milwaukee Promise initiative that will expand access to MATC," Baas said.

Yet a coalition of students, faculty and community members is advocating for legislation that would return the board composition to what it was prior to the 2012 change. They also want the appointment committee to include Milwaukee's mayor, the president of the city council and the president of the Milwaukee board of school directors.

The launch of the new Promise program -- which is expected to bring in even more minority and low-income students -- is why making the board more representative of the student and city population is more important, Rosen said.

Similar to President Obama's [free tuition plan](#) ^[3] for community college students, the [MATC Promise](#) ^[4] will offer last-dollar scholarships to cover tuition for qualified 2016 high school graduates who reside in the college district.

"When we have issues with classrooms being unavailable or issues with transfer credits, we want people on the board who represent us," said Mai McCarthy, an education major in her last year at the college. "I'm Asian, from the city of Milwaukee, 29 years old, mother of two, who grew up poor. How can someone who is rich and white from Ozaukee County have an understanding of my experience or any student attending MATC?"

Part of the issue is that the changes put more power into the hands of Ozaukee and Washington County officials to make the board appointments. Those two counties lie on the edges of the college's district and are demographically different from both the city of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. The appointment committee doesn't have a representative from the city, even though 56 percent of the MATC district resides within city boundaries. Ozaukee County represents 8 percent of the district and Washington County represents 2.25 percent, yet both have a member on the appointment committee, according to Keith Roberts, a senior research fellow with the Institute for International Studies in Education at the University of Pittsburgh and a former MATC administrator.

Nearly 95 percent of Ozaukee identifies as white and about 5 percent of residents fall below the poverty line, while in Washington County 95 percent identify as white and about 6 percent fall below the federal poverty level, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Politically, both counties are heavily Republican.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 65 percent of full-time MATC students received Pell Grants in 2014 and at least 48 percent identify as a minority, while 42 percent identify as white.

"We are routinely described as the most -- or one of the most -- segregated metro areas in the country," Rosen said, adding that a large majority of African-Americans live within the Milwaukee city limits. "There are no African-American-dominated suburbs and very few African-Americans live in the suburbs. Ozaukee and Washington Counties are overwhelmingly white ... they're also some of the most right-wing, conservative, Tea Party Republican-voting counties in the country. The notion of moderate Republican doesn't exist and they've used their control of the Legislature, which they won in 2010, to restructure the governance process of the technical college leading to disenfranchisement of the Milwaukee African-American community."

But Baas argues that the new board composition has become less political because it isn't dominated by special interests.

"Milwaukee County is historically and traditionally very liberal and Democratic, while Ozaukee and Washington Counties are historically more conservative," he said. "But this has really forced ideology out of the process, because they have to work together to compromise."

McCarthy said there haven't been any major negative changes that the board has implemented that she's been able to see as a student, but the gradual disenfranchisement of minorities on the board has her afraid of what they might do in the future.

"It'll strictly be, 'Here's your license, you be a welder and you be a welder and you too,'" she said. "And that's it. You won't have the option to be a teacher, or a nurse, or a scientist or a biologist. Those options should be available and MATC has those options available and we don't want them taken away ... it's obvious with businessmen they'll privatize MATC and that's what this is leading to."

The Focus on Business

Fred Royal, president of the Milwaukee branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a former board member, said Milwaukee has high levels of poverty, around 23 percent, and one of the smallest minority business ownership rates in the country. That explains why the emphasis on business leaders on the board has led to less representation by Milwaukee minorities, he said.

He's also against the preference on board members being from the manufacturing sector.

"There's been a swing in how much welding is needed in the area. All of the labor market indicators show health care will be the biggest employer and have the highest demand in the next five to 10 years," he said. "Other than health care, there's construction ... and that gap isn't being met at this time."

Baas said manufacturing isn't leaving the Rust Belt city anytime soon.

"Milwaukee has the second-largest manufacturing economy in the nation. It's always going to be the key economic sector and driver in the community. Yes, there are other sectors growing -- health care, financial services, food and beverage -- and to their credit, the current board has been

responsive to that and to opening other programs," he said. "But to suggest manufacturing will not be the heart of our regional economy and is not something the technical college should be engaged in is ignoring reality."

Instead, the biggest challenge the local economy is facing, he said, is having a skilled workforce for the economy.

But Royal said the emphasis on business leaders can lead to other problems.

"The other thing is when you have folks who are just business minded, they don't think about the social consequences that the student population is dealing with," he said.

Royal said during his time on the board the former members were sensitive to student issues. For example, if a student's financial aid hadn't been processed or if their payments hadn't been received yet, they were more lenient with allowing the student to register for classes.

"And now it's more of a financial decision that the college deregisters them," he said.

The issue isn't about party politics, according to Royal.

"It's the erosion of the democratic process," he said. "We're focusing on us against them and it's really about the flow of resources You don't shrink government by privatizing services. You just reduce accountability and make a group of individuals benefactors of those services."

Community Colleges ^[5]

Leadership ^[6]

Source URL: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/11/05/milwaukee-technical-college-board-under-fire-lack-minority-representation?width=775&height=500&iframe=true>

Links:

[1] <http://districtboards.org/advocacy/SB275finalreport.pdf>

[2] <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/walker-signs-bill-that-alters-matc-boards-makeup-cl4vpq3-147230035.html>

[3] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/09/09/obama-unveils-new-push-national-free-community-college>

[4] http://www.matc.edu/matc_news/2015_MATCPromise.cfm

[5] https://www.insidehighered.com/news/focus/community_colleges

[6] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/news-sections/leadership>

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Moraine Park a good college for veterans

Moraine Park News Service 12 a.m. CST November 6, 2015



(Photo: Photo courtesy of Moraine Park News Service)

Moraine Park ranked nine in "Military Times's" Best for Vets: Career & Technical Colleges 2016. The list, comprised of 20 schools, recognizes career and technical colleges for their commitment to educating and providing opportunities to America's veterans.

Colleges and universities across the country were invited to fill out a rigorous survey, comprising more than 100 questions, about their operations involving current and former service members and their families. Schools that identified themselves primarily as career and technical institutions were evaluated in five categories: university culture, student support, academic outcomes/quality, academic policies and financial aid.

The Military Times digital platforms and newsweeklies are source for independent news and information for service members and their families. For the full Best for Vets: Career & Technical Colleges 2016 rankings, visit militarytimes.com/bestforvets-ctc-2016. Moraine Park offers a number of programs approved for VA benefits and courses with a variety of flexible scheduling that is attractive to student veterans and military students alike.

Student veteran specialists and advisers provide one-on-one attention in a culture that supports and understands the challenges veterans can have transitioning into college life. In addition, student veterans can become a member of the Student Veterans Association on campus.

For more information about Moraine Park's Veterans Services, visit morainepark.edu/veterans.

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TOP VIDEOS

MPTC forms partnership with Ottawa University

Sharon Roznik 10 a.m. CST December 17, 2015



Moraine Park Technical College and Ottawa University are partnering to offer a four-year college degree for adult learners.

Ottawa University, located in Brookfield, is extending its transfer policy to Moraine Park students for up to 80 credit hours. Of the 124 credit hours required to complete a bachelor's degree, the remaining 44 upper division credit hours are taken at Ottawa University and can be completed in less than two years.

Students who opt for this path are given a scholarship at Ottawa University that allows them to earn a bachelor's degree for under \$25,000.

Ottawa University opened one of the nation's first adult-learning campuses in Kansas City in 1974 and expanded to the Milwaukee area in 1994.

The agreement allows students to complete associate of applied science degrees and then seamlessly earn their bachelor's degree, said James Eden, Moraine Park's vice president of academic affairs

"It's an innovative approach and reflects the respect we have for the education offered by Moraine Park Technical College," said Kevin Eichner, president of Ottawa University

For more information about the transfer program, visit www.transferadvantage.com/mptc.



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Nicolet College "Promise" will combat student debt

Wednesday, December 09, 2015 2:25 a.m. CST



Nicolet College

NICOLET COLLEGE

RHINELANDER, Wis. (WXPR) -- A northern Wisconsin school is making a promise to minimize student debt, and it's a big promise.

Nicolet College has announced the "Nicolet Promise" which will enable qualifying students to attend Nicolet College tuition free starting next fall, and is a very rare and unique program.

Nicolet President Dr. Richard Nelson says the promise means the Nicolet College Foundation will pick up the entire balance of tuition and fees that remain after state and federal grants have been applied to students' accounts. Nelson says the Promise is intended to address the cost of higher education. "And the fact that graduates are assuming more debt. We believe the value of an education here at Nicolet is so high that we want to encourage every high school graduate in our district to at least ask about it." Nelson says the point of the Nicolet Promise is to free students from years of burdensome debt just to further their careers.

Students are eligible if they live in the Nicolet College District, achieve at least a 2.0 grade point or earn a GED/HSED in 2016. They must also complete the federal financial aid form and be eligible for federal Pell grants.

There are other requirements. Nelson says there are fees students will need to assume, like the cost of books and transportation. He says a promise of this type is relatively rare in other parts of the nation.

Nelson says there is more information on the Nicolet College website (<http://www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/features/nicolet-promise.html>).

by Ken Krall, WXPR



Friday, December 18, 2015

Nicolet College dean receives Patriot Award

Kayla Breese
Feature Writer

Friday, December 18, 2015

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee (ESGR) took notice this week of a Nicolet Area Technical College staff member's continued support of U.S. military personnel.

Nicolet College and Brigitte Orrick, dean of Trade, Industry and Apprenticeship, received the Patriot Award for demonstrating exceptional support for military members and their families by offering them good jobs and other assistance.

"Our employers in Wisconsin have really stepped up and helped our military folks with their deployments and in this particular case Nicolet College has done an exceptional job," said John Sweeney, ESGR representative. "Our soldiers, men and women who serve, really depend on stable employment when they return from their assignments and deployments so this has been a very positive thing for Nicolet to receive the Patriot Award."

Orrick was honored that she and Nicolet received the award.

"I think this award is really special because it's an opportunity for Nicolet College to get recognized for providing a good opportunity for our soldiers, a place for someone to work to contribute back to society, and it's good for other employers to see that someone can work for the National Guard and bring their leadership and their skills to a place that can be used even within their organization," she said.

She stressed the importance of hiring military men and women and the important skills they can bring to a workplace.

"I just think it's really important for employers to maybe not regard someone that works for the National Guard as a negative on their application materials. It's really a strength because they have skills as a leader and also technology skills they can bring to their place of employment here, even in the Northwoods or throughout the state of Wisconsin," Orrick said.

She also noted how important it is for soldiers, who are sacrificing so much for their country, to have a job.

"It's important for employers to support our soldiers while they are here working because they have families and of course they need access to health care, an opportunity to provide for their families while they're not serving their country and also the opportunity to engage with the community," Orrick said.

She said the award was special to her because her great-grandfather graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and those who serve the country are making the United States a safe place to live and raise children.

"I'm just speechless," she said. "I was really excited when we found out that I was getting it but that also the college was getting too."

Her employee, Steve Boogren, who is a Chief Warrant Officer in the Wisconsin Army National Guard as well as the electromechanical technology instructor at Nicolet, nominated her for the award.

The Patriot Award tops off Orrick's successful career at Nicolet, as she is leaving right before Christmas so she and their children can be with her husband in Colorado Springs, Colo.

She will be a workforce development director for the Tree Care Industry Association, which is a non-profit organization that supports businesses in urban forestry and agriculture industries. She will help them set up educational and training programs in community colleges across the states.

With a large Air Force and Army base in Colorado, she will continue to interact with soldiers and help them, she said.

"We do appreciate the fact that we have so many good employers out there that are hiring veterans," Sweeney said.

The military takes the nominations and evaluates them in relationship to other employers. The nominating committee then analyzes them and makes a determination.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972.

Kayla Breese may be reached at kayla@rivernewsonline.com.



Kayla Breese/River News

John Sweeney, Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve Committee (ESGR) representative, presented Brigitte Orrick and Nicolet Area Technical College with the Patriot Award for their support of U.S. military men and women Wednesday.

STAR JOURNAL

LOCAL OUTDOORS SPORTS WELLNESS FOOD CLASSIFIEDS OBITS MULTIMEDIA E-EDITION



Nicolet College Culinary instructor Vicki Mendham was the college educator recipient of the Salute to Excellence award, presented by the Wisconsin Restaurant Association Education Foundation. Mendham has been an instructor at Nicolet for 20 years.

> Food

StarJournal -Oct 31, 2015

BORN INTO HOSPITALITY: NICOLET COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS CULINARY AWARD

"I was speechless... this is the greatest honor that I have been given," Culinary Arts Instructor Vicki Mendham

By Eileen Persike
Editor

Nicolet College's Culinary Arts program has another award to add to its stash. Instructor Vicki Mendham was recently honored as the college educator recipient of the 2015 Salute to Excellence Award, presented by the Wisconsin Restaurant Association Education Foundation.

"I was speechless, dumbfounded when they called me," said Mendham. "I just couldn't believe it because of all the college instructors in the state. It's the greatest honor that I have been given."



A close up look at the Salute to Excellence award received by

Mendham was nominated for the award by Chef Jeff Igel, a Fox Valley Technical College Culinary Instructor, and former UW-Stout classmate of hers. "Chef Vicki has been instrumental in growing the culinary arts programs at Nicolet College," he wrote. The College Educator Award is given for Mendham's dedication and commitment to the future of the foodservice industry.



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Nicolet College Culinary Arts instructor Vicki Mendham.

Born into the restaurant business, her parents and now the family owns the

Sunrise Lodge in Land O'Lakes, Mendham helps out whenever needed, but prefers to work in the kitchen. If she appears to be a natural teacher, that may be because education is also a family business.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for my dad who moved to the Northwoods to teach at Nicolet," she said.

One of the best parts of teaching culinary arts, according to Mendham is hearing from students once they have been out in the real world.

"They tell me what they've been doing, what restaurants they have been working at. I can go to many restaurants across the state and our former students are either cooking there or they own it," Mendham remarked. "I also like when former students come back and tell me how they utilize the skills they learned through the program, even if they maybe complained about the class at the time!"

In addition to her work at Nicolet, Mendham is actively involved with WRA Education Foundation programs. She serves as a judge for the ProStart Invitational culinary high school competition as well as the coach for Nicolet's competitive culinary arts teams.

The Salute to Excellence awards were presented at the 2015 Celebration of Excellence last weekend in Milwaukee. In keeping with the family theme, Mendham brought her parents, sister, sister-in-law and 12-year old daughter along for support.

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LOCAL

Young entrepreneurs at Wisconsin high school prepare to make their business pitches

By **NORA G. HERTEL** Associated Press | JANUARY 4, 2016 — 12:10AM

WESTON, Wis. — D.C. Everest Senior High senior Lukas Lindner developed portable waxing tables for Nordic and alpine skis. Now, as part of his school's Young Entrepreneurs Academy, his products are quickly crossing over from the classroom into the real world.

The academy is a hands-on elective course at the high school designed to give students real-world business experience. The 13 participants honed business plans this semester for a range of products and services. They will pitch their products to a panel of investors in March, and many will sell their products next year, if they haven't started already.

Ads by ZINC

Lindner has already gotten started. He developed his first waxing table for his personal use; he's a captain on the ski team. And he has orders for 12 waxing tables with custom finishes. He's contracted a few friends with wood-shop experience to build his product.

"Money management is becoming really real, because not only do I need to pay myself back for the investment that I've made," Lindner said, but also "I want to make sure that my employees get the pay that they need as well."

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy started in 2004 in New York, and D.C. Everest's is one of two launching in 2015 in Wisconsin. The Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce is working closely with the high school to make the program work here.

In the first semester of the course, each student developed a concept for his or her product and drafted a business plan with support from mentors — members of the local business community.

Sophomore Laney Hughes, whose business features custom-designed, embroidered clothing, worked with Sarah Kapellusch, a learning coordinator at Northcentral Technical College, and said she thought it was cool to have a female mentor through the process. Hughes said she has been asking a lot of questions of her mentor. "There's so much to learn from her."

Lindner's mentor, Abby Bank Senior Vice President Craig Stuedemann, told Daily Herald Media (<http://wdhne.ws/1R5OCgJ>) he has been posing a lot of hard questions to his young entrepreneur: "Who's going to buy your product? What if it doesn't work?"

Stuedemann has seen a lot of business plans in his line of work. The students' focus and drive excited him, and so did Lindner's actual product. Stuedemann is a downhill skier himself.

"When I saw his prototype, it just hit me, that 'wow, this is going to work,'" Stuedemann said. "I would definitely purchase his product."

Hughes had a bit of a head start on her project. She already sells hand-embroidered clothes online through Etsy, an Internet marketplace for homemade and vintage goods. Through the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, Hughes is polishing her products and fleshing out a vision for her business.

"In the past, I haven't really planned for anything," she said of her enterprise. She's a hobby artist and thought starting an Etsy shop would be fun. Plus she wanted to emulate her father who started a sports memorabilia shop at age 15.

The class and her classmates' work is more professional than Hughes anticipated, she said. Some of her peers are seeking manufacturers for their products.

She now has a business plan that features her qualifications, data on her target market, a strategy to acquire and keep customers as well as financials, including the cost and profit per product and the cost to package and ship it.

In her free time, Hughes is designing clothing for a new line she wants to release in March, including T-shirts, shorts, jackets and hats. "That's the side I like the most," she said of the design process.

She's incorporating a lot of color into "weird, artsy" ideas-turned-drawings that her embroidery machine will translate onto fabric. The machine and its software are recent investments into Hughes' new business, she said. They'll take her previously handmade work to a new level of precision and speed.

The class has helped Hughes become, in her words, "not stingy, but smart" with her decision making. And she bounces ideas off friends, who help model her products, and her older brother. "When he likes something, I know that it's quality, good stuff," she said.

Classmates also bounce ideas off each other, and that has helped Lindner name his company, Peak Waxing, and develop the slogan: "We'll meet you at the top."

"We've all just been able to help each other," Lindner said. The process is also helping him learn to balance school, work and extracurriculars.

"If my grades my grades start to slip in a class I need to focus on that more," he said. "So it's all a learning opportunity, whether it be in the world of business or just life itself."

Lindner's already reached out to ski teams for feedback. He and his classmates will focus on marketing next. They'll have websites up by March, said Sara Guild, the program manager for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy and Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce's government affairs and workforce development director. That's the month the students will pitch their businesses to a panel of local investors.

Guild is currently looking for more panelists, with real money to spend on the students' businesses.

"When they get back after Christmas, the fun starts," Guild said. "We're really going to be seeing what they're capable of starting now."

An AP Member Exchange Feature shared by Daily Herald Media

Daily Chronicle

Kishwaukee College picks new president

Published: Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015 12:54 p.m. CST

MALTA – Kishwaukee College officials have picked a Wisconsin technical college administrator to be the college’s fifth president.

Laurie Borowicz, who is vice president of student services for Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wisconsin, will take the reins of Kishwaukee College on Jan. 19, the first day of second-semester classes.

She replaces Tom Choice, who announced his plans to retire in June.

“I’m very excited to make the transition to Kishwaukee College,” Borowicz told the Daily Chronicle on Thursday. “I think it’s got a great tradition of excellence, and I’m excited to be part of the campus community.”

The Malta college’s Board of Trustees announced Thursday that it had reached an agreement with Borowicz.

Her employment contract is to be approved at a special board meeting.

A date hasn’t been set for the meeting, according to a news release from the college. Borowicz was selected from a group of four finalists.

Borowicz, 53, previously served as dean of K-12 relations and student success at Northcentral Technical.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in retailing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master’s in guidance and counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

She earned a doctorate degree in higher education leadership from Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin.

“The board is convinced that Dr. Borowicz is exactly the right person to lead Kishwaukee College at this challenging time in the College’s history,” the release said.

Kishwaukee College is a two-year college that offers five transfer degrees and more than 70 occupational degrees and certificates to more than 9,000 students. The college, which has a \$35.1 million budget for fiscal 2016, employs more than 400 people, including 250 faculty members.

“Definitely my first order of business is just to learn more about the college,” Borowicz said. “I need to listen to the stakeholders – both internally and externally – and learn about all the things that are going on at the college.”

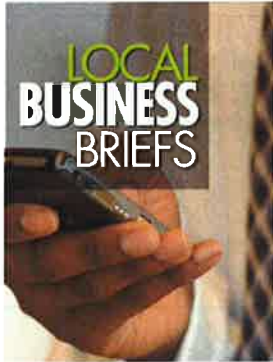
Borowicz said the culture of Kishwaukee helped convince her to take the job and move to the area with her family. She said she was told it’s like family.

“That really struck me, that the college feels like that,” Borowicz said. “I want to be part of a college that is a family. We have that here, and I’m looking forward to having that at Kishwaukee.”

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NWTC hosts biz marketing seminar

 **Jeff Bollier**, Press-Gazette Media 3:21 p.m. CST January 4, 2016



(Photo: Photo courtesy of Google Images)

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's Entrepreneur Resource Center will host a workshop on marketing strategies for small businesses.

The workshop will teach how to create a brand and message that resonates with targeted markets, and also will explore customer demographics and explain social media platforms.

The workshop will be offered on three dates at the Advance Business and Manufacturing Center, 2701 Larsen Road. Sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 21, Feb. 25 and May 25. The workshop costs \$149 to attend.

To register or for more information on upcoming workshops, visit www.nwtc.edu/erc (<http://www.nwtc.edu/erc>) and click "Workshops" on the left side of the page.

jbollier@gannett.com and follow him on Twitter@[GBstreetwise](https://twitter.com/GBstreetwise) (<https://twitter.com/GBstreetwise>).

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Dec. 18, 2015, 11:48 a.m.

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NWTC architecture students build for a cause

Patti Zarling, Press-Gazette Media 5:52 p.m. CST December 17, 2015



NWTC architect technology students created a model of Holy Hill Church as part of a food drive. (Photo: Courtesy of NWTC)

They then must use all of the food collected in their designs.

"It can be challenging because you never know what kind of food you're going to work with," said club president Zachary Solberg. "If you get a lot of one thing but hardly any of something else, it can be difficult."

Cash donations come in handy because students can buy items to supplement the design.

"The event makes it more fun, it's good for those who need help, and it's good for us to use our architecture skills," he said. "It gets students out of the classroom, and it builds awareness."

Builds take a few hours, Solberg said. Faculty from NWTC's architecture department judge the models the following day. They look at the strength of the design, integrity, creativity and the number of items used in the building.

The builds take some thought, but "we will find a way to make it work," said Solberg, who has been in the top team for the past two years. "A lot of departments donate cash, so we can buy things. This year I ended up getting cereal boxes, which worked really well."

His team built the model of Tiletown Brewery. The prize is a traveling trophy and bragging rights.

Solberg knows the tricks of the trade. He said builders must first place heavier items at the bottom, and then be careful about balancing lighter boxes and items atop the structures.

"Sometimes things won't balance, or you will start building the base and realize it needs to be a lot bigger," Solberg shared. "It's nice to have at least one second-year student on your team, because experience helps."

In addition to learning, the exercise provided architecture students a chance to teach their skills.

This year the NWTC students visited Green Bay's King Elementary School to help eager second-graders create builds. The students loaded up their food in trucks, and King Elementary students and staff provided an additional 700 food items.

The young ones made creative and recognizable miniatures of Lambeau Field, the Leo Frigo Bridge and more.

"I couldn't believe how good some of the kids were," Solberg said. "We explained to them what to do, and they went for it. They were amazing."

Solberg graduates this school year, but the club will continue the annual build.

"It's a great way to give back," he said. "Food is something so many of us take for granted. I didn't know we had a food pantry at NWTC until I became involved with the project. It makes you really think."

pzarling@pressgazette.com or follow her on Twitter @PGPattiZarling

SW Tech will accept more midwifery students

TH MEDIA | Posted: Saturday, December 26, 2015 12:00 am

FENNIMORE, Wis. -- A solid economy has led to an enrollment decline at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore.

It also has prompted college officials to explore strategies to bring more students to campus -- including expanding a popular midwifery program.

College President Jason Wood said one approach school officials will take is to expand class offerings that are in high demand.

"We have a very successful midwifery program," he said. "It's the only publicly accredited midwifery program in the country, and we only accept 16 students into the program."

The two-year associate degree program trains midwives who conduct health and nutritional assessments during pregnancies, monitor fetal growth and development, and assist in childbirth. School officials do not market the program or recruit applicants. Still, more than 90 people have applied for the January start, according to Wood.

"So, there's a tremendous opportunity if we open that (the enrollment) up," he said. "If we increase that number, I think they can be of a local benefit."

According to the college's website, students who attain associate degrees in the program qualify for certification and licensure in Wisconsin. The program emphasizes assessment in low-risk pregnancies.

Wood said the school's board of directors recently decided to accept 40 students into the program.

According to the Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health, the practice is growing in the United States. The number of births attended by midwives grew from 3.9 percent in 1990 to just more than 8 percent in 2009.

In addition, births involving midwives are increasing in Wisconsin as a way to fill gaps in maternity care in rural areas.



SW Tech will accept more midwifery students

Jason Wood

New SW Tech president enjoying long days

BY DOUG WAGEN FOR TH MEDIA | Posted: Monday, December 14, 2015 12:00 am

FENNIMORE, Wis. -- After five months in his new role, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College President Jason Wood is pleased he made the move from Wyoming.

"I've enjoyed it, really," said Wood, who previously served as executive vice president for student and academic services at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, Wyo. "The toughest thing I've had to get used to is the sheer workload. There's so many different things, a variety, all the time. It starts early in the morning and goes until late at night."

Wood took over the president's role July 1, following the retirement of Duane Ford. A recent interview highlighted some of his experiences thus far.

* Wood is taking a direct approach to meeting his employees. He already interviewed more than 160 of the college's nearly 200 full-time employees.

He asks employees about their jobs, talents, skills and interests.

"It's fascinating to hear the passion of our employees and where they're skilled and talented, what they can accomplish and what they'd like to do," said Wood.

He also asks what the employees see as the strengths and weaknesses of the college.

It's great to hear about the strengths, "and, ultimately, it's difficult to hear that we've got weaknesses," Wood said. "Employees have been very honest about it -- maybe even brutally so at times. But if we don't know what our weaknesses are, we'll never be able to address them."

Wood will use the information gleaned from those conversations to put together a presentation for the school's board of directors.

* One of the biggest issues facing Southwest Tech is student recruitment, given the college's declining enrollment in recent years, Wood said. "We want to be masters of our own FTE destiny, and we think we can do that," he said.



New SW Tech president enjoying long days

Jason Wood

* Wood has joined the recruitment efforts personally.

That included his participation in a ride-along with a police officer in Darlington. Wood speaks fluent Spanish, and the officer he rode with introduced him to Darlington's Hispanic community.

"The officer saw someone he knew, so he turned on his red lights and he stopped him," Wood said. "So I hopped out of the car and asked the man if he wanted to come to college. The man's name is Victor, and he's from Puerto Rico. He's been here three years working in a cheese factory and would love to go into welding. Victor signed up for our accelerated welding program, and he'll graduate late next August."

Victor has thanked the president for reaching out.

"I had lunch with him on campus last week. It was great to hear his story. He had shots fired at him in his youth. He found Darlington, and now he's going to be a student in Fennimore and wants to make a difference. Pretty exciting."



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Kettle Moraine Superintendent Deklotz named 2016 Superintendent of the Year



Kettle Moraine School District Superintendent Pat Deklotz has been named Wisconsin 2016 Superintendent of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators. Photo By Submitted photo

Nov. 5, 2015

The Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators has named Patricia Deklotz as Wisconsin's 2016 Superintendent of the Year.

Deklotz has served for 10 years as the superintendent for the Kettle Moraine School District (KMSD).

Leadership

Under Deklotz's leadership, KM has embraced the school board's charge to transform schools to better and more efficiently meet the needs of all students, according to a news release. In addition to its four elementary schools, middle school and high school, KMSD has created three charter high schools; one multiage project-based elementary charter school; and a project-based, interdisciplinary multiage middle school house.

KM recently renovated all six of its school buildings and has implemented a robust technology infrastructure. This work was supported by the community's passage of a \$49.6 million bond referendum in April 2014.

While it is recognized on a national level for its work to personalize learning for students, KM is also personalizing learning for staff.

The KMSD school board voted unanimously to nominate Deklotz as Superintendent of the Year. In the nomination, board President Gary Vose noted the "extraordinary leadership" she has provided, according to the news release.

Honored by award

Deklotz said she is deeply honored and humbled by the recognition.

"This honor is a reflection of the amazing work of our school board and our educators," said Deklotz in the release. "I am very proud of our team and the personalized learning opportunities we provide students."

She also credited the support of Kettle Moraine parents and community members for the district's success.

Qualifications

Taking a nontraditional route, Deklotz worked 20 years in financial software development and with nonprofit organizations before becoming a teacher in 1996. She earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees by doing homework aside her children, according to the news release. Before being employed as a KM educator, Deklotz served as a parent volunteer and for five years on the school board.

Deklotz serves on the state Coordinating Council for Educator Effectiveness, Waukesha County Technical College Board, GPS Education Partners Board and the President's Advisory Council for Carroll University. She is chairwoman of the Cooperative Service Agency No. 1 Superintendent's PAC; co-chairwoman of Southeast Wisconsin Schools Alliance, vice chairwoman for Waukesha County Technical College and president of GPS Education Partners, a nonprofit provider of youth apprenticeships. She is also an active member of the business and civic organizations serving the 10 municipalities that make up the KM School District.

Deklotz lives in Delafield with her husband, Joe. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Deklotz will represent Wisconsin in the National Superintendent of the Year Program in Phoenix in February.

The Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators will present the 2016 Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year award to Deklotz in Milwaukee in January.

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Grant-funded Western class offers PCW certification

NOVEMBER 12, 2015 4:31 PM

Western Technical College will offer a 30-hour personal care worker certification course that provides training for entry-level employment in a health-care setting.

The course will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays from Nov. 25 through Dec. 11 in Room 206 of the Kumm Center, 400 N. Sixth St.

Responsibilities of a personal care worker may include personal care of the client, maintaining a safe environment and understanding legal and ethical considerations regarding health care. Many personal care workers continue their education in other areas of the healthcare industry, such as nursing, respiratory care, physical therapy and more.

Course participants are expected to commit to the full workshop and will receive a certificate upon completion. The cost for Wisconsin and Minnesota residents is \$149.30. Participants 62 years and older pay \$4.50. To register, call Western Technical College at 608-785-9553.

For more information, contact Sandra Schultz at 608-785-9151 or schultzs@westerntc.edu or Ray Heidel at 608-785-9167 or heidelr@westerntc.edu.

The program is funded by a TAACCCT Round IV \$19.9 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The program is an equal opportunity program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

A matter of degrees

By Suzanne Lindgren editor@osceolasun.com | Posted: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 9:14 am

Not too many decades ago, a high school education and strong work ethic were all a person needed to succeed.

The economy has changed since then and more jobs require a post-secondary education, but that doesn't mean every student, or even most, need four-year degrees.

Roughly 50 percent of high school seniors in northwestern Wisconsin plan to pursue a four-year degree, according to data from Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction. About 20 percent plan to go to a technical college and 30 percent plan to join the military, enter the workforce or another option outside of higher education.

In today's economy, however, only 30 percent of jobs require a four-year degree, said John Will, president of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. A full 50 percent are middle-skill jobs, the kind of job that one would get with a technical education, and 20 percent would require only on-the-job training. These numbers are regional, but are consistent with national data.

"When people talk about the skills gap, this is what they're talking about," said Will. "People need more [than a high school] education to get jobs, but there's another problem with what we're communicating to young people about what their expectations ought to be when they go off to school.

"We're preparing a lot of students to go on to post-secondary school," he continued. "The question is, are we getting them into the right system? There are a lot of good jobs you get with a technical education, yet we have one in ten students in our dis

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trict choosing technical education."

According to a WITC study, 95 percent of its students are employed within six months of graduating, with 78 percent employed in their area of study.

They enter the workforce at an average of \$36,000 and typically see their incomes increase by 50 percent five years after graduation.



John Will

John Will, president of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, speaking to the Polk County Board, Dec. 15

“That would put them in the low \$50,000s after five years,” said Will, “which for a one or two year degree is a good pay amount. ... It’s pretty close to what a lot of four-year degrees can provide.”

A report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers released in 2015 found that the average starting salary of a four-year graduate was about \$45,000. The salaries varied greatly by major, with liberal arts students bringing home about half of what engineering grads made: \$36,000 and \$64,000, respectively.



Chad Anderson uses water jets to machine a part earlier this month at Northern Engineering in Superior. The company, which will celebrate its centennial in 2016, recently opened a new addition. (Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram)

Superior machine shop expands as it nears 100th anniversary

By [Maria Lockwood, Superior Telegram](#) on Dec 27, 2015 at 9:00 p.m.

The footprint at Northern Engineering has grown, just in time for the Superior machine shop to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Earlier this month a ribbon-cutting was held for its new 6,500-square foot addition. After a century of keeping ships running smoothly, lead foreman Mike Ossana said, “we just ran out of room.”

Tucked near the waterfront at 100 Ogden Ave., Northern Engineering has been specializing in the repair and renewal of mechanical equipment; industrial gear

drives; conveying and propulsion systems; engine heads and valves; shaft and bearing replacements; analytical assessment and test; as well as maritime engineering capability since 1916.

“Being able to machine and outfit the ore boats like they’re able to do, I’m not aware of anybody in the world that could do the same sort of work,” said Charlie Glazman, associate dean of education for Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

The machine shop partners with Fraser Shipyards – Fraser tackles the outsides of ships, Northern Engineering fixes the internal issues.

“We take it off the boat, bring it in, fix it, bring it back out on the boat,” Ossana said. “We also ride the boats, fix them while they’re running down the lake, because we don’t like delays.”

The machine shop can bring its expertise to any customer, with mobile welding, boring and machining available for onsite jobs.

President James Farkas attributes the business’ longevity to having skilled workers, providing the right training and tools, and treating people with respect.

“We’re available 24/7,” Ossana said. “We pride ourselves on that, being available to our customers.” The shop employs about 23 during the busy winter season.

In addition to huge wrenches and sledgehammers that possibly date back to the founding of Northern Engineering, the building holds CNC machines, a waterjet cutting machine, lathes, vertical mills, balancing machines and welding apparatus. The new addition, the third in the company’s history, will help hold the increasing array of equipment.

“What we’ve always tried to do is when a customer has a need, we try to find the right tool and the right training to satisfy it,” Farkas said. That has expanded their reach and allowed for diversification. The know-how and equipment needed to work on the hearts of ships can be applied to mining, railroad, steam plant, logging and other industries.

“We can pretty much tackle anything,” said Daryl Warring, a machinist/mechanic

with Northern Engineering, and “can’t” is not in their vocabulary.

“No matter what, we’re going to get it done, and we always do,” Warring said.

Following the ribbon-cutting, he and fellow mechanic Dennis Robertson looked over a speed reducer box for a railroad conveyor belt.

“We took three boxes and made one out of it, because they don’t make this style anymore,” Warring said.

A pulp mill roller bigger than some of the visitors rested in another area. A crew recently pulled a gearbox off a 180-foot-high grain dock and brought it down to work on it. The succession of projects is anything but routine.

“I love it because nothing’s ever the same, you know what I mean?” Warring said. “Every job going on is a different situation.”

There’s a hefty dose of troubleshooting involved, and it supports a central Twin Ports business.

“As soon as I started here, I immediately wanted to be here full time,” shop welder/mechanic Josh Gault said. “It’s the neatest thing ever. People see the boats going under the bridge, but they don’t really understand what goes into maintaining these boats and keeping them running. Plus it’s actually a vital part of the economy. It feels pretty cool to be part of that.”

Northern Engineering customers include the Calumet refinery in Superior and Madeline Island Ferry in Bayfield. When a ferry boat needs specialized maintenance, Northern Engineering is who they call.

“They’re very good, very professional,” said Gary Russell, senior vice president of Madeline Island Ferry. For an average person, it would be tricky work, he said, but it’s not for the experts at Northern Engineering.

“If you think you have a problem with a propeller or shaft, they can measure it and

detect if the shaft is bent by a hair,” Russell said.

Northern Engineering may be rooted in the past, but it’s looking toward the future.

“We have six scholarships at this company with WITC – two in machine tool, two in industrial arts, two in welding,” Farkas said, and Fraser recently added another four welding scholarships. The companion companies handed out eight \$250 scholarships the day before the ribbon-cutting.

Company officials say it’s a way to encourage young people to get jobs in manufacturing, and the benefits are mutual. Northern Engineering has hired at least four WITC graduates, and a handful of its mechanics currently are taking a class at the technical college.

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