



January 2019

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## Getting ahead of their past: First class of jail grads receives BTC certificates

By Catherine W. Idzerda [cidzerda@gazettextra.com](mailto:cidzerda@gazettextra.com) Dec 14, 2018



Stacey Williams, left, on Thursday shows her family, Dawn Williams and Clay McKenney, machines that she learned how to use at Blackhawk Technical College in Milton. Williams is one of seven Rock County Jail inmates who graduated from the college's first Machine Operator Boot Camp.

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Angela Major

### MILTON

They have spent their lives making the wrong choices: driving drunk, selling or using drugs, engaging in minor skirmishes or major disputes that attract the attention of the police.

Now they want to attract the attention of employers.

On Thursday, seven Rock County Jail inmates graduated from Blackhawk Technical College's first Machine Operator Boot Camp. At a ceremony at the college's Advanced Manufacturing Center in Milton, the graduates received certificates in CNC Fundamentals and CNC Turning Operations—basic skills that have the potential to get them good jobs once they leave jail.

The audience was filled with the graduates' family members and officials from the jail's RECAP program, Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and BTC. Representatives of local businesses also attended.

Some of the graduates were earning their high school equivalency degrees while attending college classes. Most of them also had to participate in RECAP programming that includes alcohol and other drug counseling, parenting classes, restorative justice programs, anger management and employability skills.

Blackhawk Tech's CNC classes ran every day from 4 to 8:45 p.m. and for eight hours every other Saturday.

It's crucial that inmates finish their certificates before leaving jail, said Erika Bemrich, BTC's jail instructor.

Many of them have families to support. A job also helps them start a new life away from bad influences.

"They need to hit the ground running when they leave," Bemrich said. "I feel like if they could just have a chance, they wouldn't end up back in jail."

Stacey Williams, 29, of Janesville was sentenced to jail for possession with intent to deliver synthetic marijuana. She has had previous stints in jail, and her record includes a long list of misdemeanors.

Eighth grade was her last year of school.

Before entering the BTC course, she didn't know anything about machining, nor was she particularly mechanical.

"I worked at Generac for a while, but not on the machines," Williams said. "When I first looked at a blueprint, it looked all foreign. But now I can read them. It all happened in six weeks."

She has also been working on her high school equivalency degree with Bemrich.

"I never thought that I would actually say this, but I'm actually appreciative that I came to jail," Williams said. "I would have never dreamed that I would get my HSED (high school equivalency degree), let alone have been a college graduate, if I hadn't come here."

Williams credits the support of the RECAP staff, Bemrich and her other teachers for helping her succeed.

“At first I was like, ‘No, I can’t. No, I can’t,’” Williams said. “They kept on saying, ‘Stop selling yourself short.’ And now I’m at the end of it, and I’m like, ‘I did that.’”

Her goal is to find a company where she can stay for a long time and advance. She also wants to be able to teach other people the skills she’s learned.

Jeff Stahulak, 32, of Lake Geneva hopes to find a new job that will give him more structure and stability. He has a high school degree and previously did seasonal concrete work.

In construction trades, drinking is almost a part of the culture.

After four operating-while-intoxicated arrests, Stahulak can’t drink anymore. He won’t get his driver’s license back until 2020, so he’s hoping to find a job close to home.

While Stahulak talked, his 4-year-old son, Finn, came over and crawled into his lap.

His daughter and wife were there, too, and Stahulak said he realizes how lucky he is to have a family that supports him.

He hopes the CNC training will allow him to further his education and his career. He believes he will be successful.

“What it really comes down to is that Rock County has this program that blends your incarceration with your release,” Stahulak said. “That usually doesn’t happen. Most people get out of prison, and they’re scared to death. They don’t know where they’re going or what they’re going to do. But when you come out of RECAP, you potentially have a job, and you have your after-care mapped out.”

BTC hopes to continue the program.

“There’s a lot of men in there that are looking to further their education, to get a leg up,” Stahulak said. “It’s something that can help them get ahead of their past.”

Catherine Idzerda  
Reporter - Education



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TOP STORY

## Farm offers serene experience

Mary Hookham For Agri-View Nov 27, 2018



Dan Wegmueller says he's proud of his family farm outside Monroe, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Ashle, run the farm's longevity by opening it to the public and offering bed-and-breakfast accommodations in the farmhouse.

Mary Hookham/For Agri-View



Mary Hookham

**MONROE, Wis.** – Imagine a peaceful herd of Brown Swiss cows grazing contentedly in a pasture near a back country road, blue sky overhead with birds landing spontaneously on the fence posts to share their songs with the cows.

Along with an American flag stationed atop an old windmill base whipping in the wind with a beautiful dairy barn behind it, it's all an everyday sight at Mil Neu Farm near Monroe. And it's a sight guests can now experience firsthand thanks to the creativity of farmers Dan and Ashley Wegmueller with their newly opened bed and breakfast.

“This provides an actual farm experience rather than people just reading about rural life on the internet,” Dan Wegmueller said. “I think farms like ours have a lot of potential if they can find a niche.”

After his parents passed away, Wegmueller considered how best to continue farming during the current difficult agricultural times. The couple had an idea to turn the farmhouse, built in the 1970s, into a bed and breakfast to give the public an opportunity to not just visit a farm but to stay on one for several days. Their idea is to invite the public to be as involved in day-to-day operations as they wish.

“I tell everybody who will listen, and even those who don’t, that this project represents the best of both of us,” he said. “It was very much a team effort.”

The construction was not easy or cheap, but the two were able to successfully tie in new construction with the addition his father had put on the farmhouse in the early 2000s. They created a four-bedroom two-bath rental space on the main floor – perfect for two couples with children or one family. There’s plenty of space to stay cozy by the fireplace, watch television, do crafts, color, read or simply relax. Relaxing can also be done on a deck that overlooks the scenic farm.

“People can step out on this deck and enjoy their morning coffee or an afternoon bottle of wine. And twice a day the cows walk right past,” Wegmueller said. “This underscores what we do here and brings the farm into the experience.”

The Wegmuellers did most of the renovations themselves and finished earlier this fall. They’ve already welcomed several groups of guests from around the Midwest and from as far away as Ecuador.

The second half of the couple’s ambitious project is a completely renovated basement in the farmhouse. What was once a typical catch-all farmhouse basement is now an apartment.



“This is a separate stand-alone apartment,” he said. “The idea behind this is that I’ve come to understand that one of the biggest problems in agriculture is that we’ve got a lot of young people graduating who are interested in getting into farming. But land, buildings, machinery, livestock, everything is so prohibitively expensive that unless you have a direct connection to it, it’s almost impossible to get your foot in the door anywhere.”

The apartment is fully furnished. It has sound-barrier protection from the upstairs rental space as well as indoor cement steps going outside so no snow shoveling is required. Occupants have a laundry room, a full kitchen, a bathroom and space to relax. The Wegmuellers say they would like to work a trade with apartment occupants. Rent, utilities and other living costs would be reduced or eliminated if the occupants agree to work part-time on the Wegmueller dairy farm.

“If two people work together to relief milk and mix feed, they could crank that work out in no time,” he said. “And one of them could still work full-time off the farm. I always need help hauling wagons or doing things around the farm, so the other person could be paid an hourly wage.”

Dustin Williams, lead instructor in the Agribusiness and Farm Management Program at Blackhawk Technical College in Monroe, is an acquaintance of the Wegmuellers. He said he’s hoping to send some of his students their way for possible apartment occupancy.

“I think this is awesome,” Williams said. “It’s a golden opportunity for people who didn’t get experience growing up on a farm. Maybe they’re from the city and would like the opportunity to get back to their roots and learn about agriculture.”

More than half of his students are not from farms but have found interest in agriculture through FFA programs or other agricultural-related opportunities. Farm kids are in great demand with many companies, Williams said. But he’s hoping

companies will realize how few people are available to hire, and then support kids with farming interest but no experience.

He said his students realize the difficult agricultural times they're breaking into upon graduation, but they remain hopeful the industry will turn around sooner rather than later. Farming these days requires more creativity than ever before, he said.

In the meantime the Wegmuellers are spreading the word about their available apartment and the opportunities it provides for young people. Williams as well as the local community are stepping up to help.

"People could have a two-income household with all their living expenses paid," Wegmueller said. "That's a pretty sweet deal."

Mary Hookham is a freelance agricultural journalist and photographer from Janesville, Wisconsin. She grew up near Footville on a 140-acre beef and chicken farm and went to high school in Orfordville. She graduated from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a bachelor of arts degree in print journalism and a minor in English for writers.

# Fox Valley Technical College Trains Veterans to be Entrepreneurs

By: Robyn Oguinye

Posted: Nov 05, 2018 10:19 PM CST

APPLETON, Wis. - A Fox Valley Tech initiative in its second year will be returning after receiving tens of thousands more dollars to fund the program.

The college's "E-Seed" program trains returning military veterans to become entrepreneurs.

From an international confections business to a mobile smoothie bar this class of veteran entrepreneurs are all writing business plans in hopes of making their businesses a reality.

"Without this class I would have never taken any business classes," says U.S. army veteran Angel Storm. "I have a PhD, but I would have no idea how to set up a business let alone write a business plan."

"E-Seed" is in its second year and will now have a third.

The secretary of Veterans Affairs delivered a check for more than \$94,000 to the college.

The students say the entrepreneur course gives area vets direction.

"Most veterans get out of the military and they aren't exactly exactly sure what they want to do," says U.S. army veteran Brandon Bonfiglio. "They had everything provided for them, they knew where to be and when so they get out and maybe they don't have a compass pointing them in the right direction."

"Entrepreneurship is the backbone of our economy and veterans are ideally suited to be successful as entrepreneurs," says Amy Pietsch, director for FVT's Venture Center. "So having a program that really helps them engage with the ecosystem and understand the systems and processes and procedures to be successful as an entrepreneur can really add to the economic vitality of the communities we serve."

The money pays for the course for more than 20 students.

Not to mention once the students complete the course they receive \$1500 to start their business.

"You meet so many people, Amy has lined up all of the experts to come in and talk to us about trademarks and copyright laws, different attorneys and different corporations and things like that," says Storm. "The contacts that we make here are invaluable."

An opportunity that gives our vets the chance to learn and to keep giving back to their country.

"This gives me the opportunity to take a finished business plan with Amy's help to a bank or what have you to get the necessary funding to get off the ground," says Bonfiglio.

[https://journaltimes.com/news/local/racine-man-park-high-grad-is-global-technician-champion/article\\_1a40ca1c-0959-5978-a73a-c7ab85abe9d9.html](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/racine-man-park-high-grad-is-global-technician-champion/article_1a40ca1c-0959-5978-a73a-c7ab85abe9d9.html)

### Success Story

## Racine man, Park High grad, is global technician champion

EVAN CASEY For The Journal Times Dec 27, 2018

TRY 1 MONTH FOR 99¢



Matthew Bertagnoli is watched closely as he works on a portion of the skills competition during the 13th Prix World Technician Competition earlier this month in Fujisawa, Japan.

JASON CANNON, submitted photo



M. Bertagnoli

RACINE — Bill Bertagnoli always thought his son Matt was special. But it wasn't until he wanted to cut his lawn one day that he knew Matt might have some unique skills.

“He (Matt) liked to tinker in the garage and one day I wanted to use the gas edger for the lawn and it was all torn apart,” he said. “That kind of set the tone for better things to come.”



B. Bertagnoli

Bill was right. Earlier this month, Matt competed on a two-man team in a global competition that tests the skills of technicians who work for Japan-based Isuzu, a medium-duty truck manufacturer.

## At a Glance

Earlier this month, Matt Bertagnoli competed on a two-man team in a global competition that tests the skills of technicians who work for Japan-based Isuzu, a medium-duty truck manufacturer. The 13th annual Isuzu One Grand Prix World Technician Competition included 32 countries; Bertagnoli's team took second place.

The 13th annual Isuzu One Grand Prix World Technician Competition took place on Dec. 6 at the Isuzu Monozukuri Service Training Center in Fujisawa, Japan. The competition included 32 countries — the American team took second place; a team from the Philippines was declared the competition's grand champion.

Matt, an 18-year veteran technician who works at Lynch Isuzu Truck in Rochester, attended Park High School and Gateway Technical College in Racine. He says he was interested in science and geometry in high school, but “fell into” technician work when he was young by fixing cars and other things in the garage. He has since moved on to fixing some of the largest trucks in the world.

“I wanted to be able to fix it myself,” he said. “I like figuring out how stuff works and then figuring out why it doesn't, too.”

## The competitions

Every Isuzu technician has to be up to date on training to even be eligible to compete in the skills competition — a feat that took Matt seven years. He flew back and forth to Isuzu North America training facilities in California and Pennsylvania, spending up to a week in training at the facilities.

After all his training was up to date, he took a written test to qualify for the Isuzu North America skills competition — a competition that decides who qualifies for the global competition. About 145 technicians across the continent took the written test — Matt was one of only 12 technicians who made it to the final skills competition in Pittston, Pa., last August.

The North American competition included three exercises — two of the tests were focused on diagnostics and repairs. A written test also was part of the exercises. Matt said he was ready for the test, as the main part of his job as an Isuzu technician is problem-solving; he usually runs emission and diagnostic tests on the trucks and physically inspects vehicles for any issues.

Matt says he felt great about his performance at the North American competition.

“I was surprised at how well I did,” he said. “That day I felt really confident.”

Two other technicians were picked to compete in the global competition that took place at Isuzu’s Training Center in Japan. However, only Matt and Kiel Trout from Seattle were selected to compete on the day of the competition. The team spent a total of three weeks in Pennsylvania training for the competition. They spent additional time completing written tests in preparation. The team also flew to Japan a few days before the competition to prepare.

“Pulling up and basically getting red-carpet, VIP treatment and to be able to meet global dignitaries ... it was awesome,” said Matt.

The global competition was much like the North American competition. After the written portion of the competition, Matt and his partner moved on to the practical exam, which they had 45 minutes to complete. Matt remembers being very anxious during this part of the competition.

“The coach turns to me and says, ‘it’s a gearbox’ and I said I’ve never taken one of those apart before and I started to freak out,” he said. “While we were waiting, my coach did a quick overview of what to do. I had to measure these pieces and reassemble it.”

Matt says he followed a step-by-step procedure manual that was provided and finished the test with time to spare.

“The whole time it’s going on you can’t get your breath,” Matt said.

Justin Ridings, the team’s coach and the technical training specialist for Isuzu Commercial Truck of America, said Matt settled down quickly.

“We didn’t necessarily practice on the gear but we were able to talk each other through the gear and where to measure it,” Ridings said. “Once we

were reading about it his comfort level widely increased.”

Matt’s performance helped the Isuzu Commercial Truck of America (ICTA) team finish in second place for the second year in a row.

“We are so proud of our team,” said Shaun Skinner, president of Isuzu Commercial Truck of America. “Matt’s and Kiel’s diagnostic and repair skills represented ICTA beautifully and demonstrated that Isuzu service technicians in the United States can go toe to toe with the best technicians in the world.”

### Back at home

Matt said he was excited to get back home and teach some of the technicians at his shop. He said he doesn’t want to work in a shop his whole life, as he is also interested in research and development.

“I was joking that I want to hurry up and win so I can go back because I have three to four technicians I’m mentoring right now,” he said.

Matt said he will recommend the competition to his mentees.

“But it’s not for the faint of heart,” he said.



[http://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/gateway-breaks-ground-on-massive-imet-center-expansion/article\\_bf989fde-c2e5-5a51-a080-fbbe72ae74e2.html](http://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/gateway-breaks-ground-on-massive-imet-center-expansion/article_bf989fde-c2e5-5a51-a080-fbbe72ae74e2.html)

## Gateway breaks ground on massive iMet center expansion

By JAMES LAWSON [jlawson@kenoshanews.com](mailto:jlawson@kenoshanews.com) Oct 22, 2018



STURTEVANT — Gateway Technical College broke ground Monday for the expansion of a multi-million dollar Foxconn Technology Group advanced manufacturing training facility at the SC Johnson Integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology center.

Addressing an audience of more than 200 educators, governmental and business leaders, GTC President and Chief Executive Officer Bryan Albrecht said the expansion will make the college the first in the nation designed with the capability to train and accommodate a new industrial concept of “smart advanced manufacturing” known as Industry 4.0.

Gov. Scott Walker attended the event as did Alan Yeung, Foxconn’s U.S. director of strategic initiatives, and Fisk Johnson, chief executive officer and chairman of the SC Johnson & Sons.

“This is a global school for a global economy,” Albrecht said.

Each of the speakers touted how the expanded facility would help transform the economy and work environment in southeastern Wisconsin because it would provide training that would enable workers to earn a family sustaining income.

Walker noted Foxconn has made a big impact on the state and will not only provide 13,000 jobs, but will affect the growth of jobs in other areas as well. Foxconn has already made a commitment to develop innovation centers in Racine, Eau Claire and Green Bay, and has established its U.S. corporate headquarters in Milwaukee. Those locations are expected to employ hundreds more.

Foxconn has also made a \$100 million commitment to the expansion of the engineering college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has launched a \$1 million Smart Futures-Smart Cities challenge to provide scholarships and financial awards to college students throughout the state.

## The expansion

The project calls for an nearly 36,000 square-foot expansion that nearly doubles the current iMET center at 2320 Renaissance Blvd.

It will feature training in robotics and various other state-of-the art manufacturing processes designed to meet the needs of Foxconn and other regional companies that need workers with special production, technical and engineering skills. Plans call for a two-story facility that will feature new classrooms, offices, several dedicated laboratories and a training room.

Construction on the \$6.5 million project is to begin next week and is expected to be completed in time for the beginning of Gateway's 2019 fall semester.

The project has several corporate sponsors including Amatrol, Rockwell Automation, Siemens, Snap-on Inc. Trane Corp., and Fanuc Robotics Americas, that is providing robots and accessories for the facility.

## Developing labor force

Johnson said Gateway has been in the forefront of training, noting his family and their company were proud to be supporters of the iMET center where a boot camp program is producing workers who obtain specialized training.

"This expansion will help the needs of our workforce," Johnson said. He said GTC's boot camps have a 96 percent graduation rate and have placed many well-trained people into jobs in the region.

"For Foxconn, (the iMET Center) is the place for innovation," Yeung told the audience. "We're not doing this because we want to, we need to. This is a great expansion and extension."

**James Lawson**

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Lakeshore Technical College- Home > About Us > LTC News > Press Release

Lakeshore Technical College Among Top 10 Finalists for Bellwether Award

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/27/2018

### CLEVELAND, WI –

Lakeshore Technical College has been selected from more than 1,000 entries as a top 10 Bellwether Award finalist. This annual award recognizes cutting-edge, trendsetting programs that other colleges around the nation could find worthy of replicating. It is considered one of the most elite awards given to community colleges.

Bellwether Awards are given annually in three categories to colleges with outstanding and innovative programs or practices. LTC is a finalist in the Workforce Development category. Its MicroMatch Upskilling program was nominated by Bay Area Workforce Development Board Executive Director Jim Golembeski.

"Recognition like this shows how we at LTC work to not only identify the needs of employers in our community, but the extensive efforts we put forth to explore new, innovative ways to meet those needs when traditional paths cannot work quickly enough," says LTC President Dr. Paul Carlsen. "This national recognition is an honor, and well deserved by our team who met a very difficult challenge with their forward-thinking approach."

The MicroMatch Upskilling program entry will continue going through an extensive review process that will culminate at the Community College Futures Assembly being held in February in San Antonio, Texas. At the assembly, the 10 finalists from each of the three categories will complete the review process by presenting their entries to a panel of judges from around the country. The judges will also give final reviews of all supporting documentation. Winners will be announced at the assembly.

Presenting "Just enough, Just In Time, Just Right: MicroMatch Upskilling" for LTC with Carlsen will be: Vice President of Instruction James Lemerond; Vice President of Outreach Julie Mirecki; Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture, Automotive and Energy Sheila Schetter; and LTC District Board of Trustees Chair John Lukas.

The MicroMatch Upskilling program was developed to help fill the increasing need for electro-mechanical technicians. These technicians set up, operate and program robots that are being used at an increasing level by lakeshore area manufacturers who are expanding their use of robotics, automation and artificial intelligence in all aspects of their operations today. LTC partners with local manufacturers to define the ideal electro-mechanical skill sets for a variety of positions. Aptitude tests were then deployed to existing employees to identify skills gaps. Based on the data and test results, LTC developed short-term training seminars designed to be used independently or stacked to fill the gaps of each individual employee.

Being a Bellwether finalist is just one of the many national recognitions LTC has received in the last 18 months: the Aspen Institute named LTC a top-150 two-year college (for the fourth consecutive time), Forbes ranked LTC the #17 trade school in nation, WalletHub.com ranked LTC #9 in the nation for two-year college educational outcomes, Washington Monthly ranked LTC the #3 two-year college in the nation for adult learners, and the American Association of Community Colleges recognized Dale Saunders as a 2018 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty.

### **About Lakeshore Technical College**

Each year more than 10,000 people enroll in courses at Lakeshore Technical College. They rely on LTC for job preparation, to earn a degree, upgrade a specialized skill, train as an apprentice, or seek a high school equivalency. LTC faculty and staff meet students where they are in life and help them get one step closer to achieving their goals.

LTC, a nationally recognized technical college, was recently named a top 10 Bellwether Award finalist. The college was also ranked the #17 trade school in the nation by Forbes, the #3 two-year college in the nation for adult learners by Washington Monthly, #9 in the nation for two-year college educational outcomes by WalletHub.com, and a top-150 two-year college for the fourth consecutive time by the Aspen Institute.

Close to 1,000 students graduate from LTC each year, and LTC's associate degree graduates earn a median salary of \$46,800 per year. In addition to the Cleveland campus, LTC serves students in Manitowoc and Sheboygan, and offers classes at four additional sites throughout the district. Visit LTC at [gotoltc.edu](http://gotoltc.edu).





BREAKING Sheriff to provide update next week on case of missing girl whose parents were slain

[https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/ask/catching-up/catching-up-madison-area-technical-college-s-new-campus-on/article\\_58621d50-c7d0-5755-92ec-8b7ea29bf64b.html](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/ask/catching-up/catching-up-madison-area-technical-college-s-new-campus-on/article_58621d50-c7d0-5755-92ec-8b7ea29bf64b.html)

TOP STORY

CATCHING UP | WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ... ?

# Catching Up: Madison Area Technical College's new campus on schedule to open fall 2019

KELLY MEYERHOFER kmeyerhofer@madison.com Dec 24, 2018

TRY 1 MONTH FOR 99¢



A rendering of the planned Madison College South Side campus at 801 W. Badger Road. PLUNKETT RAYSICH ARCHITECTS LLP

### MORE INFORMATION



Four-story, mixed-use building would include student housing along Stoughton Road

Madison Area Technical College's project adding a 75,000-square-foot campus to one of the city's poorest and most diverse neighborhoods is on schedule to open for the fall 2019 semester.

The South Side campus at the corner of South Park Street and Badger Road is on schedule to open just after Labor Day, Madison Area Technical College President Jack Daniels said.

Daniels estimated about 35 percent of construction was complete, including the structure, roof and some plumbing.

- Big hotel approved for Downtown MATC site
- MATC court reporting teacher typed 9/11 transcripts at Guantanamo

Bay

- Transferring to UW-Madison may soon get easier for this group of students. Here's why

“We still need walls, electricity, technology,” he said. “There’s a lot of work that still has to be done, but the actual framework is in place.”

The two-story facility known as Goodman South Campus will have about 20 classrooms, a library, three computer labs, four science labs and a dining area. Some of those classrooms will be turned into “community rooms” for parts of the day based on the college’s scheduling. Area groups will be able to request use of those rooms when they are available.

The roughly \$24 million project is entirely funded through donations, including \$6.5 million from Ascendium, formerly known as the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation and Affiliates. Another \$10 million came from the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation and \$1.3 million from the American Family Dreams Foundation.

The fundraising campaign is ongoing and 233 MATC employees have contributed to date, according to college spokesman Cary Heyer.

MATC, also known as Madison College, announced in October 2017 that it would be accelerating its timeline from three phases to a single phase. The project broke ground in June on the 4.35-acre site of the former state Employee Trust Funds building.

“The mood was ‘This is now happening,’” Daniels said of the groundbreaking ceremony. “This is a catalyst for change and for economic development. The opportunities people in south Madison will have — there’s a lot of excitement around what we’re doing.”

Staff who will be moving to Goodman South have been notified and no more than four new hires will be made, Daniels said.

The number of full-time faculty who will be assigned to that campus is unknown at this point and depends on scheduling, he said.

Soon, the college will start marketing the campus' course offerings. Enrollment begins in late spring, he said.

Daniels said he expects a grand opening for the public to take place in late September or early October.

Have an idea for Catching Up? Send it to [justaskus@madison.com](mailto:justaskus@madison.com)

### Kelly Meyerhofer

Kelly Meyerhofer covers higher education for the Wisconsin State Journal. She can be reached at 608-252-6106 or [kmeyerhofer@madison.com](mailto:kmeyerhofer@madison.com).







## BETTY BRUSKI MALLEK ELECTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES (ACCT) WEST REGION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 7, 2018

Mid-State Technical College Board member Betty Bruski Mallek was recently elected to serve on the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Committee for the West Region. Bruski Mallek accepted the two-year term assignment and position of influence on behalf of Mid-State at the national the 2018 Annual ACCT Leadership Congress held Oct. 24-27, 2018, in New York City.

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is a nonprofit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical and junior colleges in the United States and beyond. Consisting of professionals, business public policy leaders and leading citizens, ACCT members offer their time and talent to serve on the governing boards of two-year colleges and make affect more than 1,200 colleges and over 11 million students annually.

Bruski Mallek will participate in the nomination of future directors of the Association. She is also an active member and leader of the Wisconsin Technical District Boards Association and was elected secretary treasurer of that organization last year. At the national level she also participates in the National Summits to increase awareness of Mid-State and support lobbying efforts focused on supporting the College's mission.

"Mid-State Technical College appreciates Betty's commitment to our college and the mission of the Wisconsin Technical College System," said Mid-State Dr. Shelly Mondeik. "She has served our district for 27 years as a board member and advocate for technical education, and we are excited for her to State and the WTCS at the national level."



*Betty Bruski Mallek (second from right) at the 2018 Annual ACCT Leadership Congress in New York City in October, where she was elected to serve Nominating Committee for the West Region. Also pictured (left to right): Mid-State Technical College president Dr. Shelly Mondeik and Mid-State B Lynneia Miller and Robert Beaver.*

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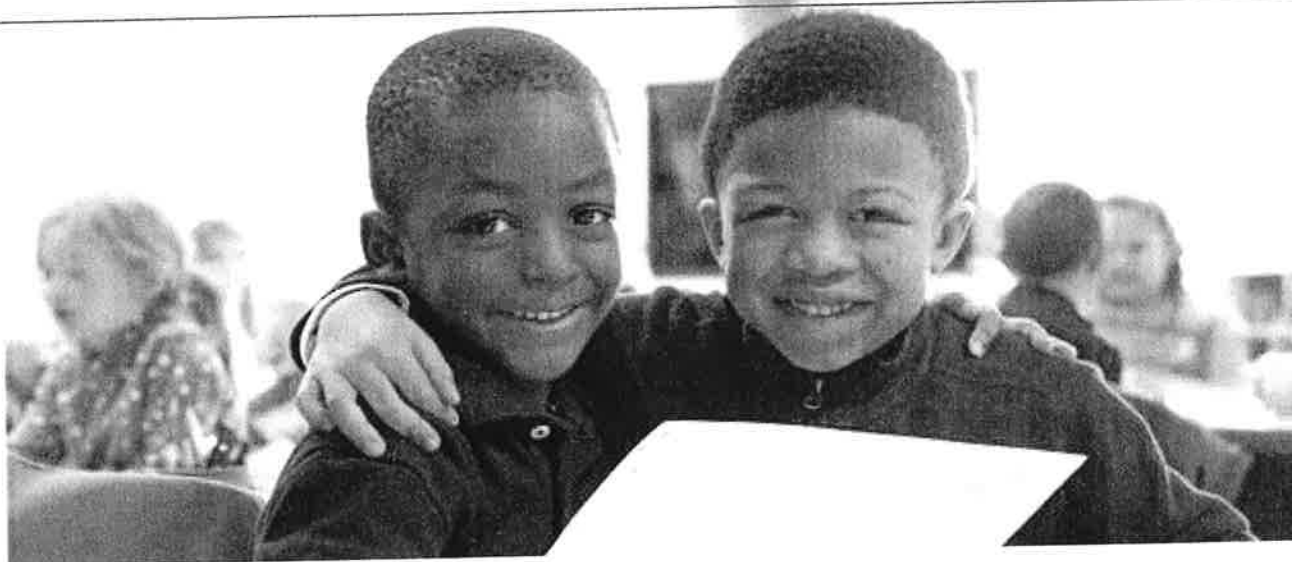
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MPS and the City of Milwaukee are collaborating on a new early childhood education push. (PHOTO: Milwaukee Public Schools)

## MPS & City of Milwaukee announce early childhood initiative



By [Bobby Tanzilo](#)  
Senior Editor/Writer  
Photography:

Published Nov. 1, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.



Milwaukee Public Schools, in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee, in conjunction with the Milwaukee Promise Zones, UW-Milwaukee School of Education, Milwaukee Area Technical College and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, announced a new early childhood education initiative Thursday morning at Gwen T. Jackson School, 2121 W. Hadley St.

Milwaukee Public  
Schools

The focus of the initiative includes:

[E-mail author](#) | [Author bio](#)

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Tanzilo

- Ensuring every Milwaukee family has access to high-quality childcare
- Improving MPS early literacy scores
- Increasing state reimbursement rates for day care centers
- Leveraging resources to ensure a high-quality learning experience from day care to school

"As a community, we must answer the question of how we are positively influencing each of those first five years in every child in the city," said MPS Superintendent Dr. Keith Posley, referencing research that suggests that 95 percent of brain development occurs in the first five years of life.

"A child does not create the conditions and opportunities that he or she is born into – as a community, we do and we can change those conditions. Building a strong foundation sets the stage for ambitious instruction."

A statement issued by the district notes that MPS and city government "are joining together to build on past momentum and push forward. The City of Milwaukee has hired a qualified individual (Dea Wright) to help spearhead early childhood literacy work. MPS is working with child care partners to see how Milwaukee can create consistency of high-quality learning experiences from birth-to-5 that improves literacy but also supports social (and) emotional development."

The Common Council [established the Office of Early Childhood Initiatives](#)

([https://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/ccCouncil/2017-PDF/News-](https://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/ccCouncil/2017-PDF/News-Releases/District02/11_28EarlyChildhoodFinalcj.pdf)

[Releases/District02/11\\_28EarlyChildhoodFinalcj.pdf](https://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/ccCouncil/2017-PDF/News-Releases/District02/11_28EarlyChildhoodFinalcj.pdf)) in 2017 and its director reports to City Librarian Paula Kiely.

Posley was joined by State Sen. LaTonya Johnson, Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton and Ald. Cavalier Johnson at the press conference.

[https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/announcements/community/students-learn-about-health-related-careers/article\\_5ab406f9-eaea-51bc-8457-d70207a87ad6.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/announcements/community/students-learn-about-health-related-careers/article_5ab406f9-eaea-51bc-8457-d70207a87ad6.html)

## Students learn about health-related careers

Nov 16, 2018

TRY 1 MONTH FOR 99¢



A group of high school students participated in a Health Career Exploration Day on Nov. 7 at Beaver Dam Community Hospital.

CHRIS PERCY/Contributed

A select group of high school students from Central Wisconsin Christian School and Beaver Dam High School, along with their advisers, participated in a Health Career Exploration Day on Nov. 7 at Beaver Dam Community Hospital. This event was co-sponsored by the hospital and the nonprofit organization South Central Wisconsin Area Health Education Center.

The students toured some behind-the-scenes areas of the hospital, such as the laboratory, therapy and medical imaging units to learn from staff about the wide variety of health care careers available to them. They even tested their skills using a robot in a surgical suite.

The students also talked with and asked questions of hospital personnel who work in other areas of the hospital, such as the Emergency Department, Dietetics and nursing personnel. Speakers from the Blue Zones Project and Moraine Park Technical College provided information about the importance of wellness and the health care career programs available in the afternoon.



# Grants To Rural Hospitals Address Health Care Worker Shortages



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By KEN KRALL • DEC 6, 2018

Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander, Nicolet Area Technical College and North Central Technical College have received a grant to assist rural hospitals in filling "high need, high demand" medical positions.

State Department of Health Services spokesperson Linda McCart says the grants are designed to address health care workforce shortages in rural communities.

McCart says a Wisconsin Hospital Association study found a need for workers...

*"...We also allowed hospitals to identify other occupations that may or may not have been on their list, if they could document an unmet need and a shortage of workers to fill that need..."*

The grants support education and training for an array of allied health professionals, including surgical technologists, substance abuse counselors-in-training, central service technicians, sonographers and phlebotomists.

To get the grant, hospitals were required to form partnerships with educational organizations and health systems. The grant for the Ascension-St. Mary's and the two technical colleges was for \$112,000, as part of \$300,000 given to four other groups including Marshfield Medical Center and Hospital and Mid-State Technical College.





## Your Northwoods News Leader

WJFW 12 / WJFWDT 12.1

**Main: [General News](#): [Local News](#)**

### ***Nicolet College offers new EMR and EMT course***

Submitted: 10/16/2018

**Rhineland** - Every job requires some level of training. That's especially true when your job is to save other peoples' lives.

But even with the desire, becoming an emergency medical responder doesn't happen overnight. Pelican first responder Norman Peterson said volunteers aren't always free due to other jobs and commitments.



"Currently we have six active members on the EMS squad," Peterson said. "I would love to have at least 12 to 15 on our squad. So we would know you'd have two or three on a call."

Local fire departments are always looking for volunteers, that when dispatch puts out a call, they know they can respond.

Well, now a new program that started in November at Nicolet College may help combat that shortage. It's a two-part EMT program that Dana Baumgartner helped put together.

"Our new offering of the EMT course is split into two different sections, EMR and EMT part one and EMT part two," said Baumgartner.

Splitting it into two parts means students can take more time if they're too busy to take it on a more standard schedule. That way, what's normally a five-credit 180-hour course is now split into a three-credit 108-hour course."

After the first part of the course, students can even start volunteering at local stations once they pass the national test.

"Those folks will be set and ready to go mid-November," said Baumgartner.

"I think it will be beneficial for the community for wherever these people serve," Peterson said.

Students can jump right into the second course if they've already been through initial EMR and EMT training.

The first part of the course began in September. The second part begins in early December and registration is still open.

Written By: Angela Kim

**Text Size:** [+ Increase](#) | [Decrease -](#)



# Northcentral Technical College

## Unveils New Mobile Lab



Monday, October 29, 2018 9:01 p.m. CDT

by Liz Holbrook

WAUSAU, WI (WSAU) -- A new mobile lab will get it's first showing on Tuesday afternoon.

Northcentral Technical College will be debuting their new Advanced Manufacturing Mobile Lab at 1 pm on their Wausau campus. The mobile lab which is part of a partnership between the school, the North Central and Northwest Wisconsin workforce boards, and the Wisconsin department of workforce development, let students teach others about advanced manufacturing.

Associate vice president of marketing, public relations, and legislative advocacy Katie Finch says NTC is excited to debut the lab to partners. "We are excited to showcase this to some of our partners in K-12, some of our legislative partners, government partners. Then, of course, our

manufacturing partners who will benefit from this great new training lab."

Felch says there are already several requests for the lab at different locations. "We've already had requests to visit some high schools to train students through the end of 2018. The lab will also be at the manufacturing summit. This fall we're also hoping to develop training opportunities with the manufacturing industries. So there's a lot of excitement."

Much of the equipment within the mobile lab is focused on the technology side of manufacturing, including two Haas CNC machines, 12 CNC programming trainers and 12 laptops. Felch describes it as, "All different ways that you can construct a new product to have better efficiency than existing products. So it's a lot of the automation and the technology side of manufacturing."

The public is encouraged to attend the launch of the mobile lab from 1 to 2 pm at NTC's Center for Business & Industry on the Wausau Campus. A program will be given featuring NTC President Lori Weyers and Wisconsin DWD Secretary Ray Allen with tours of the mobile lab available after.



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## Wisconsinites struggle to find qualified contractors

BY PATTY MURRAY | WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO Nov 13, 2018



For many homeowners around the country and in Wisconsin, finding a qualified and skilled tradesperson to do contract work can be a struggle — no matter the size of the job.

Beau Court and Dakota Styczynski were recently working on enclosing a porch on Green Bay's near-east side. The two young men, both graduates of North East Wisconsin Technical College, are in high demand for residential contracting work.

As Styczynski said: "I think we've had a stretch where we've worked like 17 days in a row. One night we worked until midnight drywalling and mudding up a garage to get the work done for the guy."

An advertisement for "Spirits of Spooner LIQUOR DEPARTMENT" at Economart. The ad features a 10% discount on 6 or more bottles of wine, mix or match. It shows images of wine bottles and a wine carrier. The Economart logo is at the bottom, with the address "Spooner, WI • Open 24 Hours".

Social media sites such as Nextdoor are rife with posts from people in search of a "handyman" who can tackle projects.

Styczynski said there is a new sense of urgency from current and prospective clients.

"They want it done yesterday," Styczynski said.

Court agreed.

"A lot of people want it done before they even call us," Court said. "They just can't find people to book it in because the contractors are booked back years, some of them are."

Court added that a small team like that of his and Styczynski's are more nimble.

"Starting off on our own, it makes it a big deal that we can actually get these projects in quick and get them done for people," Court said.

Ryan Foley is the vice president of field operations at Green Bay's HJ Martin and Son, a larger contractor that works on both residential and commercial projects. He said the company is reaching out to high school and even middle school students to fill the need for workers.

"We're looking for people who are willing to learn a mechanical aptitude or work experience on the job training," Foley said.

Foley said the company starts qualified workers at upwards of \$30,000 a year plus benefits, but he thinks most people don't consider a job in the trades to be desirable.

"If they didn't have a family member or friend, or relative in the trade, then they might not know that it even exists so that's what we try to do, provide some awareness and exposure," he said.

Foley also pointed to huge projects such as the Foxconn facility in southeastern Wisconsin as a major drain of workers, leaving fewer people to do smaller jobs, creating a backlog of contractor requests. Natural disasters such as hurricanes can also lure workers away from Wisconsin, he said.

Tight labor markets in areas like construction and manufacturing can threaten the pace of the nation's economic growth, a 2018 Federal Reserve District report showed. The trends places like Wisconsin and the country are seeing are not good for the overall economy.

But according to Andy Sellner, the owner Alair Homes in Green Bay, people power isn't the only thing in short supply.

Sellner, also the vice president of the Brown County Homebuilders Association, said the industry is short on "both product and people." He said 10 years ago he could get something like a door delivered in a couple of weeks, now it can take a month or more.

"Which shows that (suppliers) are running into issues at the factory as well, to produce the products that we need," Sellner said.

Since full-time, skilled tradespeople are in such high demand, Sellner and others say retired contractors are taking advantage of the situation and stepping back in to doing smaller residential jobs.

According to Gene Francisco, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's associate dean of construction and transportation, 2018 may see more workers than in years past.

"The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development has predicted an 11,000 job increase over what they have had in 2017. So that is a lot of folks," he said.

Anecdotally, Francisco added that at a time when workers are scant, the number of women entering the field is growing.

Still, the state Department of Workforce Development predicts a shortage of 11,468 jobs in "skilled trades" between July 2017 to June 2019. Skilled trades include carpenters, plumbers, and electricians.

For Francisco, even if all of those jobs were filled, it still might not be enough.

"It is just crazy right now, my neighbor is an electrician and I asked him about doing some work for me the other day and he said, 'I'm not taking new customers,'" Francisco said.

Even though the wait lists can be daunting, he cautions home or business owners to only hire contractors who are licensed and insured.

Meanwhile people like Court and Stycznski are ready to take on more jobs.

As Beau said, "Once you learn some of this stuff you can apply it anywhere. You can do it on your own house, sibling's houses, family, you can use this skill anywhere, it's awesome."

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# Southwest Tech

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## News Release

### For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Daniel Wackershauser, Marketing Specialist  
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**Mail:** 1800 Bronson Blvd., Fennimore, WI 53809  
**Date:** December 14, 2018

## Real Estate Foundation breaks ground on new facility

Fennimore -

With a waiting list of more than 50 students wanting student housing, the Southwest Tech Real Estate Foundation Board voted to approve adding 24 new beds in three new buildings in 2019.

After gaining approval from the Fennimore City Council Dec. 10, the REF will step up its work with construction partner Midwest Builders of Fennimore to insure two 8-bed duplex units are completed in time for the fall 2019 academic session.

Members of the REF Board, Southwest Tech and Southwest Tech Foundation joined Ryan Rands of Midwest Builders to hold a groundbreaking ceremony on the site, which is adjacent to the college on the east side of campus. "We are honored to work with the Southwest Tech Real Estate Foundation to build this housing facility,"

### Press Releases

#### Lactalis selects West for Sponsor-A-Scholar program

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - Fennimore

#### Jeff Dornink Memorial Scholarship endowed

Monday, January 7, 2019 - Fennimore

#### Traveling civil rights exhibit to be displayed on campus

Friday, January 4, 2019 - Fennimore

#### DRA grant helps equip new Teaching and Learning Studio

#### Real Estate Foundation breaks ground on new facility

#### Student emergency funds receive boost during #GivingTuesday



Pictured (L-R): Holly Clendenen, executive director of the Southwest Tech Real Estate Foundation; Mindy Johnson, REF Board member; Brad Biddick, REF Board member; Chris Prange, REF Board and Southwest Tech District Board member; Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president; Kevin Raisbeck, REF Board member; Dan Imhoff, Southwest Tech director of facilities; and Ryan Rands, Midwest Builders, break ground on a pair of 8-bed duplexes adjacent to Southwest Tech's campus.

Rands said, "Our work here shows our commitment to the City of Fennimore and to the future of this area and we are excited to complete this needed work."

In addition to this project, the REF has also commissioned an 8-bed duplex facility that is currently under construction by the Southwest Tech Building Trades-Carpentry program, under the guidance of instructor Jim Broihahn.

The carpentry students have built four other duplexes adjacent to the Southwest Tech campus, but on the south side. Demand has driven the housing expansion as the waiting list suggests. In addition, the REF Board has retired two worn-out properties that have served the housing program well. This commitment to building additional housing works in partnership with the college's goals of building a more inclusive campus and for fostering student involvement.

"The added benefit to the REF projects, in addition to providing a revenue stream that supports the Southwest Tech Foundation, is that students who live on-campus have proven they perform better in the classroom and have become more involved in campus life," said REF

**3M Prairie du Chien,  
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**Farm to Tech event offers  
unique dining experience**

**Dairy Goat Academy to  
attract experts in the field**

Executive Director Holly Clendenen. “Our No. 1 goal is for students to have a great educational experience at Southwest Tech, and their success is the reason we do what we do.”

The REF currently has 116 beds under management. With the expansion projects and the razing of other outdated structures, the REF is expecting to own and operate 13 buildings with 140 beds in 2019. If the REF can sustain its operations, plans are underway for additional housing over the next five years. Again, supply and demand will dictate the speed at which new housing beds are added to the inventory.

“We are proud of our partnership with the REF,” Southwest Tech President Jason Wood said. “We work together, yet function separately, to insure that both sides are doing what’s in the best interest of its respective mission. We have a working memorandum of understanding that spells out who is responsible for what and how this relationship is meant to work and flourish. We’ve had some great discussions, we’ve debated our multi-year plans and in the end we are executing on a vision that gives our students great opportunities for success.”

REF Board President Ben Wood agrees. “The college has been great to work with, and we are optimistic about what the future holds for our housing program,” he said. “The REF is cautious, too, so we are carefully moving forward. The housing program at Southwest Tech has been an asset for several decades. Our role is to continue to build and maintain the housing at a level that is a source of pride for Southwest Tech.”

Contact: Dennis Cooley, Public Relations Manager

Phone: (608) 822-2747

E-mail: [dcooley@swtc.edu](mailto:dcooley@swtc.edu)





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# MUKWONAGO HIGH SCHOOL

## Students partner with building firm for real-world experience

By Freeman Staff

Oct. 18, 2018



**Mukwonago High School Building and Trade Class students are helping to build a home on Regees Road while being mentored by professionals from Korndoerfer Homes. From left: Crystal Schlinke, Tony Navarro, Dominic Meszarosch, Angelo Lalicata, Mark Soirey, Spencer Prucha, Tom McCormack, Mikey Gindhart, Matt Dombroski, college/career readiness coordinator Dustin Lehman, John Korndoerfer, MASD Superintendent Shawn McNulty, Jake Sadler, Kyle Butryn, School Board President Mary D'Amour, and Darrell Dekeyser.**

*Submitted photo*

MUKWONAGO — Mukwonago High School has added another way for students to get valuable experience in the trades. Through a new partnership with Korndoerfer Homes, students in the Building and Trade Class are helping to build a single-family home in The Orchards subdivision this fall. The 1,933-square-foot ranch home is expected to be completed and ready to move into during February. There was a recent groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction.

"We are proud to invest in a future workforce that is critical to the success of home building in southeast Wisconsin," said Korndoerfer Homes Scheduling and Construction Manager John Korndoerfer.

While the MHS partnership with Korndoerfer Homes is new, the tradition of students working step-by-step with local subcontractors dates back to 2000. The School to Work program originally launched with the help of the Mukwonago Rotary Club and Mukwonago Education Foundation. Since then, six homes have been completed through the program.

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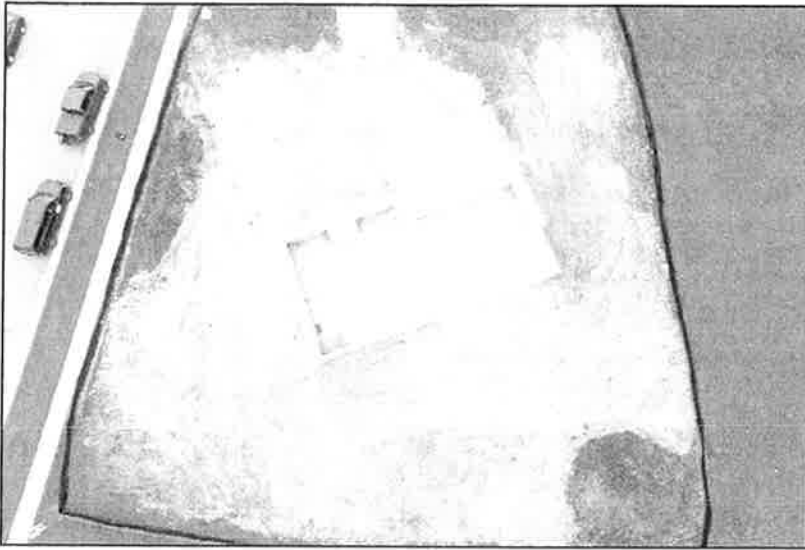
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The site of a new home in the The Orchards subdivision of Mukwonago. Mukwonago High School students are assisting at the job site.  
Submitted photo

Students in School to Work go to a job site up to four days a week. They also simultaneously earn transcript credit through Waukesha County Technical College. "It is great learning on the actual job site and not in the classroom on smaller, simulated projects," said MHS senior Mikey Gindart.

MHS technical education teacher Mark Soiney says the project benefits not only the students, but subcontractors as well. He said some of them have already been asking about hiring students as soon as they turn 18.

The three-bedroom, two-bathroom Geneva Ranch home is located on Regees Road. It will feature a three-car garage and a walkout lower level.

MHS senior Jake Adler says working with professionals has been great, adding "I think I have learned so much more being on the job site than I would if I was in the classroom."

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Western student Michelle Caley talks with a college counselor.  
Western Technical College

Michelle Caley is always on the run. As a mom, holder of two jobs and student at Western Technical College, her life is always filled with something. A marketing student with several online courses, Western's program offers flexibility in an already hectic world.

Being a single mom while juggling two jobs and college also requires Caley to be careful with her finances.

"I have my money budgeted. There isn't a single penny extra to go anywhere," she said. "For me to go back to school, it was a big struggle."

As part of her online class this fall, Caley was required to watch several videos. Those videos, however, were eating into her paid internet service, and quickly becoming a problem.

"I pay \$45 a month for internet and I was running out of data, and I was 15 days out from my pay cycle," Caley said. "I didn't know what to do. I was coming into work early trying to do my assignments before I punched in. I was just struggling with everything on my plate."

Students come to Western with a variety of financial needs. In cases of an unexpected financial hardship, there are several ways Western can assist. For instance, Western offers emergency funding to help with expenses such as car repairs or housing expenses. Transportation assistance is also available for students who are commuting long distance for class. The Cavalier Cupboard, Western's on-campus food pantry, provides access to nonperishable food and hygiene items.

"Many people do not realize that Western can help if an emergency occurs in a student's life," said Lyndsey Thomas, financial literacy coordinator at Western. "When a student comes to us, there are several ways we can help."

It's simply a matter of determining which avenue to pursue, and whether a student is willing to come forward.”

Caley shared her frustrations with a counselor at Western. After looking at her case, the counselor determined that Western's Fast Fund, a new grant provided to Western's Local 3605 American Federation of Teachers union, would be the best route to provide emergency funding in Caley's time of need.

She was awarded \$100 as part of the program, and used the funds to help her pay her internet bill. That money, she says, was the difference in whether she continued her education.

“I would have had to drop a class (without the funding),” Caley said. “For me, to not have to drive to campus at night, means a lot. I can still spend that time at night with my kids.”

For more information on emergency funding at Western, visit [www.westerntc.edu/student-emergency-funding](http://www.westerntc.edu/student-emergency-funding). More information on improving a student's financial standing can be found at [www.westerntc.edu/financial-wellness](http://www.westerntc.edu/financial-wellness).

#### About the series

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

**Marc Wehrs**

Local news editor



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## Oredock improvements taking shape

By RICK OLIVO rolivo@ashlanddailynews.net Dec 3, 2018



A new steel word sculpture graces the entryway to the historic Soo Line Oredock on Ashland's waterfront. The sculpture, constructed by a welding class at Ashland's Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College campus, will be among the featured developments at the Oredock as it undergoes work to make it one of Ashland's premier attractions.

Rick Olivo/Staff Photo

### *New sculpture, light towers move project forward*

As the cold December winds blow across the deck of the historic Soo Line Oredock, there are few people around to see a pair of harbingers of improvements at the structure.

Since demolition of the dock's superstructure was completed in 2013, Ashlanders have been eagerly awaiting the day when they will be able to walk the full 1,800-foot length of the dock to fish, take in the summer sun or just admire the vista of Chequamegon bay nearly a third of a mile from shore.



That rebuilding and repurposing project has already gotten underway in a significant manner as a steel word sculpture of the words "ASHLAND OREDOCK" has been installed in its concrete pedestal near the Oredock entrance.

The sculpture is the creation of a welding class at the Ashland campus of the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College under the guidance of instructor John Nuutinen, said Ashland Mayor Debra Lewis.

"We provided the steel, and they provided the skill," she said.

The steel itself was purchased with a Wisconsin Coastal Management grant while the base was paid for with a Department of Natural Resources grant.

Joining the sculpture are a half-dozen lighting towers that once lined the top of the Oredock, where tremendous convoys of ore cars would drop their umber-colored shipments of natural iron ore from mines on the Gogebic Range of Michigan and Wisconsin.

The towers, removed from the oredock when demolition began in 2011, were sent to a restoration firm in Michigan, sandblasted and repainted jet black, returning them to their original condition.

"We don't have the wiring in yet, but that will take place in 2019," said Lewis.

Another top priority project to take place in the spring will be the construction of safety ladders on the dock, something that will make retrieving persons who may take a tumble off the dock much easier than the current arrangement of throwing life rings and ropes.

Ashland Parks and Recreation Director Sara Hudson said a less-visible step toward completion also has finished: the pouring of concrete for the new pavilion that will be built in the spring. A foundation for one of the old ore chutes has also been poured. The chute will be used as an interpretive exhibit and to recognize all of the people who have donated to the restoration project.

Hudson said the city remains about \$400,000 short of the \$1 million needed to trigger a matching million-dollar grant from the Oredock Trust Fund.

"We are going to be looking for other grant funding as well as any donations that people will make," she said.

"We are about halfway to the end with the funds we have now," she said.

Hudson said the walkway project to the end of the Oredock can't take place in 2019 if fundraising efforts aren't successful.

“If we are able to get the \$150,000 Wisconsin Coastal Management grant, that will help us get the little bit of a boost we need, along with the \$360,000 DNR grant, we will at least be able to go out and look for bids,” she said.

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[http://www.osceolasun.com/news/witc-hosts-sessions-in-balsam-lake/article\\_5f702c74-d151-11e8-880d-b7098798e629.html](http://www.osceolasun.com/news/witc-hosts-sessions-in-balsam-lake/article_5f702c74-d151-11e8-880d-b7098798e629.html)

## WITC hosts sessions in Balsam Lake

Oct 18, 2018

### Prepares to open Polk County campus

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College will soon open a Balsam Lake Campus, thanks to efforts by Polk County Board members.



The college will offer a series of topical sessions this fall and next spring, inviting Polk County residents into the new Balsam Lake Outreach Center to see the space and learn about WITC's local offerings.

The first WITC Business Buzz will be geared towards safety. Safety coordinator Todd Larson will present the top 10 OSHA safety citations for 2018. This event is free and is scheduled on October 18 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.



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After the presentation, Associate Dean Liz Pizzi will offer tours of the facility. To register, visit <https://www.witc.edu/witc-business-buzz>.

WITC is planning a soft opening for the campus next spring, when it will offer a sampling of classes. In April, organizers plan to host an open house to announce the campus's fall 2019 offerings.