



April 2018

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**(WI Tech College DBA@districtboards)**

# Franklin Middle School Students Get a View of the Future

By Catherine W. Idzerda cidzerda@gazettextra.com

Feb 21, 2018

## JANESVILLE

Sarah Schultz, 11, pulled the welding helmet over her pink hair.

Inside Franklin Middle School's technical education room, a similarly garbed high school student was waiting to help Sarah complete her first weld.

On Tuesday, Franklin Middle School held a College and Career Readiness Day designed to expose students to life's possibilities and to show them how the work they do in school connects to the real world.

"Middle school students don't know what they want to be yet," said Franklin counselor Julie Konstanz. "They might have some ideas, but they tend to gravitate to the things they know."

And by "things they know," Konstanz means things their parents do and the jobs they see every day.

Tuesday's presenters came from 60 careers, ranging from dog trainer to welder, chef to pastor and police officer to dentist.

Students were given surveys to gauge their interests before the event. Using that information, organizers tried to track students into presentations that would interest them the most.

Organizers also tried to find jobs in each of the 16 career clusters such as human services; education and training; science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and architecture and construction.

That last category is probably why Sarah found herself in the welding demonstration.

"I want to be an architect," she said after finishing her first weld.

The three high school students who served as instructors didn't know what they wanted to be in middle school. But once they began to take courses in high school, the choices became clear, they said.

“There are always going to be welding jobs,” said Garret Nastali, 17. “If a bridge needs a weld, they can’t outsource that to China.”

Salaries for welders range from about \$28,000 to \$51,000, a Parker technical education instructor told the students.

Konstanz said bringing the high school welders to career day was an especially good way to show students that school matters.

Take algebra and geometry for example.

“You really need it for problem-solving,” said Aidan Brown, 17.

His classmates Garret Nastali and Carlton Ross, both 17, agreed.

If it seems strange to be taking career advice from 17-year-olds, consider this: Two of the boys are already taking classes toward their welding certificates at **Blackhawk Technical College**.

Ross will graduate from Parker High School in June. He’ll finish his welding certificate next fall, graduating in December.

At 18, he’ll be starting his career.

## 200 Wisconsin Apprentices Receive \$300,000 in Scholarships from Great Lakes

February 22, 2018

Great Lakes Education Philanthropy // News & Updates // February 22, 2018

### FUNDS HELP COVER COST OF EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND CLOTHING TO KEEP APPRENTICES ON PATH TO COMPLETION

Madison, Wis.—Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates is pleased to continue its highly successful Tools of the Trade Apprentice Scholarship program for a fifth year. A record \$300,000 in scholarships has been awarded to 200 construction and industrial trades apprentices attending each of the 16 Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institutions. Each apprentice received \$1,500.

With the ever-present demand for skilled employees, federal and state lawmakers are focusing on apprenticeship as a tool to meet the need. Most apprenticeship programs combine up to five years of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Wages are modest and financial aid options are limited.

Tools of the Trade scholarships help apprentices with financial need purchase expensive tools, clothing and equipment required by their trades, so they can complete their programs and secure good jobs.

Charles Walker of Park Falls, Wisconsin, is a plumbing apprentice at Nicolet Area Technical College and a single dad of two daughters, ages 7 and 10. His \$1,500 scholarship will help him purchase tools needed to become a master plumber. He said, "This scholarship is an investment in my future and my family's future. And investing in my education is the best investment I can make."

Great Lakes has supported Wisconsin apprentices with financial need since 2013. Over the past five years, 94% of Tools of the Trade scholarship recipients have either completed or continued their apprenticeships the following semester.

"Our scholarships help technical college students overcome financial barriers and complete highly skilled training programs so they can advance to in-demand careers," said Richard D. George, President and Chief Executive Officer of Great Lakes. "We're proud to help Wisconsin's hardworking apprentices build brighter futures."

To learn more about the Tools of the Trade Apprentice Scholarship program, visit [community.mygreatlakes.org](http://community.mygreatlakes.org).

## 2017-2018 TOOLS OF THE TRADE APPRENTICE SCHOLARSHIPS

- BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE

15 recipients

- CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

11 recipients

- FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

20 recipients

- GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

4 recipients

- LAKESHORE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

15 recipients

- MADISON COLLEGE

44 recipients

- MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

8 recipients

- MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

20 recipients

- MORAIN PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE

14 recipients

- NICOLET AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

3 recipients

- NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**9 recipients**

- **NORTHEAST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**13 recipients**

- **SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**1 recipient**

- **WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**10 recipients**

- **WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**9 recipients**

- **WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**4 recipients**

## Age Doesn't Matter

By all appearances, Amy Mossman was living a very satisfying life.



She liked her steady, full-time job as a medical receptionist. Her two children were successful – a daughter at UW-Milwaukee, a son in high school. She held a BA degree in Art from UW-Oshkosh, an educational journey that included studies at UW-Madison.

Yet something in Amy Mossman's life was missing.

She knew, as she explained, that she "wanted to see the world," and her role as a receptionist at the MercyElkhorn Medical Center was not the avenue to get there. "My reception work really is great, but it is not my life's goal," she said.

Even worse, there was something stale about her daily regimen. The challenges she wanted were missing.

So, instead of building a resume of regrets, Mossman dived into a new lifestyle built on a resume of possibilities. In her late 40s, she decided to go back to school.

That's why you find Mossman at the **Blackhawk Technical College** central campus every Tuesday and Thursday from morning to night taking classes in math, psychology, sociology and physics worth 13 credits, and building the foundation toward what she hopes is a successful petition into Blackhawk's Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Vascular program.

"It has gotten me out of a stagnant way of being," Mossman said one recent Thursday as she took a late-morning break between classes.

The re-education of Amy Mossman actually began at the Elkhorn campus of Gateway Technical College, where she took required General Education courses. She eventually

landed at Blackhawk because it has the program she wanted that she hopes will make her a world-wide traveling ultrasound technician.

She envisions the day that she is a “global locum,” or a traveling professional who temporarily fills an ultrasound technician position wherever needed for as short as a few weeks to as long as a few years.

“This is such an up-and-coming technology,” she said of the future of sonography. “All the stuff they are finding with ultrasound technology is amazing.

“They’re healing bones, healing wounds. It’s not an invasive procedure. I think there is a good future in health care and research in this field.”

Mossman admitted there was some trepidation when she rearranged her life’s course. Part of it was the simple factor of becoming a full-time student at 49. However, three months into this adventure, she wonders why she ever had doubts.

“I thought there was a chance I would feel out of place,” she recalled. “But I felt so welcomed from the first day I got here. I feel I am part of the Blackhawk community.

“At Blackhawk, you are encouraged to succeed. I realized early on that age doesn’t matter here if you have the desire to succeed, and Blackhawk has made that very apparent to me.

“I noticed in my first class just how much diversity there was in the classroom and I was so impressed with how I was accepted. Age simply didn’t matter.”

Mossman understands that she has not taken the easiest of roads. She figures that upon successful petitioning in January, she will have two years of study followed by one to two more years of working in the field before she can set off on her travels.

“I’m antsy to get out and see the world,” she said. “This is my chance.”



## **CVTC Provides Free Dental Care on Give Kids a Smile Day**

**Director: Program benefits students and community**

By Lauren French

Amid the hustle and bustle of dentists, hygienists, kids and their parents on Friday at Chippewa Valley Technical College, one woman leaned over a young patient wearing a bright pink shirt and black snow boots.

“Oh, you like to cook? What do you like to make?” the dentist asked as she prepared a numbing agent for the girl’s mouth.

The dentist explained what she was doing as she spread the numbing agent along the girl’s gums. A hygienist offered up her glove-clad hand for the girl to hold while the dentist began administering painkillers with a needle.

The girl was one of about 100 kids to receive free dental care as part of the college’s Give Kids a Smile Day. The program is a partnership between the CVTC Dental Clinic and area dentists, who donated their time and skills free of charge. Children between ages 2 and 13 are eligible for the program, which takes place annually.

Prior to their dental care, patients received a free health assessment from the adjacent Prevea Health clinic.

“It really is a one stop for a lot of kids,” said Pam Entorf, CVTC’s dental program director.

“It’s a win-win for our students and the community,” she added. “Students get to see what it’s like to work in the real world, as well as give back to the community.”

The event, sponsored by the American Dental Association and the Wisconsin Dental Association, operates on a first- come, first-serve basis. Families call to

make appointments in advance, and are then eligible for teeth cleanings, X-rays, exams, fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings and extractions.

Becky Geboy and her 10-year-old daughter, Katelyn, were returning to the clinic for their second time on Friday. When asked if she enjoys visits to the dentist, Katelyn smiled shyly and said, "Sometimes."

"It's free," Geboy said, chuckling, of the draw to attend the clinic. "That's the main thing. They're also pretty good about taking (kids) through the health care side as well."

Ashley Schickling and her three kids, ages 8, 6 and 3, were new to the event this year. Schickling's family moved to Eau Claire from Minnesota late last year.

"Oh, yeah," Schickling said when asked if she'll be back next year. "I like it here."

"They made it really easy for her," she added while nodding toward her 3-year-old daughter, who submerged her small fist into a plastic bag and pulled out a new toothbrush.

## Showing Off New Technology: Students Debut Creations at CVTC Show

CVTC NEWS BUREAU

Mar 5, 2018



CVTC Automation Engineering Technology student Soren Sigurdson of Bloomer, right, shows Eau Claire Regis High School senior Declan Dooley how to operate an automated miniature billiards game at the CVTC Manufacturing Show on March 1. CONTRIBUTED, CVTC News Bureau

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EAU CLAIRE – The instruments began belting out the opening bars of the rock classic “Smoke on the Water,” but the musicians were nowhere to be found. A computer program was the conductor, and various mechanical devices strummed the guitar strings, tapped on the drums, played the keyboard and plucked at the base strings.

The automated rock band was one of the attractions at the annual Manufacturing Show March 1 at Chippewa Valley Technical College, and Melissa Rasmus of Chippewa Falls pointed out to her son, Sean, that this was a far more elaborate version of a toy they had at home. Should he choose to enroll in CVTC’s Automation Engineering Technology program, it’s a device Sean would be capable of building himself after just two years of study.

About 50 area manufacturers set up displays at the show, wanting to get the word out on opportunities available at their companies.

“We thought it would be very interesting for Sean,” Rasmus said. “He’s going into sixth grade next year and it’s never too early to start thinking about a career.”

Nearby, CVTC student Soren Sigurdson of Bloomer explained to visitors how to play an automated miniature billiards game and also the pneumatics, electronics and sensors that made the game work. In all the program areas, other students were present to explain what they do, what they are learning, and the exciting opportunities available to them in manufacturing careers.

Sigurdson is in his final semester in the Automation Engineering Technology program. "When I got out of high school, I needed to find a job," he said. "I've always been exposed to machinery and technology and wanted to get more information on them. The project I'm working on is a conveyor belt, but it's not running yet because of an error in the programming."

"We're here for recruiting," said Tony Clausen of Catalytic Combustion in Bloomer. "There are students from CVTC's Welding program that work for us, and we are expanding, so there are opportunities. But there are people who stop by and ask what we make and where we're located."

"This is an opportunity to show off new technology," said CVTC Dean of Engineering and Skilled Trades Jeff Sullivan. "The Manufacturing Show brings together alumni and people in the area, and shows off student projects. Our manufacturing partners come in and show the things they're doing."

High schools from around the area brought busloads of students to the Manufacturing Show, with some taking part in competitions.

A team from Menomonie High School won the Vex IQ Challenge robotics competition against teams from Owen-Withee, Durand and Greenwood high schools. Teams had to build and operate their own robots to complete a series of tasks.

"We spent a lot of time prototyping," said Menomonie student Bobby Nelson. "I was looking over the shoulders of the team members as they were programming. Next year I want to learn how to code."

"We're learning a lot of teamwork and leadership," said Menomonie student Lauren Flaschenriem.

"They are learning a lot of problem-solving skills, teamwork, programming, and basic machine and mechanical skills," said Menomonie technology education teacher Ryan Sterry. "They are getting a lot out of it. They were very excited to come here to the competition."

“The atmosphere of getting ready to compete was really fun,” Flaschenriem said.  
“We’ve only been to one robotics competition before.”

Showing people what is taking place in modern manufacturing and the opportunities available for careers in the field is the goal of the Manufacturing Show, which drew about 1,600 people to CVTC’s Manufacturing Education Center.

## **Fox Valley Companies get \$300K in Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants for Worker Training**

Nathaniel Shuda, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin  
Published 6:06 p.m. CT Feb. 7, 2018

OSHKOSH - Eight Fox Valley manufacturers will benefit from hundreds of thousands of dollars in state grants to help train workers in the region.

Jay Manufacturing, Muza Metal Products and SMC Metal Fabricators, all of Oshkosh, will split a \$110,194 press brake grant to teach four groups of 24 employees how to operate a press brake, Anthony Snyder, Fox Valley Workforce Development Board chief executive officer, announced Wednesday. Snyder was joined by state and local leaders for the announcement at Jay Manufacturing Oshkosh Inc., 2045 W. 20th Ave.

"The current need for this skill set is so challenging that partner companies are not always able to run 100 percent of available equipment," Snyder said.

"By having additional trained operators, we increase partner company ability to remain competitive and ensure that their customers continue to have quality parts produced."

**The companies are the latest recipients of Wisconsin Fast Forward grants that pay for worker training through a partnership with Fox Valley Technical College.**

Statewide, the program awarded \$1.6 million Wednesday to help train 919 workers, in turn boosting the number of people who earn family-sustaining wages and raising the state's income tax revenue, said Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, who joined state Department of Workforce Development Secretary Ray Allen for Wednesday's event.

"We don't want anybody on the sidelines when we have as many jobs as we have," Kleefisch said.

Also benefiting from grants are Hoffmaster Creative in Oshkosh; JM Smucker in Ripon; Waupaca Foundry and Gusmer Enterprises in Waupaca; and Creative Converting in Clintonville. Those companies will split a \$200,000 mechanical fundamentals grant to train three groups of 12 employees each "to repair simple and some complex mechanical equipment," Snyder said.

"Companies continue to find it difficult, if not impossible, to find experienced mechanical maintenance staff," he said, noting a growing number of Baby Boomers approaching retirement age "will only increase the severity of this issue."

The event was especially poignant for the folks at Jay Manufacturing, which is where Gov. Scott Walker signed the Wisconsin Fast Forward program into law in 2013, said Tony Robinson, the company's executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"We're very excited to have this come full circle and be part of one of the grants that were awarded," Robinson said.

## **LOCAL EDUCATOR AND HUMANITARIAN SEES NEW FVTC CENTER AS A VITAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

Wed, 01/31/2018 - 06:54 Waushara1

Sometimes the ink can't dry these days when it comes to highlighting in print one success story after another at Wautoma High School. Thanks to many dual credits offered with Fox Valley Technical College, more and more young learners are hitting the workforce or college faster and with less debt.

Another FVTC blueprint to success that sometimes falls under the radar in visibility is the work the college does to help non-traditional students. No one is better equipped to tell that story in Wautoma than longtime educator, humanitarian, and lifelong learning advocate, Marty Lee. Most Wautoma residents know this champion of humanity for her passion in coordinating the Waushara County Food Pantry, part of Waushara Industries.

Lee has also been instrumental over the years in Wautoma through FVTC by helping displaced homemakers needing to re-enter the workforce. Her work as an FVTC adjunct instructor has involved a number of capacities, most notably in teaching Starting Point classes. Those courses focus on building marketability skills and employability essentials, along with good study habits.

"Technical colleges play an important role in enhancing lives," Lee stated. "They're so responsive to what their communities need, from workforce development to personal enrichment classes and providing customized training. Sometimes all people need is a foundation to move forward in their lives. That's what Fox Valley Tech is all about."

Lee recalled an example of one Starting Point student who needed to sharpen her college readiness skills so she could complete an academic degree. "She then went on to earn a master's degree and is teaching at a university," Lee added. Those types of customized educational services exemplify what FVTC's new regional center will expand upon beginning this fall.

Supervisory and management training fell under Lee's teaching repertoire as well during her FVTC career. She taught classes for career starters and incumbent workers in these disciplines at the college's centers in Wautoma and Waupaca and even at the Waupaca Foundry.



## **New Academic Programs Aim to Fill Foxconn Jobs**

SARI LESK [sari.lesk@journaltimes.com](mailto:sari.lesk@journaltimes.com)

Jan 22, 2018

RACINE — Two new programs are in development at Gateway Technical College that aim to prep a workforce for Foxconn Technology Group and other local businesses.

The college's Board of Trustees this month approved proposals for the two programs, which would prepare students for careers as advanced manufacturing technicians and supply chain analysts. If the Wisconsin Technical College System Board signs off, the new programs would train students for jobs at the liquid crystal display panel manufacturing campus Foxconn is developing in Mount Pleasant.

Proposals to Gateway's board for the new programs cite Foxconn's projected demand for workers in these fields.

Ray Koukari, the dean of Gateway's School of Manufacturing, Engineering and Information Technology, said the college is fast-tracking the programs to get them up and running so that students will be ready when Foxconn begins hiring. The electronics manufacturer is expected to hire about 13,000 employees.

Typically, the college would need to survey multiple employers to demonstrate their collective hiring plans for the region as support for a new program proposal, Koukari said. Foxconn's need is high enough to cite just the one business, although other local businesses have expressed a need for advanced manufacturing technicians, too.

“Everything’s migrating to this new advanced manufacturing,” he said.

Two proposed associate degree programs

Both programs would earn students an associate degree.

The advanced manufacturing technician program “combines mechanical, electronic and information technology,” and covers how to use data to optimize a manufacturing process, according to the description.

“Everything about your manufacturing process is coming in a form of data,” Koukari said. “Technicians can go out and figure out what’s wrong and fix it. You have to know about a lot of different types of systems and get that line going as fast as they can.”

Students in the supply chain analyst program would study “logistics, packaging, transportation, distribution, purchasing, production and inventory control,” the description states. They will also learn about how to identify and implement cost-saving measures.

The field has changed, Koukari said, because technology plays an increasingly larger role in supply chains and handling inventory.

“You have to think about where you’re located, how it’s going to be transported and what kind of container that can be picked from,” he said. “You have to go backwards in the chain and make sure everybody delivers the same way.”

Koukari said Gateway aims to make the programs available by the fall so that the students are prepared when Foxconn is hiring.

He said Gateway is sharing its programs to meet Foxconn's workforce demand with other local higher education institutions including technical colleges, some University of Wisconsin campuses and private colleges.

## **New Program Helps Adults Get High School Equivalency Diplomas**

RICARDO TORRES ricardo.torres@journaltimes.com

Feb 13, 2018

RACINE — Andrea Goodloe, 34, wiped tears from her eyes as she moved her graduation tassel from right to left.

For Goodloe, the event has “been a long time coming for me.”

“To see my kids and my family ... watch me graduate — it’s amazing,” Goodloe said. “I’m just happy that I made my mom and dad proud.”

Goodloe was among 13 individuals to graduate as part of the new 5.09 High School Equivalency Diploma program, coordinated by **Gateway Technical College**, Racine County Workforce Solutions and the YWCA Southeast Wisconsin.

The inaugural graduation ceremony took place on Gateway’s Racine Campus on Feb. 6.

For Goodloe, being one of 10 children and watching the youngest graduate from Horlick High School last year, she knew “I just had to do it.”

Now she’s planning to go to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to continue her education and become a certified nursing assistant.

Goodloe’s parents, Floyd Hayes and Cheady Griffin, were present at the ceremony.

Griffin said she knows how important it was to Goodloe to graduate in front of her children.

“I graduated here (at Gateway) in front of (my kids), so they can see me do it,” Griffin said. “She wanted to do it in front of her kids ... that encourages them.”

#### About the program

The program is 20 weeks long, completed in sections and is free for the students.

Jake Gorges, adult education manager for the YWCA, helped put the program together and said it’s designed to give adults more of a classroom-type feel.

“People come in and do work instead of taking GED tests,” Gorges said. “They accomplish this like high schoolers.”

In the program, Gorges said students work on “workforce documents” like memos and emails to get them ready for the workforce.

“It’s applicable to the student because they’re most likely going to utilize this stuff at a later point in their life,” Gorges said.

The students have a year to complete the 20-week course, and if they miss more than one day in the first four weeks, they will have to start over.

Gorges said the program is continuously enrolling students. Currently there are two other groups that have started, which allows for faster completion of the program.

“We understand that life happens and sometimes it’s out of our control,” Gorges said. “The goal is if anybody falls off or anything happens during the class, there’s multiple entry points, multiple times where people can take a gap-time.”

## New opportunities

Katie Kasprzak, GED outreach coordinator for Racine County Workforce Solutions, said that for these students, getting their HSED is the first step to get a better job.

“Most of our graduates are looking to gain new employment, or some of them are thinking about going on to school for a technical diploma or other classes,” Kasprzak said. “For a lot of people, it’s a program of growth and personal development ... they’re getting more of out of it than just their high school equivalency diploma.”

An added benefit of the program is the students, for the most part, all start and finish the program together like a high school class.

“I think they like building those relationships and sharing the learning process with others,” Kasprzak said. “For many, it holds them accountable. They have to come to class every morning, keep up with attendance. It’s teaching them a lot of those soft skills that are going to transfer over to employment as well.”

## **Lakeshore Technical College Partners with High Schools on Career, Tech Education | Column**

**Paul Carlsen**

**For USA TODAY NETWORK – Wisconsin**

Published 11:30 a.m. CT Feb. 23, 2018

February is Career and Technical Education Month, and here at LTC that means we are taking the time to recognize the work being done in our high schools to prepare students for high-wage, high-demand careers.

Dedicated teachers, counselors, principals and superintendents are making sure students have the skills they need to succeed in life: technical skills, academic skills, and employability skills. LTC is proud to support these efforts through partnerships with the 25 high schools in our community.

Career and technical education (CTE) covers many different fields, including health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, business, hospitality and more.

Last year, LTC offered 223 dual enrollment classes at area high schools where high school students could earn college credit before they graduated from high school. This adds up to a college tuition savings of more than \$300,000.



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

We are committed to expanding our efforts to ensure that even more high school students can start college in high school. We are already registering students for our Career Certificates program, which begins in the fall of 2018. Through the program, high school juniors and seniors can get a jump-start on college and a future career with six different certificates. Not only do they earn high school and college credit simultaneously — in fields like health care, electro-mechanical, EMT and welding — they also earn an industry-based certification.

The benefits of CTE go well beyond college credits. CTE provides students with real-world skills, pathways to college and careers, and just makes school more engaging. Which is why CTE students are much more likely to graduate high school and go on to college.



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

The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93 percent, compared to an average national graduation rate of 80 percent. And of those CTE students nationwide, 86 percent went on to enroll in post-secondary education compared to all others.

Our month-long focus on CTE culminated last week with the Celebration of K-12 Partnerships. During this event for K-12 staff and area businesses, we presented seven awards to CTE champions who excel in promoting career planning in Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties.

Take the time to celebrate a CTE leader you know who is inspiring our future workforce. Just think of the benefits high school students receive by gaining not only a solid foundation in academics, but also hands-on, technical experience and know-how.

*Paul Carlsen is president of Lakeshore Technical College.*



## **UW Credit Union Pledges Funds for Completion of Madison College South Campus**

**MADISON, WI (February 15, 2018)** — UW Credit Union is honored to support Madison College Foundation with a pledge of \$50,000 to help fund the completion of the Madison College Goodman South Campus. A critical project milestone, the gift brings the total pledged from all sources to over \$1 million, and will be applied toward a \$3.5 million challenge grant issued by Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation and Affiliates. This milestone will help to position Madison College to raise \$2.5 million in additional funds by March 31, 2018 in order to complete construction of a 75,000 square foot South campus at the intersection of Badger Road and Park Street.

The beginning phases of the project will include construction of a facility that has the capacity to serve nearly 6,500 individuals, including 3,000 students — triple the number of students who attend classes at the current site. The site will house learning spaces and student support services, and feature academic courses with a focus on STEM fields (science, health, IT), as well as business/marketing and entrepreneurship. The matching grant will support the completion of the expansion, offering student and social services and community-based organizations.

Continuing a tradition of community giving, the effort to foster continuous learning is one of UW Credit Union's core values. "Since our founding in 1931, a belief that quality education is a vital link to economic wellbeing has been a part of our DNA," says UW Credit Union President and CEO Paul Kundert. "We share the vision that this project is an important investment for the community — increasing the access of South Madison residents to Madison College and meeting the long-term workforce needs of growing companies."

An important resource to help address social, racial and economic disparities in Dane County, the facility can provide a means of economic empowerment for the residents of south and southwest Madison. "We're excited to be part of an initiative that will benefit not just the South Madison community but the entire region," says Director of Community Partnerships Jaimes Johnson. "Providing this type of educational accessibility to residents of south Madison will truly change the potential for that community".

The donation illustrates UW Credit Union's well-established partnership with Madison College to promote access to education and improve overall student success. The south Madison location will help economically disadvantaged students to pursue higher education and attain career goals, demonstrating the commitment of UW Credit Union to improve educational opportunities and economic stability in the community we serve.

“It is gratifying to know that there are organizations such as UW Credit Union who share our belief that the success of our communities is a foremost priority,” says Madison College President, Jack E. Daniels III. “Their generosity will help us realize our vision for a safe place where people can attend college, engage in meaningful conversations and gather as members of a community that is vibrant, strong and educated.”

### **About UW Credit Union**

UW Credit Union is a growing, federally insured financial institution and a leading provider of a full range of financial services to University of Wisconsin communities. UW Credit Union's 515 employees serve the financial needs of more than 222,000 members through world-class technology systems, and through a convenient network of 24 branch locations and over 100 ATMs. With assets totaling \$2.3 billion, UW Credit Union is ranked nationally among the leading credit unions. Founded more than 85 years ago by members of the University of Wisconsin community, UW Credit Union continues to operate as a not-for-profit, member-owned financial cooperative with locations in the Madison, Milwaukee, Stevens Point, Green Bay, Oshkosh, Whitewater and La Crosse areas. Visit UW Credit Union at [uwcu.org](http://uwcu.org) to learn more.

### **About Madison College**

With associate degrees, technical diplomas and certificates in nearly 150 programs, Madison Area Technical College serves nearly 35,000 students throughout a 12-county, 223-municipality district in southcentral Wisconsin. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, Madison College has earned national distinction for providing “Real-world Smart” education through a comprehensive curriculum that includes technical and general education programs, adult basic education, continuing education, and customized training for employers. It is the second-largest school in the Wisconsin Technical College System and the greatest source of transfer students to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For more information, visit [www.madisoncollege.edu](http://www.madisoncollege.edu).

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## Wisconsin's Workforce Success



Milwaukee Area Technical College leverages partnerships with employers to get some of the equipment needed for hands-on training. (Photo: MATC)

**BY ED FINKEL** JANUARY 29, 2018

The announcement that Taiwanese manufacturing giant Foxconn will bring 13,000 jobs to Wisconsin and partner with **Gateway Technical College** is great news for the state's community and technical colleges and their students, but it's not particularly surprising.

The state's two-year colleges have been notching all sorts of workforce development victories in recent years, offering an array of programming in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, automotive and other fields that provide family-wage jobs for graduates and/or pathways to four-year universities, at rates often exceeding 90 percent within months after graduation.

The **Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)** takes seriously its statutory mission and to meet employer needs and build a talent pipeline, to serve both students and employers as its two primary clients, says Morna Foy, system president.

"You have to have that expectation if you want something to be sustained, regardless of turnover within the organization," she says.

Gateway, which serves three counties in southeast Wisconsin and was founded a century ago to help transition the community to a then-new industrial society, is now easing the next transition to a digital society, with companies like Foxconn driving the conversation, President Bryan Albrecht says.

“Foxconn has been a great asset to us in helping us to understand the role that community and technical colleges will play, but also the types of content and curriculum that will be necessary to sustain a workforce,” Albrecht says. “We continue to work hand-in-glove with them to not only address the recruitment of new talent but also the upscaling of current talent.”

Gateway and other Wisconsin colleges are rolling out training based on Industry 4.0 protocol, which revolves around the “Internet of Things,” Albrecht says. “It’s how we take the digital world and connect it to the physical world, and make sure that our students have great technical skills — programming robots and fixing robots and building integrated manufacturing systems, but also having the ability to analyze data, to troubleshoot, to be critical thinkers.”

The state has put together a consortium of two-year colleges and four-year universities to determine how to build career pathways starting in K–12 districts.

“We develop that area of pathways so there’s a smooth transition for students because we know there are job expectations at all those levels,” Albrecht says. “We work with all of the regional providers of higher education to make sure that we’re providing, first of all, the right curriculum, and then second, that that curriculum is ‘pathwayed’ into advanced careers.”

This excerpt comes from the current issue of the American Association of Community Colleges’ *Community College Journal*.

Kaylen Betzig, president of **Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC)**, believes her college and others benefit from the state’s model of governance with both a state board as well as a local board for each college. The local board, appointed by the county chairperson, is required to have nine individuals from different workforce sectors. “We have business professionals, I have a sheriff, I have a superintendent of schools, a school board member, bankers, insurance people, regional economic development people,” Betzig says. “The strength is in our local boards because they really bring us the local perspective of what our employers are needing.”



Waukesha County Technical College's workforce programs are developed with research and employer partnerships. (Photo: WCTC)

**Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)**, which has four campuses, keeps hearing from employers concerned about “skills-gap mismatch,” President Vicki Martin says. “Almost every [industry] area is telling us they’re looking for better-trained employees,” she says. “They’re also talking about soft skills — they would rather have somebody with a good work history and train them in the skills. We’re also reaching out to our high schools in terms of those soft skills.”

But with the strong economy, many traditional college-aged students think they would be better off getting into the workforce, even with fewer skills, Martin says. “That gives a lot of employers heartburn,” she says. “They’re like, ‘Oh my gosh, they’re over there, and they could be over here earning family-sustaining wages [with additional skills].’”

### **Reorganizing to Meet Employer Need**

To help employers navigate its offerings, **Madison College** has reorganized its programs into a new School of Workforce and Economic Development, merging continuing education and business and industry training under one umbrella, Provost Turina Bakken says.

“The leadership team is much more coordinated in terms of doing employer outreach, grassroots needs analysis and partnership building,” she says.

“We’re sitting at the table and can better understand and respond at the speed of business,” says Schauna Rasmussen, dean of the newly organized school. “What are their pain points, when it comes to hiring? How do we make connections so we’re doing training that meets their needs?”

Madison College built an internal academic analysis unit to analyze data in terms of industry growth, and where gaps in credentials lie, Bakken says. "Then they overlay that with our own academic offerings," she says. The college has built more "modularized" offerings so students can gain a credential, work for awhile and then return to build on that credential, she adds.

Because so many programs are capital equipment and technology heavy, Madison works to stay one step ahead of industry, sometimes utilizing grants to get the equipment.

"We try to invest at a very high level," Rasmussen says. "We've gotten pretty creative at making sure that especially our high-tech, high-capital-intensive programs have what they need."

# Stackable Credentials Are Worth the Effort

By Tim Harmon

What's a "stackable" credential? Are they truly valuable? Is it worth the effort for community colleges to develop them? In a word: yes.

CLASP strongly supports career pathways that help low-income and lower-educated workers get well-paying jobs that are in demand. Many career pathways use shorter-term credentials that can be earned all at once or more slowly over time. These credentials "stack," building toward a longer-term credential like an associate's degree.

The credentials are stackable because each one includes courses required for the associate's degree. That means students don't have to retake any coursework to meet their degree requirements. In theory, stackable credentials enable students to complete a degree by building toward it in increments. Stackable credentials are also valuable to employers because students can more quickly qualify for jobs that are in demand locally or regionally.

Dr. Sandra Kiddoo, vice president of academics at **Mid-State Technical College**, Wisconsin Rapids Campus, used data on Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) students enrolled in 2008 to examine two research questions:

- Does enrollment in a stacked credential program increase associate's degree completion?
- For students enrolled in a stacked credential model, what is the relationship between students' initial selection of program pathways and their eventual credential completion?

For the first question, Dr. Kiddoo compared students who enrolled in a program with stacked credentials to students who enrolled in a program that *did not* have stacked credentials. She found that "students enrolled in a stacked credential model are neither more likely nor less likely to complete an associate[s] degree." Historically, some experts have worried the model might encourage students to leave their associate's programs before they otherwise would have. However that wasn't the case with the students studied by Dr. Kiddoo.

For the second question, Dr. Kiddoo focused only on those students enrolled in a program with stacked credentials, comparing those who enrolled first in the technical diploma (the stacked credential) with those students who did not initially enroll in the technical diploma. She found that "students who enroll first in a technical diploma are

likely to complete an AAS, suggesting warming up.” In other words, these students came to believe the degree credential was valuable and were more likely to pursue one than students who did not begin with the stackable credential.

In 2014, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) leaders created an Embedded Technical Diploma and WTCS Pathway Certificate Recognition Process to allow embedded, industry-valued credentials within *existing* AA or AAS degrees. Importantly, in WTCS, “stackable credentials” exist in defined pathways. But in other systems, the term is much looser. In CCRC’s recent study, ‘stackable’ only meant a postsecondary credential plus another sub-degree award that may or may not exist within a defined pathway.

The onus should be on postsecondary systems and institutions to wholly embed credentials within longer pathways. That way, each credential has labor market value and the ability to ‘stack’ completely into the next postsecondary award.

While further research into more mature stackable credential models is needed, these initial results from WTCS are encouraging. Stackable credential offerings in WTCS colleges have increased from 50 to 350 over the past four years, as colleges work with their Career Pathway Steering Committees on a cross-functional basis to consider how stackable credentials can fit into each college’s program offerings. States, community colleges, and local workforce boards shouldn’t be afraid to embrace stackable credentials as part of a robust career pathways system.



## **Fond du Lac Humane Society Gets Help in Remodel**

**FOND DU LAC, Wis. (WBAY)** - The Fond du Lac Humane Society is getting a remodel so it can take in more dogs.



***Moraine Park Technical College students make repairs at the Fond du Lac Humane Society shelter on Jan. 18, 2018 (WBAY photo)***

It's part of a project launched by Moraine Park Technical College.

In a span of just a couple of hours, a group of women made some big repairs by replacing the drainage system on 14 kennels at the Fond du Lac Humane Society that right now are unusable.

Larry Clark, an instructor at the college, said, "We wanted to expand the knowledge of manufacturing process with women. It's considered a non-traditional occupation for women, so we needed some sort of a project to be able to go through that process."

The female group has been preparing for this project since January 4, taking classes at the college two nights a week which focus on things like welding and metal fabrication.

Many who signed up did so for the challenge.

"I guess the feeling of accomplishment. We helped out the humane society, and we learned something new. We learned how to weld and we learned how to work with a press and stuff, so it's interesting," said volunteer Tina Giese.

All the materials for the project were donated by area companies.

Replacing the drains would have cost around \$10,000, which is money the shelter doesn't have.

Beth Rogan of the Fond du Lac Humane Society said, "We're excited because we haven't been able to use those kennels, and so it limits the amount of small dogs we can take in."

The college says the project is a first for them, and they hope to schedule other events in the future.

1/25/2018 7:29:00 AM

## **Success breeds success: Nicolet receives second state WEDC entrepreneur grant**

**Jamie Taylor**  
**River News Reporter**

For the second year in a row, Nicolet Area Technical College has received a grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) aimed at developing entrepreneurship programs in the Northwoods.

On hand for the announcement Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch said the second grant is due in large part to the success Nicolet demonstrated after receiving one of the inaugural grants last year.

Nicolet will receive a \$25,000 grant, one of 11 totaling \$500,000 intended to help local and regional start-ups, Kleefisch announced. The announcement came almost a year to the day from when Kleefisch was at Nicolet announcing the college had been awarded one of the initial 11 grants out of a similar pool of \$500,000.

Kleefisch said Nicolet's entrepreneurship program is successful because it reaches so many people in northern Wisconsin who have "a lightbulb above their heads. People who have yet to take their terrific business idea and turn it into an actual company. But with the right training and the right mentors and the right financial advice, not only could they do it but (they) will do it with the help of Nicolet College."

This year's WEDC entrepreneurship grant process was very competitive, with 36 different applicants seeking a share of the \$500,000, Kleefisch noted. One of the factors that set Nicolet's application apart from the rest was that its program reaches into neighboring Vilas and Forest counties, she noted.

As a former entrepreneur herself, and the daughter of a woman who started her own dance studio, Kleefisch said she has a special affinity for the state's entrepreneurship development programs.

"My mom gave me my first job, which is akin to glorified babysitting except with tap shoes," she said. "However, I learned a lot from watching her, and it was her work as an entrepreneur that inspired me."

WEDC Secretary and CEO Mark Hogan spoke about the grant program and what is expected of the organizations who receive the awards. While the competition

among the 36 applicants was intense, Nicolet's success over the last year gave it an edge, he noted.

"What really stuck out was the success that you had even after one year and how the dollars were used in the past 12 months," Hogan said. "We look forward to continuing that relationship with this current grant."

Since its founding in 2011, the WEDC has worked to support budding entrepreneurs in the state through a variety of programs, Hogan noted.

"All of these programs are oversubscribed on an annual basis, which means that there is great activity within the state," he said.

While the 2017 results aren't in yet, in 2016 there were over 300 companies that took advantage of the programs, he reported.

"There was about \$300 million in funding that was provided in 2016 for those companies and there was about \$85 million in revenue attributed to those companies," he said. "But, more importantly, there were over 2,100 full-time employees that worked in those companies during 2016. So those programs continue to grow and now we are proud to have the entrepreneurial support program as part of our main programs in that area."

Hogan said he believes economic development is most successful when it is done at the local level.

"And there are things that the state can do, the WEDC can do, to provide support for that," he said. "This is an example of that. But in the end, you're developing a program that meets the needs of your community, your region."

To that end, he said he was impressed by how Nicolet reaches out to the neighboring counties to form partnerships to expand its programs.

"It's important, from our perspective, that you maximize these dollars to reach as many people in this area as possible," he said.

Sandy Bishop, Nicolet's dean of workforce and economic development, said the school was excited to be recognized for its work helping entrepreneurs and fostering small business development throughout the region.

"Nicolet does a lot to support economic development in the Northwoods. I think the college has had a long history of being a leader and collaborator on all kinds of workforce development, both short-term and long-term programs with business and industry," Bishop said. "Several years ago, I think it was 2009, Nicolet began

offering the business plan courses. We have been heavily focused on small business and working with entrepreneurs who may have a business idea but don't know the next step. Nicolet plays that role of being a first stop for so many people who don't know how else to access the resources. They come to us and say 'help, help me, I'd like to take this idea further, what should I do, what can I do?'"

She noted the Vilas County Economic Development Corporation has been an important partner over the years in Nicolet's entrepreneur program, not just as the sponsor for the two grants but also by serving as a location where the support services can be offered.

Bishop said the \$25,000 grant is a matching grant, with \$10,000 of the match funds to come from the Juday family which sponsors scholarships to Vilas County residents. The remainder comes from the tuition and fees paid by the others who attend the 10-week Nicolet Entrepreneurial Training (NET) business blueprint course.

"In-kind support is provided by all kinds of organizations, Nicolet included," she added, noting that this most recent grant application received strong letters of support from Grow North, the regional economic development group, the Forest County economic development partnership and the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation.

Under the first grant, the NET training was provided in both Crandon and Rhinelander. She said the program will expand into Lincoln County with an upcoming class slated to be held in Tomahawk.

Bishop also noted that Nicolet now has an entrepreneurial program for people with disabilities who are interested in micro entrepreneurship.

"This is great idea for people who can't commit to the traditional scheduling of a job that they go to but they have lots of business ideas," Bishop said. "This grant just allows us to do more and continue to expand and work with our communities across northern Wisconsin."

Under the new grant, Nicolet will work to build capacity through faculty development so it can do more offerings along with a series of workshops for businesses, she added.

Bishop then introduced Nancy Brekke-Jones, who attended the first NET session held in Crandon last fall, and explained that she is an example of how the first grant was put to good use.

Brekke-Jones is the owner and inventor of a product called Replace-A-Lace, a hook and loop fastener system that replaces traditional laces in shoes for people who need an alternative to laces due to arthritis, injury or limited dexterity.

"I worked for a local shoe company for the past 26 years and weekly I would get calls for an easier way to tie shoes," she explained.

As there was no existing product on the market that would directly replace laces in regular shoes, several years ago she started working on what would eventually become Replace-A-Lace, she said.

"At some point in this process, I knew I would need a business plan," she said. "I had no idea where to turn so I went online to Nicolet and I started researching the classes that were out there. I saw this program for the entrepreneurship classes that were starting literally in less than a week. I panicked and I called up right away and they said they still had openings and the class was in Crandon, and I said sign me up."

She called the information she received in the classes "amazing," and said the course provided step-by-step instructions that resulted in her having a finished business plan at the end of the 10 weeks. She said the program also included guest speakers from area businesses who offered advice on accounting, digital marketing, traditional marketing and taxes.

"They gave us information on what we would need to know as business owners and we were able to ask questions," Brekke-Jones said. "This class really gave me the tools to really take it to the next level."

After the presentation, Kleefisch said being chosen for a second grant proves that what Nicolet did with the first grant worked.

"Nicolet College put up the numbers," she said. "They said we would reinvest the \$25,000 that the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation gives us. Last year, we saw tremendous success. You heard from one of entrepreneurs this morning, we're hoping for more of those success stories with this additional \$25,000 grant for Nicolet College."

While the WEDC wants to see numbers and data, Kleefisch said hearing Brekke-Jones tell her success story was particularly exciting to her.

"When you become your own boss, you get a lot of flexibility," Kleefisch said. "And one of the most important pieces of that flexibility is your opportunity to hire friends and neighbors and grow an industry cluster right here in your own community. That is what entrepreneurship is all about."

She also said people should not be surprised that entrepreneurs come out of rural, suburban or urban areas.

"They come from all socio-economic ranks, all different parts of Wisconsin geography, because entrepreneurs are simply people who have cool ideas and I'd like to think that here in Wisconsin we have more than our fair share of folks with cool ideas," Kleefisch said. "But to become an entrepreneur, usually you need some kind of missing link. Either that is seed capital, the dollars you need to start up your company, or maybe it's a mentor to teach you how to write a business plan so when you go to the bank they actually see this business plan as something that could succeed, something worth loaning you the money. Maybe you need a little help with your marketing or your computer skills aren't awesome."

The Nicolet program has established a network of economic development groups and cities throughout the Northwoods that will grow even more in the second year of grant funding and foster a nurturing environment for entrepreneurship, she added.

"If you have an idea that will meet the needs of your neighbors or friends, why not take that lightbulb idea and develop it into a business concept? Because we know that here at Nicolet College, there is support and a class that can help you make money off of your lightbulb," she said.

Nicolet will be holding two one-night NET exploring entrepreneurship workshop in Eagle River at the Vilas County Incubator on Jan. 30 and again on Feb. 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The next 10-week NET Business Blueprint course will start in March 28, also at the Vilas County Incubator in Eagle River.

For more information, call 715-365-4905.

Jamie Taylor may be reached via email at [jamie@rivernewsonline.com](mailto:jamie@rivernewsonline.com).

## **Northcentral Technical College Hosts Academic Signing Day**

Wednesday, February 07, 2018 4:29 p.m. CST by Michael Leischner

WAUSAU, WI (WSAU) -- High School student-athletes across the country signed National Letters of Intent to play football and soccer at the college level today.

And to continue their academic careers at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau as well.

The Wausau campus held their first-ever signing day event on Wednesday, welcoming 70 college seniors from across the region to campus to announce that they'll be enrolling at the school in the fall.

Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator Kelsi Seubert says the idea has been tried at other schools across the county so they decided to implement it on their campus. "There's a lot of pride in other technical colleges celebrating their students and their unique interests. We think this would be a great event to recognize them and welcome people onto our campus," said Seubert.

Over the two hour period students signed letters announcing their enrollment in the various schools at NTC and were greeted by the Deans of those departments as well. "We are excited to welcome these students as valued members of the Timberwolf pack," said Seubert.

She went on to say the event serves as a reminder to students that their contributions to the college community matter just as much as those of a student-athlete.

The students were from more than 25 area schools from SPASH to Abbotsford and Chippewa Falls to DC Everest. Parents, teachers, and even the President of NCT were on hand to welcome the students to the Timberwolf family according to Seubert.

The school plans to make the signing day event a yearly tradition on the first Wednesday in February, which is when the late NCAA signing period for football and women's soccer begins.

## **NWTC Students Searching for New Antibiotics**

**By:** Kris Schuller

**Posted:** Feb 15, 2018 06:11 PM CST

**Updated:** Feb 15, 2018 07:00 PM CST

GREEN BAY, Wis. (WFRV) - Students at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College are working on a worldwide project to develop new antibiotics. As Local 5's Kris Schuller reports they're digging through Wisconsin dirt, hoping to solve what the Centers for Disease Control calls a growing crisis.

In a classroom at NWTC microbiology students study petri dishes - hoping to grow bacteria that can help solve the worldwide dilemma of antibiotic resistance.

"We need to find new antibiotics and we need to do it fast," said Dr. Matt Peterson, Biology instructor at NWTC.

According to the CDC each year two million people become infected with bacteria resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die a result of these infections. Petersen says it's an issue that must be addressed.

"If we do nothing by 2050 antibiotic resistant bacteria infections will be the number one killer in the world," Petersen said.

Now students like Jarod Moyer are teaming up with researchers at 160 colleges around the world searching for new bacteria that leads to new antibiotics. And these students are searching for new bacteria in plain old Wisconsin soil.

"I looked for somewhere where there were lots of things growing, hopefully there will be lots of nutrients in the soil," said Moyer. "Other than that, it was just a wild guess."

"Most of the antibiotics that we have found are under our feet in the soil, they are produced by microbes to kill other microbes," Petersen said. "This is real research and it could potentially lead to real gains in clinical care."

At the end of the semester the student's findings will be entered into a data base at UW-Madison and be made available for use by drug companies worldwide.

"I think it's a reasonable thing to hope for some of these antibiotic producers that we discover - to eventually give rise to drugs used in the clinic," said Petersen.

New antibiotics - discovered by students - who went searching through the dirt.

Fourteen other colleges and universities in Wisconsin are taking part in the research project.



## **NWTC: Breaking Down the Stigma of Mental Health**

by Pafoua Yang, FOX 11 News  
Tuesday, February 27th 2018

GREEN BAY (WLUK) -- On Tuesday morning, students and staff overflowed the Eagle Event Center at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC). Community members were anxious to learn more on the hot button issue of mental illness.

"There's so many people that are struggling with mental illness and to many different degrees and it can be very isolating," said Amy Helein with the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI).

Helein said sometimes the warning signs aren't obvious; it's a thought echoed by NWTC counselor, Judy Roemer.

"People who are depressed may have certain symptoms that are different from people who are anxious or have mood issues," Roemer said. "So it really depends, but really people who are more withdrawn than usual or are struggling to do the normal things that they have been able to do before, those can be indicators that something's going on."

Roemer said spotting those signs early is key, "Early intervention, access to resources, being able to get the help to people that need it, is really the key to dealing with this issue."

Experts told FOX 11 that 1 in 5 adults will experience mental illness in their lifetime. Experts also said most people who have mental health issues are not violent.

"Stigma is very important and you know again, most people who have mental health conditions are not violent, they're often preyed on by other people," said Green Bay Police mental health officer, Barb Gerarden.

Gerarden said although officers are trained to handle people going through a mental crisis, the community needs to step up.

"Law enforcement can't solve this independently; we really need our community partners to improve systems," Gerarden said. "We still have shortage in psychiatrists and that's one of the issues we're facing as a community and trying to figure out ways to work around that. We're still transporting people to Winnebago, which is unfortunate, but we need people in the community to help us."

Health experts agree that the easiest way to help someone is simply by starting conversations.

## **Viewpoint: Preparing Wisconsinites for In-Demand Jobs**

By **Rep. Ron Kind** on Feb 27, 2018 at 9:54 a.m.



Rep. Ron Kind and representatives from the Wisconsin Technical College Board and students. Submitted photo

As we work together to expand job opportunities in Wisconsin, one important factor is to increase access to affordable job training programs. Last week I heard about the importance and availability of job training programs from representatives and students from Chippewa Valley Technical College, Mid-State Technical College, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, and Western Technical College.

While our Wisconsin technical colleges are doing great work providing students with hands-on experience, there is more that can be done to help them expand their job training programs. Recently, I introduced the Education and Workforce Innovation Act, which will encourage partnerships with students, schools and businesses to bring job-training programs to Wisconsin communities.

The bill will establish a grant program to encourage eligible businesses to start job training programs for high-demand industries, such as manufacturing. It will also provide students with customized training, hands-on experience, career development, and a path to employment after graduating. By bringing businesses and schools together to expand access to job training programs we give Wisconsin students the opportunity to earn a better life.

In the coming months, as Congress works on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, I look forward to working with students, parents and educators to help prepare Wisconsin students for success in their education.

## **Southwest Tech Ranked #1 Best Two-Year College in Wisconsin and #3 in the Nation**

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Fennimore, Wis. – Southwest Wisconsin Technical College has been named the best two-year college in Wisconsin for the second year in a row, according to the most recent report conducted by Bestcolleges.com. With over 88 higher education institutions in Wisconsin, Bestcolleges.com's 2017 findings, ranks Southwest Tech first in academic quality, affordability, and student experience.

In addition to the number one ranking Southwest Tech received from Bestcolleges.com, Southwest Tech was ranked the third, two-year college in the nation by WalletHub.com, rising seven spots from last year's number eleven ranking. The survey compared 728 community and technical colleges on three key components: cost and financing, education outcomes, and career outcomes. That puts Southwest Tech in the top 1% of colleges in the nation.

Southwest Tech scored high in tuition affordability. The current tuition rate is only \$132.20 per credit, which means Southwest Tech's tuition is almost 45% less than in-state tuition at a four-year university. Southwest Tech scored high in career outcomes as well. Within one year 95% of graduates are employed, quickly seeing a return on their investment. Southwest Tech also scored high in education outcomes, with a low student to faculty ratio of 15:1, resulting in students staying in school and graduating.

"The faculty and staff at Southwest Tech should be proud of this tremendous accomplishment. Our employees, both past and present, highly value learning and continuous improvement as we strive to make a positive impact on our students. We gratefully celebrate this recognition of our excellence," said Southwest Tech President, Dr. Jason Wood.

February 07, 2018

## **New Mechatronics Apprenticeship Program Welcomes 14 New Students**



WCTC officially launched its 11<sup>th</sup> apprenticeship program -- Mechatronics – kicking off the spring semester, Jan. 22. Two signing events were held the week of Jan. 15 to welcome six new apprentices from Signicast, a state-of-the-art investment castings manufacturer, and eight new apprentices from HellermannTyton, a leader in cable management and protection products, identification systems and network connectivity solutions.

The 14 new apprentices include, from Signicast -- John Campbell, Shaw Chmielewski, Cody Kniess, Monte Moser, Alex Neubauer and Shawn Stapleton; and from HellermannTyton -- Josh Schrammel, Eric Grzesk, Jacob Werner, Brad Hanson, Marc Savatski, Herpao Vang, Justin Robb and Rob Ekstrand.

The 24-credit Mechatronics Apprenticeship (Robotics and Automation) is a five-year training program of not less than 10,000 hours, including 864 hours of related technical instruction at WCTC. Mechatronics requires combined knowledge of electrical, electronic and mechanical systems, and students learn work processes such as installing, repairing and maintaining equipment/devices; systems troubleshooting; operation of industrial computer and communication systems; support for automation technologies; machining; and related tasks.

For WCTC students enrolled in the Automation Systems Technology associate degree program or Industrial Maintenance Technician technical diploma program who have the opportunity to continue on in an apprenticeship, they can finish the apprenticeship quicker as the credits in their degree program apply to the apprenticeship program.



HellermannTyton Photo (Above left): Pictured, front row, from left: Josh Schrammel, Eric Grzesk, Jacob Werner, Brad Hanson, Marc Savatski -- new apprentices. Back row, from left: Dave Tomaszek -- vice president of Operations, Curt Rice -- director of Automation, Cody Alf -- coordinator of Training and Development, Terry Tuttle -- president, Danny Sheeran -- Training department supervisor, Kevin Paske -- tool room lead and mold maintenance coordinator, HellermannTyton; Bob Novak -- associate dean, WCTC; Liz Pusch -- field service representative, and Joshua Johnson -- field operations chief, Department of Workforce Development. Apprentices not pictured: Herpao Vang, Justin Robb, Rob Ekstrand.

Signicast Photo (Above right): Pictured, front row, from left: Shaw Chmielewski, John Campbell, Shawn Stapleton, Cody Kniess and Monte Moser -- new apprentices. Back row, from left: Liz Pusch -- field service representative, Department of Workforce Development; Brad Witte, vice president -- Facilities and Automation/IT, Teri Green -- director of Human Resources, Brian Williams -- director of Engineering and Quality, Tom Dottl -- chief financial officer, Damon Hesse -- vice president of manufacturing, Signicast; Mike Shiels -- dean, School of Applied Technologies at WCTC; and Joshua Johnson -- field operations chief, Department of Workforce Development. Apprentice not pictured: Alex Neubauer.

## **La Crosse Group Helps People Involved In Criminal Justice System Scholarship Program Would Support Minorities Who Want Education, Better Job**

By John Davis



Kemesha Harper

Kemesha Harper's future is bright.

The La Crosse woman is set to graduate from Western Technical College in La Crosse this spring with a degree in human services. She wants to work with at-risk youth.

But what makes her story remarkable are the details of her life leading to her future.

Harper is an African-American single mother, living in public housing, with six operating while intoxicated arrests and multiple stays in the La Crosse County Jail.

"There was a point in my life where everything was going wrong," she said. "At the time I was working at a call center, and I absolutely hated going to work every day, and I was battling addiction. I knew that I wanted to make a change."

Enter Project Proven, a grant-based program that has existed and been funded by the U.S. Department of Education since 2013.

The program, which originally started between Western Technical College and the La Crosse County Jail, is one of three DOE pilot programs across the country focused on helping people who've been incarcerated get an education or find a job.

Project Proven is a voluntary program for any adult inmate. Referrals are made by the corrections and court systems. Classes are held at the jail on topics like job skills, career planning and substance abuse.

In the first five years, about 1,000 inmates have received services with a 30 percent success rate.

The main partnership is between Western Technical College and the La Crosse County jail, but a number of other organizations are also helping inmates.

The La Crosse program has expanded to inmates in Trempealeau and Monroe counties.

Project Proven has helped inmates in the three counties with things like taking basic adult education courses, obtaining a GED, or taking college courses, said Project Proven Manager Tonya Van Tol.

Now, the La Crosse chapter of Showing Up For Racial Justice [3] (SURJ) is trying to raise \$12,000 to start an endowment fund that would lead to \$2,000 in annual scholarship money that could be used by people of color who are in jail and join Project Proven.

"If you just choose a comfortable life and you only worry about yourself, you don't create the community that we really need to create," said La Crosse SURJ member Pat Lunney. "Wisconsin has the largest percentage of African-American men incarcerated in the country. La Crosse is no different to that."

If the endowment is successful, it would be the first time Project Proven had funding specifically designated to help minorities.

Of the 878 people who were booked for an alleged crime between February and December 2017, 76 percent were white and 19 percent were black, said Project Proven Manager Tonya Van Tol citing La Crosse County Jail statistics.

She said the most recent La Crosse County statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau show 92 percent of the population is white and 1.5 percent is black.

She said it's time the program starts focusing on helping people of color who have been incarcerated find a better life.

"The money that the SURJ donors are looking at supporting us with would help with things like rent, deposits, child care assistance, transportation, work boots, work clothes, interview clothes," Van Tol said. "Small, simple things that really can stand in people's way and be major barriers for them."

Harper received a different scholarship through Project Proven last summer that helped her pay the rent and other bills she had.

"These things are so very important," she said. "I work two part-time jobs, I have an internship and I'm a full-time student. The help is definitely appreciated."

## Students from Western Technical College Helping to Build a Better Community



Western Technical College Architectural Technology students from left to right: Tom Johnson, Samantha Dopson, Katie Griffing, Rebecca Bolton, Seamus Byrne, Jason Goin, Sarah Yehle and Adam Baker.

Western Technical College  
Mar 5, 2018

Every year, Wisconsin Technical College students from around the state gather in the State Capitol in Madison to showcase service learning projects within their community.

This year, however, Mother Nature had other plans.

On Feb. 20, a large ice storm encompassed the area, turning roadways into ice rinks across the state. As a result, the statewide showcase was cancelled.

While the cancellation was a bit of a letdown for many, including Peter Zirbel's architectural technology class at Western Technical College, it doesn't take away from what they have done within the community.

"It was disappointing, of course," said Zirbel. "But, it doesn't impact what our students have done."

Since 2006, the class has collaborated with Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area to provide low-income families with homes of their own. Each year, Western students meet



with Habitat for Humanity staff to find out the needs of the likely client family as well as details for the potential building sites.

For the students, the project not only acts as a service opportunity, but a chance to learn.

“For us, it’s just understanding how much goes into a design, because you don’t realize what goes into it,” said Katie Griffing, a student in the class. “When you get into the project, you realize there are so many other factors to consider that you don’t think about normally.”

“It’s a great experience for the students working for a real client on a real project that fulfills a real need,” said Zirbel. “The students are much more motivated and learn more than they would working on a project that I made up. It’s just a richer learning experience.”

Students use the information gathered from those meetings to develop construction documents, including floor plans, elevations, sections and framing plans for cost-effective, sustainable home designs for the client family.

“The biggest challenge is trying to make houses that are exciting, but very efficient,” added student Seamus Byrne. “We try to make the house have curb appeal, yet be a sustainable, affordable home for a family.”

In addition to learning more about the design process, the project helps students learn time management skills, using the latest equipment and working with a client.

“The best part is creating something, and then getting to see the final product,” said Griffing. “Just knowing all the work that we put into something pays off and seeing that person enjoying that space you created is worth it.”

While the class didn’t get the opportunity to show the project, the class realizes the good they’ve already done in the community.

“It’s nice to know that I can be behind the scenes and know that people one day live in a house that I’ve designed,” said Byrne. “It’s amazing to work on a project and know the little changes you make on a project will have a big difference for a deserving family.”

The Wisconsin Technical College System Student Showcase is an annual event designed to increase awareness of the many ways Wisconsin’s technical college students give back to their community. To learn more about the event, head to <http://www.wtcsystem.edu/initiatives-events/wtcs-student-showcase>.

## **Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake, & Superior News Utility Workforce Reaches New Heights**

***Mar 02, 2018***

How one tech college will fill the worker gap in the industry

In May 2019, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College will officially graduate the first students from the Utility Construction Technician program. A shortage of skilled workers in the field prompted Chase Lapcinski, Power & Communication Contractors Association board member, to initiate a new training at WITC. The effort to attract trade and supervision staff into the underground telecom and electric construction marketing is accurately titled, "Who Will do the Work?" The goal for the training addresses two challenges faced in the industry: a) to hire graduates with a known and consistent set of skills and b) to screen students during the training rather than in employment who are not comfortable with pole climbing or underground construction requirements.

The PCCA Board of Directors and Continuum Capital identified geographic areas where labor markets are particularly challenging and pinpointed the types of labor needed. The group initially selected Central Missouri and West Central Wisconsin to gain initial support and pilot the "Who Will Do the Work?" program. The partnership between PCCA and WITC seemed like a natural fit. The college has a strong reputation for providing skilled workers in the broadband/telecommunications industry.

"PUSH, Inc. is pleased to partner with Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in the crafting of a new program, Utility Construction Technician," said Garin Mayer, business development manager at Push, Inc. "This program is designed to give individuals the training they need to enter the growing utility service construction market."

With the support of PCCA, the Utility Construction Technician program will start in the fall of 2018. The program will introduce an array of utility construction practices, installed using the various methods within both underground and overhead methods. Students will take the theory learned in the classroom and implement the theories with real-world situations. One example of a hands-on lesson, students will use horizontal directional boring to install conduit under existing structures.

Graduates will understand basic electricity, print reading, facility locating and operation of equipment. Upon successful completion, graduates will have earned 30 credits, a technical diploma and a CDL class A permit. Graduates will be prepared to work in construction positions with owners and contractors in the telecom market.

### ***Program-Specific Requirements***

- Complete application form
- Be 18 years of age
- Provide a copy of CDL Class A permit with air brakes

- Provide verification of valid driver's license (a DUI or poor driving record may impact your employability)
- Provide verification of DOT physical exam and pass drug test
- Meet all Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) requirements

### ***Program Outcomes***

Employers will expect Utility Construction Technician graduates to be able to:

- Demonstrate safe practices and techniques
- Perform site location and preparation
- Perform construction principles
- Apply basic electrical principles
- Demonstrate customer service
- Complete CDL-A licensure

### **Utility Construction Technician Curriculum**

- Customer Service
- Truck Driving - Semi Level 1
- Truck Driving - Semi Level 2
- Truck Driving - Semi Level 3
- Work Zone Safety and OSHA 10
- Construction and Utility Permits
- Locating and Print Reading
- Internship
- Construction Practices
- Communications Electricity
- Applied Communications
- Math 373
- Applied Information Resources