




Friday, July 8, 2016

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ManpowerGroup gives \$25,000 to Blackhawk Technical College

By Jake Magee
June 7, 2016

JANESVILLE—ManpowerGroup, a Milwaukee-based company in workforce solutions, has given \$25,000 to Blackhawk Technical College for its Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Milton, according to a news release.

In response, Blackhawk will name the center's student resource lab in honor of ManpowerGroup.

“We are excited to contribute to such a forward-thinking and needed community resource offering highly valued training and skill development for the manufacturing sector, a critical component to Wisconsin's continued overall economic recovery,” said Theresa Carroll, area branch manager of ManpowerGroup, according to the news release.

“Just by the nature of its international business, ManpowerGroup understands the need for and importance of a well-trained and skilled workforce,” said Tom Eckert, college president, according to the release.

“ManpowerGroup has a well-deserved reputation as an ethical and generous corporate citizen, and Blackhawk Technical College is honored to be recognized by such a distinguished organization.”

ManpowerGroup provides services in 80 countries and territories and connects more than 600,000 people to work in different industries each day, according to the release.

The Janesville office offers services for job-seekers and employers, such as employee assessment, training and consulting.

The Milton training center houses classes related to advanced manufacturing and transportation. It has 40 welding bays, several labs, classrooms and more, according to the release.

Dr. Tracy Pierner selected as new BTC president

Dr. Tracy Pierner, a Wisconsin native with eight years of experience in the Wisconsin Technical College System, was named the fifth president of Blackhawk Technical College Thursday following a meeting of the school's district board.

Pierner, currently the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Henry Ford College in Dearborn, Mich., will succeed Dr. Tom Eckert, who is retiring.

Pierner, who will officially assume his new duties on July 1, was given a two-year contract with a salary of \$170,000 per year. The BTC District Board holds an option to renew the contract for one additional year after the June 30, 2018 expiration of the deal.

"I am truly humbled to be selected by the Board for this job," said Dr. Pierner. "This has been a goal of mine for many years and I'm excited to have the opportunity to return to the Wisconsin Technical College System."

Barbara Barrington-Tillman, the BTC board chair and head of the presidential search committee, said Pierner brings a mix of teaching, administrative and private business experience that should suit Blackhawk's needs not only with students, faculty and staff but with district residents who rely on BTC as an important economic engine in the area.

"From the outset, the Board was impressed with Dr. Pierner's dynamic personality, his energy and enthusiasm," said Barrington-Tillman. "His breadth of experience in technical education and his background as a dean, instructor and engineer will fit in well with BTC's current needs and future development."

"Throughout the selection process, the Board sought a president who would inspire our educational community and build on the foundation created more than 100 years ago. We are excited to bring Dr. Pierner here to lead BTC into the next chapter of its history."

Pierner, who is originally from the Green Bay area, earned his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1993; his MS in Engineering from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1997; and his doctorate in Technology Management-Manufacturing Systems from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind., in 2006. He also completed a one-year leadership program for college administrators at The Chair Academy in Madison, Wis., in 2005.

Pierner has 19 years of experience in technical education in a variety of teaching and administrative positions.

Prior to becoming vice president of academic affairs at Henry Ford in 2013, he was in charge of the school's career and technical education programs. He joined Henry Ford after spending five years as the dean of technical education at Aiken Technical College in Aiken, S.C. While at Aiken, he also served as an adjunct professor of electrical engineering at South Carolina State University.

At both Aiken and Henry Ford, he was considered a strong proponent of online educational services and flexible delivery options for students.

Pierner, 46, began his career in technical education at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, where he was a lead instructor and curriculum developer in four programs – Electromechanical Technology, Automation Engineering Technology, Electronics Technology and Electrical Engineering Technology. He also served as a student adviser and facilities planner at the WTCS institution.

Following graduation from the University of Wisconsin, Pierner spent five years as an engineer for Rockwell Automation in Appleton and Cleveland, Ohio, and six years as an engineering consultant for Kimberly-Clark Corp. in Neenah.



Blackhawk Technical College, UW-Rock County to sign transfer agreement

Blackhawk Technical College and UW-Rock County have reached an agreement allowing students to transfer credits from BTC toward obtaining a bachelor's degree at UW-Rock.

By Nick Crow

JANESVILLE — Blackhawk Technical College and UW-Rock County have reached an agreement allowing students to transfer credits from BTC toward obtaining a bachelor's degree at UW-Rock.

The agreement assures the acceptance of any applied associate degree graduate from BTC into the UW Colleges bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree program.

"This agreement continues the longstanding commitment BTC has in partnering with the University of Wisconsin Colleges to increase options for students from all different walks of life and career paths," said Ed Robinson, vice president of student services at BTC. "Transfer students typically have a high graduation rate, so well-crafted articulation agreements often contribute to a student's success at the university."

The transfer agreement is open to students who have earned an applied associate degree from BTC with a grade point average of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Robinson said the agreement will help ensure students understand which courses will transfer and help them make better course choices to can save time and money.

"For some students, it is necessary for them to start their academic career at a technical college," Robinson said. "However, this agreement encourages students to consider additional degree attainment at a UW College. Consequently, the articulation agreement provides a guide for students who are considering a four-year degree."

UW Colleges/UW-Rock County will accept 60 credits in transfer for BTC courses fulfilling the requirements of the applied associate degree. Students who are accepted with 60 transfer credits will be classified as juniors in the bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree program.

Students would then complete 60 additional credits to meet the 120 credits required for the UW Colleges bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree.

"I think it's a win-win for UW-Rock and BTC students," said Kristin Fillhouer, associate dean for student affairs at UW-Rock. "It allows us to offer some additional education for those students who maybe want to move up in a career, move up in the company they are with now or explore their options."

Fillhouer said the transfer credits wasn't possible before. The UW System has discussed agreements with the Wisconsin Technical College System in the past, but this agreement is new, she said.

"We had talked last year, but this has been a work in progress," Fillhouer said. "We do currently have students in the program."

A formal signing ceremony will be at 1 p.m. Monday, April 25, at UW-Rock County.

"I think it's a really great way for folks to stay in Rock County," Fillhouer said. "This is really a nice fit for those who gravitate to hands-on learning."

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CVTC to Take Lead in \$5 Million TechHire Grant

\$1.7 million local share to boost Industrial Mechanics program

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2016

Chippewa Valley Technical College will be taking the lead in a \$5 million federal Department of Labor TechHire Partnership Grant to be shared with other technical colleges to prepare young adults for well-paying, high-growth jobs in the advanced manufacturing, information technology and broadband industries. The \$1.7 million local share to be spent over four years will be used to enhance CVTC's Industrial Mechanic program.

Announcement of the \$150 million in grants to 39 recipients across the country was made June 27 by Vice President Joe Biden and Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez. The award to CVTC is \$5 million, with that amount to be shared with Southwest Technical College (SWTC) in Fennimore and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) in Rice Lake, which partnered with CVTC on the application, along with the Department of Workforce Development and regional employers and industry representatives.

CVTC's Industrial Mechanic program prepares students to install, maintain, operate, diagnose, and repair automated equipment used in manufacturing industries. CVTC will expand program capacity and provide support services to students, with those in the 17-29 age range with barriers to training and employment being the target group. Workforce Resource, Inc. will work to identify, recruit, and assess participants and provide career readiness training before students enter the CVTC program.

Also with its share, CVTC will incorporate a multi-disciplinary simulated manufacturing center for hands-on application in manufacturing programs, providing students the opportunity to practice industrial mechanics in a comprehensive production setting where real products are created.

"By expanding the Industrial Mechanic program, CVTC advances two parts of its mission – to meet the workforce needs of the region and to improve the lives of students," said CVTC Dean of Manufacturing Jeff Sullivan. "Many good-paying jobs are available in the field and an expanded program increases opportunities for those seeking to better their lives while at the same time filling a need in business and industry."

Students can begin classes in the Industrial Mechanic program in eight-week intervals throughout the year. Evening and daytime classes are available, with class schedules set to accommodate people who are working while going to school. Program director Tim Tewalt said scheduling will be an important consideration as the program expands.

"We are thinking about when people are working," Tewalt said. "We want to give them a lot of flexibility."



CVTC Industrial Mechanic instructor Tim Tewalt, center, works with students on troubleshooting automation equipment in the program lab at CVTC's Manufacturing Education Center in 2015. A federal grant announced June 27 will enable CVTC to expand the program.

Among the employers in need of people trained in this field are 3M, Rockwell Automation, Presto, Mayville Engineering, Cummins Filtration, OEM Fabricators and Advanced Laser Machining.

In addition to its \$1.7 million for its program work, CVTC will receive \$1.3 million on behalf of the consortium for administration, support, and identification and recruitment of students. SWTC will receive \$1.2 million and WITC \$735,000.

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http://chippewa.com/news/local/cvtc-recognizes-chi-hi-for-dual-credit-partnership/article_aed4668f-2285-57f0-abce-ef210ec64a2c.html

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PREVIOUS

Lake Hallie police referendum draws closer

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CVTC recognizes Chi-Hi for dual-credit partnership

MARK GUNDERMAN CVTC News Bureau May 19, 2016



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CVTC News Bureau

CVTC Dean of Business and Academic Initiatives Lynette Livingston presents the Partnership Award to Chi-Hi Career and Technical Education Coordinator Angie Stokes at the high school on Tuesday.

For William Blake, the IT Academy at Chippewa Falls Senior High School was “the deal maker.”

It led to his decision to enroll at Chippewa Valley Technical College next fall in the information technology-software developer program. The academy providing him with nine credits toward a degree from CVTC made the choice attractive.

Blake is one of hundreds of Chi-Hi students getting a jump on their college education through dual-credit classes. The level of participation from Chi-Hi led CVTC to present the school with a Partnership Award Tuesday. This is the third straight year Chi-Hi has earned the recognition. ●

In dual-credit classes, high school students earn full credit directly from the technical college just as if the student took the class at the college.

“They get credit on their transcript right away (and) they don’t have to apply for it,” Jessica Schwartz, CVTC registrar, said. “That credit can transfer to a university too. We are looking for ways to create pathways from high school to CVTC, and to their bachelor’s degree at a university.”

Chi-Hi’s participation in the program has been increasing.

Chi-Hi currently has dual-credit agreements with CVTC for eight classes, with 330 student enrollments. That’s an increase from five classes and 202 enrollments in 2013-14.

Part of Chi-Hi’s participation in the dual-credit program is the IT Academy, in which a cluster of information technology classes is being taught in the school by a CVTC instructor.

It is CVTC’s first use of the academy model for dual-credit. More academies are being developed at schools throughout the CVTC district, including more at Chi-Hi.

“I took the classes because I was interested in the technology field,” said Blake, who took a dual-credit computer applications class in addition to the IT academy block. “Knowing that I was going to get CVTC credit closed the deal.”

Blake added that his decision to attend CVTC was partly a financial one. Because the school district pays for the CVTC credits, the dual-credit classes provide a way for the students to save money on college tuition.

"It's a great advantage to students to start college while they are still in high school," said Lynette Livingston, dean of business and academic initiatives at CVTC, who presented the award. "Part of the reason is the money you can save by taking the classes in high school. Some students can take enough credits in high school to complete a whole semester of college."

Dual-credit is making a difference for other students as well. Chi-Hi seniors Shantel Webb and Deidra Hawkins enrolled in the assistant child care teacher class that provides CVTC and high school credit, plus a certificate to work as an assistant teacher at a day care.

Both are planning to attend CVTC in the fall to study early childhood education.

"I thought this would give me a start to my education," Webb said.

Alex McDonough, a Chi-Hi junior, took an animal sciences class for dual-credit. She plans to major in that subject at UW-River Falls.

"I knew there were some dual-credit classes I could take that would transfer the credits to UW-River Falls," McDonough said.

CVTC has 135 dual-credit agreements with 34 high schools this year. CVTC dual-credit programs have helped almost 5,600 students since 2011.

FVTC leads in pilot prep, boasts high pass rate



Noelt Dickmann, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 11:34 a.m. CDT June 25, 2016



(Photo: Courtesy of Fox Valley Technical College)

Fox Valley Technical College has further cemented its leadership in pilot instruction.

The college converted its pilot training program to a Federal Aviation Administration-approved 141 program in July 2014, which must be renewed every two years. One of the requirements in renewing is an 80 percent pass rate on a three-part test, said Jared Huss, chief instructor and aeronautics department chair at the college.

Fox Valley Technical College has far exceeded that requirement, with a 95 percent pass rate for the program.

Huss said the milestone is due to the college's approach of training to a 100 percent rather than 70 percent - it graduates the best and brightest in the industry.

RELATED: [FVTC earns new flight training certification \(/story/news/education/2015/10/21/fvtc-atp-certification/74262342/\)](/story/news/education/2015/10/21/fvtc-atp-certification/74262342/)

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The 141 program is a three-year path and students are tested in a written portion, oral portion, question-and-answer session and on their flying ability. It has a strict set of regulations and is audited and approved by the FAA, Huss said.

Overall, it's a higher level of training for a pilot than a typical 61 program.

The 95 percent pass rate for the program speaks volumes to the hardworking staff and students, as it's like having a full-time job, Huss said.

"That takes a lot of energy, a lot of effort by these students," he added. "And it's not just the 40 hours a week that they'll spend here. There's a tremendous amount of time outside of the classroom that they need to study to prepare to make the most of their flying."

Student Tanner Byholm, 20, chose to attend FVTC specially for its 141 program, which will also allow him to earn his Airline Transport Pilot certificate at 1,250 flight hours instead of 1,500. That can equate to getting in the field as many as two years sooner, he said.

The program has rigorous training during all hours of the day - such as night flights and homework outside of class and flight time - but it's rewarding, he said.

"It's like going to an ivy league school rather than a normal college," Byholm said. "It's more strict and rigorous training but it makes you a better pilot."

Byholm, who is from Glidden and now lives in Oshkosh, joined the Marine Corp after high school to fly fighter jets, then joined the reserves after basic training and went to FVTC to earn his pilot certificates. He's keeping his career options open once he graduates, however, going to work for an airline is attractive because he'd have the ability to apply for the best jobs since there is a [pilot shortage \(/story/news/local/oshkosh/airventure/2014/07/22/pilots-shortage-aviation-aaa/13004843/\)](/story/news/local/oshkosh/airventure/2014/07/22/pilots-shortage-aviation-aaa/13004843/).

Dick Hanusa, an FAA designated pilot examiner in Oshkosh, said he sees very well-prepared and qualified student pilots when he does check rides with them for pilot certification. FVTC students are prepared to advance, and are familiar with standards the industry uses since the college provides similar training and procedures.

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"The foundation that they receive at a training program like Fox Valley Technical College is really the key factor to their success as they move on forward," he said. "If someone isn't well-prepared and doesn't have the motivation to take on such a program ... they may struggle as they advance."

Instructors and students are held to high standards - which is clearly indicated in the high pass rate, he said.

Besides exceptional flying ability, students are graduating with strong soft skills, like showing up and completing tasks on time, said Mike Melotte, flight training standard development manager for Air Wisconsin Airlines Corp.

"You have to put in the time and energy to be that good," he said. "But you also have to build those soft skills employees are looking for."

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ACDelco Boosts Automotive Program

May 25, 2016

GM ASEP students at Fox Valley Technical College received prize packages while the program earned \$5,000 in automotive tools thanks to ACDelco.

Bob Hicks, Automotive Technology instructor at FVTC, entered the college in a social media competition sponsored by ACDelco. The contest challenged GM ASEP students throughout the United States to produce creative social media content for others to consider careers as automotive technicians. FVTC won the competition from a pool of 53 other GM ASEP training schools.

GM ASEP is a joint effort between GM, GM dealers, ACDelco Professional Service Center (PSC) program members, and select colleges across the nation, Canada, and China. The two-year GM ASEP curriculum combines advanced technical training, academic coursework, and real-world internship experience at participating GM dealerships or independent ACDelco PSC shops.

ACDelco is the exclusive original equipment parts brand for Chevrolet, Buick, GM, and Cadillac, as well as a provider of premium aftermarket parts for most other makes and models.



KENOSHA NEWS

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Gateway Urban Farm and Market kicks off season

BY JAMES LAWSON
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Gateway Technical College's Urban Farm and Market this year features more organic vegetables, activities for children and clinics for backyard gardeners.

The farm/market kicks off the 2016 season Thursday, with a revamped and larger venue than in previous years. It will operate Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. until Oct. 13.

Located on the grounds of the Pike Creek Horticultural Center on Gateway's Kenosha campus, 3520 30th Ave., the farm was established four years ago as a marketplace and educational tool for students enrolled in Gateway's horticulture program.

Urban Farm director Kate Jerome said there will be a wider variety of produce, including more heirloom and open-pollinated fruits, vegetables and herbs — registered as Certified Naturally Grown.

Other items include mushrooms, hydroponic produce, potted plants and flowers. There will be farm tours, children's activities, demonstrations, discussion groups and live entertainment most weeks.

The garden clinics begin at 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. Thursday's topic is container gardening; the May 12 topic is transplanting; May 19, salads and quick dressings; and May 26, weed identification,

Children's activities include story telling, coloring activities and the making of Geo-Pets, a creation that is similar to the advertised Chia Pet.

While the vegetables and herbs are produced by students and horticulture club members, some locally produced products such as eggs and honey from outside suppliers also will be on sale.

The proceeds go back into the Urban Farm project and the college's horticulture club.

"We want to be a local community resource where people can come for good information," said Jerome. "We can show how we grow our produce."

HarborMarket to begin outdoor season

'Tis the outdoor season for fresh veggies and fruits.

The Kenosha HarborMarket will begin its outdoor season with 90 vendors May 14 on Second Avenue between 54th and 56th Streets. The market is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The outdoor season will run until Oct. 15. The open-air market features farm fresh produce, meats, cheeses a variety of prepared foods, unique culinary-themed items as well as items from artists and crafters

There are three performance areas featuring free music. Opening day performers are Annie B., Keith Minikel and Jim Namio.

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Goldman Sachs award to fund Gateway scholarships

Published April 26, 2016

BY JAMES LAWSON

jlawson@kenoshanews.com

Investment banking firm Goldman Sachs has awarded a \$100,000 endowment scholarship to Gateway Technical College to fund scholarships for students of need.

Although the Goldman endowment award is not related to Gateway's Promise endowment that was announced in February, it becomes another funding source to help students.

The New York-based Goldman's funding is another example of how corporations, community groups, individuals and other types of organizations are joining in the national initiative to make college more affordable.

Monday some Gateway students were invited to listen in on a webcast hosted by Vice President Joe Biden, who addressed the issue of college affordability.

The Goldman award will seed an endowment administered by the Gateway Foundation. The fund will be managed by Johnson Trust, which will invest it in equity and fixed-rate instruments.

Foundation executive director Jennifer Charpentier said interest proceeds from the endowment will continue to provide scholarship throughout upcoming years.

The scholarships will target high schoolers, continuing Gateway students and adult learners seeking to sharpen their skills.

Scholarship awards are expected to range from \$500 to \$1,000. To qualify, students must exhibit need and have at least a C grade point average.

Earlier this year, Gateway introduced Promise, its own version of a proposed national program to fund college tuition.

The Gateway Promise assists Gateway-bound low-income high school students who have maintained a 2.0 grade point average.

Initially funded with \$1.5 million from contributions from corporations, organizations and individuals, the goal is to create \$3 million endowment fund that will continue to serve students.

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| MON 11 | Bristol Village Board Bristol Municipal ... Bristol, WI (http://www.kenoshanews.com/gokeno/VILLAGE-BOARD/1447089/2016-07-11T19) |
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More headlines

WEDC awards Launch Box grant for business accelerator program

Submitted by ColonyL on June 2, 2016 - 12:34pm

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News Release:  Release - WEDC Grant

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has awarded Gateway Technical College a \$50,000 grant to support its Launch Box Growth Accelerator program, assisting 10 area entrepreneurial teams to help them start or grow their business.

“We are committed to creating a business climate that supports our next generation of entrepreneurs and small business owners in Wisconsin,” said Governor Scott Walker. “Our partnership and investment in Gateway Technical College’s Launch Box assists these new businesses with hands-on training, mentoring and financial assistance to bridge the gap from an idea to the creation of a business and initial investment.”

WEDC’s Seed Accelerator Program was launched in 2012 to support nonprofit accelerators that support pre-seed, technology-based and growth-oriented businesses.

“We are thrilled to hear that Gateway received a second round of funding from the WEDC and continues to be a part of this statewide effort to increase entrepreneurship in Wisconsin,” said Gateway Launch Box director Thalia Mendez. “We know that there are many talented individuals in the Greater Racine area and beyond that will benefit from this programing.”

The Launch Box Growth Accelerator starting June 7 will begin accepting applications for its program, scheduled to begin in September at Gateway’s Business Resource Center on its Racine Campus. Online applications will be available at www.gtc.edu/accelerator and will close Aug. 26.

“Gateway Technical College is asserting its commitment to entrepreneurial development through efforts like the Launch Box program,” said WEDC secretary and CEO Mark Hogan. “WEDC is pleased to partner with Gateway Technical College as we aim to support entrepreneurs and assist in the creation of the next generation of Wisconsin companies.”

Participants will be involved in an intense, 12-week training and mentoring program to help them develop and refine their business models and, upon successful completion, will each receive a \$2,500 seed grant. Gateway will work with Greg Meier of the Global Entrepreneurship Collective to deliver the dynamic, interactive and collaborative programing to entrepreneurs in the Gateway district for a second time.

Accelerators provide business model training, experienced mentorship and financial assistance to a class of selected entrepreneurs. WEDC grant funds may be used as seed capital for participating startups, as well as for operating costs of the accelerator. Launch Box is the seventh accelerator launched through the program which has assisted more than 140 entrepreneurial ventures throughout Wisconsin.

LTC Offers Free Non-Traditional Occupation Exploration Classes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5/4/2016

CLEVELAND, WI –

Lakeshore Technical College will be offering the opportunity to explore non-traditional occupation opportunities through free exploration classes. NTO exploration classes are designed to give women the opportunity to experience “hands-on learning” in fields that have traditionally had few females in their ranks and that may offer higher pay and greater satisfaction. Exploration classes will be offered in May and June.

Landscaping for Women is a free 16-hour class that will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays May 16, 18, 23 and 25 from 4-8pm on the LTC Environmental Campus in Cleveland. Participants will learn about workplace tool and equipment operation safety, plant propagation, plant care and maintenance, career opportunities in sustainable landscape horticulture and sustainable landscape design, installation and maintenance.

Women in EMS/Fire Science will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays June 6, 8, 13 and 15 from 6-9pm on the LTC Cleveland campus. Participants will learn about the entry-level requirements to work in the emergency medical services and fire service fields, opportunities in the emergency medical services and fire sciences fields that align with your personal interests and career opportunities for women in the emergency medical services and fire services fields.

Haas Foundation donates \$20,000 to LTC

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 12:33 p.m. CDT June 3, 2016



(Photo: Courtesy of Jennifer Bartz)

Haas Foundation representatives recently presented a \$20,000 check to the Lakeshore Technical College Foundation in support of scholarships for students enrolled in the Computer Numeric Controlled technician program.

The gift will be used to fund scholarships for students demonstrating financial need who are enrolled full-time in the second year of the CNC Technician Program at LTC. The second year of the program is where much of the student training takes place in programming and operations on Haas simulators and CNC turning and machining centers.

Tim Turner and Bill Dymond, of Haas Factory Outlet, presented the check in front of a group of current CNC Technician program students and staff gathered at the KOHLER Center for Manufacturing Excellence on the LTC campus in Cleveland.

In 2014, the LTC Foundation completed its first capital campaign to support renovations to the college's two manufacturing facilities, adding capacity for up to an additional 50 students annually to help meet local demand for manufacturing workers. The KOHLER Center for Manufacturing Excellence allows the college to train a larger workforce to accommodate community workforce growth.

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DOC partners with Madison college for industrial training

Posted: Wednesday, July 6, 2016 1:45 pm

Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Jon Litscher joined leaders from the state Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Madison College, and the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin (WDBSCW) to celebrate the first graduates from an innovative pilot program to provide in-demand skills training in industrial maintenance for minimum-security inmates with work release privileges.

Graduating on June 30th were 15 inmates with work release privileges from Thompson Correctional Center and Oregon Correctional Center.

The program provides an accelerated industrial maintenance curriculum, with inmates earning 11 credits in 12 weeks, which can be applied towards an Industrial Mechanic one-year technical diploma or an Industrial Maintenance Technician two-year technical diploma.

Participants learn to interpret engineering drawings, job-specific math skills, workplace communication, and other job-specific skills.

They also met with representatives from several south central Wisconsin employers to learn about careers in manufacturing.

The local median wage for industrial maintenance mechanics is \$18.80 per hour. Industrial maintenance is a rapidly-growing field, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimating 16 percent annual growth.

DOC Secretary Litscher said providing opportunities for inmates to learn in-demand technical skills is a core part of DOC's mission.

"Training programs help inmates to learn valuable skills employers are seeking, which makes it easier for inmates to find work upon their release and provide a positive contribution to their community," Litscher added.

Seth Lentz, WDBSCW Deputy Director, praised the partnership.

"This is a prime example of a strong workforce development partnership that is yielding incredible results," Lentz said. "We're proud of this collaboration with DOC and Madison College to help build, sustain and expand training opportunities for such skilled and dedicated individuals and we hope to continue this



Jon Litscher

momentum in our work together.”

Theresa Valencia, Madison College Manufacturing Instructor, said in her 17 years of teaching she never had such a high achieving class of students.

“Their dedication and motivation to learning new skills is top notch,” Valencia said. “Regardless of how much we teach them they constantly want to learn more. This is a characteristic sought by all employers.”

DWD Secretary Ray Allen said the partnership made possible through funding from a Wisconsin Fast Forward–Blueprint for Prosperity grant benefits Wisconsinites returning from the corrections and criminal justice system.

Allen said it trains them with the skills and knowledge needed to fill jobs in the modern economy.

“These innovative partnerships are the kinds of investments that will strengthen the economy,” Allen said, “and protect community safety.”

DOC has also partnered with Milwaukee Area Technical College and Gateway Technical College to develop similar training programs to provide inmates with in-demand skills they can use to find a job upon their release.

http://www.wiscnews.com/portagedailyregister/news/local/article_91db8af0-7ef0-511b-8a27-fb6d1ca40a00.html

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MATC-Portage program gives students 'taste of college life'

Noah Vernau nvernau@capitalnewspapers.com, 608-745-3519 May 5, 2016



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Noah Vernau/Daily Register

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Logan Krohn, a student at Madison Area Technical College-Portage, prepares to do some welding at the Portage Business Enterprise Center while classmate Raymond Ray III looks on and middle-college instructor Ben Newcomb, left, locates a tool.

Six students who will graduate this week from a middle-college program at Madison Area Technical College-Portage are thinking about their futures in ways they couldn't imagine two years ago.

"It's a free head start on college, really," said Raymond Ray III, who enrolled in the school's Manufacturing Essentials program as a junior at Baraboo High School. "I love coming here. It's never, like, 'Oh, I have to go school today.'

"Now it's, 'Hey, I get to go weld today.'"

The students, from Reedsburg, Baraboo, Poynette and Lodi high schools, joined the government-funded program last year as "juniors in good standing." The classes are dual credit, counting for college and helping them reach high school graduation requirements.

Each student is on track to graduate from high school in May or June. Soon they'll acquire a Manufacturing Essentials certificate, participating in a graduation ceremony from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the MATC-Portage campus and a ceremony next week in Madison.

The idea for the program, middle-college liaison Sue Peterson explained, has been around for a long time: Getting youths into jobs.

"This (idea) started way back to help turn the country around after the Great Depression," Peterson said. "Ever since then, this kind of situation has been out there for students who are 'high need,' or who some people call 'underprivileged.'

"I don't like that word because it labels them," she said. "They're quality students."

The MATC-Portage middle-college program has evolved a lot in recent years, Peterson said, including significant growth of a machines lab at Portage Business Enterprise Center that has "really blossomed into this huge area." The students participated in three semesters of dual-credit classes in the afternoons, Monday through Thursday, bused or taxied, at no cost to them, from their respective high schools for classes at the Portage campus and PBEC.

MATC-Portage recruits students for the program from high schools across the area, including Columbia, Marquette and Sauk counties, but who joins depends on a commitment at the high school level, too. Daily attendance check-ins are required and weekly grade reports need to be sent to parents. Participation rules set by the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin are centered on student income levels and parental situations.

"Some students, they're on their own," Peterson said. "I call them bootstrap students — they pull themselves up by their bootstraps and get through life."

“For some of them this hands-on program helps them because they’re not fit for the desk-lecture setting.”

But the students enrolled, she added, needed to demonstrate they’re invested in education.

“We don’t take them if they’re not going to take to the rigor of college life.”

‘Move around’

Students of MATC-Portage’s middle-college program will, hopefully, go on to attain technical college degrees, said Peterson, who helps the students register in college programs and research careers. What helps make the program special is that it’s “completely paid for” — with students gaining skills they otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford.

Funding for middle college, according to the Workforce Development Board’s website, comes via the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2014. The program, in this region, is a collaborative initiative of Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, colleges like MATC and other associations.

Ideally, it inspires students.

“It’s typically for students where the high school setting maybe isn’t quite right for them — they can’t sit in the seat all day,” said instructor Ben Newcomb, who teaches Introduction to MIG (Metal Inert Gas) Welding in the PBEC lab.

“This gives them a chance to be in the shop. This class is typically 2 1/2 hours, so they move around a lot more and gain skills.”

In Newcomb’s class, for example, students learn the basic skills used in MIG welding, welding in flat and horizontal positions and, for the past two weeks, learning flux-cored arc welding. Other middle-college classes in Portage, Peterson said, include machining, interpretive blueprint design, computer numerical control and lathe.

Engaging them is key, Newcomb said. At an open house earlier this semester, students met industry professionals from DaHaus, a startup welding company housed at PBEC. Next week they’ll take a field trip to Robbins Manufacturing in Fall River — a chance for the students to see how a large manufacturer operates from start to finish.

"They'll see where the material comes in, gets cut on a laser, gets fabricated and gets sent back to welding department — which these guys will really enjoy because it's what they've been doing all semester," Newcomb said. "They'll see parts being made rather than just practicing their skills on 8-inch pieces of material."

'Metal head'

Logan Krohn is a senior at Reedsburg High School who, at the local graduation ceremony open to the public, will lead a presentation of what he's learned over his three semesters in the program.

"I'm more of a hands-on person," Krohn said. "It sticks with you better than reading from a textbook. That's how some people are, and that's how most of these kids are."

"And it's great — we all get together and we just weld. We make something, and we all come up with great ideas."

Krohn already works at Boardman Conveyor in Reedsburg, operating machinery, and he's now set to take the CNC program at MATC's Truax campus, hoping to become a tool and die maker.

"It was definitely a great opportunity to have this option, and if anybody wants to go into (manufacturing), it's the way to go. You get so many opportunities to do a wide variety of things: welding, operating a lathe and drill press. It's just awesome."

Ray had already taken Advanced Placement welding classes at Baraboo High School, but thanks to middle college, he said, "I'm just now starting to get really good at it."

"I always had interest in tech ed, hands-on stuff, and they said they had programs available for metal, iron working and I was super interested."

"I'm a 100-percent metal-head. I listen to it, I go to school for it."

Ray, in the fall, plans to begin classes to attain an industrial maintenance technician degree, hoping to someday gain work as a fabricator — "something that pays the bills." He's also looking at jobs running lathes and mills. Ray, to his surprise, learned how so many MATC programs "intermingle" with others, discovering he was already three-fourths of the way to attaining the IMT degree.

“When you’re 40 years old and can’t do backbreaking labor, welding is good because you can sit down; it’s smooth movements. But it takes a lot of skill.”

The smaller class sizes are important, Ray said, as are patient instructors — something MATC-Portage has.

“I know one of my class sizes in high school tech ed was 30 people, and it’s like, how do you teach these people?”

“I have to work for a living,” Ray said. “I’ve been through a lot of tough times, I’ve paid bills.

“If I was convincing someone to sign up, I’d say, you get a taste of college life — and it’s a thousand times different than high school.”

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MSTC student wins national award

Liz Welter, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 10 a.m. CDT July 1, 2016



LOUISVILLE - Jordan Esselman of Chili won a national award at the 2016 SkillsUSA Championships held June 22 to June 23, according to a news release from SkillsUSA.

Esselman, a student at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids, competed in the automotive service technology division. He was one of more than 6,000 students competing in the annual workforce development event, which showcases career and technical education, the release said.

(Photo: Courtesy SkillsUSA)

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skills competition in the world where students demonstrate their technical, workplace and personal skills in 100 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking, the release said.

Industry leaders from 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. More than 1,700 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year, the release said.

Skill Point Certificates were awarded in 86 occupational and leadership areas to students who met a predetermined threshold score in their competition, as defined by industry. The Skill Point Certificate is a component of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, a national assessment program for career and technical education. Esselman was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Automotive Service Technology.

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Diesel-tech keeps supply chain trucking safely

Liz Welter, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 11:44 a.m. CDT June 27, 2016

Ben Anderson, 19, is proud of his role in maintaining and ensuring the safety of trucks.



(Photo: Jacob Byk/USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin)

WISCONSIN RAPIDS - The powerful and roaring engines of the towering tractor trailers traveling the highways captured the imagination of Ben Anderson when he was a young child. While their size and gleaming exterior caught his attention as a youngster, it was the magic of the engine's mechanics that led him to tinker with the tiny motors of his remote-controlled vehicles.

As a teenager, he toured the Mid-State Technical College campus and saw for the first time the enormous engines that power these trucks. "I knew right away what I wanted to do," Anderson said.

Years later, Anderson, 19, of Marshfield, has a promising career that fits his passion for trucks, engines and problem-solving. Before he even graduated in May from MSTC's two-year diesel technician program, he had job offers from three central Wisconsin companies.

"It's pretty nice to have the skills that lots of companies want," Anderson said.

A diesel technician repairs and maintains diesel engines. It also is a well-paying job with lots of opportunities, not only in Wisconsin, but across the nation.

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"For every graduate I have, they can take their pick of jobs anywhere they want to live," said Gary Kilgas, the Technical & Industrial Division associate dean at MSTC. "The demand is through the roof."

MSTC recently completed an expansion of its Diesel Technology Center to provide state-of-the art facilities to train students. The center graduates about 20 diesel technician students a year who have their pick of jobs with most salaries beginning around \$17 an hour up to \$30 an hour, Kilgas said. The cost of the two-year program for each student is about \$10,000.



Ben Anderson, diesel technician for Roehl Transport, removes the wheel of a truck in Marshfield June 14, 2016. (Photo: Jacob Byk/USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin)

The national outlook for diesel technicians projects the demand for jobs will grow by 12 percent with the addition of 31,600 jobs from 2014-2024, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That outlook is better than the average for all occupations tracked by the bureau.

Job security and longevity for the profession is "outstanding" because diesel engines are the standard in powering the trucks that run the nation's transportation sector, Kilgas said. Diesel engines also power buses, other heavy vehicles including cranes and bulldozers, and many commercial boats.

While there are diesel mechanic or technician jobs available that don't require education following high school, employers are beginning to want applicants who have post-secondary training in diesel engine repair.



Ben Anderson, diesel technician for Roehl Transport, works in the Marshfield location of the business June 14, 2016. (Photo: Jacob Byk/USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin)

"This is a much more complex field than it was 10 or 20 years ago," Kilgas said.

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Diesel technicians handle many kinds of repairs including the vehicle's electrical system, engine repairs or retrofitting exhaust systems with emission controls to comply with pollution regulations.

The maintenance and repair of diesel engines is becoming more complex as engines and other components use more electronic systems to control their operation. The students use computerized diagnostic equipment to troubleshoot and adjust engine functions, Kilgas said.

"The systems used to be so simple that the drivers could diagnosis a problem and know what to do, but not anymore," said Chris Omernik, MSTC diesel and heavy equipment instructor. "Now the drivers have got to take it to the shop."



Diesel and heavy equipment technician instructor Chris Omernik explains the new brake board that will be used in the fall semester at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids, Tuesday, June 14, 2016. (Photo: Megan McCormick/USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin)

Omernik's students come from all walks of life, he said, but the common denominator is their aptitude for problem-solving, patience and attention to detail. Diagnosing an engine problem can be complicated and a technician needs to be adept at "using diagnostics and thinking it through," Omernik said.

Besides diesel repairs, technicians also complete the routine preventive maintenance diagnostics to ensure a truck doesn't break down on the job, Anderson said. A complete preventive workup takes between three to five hours to complete.

"This job is a huge responsibility and it's an awesome feeling," he said



Ben Anderson, diesel technician for Roehl Transport, works in the shop in Marshfield June 14, 2016. (Photo: Jacob Byk/USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin)

Anderson got a taste for his career as a senior at Marshfield High School where he apprenticed at Roehl Transport, Inc., one of the nation's largest trucking companies. He continued to work for the company while he attended MSTC.

"I remember my first day in high school at Roehl and someone showed me my first engine and it was just amazing," he said. "I wanted to know what every little part did and why."

Three years later, he's proud of his role in the transportation industry and envisions a long career with Roehl. He enjoys the work because the job presents new challenges every day.

"I love figuring this out because these trucks have eight different computers on them and they work on a multiplexing system where every system has to communicate together," he said.

Anderson's laptop computer connects the truck's different systems so that he can complete the diagnostic tests to evaluate the problem and solutions.

"I've always had a drive to understand these machines and now I'm a part of keeping these trucks running, moving stuff all over the U.S. and it's pretty awesome," Anderson said.

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Milwaukee Tech College To Offer Pell Grants To Prisoners

The Federal Grant For Low-Income Students Is Open To Prisoners For First Time Since 1994

By Kyla Calvert Mason

Updated:

Monday, June 27, 2016, 11:56am

Milwaukee Area Technical College will be one of 67 colleges and universities across the country to pilot a revival of Pell Grants for prisoners. The federal grants pay college costs for low-income students. State and federal inmates have been barred from receiving the support since 1994.

MATC will use the pilot to expand on a re-entry program for prisoners that started in 2015. Earlier this month, 47 inmates had received certificates in computerized machining through the program and 25 were working.

The program's goal is more than learning specific machining skills, it's preparing inmates for the workforce, said Trevor Kubatzke, vice president of student services for the campus.

"It's not just the training in the classroom, it also includes things like, when they're ready, how do they write a resume? How do we get job skills in there?" he said.

Prisoners who participated in a correctional education program are 43 percent less likely to return to prison within three years than those who do not participate, according to a 2013 study from the RAND Corporation [1].

The U.S. currently has about 1.5 million inmates, giving it the highest incarceration rate in the world. For every dollar spent on education programs for prisoners, \$4 to \$5 are saved on three-year reincarceration costs, the RAND Corporation estimates.

The Obama administration's pilot will make about \$30 million in grants available to nearly 12,000 inmates in state and federal facilities in more than 20 states.

The Milwaukee campus plans to enroll 250 grant-supported prisoners in the expanded re-entry program, Kubatzke said.

Source URL: <http://www.wpr.org/milwaukee-tech-college-offer-pell-grants-prisoners>

Links

[1] http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html

EDUCATION

MATC expands applications for free tuition program to juniors

By *Karen Herzog* of the *Journal Sentinel*

April 25, 2016

The Milwaukee Area Technical College program that [provides free tuition and fees for eligible students](#) is now accepting applications from current high school juniors, MATC President Vicki Martin announced Monday.

"Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have the necessary funds to support another cohort of Promise students," Martin said.

Close to 1,300 high school seniors who either attend school or live in the MATC service district are in the Promise pipeline for possible admission to MATC this fall. They met deadlines to apply for admission and financial aid, and had incomes within the program parameters. They will still have to post a minimum 16 composite score on the ACT, have at least a 90% attendance their senior year, and graduate with a minimum GPA of 2.0, in order to be admitted to MATC through the Promise program.

More information, including complete eligibility criteria, is available at matc.edu/promise or by calling (414) 297-6668 or emailing matcpromise@matc.edu.

About Karen Herzog

Karen Herzog covers higher education. She also has covered public health and was part of a national award-winning team that took on Milwaukee's infant mortality crisis.

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Bright Lights, Hollywood Nights raises \$30,000

Moraine Park News Service 9:42 a.m. CDT June 13, 2016



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(Photo: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin file photo)

More than 160 guests and sponsors attended the recent Moraine Park Foundation Gourmet Dinner, "Bright Lights, Hollywood Nights," resulting in success. The event combined the nostalgia of 1950s fare with the ambiance of old Hollywood and surpassed last year's numbers by more than \$3,000, raising over \$30,000.

The annual Gourmet Dinner benefits the Moraine Park Foundation's general scholarship fund and the student emergency fund.

Annette Whyms, of Oakfield, who graduated from the civil engineering technician program at Moraine Park in May, spoke to the guests about how receiving a scholarship positively impacted her education.

"During my time here at MPTC, I was fortunate enough to have received a generous scholarship from the Foundation, which I am very grateful for," Whyms said. "It is self-evident that getting a scholarship is a huge financial benefit to students, myself included. By getting that scholarship, [I was able to] graduate in May with very little student loan debt. What you may not realize, however, is that I also benefitted in many other ways. By knowing I didn't have to find a full-time job while still going to school just to afford my education, I was able to get the most out of my time at college, as well as give back to my fellow students and the community."

Dinner was prepared and served by Moraine Park's culinary arts students and faculty and included a six-course meal consisting of popular continental menus items from the '50s. The menu included a main entrée of layered beef Wellington with mushroom duxelle and rosemary red wine demi-glace, creamed Grandé aged provolone spinach and horseradish duchess potatoes were served. The meal concluded with dessert, a baked Alaska with homemade ice cream.

In addition to delicious cuisine, a wine-cork pull and silent auction were featured.

For more information, visit morainepark.edu/foundation (<http://www.morainepark.edu/about-mptc/foundation/>).

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MPTC students: New transfer option to Wisconsin Lutheran College

Moraine Park News Service 3:02 p.m. CDT April 27, 2016



(Photo: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin file photo)

A new partnership gives Moraine Park Technical College graduates of select programs the opportunity to transfer to Wisconsin Lutheran College at junior status to complete their baccalaureate degree in the college's adult accelerated program.

The articulation agreement, signed in March, grants Moraine Park associate degree graduates of 17 programs full transfer and 15 programs limited transfer to WLC's Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and Leadership, offered through the College of Adult and Graduate Studies.

Moraine Park President Bonnie Baerwald is an alumna of Wisconsin Lutheran College and said she knows firsthand the valuable leadership skills fostered there.

The opportunity to now add these servant leadership values to a strong foundation created at Moraine Park is an exciting prospect for students, according to Baerwald:

"Building off the quality training and learning found at Moraine Park, Wisconsin Lutheran College offers additional servant leadership values that our students — and employers — often seek," she said.

Moraine Park full-transfer programs are as follows: Accounting; AODA associate; business management—management and supervision; business management—marketing; business management—small business entrepreneurship; criminal justice—corrections; digital marketing; early childhood education; graphic communications; human resources; information technology—network specialist; information technology—technical support specialist; interactive media design—animation; interactive media design—motion graphics; leadership development; medical laboratory tech. and nursing.

The agreement goes into effect this spring for Moraine Park Technical College students who have satisfied their general education core requirements and completed their associate of applied science degree.

"Collaborating with community partners to deliver increasing numbers of highly qualified, service-minded leaders is a key component of Wisconsin Lutheran College's commitment to initiating positive change in our community and the world," said John Kolander, Ph.D., WLC's provost. "We couldn't be more pleased to offer enhanced access to WLC's active Christian learning community for graduates of Moraine Park Technical College."

For more information, visit morainepark.edu/transfer (<http://www.morainepark.edu/programs-and-courses/transfer-opportunities/transfer-to-four-year-college/transfer-agreements/>).

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News Story

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New Auto Tech diplomas create career pathways

July 6, 2016

Nicolet will launch two new college credentials in the automotive field that start with a fast-track diploma for entry-level jobs and culminate with a two-year technical diploma and ASE Master Technician certification.



"The goal was to create a pathway for students to learn the basic skills they need to get a job in the field relatively quickly and then follow that with more in-depth instruction that allows them to advance in their position," said Jeff Labs, interim dean of Trade, Industry, and Apprenticeships at Nicolet.

The one-year Automotive Service Technician technical diploma is the first step in the pathway where students learn how to diagnose and repair multiple vehicles systems. These include engines, transmissions, fuel and electrical systems, steering and suspension systems, brakes, and climate control systems.

Students completing this diploma will have the skills to enter the workforce. They can also apply the 29 credits they earned to the two-year, 55-credit Automotive Technician technical diploma.

"Classes in the second year take everything they learned in the first year to a more advanced level," Labs explained. "It's more in-depth and qualifies graduates in all the disciplines they need to become ASE Certified Master Technicians. As we've seen in other programs, we expect many students will get jobs after their first year and continue taking classes to earn the two-year diploma."

Nicolet also worked closely with automotive employers when building the curriculum. "We heard time and again about the value of employees being able to communicate effectively with co-workers, supervisors, and customers," Labs explained. "To meet that skills need, we included two Applied Communication classes to the second year of the program to make employees even more valuable to their employers."

Fall Semester classes start Sept. 1.

[Click here](#) for more information or call the Welcome Center at (715) 365-4493; TDD 1-800-947-3529 or 711.

Northwoods college offering degree to help with drug counselor shortage



By John DesRivieres | Posted: Thu 11:30 AM, Jun 16, 2016 | Updated: Thu 1:55 PM, Jun 16, 2016

Nicolet College in Rhinelander is launching a new, two-year degree program to train professionals to treat people addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Lenore Blemke, dean of Health Occupations says the increasing problem of opioid use has created a demand for substance abuse counselors.

"It's easy to see which direction demand is going for professionals trained to help people successfully deal with these issues," said Blemke.

Graduates will be eligible to be licensed in Wisconsin as a substance abuse counselor.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the profession is predicted to grow by 22-percent through 2024 because addiction and mental health counseling are increasingly being covered by insurance companies.

Fall semester classes start September 1.

Northcentral Technical College in Wausau already offers a similar associate degree program.

Comments are posted from viewers like you and do not always reflect the views of this station.

Colleges invest millions in tech training

Laura Schulte, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 7:10 a.m. CDT May 24, 2016



(Photo: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

WAUSAU - Central Wisconsin employers are demanding so many more computer specialists that two regional technical colleges are investing \$1.5 million to expand training for information technology professionals.

Northcentral Technical College in collaboration with Mid-State Technical College will use the dollars to improve existing IT programs by hiring new faculty, upgrading technology and making the degrees the schools offer more flexible. Ultimately, the hope is that the grant will help the schools to graduate more tech professionals.

Chris Severson, dean of business, community services and general education, said the industry in central Wisconsin is expected to grow at least 8 percent, and likely more, over the next several years.

This means that the number of IT grads needs to increase drastically to fill open jobs. Currently, the college has 127 students enrolled in its associate's degree program. The grant comes from the Wisconsin technical college system, and will be dispersed in two payments of \$750,000 over two years.

More State of Opportunity

- [Wisconsin's hidden tech gems emerging \(/story/money/2016/04/29/tech-sconsin-seeks-workers/82934608/\)](#)
- [Tech jobs that ditch need for 4-year degrees \(/story/money/companies/state-of-opportunity/2016/05/04/tech-jobs-ditch-need-4-year-degrees/83275550/\)](#)

The money will be evenly shared with Mid-State Technical College and will be used to standardize programs across campuses. Educators said that will ensure graduates depart with all the skills they need to be successful in the workforce.

"It will allow us to bring on another full-time faculty member and a full-time IT instructional assistant," Severson said. "That will really allow our students to have more one-on-one time with instructors."

The grant will also help to purchase virtual equipment for the schools, which will allow students to access software off campus, meaning they won't have to commute to campus to do homework assignments or catch up on classes.

That software will give students the flexibility to take classes completely online in addition to day and night classes.

"We want to increase accessibility," Severson said. "So students won't skip a beat. I feel (benefits) will be widespread. Increased support and increased flexibility will benefit any IT student."

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NTC, UWM Announce New Transfer Option for Human Services Students

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May 26, 2016

(WAUSAU, Wis.) – Northcentral Technical College (NTC), along with the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM), are pleased to announce a new transfer option for qualifying students completing the following human services programs at NTC:

- Human Services Associate Degree
- Human Services – Academic Associate Degree
- Human Services – Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Associate Degree

Students completing any of these human services programs will be able to continue their education with UWM by seamlessly transferring the credits they earned at NTC to the Community Engagement & Education Bachelor of Science degree program at UWM in the School of Education. This “2 + 2” program allows students to complete their first two years of college at NTC and then transfer to UWM at junior status to complete their final two years at the campus or online.

“There is a natural fit between the field of Human Services and Community Engagement and Education,” said Aaria Troiano, Senior Lecturer for UWM Educational Policy & Community Studies. “In common, we share a commitment to individual and community well-being. On behalf of the Department of Educational Policy and Community Studies, and the UWM School of Education, we very much look forward to welcoming many NTC graduates of the Human Services programs to the Community Engagement and Education BS degree program.”

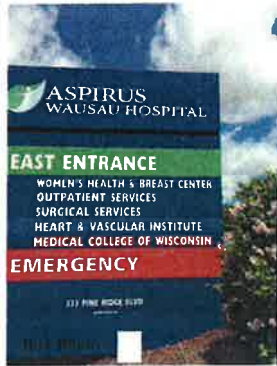
To see the remaining credits needed to complete the Community Engagement & Education baccalaureate degree, view the transfer guide at www.ntc.edu/transfer.

###

Northcentral Technical College (www.NTC.edu) is north central Wisconsin's premier two-year college of choice and is a resource for all District residents. It provides individuals, organizations and businesses with quality skills training in a wide range of programs designed to build a competitive, technologically advanced workforce in today's rapidly changing global environment. NTC has seven convenient locations including the Wausau central campus, plus regional facilities in Antigo, Medford, Merrill, Phillips, Spencer and Wittenberg.

Wausau med school's first class starts July

Nora G. Hertel, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 11:57 a.m. CDT June 20, 2016



(Photo: Nora G. Hertel/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

WAUSAU - Stephanie Strohbeen has wanted to be a doctor since she was 12. And in July Strohbeen, now 29 and mother to two girls, will start medical school in Wausau, part of the first class at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin campus.

She liked how her doctor would address her directly, rather than her parents, when she was sick as a kid. Years later, that same doctor called for an emergency c-section that saved Strohbeen's and her daughter's life, she said.

Strohbeen moved from New Richmond in western Wisconsin to Wausau this weekend with her family and will start class with 25 others on July 5. The new campus will put students on a fast track to complete course and clinical work in three years instead of four, the usual for a medical school program. The Wausau site and one in Green Bay are part of an expansion by MCW, which announced those new campuses in 2012.

RELATED LINK: [Medical College of Wisconsin in Wausau accredited \(/story/news/local/2015/04/07/medical-college-wisconsin-wausau-accredited/25405831/\)](http://story/news/local/2015/04/07/medical-college-wisconsin-wausau-accredited/25405831/)

RELATED LINK: [Medical College hires four doctors for Weston \(/story/news/local/2016/04/04/medical-college-hires-four-doctors-weston/82618598/\)](http://story/news/local/2016/04/04/medical-college-hires-four-doctors-weston/82618598/)

The new locations in the heart of Wisconsin are meant to inspire physicians and psychiatrists to stay in more rural parts of the state, where those professionals are increasingly in short supply.



Stephanie Strohbeen poses for a photo with her two daughters who are now 7 and 11. Strohbeen will be a student in the first class at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin. (Photo: Photo courtesy of Stephanie Strohbeen)

Strohbeen has her sights on small town Wisconsin.

"I don't want to practice in an urban area," Strohbeen said. "They're training us to fill shortages. They're getting us out sooner."

She graduated in December from University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a degree in biology, and she's worked as a medical assistant in a clinic, checking people's vital signs and collecting their medical histories. Strohbeen is originally from Stillwater, Minn. and has been living in New Richmond, Wis. for five years.

More than 80 percent of the MCW's first class in Wausau come from Wisconsin, said [Dr. Lisa Grill Dodson](http://www.mcw.edu/Medical-School-Bulletin/Leadership/Lisa-Grill-Dodson-MD.htm) (<http://www.mcw.edu/Medical-School-Bulletin/Leadership/Lisa-Grill-Dodson-MD.htm>), the dean of central Wisconsin campus. About half hail from central Wisconsin. The batch of 26 includes 13 men and 13 women, Dodson said, and they have a wide range of ages, including a few fresh out of college and a veteran of the U.S. Army.



Dr. Lisa Grill Dodson, campus dean of Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin, poses for a photo on June 7, 2016, at the college's new space in Aspirus Wausau Hospital. (Photo: Nora G. Hertel/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

Wausau has never been home to a medical school. As of last year, there hadn't been a new medical school in the state for 100-plus years, Dodson said. A MCW-Green Bay campus opened in 2015. The Wausau campus is one year behind that program.

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It will launch in two weeks. The training spaces are set up on the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Campus and Northcentral Technical College. Faculty are hired and 50 supporting physicians in the community will come teach small groups or involve students in their practices.

"We are always modifying something, but basically, I think we're in really good shape," Dodson said.

The first few days are orientation. And the students will get their first white coats in a special ceremony on July 7.

RELATED LINK: [Dean: New medical college to be community-oriented \(/story/news/local/2014/09/30/dean-new-medical-college-community-oriented/16507201/\)](http://story/news/local/2014/09/30/dean-new-medical-college-community-oriented/16507201/)

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RELATED LINK: [Anatomy lab, cadavers coming to NTC \(/story/news/2015/10/19/anatomy-lab-cadavers-coming-ntc/73983818/\)](http://story/news/2015/10/19/anatomy-lab-cadavers-coming-ntc/73983818/)

The curriculum will be rigorous. It's full-time, year-round work. The first course this summer will cover clinical skills, such as examining eyes, ears, nose, throat, Dodson said.

"They have to learn to think like a doctor," Dodson said. "We jokingly call (it) the bootcamp."

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The Medical College of Wisconsin now occupies a space on the Aspirus Wausau Hospital campus. Shown here on June 7, 2016. (Photo: Nora G. Hertel/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

Next students will take anatomy and physiology with classmates in Green Bay and Milwaukee, through televised lectures. The MCW offices are hooked up with some high-tech equipment.

Students will head to NTC to use the [new anatomy lab there \(/story/news/2015/10/19/anatomy-lab-cadavers-coming-ntc/73983818/\)](https://story/news/2015/10/19/anatomy-lab-cadavers-coming-ntc/73983818/). Aspirus and Ministry Health Care are partners with MCW as well. In their first few years students will all work on projects to address community health needs with local officials, such as obesity prevention or a homelessness issue.

"This is not just Medical College of Wisconsin," Dodson said. "This is really, truly a community-wide effort."

She likes that she's already heard people talking about "our medical school." And Dodson wants the community to stay engaged with the medical students, so the students are more likely to stick around when they become full-fledged doctors.

"If we don't do that successfully as a community, students won't stay here," Dodson said.

Strohbeen is excited about working in the community, that's one thing that drew her to the program.



Stephanie Strohbeen poses for a photo with her two daughters who are now 7 and 11. Strohbeen will be a student in the first class at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin. (Photo: Photo courtesy of Stephanie Strohbeen)

"It's important for me to be out there and have families know there's people there for them, ready for care for them," she said. "I'm really interested in seeing families come through and watching families grow up."

Strohbeen is a little nervous about juggling her family with her work at MCW.

But she's had some down time since graduating in December, she said. "So I'm ready to get my brain going."

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Medical students in the soon-to-open Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin can use this lounge in a dedicated space on the Aspirus Wausau Hospital, shown here on June 7, 2016. (Photo: Nora G. Hertel/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

Nora G. Hertel: nora.hertel@gannettwisconsin.com or 715-845-0665; on Twitter [@nghertel](https://twitter.com/nghertel) (<https://twitter.com/nghertel>).

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NWTC wins national award for financial transparency

Casey M Fryda

Thursday June 23, 2016

NWTC has been recognized as a national leader in financial transparency. The College recently received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) announced the award, which it described as "the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting...its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."



Bob Mathews, NWTC Vice President of Business & Finance, said the award shows that the College is a good steward of the public's investment. "The Certificate of Achievement Award for the second year reflects the soundness of our financial practices and should provide public confidence that we are delivering our commitment to student success in a financially responsible manner. We are proud that both years we applied for the award we were recognized for the Certificate of Achievement."

NWTC earned the certification with its second annual comprehensive annual financial report, or CAFR. The College received the same award in 2015 for its first CAFR. NWTC applied for the award and GFOA reviewed it using a 72-page set of criteria. NWTC Finance Office staff begin assembling the data in February and largely finish in December.

"This awards means a lot to me and it's huge for the College," said Accounting Specialist Eric Derenne, who was part of the team that created the CAFR. "It is a true reflection and testament to all the hard work that the Finance Department team produces for the College. This reflects our passion to see the our students succeed."

Although producing a CAFR is not a legal requirement, it is considered a best practice by the GFOA. Materials include an introductory section with strategic plan, accomplishments, a map of the taxing district, district history and profile, organizational chart, and board membership and structure. It includes a financial section and 10 years of statistical data.

According to the GFOA, "The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly

communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.”

GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 17,500 government finance professionals. It has offices in Chicago, Ill., and Washington, D.C.

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NWTC kicks off expansion and renovation at its Northwoods campus

BY GABRIELLE MAYS, FOX 11 NEWS THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH 2016

MARINETTE (WLUK) — A year after voters approved a \$66.5 referendum for three of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College campuses in our area, construction is underway at NWTC-Marinette.

"We are adding additional square feet and we're renovating all of the existing space within the campus," said Christine Polzin NWTC-Marinette campus manager.

That's not all, the four-phase project will benefit programs within the health sciences, business information technology, general studies, and trades and engineering departments.

"What that's going to allow us to do is add additional programs, enhance all of our programs, bring state of the art technology and it's going to offer additional services to our students," Polzin said.

The campus serves about 3,000 students every year and Polzin says with change underway, students will likely notice the difference.

"So the really great thing about this project is it's going to allow us to put all of the student support services all in one area so that when students enter the building, they know where to go to get assistance," Polzin said.

About \$10 million will go toward the renovation and expansion.

"We really work together as a whole college to make sure that every single department and every single individual that works for the college is always doing the best that they can to ensure that every student is successful," Polzin said.

Construction is expected to be completed by the summer of 2018.

The passed referendum calls NWTC to use a little over \$53 million to expand and renovate its Green Bay campus while the Sturgeon Bay campus will receive around \$3 million dollars to renovate.

Southwest Tech Instructor Awarded at WAAE Banquet

Appleton, WI

Ed Ruff, Farm Business & Production Management instructor at Southwest Tech was awarded the Instructor of the Year award at the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators Banquet last night. This marks the second year in a row that the Southwest Tech FBPM program was recognized by this statewide organization, with Deb Ihm being the 2015 recipient. In his award announcement, Ed was credited for his exceptional service and the positive impact he has had on producers in Southwest Wisconsin and beyond. Ed is pictured with his wife Barbara at the awards dinner held in Appleton. Below is pictured, Ed Ruff and wife, Barbara, at WAAE awards banquet on May 29, 2016.



(/)



The American College, WCTC Announce 'Groundbreaking' Partnership

Jun 02, 2016, 09:56 ET from The American College (<http://www.prnewswire.com/news/the+american+college>)



BRYN MAWR, Pa., June 2, 2016 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The American College of Financial Services and Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) in Wisconsin have finalized what officials at both institutions are applauding as an innovative model for academic partnerships.

The articulation agreement, which goes into effect immediately, will allow qualified WCTC students to seamlessly transfer their credits toward The American College's highly regarded financial services certification programs. But what makes this arrangement even more significant is that it creates a framework for WCTC instructors to teach a specific set of The American College's courses.

"We are breaking new ground here in terms of how schools partner with one another," said Dr. Robert Johnson, President and CEO of The American College, "specifically in terms of how closely WCTC will mirror our curriculum and content as well as our instructional methods and materials. It's exciting. I believe there is great potential with this innovative paradigm."

Under the agreement, WCTC students will be able to take a number of courses on their own campus toward the Chartered Life Underwriter® (CLU®), Chartered Financial Consultant® (ChFC®), or Certified Financial Planner® (CFP®) certifications. The students would then complete the designation of their choosing through The American College of Financial Services.

WCTC's formal financial planning program is scheduled to launch in August.

"As individuals look to re-engineer their career path, our partnership with The American College will provide another opportunity for individuals to pursue," said WCTC President Kaylen Betzig. "This is a high-growth profession that anticipates a large number of retirements coming up, due to the high number of baby boomers currently working in the field. Our current students can also work toward the CLU® and ChFC® certifications as an 'add-on' to their associate degree, setting them apart from others as they enter the job market."

Recognized as a leader in financial services education, The American College has academic partnerships in the works or already in place with a number of four-year institutions. This is the first with a two-year school.

"One of our goals at The American College of Financial Services is to build academic partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the institutions, the students and the financial services profession," said Dr. Ajamu Loving, Director of Academic Partnerships at The American College. "I am thrilled that this unique collaboration with Waukesha County Technical College will provide even more opportunities for students to learn about financial services and engage in a profession that is desperately seeking diversity in terms of age, thought, and background."

About The American College of Financial Services

The American College of Financial Services is the nation's largest non-profit educational institution devoted to financial services. Holding the highest level of academic accreditation, The College has served as a valued business partner to banks, brokerage firms, insurance companies and others since 1927. The American College faculty represents some of the financial services profession's foremost thought leaders. For more information, visit TheAmericanCollege.edu.

About Waukesha County Technical College

Waukesha County Technical College, the leader in workforce development, prepares learners for success within the regional and global economy. The College offers more than 175 areas of study including associate degree, technical diploma, apprenticeships and short-term certificate programs; customized training for employers is also available. To learn more, visit www.wctc.edu.

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Western GOAL graduate goes from sixth-grade education to GED in two years

Nathan Hansen nhansen@lacrossetribune.com May 20, 2016



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Nathan Hansen, La Crosse Tribune

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Western Technical College Goal Oriented Learning program graduate Ana Gonzalez earned her GED after being pulled out of school after the sixth grade 25 years ago. Gonzalez's mother, Abelina Vazquez, heard her daughter give the graduation speech at Western's graduation Ceremony on Thursday, the first time the two have been together in more than 16 years.

Thursday night, Ana Gonzalez celebrated finishing an educational journey that was cut short more than 20 years ago.

The 37-year-old mother of three was the speaker at Western Technical College's Goal Oriented Learning Program graduation ceremony celebrating the achievements of more than 250 students. Gonzalez graduated from the program after earning her GED and taking English language learner courses nearly 25 years after she was pulled out of school in her native Mexico after the sixth grade.

Gonzalez is originally from Jalisco, Mexico, where her grandfather on her father's side ruled the family. At that time, it was common for women to be pulled out of school early, and her grandfather demanded she stop going to school, as a woman's place was in the home, raising a family.

Gonzalez said that made her very sad and angry, as she wanted to continue going to school, but her grandfather's word was the law. So she stayed at home helping her mother before getting a job at a pharmacy when she was 17.

Gonzalez, her husband, Elias, and their oldest son, Gerardo, came to Wisconsin 16 years ago when Ana was in her early 20s. It was hard to find good work in Mexico, she said, and so the family moved to Spencer, Wis., to pursue better opportunities.

They lived in that town for seven years, taking English courses, as no one in the family spoke the language. Ana worked on a farm the first five years in Spencer, then at a restaurant, before the family moved to Whitehall.

There Ana and Elias worked at Ashley Furniture Industries until Ana quit her job two years ago to pursue her GED. By now she had three kids, two sons and a daughter, Marisol, and she said she decided to go back to school for them.

"I want to be an example for my children," she said. "I want to continue my education."

It had been more than 20 years since she dropped out of school, and Ana said several of the subjects tested to earn a GED were really tough, such as mathematics and social studies. She had to learn lots of things over again, such as fractions, and she struggled to master a whole host of new concepts including algebra and the entire U.S. social studies curriculum.

Western's GOAL program really helped, as did the support of her family. Elias looked after their youngest son, William, during the mornings when Ana went to the college's Independence campus to study and work on her English, usually having lunch cooked for her when she got home.

Now that she has her GED, Ana said, she wants to continue her education, probably at Western. She said she is interested in pursuing a career in education or health care, maybe as a teacher's aide or a phlebotomist. She said her experiences have made her really value education.

In two years, Ana has gone from a sixth-grade level to a high school level in mathematics, science, social studies and English language arts. Instructors Jane Bautch and Nancy Anderson said her hard work and determination are an inspiration, and two of the reasons she was chosen to speak at the graduation.

"She is a great example of an adult learner," Anderson said. "She took responsibility for her own learning."

Ana said her graduation speech focused on her life story. She said she wants to be an inspiration to other students, and that "if I can do it, anybody can do it."

There was also a special guest at the graduation ceremony, held at the Lunda Center on Western's La Crosse campus. Abelina Vazquez, Ana's mom, hadn't seen her daughter in person in more than 16 years, and she recently continued her own education, receiving her junior high certification.

"I am very happy and proud of my daughter," Vazquez said through a translator. "I am proud of everything she has done. She is leading an exemplary life."

MORE INFORMATION



UW-L grad's passion is teaching, giving back

Family support helps Viterbo grad, single mom to doctoral degree

NHansen

Nathan Hansen has been the Education Reporter for the Tribune since 2014. Prior to that, he covered education, agriculture and business topics for the Winona Daily News. He is always on the lookout for news tips and can be contacted at 608-791-8234.

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WITC fills worker shortage in clinics across the region

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APRIL 19, 2016 BY [ADMIN](#) IN [SUPERIOR NEWS](#), [WITC](#)



WITC. Submitted

Administrative Specialists (MAS) and Medical Office Specialists (MOS). Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College refocused program offerings to suit those specific needs of area clinics. WITC graduates anticipate almost unlimited career opportunities both close to home and in locations and facilities worldwide.

WITC's medical administrative specialist associate degree prepares graduates to perform a variety of tasks to support the administrative needs of medical facilities including hospitals, clinics, physician offices, health insurance companies, long-term and assisted living facilities, research facilities, and health departments. Graduates use their knowledge of medical terminology and anatomy along with up-to-date computer and technology skills to excel in careers in medical records, medical reception, medical transcription, medical billing and coding, and medical financial services.

"WITC has offered the Medical Administrative Specialist degree for 20 years and because of our stellar reputation, employers want our graduates," said Stephanie Erdmann, divisional dean, business, academic affairs.

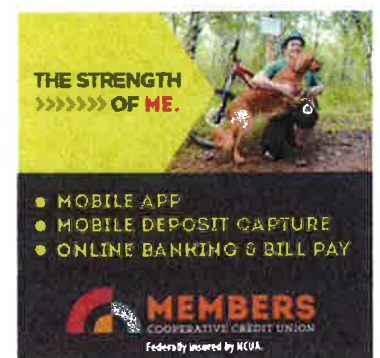
The medical office specialist technical diploma combines medical office skills with computer skills to prepare graduates for employment on the administrative side of healthcare working in physician's offices, clinics, hospitals, nursing homes and other

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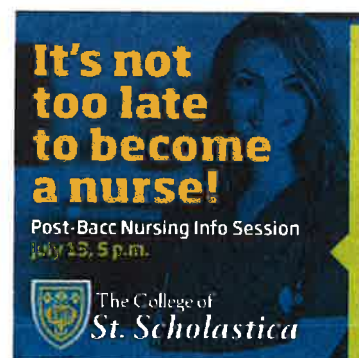
health organizations.

Bunnie Katich, manager of central billing office, St. Luke's Clinic said WITC's willingness to refocus programs says a lot about the college. "Your instructors do a very fine job in educating your students. And giving them a well-rounded basic education that is actually needed in the industry in these positions."

WITC offers flexible learning options. Interested students can take the majority of their classes through WITC Flex or online. Visit witc.edu/explore for more information about this program.

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WITC swings into renovation

By [Maria Lockwood](#) on May 10, 2016 at 8:14 a.m.



Machine tool technician student Matthew Brown of Superior, front, swings a sledgehammer with fellow students to mark the beginning of three renovation projects at WITC's Superior campus Monday in the HVAC lab. Maria Lockwood

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College kicked off nearly \$4 million in renovation projects with swinging sledgehammers Monday at its Superior campus.

"We could not do a ground breaking, because we are not technically breaking any ground," said Campus Administrator Bonny Copenhaver. "So the equivalent of that is to bang walls."

Students were the first to put holes in the walls of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning lab.

"I'm graduating this year, but I'm excited to see what the changes are," said Brooke

Camps of Cloquet, an HVAC student who has been working in the field for the past two years. She left holes in her lab room wall Monday.

ADVERTISING

6

The project will turn four smaller rooms into one large "living lab" that gives students a glimpse of the building's heating and cooling systems. An upper level mezzanine will be added and the space will be designed to better support collaboration between education and industry, ensuring graduates entering the field have meaningful skills and training. The college partnered with Trane and Snap-On during the design process.

"What we'll be providing or contributing to the cause is to really put in a world-class center of excellence HVAC lab," said Pat Archambault of Trane. "The students who are trained on this state-of-the-art equipment and technology will be job-ready, and will be job-ready for good paying jobs, jobs that are in demand today, and they will be in demand tomorrow, so it's very exciting to be part of that."

Stability is what attracted Camps to the program.

"A lot of people don't realize there are so many opportunities and jobs," she said. "I just wanted something I know I'm going to have a job in for the rest of my life."

The welding and machine tool labs also will be renovated.

"They're expanding our shop next door so this will be a lot more open and the teachers will actually be more visible in the classroom," said machine tool technician student Matthew Brown of Superior before he swung a sledgehammer.

In addition to the lab work, faculty office and facilities are being renovated. Work will take

place on the administrative offices, as well. The upgrades will give WITC a fresh look, said marketing director Jena Vogtman.

"Obviously, the huge investment brings in a lot of jobs from construction trades, but more importantly, this is really setting the course for the future of this institution," said Rep. Nick Milroy, D-South Range. Wisconsin has one of the top technical college systems in the country, he said, and the crown jewel is WITC.

"They are consistently ranked among the most elite technical college systems in the entire country, but more importantly they really transform people's lives," Milroy said. He credited the technical college's high placement rate to the leadership, staff and board at WITC.

"I work with a lot of different colleges around the area, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and definitely WITC is really putting forth the effort to make a great program here," said Tim Nelson of Snap-On Tools.

Students are the motivation behind the work, which Copenhaver called one of the most extensive renovations the Superior campus has ever had.

"Transforming our teaching labs and classroom spaces will ensure our students continue to have hand-on learning experiences with the very best technology and equipment," Copenhaver said.

WITC is bonding for the construction costs, which will be repaid from the WITC district through the tax levy.

The renovated spaces will be ready to welcome students by fall, Vogtman said.

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