



July, 2017

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# BTC mobile lab trains students, firefighters

**Blackhawk Technical College has a new mobile lab that simulates different firefighting conditions**

By Catherine W. Idzerda

JANESVILLE—Most people don't want to get too close to a house fire.

Even if the flames can be put out with a flip of a switch, it's remarkably unpleasant to be in a room with flames rolling across the ceiling and black smoke blocking out the light.

On Tuesday, Blackhawk Technical College demonstrated its new mobile live fire training unit. The unit is designed to “simulate a wide range of fire conditions such as multiple floor fires, forcible entry scenarios and ceiling fires.”

For firefighters and firefighter trainees, that's great. For everyone else, two minutes inside is enough to convince somebody never to light a candle, use a space heater, smoke a cigarette, overload the electrical circuits or carelessly handle burning materials.

The mobile live fire training unit is basically a specialized shipping container connected to an extra-large propane tank. Inside, panels can be rearranged to simulate different room configurations. At one end is a metal replica of a couch. Flames come from a variety of places to create low fires, high fires or rolling fires.

Blackhawk offers a fire protection technician associate's degree. The two-year program includes courses such as fire behavior and combustion, fire investigation, and fire protection hydraulics.

“One of the things we have to be able to do is to train them as realistically as possible,” said Gary Trulson, associate dean of public safety. “The trailer allows us to give that simulation of a real fire, but it has a lot of advantages over using a real fire.”

So flames shooting up the walls and rolling across the ceiling—that's not a real fire?

Yes, it's real fire, but the training unit eliminates many of the undesirable features of training with an actual structure fire.

Blackhawk students usually use the Janesville Fire Department's training area and its burn tower. There, real materials such as wood are used in training. That makes it more difficult to control the flames, and it adds training turnaround time, Trulson said.

In the tower, each fire has to be put out and rekindled.

“This trailer is fired by propane,” Trulson said. “It's like a large gas grill. We're able to turn it on and off very quickly, and we're able to monitor the temperatures.”

Sometimes, fire departments will burn down abandoned structures for training. The smoke from burning material is toxic.

The smoke produced by the trailer is artificial, nontoxic smoke.

College officials received an \$150,000 grant from the Wisconsin Technical College System to help pay for the \$167,000 lab. The money from the technical college system came from a fund for mobile labs.

“When you think about this trailer, think about it as a lab, just like in the nursing program they have labs,” Trulson said. “This is a lab that allows students to do training on fire suppression, ventilation, and doing search and rescue.”

It will also be available for local fire departments to use in their training. It's already been to the Milton Fire Department.

On Tuesday, firefighter students Charles Skokut, 20, and Dylan McKinney, 23, put on their gear to demonstrate the trailer's capabilities. Flames shot out from behind the metal “couch,” up the wall and across the ceiling.

The heat in the container increased rapidly, and smoke began to fill the small space. In less than 30 seconds, the interior was hissing and steaming as water poured from slats in the floor.

Skokut and McKinney volunteer for local departments, and are used to the behavior of fire and the techniques for fighting it.

Both agreed that the trailer is a good way to introduce newcomers to fighting fires.

“This definitely will help,” McKinney said. “It will give people a little bit of smoke and heat, and gives them a taste of what it will be like.”

FRONT PAGE

# A study in Culture: Chippewa Valley Technical College's Culture Fair included food, performances

By [Lauren French](#) ✉

Published on March 31, 2017 | Updated 10:13 p. m.



CVTC students Mei Huang, right, and Yajuan Woodford prepare dough while making traditional Chinese dumplings to be served at the Culture Fair on Friday at the Chippewa Valley Technical College Business Education Center. View more photos at [LeaderTelegram.com](#).

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MARISA WOJCIK  
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A lone man climbed on top of a makeshift stage Friday afternoon, wielding a traditional Hmong instrument that resembled a bow and arrow.

He lifted the Qeej to his mouth and began to play, filling the Chippewa Valley Technical College Business Education Center with sounds from the



instrument historically used for funerals and weddings.

Next came a woman and her ukulele, a drum player from the Ivory Coast and Hmong dancers. The scent of foreign foods wafted through the air.

The performers, food and activities such as origami tutorials and henna tattoos were all part of CVTC's first Culture Fair, an event organizers hope spreads knowledge of the college's foreign students and their background.

"(I hope visitors gained) an appreciation of our multicultural campus, and how many wonderful people we have here who have a really wide variety of stories and histories," said English language learners instructor Juli Baker, "and maybe spark an interest in them finding out about their own history."

Many of the performers and organizers are part of the ELL program, which is a noncredit English class for community members who moved to the area from other countries and need to learn the language, Baker said.

Not only is the Culture Fair a way to show off their history, she said, it's a way to teach them organization skills that will ultimately help them in the workforce or as a college student.

Baker said organizers used a \$2,000 grant from the college to organize the first fair, and hope to make it an annual event.

Among the performers Friday afternoon was Pahoua Lor, 31, of Eau Claire. While not an ELL student, Lor said she and other dancers from the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association were asked to perform at the event.

Originally from the St. Paul area, Lor said it's important for people to realize and acknowledge how many different cultures are present in such a small area.

"It's good to have people recognize that there are a lot of beautiful cultures and traditions here," Lor said.

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Staff at FVTC's Clintonville Regional Center assist visitors with registering for local classes and more. Photo courtesy of Chris Jossart

May 25, 2017

### **Clintonville center boasts high employment rates**

By Erik Buchinger

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Fox Valley Technical College in Clintonville released a report showing its students have a high employment rate following graduation.

The report stated that 92.5 percent of FVTC students find jobs six months after graduating from its Clintonville campus.

“What we do is look at what business and industry that is offered in region,” Director of the FVTC Clintonville Regional Center Kim Manteuffel said. “We have an advisory committee asking what they like us to have here and what their needs are. Then, we talk to the instructors and see if we can work it out.”

Manteuffel said the college is used to further students' education in their work as well as provide more opportunities for students through education.

"We want to bring out education that is going to benefit our community," Manteuffel said. "The hope is they're going to continue to grow in their current position or obtain opportunities they were unable to prior to education."

FVTC offers four degrees or diplomas at its Clintonville campus, including farm business and production management, business management, management development and nursing assistant.

Farm business and production management, a one-year technical diploma, has a job rate of 100 percent because most of the students are looking to further their education on jobs they already have.

"Those individuals are working on the farms, and they ask if they can join the program," Manteuffel said. "Our farm program can go in and teach them decisions from business to production. A lot of those are already in the field, and we're just going to give them instructions to help them grow their farms."

Business management, a two-year Associate degree, has a job rate of 96 percent. The program offers a broad variety of topics, not specified to a particular field of study.

"Business management gives a wide variety," Manteuffel said. "It provides a rounded education, so when they leave, they can go to lots of different directions. Some students realize what they like and go pursue certificate that program."

Nursing assistant, a one-year technical diploma, has a 91 percent employment rate due to its demand in the area.

"There is a huge demand in nursing assistants in our county right now," Manteuffel said. "Every student that comes into our program is offered multiple positions. Some may decide not to use it and go right on into nursing school, but a lot of students do. It's a great way for students who want to get into nursing program to make sure that's really something they're interested in doing."

# Police from around the world train in Northeast Wisconsin

By Emily Matesic |

Posted: Tue 6:37 PM, Jun 13, 2017



*International police training*

**GREENVILLE, Wis. (WBAY)** -- From Australia, to Germany, to South America and everywhere in between, police officers from around the world are training in Northeast Wisconsin this week.

They represent departments from nearly 30 different countries.

As part of a week long conference, the group is learning and training at Fox Valley Technical College's public safety training facility.

"The program is through the International Police Association which is more of a fraternal organization; but to encourage and engage our younger members we've set up this program to offer them training and insight into how we do things here in the U.S.," said Joe Johnson, of the De Pere Police Department.

Officers from local police departments in Northeast Wisconsin are leading the training.

They are teaching their international counterparts different tactics they use; like how to sweep buildings and shoot guns, as not all officers around the world are always armed.

"In Germany we do not have facilities as such. so it was pretty amazing, very impressive and I like the hands on approach and it was very friendly and the gun

is nice. It shoots very quickly," said Nathalie Schultz, of the Bielefeld Police Department in Germany.

"Seventeen years in the UK, never fired a gun, never held a gun. We have a baton and spray and handcuffs and that's literally it," said Mike Allen, of the Nottinghamshire Police Department in the UK.

While not every lesson may pertain to exactly how these international officers do their jobs, working with people from different departments and cultures is a lesson the officers won't ever forget.

"In Germany we tend to be a little bit more reserved, especially as police officers. It comes with our education, how we are educated. I love how passionate people are in the US about law enforcement and it makes me really want to come back and train, for example, with them," said Schultz.

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## Agricultural educators celebrate history, future

*posted: July 05, 2017 10:50a CST*

by / Sara Bredesen Regional Editor | sara.bredesen@ecpc.com

APPLETON — The Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators marked this year's Professional Development Conference June 25-29 in Appleton as a centennial celebration of the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act, which established state boards of vocational education and federal funding to develop high school agriculture programs nationwide.

The Smith-Hughes Act takes on additional significance because of the part Wisconsin played in informing the initial legislation and in implementing the act once in place, 2016-2017 WAAE president Kevin Hoffmann said in his retiring address. Hoffmann credited pioneers of Wisconsin agriculture education for setting the stage for today and tomorrow's achievements in the classroom.

According to the newly edited book from WAAE, "A History of Vocational Agriculture in Wisconsin," a 1901 report by L.D. Harvey, state superintendent of schools, pointed to a lack of vocational education for agriculture at a time when most of the population lived on farms. As a result, Wisconsin legislators authorized establishment of up to 10 county agriculture high schools. Curriculum from the first of those schools — La Crosse, Marinette, Milwaukee, Marathon, Dunn, Winnebago and Racine — became the basis for vocational education programs nationwide when Smith-Hughes was enacted.

Today's outstanding teachers in agriculture education were honored at an awards program June 28. A number of them will go on to compete Dec. 5-9 at the National Association of Agricultural Educators in Nashville, Tenn.

Among the honorees were Ron Von Glahn for lifetime achievement, Roger King for outstanding service and John Slipek and Colleen Geurink as honored educators. UW-Extension Livestock Specialist Bernadette O'Rourke received the Organizational Relations award.

Outstanding secondary/middle school program honors went to Jenna Schultz of Baraboo, and outstanding post-secondary program winner was Southwest Wisconsin Technical College.

The following awards were also given: "Teachers Turn the Key" Scholarship, Whitney Barnes, Bayport High School; Outstanding Young Member, Krist Kvalheim, Sun Prairie; Agriscience Teacher of the Year, Kristin Hanson, Barron; and Teacher Mentor Award, Hannah Walsdorf, Montello.

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# Gateway President Bryan Albrecht: "Effort provides promise for the future of our youth"

BRYAN ALBRECHT Apr 2, 2017

## Albrecht

Submitted photo

In February 2016, on behalf of our community, Gateway Technical College became the 100th college in America to launch a "College Promise" program.

Modeled after the Tennessee Promise, there are now more than 150 communities throughout the nation which have college promise programs. The Gateway Promise is a program that inspires youth to earn good academic grades, engage in community service and graduate from high school in good standing. If youth meet enrollment requirements, apply for nancial aid and have an expected family contribution of \$3,000 or less, maintain a 2.0 grade point average and maintain a full-time student status at the college, Gateway's Foundation will help cover the cost of tuition and fees for six consecutive semesters of college at Gateway.

[http://journaltimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/gateway-president-bryan-albrecht-effort-provides-promise-for-the-future/article\\_95c100cf-9315-5cbe-bc48-de4d5f254f...](http://journaltimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/gateway-president-bryan-albrecht-effort-provides-promise-for-the-future/article_95c100cf-9315-5cbe-bc48-de4d5f254f...) 1/4

6/14/2017 Gateway President Bryan Albrecht: "Effort provides promise for the future of our youth" | Editorial | journaltimes.com

The Promise represents a compelling college affordability solution for hundreds of students and their families. Through the generosity of our community, the Gateway Foundation has established a Gateway Promise endowment that will sustain the promise throughout perpetuity.

We've had many high school students apply for the Gateway Promise. Of those who've applied, we have 221 potential students being looked at during this point in the process. We'll know more exact numbers this month. All of this is exciting, and Gateway staff members are gearing up for a new class of motivated Red Hawks arriving on campus this summer.

College Promise programs are changing the landscape of community and technical colleges as students seek careers that lead to great jobs and less college debt. Starting a career with an associate degree can be just the right start for many high school students. It leads to academic success, perseverance and self-confidence with a sharper focus on a future career path.

Heads Up America, a nonpartisan initiative of the 501c3 nonprofit Civic Nation, has promoted Gateway as a model for other communities to engage business in the

development of their future workforce. The United States Department of Education has released the “America’s College Promise Playbook” that provides practitioners with relevant and factual information about how communities can offer more students access to an affordable, high-quality education through which students can go as far their talents and work ethic can take them. Building business partnerships is highlighted as a strategic strength for promise programs.

“Evidence shows that when schools, employers and workforce groups work together, they can all benefit,” the Playbook says. I am proud that again the Gateway Promise is featured as a best practice in the Playbook, highlighting the importance of business and community partnerships. Our journey is just beginning. With your help and support, we can continue to provide students an affordable path to college and build a talent-ready workforce for our community.

More information on the Gateway Promise can be found at [www.gtc.edu/gateway-promise](http://www.gtc.edu/gateway-promise).

# Lakeshore Technical College Expands Auto Tech

Patti Zarling , USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 4:01 p.m., CT March 31, 2017

CLEVELAND - DeWayne McFadden said he hopes to restore cars some day, and he's getting the experience he needs in one of the most technically advanced auto training centers in the U.S.

Now, that center is growing even bigger. Lakeshore Technical College dedicated its new Advanced Automotive Technology Center last week. The \$3.5 million, 28,000-square foot facility encompasses both the school's auto collision lab and an auto maintenance lab.

Guest speakers at the March 29 dedication included Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, local officials, school representatives and leaders in the auto industry.

McFadden and his classmates were on hand to demonstrate auto repair and refinishing using state-of-the-art technology.

"This gives us so much more room to paint more vehicles and more frame racks to work on them," he said. "Before, we painted in the same place we worked on cars, and that was bad. You could get dirt in the paint and such."

McFadden has always enjoyed cars. Once he finishes an internship and graduates, he looks forward to finding a job at a repair shop, he said.

And the odds of finding one are stacked in his favor.

Auto Collision Instructor Jack Charles, who heads the program, said employers are begging for workers, and many of his students have job offers before they even complete the program.

"There's a huge need," he said. "The average age of a car technician is 41 years old. That means a lot of people are in their late 50s and 60s, and already are starting to retire. Anyone who wants a job can find a job."

Charles joined the LTC faculty in 2009 and said the school applied for a state grant in 2014 to grow the program. The college received \$269,000 in state money. The funds allowed them to expand the facility, and to grow the program from a one-year certificate program to a two-year diploma program.

The bigger program also has room for 32 students. Currently, 17 are enrolled, Charles said.

Doubling the time students spend in school allows additional training that employers are looking for.

"Cars have evolved a great deal since the 1970s," Charles said, noting the program began in 1968. "There's a lot more technology involved."

The expanded program adds coursework in aluminum repair, metal shaping and structural repair. Students can even practice painting vehicles using a computer simulator, in which they hold a physical "sprayer" that measures how accurately they would do on an actual car.

But students also work on the real deal.

Damaged cars are donated, brought in by owners for repair, or purchased by the school, Charles said. This gives students hands-on experience doing everything from removing a dent on a bumper to refinishing the entire front-end of a vehicle involved in a serious head-on crash.

As a final project, students disassemble, repair, refinish and reassemble a vehicle, with instructors overseeing the work.

"They need hands-on experience to learn what to do," Charles said. "You can't really learn it sitting at a computer."

Repaired vehicles are resold, he said, adding, "people stand in line" for the finished product.

According to the school, the 17,000-square-foot Automotive Collision Shop features two new classrooms and Car-O-Liner measuring and fixture benches for vehicle structural repairs. A central Eurovac system enhances students' learning experience and keeps the shop clean by capturing sanding dust. Other additions include a customer service area, aluminum clean room and a metal-shaping area equipped to make automotive parts that are no longer in production. Paint booths fill help train painters to work for automotive repair shops and local manufacturers.

The 13,000-square-foot Automotive Maintenance Shop is a Snap-on Center of Excellence with 19 work stations, two new classrooms, four alignment racks, 14 rotary lifts and five open bays.

The new center also provides opportunities for high school seniors to get a jump start on their career goals. Only four of 25 public and private high schools in the LTC District offer automotive maintenance programming, and no high schools offer auto body collision training, according to the tech school.

By enrolling in LTC's Early College program, seniors will have the opportunity to attend college during the day and their high school in the afternoons. Future classes are also planned for the evening hours.

Patrick Staszak, dean of agriculture, energy and transportation, praised the expansion.

"There's a large need in the lakeshore community for auto body people," he said. "There's a big need for auto maintenance and body workers because everything is much more technical. Students need the additional skills, and now we will be able to provide them with that instruction."

*Patti Zarling: pzarling@gannett.com; phone: 920-686-2152; Twitter: @PGPattiZarling*



# Madison College Announces Large Rooftop Solar Project

Posted by [Joseph Bebon](#) on **June 12, 2017**

Madison Area Technical College (MATC) will add \$1.8 million to a grant from utility Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) to build a 1.4 MW solar PV system atop the school's main Truax Campus building in Madison, Wis. MATC says the system, which will be visible and accessible to students, will serve as a demonstration of new, clean energy technology at work in the community and could save the campus more than \$200,000 per year in electricity costs.



“Once installed, our system will be the largest rooftop PV system in Wisconsin,” claims Ken Walz, MATC chemistry and engineering instructor and director of the Center for Renewable Energy Advanced Technological Education (CREATE). “On a sunny day, the system will reduce the college’s peak electric load by about 50 percent. Averaged over an entire year, it will offset about 10 to 15 percent of the college’s total electric consumption.”

MGE and the college expect to announce the selection of a solar developer in August. System design and acquisition of equipment will follow. The college plans to involve students in the installation beginning in summer 2018. It should be completed in a few months.

“We know clean energy is important to our community,” says Walz. “Thanks to the work of many people, including our students, faculty and MGE, we have bold plans for clean energy for our campus.”

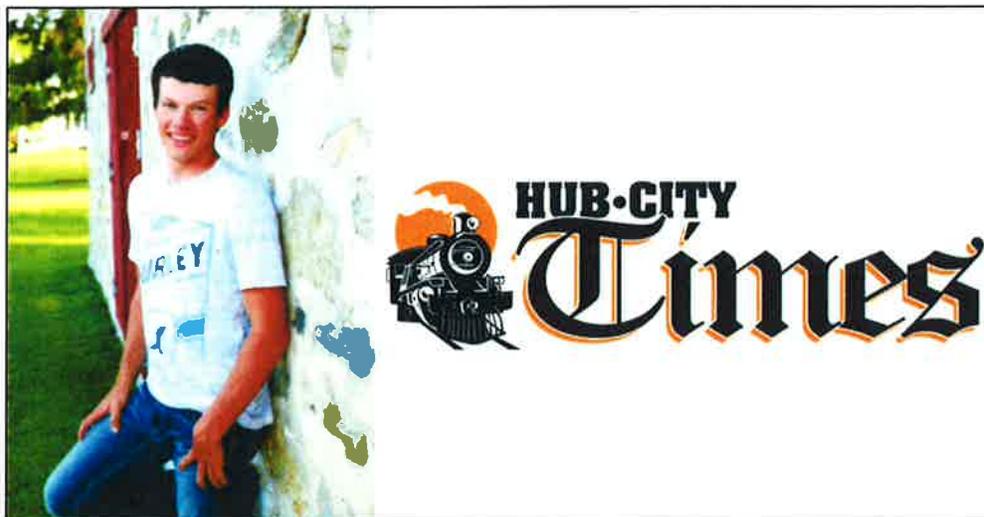
MATC is one of three colleges behind CREATE, which works to advance renewable energy education by supporting two-year college renewable energy programs. The college has received multiple grants from the National Science Foundation to develop curriculum, create new educational programs, and train faculty and students throughout the country in renewable energy.

“This partnership between Madison College and MGE is a great opportunity for hands-on learning, as students will be able to interact with the system on-site,” says Dave Toso, senior engineer at MGE. “We

look forward to working with Madison College and the students as they implement their new solar installation and learn about how new technologies are rapidly changing the energy landscape and our community grid.”

In addition to cost savings, the PV solar system will offer numerous benefits to MATC students and community members. The proposal includes solar electric monitoring technology to provide output data for analysis by students and the public.

Accessible instructional space on the roof of the Truax Campus will allow renewable energy students to conduct periodic inspections of the system to check for signs of wear, weathering and maintenance needs. Students enrolled in related fields, such as electrical apprentice, electronics, electrical engineering, industrial maintenance and architecture, will also benefit from having access to the PV installation.



Coy Krings of Auburndale High School received both the \$1,250 scholarship for high school students and the \$10,000 Leonard and Lillian Bethke Transportation Scholarship. Krings plans to enter Mid-State's diesel and heavy equipment technician program in the fall. (Submitted photo)

June 13, 2017

*For Hub City Times*

WISCONSIN RAPIDS — Mid-State Technical College has awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 24 graduating high school students for the school year of 2017-2018. Each scholarship is valued at \$1,250 and will be divided between the fall and spring semesters. These scholarships will help new students achieve their goal of attaining an associate degree or technical diploma.

Compared to previous years, the Mid-State Technical College Foundation received nearly twice as many scholarship applications during this year's January-to-March application window, according to Mid-State Foundation & Alumni Director Jill Steckbauer.

“The increase in applications corresponds to the increased demand we’re seeing in the workforce for students with a technical college education,” said Steckbauer.



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Thursday – July 06, 2017

**MATC News**

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## **MATC, Mount Mary Announce 'Nursing 1-2-1' Program to Address Regional Need for Bachelor's Prepared Nurses**

*June 6, 2017*

In an effort to proactively meet the regional demand for additional bachelor's prepared nurses, Mount Mary University and Milwaukee Area Technical College have joined forces to create a unique "Nursing 1-2-1" program.

This program gives high school graduates an opportunity to earn an associate degree in nursing, licensure as a registered nurse and then seamlessly move to completing a bachelor of science in nursing degree within four years. By leveraging the skills and expertise of both institutions, the Nursing 1-2-1 program offers lower cost per credit than regional competitors offering similar degrees.

Students take prerequisite and general studies courses in Year 1 of the program at Mount Mary; 2 years of study take place at MATC's Downtown Milwaukee Campus to complete an associate degree in nursing and licensure as a registered nurse; and 1 final year takes place at Mount Mary to complete the bachelor of science in nursing degree. The program is open to high school graduates (women only) and students can begin the program starting in fall 2017.

Students entering the Nursing 1-2-1 program can enjoy the full range of benefits associated with both Mount Mary and MATC, including the option of living on the Mount Mary campus. A seamless curriculum and course schedule have been created across both institutions to ensure the completion of both an associate degree and a bachelor's degree in four years.

"The new Nursing 1-2-1 program is an outstanding example of how our Creative Campus is providing innovative programming for the region; in this case, to address the impending nurse shortage," said Mount Mary President Dr. Eileen Schwalbach. "This unique program combines the expertise and resources of Mount Mary University and MATC, including highly experienced and recognized faculty, advanced technology and a creative and collaborative learning environment with opportunities for first-hand leadership experience while in the program. I have no doubt it will provide students opportunities to be the kind of bold healthcare leaders that the community needs."

"Students will have the opportunity to receive degrees from two high-quality educational institutions and build a strong foundation for their nursing careers," said MATC President Dr. Vicki J. Martin. "I am excited about this bold and creative approach to providing first-rate education and training for future nurses and solving one of our state's most significant workforce issues."

This partnership is a one of several strategic steps that MATC is taking to respond to a critical employment need. In January 2017, MATC announced a \$2.3 million grant from United Health Foundation that will enable the college to double the size of its registered nursing program over the next three years and help address the state's nursing shortage.

As the healthcare industry reforms, particularly for underserved populations, nurses are increasingly required to advance in leadership positions for this redesign of care. Earning a bachelor of science degree in nursing will advance nurses who will work together as part of interdisciplinary teams of medical professionals.

The Wisconsin Center for Nursing projects that by 2040 the workforce shortage of RNs will reach nearly 43 percent if no changes are made to program capacities and infrastructure today. The WCN recommends expanding nursing program capacity to meet the projected demand for 7,500 additional graduates annually by 2020.

### **About Mount Mary University**

Mount Mary University, founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was Wisconsin's first four-year, degree-granting Catholic institution for women. Located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee, the University offers more than 30 undergraduate majors for women and nine graduate programs for women and men. Mount Mary also emphasizes study abroad, service learning, and social justice initiatives. Its nearly 1,400 students enjoy small class sizes (average 14) and over 90 percent of full-time students receive financial aid or scholarships. Through academic offerings, research opportunities, access to real life industry experience, and

community service, Mount Mary develops individuals to be leaders in their professions and their communities, serving as role models to inspire achievement in others. Visit Mount Mary at [www.mtmary.edu](http://www.mtmary.edu).

**About MATC**

Wisconsin's largest technical college and the most diverse two-year institution in the Midwest, Milwaukee Area Technical College is a key driver of southeastern Wisconsin's economy and has provided innovative education in the region since 1912. Approximately 40,000 students per year attend the college's four campuses and community-based sites or learn online. MATC offers affordable and accessible education and training opportunities that empower and transform lives in the community. The college offers 200 academic programs; nearly 400 transfer options leading to bachelor's degrees; and School of a Pre-College Education that assists people to complete high school, prepare for college or enter the workforce. Overwhelmingly, MATC graduates build careers and businesses in southeastern Wisconsin. The college is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission, the national standard for academics and student services.



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**Welcome Center Hours** (all campuses) - 7:45 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday.

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News

# Inmates graduate from program with hopes to enter dairy industry

By:

[Velena Jones](http://www.channel3000.com/meet-the-team/velena-jones/136592773) (http://www.channel3000.com/meet-the-team/velena-jones/136592773)

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Posted: Jun 27, 2017 06:33 PM CDT Updated: Jun 27, 2017 07:24 PM CDT

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Inmates graduate from program with...

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WAUPUN, Wis - A new program at a state prison is preparing inmates for life after their sentence. It's also addressing the workforce needs of dairy farmers in Wisconsin.

Scott is one of the eight inmates from John Burke Correctional Center who graduated from the program Tuesday. While he is no stranger to the farm industry, growing up working with local farmers in central Wisconsin, now he is finally learning lessons that could help him land his dream job.

"It's what I've always wanted to do all along in my work career but things get in the way," Scott said.

Multiple OWI's on his record and a year spent in prison have delayed those plans. Now, with help from the department of corrections and their dairy farm program he is able to serve time, while preparing for his future.

"We know that if they have gainful employment and employment where people want those skills they have a better chance at success as it relates to reintegration into their communities," said Wisconsin Department of Corrections Secretary Jon Litscher.

The eight-week program spearheaded by Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch teaches inmates how to raise calves, grow crops to feed cows and the basics of dairy farm operations. The program is offered through a partnership between the department of corrections and Moraine Park Technical College. Once they complete the program, inmates earn two college credits.

"Even though this is a dairy farm worker training program and they get specific technical skills regarding herd management and herd health ...also just learning to get to work, to get through the work day despite of challenges with people and equipment and livestock and also to get work done. To be productive the whole time they're on the job," said Wes Ray, director of the Bureau of Correctional Enterprises



With over 9,500 dairy farms in the state of Wisconsin, Kleefisch said there's a growing need to fill positions and the purpose of this program is to put more qualified people to work, despite their past.

ADVERTISING

"You have right now the foundation for a very successful career and one that is highly in demand. Don't let your past determine your future," Kleefisch said.

As a husband and father of two, Scott hopes the lessons he learned will create a better future once he is released.

"Obviously, I have done this to myself and I've left them at home and let them down but even given the circumstances of where I've been and how I got here I still made the right decision, the positive decision to move forward and to learn and grow and hopefully that is a great learning lesson for them, he said.

Those eligible for the program had to pass a math and reading exam. Once inmates are released the DOC's transition program will assist them in finding jobs.

The milk produced by inmates is sold to correction facilities in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Once inmates are released the department of correction's transition program will assist them in finding jobs. There are at least 12 farms in the area that have already hired previous inmates.

The DOC along with its partners are now looking to evaluate the program's success to assess the possibility of continuing the program.



# **MPTC offers new scholarship**

Aaron Holbrook Apr 10, 2017

Moraine Park Technical College has unveiled the Moraine Park Promise program — a new scholarship initiative intended to help low-income, high school students afford college.

Moraine Park will provide five consecutive semesters of free tuition, as well as additional services including mentoring, tutoring, assisting with financial aid filing and other support.

Students accepted into the program promise to attend Moraine Park as a full-time student and to fulfill outlined eligibility requirements, which include identified academic standards upon application and while enrolled at the college.

High school students graduating in 2018 throughout Moraine Park's district will be the first group eligible to utilize the Promise program. This includes more than 25 high schools in the region, including many in Dodge and Fond du Lac counties.

On average more than a quarter of the total high school student population within Moraine Park's district is eligible for free and reduced lunch — over 14,000 students. Research also shows that over 30

percent of these lower income populations – especially first-generation students – don't pursue college education because they feel they won't succeed or they don't know how to navigate the system.

Applicants must graduate on time from an accredited or home high school; reside within the Moraine Park Technical College District; earn a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or higher; earn a minimum composite score of 16 on the ACT; and have a 90 percent attendance rate during their senior year of high school.

# Blackwell Job Corps Get Nicolet College Foundation Award

By [KEN KRALL](#) • MAY 24, 2017



CREDIT WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Nicolet College Foundation recently presented its 2017 Friends and Partners Award to the U.S. Forest Service Blackwell Job Corps.

The career-training organization received the honor for its work with the college to build a first-of-its-kind partnership to teach firefighting skills to Blackwell students.

The Blackwell facility is located near Laona.

The pilot program last year resulted in 17 individuals with structural firefighter and hazardous materials training, each earning official Firefighter 1 status.

Jason Goeldner is associate dean and director of Public Safety. He says Lee Jensen from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest contacted the school about supplementing the wildland fire training they have.

Goeldner says it directly supports the college mission..

*".....specifically it's made to individuals who may not have had an opportunity to go to college. They may be a first time college student in their family. Many of these students came from a financially-strapped background. In some cases they were told they would never be anything or succeed down the road. This really supported what Nicolet does here as well...."*

The program included classroom instruction, which covered firefighting theory, along with plenty of hands-on training.

*".....these individuals will enrich their communities as they go out upon leaving Blackwell and getting employed in their jurisdiction as a mason or carpenter or some other trade they learned at Blackwell and can also support their local community as a volunteer firefighter to support their communities...."*

As far as is known, this is the first time this type of arrangement has been offered in the nation. The Nicolet Foundation has given the Friends and Partners Award every year since 1995.

## Rainbow over the Northwoods



Northwoods Pride Picnic organizers, from left are Elisa Farmilant, Tara Woolpy, Don Schindhelm and Judi Maloney. The women are from the Northwoods Progressives and Schindhelm represents the Nicolet College Rainbow Hodags.

June 16, 2017

## First LGBT Pride event, community group organized

BY EILEEN PERSIKE

*Editor*

Nearly 50 years after the Stonewall uprising in New York, an event considered the beginning of the LGBT movement in America, the first Pride event was held in Wisconsin's Northwoods. **The Nicolet College Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender student organization, the Rainbow Hodags, had been seeing membership numbers increasing over its four-year existence and members said it was time to expand.**



“One of the group’s goals was to see a LGBT group formed in the community,” said Rainbow Hodags secretary Don Schindhelm. “We scheduled a meeting and then lo and behold another group, called the Northwoods Progressives, came to the meeting and said they wanted to help.”

And that’s how the Northwoods Pride Pride picnic, which took place in Arbor Vitae June 1, came to be. Schindhelm said turnout was “great,” with more than 60 people in attendance. “There were many happy faces,” Schindhelm reported, “including a number of young LGBT people that came up and spoke at the open mic about how elated they were to see the crowd of allies that attended, saying they never thought they would see such an event in northern Wisconsin.”

Allies, he said, are an important part of the LGBT rights movement, and have been a turning point for many of the gay groups, where it’s “gone beyond just being a gay rights sort of thing to a community effort.”

Schindhelm grew up in Appleton and retired to Rhinelander about a year ago, after spending his working life on the East Coast. He began attending classes at Nicolet College and noticed there was a campus LGBT club and immediately joined. He said there is great value in having a community of support.

“I didn’t come out until later in life,” said Schindhelm. “I was able to find a community group (in Maryland) and they were instrumental in helping me talk to other people. I didn’t feel alone anymore. There’s a lot to be said for just being able to talk it out with somebody else.

“It was the first step for me and then I was able to come out to my family, and so on. It starts with coming out to yourself and then sharing with other people.”

Statistically, Schindhelm said there are probably 3,000 people who identify as LGBT in the Nicolet College district. The new community-based LGBT group, Schindhelm said, will be a peer-to-peer support group, offering Northwoods residents information and education and, he hopes, a similar experience that he had when he was struggling with his sexuality.

“I actually didn’t want (to be gay),” said Schindhelm. “I tried to get rid of it; even went to psychiatrists and asked for shock therapy – I heard that worked. That’s the level of disinformation and ignorance there is about human sexuality.”

The group, which is yet to be named, will meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at the Minocqua Public Library community room.





## Deer, Young receive Nicolet College 2017 Outstanding Service



Recipients of the 2017 Nicolet College Board of Trustees Outstanding Service Awards were Nicolet Welding Instructor Craig Deer, second from left, and Academic Success Coordinator Lisa Young, second from right. They are pictured here with Nicolet President Richard Nelson, far left, and Nicolet Board of Trustees President Bob Martini, far right.

May 25, 2017

The Nicolet College Board of Trustees recently honored two Nicolet employees with 2017 Outstanding Service Awards for superior performance that advanced student learning, responded to community needs, and furthered the overall mission of the college.

Receiving the 2017 honors were Craig Deer, Nicolet welding instructor, and Lisa Young, coordinator of Nicolet's Academic Success Department.

Deer joined the Nicolet faculty four years ago. In his nomination for the award, Nicolet Dean of Trade, Industry, and Apprenticeships Jeff Labs cited numerous achievements above and beyond the high level of instruction Deer delivers in the classroom.

These included:

- Helping create the pathway for graduates of Nicolet's one-year Welding program to transfer their Nicolet credits to Northcentral and Mid-State technical colleges, which offer two-year associate's degrees in welding.

- Providing customized welding training to area manufacturers.
- Advancing strong partnerships with the 11 K-12 school districts in the Nicolet District.
- Working diligently with other Nicolet staff on the accreditation application to bring Competency-Based Education to Nicolet, which allows prospective students to be awarded college credit for precise skills they've learned on the job or elsewhere.

Deer is one of the few Welding instructors in the Wisconsin Technical College System with both Certified Welding Inspector and Certified Welding Educator credentials from the American Welding Society. He also has a technical diploma in Machine Tool Operations from Northwestern Wisconsin Technical College.

Young started in the Academic Success Department as an adjunct instructor in 1997 and in 2001 joined the full-time faculty. She's led the department as its coordinator for the past four years, directing services on the Nicolet Campus and at the nine outreach centers located throughout the Nicolet District. In all, the Academic Success Department serves more than 650 students a year with GED/HSED instruction and testing, college preparation classes, and classroom team teaching that integrates basic skills instruction into the curriculum.

She was nominated for the Outstanding Service Award by Jan Dobizl, Academic Success instructor. During her time at Nicolet, Young's accomplishments include:

- Creating a collaborative and effective work environment in the Academic Success Department where educational excellence, student success, and teamwork are a constant.
- Advancing Nicolet's mission by serving on numerous Nicolet committees, including the President's Collaborative Council, Strategic Initiative Team, K-12 Advisory Committee, and serving as chair of both the college's Faculty Innovation Council and Scholarship Committee, among many others.

Young earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a master's degree from Capella University.

## Local legislator pairs with NTC to promote human trafficking awareness



By *Kassandra Sepeda* | Posted: Fri 5:35 PM, Apr 07, 2017

**WAUSAU, Wis., (WSAW)--** North Central Technical College and Senator Jerry Petrowski have paired to produce and distribute more than 1,500 posters to promote Human Trafficking awareness across the Northwoods.

On Friday, an NTC graphics class began printing the posters which in bold letters say "Stop Human Trafficking." Each poster features a hotline number and resources for members of the public and victims to seek help.

Petrowski says that public visibility of the signs will help increase general awareness of the crime. "They will be eye-catching. Somebody's going to look and they're gonna want to read it and I think they're going to get the message and it will make them think about human trafficking in our area."

The production also served as a valuable hands-on lesson for students. While the office of the Attorney General designed the poster, the advanced printing class took time to print and choose the colors for the posters. Graphics instructor Andy Somers lead the class, "I think the students took it to another level. One, they are actually going to see their work in the community. That's going to make them really take pride in what they do because it's going out to the entire state of Wisconsin."

The 1,500 posters will be distributed this week in public places across the north central Wisconsin with an emphasis in high traffic areas. "Everyplace; in laundromats bus station supermarkets wherever people are gathered we want to be able to get these posters up. I know of multiple people that have called volunteer to put them up and we are looking forward to getting these up and out to the public and making the public aware of an issue that is going on across the state," said Petrowski.

The posters will be printed in both English and Spanish in order to provide a greater breadth of resources. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hotline is anonymous, confidential and is available in 170 languages.

According to the United Nations human trafficking is believed to be a \$32 billion-a-year global enterprise. From 2007 to 2015 there were more than 1,000 calls in Wisconsin.





## Southwest Tech and Workforce Connections open facility as one

Submitted by admin1 on Wed, 04/19/2017 - 11:31



*The April 11 ribbon cutting and open house at 1304 S. Marquette Rd., made the new facility official for Southwest Tech and Workforce Connections. The Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and the Prairie du Chien School District congratulated both entities. Pictured (from left) are Paul Ginkel, Kiel Fritz, Christine Panka, Bob Standorf, Tom Nelson, Tyler Diktanas, Char Bender, Mike McCoy, Kevin Mulrooney, Frankie Mezera, Peg Baxter, Roy George, Teresa Pierce, Drew Johnson, Jason Wood, Julie Pluemer and Bob Moses. (Photo by Correne Martin)*

By Correne Martin

Southwest Tech and Workforce Connections have both held offices in Prairie du Chien for a number of years. On April 11, they made their presence more prominent in the community by holding a ribbon cutting and open house at a new facility at 1304 S. Marquette Rd. Together, the two will continue to connect people, training and employment, while advancing self-sufficiency for area citizens.

The reason for the more visible location is because both entities had outgrown their former spaces near one another in the Crawford County Administration Building.

“About a year ago, we made the decision to leave. Because of the awesome partnership we have, we asked the technical college to go with us,” stated Teresa Pierce, Workforce Connections executive director. “We provide services in nine counties. The college provides the training part of it and we provide the employment part.”

Southwest Tech, which was recently named Wisconsin’s top-ranked two-year college (11th in the nation), hired Mike McCoy, 34-year retired teacher from Prairie du Chien public schools, last fall, to lead the charge in teaching adults through the college’s outreach site.

“Our partnership serves as a starting point to address any barriers job seekers may have,” added Tyler Diktanas, Workforce Connections employment coordinator. “Filling out a job application online can be intimidating. Mike works with them to develop basic

education skills—such as reading and math skills—and I work with them to make them more employable.”

Currently, about 140 adult students have attended basic education classes over the past three years through Southwest Tech in Prairie du Chien. High school students have also taken transcribed credit courses through the technical college, saving themselves money that would otherwise be paid as a college student.

Southwest Tech President Jason Wood added: “We pride ourselves on providing quality people to fill good, local jobs.”

Having a strong, physical presence of both Southwest Tech and Workforce Connections in the community is something Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce CEO Bob Moses has wanted for years.

“I think it helps develop our community and improve economic development of the region,” he stated.

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## Trump hears from panel on workforce development at WCTC

### President wants to expand apprenticeship opportunities

by Arthur Thomas June 14, 2017, 1:56 PM

<https://www.biztimes.com/2017/ideas/educationworkforce-development/trump-hears-from-panel-on-workforce-development-at-wctc/>

When Ella Johnson received her high school degree from Waukesha West on Saturday, she already had received a welding technician diploma from Waukesha County Technical College, which held its graduation a few weeks earlier.

Just three days after graduating high school, Johnson found herself telling the President of the United States about her experience in WCTC's Dual Enrollment Academy. She said Wednesday she was amazed the president and his team wanted to hear from students at the workforce roundtable.

"That was a once in a lifetime opportunity," she said. "I just thought it was cool they wanted the view of a student."

Johnson already has a job at Wisconsin Metal Parts Inc. in the City of Pewaukee. Her plan is to continue working there while pursuing a two-year associate degree from WCTC. She said she considered the possibility of a four-year school for engineering, but she's not sure that's the direction she wants to go.

"I'm going to stay in welding for a while. I'm going to see where it takes me and what opportunities open," Johnson said, adding she'd like to stay on the shop floor for a little while.

On the other end of the spectrum, Tuesday's roundtable included representation from some of the region's largest companies, including Milwaukee-based Rockwell Automation. Mike Laszkiewicz, Rockwell vice president and power control business general manager, said the company appreciated the opportunity to share its perspective.

"As the world's largest company devoted exclusively to industrial productivity Rockwell Automation understands the importance of a skilled workforce to grow America's manufacturing future," Laszkiewicz said. "This is a topic we are acutely aware of as we deliver advanced manufacturing solutions to our customers. The success of U.S. manufacturing competitiveness depends on all of us working together to train workers for these highly skilled roles."

Companies have been talking for a number of years about the challenges of finding skilled workers and countless programs and initiatives have been developed to promote manufacturing careers. Mike Shiels, dean of WCTC's school of applied technologies, said those efforts have raised awareness but haven't necessarily made it easier to attract students.

"They just have so many opportunities and choices," he said, noting every sector is facing a shortage of employees. "We would still like to see a lot more people coming into these programs."

President Donald Trump's visit to WCTC was a precursor to an announcement from his administration on expanding apprenticeship offerings.

"We want a future where every high school in America offers apprenticeship opportunities for young citizens," Trump said.

The event announcing the effort, however, was cancelled in the wake of a shooting at a baseball practice for GOP lawmakers who will participate in a charity game.

Wisconsin's apprenticeship programs have added an average of almost 3,100 participants each year over the last five year, but historically more than 40 percent of contracts are cancelled before completion.

The apprenticeship programs are also largely focused on construction fields, with around 18 percent of the 3,088 new contracts started last year coming in industrial trades.

Shiels said WCTC's programs offer a stepping stone for students to eventually move into an apprenticeship.

"The companies just need more people, period. Apprenticeships are a great way for companies to develop people with the skills that they need," he said.



Ella Johnson, left, speaks to President Donald Trump, Gov. Scott Walker and other administration officials.

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# Trump puts focus on Wisconsin's growing apprentice program

By Scott Bauer | AP June 12 at 6:07 PM

MADISON, Wis. — Gov. Scott Walker once told then-candidate Donald Trump “we don’t need an apprentice in the White House.”

But on Tuesday the president and his daughter Ivanka Trump will join Walker to tour Waukesha County Technical College and talk about the importance of providing on-the-job training to workers in industries that sometimes struggle to find qualified people.

Wisconsin was the first state in the country to pass a law establishing apprenticeship programs in 1911, the same year what is now the technical college system was created. Now there are 11,000 adults and 3,500 high school students in apprenticeship programs overseen by the state.

Eric Haban, 35, started as a youth apprentice as a junior in high school and then completed a four-year program at Lakeshore Technical College, located in between Sheboygan and Manitowoc. He learned to be a machinist for LDI Industries, a Manitowoc-based company that makes hydraulic components and lubricating equipment.

“It really gave me a jump start to get into a field that I had no prior experience in,” said Haban, who now coordinates apprentice programs for the company.

LDI Industries always struggled with larger companies poaching its workers for slightly higher pay, but saw investing in apprenticeship programs as a way to attract and retain more workers, said John Lukas, the company’s vice president of manufacturing.

“We’re really using that as a marketing tool to say everyone isn’t cut out for a four-year college,” Lukas said.

Interest in the state’s apprenticeship programs is growing. Adult participation is up 6 percent from 2015 and includes participation from 2,400 employers. The goal is to double or triple those numbers, said state Department of Workforce

Development Secretary Ray Allen.

He hopes the Trump visit is a sign that his administration will bolster support for apprenticeship programs. Wisconsin's apprenticeship programs have an annual state budget of about \$1.8 million, but federal grants are used to support expansion efforts.

Walker has long touted Wisconsin's apprenticeship programs as a way to address workplace shortages. Wisconsin's unemployment rate of 3.2 percent is the lowest it's been since 2000, but there are about 97,000 job openings posted on the state website.

"There aren't enough people to fill the jobs and the people applying don't have the skills necessary," said Conor Smyth, spokesman for the Wisconsin Technical College System. The shortages cut across multiple job sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, information technology and health care, he said.

The state's technical colleges work closely with the Wisconsin DWD to create programs where there is need in the industrial, construction and service sectors. Participants generally complete the program between two and five years and are paid both for their time on the job and in the classroom.

Participation in Wisconsin's apprenticeship program in the 16 technical colleges has increased 36 percent since 2013, according to the technical college system's most recent annual report released in January. There were 669 graduates statewide in 2015 and of those 409 worked in construction, 204 in industry like electricians and mechanics, and 56 in services like cosmetology.

The annual median salary for those who had completed the apprenticeship program statewide as of 2015 was about \$67,600.

While Walker and Trump will be touting the value of apprenticeships together on Tuesday, that wasn't always the case. Walker used Trump's past job on the television show "The Apprentice" against him when they were both running for president in 2015. That's when Walker told Trump at a Republican presidential debate that the country didn't need an apprentice in the White House.

Their relationship has improved since then.

Walker went on to endorse Trump for president and after Tuesday's technical college tour the president planned to host a \$1,000 per-person fundraiser for Walker's re-election campaign. Photos with Trump cost \$10,000.

Walker planned to join with eight other governors for a discussion with Trump about workforce issues at the White House on Thursday as part of the president's weeklong focus on the issue.

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# Outgoing Western president Lee Rasch reflects on legacy

Retires Friday from Western Technical College

[Eric Jacobson](#)

**Posted:** Jun 28, 2017 05:47 PM CDT

**Updated:** Jun 29, 2017 09:08 AM CDT

Rasch Reflects on Legacy

LA CROSSE, Wis. (WKBT) - For nearly 30 years, Western Technical College has been under the leadership of President Lee Rasch.

With his retirement this Friday, a new era for the school begins.

Western Technical College saw a big transformation during Rasch's tenure.

Several new building projects, as well as an expansion of programs offered have changed the way people view the school.

Through it all, Rasch says it's the people and students that made his time so great.

Twenty-eight years ago, Lee Rasch remembers the promises he made to what was then known as WWTC.

"I talked about the need to upgrade the facilities, improve our image, we needed to have our credits transfer to the universities," Rasch said.

Now in 2017, Rasch leaves Western Technical College achieving those goals.

"I feel that Western is a college of first choice, we've reached that state, and with that comes responsibility," Rasch said.

Much of the physical transformation can be attributed to Western's Vision 20/20 referendum that passed in 2012.

## ADVERTISING

"We went to the community and asked for their support, but we have to deliver, we have to bring forward the quality programming that they expect," Rasch said.

With six building projects complete and over 40 new programs added to the school, Rasch feels Western is good position for the future.

"Our facilities are reflecting the needs of a 21st century college," Rasch said.

He admits there are challenges for his successor, Roger Stanford.

"We can't afford to be a Vision 20/20 college, and then be out of date in 2025, so we've got to come up with strategies to keep current with technology," he said.

Twenty-eight years ago Lee Rasch came with a vision. He's now leaving behind a legacy that will impact the community for years to come.

"The decision to come here to La Crosse was the one I've ever made," Rasch said. "It has been so rich for me in that experience, and I'm so forever grateful that I've had it."

Rasch officially retires at the end of this week. He plans to stay in the La Crosse area.

# Wisconsin boater, dealers struggle with mechanic shortage

Associated Press    JUNE 1, 2017 — 4:11PM

MILWAUKEE — A severe industry-wide shortage of mechanics has alarmed Wisconsin boat dealers and owners alike as summer returns, and there's no sign that conditions will improve anytime soon.

Some boaters have waited weeks for repairs, partly due to low numbers of service technicians at dealerships where business has rebounded after a lengthy downturn, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (<http://bit.ly/2qKx9kC>) reported. Many service technicians left the industry during the Great Recession.

"We, as an industry, are in a crisis mode," said John Kukuk, vice chairman of the Wisconsin Marine Association and the owner of Nestegg Marine in Marinette. "We can't find enough employees."

Wisconsin ranks seventh among states in sales of new powerboats, engines, trailers and accessories, according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association. But the association surveyed hundreds of businesses and found that over 20 percent of the jobs marine dealers budgeted in 2016 weren't fulfilled.

"We have been looking for a technician for over five years," Kukuk said about his own dealership.

But boat dealership owners say there's only one dedicated marine engine program at a Wisconsin technical college.

The three-semester program at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in Ashland graduates about 12 students annually.

"Right now, our job placement is 100%," said Todd Larson, an instructor at the school. "Every student that's graduated has had multiple job offers. They can easily select the area of the state, or the country, where they would like to work."

The program teaches students the marine mechanics basics so they can get an entry-level job upon graduation. The engine manufacturers usually pick up additional training through advanced courses.

"It's certainly a hot topic right now," Larson said. "It seems to me that dealers are all screaming that there are no service techs, but the dealers themselves haven't taken enough initiative to try and solve the problem. . They haven't proactively sought out people to fill positions."

