



June 13, 2012

Summer Legislative Update I:  
**2012 Interim Legislative Council Study Committees Appointed**

- *“Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School” will consider technical college opportunities and coordination.*
- *Committee members include WTCS Board president, Moraine Park Technical College president, and two former district board member school administrators.*

The Wisconsin Legislature’s Joint Legislative Council has created ten special study committees to consider issues of importance to the state over the summer and fall. “Leg Council” study committees are comprised of legislators and citizen experts charged with researching specific public policy topics and developing responsive legislation to be introduced in the next session. Among the 2012 interim committees, Leg Council co-chairs Representative Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and Senator Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) have appointed a Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School, which will directly involve technical colleges, and issues around career and technical education across the educational spectrum.

The co-chairs have approved the special committee’s “charge” and its membership, including technical college leaders.

The Committee’s approved charge:

“The Special Committee is directed to develop legislation to create and enhance opportunities for both lower and higher achieving students in high school. The committee shall: evaluate current options available to high school students for both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the Youth Options Program; examine both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment options available to high school students in other states; and determine how to promote coordination between high schools, technical colleges, universities, and employers to ensure that high school students have the skills necessary to meet the workforce needs of employers in this state.”

Special Committee members (invited):

- Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon), Chair;
- Representative Paul Farrow (R-Pewaukee), Vice Chair;
- Joni Burgin, Superintendent, Grantsburg School District;
- Senator Tim Cullen (D-Janesville);
- Bill Fitzpatrick, Superintendent, School District of New London, and an outgoing member (2007-2012) and Chair, Fox Valley Technical College District Board;
- Joe Garza, Superintendent, New Berlin School District;
- Senator Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend);
- Robert Hein, Assistant Professor, UW-Rock County, Janesville;
- Patricia Hoben, Principal, Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Milwaukee;
- William Hughes, Superintendent, Greendale Schools, and a former member of the MATC Milwaukee District Board (2003-2009);
- Mark Kaiser, President/CEO Lindquist Machine Company, Green Bay;
- Suzanne Kelley, President, Waukesha County Business Alliance;
- Jim Leef, Owner, Industrial Towel and Uniform, Brookfield;
- Jeff Monday, Principal, Marquette University High School, Wauwatosa;
- Harry Muir, Dean, UW-Waukesha;
- Patricia Neudecker, Superintendent, Oconomowoc Area School District;
- Representative Sondy Pope-Roberts (D-Cross Plains);
- Sheila Ruhland, President, Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac;
- S. Mark Tyler, President, Wisconsin Technical College System Board, member, UW Board of Regents, President, OEM Fabricators, Woodville.

Legislative Council study committees have the unique standing to directly introduce bills as a committee in the next legislative session beginning in January, 2013. Unlike other committees, they are specifically charged with introducing appropriate legislation to move the state forward in the particular policy area. The resulting bill or bills tend to have a fairly high likelihood of being considered and passed.

After organizing and reviewing the committee charge, special committees generally request research by staff and various expert presentations as background to developing legislative proposals. Meetings may take place in the State Capitol or on location as relevant around the state. The Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities has not yet set a first meeting. Meetings are open to the public. Schedules and topics can be tracked at this website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2012/HSED/index.html>.

A summary of important committee activities and resulting proposals will be reported in the future.

*This report was prepared by Paul Gabriel, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association. Any analysis or opinion is exclusively the author's.*