



WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARDS ASSOCIATION

WTCS Budget Request – Legislative Agenda

Key Points:

State Office Operations: Fully fund 3 vacant positions. Fund secure IT infrastructure that protects student data, while providing a modern platform to track college performance, perform sector-specific course and curriculum approval and monitoring, and support shared access to data visualization tools. \$875,000 each year.

General Aid to Technical Colleges: Funding to address critical workforce shortages in multiple industries; promote local access to relevant, just-in-time education; increase Wisconsin's workforce participation rate for hardest to serve populations; support Wisconsin's 60 Forward goal, which is that 60% of the working age population hold some type of post-high school degree or credential by 2027. \$25.0 million in the first year, \$50 million in the second year.

Open Educational Resources: Funding to develop more free textbooks for students; tackle affordability at the front end. \$1.0 million in the first year; \$2.0 million in the second year.

Wisconsin Grants: Align state need-based financial aid to Pell Grant eligibility for maximum efficiency; invest in the Higher Educational Aids Board. \$4.4 million in each year.

Workforce Advancement Training Grants: Funding to help employers up-skill current employees. \$1.5 million in the first year; \$2.0 million in the second year.

The requests were developed with key stakeholder input: trustees, the District Boards Association, Presidents, Faculty, Students, and System Board Members. Wisconsin's workforce must be prepared to engage in today's economy, while keeping tuition affordable and tax levies low. Increased funding will avoid difficult choices regarding which industries are served, and which will wait or go without critically needed talent and training, due to limited resources and an inflationary environment.

System-wide Outcomes:

60 Forward Goal: 60% of working adults credentialed by 2027, to meet projected employer demand. In 2022, we are at 54.7%, including degrees, journeyman level tradespeople, and short-term workforce credentials. We started in 2017 at 48.4%. However, that attainment is not equitably shared across the state—most of Wisconsin's rural counties are well behind the curve.

Enrollments: Covid was disruptive, but WTCS enrollments are bouncing back; 10% increase in 2022 compared to 2021.

Graduate Outcomes: 93% employed 6 months after graduation, which held steady despite the pandemic.

Employer Satisfaction: 96% of employers who hired technical college graduates in 2021 reported that they were satisfied with the graduate's skills and work readiness. 98% reported that a technical college is important to the success of their business.

*See wtcsystem.edu for documentation