

**MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
NOVEMBER 7-8, 2023
LAKESHORE TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Members Present: Quincey Daniels, Janixa Franco Gonzalez, Douglas Holton, Sr., Dan Klecker, Alex Lasry, John W. Miller, Sara Rogers, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Stephen Willett.

Members Absent: Amy Pechacek, Dan Sperberg.

System Office Staff Present: Rachel Colla, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Megan Stritchko, James Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Polly Abts, Tanya Boman, Paul Carlsen, William Jack Charles, Samson Hou-Seye, Sandra Hyer, Roy Kluss, Rachel Kroeplien, Stephanie Leonhard, Lakeshore Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Peter Mallek, Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Jaclyn Jelinek, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Kristen Raney, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Rich Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; John Heath, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Lindsay Blumer, WRTP/Big Step and WTCS Board Nominee.

Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

ITEM A: Approval of September 12-13, 2023, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Underly, seconded by Board Member Klecker, that the September 12-13, 2023, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board Member Miller's UW System Board of Regents reports for August and October were shared with Board Members on November 3, 2023.

Board President Tyler received a request from Kyle Weatherly, Universities of Wisconsin Board of Education Committee, regarding challenges at their two-year campuses and would like to see more robust connections with our campuses.

Board President Tyler has resigned from his role on the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment (CWI). Sachin Shivaram, CEO of Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry, has been appointed as the Chair. System President Foy and Board Members Pechacek, Rogers and Underly and Board Appointee Blumer also serve as members on CWI.

ITEM C: Report of the System President

- The Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions handles the EdVest college savings program. During the week of November 13, Governor Evers will release a proclamation which will include

a clause stating that apprentices are eligible to use 529 savings programs for education-related expenses.

- National Apprenticeship Week will take place November 13-19, 2023.
- Ascendium has offered to give the System a grant of \$500,000 over five years to help the continuation and growth of the Tools of the Trade scholarship program for apprenticeship students. Last year alone Ascendium awarded 771 scholarships worth more than \$1,542,000.
- The Wisconsin Conference on Race and Ethnicity (WisCORE) was held in October at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. This event is in its third year and is planned by a System-wide committee that includes students. A [video](#) was shared from the event.
- System President Foy had the opportunity to Keynote the Institute for Physical Infrastructure and Transportation's 2023 Southeast Wisconsin Transportation Symposium where she talked about partnerships being the backbone of the work we do. She also shared that micro credentials are the way of the new world and on and off ramps are continuous to maintain the latest knowledge in any industry. Another model starting to trend is apprenticeships that incorporate existing technical diploma program coursework and allow students to earn two credentials. She talked about all the modalities now available to help students match employer needs and shared all the transportation pathways our colleges offer.
- System President Foy sat on a Wisconsin Technology Council Innovation Network panel with Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman and Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities President Eric Fulcomer. Foy talked about making data-driven decisions and how adding entrepreneurship-focused programming to many of our program areas is making some graduates more likely to transform their credential into an ownership opportunity in some sectors. She also announced that we are working on a STEM transfer pathway and focusing on ways to make transferring easier for students.
- System President Foy, along with Board President Tyler, Board Member Underly and Northcentral Technical College's Dean of the School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities & Transportation Greg Cisewski have been appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Board Member Pechacek serves as the Task Force chair, which aims to establish a strategic direction for workforce and economic development that advances state programs, policies, educational opportunities and investments to harness the potential of AI so workers, employers, job seekers and communities continue to thrive.
- System President Foy attended Rockwell Automation's Workforce Development Discussion. The business roundtable released a case study on Rockwell's Advanced Academy of Manufacturing which was created to address the skills gap by providing training in advanced manufacturing and industrial automation for U.S. Military Veterans. The event included government, academia and members of the private sector to collaborate on how to scale workforce development in Wisconsin and make opportunities for upskilling more accessible for all.
- Members of WTCS met with members from the Universities of Wisconsin, WAICU and the Tribal Colleges to talk about how we can advance transfer between systems. Attendees focused discussions on Credit for Prior Learning for military and other experience.
- In 2017, WTCS, Universities of Wisconsin and WAICU received a grant from the Lumina Foundation to increase the number of people who earn a credential beyond high school. The partners agreed on a goal to increase the state's postsecondary attainment rate to 60% by 2027 and called this project 60Forward. While the data shows that collectively we have reached the goal of having more than 60% of our population aged 25-64 having a postsecondary credential, there are some populations of people who are not there. So, the new goal is 60forALL, and the Systems have commenced work to define how we will all get there.

- System President Foy is embarking on a tour of all WTCS colleges to promote the value and the access they allow students at a statewide level by highlighting all 16 colleges and 52 campuses. She plans to visit one campus in each district and capture an interview with a student on video, highlighting our colleges, programs, facilities and our positive impact on communities and their constituents. The WTCS Office and the Marketing Consortium will collaborate with the colleges to garner statewide and regional/local media coverage of her visits and message, including the college leadership along the way. Videos and related content will be shared on WTCS and Marketing Consortium social media channels and featured on the website and other mediums such as the weekly In-Brief newsletter.

Board President Tyler thanked President Paul Carlsen and his team for hosting the WTCS Board. Dr. Carlsen welcomed the Board to Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) and introduced District Board Members Kluss and Lukas and LTC's WTCS Ambassador Sandra Hyer who addressed the Board.

ITEM D: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

The Association of Community Colleges (ACCT) Leadership Congress took place in October where eight colleges presented, including LTC. It was a fantastic conference that verified Wisconsin's technical colleges are the best and most innovative.

The DBA fall quarterly meeting was held alongside the biennial Legal Issues Seminar at Waukesha County Technical College October 26-27. Presenters offered reminders on open meetings and public records, legislative issues and a keynote on AI.

Board Vice President Holton attended the conference and found the discussion on AI and how it will promote our education needs valuable.

ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association

Dr. Paul Carlsen, president of Lakeshore Technical College and of the Association, updated the Board on recent activities.

Many college presidents attended the Legal Issues Seminar at WCTC, and it was a great opportunity to stay abreast of pertinent legal topics.

Many presidents attended the ACCT Leadership Congress with members of their Boards. The following colleges presented at the Congress: Gateway, Chippewa Valley, Lakeshore, Madison Area, Mid-State, Northwood, Southwest Wisconsin, and Western technical colleges.

The Aspen Institute released their 150 two-year colleges eligible to apply for the Aspen Prize. The following Wisconsin technical colleges made the list:

- Fox Valley Technical College
- Lakeshore Technical College
- Moraine Park Technical College
- Nicolet College
- Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
- Northwood Tech
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- Western Technical College

The Association will meet the afternoon of November 8 where the presidents will connect and learn from one another.

ITEM F: Teaching & Learning – Competency-Based Education

WTCS Associate Vice President-Office of Instructional Services Chrystal Seeley-Schreck was joined by Lakeshore Technical College's (LTC) Interim Vice President of Instruction Dr. Tanya Boman, Dean of Applied Technology/Economic Development Rachel Kroeplien, Auto Collision Repair/Refinish Technician Instructor Jack Charles, and Welding/Maintenance Lab Specialist Samson Hou-Seye who provided an overview of Competency-based education (CBE). CBE is a structured educational model where teaching and learning strategies are focused on the demonstration of competencies and skills, and not constrained by a required amount of time in the classroom. [Lakeshore Technical College's CBE FAQs](#) were reviewed.

Board Member Underly is interested in bringing this into high schools and asked how students receive credits.

Mr. Charles shared that students receive credits based on meeting all the competencies through quizzes and tests, and lectures are presented in other ways such as videos.

Board Member Underly asked what happens if the student needs more time to complete the class than what is allotted? Ms. Kroeplien responded that the hope is to be able to complete it during the same semester time block until the student is proficient in that skill. If additional time after the semester ends is needed, the student receives an incomplete grade, but they have six weeks to complete the course.

Board Vice President Holton asked about feedback from employers. Dr. Boman shared that employers send employees for upskilling and have stated that welders are better trained than in the past because they're getting the mastery of the skills needed. Mr. Hou-Seye elaborated that because the students need to be proficient in the competencies, there are no longer "C" students. The students must meet 100% until they master the skills.

Board Member Svacina asked what their observations are of student characteristics or behaviors on how they complete their coursework; and if students are modeling different behaviors than a traditional student? Ms. Kroeplien remarked that students are more motivated because they want to be here and put more effort into getting their degree. Students have higher study skills and are initiating the questions because they are in the driver seat of their education. The role of faculty is coaching and motivating, allowing students to show their skills and providing an environment where students can thrive and progress.

System President Foy emphasized that while this looks easy, the college waded through mounds of doubting, worries and concerns to gain accreditation. The Board should feel confident in CBE with zero issues about rigor and assessments, advising and whether students are successful. She added that it is amazing and terrific that two of our smallest colleges are driving this change in our System. It is also a great example of the Board's Strategic Directions for collaborative work between Lakeshore and Nicolet Area technical colleges.

It was moved by Board Member Klecker, seconded by Board Member Svacina, to recess the meeting until Wednesday, November 8, 2023. The Board adjourned at 6:09 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Members Present: Quincey Daniels, Janixa Franco Gonzalez, Douglas Holton, Sr., Dan Klecker, Alex Lasry, John W. Miller, Sara Rogers, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Stephen Willett.

Members Absent: Amy Pechacek, Dan Sperberg.

System Office Staff Present: Sarah Arneson, Hilary Barker, Rachel Colla, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Mandy Johnson, Colleen Larsen, Christina Lorge, Joel Mathis, Colleen McCabe, Carolann Nelson, Jeremy Nichols, Cristina Parente, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, JP Villavicencio, James Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Joshua Kutney, Lakeland University; Tanya Boman, Paul Carlsen, Roy Kluss, Stephanie Leonhard, John Lukas, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, III, Sylvia Ramirez, Madison Area Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Peter Mallek, Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Jaclyn Jelinek, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Kristen Raney, Megan Weycker, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Jennifer Hockenbery, Joe Webb, St. Norbert College; Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Rich Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; John Heath, Western Technical College; Kathy Paul, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; James Jelak, WTCS Marketing Consortium; Lindsay Blumer, WRTP/Big Step and WTCS Board Nominee.

Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board President Tyler introduced and recognized Katrina Willis, president of Wisconsin Student Government and welcomed Board Member Lasry.

ITEM G: Consent Agenda

It was moved by Board Member Underly, seconded by Board Member Klecker that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM H: Northwood Technical College – Project Concept Review – Acquisition and Remodeling for a Medical Laboratory Education Center in New Richmond

Northwood Technical College President John Will provided an overview of the project.

Board President Tyler commented that St. Croix County is the fastest growing county in the state with most of the growth being 55-year-olds and older so access to healthcare is needed now and will continue to grow. He asked if the property is adjoining the current campus. Dr. Will stated that it is two miles from the New Richmond Campus.

Board Member Klecker asked if the building cost would have been \$4 million if they had built a building when the program was approved in 2018? Dr. Will shared that the cost profile was different at that time than today. The donation of the building and property is a huge cost savings for the college. Northwood considered an addition to their current campus, but architects estimated it will be \$750,000 less to proceed the way they are proposing, and they do not have space at their current campus. This project requires a large footprint and is not an option to do it in the existing space.

System President Foy shared that Legislators often ask what the System is doing to recycle properties, and this is a great example. Dr. Will stated they have begun fundraising and will be communicating with all their partners. The healthcare industry has been proactive in leveling up by hiring phlebotomists and

giving them release time to attend classes. The first cohorts will be students from partners in the region who are offering students a better pathway to a job, and many employers will pay for their education.

Board Member Svacina asked how Northwood Tech sees this fitting into the community, being part of Metro Minneapolis/St. Paul, knowing it is a part of a larger metro area for other employers outside of Northwoods footprint. Dr. Will shared that they base it on the need in Wisconsin, but New Richmond is an easy drive to Stillwater, Minnesota, with that hospital part of the St. Croix Valley health partners. They will build a program to support what is happening in Wisconsin and, they'll take advantage of opportunities to involve other employers as they can.

It was moved by Board Member Holton, seconded by Board Member Klecker, that the Board finds that the concept for the Northwood Technical College's proposed acquisition and remodeling of facilities in New Richmond is reasonable. The final Scope and design of the projects are subject to review and approval by the Board is required by s.3804(10) Stats. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM I: 2023-2026 WTCS Facilities Plan

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the 2023-2026 WTCS Facilities Plan including a three-year summary of the technical colleges' capital maintenance budgets and planned facility development projects.

Board Member Underly asked about Milwaukee Area Technical College's (MATC) plans for 2024-25 to remodel for high school dual enrollment at the Downtown Campus and if they transport students from high schools to campus? Mr. Scanlon shared that they would bring high school students in for specific general education classes and some labs.

System President Foy shared that the origins of this item on the Board's agenda came from an interest in what the colleges are thinking about, and many of them may not happen for several reasons, one being cost prohibitive. Also, a longer-term initiative is movement away from leased space, ensuring we are making good economic decisions.

Board Vice President Holton asked if the 17% construction costs are an annual estimate. Mr. Scanlon confirmed that it is an annual estimate with a continued delay in getting building materials which continue to increase costs.

Board President Tyler commented that \$240/square foot gives \$3.5 billion a conservative value to our properties.

It was moved by Board Member Underly, seconded by Board Member Lasry, that the Board accept the 2023-2026 WTCS Facilities Plan. Individual projects included in the Plan are subject to the Board's review and approval, pursuant to s.38.04(10) Stats. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened at 10:18 after a short break.

ITEM J: Foster Youth Pathways Project

WTCS Provost and Vice President Dr. Colleen McCabe was joined by Lakeshore Technical College Vice President of Instruction Dr. Tanya Boman; Lakeland College Executive Vice President/Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Joshua Kutney; Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Student Support Specialist Megan Weycker; St. Norbert College Dean of the Division of Humanities Dr. Jennifer Hockenbery and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Joe Webb who provided an overview of the Foster Youth Pathways Project. The project is intended to create intentional partnerships focusing on dual enrollment opportunities for foster youth with a supported and guided handoff of the student to a postsecondary WTCS or WAICU institution.

Board Member Underly praised the presenters for the incredible work of the handoff from high school to college. She asked if they are experiencing any challenges identifying these students and offered to help in any way. Dr. Boman commented that many students are reluctant to identify as foster youth, but they are working with high school counselors who are helping build that community.

Board Member Daniels said he has been a foster parent for 16 years and has also adopted children. There is a huge need and potential in the future for a grant for support for foster parents, including trauma-informed care and wrap-around care for the child.

Board President Tyler asked about the possible approaches for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Foster youth are assigned a case worker/advocate who has received extensive training to work with those in foster youth and serve as a trusted adult for them. For those without local programs, they identify the area and contact Wisconsin CASA or the closest CASA to connect the student.

ITEM K: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra, WTCS Policy Advisor Megan Stritchko and District Boards Association Executive Director Layla Merrifield provided an overview of legislative items affecting the System.

Mr. Zylstra indicated they have been tracking 240 bills and highlighted several.

Ms. Merrifield highlighted several bills she is working on including AB380/381 Financial Aid Modernization; AB545 change requirements of becoming a District Board member; and the Oral Health Package.

WTCS Policy Advisor Megan Stritchko provided updates on state legislation Senate Bill 93 Technical College Grants and a federal update on appropriations.

ITEM L: Announcements/Adjourn

The next meeting of the Board will be held January 16, 2024, at the Wisconsin Technical College System Office in Madison.

It was moved by Board Member Underly, seconded by Board Member Lasry, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Drake