

MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
MAY 16, 2023
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OFFICE

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, Jr., Douglas A. Holton, Sr., John W. Johnson for Jill Underly, Dan Klecker, John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek, Sara Rogers, Dan Sperberg, S. Mark Tyler, Stephen Willett.

System Office Staff Present: Sarah Arneson, Judy Barbian, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Shari Jacobson, Mandy Johnson, Mark Johnson, Tou Ya Khang, Colleen Larsen, Kristin Long, Colleen McCabe, Jeremy Nichols, Denise Perkins, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Brent Simmons, Lenard Simpson, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, Ann Westrich, Angela White, Danika Woods, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Greg Phillips, Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Angie Lawrence, Betty Bruski Mallek, Peter Mallek, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, III, Madison Area Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Rob Elliott, Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Jeff Rafn, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Steve Bitzer, Northwood Technical College; Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Richard Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Lindsay Blumer (Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP), Alex Lasry, Wisconsin Technical College System Board Appointees.

Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board President Pasch introduced and recognized Katrina Willis, President of Wisconsin Student Government (WSG), who joined the meeting on behalf of WSG.

Board President Pasch introduced the new Board Appointees:

1. Lindsay Blumer, CEO and president of the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP.
2. Alex Lasry, former co-owner and senior vice president of the Milwaukee Bucks.
3. Janixa Franco Gonzalez, student Board Member at Waukesha County Technical College.
4. Dr. Quincey Daniels, Jr. was reappointed for a term ending May 1, 2029.

ITEM A: Approval of March 14-15, 2023, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Bahr, that the March 14-15, 2023, meeting minutes be approved with the clarification on the Legislative Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Klecker requested clarification on the Legislative Report:

Board Member Tyler said that workforce shortages began in 2010 with 34,000 people coming into the workforce. In 2020, that number was 8,000 and in 2030 is projected to be 129. We need to engage with

every student coming through K12. (As a point of clarification, the raw data comes from 2010 census data, as we await 2020 census data.) It is important for us to look at net change because we have more 65-69-year-olds leaving the workforce than we have 19-24-year-olds entering the workforce. (As an example, if you add 19-24-year-olds into the workforce and extract 65-69-year-olds, you have a net change of 10,000. So, if there are 20,000 19-24-year-olds coming into the workforce and 10,000 going out, there is a net gain of 10,000 workers.)

ITEM B: 2023-24 WTCS Board Meeting Location Changes

Proposed meeting location changes:

- July 11-12, 2023 from Gateway Technical College to Waukesha County Technical College
- September 12-13, 2023 from Moraine Park Technical College to Gateway Technical College
- March 19-20, 2024 from Waukesha County Technical College to Moraine Park Technical College

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Rogers to adopt the proposed 2023-2024 WTCS Board meeting locations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM C: Report of the Board President

The UW System Board of Regents report for the March meeting was shared with Board Members on May 12, 2023.

ITEM D: Report of the System President

System President Foy expressed her gratitude for all that attended the 2023 WTCS Ambassador banquet. The leadership development program gave the Ambassadors an opportunity to hear how to leverage their strengths; be advocates for their colleges, the System and their communities; public relations tips to help them talk about WTCS colleges; and how to measure the moments that make up their lives. This year's Ambassadors included those who experienced life-altering car accidents or serious medical conditions, to students who persevered through the foster care system, to international students navigating our education system in a language different from their own – all of them have excelled at our colleges. Special thanks to Baird Finance for 38 years of sponsorship of this event. A video of the Ambassador event was shared with the Board.

System President Foy had the pleasure of being interviewed by WTCS Associate Vice President for Student Success Dr. Christina Lorge at the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Roundtable, under which the System manages WTCS' Adult Education and English Language Learner Programs. More than 400 people attended the roundtable events, from all of the WIOA partners and discussed collaboration among the partners, growth of integrated education and training approaches, adoption of Career Pathways, credit for prior learning, dual credit and large growth of online learning, accelerated by the pandemic. Populations helped include dislocated workers, underemployed individuals, veterans, incarcerated and re-entering individuals, recent immigrants and refugees. It was a great event as we continue to collaborate with our partners to serve these students.

Board Member Pechacek shared that as a major stakeholder and partner of the WIOA Roundtable, it was a wonderful event increasing communication, coordination and collaboration. Sharing best practices, good ideas, timely convening of workforce partners as they prepare to write a four-year state plan as it relates to the workforce system, approved by the Council on Workforce Investment when it is complete. She was excited about the enthusiasm with a record-breaking year of low unemployment and

number of new jobs. It was a great opportunity to collaborate and cooperate to remove barriers to continue with a robust post-covid recovery.

National Ag Day took place March 23 at Blackhawk Technical College with an incredible display of Wisconsin's number one industry – agriculture. Secretary Romanski of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection attended along with more than 110 people from across the state who went on tours of Blackhawk's agricultural center followed by tours of local agriculture companies. Thanks to WTCS Education Director for Agriculture, Natural Resources & STEM Betsy Leonard involved in planning the event and President Pierner from Blackhawk for hosting. Ag Day will be hosted at Northcentral Technical College in 2024. The date and details will be shared as the event nears.

System President Foy attended the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conference in Denver in April where she was once again reminded of how unique and forward-thinking our colleges are. There were many presentations by faculty and staff from our colleges, showing that we are viewed as leaders in what we do and how we do it.

System President Foy was asked to join a podcast with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) after presenting on a panel at an AACC Workforce Development Institute conference last January on how important it is to use data to make decisions and in delivering programs. The podcast is expected to be released on May 17 and will be shared with the Board.

Over the past couple of years, three of the System's education directors have earned doctoral degrees. Foy expressed how proud she is of the commitment to continuous professional development and life-long learning:

- Dr. Katie Roberts, education director for hospitality, human services & education, earned her degree from Edgewood College.
- Education Director for Student Success Dr. Colleen Larsen earned her degree last spring from UW-Madison. Additionally, she was the recipient of the dissertation of the year from the Council for the Study of Community Colleges for her pathbreaking research with refugee students in technical and community colleges.
- Dr. Ben Konruff, education director for performance analysis/continuous improvement, earned his doctorate from UW-Madison.

System President Foy included an article for Board Members to review from the Georgetown University Pathway-to-Career Simulation model, which considers pathway changes that lead to good paying jobs. It highlights a potential "system that would involve a series of on- and off-ramps to various education and work experiences, none of which would lead to dead ends." This article reinforces the value of several WTCS priorities – pathway credentials, flexible delivery options and a focus on student success that treats learners as individuals who require and deserve unique educational opportunities, work we have been doing for three decades. Foy thanked the Board for driving and supporting this work.

ITEM E: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) President and Mid-State Trustee Betty Bruski Mallek and Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

The spring meeting, held in Kenosha, April 20-22, focused on effective board governance, best practices to promote cybersecurity and the marketing consortium's public perceptions survey. Annual elections were also held, with Chuck Bolstad of Southwest Tech elected as the new Association president beginning July 22. Ms. Bruski Mallek will attend the July WTCS Board meeting in her current role.

The Association's next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 21-22, hosted by Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton. The planned in-service topic will cover interpreting data as a Board member. Ms. Drake sent the flier with the information to the Board on May 12.

The Association's fall quarterly meeting will be the biennial Legal Issues Seminar October 26-27, hosted by Waukesha County Technical College. Presenters will offer reminders on open meetings and public records, as well as diving into issues surrounding artificial intelligence.

Board Member Tyler asked about the public perception survey. Ms. Merrifield shared that 75% of those that completed the survey agree that higher education can be a big investment and now more than ever, students and parents need to consider the long-term costs when thinking about college or higher education.

Board President Pasch encouraged all Board members to attend DBA meetings as schedules allow.

ITEM F: WTCS Presidents' Association

Dr. Vicki Martin, President of Milwaukee Area Technical College and of the Association, provided a brief update on recent activities of the Association.

Dr. Martin shared good news from Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). William Campbell, native of Milwaukee, was decreed a menace to society at the age of 15. With support from his parents, stints in several youth detention programs and guidance from caring instructors, Campbell earned a high school diploma, secured a job developing websites and enrolled at MATC. While at MATC, he transformed himself into a disciplined, accomplished student who went on to get his associate degree in liberal arts from MATC, a bachelor degree from Fisk University, an Historically Black College in Nashville, Tennessee and a master's degree in international relations from Marquette University in Milwaukee. After graduating from Fisk, Campbell was accepted into the prestigious Thomas Pickering Foreign Affairs Scholarship program and has served in the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service for the past 13 years. He was detailed to the White House during President Barack Obama's second term, spent seven years in China as an economic officer and currently works for the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, as one of only 19 regional economic officers posted around the globe. Campbell was one of three people who received the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) meeting on April 4 in Denver.

The Association met on March 15 at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. Highlights included sharing high impact practices and exceptional news from each of our colleges; reviewing bylaws and determined that a shared desire to collaborate remains a priority, along with a review every 2-4 years; and discussions continued about priorities for the colleges, which will be a starting point for the June planning meeting of the Association.

The strategic focus committees shared updates:

- The Financial Stability/Transfer Improvement Task Force identified key elements that any childcare initiative should cover as well as supporting student parents. The WTCS Student Success Center and Student Services Administrators have also identified these students as populations of focus.
- The Design and Deliver Programs and Services committee developed a white paper which focuses on different definitions of short-term education including considerations, barriers, solutions, best practices and more.

- The Attract and Retain Talent/Workforce Diversity committee surveyed colleges to gain an understanding of pain points in recruitment and retention. Many pieces of feedback cannot be changed, for example the weather, but other areas like strong leadership and collaboration can be celebrated and influenced. One idea discussed was re-hiring retirees.

The Instructional Services committee reviewed the Credit for Prior Learning guidelines and found that consistency and alignment is in place. ChatGPT practices were shared among the Instructional Services Administrators and artificial intelligence will hold a prominent role at the next Legal Issues Seminar October 26-27 at Waukesha County Technical College.

The Association will meet on the afternoon of May 16 and will convene June 8-9 for their annual planning meeting.

Board Member Tyler asked if any of our colleges offer health insurance for students. Dr. Martin shared that there are health services available but is unsure about insurance, which is quite costly. She will inquire with the colleges for the answer.

Board Member Holton asked if the Presidents' Association discussed the UW System's decision to delete DEI questions in the hiring process. System President Foy explained that our Systems are different with UW System employees being state employees and WTCS college faculty being local employees, which have different practices.

ITEM G: Consent Agenda

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided an overview of the WTCS District Board Appointment Process. Trujillo and WTCS Executive Staff Assistant Judy Barbian are the two WTCS staff members who handle the District Board Appointment process at the System Office. Trujillo thanked Ms. Barbian who will be retiring in early June.

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Klecker that the Board approve the program, facilities development requests and Annual District Board appointments as presented, with the exception of the program and District Board appointment items for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Johnson that the Board approve the program and District Board appointment items for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried 11-1. Board Member Bahr abstained.

ITEM H: Moraine Park Technical College – Record of Decision – Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction of Facilities for a Public Safety Education Center in Horicon, Wisconsin.

WTCS Director of Facilities Development Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) Record of Decision. There is a statutory requirement that the environmental impact statement (EIS) of the project be considered. Two hearings on the EIS were held, and no members of the public attended or commented.

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Tyler that the Board adopts the proposed decision on the Environmental Impact Statement, April 24, 2023, for the construction of facilities for a Public Safety Education Center in Horicon, Dodge County, Wisconsin, pursuant to s. TCS 12, Wisconsin Administration Code.

ITEM I: Moraine Park Technical College – Project Review – Acquisition of Land in Horicon and Construction of Additional Facilities in Horicon

WTCS Director of Facilities Development Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project review which proposes to acquire land to construct a Regional Center primarily for firefighting and paramedic education to serve approximately 40 fire departments in the district.

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Daniels that the Board grants approval to the Moraine Park Technical College District to acquire land and construct additional facilities in Horicon at a cost of \$6,826,000.

Board Member Holton asked what the two Huddle Rooms are on the renderings. Mr. Scanlon shared that they are multipurpose rooms to be used for briefings before and after training.

Board Member Tyler had a question related to the operations used in firefighting PFAS. WTCS Education Director for Fire Service Angela White said that all colleges had been contacted by the DNR to turn in any PFAS containing foam they had left. She assured the Board that most of the colleges use dish soap foam or a similar (non-PFAS containing product) to simulate the foam used in the field.

ITEM J: Lakeshore Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Additional Facilities and Remodeling of Existing Facilities in Cleveland

WTCS Director of Facilities Development Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project. This is the second review, with the Concept Review approved by the WTCS Board at its November 2022 meeting. These spaces will primarily be used for training.

It was moved by Board Member Sperberg, seconded by Board Member Pechacek that the Board grants approval to the Lakeshore Technical College district to construct additional and remodel existing facilities in Cleveland at a cost of \$3,900,000.

ITEM K: Northcentral Technical College – Project Concept Review – Construction of Additional Facilities in Antigo

WTCS Director of Facilities Development Dan Scanlon introduced Northcentral Technical College (NTC) President Dr. Jeannie Worden and Associate Vice President of Facilities Management Rob Elliott who provided an overview of the project.

In 2009, Langlade County, which houses NTC's Antigo Regional Campus, received funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce for Economic Development Assistance to create a Wood Technology Center of Excellence at NTC's Antigo Campus in direct response to industry needs. The \$2.5 million project allowed for collaboration between the county and NTC in creating a unique, state-of-the-art facility to focus on the forestry and wood manufacturing industries. From that partnership, NTC now offers a Wood Science Associate Degree, Wood Technology Technical Diploma and Furniture Design & Craftsmanship Certificate. Continuing education course includes Band Saw Fiber, Hardwood Manufacturers and Hardwood Sawmilling certificates. Since inception, more than 1,000 incumbent workers seeking further education in the industry and more than 80 Associate Degree graduates have been served.

The Wood and Forestry industry continues to grow with commercial markets for forest products providing over 61,000 direct full- and part-time Wisconsin jobs and has a total industry output of

\$24.4 billion. Every 10 jobs in the forest products industry support an additional 12 jobs in other state sectors. Combining direct, indirect and induced effects, the industry contributes over 135,000 jobs with an annual gross output of \$38 billion. The forest products industry is one of the top 10 employers in 31 counties including NTC's Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Price and Taylor Counties.

The expansion is funded through a partnership with UW-Stevens Point's Wisconsin Forestry Center which was awarded a Workforce Innovation Grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation addressing the need for skilled workers in the forest industry. The \$8 million award supports education and creates a pipeline to forestry careers for the next generation. The project supports post-high school training programs through regional training hubs that will lead to stable, well-paying jobs. At NTC, the project creates the state's only start-to-finish wood products training center with a state-of-the-art sawmill complex and mill simulator at NTC's Antigo Campus. Each of the project's programs will prepare participants for the workforce and provide credit toward additional training. Certificates will be credit-eligible at Nicolet College, NTC and UW-Stevens Point.

Board Member Pechacek commented on the excellent capacity building with the sawmill being near UW-Stevens Point that the Governor invested in through the Workforce Innovation Grant.

Board President Pasch is looking forward to visiting when the sawmill is complete.

It was moved by Board Member Sperberg, seconded by Board Member Rogers that the Board finds that the concept for Northcentral Technical College's proposed construction of facilities is reasonable. The final scope and design of the project are subject to review and approval by the Board as required by s. 38.04(10) Stats.

ITEM L: Blackhawk Technical College – Project Concept Review – Construction of Additional Facilities at the Main Campus in Janesville

WTCS Director of Facilities Development Dan Scanlon introduced Blackhawk Technical College President Dr. Tracy Pierner and Dean of Manufacturing, Apprenticeship, Technology and Transportation (MATT) Greg Phillips who provided an overview of the project.

The current footprint does not fit their current needs and is not centrally located. The benefits of moving the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center to central campus include significant operational savings; better student support; enhanced student life; and location is better aligned to District needs.

Board Member Rogers commented that it will be nice to see the center with all of the manufacturing in Janesville.

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Johnson that the Board finds the concept for Blackhawk Technical College's proposed construction of facilities is reasonable. The final scope and design of the project are subject to review and approval by the Board as required by s. 38.04(10) Stats.

ITEM M: Teaching and Learning – Fire Service Software Demonstration

WTCS Education Director for Fire Service Angela White provided an overview of the current status of the Fire Service programming within the System and demonstrated the use of new online testing for fire service certification.

Wisconsin State Statute authorizes WTCS to establish and supervise a training program in fire prevention and protection and designates WTCS as the state agency authorized to coordinate all fire education and training in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Administrative Code DSPS 330 requires any new firefighter to complete Entry Level Firefighter (60 hours) prior to performing immediately dangerous to life and health firefighting activities. Because the majority of firefighters are volunteers, flexibility in training location, hours and format are critical.

The following Associate Degree Programs are offered:

- Fire Protection Technician (offered at 8 colleges)
- Fire Projection Engineering Technology (offered at 1 college)
- Emergency Services Management (offered at 1 college)
- Fire Service Leadership (offered at 1 college)
- Fire Medic (offered at 6 colleges)

The following Technical Diplomas are offered:

- Fire Science (offered at 2 colleges)
- Fire Service Certification (offered at 2 colleges)
- EMT/Firefighter (offered at 1 college)
- Firefighter Technician (offered at 2 colleges)

The WTCS Fire Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from the Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors; Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin; Wisconsin Emergency Management; Wisconsin State Firefighters Association; Wisconsin State Association of Fire Chiefs; and the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development offers CTE incentive grants for Firefighter I and II, and Fire Inspector programs.

System President Foy noted that nationally, 70.8% of firefighters are volunteer with Wisconsin being 10% higher at 80.5%. The majority of firefighters are volunteers and are anxious to get their test results, which currently is quite a lengthy process. The new process will have a lot of benefits to students, WTCS staff and fire departments across the state. Ms. White explained that within minutes students will have their results compared to the old process which can take more than a week. Additionally, completers can print their own certificates. White further explained that a proctor will still be in the room with the students. They will have immediate scores and certificates available, as well as feedback reports so individuals will know what they need to study before retaking the test if necessary.

Board Member Holton inquired if the exams are straight grading. Ms. White confirmed that yes, straight grading is used.

Board Member Johnson asked if the lower score disappears if a student has to retake the exam. Ms. White explained that yes, the higher score is what is used. Johnson asked if accommodations are made for students with disabilities, such as extended time or audio being provided. Ms. White said yes, with some additional accommodations provided through the colleges. Lastly, Johnson said the Department of Public Instruction is going back and digitizing GED records and wondered if that could be done with the paper exams? Ms. White explained that every student's record and their certifications are in the new system totaling more than 90,000 records (over 40,000 students).

Board Member Holton inquired how long a certification is good for and what the time limit is for retaking tests. Ms. White shared that there are no expirations for any certifications, except for instructors. Students have two years to obtain certification which includes three practical exams and three written exams. If they do not pass in those two years, they would have to go through the class again. Board Member Holton commented that the old process was painful, so this improvement is phenomenal, and he congratulated President Foy, Ms. White and Fire service staff for saving people time.

System President Foy recognized Angie White, Shari Jacobson, Denise Perkins and the fire organizations. This was a long-time change needed and is a good use of public funds.

Board Member Miller stated that if \$600,000 is approximately 20% of administering the program, where does the funding for the remaining 80% come from? Ms. White shared that it comes from the colleges' operating dollars and state and property taxes.

Board Member Pechacek asked if there are issues for those under the age of 18 participating through Dual Enrollment. Ms. White explained that most OSHA rules apply to working, not training. Parents have to sign off on the training for students under 18. Outside of that, there are not many restrictions. There are explorer and cadet programs in high schools, and they can join the fire department with limited responsibilities until they are 18. Volunteer fire fighters can be under the age of 18 except for those activities immediately dangerous to life and health.

Board Member Klecker asked what the pass rate is and how many tests each student needs to take pass. Ms. White explained that the current software does not track that, but the new software will.

ITEM N: Integrated Education & Training Grant Awards

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang provided an overview of the 2023-24 Integrated Education and Training (IET) Development and Expansion grants programs. While the Board approved most of the 2023-24 grants at the March meeting, the applications for this grant category were not yet due. The purpose or goal of this grant category is to provide funds to support the development and expansion of IET. For FY23-24, \$1,500,000 was available for this grant category.

Integrated Education and Training is a service approach that combines adult education and literacy activities, workforce preparation activities and workforce training to prepare students for a specific occupation or occupation cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

Upon approval, the System Office will notify the colleges in the form of grant action notices. This will tell them which grants were approved and not approved, with feedback calls for disapproved grant applications.

It was moved by Board Member Pechacek, seconded by Board Member Sperberg that the Board approves funding awards for the Integrated Education & Training (IET) Development and Expansion grant programs for fiscal year 2023-24, as presented.

ITEM O: Outcomes for 2022 WTCS Graduates

WTCS Provost and Vice President for Educational Services Dr. Colleen McCabe and Associate Vice President for the Office of Instruction Chrystal Seeley-Schrek provided an overview of the Outcomes for 2022 WTCS Graduates. WTCS surveyed all 23,456 graduates, with 60.2% responding. Of those who responded and were in the labor force, 93% indicated they were employed within six months of

graduation, including 80% who reported employed in a field related to their technical college program, and 91% working in Wisconsin, with 63% in their college district.

The median salary for 2022 graduates six months after graduation is \$51,070, up from \$46,796 in 2021. The median salary for associate degree earners is \$53,431, up from \$50,000 in 2021. The report also highlights that 62% of 2022 graduates were women and 20% were students of color with the majority of students being 20-24 years old. Additionally, 97% of graduates were satisfied or very satisfied with their technical training.

This report is available on the WTCS website and will be distributed digitally to all high schools for students, prospective students and influencers; District Boards Association; colleges; adult education providers; and policy makers. Additionally, it will be shared in WTCS-in-Brief with a much broader audience.

Board Member Tyler commented that the University of Wisconsin System is experiencing higher female enrollment than male enrollments, which is concerning. Are men deciding to go right into the workforce without higher education? Dr. McCabe shared that this is a national trend and feels this will continue to be the trend with women continuing to juggle family and work, which really impacts our population. System President Foy has seen several different sources confirm that males are not pursuing higher education with changing attitudes since the pandemic. Healthcare training and childcare programs are typically dominated by women with lost male enrollments due to many not wanting to learn online. This is an issue being discussed across all sectors. Board Member Tyler asked if there is a chance that men do not like surveys which may be skewing the results. Dr. McCabe feels it is representative.

Board Member Sperberg asked if the apprenticeship and trades numbers are included in this survey. Dr. McCabe clarified that these survey numbers do not include apprenticeship and trades numbers. Ms. Seeley-Schreck further explained that this report only includes graduates of our programs and captures associate degrees, not certificates.

Board Member Bahr shared her appreciation to those who collect all this data. She received this survey but did not answer right away and received very persistent reminders.

WTCS Education Director for Justice-Involved Populations Lenard Simpson shared that one of the amazing things this administration has done is strengthen the relationship with the Department of Public Instruction to get the attention of males before they are out of high school, building the relationship and making it stronger.

Board Member Johnson also mentioned that youth apprenticeships may not show up in this data and applauded WTCS on their dual enrollment program by introducing young males, while in high school, to a path to further their education. Last year, approximately 1,000 more male than female students graduated from high school, with females having a 3% edge on graduation. System President Foy mentioned a pilot program in Green Bay through foster youth work and how education can change their lives. We have made a lot of progress, but still have a lot of work to do.

Board Member Johnson shared that there are declining enrollments and that they have heard from local superintendents that employers are offering good money to 17–18-year-olds in the job market, making higher education a tough draw.

System President Foy shared that we are seeing growth in apprenticeship in Wisconsin, even though there is seemingly a crisis across the country with men not investing in themselves in post-high school development like they used to. Look at the IET grants, creating alternative ways to deliver education. Men are finding the learn and earn model more appealing, not wanting to take the basic classes or sit at a desk. We treat it as another way to advance your career and are doing a lot of things to appeal and attract new apprentices. We need a lot of partnership across the sectors – all different ways to get better skills and deliver the talent promises.

Board President Pasch applauded all those who contributed to this outstanding report, with good, reliable data.

ITEM P: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra shared that they are currently tracking 119 bills, though they are not moving too fast until the budget is completed in the next month to month and a half. They have been receiving some questions from the Legislative Audit Bureau on some bills.

District Boards Association Executive Director Layla Merrifield gave an overview of Joint Finance, currently taking votes and moving things along. Currently, a lot of work is taking place behind the scenes with budget motions submitted in both houses.

Board Member Rogers asked what the odds are that the budget will be done by June 30. Ms. Merrifield feels that chances are good with the plan to have it done by July 1.

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided an update on the Financial Aid Budget Biennial Initiative with Sector Partners University of Wisconsin System (UWS) and Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) to create a State Financial Aid Modernization, agreed upon across all three sectors to:

- Focus on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) simplification and aligning with Pell Grants.
- Change from Expected Family Contribution to Student Aid Index – methodology for determining student need.
- Establish similar eligibility as the Pell grant of 12 semesters.
- Prorate eligibility based on enrollment.
- Allow students to be eligible who are enrolled less than half time.

Legislation sponsors Senator Ballweg and Representative Murphy will be carrying our message.

Policy Advisory Megan Stritchko provided a federal update as Congress is in the midst of appropriations work for FFY24.

- The Senate Appropriations Committee is holding hearings and House Appropriations is beginning markups.
- Discussions related to the debt ceiling could impact appropriations work. The debt ceiling is the statutory borrowing limit authorized by Congress and without an increase, the country could run out of cash to keep paying its debts.
- Negotiations are ongoing among the President and Congressional leadership to raise the limit.

- Republicans want spending cuts along with a debt ceiling increase, tying the debt ceiling discussion to budget negotiations. Democrats want a clean debt ceiling bill – vote to raise the limit on its own and separating negotiations on budget.
- House recently passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act, which extends the debt limit into next year and reduces federal discretionary spending to FFY22 funding levels. The Department of Education estimates this would represent a 22% cut to its program.
- It is unlikely that cuts will be as large as proposals in the House given negotiations will be needed.
- This is something we will continue to watch given the impact on federal funding. Any cuts to federal spending could impact our colleges.

ITEM Q: Announcements/Adjourn

Board President Pasch shared that at the conclusion of this meeting he will be ending his association with the System. Pasch thanked and praised System President Foy and her team for their passion for what they do. He thanked the Board Members for always being focused on the success of the students. When WTCS students succeed, the Board succeeds.

The next meeting of the Board will be held July 11-12, 2023, at Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Drake