

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD**  
**MAY 17, 2022**  
**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, Jr., Douglas Holton, Sr., Becky Levzow, John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek, Kelly Tourdot, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

System Office Staff Present: Judy Barbian, Hilary Barker, Victoria Chung, Dani Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Mandy Johnson, Colleen Larsen, Kristin Long, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Cristina Parente, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Becky Stewart, Brandon Trujillo, Ann Westrich, Angela White, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Angie Lawrence, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Bryan Albrecht, Tammi Summers, Gateway Technical College; Ousmane Kabré, Leading Change - Africa; Jack Daniels, III, Sylvia Ramirez, Kayne Whitney, Madison Area Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Robert Elliott, Northcentral Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Dan Klecker (Foundation of Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers), Sara Rogers (Employ Milwaukee), WTCS Board Appointees.

**Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

ITEM A: Approval of March 15-16, 2022, Meeting Minutes

**It was moved by Board Member Bahr, seconded by Board Member Willett, that the March 15-16, 2022, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

The UW-System Board of Regents report for their April meeting will be shared at the July meeting.

Board Members Daniels and Williams arrived at 9:06 am.

For the first time since 2019, the 2022 WTCS Ambassadors were able to engage in leadership development sessions and the banquet, where students shared their stories of how they chose a technical college.

- Board Member Levzow shared excitement about the Ambassador Banquet being back in-person.
- Board Appointee Sara Rogers shared how she was struck by the confidence of the Ambassadors and what they were willing to share with a room full of strangers. The thread that ran through it all was their struggles and achievements and the relationship with the tech colleges and the community.
- System President Foy was pleased so many Board members were able to attend the banquet and hear the comments that were made from traditional students as well as returning adults, their

challenges and how they are making huge career changes. In addition to the banquet, the Ambassador program includes a Leadership Development component.

- System President Foy introduced Education Director for Student Success Stephanie Glynn who led a Leadership Development program for the Ambassadors prior to the banquet. This was Glynn's third year being involved with the Ambassador banquet, but the first time in-person. Planning for this event has already begun for next year with a focus on CliftonStrengths® and leveraging strengths of the Ambassadors, including directional leadership and the power of their voice. The goal is to celebrate the Ambassadors over the course of two days and empower them to use their voice. Ambassadors will participate in a number of WTCS events throughout the year such as the Working as One conference.
- Board Member Bahr enjoyed addressing the Ambassadors and the sense of community and collaboration, connecting with them on LinkedIn.
- Kayne Whitney, 2022 WTCS Ambassador from Madison College, addressed the Board and shared how he decided to start his higher education in an affordable way at Madison College where hybrid classes are offered. He thanked WTCS for his Ambassador experience and shared his appreciation to Baird for their generous scholarship.
- Board President Pasch echoed Kayne's appreciation to Baird for their ongoing support of the Ambassador program.

Board Member Tyler shared a gift with Board members from Wisconsin's sister-state, Heilongjiang Province, China People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. 2022 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this sister-state relationship. In 2019, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between WTCS and the Education Department of Heilongjiang to collaborate in higher education. They are proud of the relationship with Wisconsin and are celebrating it by providing notebooks and facemasks, which Tyler shared. System President Foy added that this initiative is a notable example of how individual efforts/relationships can make the difference for bigger agreements and have far reaching effects. Foy thanked Tyler for his work with Heilongjiang.

Board Member Willett asked if the MOU includes students coming to WTCS and WTCS students going to Heilongjiang? Board Member Tyler shared that first through third grade teachers came from Heilongjiang Province to teach, and to visit the technical colleges that have programs in which they were interested, but the pandemic has halted travel.

### ITEM C: Report of the System President

System President Foy congratulated Board Member Bahr on her graduation from Gateway Technical College on May 17, and provided updates on the System's Commitment to Progress:

- Ascendium Education Group is the sole funder of the highly successful Tools for the Trades Scholarship program. Each year, Ascendium awards WTCS construction and industrial trade apprentices \$1,500 scholarships to help purchase tools, clothing and equipment required by their trades to complete their programs and secure in-demand jobs. Typically, they award about 250 scholarships per year. This year marked some important milestones with an annual high of 511 scholarship awards, totaling \$766,500 and \$2 million awarded over the life of the program.

- The Board will act on the final AA/AS degree approvals for SWTC and CVTC. These proposals are scheduled for approval at the June meeting of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents.
- The 'M-Cubed' partnership between Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and Milwaukee Public Schools has expanded programs that help graduating high school seniors transition to college life by connecting them with MATC or UWM with coordinated support. Students can collaborate with instructors ahead of their freshman year and support will be offered through the admissions process.
- Madison College has been selected as a Top 10 finalist for Lumina Foundation's "Million Dollar Community College Challenge." The challenge is a national grant competition aimed at uncovering new ways for community colleges to connect with adult students who need a degree, certificate, industry certification or other credentials of value.
- Lakeshore Technical College received \$1 million, the largest donation in the 46-year history of the Lakeshore Foundation, as a kick-start for the new Center for Health Care Excellence. The donation from Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network, Froedtert Holy Family Memorial Hospital and Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity is part of a \$5 million fundraising campaign for the new center, set for groundbreaking in 2023. The new, 16,000 square foot addition and remodel to the existing Cleveland campus will benefit 1,500 health care and emergency services students and professionals annually.

System President Foy invited former WTCS Ambassador, Madison College graduate and 2022 District Boards Association Alumni of the year, Ousmane Kabré, Founder and CEO of Leading Change-Africa, to share their mission to transform young Africans into leaders and leaders into agents of change. From Burkina Faso, Africa, ranked 149 out of 150 of the poorest countries in the world, Kabré came to the United States, perfected his English at the Wisconsin ESL Institute (WESLI), and advanced his education first at Madison College, where he completed two associate degrees in Liberal Arts and Accounting and then at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees.

After a successful stint at Ernst and Young LLP, Kabré is the founder and CEO of a technology start-up and Leading Change-Africa, which puts him in a unique position to pay his experience forward to the future leaders of Africa. The goal is for Leading Change to advance the quality of life and improve the world standing of the citizens of Western Africa. The ambitious plan works by identifying students who are high achieving and have a goal to help their communities and to invest in them, creating a chain reaction of investing in others.

System President Foy included two articles for Board Members to review about hiring situations around the state, foreshadowing some of the challenges the colleges are facing. This is a topic upcoming in the biennial budget request.

Board Member Pechacek shared that Wisconsin is facing a worker shortage due to decade long trends of demographics such as falling birth rate and baby boomers retiring at a higher rate due to COVID-19. Looking forward that trend is only going to continue and get tougher and harder. The goal is to keep our talent in Wisconsin, making connections with apprenticeships/internships and employers in addition to upskilling people already working.

## ITEM D: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

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

The spring DBA meeting was held April 28-30 at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) which included a visit to the new MATC Automotive Center and a presentation on M3, a consortium between Milwaukee high schools, MATC and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, serving over 118,000 students from 13 area high schools. It uses a project management model with advisory boards and steering committees and boasts that 72% of participating students enroll in college directly from high school.

The summer meeting will take place July 21-23 at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau with the theme of "Stepping in the shoes of students," with a student experience activity and student panel.

DBA President Bruski Mallek thanked the WTCS Board for including the DBA on the Budget workgroup.

Board President Pasch encouraged Board members to attend the DBA meetings, either in-person or virtually. DBA President Bruski Mallek stated that participation in their meetings has increased by offering hybrid meetings.

## ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association

Dr. Shelly Mondeik, president of Mid-State Technical College and past president of the Association, provided the Board with a brief update on recent activities of the Association.

All WTCS colleges are preparing for and celebrating the success of students with college-wide graduations.

The Presidents' Association will meet the afternoon of May 17 to discuss the Wisconsin Leadership Development Institute (WLDI), AA/AS follow-up and budget data collection.

In April, the UW System Board of Regents approved transfer degree programs for an Associate of Arts and Associate of Science for several WTCS colleges. Several technical college presidents attended the meeting, followed by a celebration lunch afterwards.

The Presidents' Association will meet in-person June 9-10 where Dr. Stanford will host his last meeting as Chair of the association. System President Foy thanked Dr. Stanford for his leadership of the association over the last year.

On July 1, Dr. Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College president, will take over as Chair of the association; Dr. Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College, will serve as vice chair; and Dr. Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College will serve as secretary.

## ITEM F: Consent Agenda

**It was moved by Board Member Tourdot, seconded by Board Member Willett that the Board approve the program and facilities requests and annual district board appointments as presented with the exception of programs and annual district board appointments for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Underly that the Board approve the program requests and annual district board appointments for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried 11-1. Board Member Bahr abstained.**

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon reviewed the Mid-State Technical College Designation of Adams Campus as a Single Campus Site. This campus has been eligible for this request and will make it the fifty-second WTCS campus in the state. The single campus site designation allows the college to borrow \$1.5 million for construction projects on that site. System President Foy noted that this campus is located in a rural community with historically low postsecondary attainment rates. Mid-State has been working hard to reverse this trend, including offering direct MSTC admission to all area high school graduates and ramping up its dual enrollment efforts. The resulting student interest and demand is driving the single site campus designation. This year, 48% of Adams-Friendship high school graduates have enrolled in MSTC, compared to 8% previously.

## ITEM G: Outcomes for 2020 WTCS Graduates

WTCS Director of Strategic Advancement Katy Pettersen and Associate Vice Presidents Dr. Christina Lorge and Chrystal Seeley-Schreck provided an overview of the Outcomes for 2021 WTCS Graduates. WTCS surveyed 23,887 graduates, with 64% 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 employment in a field related to their technical college program and 92% working in Wisconsin, with 67% in their college district.

The median salary for 2021 graduates, six months after graduation is \$46,796, up from \$44,249 in 2020. The median salary for associate degree earners is \$50,000, up from \$48,000 in 2020. The report also highlights that 63% of 2021 graduates were women and 20% were students of color.

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 Tourdot asked if we collect information on whether students are running single parent homes. WTCS does collect single parent status, but not necessarily by gender. Tourdot feels that information would be helpful during the budget process.

Board Member Pechacek remarked that salaries of any occupation can be found on the DWD website. There will be a federal change in 2024-25 for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). The delay is due to the technology upgrades needed to complete the changes.

Board Member Tyler commented that enrollments are lower in higher education across the country. While WTCS had a slight decline in dual enrollment during the pandemic, those numbers have rebounded.

Board Member Pechacek remarked that there are 5.8 million people in Wisconsin with one million who have exited the workforce and/or retired. Some of the barriers for others include infrastructure (broadband), childcare, transportation and housing. DWD is making investments and has services available for the justice-involved and individuals with disabilities. As a state we need to connect with those with barriers to assist because everyone is dealing with worker shortages.

Board President Pasch stated that Wisconsin has the lowest bachelor's degree completion, and now that we have approved AA/AS transfer with the UW System, hopefully that will change.

Ms. Seeley-Schreck commented that WTCS institutions are in a better place with the System-wide student success center, guided pathways and holistic supports.

The Board reconvened at 11:09 after a break.

## ITEM H: Teaching and Learning – Faculty Quality Assurance System (FQAS) Overview

WTCS Education Directors for FQAS, Mandy Johnson and Kristin Long, provided an overview of the FQAS. Wisconsin State Statute and Administrative Code establishes the minimum hiring and professional development requirements for academic and occupational technical college education personnel. The FQAS is an effort to ensure quality education by establishing minimum System-wide standards for Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges.

FQAS components cover the lifecycle of faculty from recruitment and hiring all the way through performance evaluations. The System office supports all the components, but each college manages its own system for FQAS components and the lifecycle of faculty.

Board Member Willett asked about the competency process. Ms. Johnson shared that there are 15 competencies, available online for faculty if they are unable to complete them at their college, giving part-time/adjunct faculty two additional years to complete initial competencies, with all colleges being reviewed.

Board Member Willett shared that he represents employers on the Board, and employers are seeing a shift in skills needed, particularly in IT. How does an employer know that WTCS instructors know how to teach the programs the employer needs? Ms. Johnson replied that when faculty are hired, they have to have experience in the sub-field or schooling in that field and FQAS gives them the teaching experience.

Board Member Holton asked how alike the 16 colleges are in hiring practices? Ms. Johnson shared that they are almost identical because they need to meet the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements in addition to them meeting the requirements of 4,000 hours. As far as the competency – that is up to each hiring entity.

Board Member Tourdot commented that for occupational instruction, electrical apprentices serve five years and technical colleges count those two years after journeywork. So, they will have been in the industry a minimum of seven years before being eligible to be an instructor.

Board Member Holton asked how to differentiate the qualification between part-time faculty and adjunct. Ms. Johnson stated that those terms are interchangeable, but each college uses those different terms.

## ITEM I: Legislative Updates

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra will send a brief written update to the Board.

## ITEM J: Announcements/Adjourn

The next meeting of the Board will be July 12-13, 2022, at Western Technical College in La Crosse.

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Tourdot, to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake  
Recording Secretary