

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD**  
**JULY 12-13, 2022**  
**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

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

Members Absent: Amy Pechacek

System Office Staff Present: Judy Barbian, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Ben Konruff, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Jeremy Nichols, Cristina Parente, Katy Pettersen, Dan Scanlon, Lenard Simpson, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Chuck Bolstad, Betty Bruski Mallek, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore 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; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Jeff Rafn, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Mandy Church-Hoffman, Rebecca Hopkins, Angie Lawrence, Ken Peterson, Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina V. Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Dan Klecker (Foundation of Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers), Sara Rogers (Employ Milwaukee), WTCS Board Appointees.

**Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

Board President Pasch introduced Katrina V. Willis, president of Wisconsin Student Government and Madison College student. Katrina is a first-generation college graduate who has been both a traditional and nontraditional student in her academic pursuits, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, specializing in marketing from National-Louis University. She is currently enrolled in the Human Resource Management Program at Madison College. Katrina is a student and transformational leader who serves in various leadership roles at Madison College and in the community including, but not limited to, current Student Senator.

Western Technical College President Roger Stanford welcomed the Board.

**ITEM A: Approval of May 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Underly, that the May 17, 2022, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

## ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board President Pasch congratulated System President Foy and the System for the \$16.5 million received in Workforce Innovation Grants in addition to thanking Governor Evers; Secretary Hughes, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation; and Secretary Pechacek, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

On June 7, Board Member Tyler, System President Foy, Dr. Colleen McCabe and Dr. Colleen Larsen from the System Office, along with representatives from Madison College, participated in the kick-off celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wisconsin Heilongjiang Province sister-state relationship. Discussions are continuing about how our technical education institutions can collaborate.

On June 14, Board President Pasch attended a ribbon cutting at Western Technical College's newly renovated Sparta Public Safety Training Facility, which is a 160-acre campus in the center of the 11 counties Western serves.

Board Member Pasch noted the announcements on the change in leadership of WTCS' higher education partners. Jay Rothman as the new UW-System President and Eric Fulcomer as the new President of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU).

Board Member Miller's UW-System Board of Regents reports for their April and June meetings were shared with Board members on July 8, 2022.

## ITEM C: Report of the System President

The WTCS student Ambassadors continue to be the inspiration for our work. This year's program was livestreamed, recorded and the students were interviewed. Two highlight videos of the students were shared with the Board. System President Foy thanked the Marketing Consortium and Katy Pettersen for leveraging resources to create these videos.

System President Foy introduced Jeremy Nichols, WTCS multimedia specialist who joined the team on July 5.

All 16 Wisconsin technical colleges may now offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees as of the June 2022 UW System Board of Regents meeting. This is a transformational change for the colleges and will open new opportunities and provide more equitable access to those opportunities to thousands of Wisconsinites. This change was not made possible overnight or over the work done in the last year. It has taken decades by the colleges, System and UW partners. System President Foy recognized Layla Merrifield for her relentless advocacy on behalf of the colleges with state policymakers and System colleagues Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Valerie Crespín-Trujillo, Katie Roberts and Dr. Colleen McCabe for their work with the colleges and the UW System. Congratulations to all involved.

System President Foy shared Workforce Innovation Grants received by several of our colleges from the Governor's office, WEDC and Secretary Pechacek:

- Lakeshore Technical College received \$1.7 million to meet underserved populations where they are – in parking lots, community-based organizations, short-term employers and rural high schools – to reduce barriers like transportation, childcare and intimidation in accessing education and connecting with employers. Additionally, it will provide a mobile training lab to fill manufacturing labor shortages.

- Northcentral Technical College received \$5 million as a sub-recipient for the Wisconsin Forestry Center at UW-Stevens Point to build a state-of-the-art Sawmill Complex with a mill simulator, creating the state's only start-to-finish wood products training center at NTC's Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo. Nicolet College is also receiving funds under this grant to provide training for the new Forestry Equipment Maintenance technical diploma.
- Northwood Tech received \$9.8 million to partner with a local nonprofit developer to provide rural multi-family housing projects that include classroom spaces and mobile training equipment.
- Southwest Tech received \$2.9 million for the Advance Southwest Wisconsin program designed to help businesses train, hire and promote workers over three years through custom upskill training, advanced technology expertise and targeted employee support.
- Fox Valley earned \$3.5 million as part of a consortium grant to work with Goodwill Industries and Rawhide Youth Services to provide career pathway certificates and less-than-one-year credentials to at-risk youth and underserved populations in their area.

This is on top of the awards announced in December that totaled more than \$27 million for various projects and joint ventures at Chippewa Valley and Northwood Tech, Gateway, Mid-State and Milwaukee Area technical colleges. In all, Wisconsin's technical colleges received \$50 million for projects within their communities.

Board Member Tyler commented that there were more than 800 requests for grants. The amount awarded to Wisconsin's technical colleges speaks to the incredible quality of their programming, faculty and student outcome.

The *Working as One: A Year of Mental Health Series* sessions have been announced for the 2022-23 academic year. The objectives are to provide targeted training and conversations on mental health with the intention of bolstering awareness and collaboration between students, faculty, staff, administrators and community partners and to share resources regarding mental health support. These sessions are developed with a group of students, faculty, counselors and staff at the colleges. Board members are welcome to join any and all sessions. The first session, Understanding Mental Health Diagnosis, will be held Friday, August 19. Board members were asked to contact Julie Drake for more information about the series, including how to join a session.

Board Member Bahr and System President Foy will be traveling to Washington DC to speak at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE) on July 28. Board Member Bahr is on a student panel and Dr. Foy is on a panel of postsecondary leaders representing the two-year college sector. Each year, RISE brings together hundreds of leaders and key stakeholders in education, including Supreme Court Justices, members of Congress, higher education administrators and leaders from the Department of Education and industry to examine the challenges and fortify the strengths of the U.S. education system. This year's theme is "Networked: The Quest for Connectivity."

System President Foy shared that 33 students from nine WTCS colleges and UW-Parkside competed in the SkillsUSA Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia at the end of June. SkillsUSA is a professional leadership organization built for and led by students and is completely focused on skilled careers, from healthcare to HVAC, construction to cosmetology. Nationals provide a chance to showcase the best of the best in career and technical education programs, highlighting the importance of these careers to America's future, inspiring the next generation workforce and giving students a fun and challenging way to test themselves and their skills

and build their professional network. Of the 33 Wisconsin competitors, 32 placed in the top ten and one placed 11<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all the medalists, competitors and their prep teams on a terrific showing at SkillsUSA Nationals 2022.

#### **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 DBA will hold their summer meeting July 21-23 in Wausau at Northcentral Technical College (NTC). The focus will be on the Student Experience, hearing directly from student leaders about their challenges and experiences on WTCS campuses. NTC's tour will include their Agriculture Center of Excellence and working dairy farm with the opportunity to hear and learn about the progress they have made working with UW-Stevens Point on several projects. The meeting will also include an orientation for newly appointed trustees and a new feature that will continue going forward, the Trustee Academy, a focused quarterly review of board member competencies and governance concepts. System Board Member Bahr will serve as one of the student leaders who will be participating in a panel at the meeting. As always, all WTCS Board members are invited to join.

President Bruski Mallek thanked the WTCS Board for once again including the DBA among the stakeholders invited to participate on the Budget Development workgroup.

#### **ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association**

Dr. Vicki Martin, president of Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and president of the Association, provided the Board with a brief update on recent activities of the Association.

The Presidents' Association (PA) met June 9-10 for their annual strategic planning meeting. The presidents' appointments transitioned July 1 with Dr. Vicki Martin, MATC, serving as Chair; Dr. Paul Carlsen from Lakeshore Technical College serving as vice chair; and Dr. Rich Barnhouse from Waukesha County Technical College serving as secretary.

The PA conducted a strategic planning session given the disruptions in their environments over the past two years. It was facilitated by Tracy Dryden, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at Western Technical College, who led a brainstorming session of key areas of focus for them to consider. They then sorted the ideas and prioritized them. Some new strategic focus areas are being incorporated into their current task force initiatives or to other areas such as: Value/ROI focus will be sent to Marketing for further discussion; Financial Stability focus will be integrated with their current Transfer Improvement Committee; Attract and Retain Talent focus will be integrated with their current Workforce Diversity Committee; and Design and Deliver programs and services will include a focus on short-term certificates/badges.

As a prelude to their budget discussion, the PA shared best practices and innovative ways to deal with their budgets given declining enrollments and wage increases. They discussed current realities as well as the vision and strategies for meeting current and future needs.

Dr. Tracy Pierner from Blackhawk Technical College sits on the WTCS Board Biennial Budget workgroup. He reported the committee's kick-off meeting was held in May and served as a brainstorming session, with a follow-up meeting to be held on July 12.

Dr. Martin shared her appreciation to Dr. Foy for her probing questions and perspectives, especially during their budget discussions and to her staff for their help. She is also appreciative of the talent, wisdom and

vision of her fellow colleagues and presidents that lead a strong system. It is because of them that WTCS will continue to successfully meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

#### ITEM F: Teaching and Learning – Educational Justice

WTCS Education Directors Ben Konruff and Cristina Parente, joined by Western Technical College’s Learner Support & Transition Dean Mandy Church-Hoffman and Associate Dean Rebecca Hopkins, shared an overview of services provided to the more than 12,000 Afghan Allies that arrived at Ft. McCoy after evacuation from Afghanistan in August 2021 to begin the resettlement process in the United States. With support from the WTCS Office, Western Technical College provided direct services to the Afghan Allies on base at Ft. McCoy and collaborated with various state partners to assist in the resettlement process.

Board President Pasch commented on the flexibility and responsiveness of the project and Board Member Daniels shared that he was honored to also be part of the group to help the Afghan Allies transition and move off base.

#### ITEM G: Election of Officers

Board President Pasch called for nominations for President.

Board Member Willett nominated Board Member Pasch for President.

**Board Member Underly motioned to accept the nomination for Board Member Pasch for President, seconded by Board Member Williams. Motion carried unanimously.**

Board President Pasch called for nominations for Board Vice President.

Board Member Willett nominated Board Member Tyler for Board Vice President.

**Board Member Tourdot motioned to accept the nomination for Board Member Tyler for Vice President, seconded by Board Member Holton. Motion carried unanimously.**

Board President Pasch called for nominations for Board Secretary.

Board Member Willett nominated Board Member Holton for Board Secretary.

**Board Member Lezvow motioned to accept the nomination for Board Member Holton for Board Secretary, seconded by Board Member Tourdot. Motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Willett, to recess the meeting until 8:30 am on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting recessed at 5:59 pm.

#### Wednesday, July 13, 2022

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

Members Absent: Becky Lezvow, Amy Pechacek.

System Office Staff Present: Judy Barbian, Hilary Barker, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Tou Ya Khang, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Becky Stewart, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, Ann Westrich, Angela White, Quentin Woods, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College; Fred Brechlin, Mark R. Thomas, Jr., Madison Area Technical College; Greg Bruckbauer, Bobbi Damrow, Ryan Kowski, Shelly Mondeik, Matthew Schneider, Deb Stencil, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Chet Lamers, Jeff Rafn, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Angie Lawrence, Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina V. Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Sara Rogers (Employ Milwaukee), WTCS Board Appointee; Jim Jelak, Sara Mackey, WTCS Statewide Marketing Consortium.

**Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

#### ITEM H: Consent Agenda

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Tourdot that the Board approve the program and facilities requests and interim district board appointments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Board President Pasch commented that it appears there are a lot of steps and a big-time commitment for students to complete the new Medical Lab Technician Apprenticeship program at Milwaukee Area Technical College and he would like to see more details on these programs at a future meeting. System President Foy noted that the Apprenticeship Completion Report is shared in January. Some of these programs are so new that there isn't enough data to share. We need to encourage employers to hire the apprentices and when talking about new industries, convince employers this will work for them. Pasch asked if students in high schools need to become aware of these opportunities and the additional choices available with employers, so the apprenticeship program may be more appealing. Board Member Tourdot shared that many employers want to hire high school graduates right away and are willing to train them up.

System President Foy thanked Associated Builders & Contractors of Wisconsin, Operating Engineers and others who have developed employee loyalty and a talent pipeline using the apprenticeship model.

#### ITEM I: Mid-State Technical College – Acquisition of Land and Construction of an Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology and Apprenticeship Center in Stevens Point

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Tyler that the Board grant approval to the Mid-State Technical College district to acquire land and construct an Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology and Apprenticeship Center in Stevens Point, at a cost of \$12,607,785. Motion carried unanimously.**

System President Foy congratulated Mid-State on this project and noted that while they had grant aid, they did an incredible job in garnering community support from many partners and an extraordinary amount of funds were raised in a short timeframe.

Mid-State Technical College President Shelly Mondeik introduced and thanked her team working on the AMETA Center project who raised more than \$12.9 million, meeting the funding requirement for project approval. She thanked Matthew Schneider, Greg Bruckbauer, Ryan Kawski, Bobbi Damrow, Deb Stencil, Betty Bruski Mallek and the more than 114 partners from 19 industry clusters.

Board Member Daniels arrived at 8:45 am.

## ITEM J: 2023-25 Student Financial Aid Request to HEAB

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided the Board with an overview of the 2023-25 biennial budget request for need-based financial aid, which must be submitted to the Higher Education Aids Board. The recommended request is for:

- An increase of \$4.4 million GPR in fiscal year 2024-25 to accommodate the federal methodology shift from Expected Family Contribution to Student Aid Index.
- An amendment to Wisconsin State Statutes and Administrative Code to allow students enrolled less than half-time to receive a Wisconsin Grant.
- A revision to the lifetime student eligibility cap to be consistent with the Federal Pell Grant Program, which would be based on the student's rate of enrollment. Under this change, the Higher Education Aids Board would award a grant to the same student for up to the equivalent of 12 full-time semesters or terms. With respect to a student who received a Wisconsin Grant for a semester or term but was enrolled at a fraction of full-time, only a fraction of such semester or equivalent shall count towards such duration limits.

Trujillo recognized Board Members Pasch, Tyler, Daniels and Tourdot who participated on the Budget Workgroup.

System President Foy shared that the Board has expressed a strong desire and support in working with the UW System and WAICU to advance policy changes that are important to all of our students. The transition from Expected Family Contribution to Student Aid Index is a notable example of everyone coming together. Foy thanked Mr. Trujillo for working with these groups and for their collaboration.

Board Member Willett asked when this request would come before HEAB. Mr. Trujillo shared that the UW System isn't ready with their request, so WTCS and Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) will wait to present their requests at HEAB's August meeting.

Board Member Tourdot lauded WTCS staff and leadership for all their research which made it easy to comprehend and consume. Board Member Pasch reiterated Tourdot's comments.

**It was moved by Board Member Willett to approve the submission of the WTCS request for financial aid to the Higher Education Aids Board, seconded by Board Member Tourdot. Motion carried unanimously.**

## ITEM K: State and Federal Perkins Grant Guidelines

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang provided an overview of the guidelines for the distribution of funds made available through the State of Wisconsin and federal Perkins V grant programs for fiscal year 2023-24.

**It was moved by Board Member Willett to adopt the funding categories for the state of Wisconsin and Perkins V Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant program for fiscal year 2023-24, seconded by Board Member Tyler. Motion carried unanimously.**

System President Foy reminded and reassured the Board that the grant guidelines are submitted with an ongoing assessment. Discussions between the System Office and the colleges take place to review the process and make adjustments. Accolades to Mr. Khang for his leadership and for the continuous assessment and improvement.

Board President Pasch praised Mr. Khang.

#### **ITEM L: 2021-25 Strategic Directions Update**

WTCS Director of Strategic Advancement Katy Pettersen provided an update on the System's efforts to advance the Board's Mission, newly added Vision statement and Strategic Directions. The Strategic Directions update is not just an annual conversation. The Board's discussion and actions at every meeting are informed by the Board's Strategic Directions. For example, the standing Teaching and Learning Item on each meeting's agenda, are designed to demonstrate how the System and colleges are implementing the Board's Strategic Directions to innovate, collaborate, inspire and transform the organization.

System President Foy shared that the strategic planning process was long but ended with a great plan and it is used every day in our work. The plan is checked as innovative ideas emerge to see if it is consistent with the vision and core goals in the Board's plan. The plan would not have been possible without former Director of Strategic Directions Conor Smyth and the Board's work to develop it. She thanked Ms. Pettersen for her continued work on the plan.

Board Member Underly commented that the Department of Public Instruction is interested in foster youth tuition assistance as a way of addressing concerns about these students access to public education and when they age-out of the foster care system. She would like to look at ways to partner with the technical college system for support for these students. She will follow-up and share more information with System President Foy and Dr. McCabe.

Board Member Tyler asked if the colleges' strategic plans and the System's strategic plan are cohesive. Ms. Pettersen shared that when the plan was being developed, the members of the Workgroup reviewed the colleges' plans and found that all of them incorporated similar components. Additionally, when colleges go through their planning processes, they consider the Board's strategic plan.

Board President Pasch thanked Ms. Pettersen for keeping the plan in front of them and for sharing an update on the progress.

#### **ITEM M: Legislative Update**

Executive Vice President Zylstra introduced Megan Stritchko, policy advisor, who joined the WTCS team in May.

Executive Vice President Zylstra recognized Board members Pasch, Tyler, Tourdot and Daniels for their work on the Biennial Budget Workgroup and provided an overview of the budget workgroup meetings, with their last meeting slated for September 13. The Board will approve the budget request at its September 14 meeting, and it will be submitted by the September 15 deadline.

Board Member Willett stated that the budget continuing beyond July is becoming more common and asked where the money comes from if a new biennial budget is not approved by the end of previous fiscal year. Zylstra shared that the current year appropriations continue until the new budget is signed by the Governor. The second year of the biennium is the base year starting point for the subsequent biennium.

The Workgroup is working on four requests: Open Educational Resources, Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) Grants, General Aid to Expand Wisconsin's Workforce and System Operations.

Board Member Willett noted the WAT Grant program seems to be a linchpin of why we exist, and we need a lot more than the proposed \$5 million. Zylstra shared that the request is based on the requests for funding that have exceeded the current \$4 million appropriation by \$1 million. WTCS colleges do a lot of customized training throughout the year, the WAT Grant training is a subset of that contract training.

The request for general aid increase will be the largest increase requested.

System President Foy thanked the budget workgroup members. The inclusive nature of the System's budget development and advocacy is unique and a powerful way to talk about the needs of our students.

Policy Advisor Stritchko provided an update on Short-Term Pell Grants:

- Pell grants are low-income grants based on financial need, currently only applicable to programs that are at least 600 hours over 15 weeks.
- Short-Term Pell proposal expands to include programs as low as 150 hours over 8 weeks, which would open a lot of programming.
- Two versions of a bill, one with a House amendment that includes Short-Term Pell, goes to conference committee to resolve bill differences. Short-Term Pell proposal is currently stuck in negotiations because the inclusion of for-profits has been a sticking point.
- Talking to our congressional delegation about our support for this.

Board Member Tyler asked who is on the conference committees. Ms. Stritchko shared that they appoint congressional members, with current negotiations happening among staff as well. Tyler asked if there are any key members of Wisconsin's delegation that the Board could reach out to? Ms. Stritchko shared that Congressmen Fitzgerald and Tiffany, to whom she has already sent messages, have been identified as those who could be helpful to us.

Board Member Willett stated that this would be a great provision for the System. Ms. Stritchko will share some talking points with Board Members Willett and Tyler as well as any other Board Members who may want them, particularly those on the Wisconsin/Minnesota border.

Executive Vice President Zylstra added that Senator Baldwin is one of the biggest supporters of Short-Term Pell.

## ITEM N: Announcements/Adjourn

Board Member Underly made a statement thanking officers Pasch, Tyler and Holton for their leadership and expressing support for the Governor's Board nominees to be seated.

A tour of Western's Apprenticeship and Industry Training Center took place following the meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be September 13-14, 2022, at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake

Recording Secretary