

WORKFORCE ADVANCEMENT TRAINING (WAT) GRANTS



OVERVIEW

Improving productivity and competitiveness requires an investment in employee training and development. Since 2005, the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has provided Workforce Advancement Training grants to support employers in their efforts to retain and advance the skills of their existing workforce.

Core technical college programs create an initial talent pipeline for Wisconsin employers. The customized instruction and technical assistance provided by the colleges, and supported with \$4.0 million annually in WAT grants, promote lifelong learning.

Given employers' rapid adoption of technology and the pace of change in the workplace, incumbent worker training has quickly emerged as a competitive advantage and economic imperative for individuals, for employers and for Wisconsin.

OBJECTIVES

Employers working with Wisconsin technical colleges to create customized instruction typically have one or more of the following objectives:

- improve productivity
- increase sales
- reduce costs
- address safety or other compliance issues
- increase employee skills
- improve work environment
- increase employee retention
- create or retain jobs

Technical college instructors are certified and have expertise in business, trades and industry, health care, agriculture and agribusiness, service occupations and technical fields.

OUTCOMES



SOURCE: 2020 WTCS ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY

With WAT grant support, hundreds of Wisconsin employers across many industries have furthered their employees' growth and development. This grant work has also expanded career pathways and the reach of Wisconsin's technical colleges.

In the past five years, nearly **2,500** companies have taken advantage of WAT grant training to advance the skills of **68,200** workers.

For more information, please visit: WTCSsystem.edu/WAT



SOURCE: 2020 WTCS ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY



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"As a result of lean training, we have realized approximately \$3 million in savings in 2020 and projected savings of approximately \$2 million in 2021."

-Generac



SOURCE: 2020 WTCS ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY

"Retention improved and turnover decreased, helping to create a new workplace culture. As a result, more than 200 employees received wage increases or improved their earning potential."

-Phillips-Medisize

"We documented a (significant) improvement in six competencies that will help our organization compete and will prepare employees for leadership."

-Arla Foods

A SAMPLE OF OUR EMPLOYER PARTNERS