

**MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
JANUARY 19, 2021
TELECONFERENCE**

Members Present: Douglas Holton, Becky Levzow, Terry McGowan, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek, Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Kelly Tourdot, S. Mark Tyler, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

Members Absent: Cooper Richason.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Judy Barbian, Terese Craig, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Nickelle Haffey, Mandy Johnson, Sarah Kavanaugh, Colleen Larsen, Colleen McCabe, Nancy Nakkoul, Katy Pettersen, Brenda Powles, Anna Richter, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Conor Smyth, Angie White, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Renea Ranguette, Blackhawk Technical College; Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallak, Vernon Jung, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College; Bryan Albrecht, Tammi Summers, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, III, Mark Thomas, Madison Area Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Nicholas Brayton, Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Anne Wiedmaier, Nicolet Area Technical College; Robert Elliott, Northcentral Technical College; Richard Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; Tracy Dryden, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; John Will, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; Kelly Meyerhofer, Wisconsin State Journal; Ann Ilagan, Wisconsin Student Government.

Board President Levzow called the meeting to order at 8:03 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board President Levzow recognized Ann Ilagan, President of Wisconsin Student Government, who joined the meeting.

Board President Levzow introduced WTCS Board Ex-Officio Member Secretary-Designee Amy Pechacek of the Department of Workforce Development.

ITEM A: Approval of November 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Stanford Taylor, that the November 11, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Approval of December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Tourdot, seconded by Board Member Pasch, that the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM C: Report of the Board President

Dr. Hall's Board of Regents reports for November 2020 and December 2020 were included in the Board meeting materials for review.

Printed 2021-2025 WTCS Strategic Directions were mailed to Board members in December. Board members were asked to keep the document with their Board materials for reference when reviewing Board agendas and as business is conducted. Limited copies were printed, but it is available on the agency's website.

Board President Levzow attended the January 15 District Boards Association (DBA) meeting and encouraged all Board members to attend these informative webinars. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Trustee, Lori Laberee, was recognized as the DBA Board Member of the Year.

Board President Levzow shared her perspectives on emerging from the pandemic and the state of the economy.

- From the view of an ag producer, it is evident how vulnerable and critical the food chain supply is and too often taken for granted. Fifty percent of dairy products are consumed through food service channels. Dairy plants had to adjust for home use consumption versus larger needs for institutions. Fortunately, Levzow Dairy was not forced to dump milk. Government agencies provided free cheese, milk and butter to those in need; kids received meals; and butter consumption increased with people at home baking. Without this aid to families, farmers would have suffered greatly. Levzow remarked that it has been wonderful to see people come together to help those in need.
- From the view of a health care professional, having worked at Unity Point Health for 39 years, Levzow remarked that this pandemic has been like nothing she has experienced. She has worked extra hours and in different areas to assist. Fortunately, she received the vaccine and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated, stay healthy, safe, wear a mask and social distance.

Levzow announced formation of the Board's Tuition workgroup, which will include Board Members Levzow, Richason, Tourdot and Willett. It will advance a tuition recommendation for the full Board, to be presented at the Board's March meeting.

ITEM D: Report of the System President

System President Foy highlighted recent publications released by the System:

- The Five-Year Graduate Follow-up report shows one notable measure of graduate success: salary growth over time. This year's report shows an overall 58 percent increase in median annual salary for responding 2013-14 technical college graduates.
- The Credit Transfer Report documents that nearly 9,000 tech college students transferred credits to a four-year institution in 2018-19. More than 10,200 students transferred credits to a technical college. This reflects a notable trend in students opting for the valuable, relevant, affordable and accessible higher education options offered by Wisconsin's technical colleges.
- In the Apprenticeship Completion report, individuals who completed an apprenticeship in 2018-19, and who received their related instruction from a tech college, reported an overall annual median salary of \$81,072.

- The latest annual WTCS Fact Book (Student Data) was also recently published. Foy noted that in the ongoing absence of in-person meetings, WTCS is not printing reports. The Board was asked to share links to these reports to help promote great outcomes for WTCS students.

WTCS Associate Vice President Terese Craig and her team recently received word that Ascendium Education Group awarded a \$150,000 grant to WTCS in support of the WTCS Student Success Center’s work to advance a culture of evidence and data-informed decision-making that promotes access, equity and success across the System’s institutions.

President Foy noted that Compeer Financial, a member-owned Farm Credit cooperative, recently announced a \$1.9 million, five-year grant and scholarship program for ag students, including those enrolled in WTCS programs. The program will be administered by WTCS Education Director for ag programs Betsy Leonard.

The U.S. Department of Education announced that it has selected 95 organizations from around the country as finalists in its “Rethink Adult Ed Challenge,” a competition to develop pre-apprenticeship programs that create on-ramps for adult learners who lack basic skills or qualifications, such as literacy skills or a high school diploma. Finalists include Gateway, Northeast Wisconsin and Waukesha County Technical Colleges.

President Foy mentioned two items regarding the Systems Commitment to Progress in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion.

- The review of WTCS law enforcement curriculum continues, with WTCS colleges preparing a significant number of law enforcement officers in the state.
- Facilitated conversations also continue within the WTCS office and at the System level. President Foy noted that this topic will be included later in the agenda when the Board is addressed by members of the System-wide DEI Committee.

ITEM E: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) President and Moraine Park Trustee Vernon Jung and Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

In December, the DBA Internal Best Practices and External Partnerships Committees discussed upcoming legislative advocacy. On January 15, DBA hosted a virtual meeting that included information on the current political landscape and a briefing on issues affecting technical colleges.

In February, the annual National Legislative Summit will be held virtually, sponsored by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Virtual meetings are scheduled with U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson to inform them about the work Wisconsin technical colleges are doing.

The next quarterly meeting will be held virtually April 16, 2021 with a focus on Diversity, Equity and inclusion.

ITEM F: WTCS Presidents' Association

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

Colleges are preparing for spring semester, which will generally look very similar to fall semester. The colleges will continue to increase face-to-face learning options, where possible, and colleges will work with local Public Health Departments in the distribution of COVID vaccinations. The colleges are anticipating receipt of additional federal COVID relief funds.

Dr. Richard Barnhouse, incoming President of Waukesha County Technical College was introduced. Presidents Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College, and Dr. Lori Weyers, Northcentral Technical College, recently announced their retirements, joining Dr. Richard Nelson, Nicolet Area Technical College, who had previously announced his retirement. All three will retire as of June 30, 2021.

ITEM G: Consent Agenda

Board Member Tyler asked whether Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Instruction program will allow a teacher to be licensed. WTCS Associate Vice President Chrystal Seeley-Schreck explained that graduates of the program will be eligible for alternative licensure with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The program also allows transfer to a four-year baccalaureate program.

Board Member Pasch asked about Western Technical College's remodeling of facilities in Sparta, which "will not meet the System requirement of LEED Silver." WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon explained that any construction over 5,000 square feet is required to meet LEED silver, but that there are exceptions because certain facilities cannot meet the certification without incurring prohibitive costs.

It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Holton, that the Board approve the program development and facilities development requests and interim board appointment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM H: Chippewa Valley Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Additional Facilities and Remodeling in Eau Claire

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project to construct additional facilities and remodel existing facilities at the Chippewa Valley Technical College Eau Claire West Campus. This is the second level of review for this project, with the concept approved at the March 2020 WTCS Board meeting.

It was moved by Board Member Stanford Taylor, seconded by Board Member Tourdot, that the Board grant approval to the Chippewa Valley Technical College district to construct additional facilities and remodel existing facilities in Eau Claire at a cost of \$41,072,817. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM I: Blackhawk Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Additional Facilities for a Public Safety Training Center, Transportation Studies and Live Fire Tower Training Complex at the Main Campus in Janesville

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project to construct new facilities at Blackhawk Technical Colleges main campus in Janesville.

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Pasch, that the Board grant approval to the Blackhawk Technical College district to construct additional facilities for a Public Safety Training Center, Transportation Studies and Live Fire Tower Training Complex at the Main Campus in Janesville at a cost of \$4,724,120. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM J: Apprenticeship Completion Report

Nancy Nakkoul, WTCS Education Director for Architecture, Construction and Apprenticeship, provided an overview of the most recent Apprenticeship Completion report. Report highlights included:

- The response rate decreased slightly from 43 percent to 31 percent.
- 98 percent of employed 2018-19 apprenticeship completers were working in Wisconsin. Of those, 58 percent worked in the district where they received training.
- The annual median salary for those completing an apprenticeship in 2018-19 was \$81,072, an increase of more than \$700 over 2017-18 and an increase of more than \$300 over 2016-17.

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) – Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards (BAS) will be reorganizing instructional program groups into new industry sectors: currently Construction, Industrial and Service. This will at some point affect future versions of the report, which WTCS will adapt to match DWD-BAS guidelines.

Board Member McGowan was pleased to see the new nominee for the Department of Labor (DOL), Marty Walsh, who comes from the building trades. McGowan feels apprenticeship will get stronger under his leadership.

Board Member Tourdot has seen an increase of 82 percent in apprenticeship and was disappointed to see the concept review just discontinued several apprenticeship programs. She asked the Board to be forward-thinking and add facilities and programs instead of reducing as apprenticeship is redefining itself and its future.

System President Foy commended Ms. Nakkoul, who is a leader in advancing 21st century apprenticeship.

Board President Levzow inquired how the information for high school students is being distributed during the pandemic. Mr. Smyth shared that the Marketing Consortium has a close relationship with the Wisconsin School Counselor Association (WSCA) and has shared electronic links to the report. The Board was asked to share links widely to get information in the hands of students, including adult populations.

ITEM K: Teaching and Learning – Program Approval

WTCS Provost and Vice President Dr. Colleen McCabe and Associate Vice President-Office of Instructional Services Chrystal Seeley-Schreck provided the Board with an overview of the program development process, including WTCS Board’s statutory authority, the concept review and program approval stages, reviewing 2020 approvals and highlight trends.

In 2020, there were 68 (up from 62 in 2019) new program approvals. Board Member Tyler commented that the UW Board of Regents approves programs, but the programs then are not reviewed for five years. Tyler commended WTCS for the steps taken to assure its programs are relevant.

Board Member Pasch also commended the staff and believes the heart of the technical colleges is in the program approval process.

ITEM L: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

WTCS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Liaisons Colleen Larsen and Brenda Powles of the System Office were joined by WTCS DEI Committee Co-Chairs Nicholas Brayton, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Dr. Tammi Summers, Gateway Technical College. The panel provided an overview of System-wide collaborations, and highlights from the WTCS DEI Committee Advocacy and Action Plan.

The WTCS DEI Committee created a charter in collaboration with technical college representatives from the Human Resources and Student Success areas. The group’s objective is to collaboratively promote a culture throughout the System that recognizes equity in practice and embraces an environment of diversity and inclusion.

Board Member Stanford Taylor applauded the effort and noted that Governor Evers required all executive branch agencies to develop an Equity and Inclusion plan, which the Department of Public instruction also recently undertook.

Board Member Holton commended the panel on an excellent presentation and asked whether there is a way to incorporate DEI into WTCS curriculum, as technical colleges train the majority of police recruits? System President Foy noted that a curriculum review is underway, also noting that WTCS law enforcement academy curriculum is the purview of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Training Standards Bureau.

ITEM M: Public Records Training

Due to technical difficulties, the Public Records Training was tabled and will occur during a future meeting.

ITEM N: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra, Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo and DBA Executive Director Layla Merrifield provided an update on key legislative issues affecting the System.

A new legislative session has begun and the WTCS legislative team is tracking bills that will affect the System. Governor Evers will deliver his budget address February 16. System President Foy and Ms. Merrifield started meeting with legislators in November 2020, discussing the System’s budget request,

including the elimination of s. 36.31, Wis. Stats. Ms. Merrifield noted that a May re-estimate will provide a clearer picture of resources received by Wisconsin's technical colleges under federal COVID relief measures.

Mr. Trujillo shared an update on Assembly Bill 1, pertaining to government actions to address the COVID 19 pandemic, while WTCS Policy Advisor Monique Currie provided a federal update.

ITEM O: Announcements/Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will convene in a virtual format on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm and will feature Chippewa Valley Technical College.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake
Recording Secretary