

Minutes of Meeting

Wisconsin Technical College System Board
November 8-9, 2011
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
2740 West Mason Street
Green Bay, WI 54307

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 – 4:30 pm

Members Present:

Judith Crain
Mary Quinnette Cuene
Stan Davis (via wisline)
Terry Erickson
Sharon Wendt for Tony Evers
Reggie Newson
Eddie Paul
Michael Rosen
Mark Tyler

Members Absent:

Ann Greenheck
Phil Neuenfeldt
Brent Smith

System Office Staff Present:

Dan Clancy, Morna Foy, Jim Zylstra, Willa Panzer, Annette Severson, Conor Smyth, Dan Scanlon, Debbie Parker, and Carol Lynch

District/Others Present:

Paul Gabriel and John Lukas – District Boards Association
Michael Burke – Milwaukee Area Technical College
Susan May – Fox Valley Technical College
Jeff Rafn, Jim Blumreich, Linda Hartford, Carla Hedtke, Patrick O’Hara, Pamela Phillips, Sandy Ryczkowski, Karen Smits, Lori Suddick, and Mary Jo Tilot – Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
Jerry Murphy – New North
Mark Kaiser – Lindquist Machine Company
Therese Pandl – HSHS Hospitals
Lori Wirtz – Schreiber Foods
Diana Galindo, Rebecca Gement, John Lippold, and Brenda Saugstad – Wisconsin Student Government

Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Carol Lynch read the following open meeting statement: “The November 8-9, 2011, meeting of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, and all other meetings of this Board, are open to the public in compliance with state statute. Notice of the meeting has been sent to the press in an attempt to make the general public of Wisconsin aware of the time, place, and agenda of the meeting.”

Roll call indicated that there was a quorum present.

A. Report of the Board President

Board President Tyler introduced and welcomed new State Board member, Reggie Newson, current Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development. Board President Tyler shared a brief description of Secretary Newson’s background with the Board.

Board President Tyler reported attending the Governor’s Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) Meeting and the Family Impact Seminar, *Positioning Wisconsin for the Jobs of the Future*, which took place on October 12-13, 2011 in Madison. Susan M. Kreh, Johnson Controls, Inc. in Milwaukee, George Kerwin, Bellin Health Systems, Inc. in Green Bay, and Mark Tyler, OEM Fabricators, Inc., in Woodville were the guest speakers at the CWI Meeting. WTC System Office staff gave a presentation on *Pathways to Prosperity* at the Family Impact seminar. The presentations from Board President Tyler and System Office staff were very well received.

Diana Galindo, Rebecca Gement, John Lippold and Brenda Saugstad, all members of the Wisconsin Student Government, were introduced by Board President Tyler.

B. Report of the System President

President Clancy introduced the new Board liaison, Carol Lynch.

President Clancy reported on the Annual NASDCTE Conference he attended in Baltimore in October. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Education are looking at ways to transform the technical education system. Six state grants were awarded to promote rigorous career and technical education programs of study. Wisconsin was one of the six states receiving a grant and is a national leader in providing educational opportunities for students.

A letter was sent to Agency Heads from the Department of Administration indicating additional lapse allocations by fiscal year. Two new separate sets of lapses were pending; \$174.3 million prescribed under Wisconsin Act 32 and an additional \$300 million in the event revenues were not as strong as assumed in the budget. Good news; the Wisconsin Technical College System took no additional funding cuts under the new lapse plans. No additional cuts are planned for Perkins funding. Initial budget cuts to state aid from the Wisconsin Technical College System state aids were significant.

Legislative hearings of the Senate and Assembly Higher Education Committees were held in October to address authorizing school Boards to grant vocational high school diplomas. Vice President Morna Foy and District Boards Association Executive Director Paul Gabriel both testified at the hearings and worked together to collect data from all districts about current vocational education opportunities provided by technical colleges to high school students. The Department of Public Instruction, school Boards, school district administrators and disability rights representatives all expressed their opposition to the bill.

There was a joint informational meeting of the Senate and Assembly Higher Education Committees on November 8th where Bruce Vandal, Director of the Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute at the Education Commission of the States (ECS) gave a presentation on the correlation of postsecondary attainment and its contribution to the economic growth of states through higher incomes for residents. President Clancy and UW-System President Kevin Reilly provided additional comments.

President Clancy reported on the presentation Wisconsin Technical College System staff gave at the October Council on Workforce Investment meeting. The presentation consisted of a high level overview of the System, the process that WTCS uses to identify industry need and develop curriculum, customized labor training to meet immediate employer needs, Bridges/Career Pathways and what is on the WTCS horizon.

There is a hearing scheduled for November 9, 2011 at the Government Accountability Board regarding the validity of WTCS student identification cards voter identification. President Clancy sent a letter to the Government Accountability Board urging that technical college student identification cards be accepted as valid voter identification. The Government Accountability Board staff is recommending no change in the Board's interpretation. Vice President Jim Zylstra and Executive Director Paul Gabriel will attend the hearing to represent the WTCS.

C. Futuremakers Partner Award

President Clancy presented the Futuremakers Partner Award plaque to Bill Laakso, accepting on behalf of the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS). The Wisconsin Public Service Corporation Foundation has contributed nearly \$500,000 in financial donations and in-kind equipment to the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC), with the majority of the funds supporting much-needed student scholarships. WPS has also contributed four transformers, a \$20,000 grant toward a solar energy system, a Case backhoe for the gas utility program and other tools and equipment that allow energy program students to get hands-on experience in a realistic work environment.

NWTC President Jeff Rafn explained that WPS has been a tremendous partner in developing programs and providing financial resources for NWTC. Mr. Laakso is in charge of human resources for WPS and all the energy companies in the Northeast Wisconsin district. All of the jobs in WPS require at least some postsecondary education. The current average employee is 47 years old and has worked at the company for approximately 17 years. The company recognizes the need to have a prepared and skilled workforce. In

partnering with the technical college they can help to ensure that skilled employees will be available to fill future job openings.

D. WTC District Boards Association

Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) Board Chair John Lukas gave the WTC District Boards Association Report. He gave a quick update of recent events which included the Fall 2011 meeting which was held at Waukesha Area County Technical College in early November and had over 150 participants. The conference included special tracks on current legislation impacting the Wisconsin technical college districts, such as changing the composition of District Boards, vocational high school diplomas, collective bargaining, and technical college student IDs being used for voter identification. Vice President Morna Foy touched on some of the legislative issues currently affecting the WTCS. Upcoming calendar items include the Winter Meeting which will be held in Elkhart Lake on January 19-21, 2012.

The Annual Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress was held in Dallas, Texas on October 12-15, 2011 and focused on fostering sustainability and student success. The WTCS was represented by an engaged delegation of approximately 40 individuals. A Wisconsin reception with Wisconsin themed events was held and the election of new Board members took place. The National Legislative Summit is the next ACCT event scheduled to take place February 13-16, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

The WTC District Boards Association is looking forward to having WTCS staff provide input on issues currently facing the districts. LTC Board Chair Lukas announced that if any individual is not receiving advocacy updates and wishes to do so, they should sign up on the ACCT Web-site. He spoke briefly about and provided a report put together by Paul Gabriel on AB 353 and SB 275 which would severely restrict District Board membership and eligibility for Board appointment. A legislative update tomorrow will expand on issues.

E. Strategic Directions –Employer Panel Discussion

Policy Advisor Conor Smyth explained that the Board's current Strategic Directions covers the period 2009-11 and Board members are in the process of developing a new set of Strategic Directions for 2012-15.

At its September 2011 meeting, the Board heard perspectives from a cross-section of System stakeholders and discussed the strategic planning process, including plans for a Web-based survey to obtain stakeholder input.

Board President Tyler introduced the panel of business owners: Therese Pandl, CEO of Hospital Systems Health System (HS) Medical Group; Ms. Lori Wirtz, Executive Assistant at Schreiber Foods; Mr. Jerry Murphy, Executive Director of New North; and Mr. Mark Kaiser, President of Lindquist Machine Company.

Themes of the discussion included soft skills in every curriculum, looming demographic challenges (aging workforce), image and marketing, connections with businesses, budget cuts and the impact on businesses, and the importance of lean processes and safety.

Board members asked questions of the panel and open discussion followed. Questions were asked regarding worker demographics, the aging workforce and how businesses were planning for retirements. What should technical colleges be doing that they are currently not doing to prepare students for jobs? What about branding of the technical college system, the image that the public has of the technical college system and how to better market the system's image, particularly to businesses. Questions were asked on how to get businesses to "go to bat" for the WTCS and how to educate employers and the public on the "impact" of funding cuts to the system. A question was asked about the image of certain careers, i.e. manufacturing, and how to improve the public's perception of these careers.

The answers to Board member questions and the ensuing discussion included: Businesses are partnering with technical colleges and high schools to communicate what their workforce needs include and the skill sets that will be necessary to replace retiring employees. Businesses have higher expectations for skilled workers than in the past. Credential types (MA, BS, TD, AA, etc.) are becoming less clear – now the need is for broad-based skill sets. Businesses have a strong and positive image of the WTCS and recognize the promotion of lifelong learning. Areas to improve on would be increasing the number of graduates and marketing better to businesses. The WTCS needs to communicate that a four-year degree is not the only option to finding a successful career. There are opportunities for short-term training for employed professionals that should be tapped into. More money should be invested in marketing.

It is unclear if there is a deep enough understanding in the business community of what a "30% cut" in funding means to the colleges and ultimately, to businesses. Businesses need to hear the specific stories of how funding cuts impact the workforce and businesses. Companies need to address retention, growth and finding the next generation of workers. There is great opportunity to position education as an integral part of economic development. Technical colleges need to put a "new face" on manufacturing careers and change the image from unstable, dirty, low-wage work. The message of the skills needed to succeed in manufacturing work is not clear or communicated effectively – a high school diploma is no longer enough.

Identifying basic skill requirements for manufacturing occupations should be a priority. Mutual concerns around workforce needs can create coalitions of competitors. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and New North are focusing on Career Clusters (i.e., Energy.) Workers often have technical skills, but lack "soft skills" in areas such as collaboration, communication, conflict resolution, and setting and adjusting expectations. Colleges should incorporate soft skills training into the existing curriculum and measure attainment of these skills. Soft skills equal innovation, and *that's* how businesses succeed. It is important to teach process improvements. Also, it is important to incorporate sustainability instruction (broad definition). Possibly the System needs to review curriculum to ensure that soft skill instruction is included. Businesses need to find a way early on to identify people who possess leadership skills and collaborate with colleges to identify these individuals. Businesses

are looking for workers with a basic skill set and a *positive attitude*-commitment, energy and passion. Colleges should focus on “core abilities” as well as “soft skills” and leadership skills.

Board President Tyler thanked the panel for their input to help guide the Board in determining strategic directions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 – 8:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Judith Crain
Mary Quinnette Cuene
Stan Davis (via wisline)
Terry Erickson
Tony Evers
Reggie Newson
Eddie Paul
Michael Rosen
Mark Tyler

Members Absent:

Ann Greenheck
Phil Neuenfeldt
Brent Smith

System Office Staff Present:

Dan Clancy, Morna Foy, Nancy Merrill, Willa Panzer, Annette Severson, Dan Scanlon, Conor Smyth, Debbie Parker and Carol Lynch.

District/Others Present:

Yvette Dunlap – Fox Valley Technical College
Cindy Dross – Lakeshore Technical College
Michael Burke, Milwaukee Area Technical College
Roxanne Lutgen – Nicolet Area Technical College
Robert Elliott – Northcentral Technical College
Jeff Rafn, Jim Blumreich, Vicki Csida, Laurie Davidson, Linda Hartford, Sandy Ryczkowski,
Karen Smits, Lori Suddick, and Mary Jo Tilot – Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
Alexandra Sielaff – Waukesha County Area Technical College
Diana Galindo, Rebecca Gement, John Lippold, and Brenda Saugstad– Wisconsin Student
Government
Sharon Wendt, Department of Public Instruction
Thomas Twohig – SDS Architects

Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Carol Lynch read the following open meeting statement: “The November 8-9, 2011, meeting of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, and all other meetings of this Board, are open to the public in compliance with state statute. Notice of the meeting has been sent to the press in an attempt to make the general public of Wisconsin aware of the time, place, and agenda of the meeting.”

Roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

It was moved by Board Member Rosen, seconded by Board Member Crain, that the September 13-14, 2011 Board minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

F. WTCS Presidents Association

NWTC President Jeff Rafn gave the WTCS Presidents Association report for Bryan Albrecht. The Association has been working to build a stronger relationship with the UW-System. Topics that were covered include diversity, safety and public relations. Presidents compared how individual campuses are dealing with each of these topics. All districts are talking to employers to address the current skills gap. MATC Milwaukee, WCTC, and GTC attended a summit to creatively address issues. The Process Improvement Committee is looking at systems and processes between colleges and the System Office to streamline and improve operations and to create time to complete more value-added activities. The Committee expects to meet for one to two years and is looking at current goals to see if they should be adjusted. The Committee is working with colleges and the System Office for recommendations regarding streamlining the certification, facilities, fees, transcribed credits and program approval processes as well as purchasing processes. Some revisions will affect policy, administrative rules or possibly legislation.

The Process Improvement Committee is also reviewing purchasing-collectively to improve processes. Discussion included greater use of the purchasing consortium between colleges to improve purchasing power; using joint purchasing for capital equipment and supplies.

President Rafn reported on the outcome of the first round of Community College and Career Training (CCCT) grants that were offered by the US Departments of Education (ED) and Labor (DOL). Unfortunately, despite very solid efforts by WTCS colleges, the major grant application submitted as a state consortium was not funded. Three colleges, (Chippewa Valley, Southwest, and Western) will receive part of \$12.7 million awarded to a consortium led by Northeast Iowa Community College.

G. Consent Agenda Items

It was moved by Board President Tyler, seconded by Board Member Quinnette Cuene, that upon the recommendation of the Wisconsin Technical College System President, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves the program development requests, facilities development requests and WCTC interim district Board appointment as presented.

Program Development Requests

<u>College</u>	<u>Program Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
Madison	Human Resource Management	Program Scope
Northeast	Environmental Engineering-Waste & Water Technology	Program Scope
Waukesha County	Metal Fabrication Welding-Adv. Manufacturing Technology	Program Scope
Lakeshore	Culinary Arts	Program Proposal
Lakeshore	Health Care Technician	Program Proposal
WI Indianhead	CNC Machine Operator/Programmer	Program Proposal

Facilities Development Requests

Gateway Technical College – Remodeling of the Learning Success Center at the Elkhorn Campus at a cost of \$921,000.

Lakeshore Technical College – Continued rental of facilities at two locations in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, at annual costs of \$6,000 respectively.

Lakeshore Technical College – Rental of facilities in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, for the Culinary Arts program at annual costs of \$117,000.

Madison Area Technical College – Remodeling of the Biotechnology Lab at the Truax Campus at a cost of \$345,000.

Nicolet Area Technical College – Remodeling of facilities at the Rhinelander Campus at a cost of \$1,447,815.

Nicolet Area Technical College – Remodeling of facilities at the Rhinelander Campus at a cost of \$1,438,737.

Nicolet Area Technical College – Remodeling of facilities at the Rhinelander Campus at a cost of \$1,492,306.

Northcentral Technical College – Construction of an Emergency Vehicle Operating Course in Merrill, Wisconsin at a cost of \$800,000.

Northcentral Technical College – Construction of an addition on the Wausau Campus for the Electronics and Electromechanical programs at a cost of \$1,400,000.

Northcentral Technical College – Acquisition of land contiguous to the Public Safety Training facility in Merrill, Wisconsin at a cost of \$34,950.

Waukesha County Technical College – Continued rental of facilities in Waukesha, Wisconsin at annual costs of \$158,976.

Western Technical College – Acquisition of two parcels of land contiguous to the La Crosse Campus at a cost of \$380,000.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College – Construction of an addition to house additional classrooms and faculty offices at the New Richmond Campus at a cost of \$1,500,000.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College – Remodeling of facilities at the New Richmond Campus at a cost of \$1,289,000.

Interim District Board Appointment

The following appointment is for the term of November 8, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

<u>District</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Waukesha County Technical College	School District Administrator	Patricia F. DeKlotz

Motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Directions Update - Vision Statement

Conor Smyth gave an update on the Strategic Directions project. A Strategic Directions Survey was conducted by the System Office last July. The System Office also looked at individual colleges' strategic directions plans for areas of current and future alignment with the System's new strategic plan.

A copy of the current WTCS vision statement and proposed revised vision statement was shared with the Board. The WTCS vision statement had not been revisited for the last few strategic planning sessions. The current vision statement is quite lengthy and the Board discussed the current and proposed vision statements and offered input and suggestions for improvement. A suggestion to emphasize the district's focus on economic development was given. The workgroup recognized that students impact the global economy as well as the national and local economies. It was noted that the Wisconsin Technical College System helps businesses and communities including non-profit organizations.

Conor Smyth gave preliminary results of the completed WTCS impact survey. The data collected showed that affordability is a top priority for survey respondents as well as meeting student needs, bringing awareness of the System's value to communities, businesses and students. Survey responses indicated that the strengths of the Wisconsin technical colleges are

their students, affordability, outstanding service at an affordable price, relationships with the business community, responsiveness, hands-on training, job creation, links with communities, and accessibility of courses.

The survey results also indicated that the challenges of the Wisconsin technical colleges are funding cuts, tight budgets, poor economy and affordability. The public views technical college training as inferior to four-year college training. Technical colleges must find a way to maintain creditability and continue to recruit and maintain quality instructors. Collective bargaining changes present a challenge for colleges to decide how they will arrange themselves and continue to offer quality programming. Technology was not listed as high of a priority as staffing needs.

Next steps: Finalize survey results, finish environmental scan, and analyze the responses to look at new directions. There may be one or more opportunities for a panel discussion if the Board feels it would be beneficial. The Board requested one more panel of students. The suggestion was made to focus on completers instead of just focusing on graduates. Different groups to look at: the students who do not complete their degrees or students who did complete their degrees but did not secure employment in the area in which they were trained. The Board will look at all suggestions on constructing the new panel.

H. Teaching and Learning – Online Programs and Rural Students

Associate Vice President of Instruction Annette Severson gave a presentation on rural students and online instruction in the Wisconsin Technical College System. The presentation covered the research that Annette conducted as part of her doctoral work. The research only tracks online education. Courses are broken down by face-to-face and nontraditional delivery.

The percentage of online courses being offered by technical colleges is rising. Eighty-two percent of courses are offered in an online format. Enrollment in online courses is increasing and enrollment in face-to-face instruction is decreasing.

Wisconsin is a rural state and 27% of citizens live in a rural county. Twenty-seven percent of all AAS students come from rural counties. The rural counties have higher incidence of unemployment and Wisconsin needs to have more rural students trained to address high rural unemployment rates. Rural students are less diverse than urban students and the study shows that more rural students are more economically disadvantaged than urban students. There is an increase in the number of technical study courses offered online. This should help increase job placement and ultimately improve all students' economic status. High speed Internet service in rural areas will affect the ability to complete online courses. It is not clear if Internet access is directly linked to the success rates of students.

Data shows the entire population of urban students completed more coursework than rural students. The data shows that mostly white, age ranged from 16 to 68 students have completed online courses. Mean age is consistent with mean age for overall student population. Courses include 80% face-to-face versus 20% of online courses and for general education courses, the split was 25/75, and for technical studies courses the split was 16/89. Perhaps the

general education and technical studies courses are a little easier to complete online. Rural students completed more health, business and industry and agriculture courses. Course areas show trade and industry courses are low for online instruction. Not much age difference, but more males in urban and females in rural areas took online instruction.

There is not much difference in the number of online courses taken between urban and rural students. Rural students take more face-to-face courses **and** online courses. Data shows urban students take more technical study courses and more of these courses are face-to-face. Type of online connection was not determined and the reason a student elected to take an online course versus a face to face course was not determined.

Conclusions of research: E-learning is a necessary, indispensable resource and a way of living today. There is no difference in online instruction between urban and rural students; rural graduates were more economically disadvantaged, took more courses and took more technical studies courses than urban students. The benefits of online instruction include flexibility, access to instruction and transportation savings.

Limitations of research: The data did not determine if student completion rates were affected by online versus face-to-face instruction. The type of online connection was not identified, and the data does not reflect the student's choice in taking a course face-to-face when an online option of the same course is available.

I. Board Policy Deletions and Revisions

It was moved by Board Member Crain, seconded by Board Member Evers, that upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves the deletion of Board Policies 314 and 502.

At its September 2011 meeting, the Board had an opportunity for initial review and discussion of the proposed deletion of two policies, Board Policy 314 - Transfer of Credit to UW-System and Board Policy 502 - Admissions.

Because the principles on transfer of credit from 1989 that make up Policy 314 have been superseded by other policies on credit transfer, and because Policy 502 restates and addresses requirements specified in other binding documents and reviewed through other means, these policies are being recommended for deletion.

Policy Advisor Nancy Merrill presented Board Policy 320 – Requirements for International Education. All colleges have addressed global education in their policies and Policy 320 is recommended for deletion and was offered for discussion and questions. Travel policies and contracting policies connected with Board Policy 320 have also been addressed in other policies.

The Board will act on Policy 320 at the January 2012 Board Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

J. Three-Year Facilities Plan

It was moved by Board Member Rosen, seconded by Board Member Paul, that upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves Three-Year Facilities Plan.

Facilities Director Dan Scanlon presented the WTCS Three-Year Facilities Plan. He explained that the new facilities plan has not changed drastically from the previous plan. Districts are required to submit their facility remodeling and construction project plans to be included in the three-year plan. The plan includes modest gains in square footage across the state and just a modest increase in value of property across the state. There was a question regarding the process for facilities project approvals. It was noted that CVTC is looking at a major referendum and the plan shows relatively minor adjustments for CVTC. The question was asked if the three-year plan understates the changes that will be made to WTCS facilities pending referendum approvals. Dan Scanlon explained that the three-year plan is not complete, but will have subsequent projects added as the referendums for projects get approved. Plans are always subject to amendment.

The System Office collects plans for facility projects for the three-year plan, but does not approve specific projects or funding for projects. The question was asked if ex-officio members take action and vote on facility plans and the answer is yes. Large facility projects are subject to a two-step State Board approval process.

There was some discussion of college residence halls and proposed legislation affecting lease and revenue limits. Board members requested information regarding residence halls on technical college campuses. They are interested in learning how economical residence halls are to campuses and would like to review some cost analysis data. Discussion was held at previous Board meetings regarding residence hall agreements.

Motion carried unanimously.

K. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Presentation

NWTC President Rafn welcomed the Board and commented that he felt it was very beneficial for the Board to get out into the districts to see the activities and the initiatives that are being developed. At NWTC the average student is around 30 years old, white, female and works part-time. Forty percent of NWTC students receive Pell grants and approximately forty percent are enrolled full-time. NWTC has four campuses, four regional learning centers and a variety of other locations (incubators, mobile trailer.) One half of the student population is from Brown County. A recent survey was conducted of students who have been at NWTC since they were freshman. Results of the survey revealed that students want to feel engaged and welcomed;

forty-seven percent of students are first generation; students want help in setting goals to help them succeed; Ninety eight percent of students would recommend NWTC to others. NWTC's goal is to get the student completion rate to 100%.

Fewer than forty six percent of NWTC students complete their degrees in less than three years. These rates are better than national rates for two-year college students but still too low. To improve retention and timely graduation, NWTC started the Dream Catchers Initiative. More than one hundred individuals are involved in the Dream Catchers program. All employees at NWTC engage in what is needed for students to be successful. Tutoring and alternative education opportunities are offered and NWTC is looking at the sequence of courses for students having difficulty completing coursework. After one year, the initiative is now a national initiative to help students earn their degrees. Counseling and advising services include licensed counselors as well as a full-time psychologist on staff. Additional resources are continually being added. Student engagement is key to success of the program. Instructors are focusing on the little things that can be done to make students feel more a part of the program and extra steps to reach out to students are being taken. Dream Catcher is a "culture".

Randy Smith, Dean of Business and Information Technology at NWTC, spoke about the initiative to work with high schools to develop the automotive program at NWTC. The welding program also partners with high schools. Students in these programs have shown improvement in other academic areas when participating. Recently, shop and business courses have been eliminated from many high school curriculums due to budget constraints. This program fulfills the need for this type of instruction. Board Member Evers wanted to point out to the Board that NWTC's Youth Options program is a true model for the rest of the state.

Rural Entrepreneur Programs is a grant-funded consortium that has an online incubator. They work with the USDA to provide students with virtual incubators, developing a toolbox for aspiring entrepreneurs to point to the correct resources to be successful. The focus is on developing microbusinesses in rural areas. Entrepreneurs have been building businesses in their homes in rural areas and using incubators at NWTC is helping to get them going. Training is provided to entrepreneurs.

Mark Weber, Dean of Trades and Technology at NWTC, spoke about technical college training coming directly to the high schools. The mobile integrated manufacturing lab at NWTC provides a hands-on learning experience in a CNC lab. The Program can take up to 12 students per semester per high school. Economic development staff and K-12 administrators gave input when developing the program. Surveys show high schools lacked the funding to develop their own labs for this specialized training. The mobile lab is a shared resource and serves several high schools in the area. Training is provided to high school instructors. High schools are changing to block schedules to facilitate the program. This program is in its pilot year and NWTC is hopeful that 10 high schools will participate next year. More training may be added in the Lab such as robotics.

NWTC is looking at developing training to meet the specific needs of marine businesses, branding the area as the northern coast and emphasizing the size of the shipbuilding industry in the area. NWTC is working hard to expand the workforce for the marine industry. NWTC was ranked in the top 10% of community colleges in the nation.

L. Legislative Update

Vice President Morna Foy distributed a federal legislative update and a press release from Representative Barca and Senator Miller on the “Make Wisconsin Work” initiative. She provided brief updates on the status of legislative proposals to create vocational high school diplomas, modify the Workforce Advancement Training grant program and school nursing credentials.

Vice President Foy also noted that the WTCS will be a presenter at the Governor’s Northern Economic Summit. The NWTC mobile learning lab will be showcased and available for tours. WTCS and UW will present breakout sessions on new projects and will join private employers and economic development representatives to discuss how higher education can better work with industry.

M. January State Board Meeting

The next meeting of the WTCS Board will be held January 24, 2012 at the Wisconsin Technical College System Office in Madison.

It was moved by Board Member Cuene, seconded by Board Member Evers, to adjourn the meeting of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lynch
Recording Secretary