



May 7, 2007

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to tell you about an exciting new initiative the WTCS is pursuing in partnership with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). Called Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE), this effort seeks to make "career pathways" a core organizing principle for adult education and workforce development in key Wisconsin industries. By striving to establish more effective connections between improved worker skills and higher wage jobs, RISE represents an important next step in advancing Governor Doyle's Grow Wisconsin agenda.

Thanks to a major grant from the Joyce Foundation of Chicago, DWD and WTCS have important new resources to devote to this endeavor. The two-year \$1 million Joyce "Shifting Gears" award will help us marshal the staff resources, additional outside expertise, and new training curricula needed to bring promising career pathways models to scale throughout the state. We are committed to advancing this important workforce system change that will ultimately involve or affect all of our program partners and stakeholders.

Today I am writing to you, as one of those partners and stakeholders, to alert you to this process as it gets under way. A critical early step in that process will be four regional meetings throughout the state later this spring and in early summer. At those meetings, we will be inviting education, economic development, and workforce development professionals, as well as employers to join us in focused brainstorming to develop an approach to career pathways that best addresses the needs of Wisconsin's diverse regions and driver industries. Expect to receive more information about places and times of these meetings soon.

You can learn more about the RISE initiative and follow its progress on a new web site that is under development at www.risepartnership.org. I look forward to working with you as we take some key next steps in workforce development in Wisconsin. If you have questions or want to get more involved in this particular effort, feel free to contact Sue Gleason, Deputy Administrator of the DWD Division of Employment and Training at (608) 266-0522 or Jayson Chung, Associate Vice President of the WTCS Office of Student Development and Assessment at (608) 266-5517, for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Clancy".

Daniel Clancy
President
Wisconsin Technical College System

Daniel Clancy, President

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