

**MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
MARCH 15-16, 2022
BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek, S. Mark Tyler, Sharon Wendt for Jill Underly, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

Members Absent: Douglas A. Holton, Sr., Becky Levzow, Terry McGowan, Kelly Tourdot.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Judy Barbian, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Cristina Parente, Katy Pettersen, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Lenard Simpson, Brandon Trujillo, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Julie Barreau, Laverne E. Hays, Liz Paulsen, Tracy Pierner, Amy Powell, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Chuck Bolstad, Karen Bolstad, Angie Lawrence, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Bryan Albrecht, Jacqueline Morris, Gateway Technical College; Jack E. Daniels, III, Madison Area Technical College; Bobbi Damrow, Ryan Kowski, Shelly Mondeik, Deb Stencil, Mid-State Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Steve Bitzer, Northwood Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Dan Herder, Wisconsin Student Government; Dan Klecker (Foundation of Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers), WTCS Board Appointee.

Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board President Pasch introduced and recognized Dan Herder, President of Wisconsin Student Government (WSG), who joined the meeting on behalf of WSG.

Dr. Pierner welcomed the Board to Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) and shared highlights of the campus since the Board's last visit.

Amy Powell, 2021 WTCS Ambassador, welcomed and addressed the Board.

ITEM A: Approval of January 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Tyler, that the January 18, 2022, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board Member Miller's Board of Regents report for February was included in the Board meeting materials for review.

Board President Pasch announced the formation of the Board's Budget Development workgroup, which will include Board Members Pasch, Tyler, Daniels and Tourdot. The workgroup is chaired by System President Foy and also includes representatives of the college presidents, faculty/staff, Wisconsin Student Government, the System office and the District Boards Association. It will advance Budget recommendations for the full Board, to be presented at the July and September meetings.

National Ag Day will take place on March 22. Rather than celebrating just one day, Wisconsin's technical colleges will be hosting a variety of events throughout the week of March 20.

- CVTC held an Ag Skills Day event on campus with over 200 high school students, including a visit to the Eau Claire Farm Show.
- On March 22, Mid-State will host their FFA competition.
- Events are listed on the System webpage www.wtcsystem.edu/agday.
- In 2023, Ag Day will be hosted at Blackhawk Technical College.

The 2022 WTCS Ambassador program will take place in April at Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. A WTCS team, led by Stephanie Glynn and Julie Drake, will engage 16 ambassadors in leadership development sessions on April 21 and 22. After a two-year hiatus, the banquet will take place in -person, recognizing these outstanding students on April 21.

ITEM C: Report of the System President

System President Foy welcomed and introduced Katy Pettersen, new WTCS director of strategic advancement. Katy is not new to WTCS as she has served as the director of the WTCS Statewide Marketing Consortium since 2017. Ms. Pettersen also worked in communications for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) and the Wisconsin Restaurant Association.

System President Foy thanked all college and System colleagues who contributed expertise and insight to WTCS advocacy efforts in the legislature. A special note of appreciation to the leadership and arduous work of WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra, District Boards Association Executive Director Layla Merrifield and WTCS Policy Advisors Brandon Trujillo and Monique Currie who ensure WTCS efforts are thorough, accurate, unified, responsive and focused on enabling WTCS to meet the needs of students, employers and communities.

System President Foy shared highlights from a few campuses:

- Last month, Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) became one of 22 new grant partners with Ascendium and Jobs for the Future (JFF) for Ascendium's Ready for Pell program, a \$4.7 million strategic initiative for postsecondary education in prison. Ready for Pell builds on lessons learned in the federal Second Chance Pell pilot programs ahead of the restoration of Pell Grants for incarcerated learners in the 2023-24 school year. MPTC will join a diverse mix of partner institutions in terms of geography, institution type, program type, populations served and other markers. Congratulations to President Baerwald and MPTC on this partnership.
- Nicolet College recently was awarded a \$35,000 WEDC Entrepreneurship Partner grant to develop a map to display regional resources for entrepreneurs. Nicolet's Innovation Illumination map will expand on the Start in Wisconsin Resource Navigator to easily identify innovation spaces, connect innovators and show event opportunities.
- In a historic partnership, Madison College has been training National Guard members who will receive their Certified Nursing Assistant credentials to help battle COVID-19 in Wisconsin. Those National Guard members have been deployed to health care facilities across the state to help ease the burden on Wisconsin's hospitals and nursing homes. The staffing relief was intended to allow skilled nursing facilities throughout the state to open 200 or more beds to fight the pandemic.

At their April 7-8, 2022, meeting, the UW System Board of Regents will take action on eight technical colleges' AA/AS degree proposals. Upon their expected approval all Wisconsin technical colleges will

have AA/AS degree granting authority except for SWTC and CVTC, which are expected to complete the process before the end of the year. A lot of work by many people went into the process, with special acknowledgement to Dr. Valerie Crespín- Trujillo, WTCS education director responsible for AA/AS programming.

Dr. Crespín-Trujillo has taken a new position with Ascendium and WTCS looks forward to working with her to advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work in the WTCS.

System President Foy complimented the state and federal grant review teams, including external reviewers, for their excellent work. The WTCS grants application, review and implementation process has undergone significant transformation, including the structure and tools used to ensure continuous improvement in the use and accountability of these important resources.

Wisconsin's Department of Administration's review of the WTCS Equity and Inclusion plan implementation was completed the week of March 7. A written summary will be received in a few weeks, with 90 days to correct any compliance issues, if any. WTCS was the first agency to be reviewed in this new process and were purposefully selected first because DPM has direct knowledge of the level of work and has assisted WTCS with efforts to engage stakeholders and the entire team in the development and execution of the plan and to include DEI in the WTCS five-year strategic plan.

Dr. McCabe shared highlights on a successful C3 conference. Participation was high with representatives from all 16 colleges and presentations were both engaging and well-received. All of the presentations are available to participants for future reference. Of particular note was the successful transition from a hybrid to fully virtual format in a very short time frame. This change was necessitated by rising COVID-19 transmission rates. The C3 conference organizers are to be commended for making this transition without sacrificing the quality of the experience for presenters and participants.

About 18 months ago, six communities petitioned to reorganize from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) to Nicolet College. Four of those petitions were denied as ineligible because they were not contiguous to Nicolet College. The Board considered the petitions of Townsend and Lakewood, including holding public comment periods and public hearings. Although, both petitions were denied, several Board members did express concerns at the time about rural Wisconsin communities' access to technical college services, particularly services supporting volunteer Fire and EMS organizations. Board President Pasch asked System President Foy to provide the Board with some follow-up information regarding NWTC's recent efforts to support its northern border region. In the last year and a half, NWTC has expanded its offerings to better serve its northern communities. These efforts include:

- Acquisition of a mobile EMS training van and a mobile Fire Burn training van.
- Offering Emerging Drug Trends at Mountain Ambulance.
- Conducting an open house to introduce high school students to EMT/Fire programs. They were able to interest 34 students from four different high schools.
- Repeated EMS and Fire training opportunities held at locations throughout the region.

At the end of February, System President Foy spoke with Wisconsin Student Government at their annual legislative conference. Although this is not a budget year, the students focused their advocacy efforts on funding for Open Educational Resources, with the expectation that the WSG representative on the budget development workgroup will move this initiative forward. System President Foy's role at this conference is to welcome the students, reinforce the value policymakers place on students' opinions and needs and the importance of students' voices in Board and System decisions. Former student Board member Cooper Richason shared his experiences and did an excellent job passing on valuable advice,

particularly to those who have not met with legislators before. WSG President Dan Herder engaged with the students to start the conference.

WSG President Dan Herder addressed the Board and shared that WTCS students are incredibly grateful that online fees have been paused and requested that the Board consider making this a permanent pause.

System President Foy shared WTCS personnel transitions with the Board and thanked Mr. Arneson and Ms. Currie for their contributions to WTCS:

- Dan Arneson, WTCS communications specialist, is pursuing a new opportunity with the Department of Transportation.
- Monique Currie, WTCS policy advisor, will be retiring from state service in April.

ITEM D: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) Vice President and Southwest Wisconsin trustee Chuck Bolstad and Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

The Winter quarterly meeting was held at Lakeshore Technical College and The Osthoff Resort, January 28-29, 2022. The meeting focused on federal funding for technical colleges with presenters David Baime, senior vice president for government relations for the American Association of Community Colleges and Dr. Robert Mathews, vice president, business & finance from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. The meeting also included an update on DEI – Engaging in Advocacy and Action. Recordings of the presentations are available on the DBA website.

The Spring meeting will be held April 29-30 at Milwaukee Area Technical College and the Double Tree Hilton. The meeting will focus on local board members' roles in college accreditation and what colleges need to be successful.

A small contingent attended the National Legislative Summit in Washington DC in February, keeping the interests of the WTCS in front of federal legislators.

Mr. Bolstad applauded the Board on its tremendous leadership, WTCS staff and DBA's Ms. Merrifield, Mr. Tenpas and Ms. Handrick. Everyone works in cooperation, all singly focused on the mission of Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges. WTCS colleges provide skills necessary for students of all ages and provides jobs for our students.

Ms. Merrifield thanked System President Foy, Mr. Arneson and Ms. Currie for their support of the DBA.

ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association

Dr. Roger Stanford, President of Western Technical College and of the Association, provided a brief update on recent activities of the Association.

Dr. Stanford shared a letter of thanks from Homeland Security for their work at Fort McCoy helping Afghan refugees. That letter should have included System President Foy and her staff for helping them obtain the state grant.

The association is fully committed to the Wisconsin Leadership Development Institute (WLDI) and developing the colleges' staff. Dr. Stanford commended and thanked Dr. Wood from SWTC for taking over the administration of WLDI.

President Stanford congratulated Ms. Pettersen for her appointment to the WTCS director of strategic advancement and commended her for her work with the Marketing Consortium.

The Association is focusing on the following additional topics:

- AA/AS transfer agreements
- Marketing Consortium Strategic Plan and Budget
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

President Stanford shared excitement to having the Ambassador banquet back face-to-face in April. He is anxious to be there with other Presidents, leaders and students to share their amazing stories.

ITEM F: 2022-23 Tuition Recommendation

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra provided the Board with an overview of the tuition recommendation process and historical trends.

The Tuition workgroup consisted of Board Members Bahr, Holton, Tyler and Willett. The group considered factors currently affecting the technical colleges and forwarded a recommendation for a 1.75% increase in tuition for Occupational, and a 0% increase for Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (AA/AS). The workgroup also recommended suspending the \$10 per credit online fee for the following reasons:

- COVID-19 increased reliance on online delivery,
- technical college students are some of the most financially affected by COVID -19 and suspending this fee reduces financial burdens of attending technical college, and
- the System and colleges are evaluating technology funding options for the future.

Board Member Holton recommended a smaller increase but was unable to attend the meeting.

Board Member Pechacek asked the loss amount for suspending online fees. Mr. Zylstra stated that approximately \$4 million in lost revenue annually would be seen in suspension of online fees.

Board Member Tyler shared that the individuals affected by the tuition increase were polled, including college presidents, students and others, with opinions varying widely. The approach is to take a modest increase with students seeing the benefit they receive from their education through WTCS. The Board has made wise, very modest increases to tuition over the years, balancing the needs of the colleges and students, therefore WTCS is in a much more sustainable place.

Board Member Miller asked why the increase in tuition for Occupational, but none for AA/AS. Mr. Zylstra stated that statutory recovery rates have created a tuition differential between Occupational and AA/AS courses, with AA/AS tuition at higher rate. The tuition workgroup recommended no change for AA/AS tuition so as not to increase this differential and because the current AA/AS rate satisfies the statutory requirements.

Board Member Bahr thanked the workgroup for assisting her through the process as this was a learning curve for her. Bahr looked at her own experience and those of other students. She has had amazing support services at her own college and colleges can't have those services without the financial support.

Board President Pasch echoed Bahr's comments on consideration of students and revenue for colleges. Pasch commended the group.

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Williams, that the Board approve suspending the uniform fee for online courses of \$10 per credit for 2022-23, and set per credit tuition rates for 2022-23, beginning with the summer session, as follows:

Occupational	\$143.45 per credit
Occupational non-resident addition	\$71.73 per credit
Associate of Arts/Associate of Science	\$188.90 per credit
Associate of Arts/Associate of Science non-resident addition	\$94.45 per credit

Motion carried unanimously.

System President Foy thanked Board Member Bahr for serving on the Tuition Workgroup. The Board is not required to have a student involved in the tuition process but finds immense value by including a student voice.

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Wendt, to recess the meeting until Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Motion Carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 6:02 pm.

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek, S. Mark Tyler, Sharon Wendt for Jill Underly, Stephen Willett.

Members Absent: Douglas A. Holton, Sr., Becky Levzow, Terry McGowan, Kelly Tourdot, Mary Williams.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Judy Barbian, Hilary Barker, Victoria Chung, Danielle Cook, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Tou Ya Khang, Christina Lorge, Chris Martin, Joel Mathis, Colleen McCabe, Cristina Parente, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Becky Stewart, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, Ann Westrich, Angela White, Danika Woods, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Julie Barreau, Mark Borowicz, Laverne E. Hays, Stephen O'Dell, Liz Paulsen, Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Angie Lawrence, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Jennifer Lanter, Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Mark R. Thomas, Jr., Madison Area Technical College; Greg Bruckbauer, Bobbi Damrow, Ryan Kowski, Mandy Lang, Shelly Mondeik, Deb Stencil, Angela Susa, Mid-State Technical College; Jennifer Mikulay, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Robert Elliott, Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Steve Bitzer, Northwood Technical College; Jason Wood, Southwest Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Dan Klecker (Foundation of Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers), WTCS Board Appointee.

Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 9:37 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

ITEM G: Consent Agenda

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Willett that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests as presented with the exception of programs and facilities items for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Board Member Pechacek, seconded by Board Member Wendt that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried 7-1. Board Member Bahr abstained.

Board Member Willett asked if the Associate of Science (AS) Degree is a concentration of sciences with the Associate of Arts (AA) Degree higher in humanities with programs geared to the development of teachers. System President Foy noted that the AA degree is not specific to teacher preparation. Historically both the AA and AS degrees provide students with their general education (or liberal arts) foundation with an emphasis in either the humanities or sciences, for a variety of careers.

ITEM H: Mid-State Technical College – Record of Decision – Environmental Impact Statement for the Acquisition of Land and the Construction of an Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology and Apprenticeship Center in Stevens Point

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the Project Concept Review. The Board must approve any projects over \$1.5 million in two separate reviews. This is a preliminary look at what they plan to do, a starting point to gather information on FTEs. A significant amount of information will be provided for the project review.

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Bahr that the Board, pursuant to s. TCS 12, Wisconsin Administrative Code, finds the proposed decision on the Environmental Impact Statement, February 25, for the acquisition of land and construction of an Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology and Apprenticeship Center in Stevens Point, Portage County, Wisconsin be adopted. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Willett commented that these studies are exhaustive. He believes in the quality of the study and the fact that this is a good proposal.

Board Member Tyler shared his appreciation to Mr. Scanlon for his thorough review of this report for the board.

Board Member Pechacek asked what the next steps are for this project. Mr. Scanlon shared planning for building and fundraising for the project.

ITEM I: Mid-State Technical College – Project Concept Review – Acquisition of Land and Construction of Additional Facilities in Stevens Point

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon introduced the project and Mid-State Technical College's President Shelly Mondeik; Vice President, Workforce Development & Community Relations Bobbi Damrow; Dean of Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering and Transportation, Agriculture, Natural Resources & Construction Ryan Kawski and Vice President, Academics Deb Stencil provided the Board with an overview of the project.

To meet Mid-State District needs the college will offer new programming, enhanced training and multiple pathways for the current and future workforce demands throughout the district.

Upon approval of the project concept review, the second request for approval will be presented to the WTCS Board at the July 12-13 meeting; upon approval, an event will be held the end of July with groundbreaking in fall of 2022. The Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology and Apprenticeship (AMETA) Center will open for the 2023-24 school year.

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Wendt, that the Board finds that the concept for Mid-State Technical College’s proposed construction of facilities is reasonable. The final scope and design of the project are subject to review and approval by the Board as required by s. 38.04(10) Stats. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Pechacek commended Mid-State, who rose to the top 12 in the first round of 165 applicants for \$100 million in grants. Mid-State and Centergy received \$9 million for the region to reduce barriers to workforce skilling and building pipelines. There is a second round of grants of \$40 million which will be awarded in early summer.

Board President Pasch appreciates the excitement for this project. He asked if there will be staffing issues with the expanded programing. President Mondeik shared that many staff currently working in Wisconsin Rapids will relocate to Stevens Point.

System President Foy asked what the Build Back Better grant will do for this project. The grant would help them expand and purchase expensive equipment and give them the ability to add a conference center or auditorium, a large training center, lab and a few classrooms, and 15,000 square feet for general education classes. What will happen to current facilities? The movement/relocation of these programs will provide dedicated classroom spaces in Wisconsin Rapids and expanded opportunities for general education classes. Stakeholders want and need to bring their incumbent workers for short term training; agreement with school district for hands-on – welding, which cannot be done virtually.

Board President Pasch sees this as an opportunity to build pathways in both directions for AA/AS.

ITEM J: State and Federal Grant Awards

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang presented an overview of the System’s grant timeline, categories, process and examples, along with 2021-2022 grant highlights. The goals of these grants are in alignment with the priorities of the Board, which includes:

- directing resources to expand Wisconsin’s skilled workforce;
- making student success a priority, making sure more students are successful and completing;
- continuously improving instruction at the colleges; and
- encouraging innovation.

There are two federal grant funding streams: the Perkins Career & Technical Education grants for student support, equity and continuous improvement; and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grants, which are split into five categories - comprehensive , adult corrections education and re-entry, Integrated English Literacy Civics & Education, Innovation in Integrated Education & Training and Targeted Focus. This coming fiscal year (2023) will be year two of a four-year grant period Applicants who received the grants in 2021-22 had to submit continuation applications for FY2022-23. The AEFLA grants are connected to the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA).

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Willett, that the Board approve funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Carl D. Perkins Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act grant programs for fiscal year 2022-23, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Willett asked if the Emergency Assistant Grant is only for Pell grant recipients, saying the non-completion in any of our programs can be caused by these emergency situations. How is the amount determined and the eligibility limited? System President Foy shared that Wisconsin's emergency grant program was the first public-private partnership of its kind in the nation. Starting out as a partnership between Ascendium and the 16 technical colleges, the program now includes the state funding component approved by the Board today. BTC President Pierner shared that this is the most important grant they have. Colleges have strict guidelines for the students who access these funds. System President Foy suggested covering this topic at a future Board meeting.

Board Member Pasch asked if the Board could receive a brief overview of results of grant money as we visit individual campuses for meetings. System President Foy shared that colleges enjoy giving the Board tours on things that interest the board. They could share how one or two grants helped them during Board visits.

ITEM K: Teaching and Learning – Transportation Programs: Truck Driving Spotlight

WTCS Education Director Danika Woods and Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) Director of Workforce and Community Development Mark Borowicz, joined by BTC's Diesel Instructional Specialist Steve O'Dell, provided the Board with an overview of transportation programs and commercial truck driving training programs within the System.

The WTCS Truck Driving Consortium (TDC) includes Blackhawk, Chippewa Valley, Fox Valley, Gateway, Milwaukee Area, Moraine Park, Northcentral, Northwood and Waukesha County technical colleges providing many benefits, including:

- Shared instructional resources, industry updates, best practices
- Mentoring and support network
- Consistency of program outcomes, technical skills attainment (TSA)
- Shared efforts to manage TDC projects
- System-wide credential recognition/transferability

Since 2017, there have been an average of 360 annual graduates with 81-82% program graduation rate. Recent WTCS projects to support commercial driving include: WTCS Leadership Grant to support entry-level driver training; WTCS Core Industry Grants awarded by the consortium on a competitive basis; WTCS pass-through award of annual formula grant to truck driver training programs; and ongoing System leadership of the WTCS Truck Driving Consortium.

The biggest challenges BTC faces with this program are fuel costs, facilities and staffing limitations.

Board Member Pechacek asked if BTC is in a position to pivot quickly if electric trucks come into play with a zero carbon/zero emissions future. Mr. Borowicz shared that a power source will be included by the new track, but currently they do not have any in their fleet, but they will integrate it, which will include changes to pre-trip with new requirements.

System President Foy commented that truck driving is a tough job and Wisconsin's employers are working with Wisconsin's technical colleges to build up their CDL programs. What outreach is being done to appeal to students? Mr. Borowicz has had a K-12 partner contact them with students who want to understand more about a career in truck driving and they are considering summer camps to meet the needs of the students.

Board Member Wendt asked about the diversity of the truck driving industry. Mr. Borowicz responded that the industry is more diverse regarding gender/ethnicity than in the past, but that increasing the diversity more broadly is a priority of the industry and the college.

Board Nominee Dan Klecker asked if we will see autonomous trucks prior to electric vehicles? Mr. O'Dell said they may come, but cameras are what is driving those trucks and it has not been perfected yet.

ITEM L: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra shared that the legislature is done for this session and won't be back until January 2023. After a busy session, with 300 bills being tracked, 36 of those bills passed.

On March 15, Governor Evers announced a \$50 million investment in safe communities, including \$1 million going to WTCS for part-time police academy programs.

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided an update on Wisconsin Act 158 (AB 720 & SB 688) Military Medical Personnel Program which allows former military personnel to perform skilled health services, under supervision at healthcare and residential facilities, while in the process of obtaining their healthcare credential. Credentials may be obtained as a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, physician, podiatrist or physician assistant.

WTCS Policy Advisor Monique Currie provided a federal update on funding. The Perkins CTE state grant program received a 3.4% increase, and Adult Basic Education a 2.3% increase. Student Financial Aid programs also saw increases with Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and work study programs both increasing 1.7%. The maximum Pell award was increased by \$400 which is the largest annual increase in more than a decade. The new maximum award will be \$6,895 per year.

While all of our colleges do receive federal funding from these programs, the percentage increases are for the total amount of the program. States or individual colleges could see increases that are higher or lower depending on the formula factors that goes into these grants. Not every student will qualify for the maximum Pell award increase.

ITEM M: Announcements/Adjourn

Board Member Tyler thanked and commended Currie and Arneson for their work.

The next meeting of the Board will be held May 17, 2022, at the Wisconsin Technical College System Office in Madison.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake