

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD  
MARCH 14-15, 2023  
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, Douglas Holton, Sr., John Johnson for Jill Underly, Dan Klecker, John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek, S. Mark Tyler, Stephen Willett.

Members Absent: Sara Rogers, Dan Sperberg.

System Office Staff Present: Judy Barbian, Dani Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Mark Johnson, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Angela White, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Scott Anderson, Aaron Beth, Dustin Delsman, Jennifer Flatt, Carla Hedtke, Meridith Jaeger, Janel Karban, Katie Kozak, Brian Krough, Sara Lam, Dan Mincheff, Brian Murray, Jeff Rafn, Kathryn Rogalski, Valerie Wunderlich, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government.

**Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 4:30pm. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

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

Board President Pasch thanked President Jeff Rafn and his team for hosting the WTCS Board. Dr. Rafn welcomed the Board to Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

**ITEM A: Approval of January 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

**It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Holton, that the January 17, 2023, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM B: Report of the Board President**

The UW System Board of Regents report for February was shared with Board Members on March 10, 2023.

Please note the time change for the May 16, 2023, meeting, which will be held 10 am – 1 pm.

The 2023 WTCS Ambassador banquet will be held on Thursday, April 27 in Wisconsin Dells. The banquet is part of a three-day leadership development program led by WTCS Education Director for Student Support Stephanie Glynn and WTCS Executive Staff Assistant Julie Drake. Please attend if you are able.

System President Foy participated in a panel presentation at the American Association of Community Colleges Workforce Development Institute in January. She spoke about what the System measures and how the data is used. As a follow-up to that, she will be on a podcast with the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship, talking about the good work the System does with various dashboards to measure and use data in a way that puts student success at the forefront of everything the System does. The link to the podcast will be shared with the Board when it is available.

## ITEM C: Report of the System President

System President Foy thanked NWTC Executive Assistant Janel Karban for meeting preparation and coordinating the wonderful space at the college for the meeting.

System President Foy and District Boards Association (DBA) Executive Director Layla Merrifield have been spending time at the State Capitol doing legislative outreach and had the opportunity to present the System's budget request to the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities on March 2. Thanks to Jim Zylstra, Dr. McCabe, Katy Pettersen, Brandon Trujillo and Megan Stritchko for their great preparation work and to Layla for this very positive start to the System's budget advocacy efforts.

WTCS System Education Directors Dr. Hilary Barker and Ben Konruff are co-authors on an article that was recently published in *New Directions for Community Colleges*, a national publication that provides expert assistance in helping community colleges meet the challenges of their distinctive and expanding educational mission. The paper, titled, **Using data to cultivate a culture of evidence: Case studies from two states**, explores how the Wisconsin Technical College System Student Success Center and the Success Center for Ohio Community Colleges provided support that encouraged data-informed decision-making among two-year college stakeholders. Our experiences will help other colleges establish a culture of evidence where data is used to inform equitable educational policy, practice and strategy. If you are interested in reading it, please contact Julie Drake for the link.

The Ambassador Leadership Development and Banquet will take place April 26-28. This event brings 16 students from across the state together to learn and grow. They arrive as strangers and two and a half days later, leave as life-long friends. The leadership program they go through in that time includes team building exercises, learning how to leverage their strengths, and media training, all with a focus on their year-long commitment as a state Ambassador for their college. The banquet is not the culmination of their work, it is just the beginning. Board members are encouraged to attend.

National Ag Week is March 21-27, with a WTCS Ag Day celebration on Thursday, March 23 at Blackhawk Technical College's Monroe campus Agricultural Learning Center. The event includes tours of the campus building, words from the Secretary of Agriculture, Alice in Dairyland, President Pierner, along with others including an agriculture student and an instructor. There is a sponsored lunch with a panel presentation on attracting talent in the industry, followed by tours of local ag-related companies. Julie Drake will share the information with Board members interested in attending.

WTCS is working with the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) to refine and promote our articulation agreement to MSOE's Technical and Business Management bachelor's degree, intended to

take the technical knowledge our students have and marry it with general business acumen to arrive at a career selling parts or machinery for manufacturers. This is a unique transfer pathway for WTCS students and alumni and a great example of proactive higher education partnerships.

Dr. Jeff Rafn, NWTC's President, is retiring in July and this is the last System Board meeting he will be hosting. System President Foy thanked Dr. Rafn for being an incredible mentor and for putting forward ideas that were always grounded in what was best for WTCS students, transforming this institution over the past 26 years. She thanked him for leaving a legacy that can't be repeated.

#### **ITEM D: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association**

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) President and Mid-State Trustee Betty Bruski Mallek and Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

The DBA winter meeting and legislative seminar, held in Madison January 11-13, provided an opportunity to hear from key legislative leaders, up to-the-minute briefings on issues affecting technical colleges and WTCS budget and session priorities, followed by Capitol visits with local legislators.

In February, 60 WTCS representatives attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Legislative Summit in Washington, DC where they learned about federal policy and shared with Wisconsin's Congressional delegation the importance to the System of Pell Grants and Perkins CTE funding.

The DBA spring meeting will be held April 20-22 at Gateway Technical College in Kenosha. The Inservice will include Effective Board Governance by Randy Nelson, Driftless Leadership, LLC.

While in Washington, Ms. Merrifield met with the Department of Education which will provide a briefing on President Biden's priorities for community and technical colleges in federal fiscal year 2024 on Friday, March 24 at 11 am. Connection details will be shared with Board members.

#### **ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association**

Dr. Vicki Martin, president of Milwaukee Area Technical College and of the Association, updated the Board on recent activities.

The Presidents' Association met on January 17 and welcomed the newest president, Dr. Ritu Raju of Gateway Technical College.

Statewide Marketing Consortium Director Jim Jelak shared the results of a recent public perception poll conducted last summer. The results showed that most people have a positive perception of WTCS colleges and 71% believe that the state benefits from the technical colleges, with respondents appreciative for the return on investment our colleges offer. They find value in the transferability, affordability, variety of programs and career opportunities available with a technical college education.

The Association began discussions about priorities for the colleges that will be a starting point for their June planning meeting.

The group talked about the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree offerings and agreed to individually continue to work closely with all higher education partners to strengthen the transfer opportunities available to all students in Wisconsin.

The Financial Stability/Transfer Improvement Task Force reported that the survey results from the presidents on childcare initiatives at each college had been shared with the group.

The Design and Deliver Programs and Services committee is reviewing common definitions for credentialing/badging.

The Attract and Retain Talent/Workforce Diversity committee surveyed colleges to gain an understanding of pain points in recruitment and retention and is identifying innovative practices to be shared with the group.

The presidents agreed to fund the WisCORE event every year. The first Wisconsin Technical College System Conference on Race and Ethnicity – WisCORE – took place in January of 2020 as a response to a student's request to hold a conference similar to the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) to bring together students, staff, and faculty of color and allies in Wisconsin. The conference was created with, and for, students with the intention of including their voices in System-wide discussions around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The presidents are pleased to support the efforts to continue these conversations.

Dr. Martin thanked Dr. Rafn for his many contributions.

## **ITEM F: Teaching & Learning – The Use of Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality in Health Sciences**

WTCS Education Director for Health Sciences Dani Cook provided an overview of health science programs within the System. Practical nursing is offered as a stand-alone program at seven colleges; students at all 16 can opt to step out at the end of the first year of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program and sit for the LPN exam.

There are 28 Associate Degree allied health science programs, excluding nursing, 34 Technical Diplomas in allied health with 15 of those being short-term and 11 Pathway Certificates Total program enrollments in 2021-22 was 96,146. Nursing Assistant is the largest dual enrollment course.

Among the many emerging Apprenticeships are Medical Assistant and Medical Laboratory Technician.

Dental Assistant is offered as either a short-term or one-year Technical Diploma. The pathway for nursing continues into a BSN, MS and PhD.

System-aligned programs contain standardized components across the participating WTCS colleges, including program number, title and outcomes. System-aligned curriculum includes core courses and general education credits. Colleges are not required to participate in the alignment, however the majority do. The value of these programs includes transferability and collaboration.

Nursing has led health sciences in Open Educational Resources (OER) with the Nursing Assistant book being published Spring 2023. OER includes access to 25 virtual scenarios with three levels of student access.

As the education director for health sciences programs, Ms. Cook supports the colleges' program advisory committee meetings and serves on more than ten external committees that support various programs such as a workgroup focused on the dental workforce shortage, Rural Health, and the

Wisconsin Nursing Association. Additionally, she attends the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) professional meetings.

NWTC's Vice President of Learning Dr. Kathryn Rogalski; Dean of Health Sciences and Education Scott Anderson; and Associate Dean, Health Sciences Brian Krogh provided an overview of health science programs at NWTC and examined the use of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) in health science programs. AR/VR helps learners in higher education grasp abstract concepts and gain hands-on experience in low-risk virtual settings. It enhances hybrid collaboration and learning models that combine both in-person and virtual interactions.

Board Member Pechacek commented that every industry is short of workers. With baby boomers retiring and net zero migration to our state, healthcare is a critical industry. Why would certain colleges choose not to align? Ms. Cook shared that general education courses may not be identical so they may not align perfectly.

Board Member Holton presented a scenario and inquired if a person with a Hispanic grandmother, for example, would be identified as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)? Mr. Anderson shared that the data is based on how students self-identify in their application materials. Holton stressed that there may be students of mixed-race choosing not to identify in that group. Dr. Rogalski shared that the support systems in place help all students regardless of how they are identified in their application.

Board Member Holton asked what would impede growing the programs and what kind of institutions are considered for clinicals. Ms. Cook shared that the majority of clinical sites are hospitals. Our students are considered guests to clinical sites, and traveling nurses are not typically put with students, so that can alter limitations. Places are starting to welcome students again post-pandemic. Mr. Anderson added that the nursing pathway is larger but there are only a few ultrasound programs in the state. NWTC students can be sent to Marshfield for clinicals. In highly specialized programs, hospitals have to meet certain number of offerings, which is harder for rural settings in specialized offerings.

Board Member Daniels expressed that some students may not self-identify as BIPOC if they feel there is a possibility of implicit bias. The Board will hear more about NWTC's implicit bias training during the presentation on Wednesday.

Board Member Tyler asked if there are regulatory hurdles and acceptance of these programs using AR/VR and if it could be scaled outside of NWTC. Mr. Anderson feels that when proven it can be done in a simulation situation, there are not really any definitions on what can be completed on AR/VR. Dr. Rogalski commented that while it has been exciting for some student paramedics having had the opportunity to use AR/VR, there is some hesitation, and they are working with those teams/faculty. She added that it speaks to the innovation of the team and faculty needing to do something different and they are ready to do that.

System President Foy shared that NWTC is a national leader in DEI work, which is why they are spending so much time ensuring their programs are diversified. President Foy asked Dr. Rogalski to share what they are hearing from employers. Dr. Rogalski stated that NWTC felt the need to create a strong and diverse pipeline, with a large growth in Hispanic population and the need to provide for all students to be successful. Industry partners want to see diversity and NWTC realizes this is what needs to be done

to get students to completion to improve the lives of the students and their families. NWTC is focused on creating opportunities to get students of color to enter fields in high-wage industries. For example, local employer JBS offers to pay for their employees' education at NWTC. Mr. Anderson added that Prevea Health recently created a new DEI position on how they as a system can help reduce health outcomes among disparity, particularly in urban settings where there are food and healthcare deserts.

Board Member Johnson shared that the linkage and opportunities with high school students around AR/VR is exciting from a K-12 perspective and could lead to diversifying the pool of applicants at the college.

Board Member Klecker asked what NWTC's advisory board feels about AR/VR and how receptive they are to the process. Mr. Anderson feels that they understand the limitations of students and see the benefits of AR/VR and how that can help students with clinical judgement. Partners have reached out to see how they can incorporate it into their systems. Nursing has been done the same for many years, so it is good to look at different ways of teaching nursing.

Board Member Pasch commented that the path to success for our students is in curriculum standardization that has similar competencies and gives students the mobility to move within Wisconsin. Maximizing those resources to keep costs down for students is making a difference.

Board President Pasch suggested a glossary of acronyms be shared with the Board.

**It was moved by Board Member Pechacek seconded by Board Member Miller, to recess the meeting until Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.**

### Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, Douglas Holton, Sr., John Johnson for Jill Underly, Dan Klecker, John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek, S. Mark Tyler, Stephen Willett.

Members Absent: Sara Rogers, Dan Sperberg.

System Office Staff Present: Judy Barbian, Hilary Barker, Victoria Chung, Dani Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Tou Ya Khang, Mandy Johnson, Mark Johnson, Christina Lorge, Chris Martin, Joel Mathis, Colleen McCabe, Carolann Nelson, Jeremy Nichols, Cristina Parente, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, Ann Westrich, Angela White, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Elizabeth Allen, Kelly Bartlett, Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, III, Sylvia Ramirez, Madison Area Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Aaron Beth, Jennifer Flatt, Libby Jacobs, Meridith Jaeger, Janel Karban, Katie Kozak, Sara Lam, Dan Mincheff, Brian Murray, Jeff Rafn, Kathryn Rogalski, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Roger Stanford,

Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Jim Jelak, WTCS Statewide Marketing Consortium.

**Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

Board President recognized President Rafn for his years of service and for being a change leader, adding focus and stability for the System.

#### ITEM G: Consent Agenda

**It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Pechacek 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 Johnson seconded by Board Member Miller that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried 9-1. Board Member Bahr abstained.**

#### ITEM H: Moraine Park Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Additional Facilities and Remodeling of Existing Facilities in Fond du Lac

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon introduced the item. Moraine Park Vice President for Finance and Administration Carrie Kasubaski and Director of Facilities Roy Marquez provided an overview of the project.

**It was moved by Board Member Klecker, seconded by Board Member Johnson, that the Board grant approval to the Moraine Park Technical College District to construct additional, and remodel existing, facilities in Fond du Lac at a cost of \$13,700,00.**

#### ITEM I: Fox Valley Technical College – Record of Decision – Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction of a Construction Management Technology Outdoor Construction Lab in Oshkosh

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the record of decision of the environmental impact statement. Two public hearings were held, one member of the public attended, and their comments were included in the report.

**It was moved by Board Member Bahr seconded by Board Member Holton, that the Board adopt the proposed decision on the Environmental Impact Statement, February 20, 2023, for the construction of a Construction Management Technology Outdoor Construction Lab in Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### 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 2022-2023 grant highlights. The goals of these grants align with the priorities of the Board, including:

- 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 (2024) will be year three of a four-year grant period. Applicants who received the grants in fiscal year 2021-22 had to submit continuation applications for FY2023-24. The AEFLA grants are connected to the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA).

Upon Board approval, the System office will notify applicants in the form of grant action notices. This will let them know which grants were approved, disapproved, or need revisions before they can be funded. Technical assistance will be provided as necessary for those needing revisions. Turn-down letters will be sent to those not being funded. The System also offers feedback calls regarding the applications that are not funded.

On July 1, all grant activities for FY24 will begin. Support will be provided by WTCS as needed during the grant period.

**It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Holton, that the Board approve funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Carl D. Perkins Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant programs for fiscal year 2023-24, as presented with the exception of the grants for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development. Motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Board Member Klecker, seconded by Board Member Miller, that the Board approve funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Carl D. Perkins Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy ACT (AEFLA) grant programs for fiscal year 2023-24, for the three grants for the Latino Academy of Workforce Development. Board Member Johnson abstained. The motion carried 9-1. Board Member Johnson abstained.**

Board Member Tyler stated that half of the awardees of the grant on adult education and literacy are outside the System and asked what the criteria are for those outside the System applying for grants. Mr. Khang stated that applications are scored on 13 components. There are no separate requirements for colleges or those outside of the System. If they can meet the requirements, they will be awarded the grant.

Board Member Klecker asked what percentage of grants are funded. Mr. Khang responded that 14 out of 16 received completion grants. It varies from grant to grant, and 80-90% of grants submitted are funded. Klecker asked how the grants are tracked. Khang responded that the grantees submit reports to the System, responding to questions and letting us know how things are going with a final report sharing how things went.



## ITEM K: 2023-24 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 1.9% 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 shared that while this was a difficult decision with higher costs and the current state of the economy, the workgroup looked at it as a balancing act of how to best serve students, while considering increased costs at the colleges.

Board Member Bahr shared that her success as a student came from the support services that the colleges offer and that they realize the colleges need financial support to offer those services.

Board Member Tyler stated that WTCS has outrageously good outcomes with all of our colleges generating results, but those who don't experience our colleges, don't see those results. Realizing it's a burden to not have a large increase in tuition for the colleges, the group felt it was a manageable burden to take on to give people access to our institutions.

System President Foy commented that tuition setting authority is one of the most powerful duties of the WTCS Board. Foy thanked Jim Zylstra and the Board members who were part of the workgroup and for sharing a recommendation that the full Board can support.

Board President Pasch thanked the committee for their thoughtful input. The System's funding doesn't all come from tuition, with additional resources such as providing grants to assist the students. It is all very intertwined, and every dollar is important in everything we do to help the students succeed.

**It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Pechacek, 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 2023-24, beginning with the summer session, as follows:**

<b>Occupational</b>	<b>\$146.20 per credit</b>
<b>Occupational non-resident addition</b>	<b>\$73.10 per credit</b>
<b>Associate of Arts/Associate of Science</b>	<b>\$188.90 per credit</b>
<b>Associate of Arts/Associate of Science non-resident addition</b>	<b>\$94.45 per credit</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## ITEM L: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra provided an overview of Governor Evers' 2023-25 proposed budget.

DBA Executive Director Layla Merrifield shared that the System has bipartisan support of its budget from Senator Mary Felzkowski and Representative Alex Dallman. Support for the Open Educational Resources (OER) budget request have been varied, but the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) students did a great job carrying the message, and the message on the importance of financial aid funding during their visits with legislators. Committee votes are expected the end of April/beginning of May.

Board Member Pechacek mentioned that \$500 million has been invested to fund very successful programs, including \$200 million in Workforce Innovation Grants involving the technical colleges. Governor Evers also invested \$38 million in ongoing childcare and is proposing a paid family leave provision. There are currently 11 states with this provision, and we are competing with those states for talent.

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided an update on the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) legislative seminar with more than 80 students attending and representation from 15 of 16 WTCS colleges. The seminar was open to all students and included training and crafting messaging the first day. The students may not know about legislative issues when they arrive. System President Foy, Board Member Bahr and DBA Executive Director Layla Merrifield spoke and prepared them for visits with their legislators. As the students met with legislators, advocating for themselves, Open Educational Resources (OER) was a big focus. With it being in Governor Evers' budget, the students could share what that money will fund. The visits went so well that their legislators encouraged them to attend Joint Finance Committee meetings. A few colleges are planning to attend those meetings to advocate for that funding.

Board Member Bahr attended the Wisconsin Student Government legislative seminar and was incredibly proud of those students and how passionate they are; some sharing vulnerable stories with legislators of how they have had to skip meals to afford books.

System President Foy stated that the unique process the System uses to develop the budget request is a collaboration within the System, the result of relationship building and demonstrating added value. She thanked college representatives for their relationship building every day, with some WTCS colleges hosting upcoming budget listening sessions that the Governor has scheduled throughout the state. Foy also thanked WSG, which gets better every year. The legislators heard unified messaging directly from the students, who shared their energy and enthusiasm and helped legislators understand that technical college education in this state is amazing.

WTCS Policy Advisor Megan Stritchko shared a federal update on President Biden's Proposed Budget for FY24, with very minor impact on our colleges.

Board Member Tyler asked about short-term Pell Grants. Ms. Stritchko thinks there is a good chance of it going through and Ms. Merrifield agrees. U.S. Congresswoman Virginia Foxx took over as Chair of the House Committee on Education and Workforce and she immediately introduced the Pell Act. College Trustees talked about this, as well as the farm act and food insecurities, in Washington DC. System President Foy is also working with Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC) and Pell Grants are a top priority for them as well.

System President Foy shared that Representative Virginia Foxx is a former Community College president and she understands short term credentials and what that does for student success.

Board President Pasch commented that the biennial budget brings into the sunlight what they've been working on. He thanked Board Members Pechacek, Bahr and the Department of Public Instruction for their ongoing feedback. There are a lot of people who contribute to the success that benefits WTCS students.

Board Member Holton commented that the change in financial aid would benefit our colleges and ultimately help keep people in their communities.

Board Member Johnson shared that there has been a workforce change in all levels of teaching, including mental health therapists, principals, etc. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) supports the Budget request.

Ms. Merrifield stated that the momentum is coming from several sectors and is hopeful that we can all help to deliver the message to the legislature. Some legislators lack urgency around our workforce shortages and that it is going to continue to get worse.

Board Member Tyler said that workforce shortages began in 2010 with 34,000 people coming into the workforce. In 2020, that number was 8,000 and in 2030 is projected to be 129. We need to engage with every student coming through K12. (As a point of clarification, the raw data comes from 2010 census data, as we await 2020 census data.) It is important for us to look at net change because we have more 65-69-year-olds leaving the workforce than we have 19-24-year-olds entering the workforce. (As an example, if you add 19-24-year-olds into the workforce and extract 65-69-year-olds, you have a net change of 10,000. So, if there are 20,000 19-24-year-olds coming into the workforce and 10,000 going out, there is a net gain of 10,000 workers.)

#### **ITEM M: Announcements/Adjourn**

The next meeting of the Board will be held Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at the System Office in Madison from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Drake