

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD**  
**MARCH 19-20, 2024**  
**MORIANE PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Members Present: Quincey Daniels, Janixa Franco Gonzalez, Douglas Holton, Sr., Dan Klecker, Alex Lasry, Amy Pechacek, Sara Rogers, Dan Sperberg, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Sharon Wendt for Jill Underly, Stephen Willett.

System Office Staff Present: Rachel Colla, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Madeline Erce, Morna Foy, Kristin Long, Christina Lorge, Ward Lyon, Colleen McCabe, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Ann Westrich, James Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Chuck Bolstad, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Peter Mallek, Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Mailia Bachleitner, Bonnie Baerwald, JoAnn Hall, Jaclyn Jelinek, Vernon Jung, Moraine Park Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Kristen Raney, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Rich Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Lindsay Blumer, WRTP/Big Step and WTCS Board Nominee.

**Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated a quorum was present.**

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

Board President Tyler thanked President Bonnie Baerwald and her team for hosting the WTCS Board. President Baerwald welcomed the Board to Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) and introduced MPTC's WTCS Ambassador Mailia Bachleitner who addressed the Board. Ms. Bachleitner will be graduating in May and transferring to MSOE, with all credits transferring. Board President Tyler applauded the System for creating opportunities for students to continue on to a four-year college.

**ITEM A: Approval of January 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**It was moved by Board Member Klecker, seconded by Board Member Rogers, that the January 16, 2024, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

The Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents report for January was shared with Board Members on March 15, 2024.

The WTCS Ambassador Banquet is taking place on Thursday, April 18. After a day of teambuilding and leadership development, the Ambassadors will be celebrated at a formal banquet where they will share their stories of determination, perseverance and success. Board members are encouraged to attend.

A WTCS Presidential Search Committee has been named and will meet in early April. Members of the committee include Board Members Tyler, Holton, Daniels, Rogers and Svacina; District Boards Association President Chuck Bolstad; and Northcentral Technical College President Jeannie Worden. The search will be done internally led by Executive Vice President James Zylstra; Associate Vice President, Office of Finance and Management Services Anna Richter; and Human Resources Director Madeline Erce. The May Board meeting will go into closed session to discuss public records requirements, recruitment timeline and second round interview questions. Overcoming Cognitive Bias Training with Board members will also take place, a State of Wisconsin requirement for all members involved in hiring state employees.

The Senate did not approve the Universities of Wisconsin Regent John Miller. Regent Board President Karen Walsh will appoint a member to our Board. Additionally, the Universities of Wisconsin is waiving application fees to combat declining enrollments with the [Direct Admit Wisconsin](#) program. There are 350 high schools that have signed up and students must agree to participate and are eligible if they are on track to complete the credits required for admission. Admission offers will be sent through Direct Admit Wisconsin based on their unweighted GPA at the end of their junior year.

### **ITEM C: Report of the System President**

- National Ag Day was celebrated at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Wausau on March 19. As a leading industry in Wisconsin, agriculture is the only industry for which the System Board has a standing member. Board member Svacina enjoyed seeing NTC's farm and the technology, including the container building with hydroponics, with great learning experiences. There was a lot of talk about artificial intelligence (AI) and how it is affecting industry to make it more efficient, profitable and safer for employees. Board Member Pechacek thanked NTC for hosting Ag Day and the next Governor's Task Force on Workforce and AI meeting on May 6. NTC's technology can monitor the milk coming from the cows to determine if the cows have an infection or need antibiotics and scans the cows' ear tags to see if they have eaten too much or if they need to eat more. Next year's Ag Day will be hosted at Mid-State Technical College on March 20, 2025.
- In response to student feedback, WisCORE (the Wisconsin Conference on Race and Ethnicity) encore presentations are being held virtually for easy access for all, helping WTCS colleges provide student support, leading to success for all students. WisCORE was highlighted in a recent National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education [publication](#).
- System President Foy has visited five colleges on the Tour of Excellence, where Foy has learned from students in culinary at LTC; robots at MPTC; programming in Tribal Management Program at Nicolet; vet tech space and met students graduating from high school at the same time they are getting their associate's degree at GTC; and participated in recycling electronic equipment and collecting business attire for the community at Western. The colleges and presidents have been very welcoming and created amazing experiences.
- The WTCS Office will be moving to the Hill Farms Office Building across the street from the current office the first week of June. The January 2025 Board meeting will be hosted at Hill Farms.
- An article from *The New York Times*, "When Your Technical Skills are Eclipsed, Your Humanity will Matter More than Ever," coauthored by the president of Jobs for the Future (JFF), was shared with the Board. The essay focuses on the education that may be necessary to fill the jobs of the future.

- System President Foy encouraged the Board to attend the Ambassador Banquet on April 18. This event is the highlight for Foy and the team.
- System President Foy thanked everyone for the kind responses on her retirement announcement. The support from the Board has been key to her success in elevating the image and outcomes of WTCS over the past 12 years. We know we have made an impact when policymakers recite our graduate outcomes and employer satisfaction data to us. WTCS' culture of collaboration and innovation enables WTCS, as an organization, to continue to evolve and exemplify the student-focused, inclusive, transformative future of higher education.

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

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

The DBA held their spring meeting March 21-23 at Nicolet College in their new, financially responsible meeting model, focusing on the strengths of the WTCS colleges of hosting meetings and providing presentations. The in-service focused on Mental Health Tools by Nicolet College speakers Matt Laska, Christin Van Kauwenberg and Alyssa Borski. Thank you to the entire Nicolet College staff for hosting.

Mr. Bolstad strongly encouraged everyone to attend the Ambassador Banquet, the highlight of the year for everyone. He also expressed his gratitude to be a member of the System Presidential Search Committee.

Bolstad thanked the Board for including CVTC Trustee Erin Greenawald in the Board Budget Development Workgroup.

Ms. Merrifield thanked the Board for continuing to include the Trustees in their work.

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

Dr. Paul Carlsen, president of Lakeshore Technical College and of the Association, updated the Board on recent activities.

Since the last Presidents' Association update colleges have been actively engaging in a dialogue on the national stage. Colleges have attended the following conferences:

- Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Legislative Summit in Washington DC
- Bellwether Community College Futures Assembly in San Antonio
- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Workforce Development Institute in New Orleans
- Achieving the Dream in Orlando

Locally, WTCS colleges have gone through the board appointment process which the WTCS Board ratifies. A lot of work is done at the individual colleges to comply with the relevant state statutes, and the bulk of this work is managed by the presidents' executive assistants.

On March 4, the Presidents' Association held a retreat at Mid-State Technical College to discuss where the Association wants to focus their efforts over the next several years. After a robust discussion they decided to focus on legislative affairs and supporting access and inclusion for all students.

System President Foy congratulated Dr. Carlsen for being recognized by AACC as one of six finalists for its CEO of the Year Award. The winner will be announced April 8 during AACC's annual convention.

Dr. Carlsen saw a preview of the video of System President Foy's Tour of Excellence at LTC. The videos are going to be great and enjoyed by all.

Board President Tyler attended the Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Awards Program in February in Milwaukee where Waukesha County Technical College President Barnhouse spoke about AI and the programs preparing students for AI and commended the incredible advocacy.

### **ITEM F: Teaching & Learning – Second Chance Pell: Providing Pell Grants to Incarcerated Individuals**

WTCS Education Director Lenard Simpson and MPTC Dean of Economic and Workforce Development Jo Ann Hall provided an overview of Pell Grants for incarcerated individuals and MPTC's successful strategies and collaborative efforts addressing the specific needs of justice-involved individuals.

Board Member Pechacek feels the mobile labs will be a game changer as the state is dealing with overcrowded prisons that are understaffed with some facilities built in 1800's.

System President Foy applauded Ms. Hall, Mr. Simpson and President Baerwald for their work.

**It was moved by Board Member Wendt, seconded by Board Member Pechacek, to recess the meeting until Wednesday, March 20, 2024. The Board adjourned at 6:04 pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

Members Present: Quincey Daniels, Janixa Franco Gonzalez, Douglas Holton, Sr., Alex Lasry, Sara Rogers, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Sharon Wendt for Jill Underly, Stephen Willett.

Members Absent: Dan Klecker.

System Office Staff Present: Sarah Arneson, Rachel Colla, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Mandy Johnson, Tou Ya Khang, Ben Konruff, Kristin Long, Christina Lorge, Ward Lyon, Joel Mathis, Colleen McCabe, Carolann Nelson, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Katie Roberts, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Ann Westrich, James Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Joni Geroux, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Chuck Bolstad, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Valentina Ahedo, Fred Brechlin, Lynn Dahlgren, Sylvia Ramirez, Cody White, Madison Area Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Peter Mallek, Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, JoAnn Hall, Jaclyn Jelinek, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Nicole Kopp, Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Rich Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; Joshua Gamer, Wade Hackbarth, Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Lindsay Blumer, WRTP/Big Step and WTCS Board Nominee.

**Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

Board President Tyler congratulated Kreilkamp Trucking, Inc., recognized as the Futuremaker Partner and thanked MPTC and all WTCS colleges for the work they put into the partnerships with the companies recognized.

Board Member Lasry arrived at 9:39 am.

Board Member Willett will resign from the WTCS Board effective at the end of the meeting. Board President Tyler thanked Willett for his 14-years of service to the System.

### **ITEM G: Consent Agenda**

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Sperberg that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests and interim district board appointment with the exception of the Waukesha County Technical College facilities development requests. Motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Svacina that the Board approve the facilities development requests for Waukesha County Technical College. Motion carried 9-1. Board Member Franco Gonzalez abstained.**

### **ITEM H: Moraine Park Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Additional and Remodeling of Existing Facilities in West Bend**

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project. A demonstrated need to upgrade and expand the facilities for the advanced manufacturing and welding programs in West Bend is needed and will allow the District to return welding training to campus from a leased facility.

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Wendt, that the Board grants approval to the Moraine Park Technical College District to construct additional and remodel existing facilities in West Bend at a cost of \$16,707,440. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ITEM I: Northwood Technical College – Project Review – Acquisition and Remodeling of Facilities in New Richmond to Create a Medical Laboratory Education Center**

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project. Northwood Tech's President John Will explained that the hospital sold the building for \$10 to Northwood Tech, which will be converted to a medical lab. System President Foy commented that this is a notable example of building recycling.

**It was moved by Board Member Svacina, seconded by Board Member Sperberg, that the Board grants approval to the Northwood Technical College District to acquire and remodel facilities in New Richmond at a cost of \$1,800,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ITEM J: Waukesha County Technical College – Project Review – Remodeling to Create the Gene Haas CNC Training Center in Pewaukee**

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project. The District proposes to remodel approximately 15,600 square feet for the CNC and Machine Tool Operations programs. Artificial intelligence will be integrated into the labs, which have not been renovated for some time.

**It was moved by Board Member Sperberg, seconded by Board Member Pechacek, that the Board grants approval to the Waukesha County Technical College District to remodel existing facilities in Pewaukee at a cost of \$1,800,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ITEM K: Madison Area Technical College – Project Concept Review – Construction of Additional Facilities at the Goodman South Campus in Madison. Proposed Construction of an Early Learning Center**

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon introduced the item. Madison College EVP, Finance & Administration Dr. Sylvia Ramirez; VP, Academic Affairs & Goodman South Campus Valentina Ahedo; and Manager, Capital Planning & Sustainability Cody White briefed the Board on the Early Learning Campus at Goodman South Campus project. The fire department is selling the building to Madison College for \$1 with the fire station adjacent to Goodman South Campus.

Board Member Willett asked how much money will be borrowed. It was explained that \$1.5 million will be borrowed with the rest of the \$15,600,000 from gifts and grants. Board Member Pechacek shared that \$2.9 million is a workforce grant issued by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). There were over 200 applications for the innovation grants and Madison College received one of the grants.

Board Member Willett asked about the timeline for phase two. Phase two is not part of this concept review and will depend on funding.

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Pechacek, that the Board finds that the concept for Madison Area Technical College’s proposed construction of an Early Learning Center is reasonable. The final scope and design of the project are subject to review and approval by the Board as required by s.3804(10) Stats. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ITEM L: Western Technical College – Project Concept Review – Construction of Additional Facilities and Remodeling in La Crosse**

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon introduced the item. Western Technical College President Dr. Roger Stanford briefed the Board on the Center for Innovation. Currently, Western is collecting bids and will return to the Board in September for final approval on the project.

Board President Tyler commended Dr. Stanford and Western Technical College for the work they have done in establishing partnerships with K-12 and businesses.

**It was moved by Board Member Svacina, seconded by Board Member Lasry, that the Board finds that the concept for Western Technical College’s proposed construction of facilities and remodeling is reasonable. The final scope and design of the project are subject to review and approval by the Board as required by s.3804(10) Stats. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ITEM M: 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 2024-2025 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, ensuring more students are successful and completing;
- continuously improving instruction at the colleges; and
- encouraging innovation.

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.

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

Board Member Willett asked who Gateway Technical College is targeting for Career Prep and how success is measured. Mr. Khang responded that they are targeting high school students in their district and explained that reports need to be submitted and all funding is tracked. Willett feels this program is critical to have at all WTCS colleges.

System President Foy explained that this is just funding a part of their overall operations and confirmed that all 16 colleges have relationships with their K-12 partners; this is just one that Mr. Khang is highlighting as an example.

A [video](#) was shared with the Board showcasing benefits to students from a grant approved by the Board last year.

**It was moved by Board Member Pechacek, seconded by Board Member Willett, that the Board approves funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Carl D. Perkins Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant programs for fiscal year 2024-25, as presented, with the exception of Waukesha County Technical College grant awards. Motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Lasry, that the Board approves funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Carl D. Perkins Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant approvals for fiscal year 2024-25 for Waukesha County Technical College. Motion carried 9-1. Board Member Franco Gonzalez abstained.**

## **ITEM N: 2024-25 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 included Board Members Franco Gonzalez, Holton, Svacina and Tyler. The group considered factors currently affecting the technical colleges and forwarded a recommendation for a 2.25% increase in tuition for Occupational, and a 0% increase for Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (AA/AS). The workgroup also recommended permanently eliminating the \$10 per credit online fee for the following reasons:

- it has been suspended for three years,
- many courses have some form of online delivery, and
- reduces financial burden.

Board Member Holton commented that it is a delicate balance looking at the needs of students. When inflation goes up, it goes up for everyone including students, our schools, etc. Holton supports the recommendation.

Board Member Svacina remarked that they had good discussion on the needs of the colleges and ensuring curriculum keeps up with modern technology, which is an added cost along with the students' needs and access. Svacina supports the recommendation.

**It was moved by Board Member Holton, seconded by Board Member Svacina, that the Board approve the uniform fee for online courses of \$10 per credit shall be permanently eliminated beginning in 2024-25, and the per credit tuition rates for 2024-25, beginning with the summer session, shall be as follows:**

- **Occupational** **\$149.50 per credit**
- **Occupational non-resident addition** **\$74.75 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.**

### **ITEM O: Legislative Update**

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra, joined by WTCS Policy Advisor Megan Stritchko and District Boards Association Executive Director Layla Merrifield provided an overview of legislative items affecting the System.

Mr. Zylstra indicated they have been tracking 240 bills and highlighted several.

Ms. Merrifield highlighted several bills she is working on including SB380 Financial Aid Modernization; AB545 change requirements of becoming a District Board member; and the Oral Health Package.

WTCS Policy Advisor Megan Stritchko provided updates on Oral Health Grants. Governor Evers signed Act 89 for \$20 million for the creation or expansion of oral health programs. WTCS received 14 requests for funds and are working on a plan to submit to the Joint Committee on Finance for their approval and distribution of funds.

WTCS Policy Advisor Trujillo provided an update on WTCS partners.

- Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) held their annual legislative seminar in February with 100 students from 15 WTCS colleges where they crafted messages on policy initiatives including childcare and Wisconsin Grants.
- There have been transitions with the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB) including a new processing system and Connie Hutchison resigning as the Executive Secretary.

### **ITEM P: Announcements/Adjourn**

The next meeting of the Board will be held May 21, 2024, at the Wisconsin Technical College System Office in Madison. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am with a working lunch. The Board will go into closed session at approximately 12:45 to discuss the presidential search.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Drake