

MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
JULY 11-12, 2023
WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, Jr., Douglas Holton, Sr., Dan Klecker, John W. Miller, Alex Lasry, Amy Pechacek, Sara Rogers, Daniel Sperberg, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Stephen Willett.

System Office Staff Present: Dani Cook, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Dan Scanlon, Lenard Simpson, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Ann Westrich, 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; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Peter Mallek, Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Kristen Raney, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Rich Barnhouse, Kristan Gochenauer, Sarah Kikkert, Mary Poehls, Sherry Simmons, Steve Strauss, Waukesha County Technical College; Wade Hackbarth, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Lindsay Blumer, WRTP/Big Step and WTCS Board Nominee.

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

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

Tyler introduced the newest member of the Board representing the agriculture industry Leslie Svacina, owner and farmer of Cylon Rolling Acres in Deer Park, Wisconsin.

Board Vice President Tyler thanked President Richard Barnhouse and his team for hosting the WTCS Board. Dr. Barnhouse welcomed the Board to Waukesha County Technical College as they celebrate 100 years in operation as of May 2023.

ITEM A: Approval of May 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Underly, seconded by Board Member Klecker, that the May 16, 2023, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Bahr arrived at 4:39 pm.

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board Member Miller's UW System Board of Regents report for June was shared with Board Members on July 7, 2023.

The SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference took place in June in Atlanta. There were 16,500 paid registrants, including just under 6,400 competitors with over 5,000 volunteers. The SkillsUSA Collegiate postsecondary chapter took 33 competitors competing in 24 different contests. This year's delegation was the youngest delegation ever with most of them only in their first year of a two-year program or were only in a one-year program. These competitors were competing against the very best in the nation, the very best of each state, some of them competing against four-year program students and extremely expensive for-profit private schools.

Twenty-seven of 33 placed in the top ten; nine placed in the top five; and seven stood on the podium and received medals. All but one student placed in the top 15 with that first-year student earning himself 18th place. All students who can compete again next year are eager and hungry to repeat as state winners and earn their right to represent Wisconsin again in 2024.

ITEM C: Report of the System President

System President Foy thanked Board Member Miller for the UW Board of Regents formally recognizing the service of former Board President and Regent Emeritus Rodney Pasch with a resolution of appreciation at their meeting in July. Pasch was an asset to this Board and to the UW Board of Regents.

On June 15, the Ways and Means Committee passed an addendum to Assembly Bill 2 out of committee that would have altered the way technical colleges earn part of its revenue. The bill passed without a public hearing and was scheduled for a floor vote in the Assembly with very little time for the System and partners to weigh in on its impacts. System President Foy extended her personal thanks and gratitude to the Board members, college leaders, employers and other partners who made phone calls and wrote letters to their Assembly representatives. It was a tremendous demonstration of the relationships WTCS colleges and System colleagues have built with each other and with partners, and confirmation of the importance technical colleges are to the success of Wisconsin employers and communities.

System President Foy testified with Waukesha County Technical College President Richard Barnhouse on June 19 during an Informational Hearing in front of the Senate Committee on Universities and Revenue. UW System President Rothman also testified along with Mark Mone from UW Milwaukee. WTCS' presentation centered around WTCS positive student outcomes. They also had a chance to educate committee members on the scope of WTCS responsibilities, programs and services and our collaborative work with partners and employers. Finally, they discussed some of the issues facing higher education including rising student expectations and the rapid changes in learning, teaching and work. Overall, great conversation with a lot of questions and a number of committee members complemented WTCS operations and outcomes.

The WTCS Fire Services team successfully completed their Re-accreditation visit with the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). The review committee recommended to the reviewing Board of Governors that WTCS be re-accredited for all certification levels applied for, which will be presented and recognized at the next IFSAC Board meeting in October. The committee was incredibly complimentary to our team, our colleges, and our program overall. The committee did a thorough review of our test banks and found only 27 needed corrections out of 5,484 test questions (about half of 1%). The identified issues were minor and were corrected on-site. This is phenomenal and System President Foy commended the fire service team for their diligence year-round and their extremely hard work in preparation for this accreditation visit.

System President Foy highlighted how wonderful SkillsUSA competitions are and how much she enjoys seeing the success our students have on a local and national level. It is impressive that so many of our

students earned medals. A video was shared with the Board on SkillsUSA. All students did well, and she noted that WCTC had three students place first, one in second, and one in sixth.

Board Member Daniels arrived at 4:51 pm.

Education Director for Strategy and Improvement Dr. Ben Konruff wrote an Action Research brief on Adult Education Enrollment. WTCS's ongoing commitment to adult education is codified in Wisconsin statute dictating Wisconsin's technical colleges provide adult education "to enable students to effectively function at a literate level in society." And we know that the need for adult education is immense. Within Wisconsin, more than 354,000 adults are without a high school degree and over 142,000 adults do not speak English very well, or at all. Highlights of the report include:

- The proportion of students participating in English Language Learning who have attained a college degree at enrollment increased from 8.3% to 21.6%. This change suggests the Wisconsin adult education program is successfully attracting immigrant professionals and educated skilled talent who have a barrier to English. Addressing this barrier through Wisconsin's free English Language Learning programming benefits participating students and the community.
- The WTCS adult education program is serving proportionately more justice involved populations. This change is most pronounced in beginning adult education, with nearly a third of all students being justice involved in 2022. WTCS is making a conscious decision to reduce recidivism through education by serving justice involved populations within correctional facilities.
- Proportionately more adult education learners are employed full-time or part-time in 2022 compared with 2013. This finding suggests adult education is of value to individuals in the workforce who benefit the community through workforce participation and their own skill building through adult education participation.
- The brief is available on the WTCS website. Board Members should contact Ms. Drake if they are interested in reading it.

Board Member Lasry arrived at 4:52 pm.

System President Foy congratulated Lindsay Blumer on being featured as a 2023 Woman of Influence in the Milwaukee Business Journal, highlighted as a non-profit leader for offering training, apprenticeships and career support with particular emphasis on recruiting women and people of color.

System President Foy shared two articles with Board Members:

- A primer on microcredentials from the Northeastern University Center for the Future of Higher Education and Talent Strategy. The article defines microcredentials as educational credentials, both non-credit and for credit, which are shorter than a degree, and highlights the importance of microcredentials that are issued as part of existing courses and degree programs to reflect the experiences, achievement of learning objectives and competencies within these classic offerings. Many WTCS colleges are offering these credentials by way of digital badging, certificate programs and more.
- Delivering on the Degree: The College to Jobs Playbook focuses on helping colleges better deliver on the American Dream. It focuses on public two-year and four-year colleges, Minority Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities and identified 13 'interventions' within the college ecosystem that could be used to ease the transition into good jobs in the workforce. Many of them may be familiar to Board Members as WTCS already employs all 13 strategies, in multiple forms, throughout the System. Just one of many reasons to

be confident that WTCS is a leader in the two-year college sector, not just implementing student success strategies, but continuously innovating to transform student opportunities and outcomes.

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 spring meeting, held in Kenosha in April, focused on board governance for performance.

The summer meeting will be held July 20-21, in Appleton focusing on Data Literacy to Support Student Success. WTCS Education Director for Performance Analysis/Continuous Improvement Dr. Hilary Barker will present on this important topic.

The DBA also held annual elections in April. Chuck Bolstad of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College will assume role of president beginning on July 22, 2023.

The ACCT Leadership Congress is scheduled for October 9-12 in Las Vegas. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Trustee Carla Hedtke will campaign for a seat on the ACCT national board.

The DBA fall quarterly meeting will be held alongside the biennial Legal Issues Seminar at Waukesha County Technical College October 26-27. Presenters will offer reminders on open meetings and public records, legislative issues and a keynote on artificial intelligence. Continuing legal education credit will be available.

ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association

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

Dr. Carlsen thanked Trustee Betty Bruski Mallek for her work on the District Boards Association over the last two years in her role as the Association president. Carlsen also thanked Dr. Barnhouse and Ms. Kristan Gochenauer for hosting the WTCS Board meeting at Waukesha County Technical College.

The Presidents' Association met June 8-9 in Wisconsin Dells where they bid farewell to retiring Northeast Wisconsin Technical College President Dr. Jeff Rafn. Dr. Jack Daniels, III, president of Madison Area Technical College, becomes the most tenured president in the System. In addition to Dr. Carlsen taking over as president of the Association, Dr. Barnhouse became vice-chair and Dr. Jeannie Worden of North Central Technical College became secretary. Dr. Roger Stanford of Western Technical College remains the treasurer. Additionally, they welcomed Dr. Kristen Raney of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Three areas of focus for their collective work are college branding; growing in the role as comprehensive two-year colleges, which all WTCS colleges are with Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees; and legislative affairs committee.

A focal point of college presidents after the retreat was the substitute amendment for Assembly Bill 2 to replace local funding with state funding. They were ultimately successful in their efforts to block this measure, which speaks to the relationship each college has within their communities and with their legislators. As they move forward in the coming year, the presidents will be assessing how this happened and what can be done proactively to prevent loss of local control in the future.

Each district board met on July 10 for an organizational meeting to appoint or reappoint District Board Members.

ITEM F: 2021-25 Strategic Directions Update

WTCS Director of Strategic Advancement Katy Pettersen provided an update on the System's efforts to advance the Board's Mission, newly added Vision statement and Strategic Directions. The Strategic Directions update is not just an annual conversation, the Board's discussion and actions at every meeting are informed by the Board's Strategic Directions. For example, the standing Teaching and Learning Item on each meeting's agenda shows the breadth and depth of what the System is accomplishing.

Additionally, the System Office also works the Board's Strategic Directions into programs, grants and facilities projects, always with a lens on student success.

Board Member Rogers commented on a point made in the presentation: that Wisconsin's measurable skills gain is at 53.8%, the highest ever, compared with Minnesota at 30%. System President Foy explained that measurable skills gain is defined as documented academic, technical, occupational, or other form of progress towards a credential or employment. The indicator is used to measure interim progress of participants who are enrolled in education or training services for a specified reporting period.

System President Foy shared that in spring of 2024 the process will begin for the 2026-2030 Strategic Directions. WTCS is the only organization she has been a part of where the plan is used to guide day-to-day activities. The College Boards refer to that document when they are building their strategic plans, and the WTCS Board looks at the colleges' plans when the System's strategic directions are formed.

ITEM G: Election of Officers

Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra presided over the administration of elections.

Mr. Zylstra called for nominations for President.

Board Member Underly nominated Board Member Tyler for President. Board Member Daniels nominated Board Member Holton for President. Secret ballots were distributed.

Board Member Tyler received the majority of the votes. Board Member Tyler will serve as Board President for a one-year term.

Executive Vice President Zylstra called for nominations for Board Vice President.

Board Member Underly nominated Board Member Holton for Board Vice President. Board Member Holton will serve as Board Vice President for a one-year term.

Executive Vice President Zylstra called for nominations for Board Secretary.

Board Member Holton nominated Board Member Daniels for Board Secretary. Board Member Daniels will serve as Board Secretary for a one-year term.

It was moved by Board Member Klecker, seconded by Board Member Pechacek, to recess the meeting until Wednesday, July 12, 2023. The Board adjourned at 5:38 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Members Present: Megan Bahr, Quincey Daniels, Jr., Douglas Holton, Sr., Dan Klecker, Amy Pechacek, Sara Rogers, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Stephen Willett.

Members Absent: Alex Lasry, John W. Miller, Daniel Sperberg.

System Office Staff Present: Sarah Arneson, Hilary Barker, Dani Cook, Julie Drake, Heather Dunne, Morna Foy, Mandy Johnson, Tou Ya Khang, Ben Konruff, Christina Lorge, Joel Mathis, Colleen McCabe, Carolann Nelson, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Karen Rahmeier, Katie Roberts, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, JP Villavicencio, Ann Westrich, Angela White, Danika Woods, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Liz Paulsen, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Betty Bruski Mallek, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, III, Sylvia Ramirez, Madison Area Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Robert Elliott, Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Kristen Raney, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Rich Barnhouse, Jodie Crozier, Angela Frazier, Kristan Gochenauer, Michele Nelson, Lisa Nowak, Andy Palen, Brad Piazza, Mary Poehls, Sherry Simmons, Michelle Skinder, Steve Strauss, Tom Vento, Melissa Wegner, Waukesha County Technical College; Wade Hackbarth, Angie Lawrence, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Katrina Willis, Wisconsin Student Government; Lindsay Blumer, WRTP/Big Step and WTCS Board Nominee.

Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board President Tyler commended WCTC for dinner hosted by culinary staff and thanked Ozge Erden, WCTC's 2023 WTCS Ambassador, for her presentation to the Board. In addition, WCTC President Barnhouse and WTCS Board President Tyler presented the Futuremaker Partner award to Raghu Subramaniyam, Eaton's plant manager, the night before.

Board President Tyler announced he would recommend to Governor Evers the appointment of Board Member Daniels to serve on the Higher Educational Aids Board as the WTCS Board representative.

Board Member Svacina was invited to introduce herself to the Board.

ITEM H: Teaching & Learning – Medical Interpreter: Supporting Positive Health Outcomes

WTCS Education Directors Dani Cook and Dr. Katie Roberts were joined by WCTC Adjunct Faculty & Program Coordinator Melissa Wegner to provide an overview of the Medical Interpreter program.

Medical interpreters convert information from one language to another and are well versed in medical terminology and diagnosis language. Nationwide, there are more than 69,000 medical interpreters with 10-year (2021-31) growth projected faster than average at 20%. Patients without medical interpreters typically have a 20% longer hospital stay. Currently, Milwaukee Area and Waukesha County technical colleges have Medical Interpreter programs.

Ms. Wegner explained the goal of a medical interpreter is to provide clear and effective communication between two parties, ensuring communicative autonomy for each party. An interpreter works with spoken language, while translators work with written documents. An interpreter's job is to ensure clear and effective communication between patient and provider. Training includes oral interpretation, written translation, nonverbal communication, nuances of various dialects and subcultures, medical terminology and message transfer and memory skills.

Board Member Rogers asked if there is a medical ethics course in the program. Ms. Wegner confirmed it is part of the program.

Board Member Svacina asked what the value is of a trained professional rather than a rolling cart with the interpreter being online. The difference is, when the interpreter is on a tablet, they only see a limited view of the room and the interpreter can only see and feel so much. Interpreters are trained to see and feel non-verbal changes. Videos do not give the same experience.

Board Member Holton asked if there is a percentage of emergency rooms that have interpreters. Ms. Wegner shared that many local partners staff onsite interpreters and there is also the rolling cart, so there are always options, but some languages are difficult to find interpreters.

Board Member Daniels asked how artificial intelligence (AI) fits into this program. AI is just beginning, but it cannot detect nuances.

System President Foy recognized that Wisconsin's technical colleges are on the forefront of meeting the needs for this program. The colleges offering this program are begging for other college leadership to listen carefully to what is happening here and want other colleges to start this program with so many opportunities statewide. This is another example of what technical colleges are all about, opportunities and services being provided statewide.

Dr. Roberts confirmed that WTCS is ready to grow the program statewide.

ITEM I: Consent Agenda

It was moved by Board Member Pechacek, seconded by Board Member Rogers that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests and interim district board appointments 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 Holton that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests for Gateway Technical College. Motion carried 9-1. Board Member Bahr abstained.

ITEM J: Blackhawk Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Additional Facilities at the Main Campus in Janesville

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project. This is the second review by the Board. The concept review was approved at the May 2023 WTCS Board meeting.

It was moved by Board Member Rogers, seconded by Board Member Daniels, that the Board grants approval to the Blackhawk Technical College District to construct additional facilities at the Main Campus in Janesville at a cost of \$7,945,000. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM K: Northcentral Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Additional Facilities at the Antigo Campus

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided an overview of the project. This is the second review by the Board. The concept review was approved at the May 2023 WTCS Board meeting.

It was moved by Board Member Holton, seconded by Board Member Underly, that the Board grants approval to the Northcentral Technical College District to construct additional facilities at the Antigo Campus at a cost of \$2,010,000. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened at 10:45 after a 10-minute break.

ITEM L: State and Federal Perkins Grant Guidelines

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang provided an overview of the guidelines for the distribution of funds made available through the State of Wisconsin and federal Perkins V grant programs for fiscal year 2024-25.

It was moved by Board Member Pechacek, seconded by Board Member Bahr, that the Board adopts the funding categories for the State of Wisconsin and Perkins V Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century grant programs for fiscal year 2024-25. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM M: Legislative Update

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

- Increase in General Aid by an additional \$9,388,500 over the biennium, distributed as follows:

Base	FY 23-24 Increase over base	New FY 23-24 General Aid Amount	FY 24-25 Increase Over Base	New FY 24-25 General Aid Amount
\$103,284,900	\$3,098,500	\$106,383,400	\$6,290,000	\$109,574,900

The increase will be distributed based on the current general aid framework: with 70% distributed using the statutory formula and 30% distributed based on the outcomes-based funding formula.

- Increase Grants to District Boards by an additional \$5 million over the biennium.
 - \$3 million in FY 2023-24 for Open Educational Resources (this is one-time funding)
 - \$1 million in FY 2023-24 and \$1 million in FY 2024-25 for Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) Grants
- Provide \$20 million in new one-time funding for oral healthcare workforce initiatives. Funds are to be released to WTCS from the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) supplemental appropriation.
- No change to WTCS Wisconsin Grants.
- The Governor vetoed a provision that would have required the UW System to develop and submit a plan for the transition of UW-Milwaukee at Washington County from UW System to a joint operation of Washington County and Moraine Park Technical College. The veto also removed \$3.35 million in the JFC supplemental appropriation for the UW System for the plan.

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided an overview on Open Educational Resources (OER). This was one of five budget requests that were proposed to the Governor this past budget cycle. OER are teaching and learning resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing for anyone to use. They can be free of cost textbooks, materials, modules, tools or any other learning items that may be required for a course. This budget initiative has been a priority for Wisconsin Student Government for at least the last five years. The Governor recommended, and the legislature adopted, \$3 million in the first year of the biennium. The money will be distributed to the colleges once WTCS staff have developed the grant guidelines. Chippewa Valley Technical College has provided five textbooks for nursing that have benefitted more than 5,700 students.

WTCS Provost and Vice President Colleen McCabe shared that WTCS Education Director for Performance Analysis/Continuous Improvement Hilary Barker will be meeting with the OER workgroup to discuss creating new OER and helping people adopt existing OER. There is a group that is prioritizing the top four to five areas and how to roll them out. The workgroups will be a joint project with representatives from the colleges.

Mr. Zylstra explained that the Outcomes-Based Funding model has been in place since 2013-14. There are ten criteria for the \$106,383,400 received in General Aid, with 30% going to Outcomes-Based Funding for the colleges. There are certain priorities, such as increases in dual enrollment. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has documents outlining all of WTCS grant programs. Board Members were encouraged to contact Mr. Zylstra if they would like the paper.

Mr. Zylstra shared that WTCS received \$1 million each year in Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grants. We requested \$3.5 million and received \$2 million. These grants highlight the work the colleges do with employers in their districts. The program has been very successful and well received, and the demand for it will be higher. Board Member Rogers asked what the formula is for WAT Grants. Mr. Zylstra said the WAT grants are not based on a formula; they are competitive. Guidelines for WAT Grants will be shared at the September WTCS Board meeting.

The Legislature provided \$20 million in oral healthcare, which WTCS did not request. Provost and Vice President McCabe and her team will work with the colleges on grant guidelines to distribute these funds to the colleges. The money is being held by the Joint Finance Committee until a plan is provided on how the funds will be distributed. There is a strong interest in a new credential that is not a licensed profession.

Additionally, \$8.8 million was requested for need-based Wisconsin grants for students but we did not receive it. Governor Evers proposed \$3.5 million over the biennium but the legislature took it out.

WTCS also requested a \$1,750,000 increase in GPR over the biennium for System Office Operations, but the legislature took it out.

DBA Executive Director Layla Merrifield provided an overview on the amendment to Assembly Bill 2 (AB 2). Currently, technical colleges are funded through a mix of state aid, student tuition and fees, and local property tax revenue. The local operating levy is integral to the relationships between technical colleges and local businesses and the communities they serve. This local investment and engagement drive technical colleges' responsiveness to, and alignment with, the diverse needs of Wisconsin's workers, employers and communities. An amendment to AB 2, without an opportunity for public testimony, replaced colleges' operational levy with state aid, eliminating local control of technical college programs and services.

System President Foy applauded the Board, colleges and System for ensuring our constituents are well versed on how we are funded. So many of our partners, including our employer partners, local fire departments and economic development organizations quickly phoned or emailed their legislators opposing AB 2.

Ms. Merrifield believes this topic will be revived in the future and feels it is imperative that we continue to have ongoing communication with legislators. We must help them understand that we are funded locally to provide services like training fire fighters across the state for free, and educating adults who did not complete high school and now want to further their education.

Board Member Pechacek provided an overview of the Governor’s budget:

- Under Governor Evers' leadership, the state passed an overdue increase in K-12 special education aid. The largest increase in state history.
- Building on the Governor’s historic progress in fully funding our public schools, this budget provides an overall increase of nearly \$1.2 billion in spendable authority for K-12 public school districts, including state categorical aids.
- The budget includes a \$325 per pupil revenue limit adjustment in each year of the biennium, as well as long-term spending authority increases, including an additional \$50 million to improve reading and literacy outcomes and \$30 million to continue funding for school-based mental health support.
- Investing in the next generation of Wisconsin workers is critical to the future success of our state. This budget invests \$7 million over the biennium for the youth apprenticeship program, which gives high school juniors and seniors an opportunity for career exploration and skills development.
- The budget strengthens the state's health care workforce pipeline in the areas of dentistry and oral hygiene by providing \$20 million general purpose revenue (GPR) in the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation for grants to technical colleges to expand and enhance related offerings.
- Modernization of technology is crucial for the Department of Safety and Professional Services to continue offering efficient and quality service for professional licensing. This budget upgrades and enhances department information technology systems, subscriptions by providing \$6.7 million over the biennium and adds additional positions to increase efficiencies and continue to provide effective credentialing services to the Wisconsin workforce.
- To increase the supply of safe, affordable housing and help address the workforce shortages impacting our state, this budget invests over \$500 million dollars for rehabilitation and remediation efforts for moderate to low-income families to repair their home and mitigate hazardous conditions such as lead and mold, provide low-interest loans to develop affordable workforce and senior housing, and expand state and federal housing tax credits, among other housing programs.

WTCS Policy Advisor Megan Stritchko shared a federal update:

House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved funding levels for the 12 appropriations bills and now each of the subcommittees are beginning appropriations markups. Senator Baldwin is the chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies subcommittee. President Foy sent a letter outlining the WTCS federal funding priorities including Perkins V CTE Basic State grants, AEFLA (Adult Education), and investments in several college grant programs and student support programs. Monitoring will continue on the developments in the appropriations process.

Federal agencies set and modify federal regulations through the rulemaking process. They issue a notice of proposed rulemaking – a draft of their proposed regulations – that is available for public comment for a specific period of time. In May, a notice of proposed rulemaking was released by the Department of Education that was wide-ranging and covered a variety of topics with far-reaching consequences for our colleges and students. The notice was more than 1,000 pages and contained significant data reporting and financial and administrative requirements. For certain technical diploma and certificate programs considered “gainful employment programs,” debt and earnings metrics must be met, or programs could lose eligibility for financial aid. For all programs, reporting on debt and earnings is required to provide students with information on the financial value of programs.

During the public comment period, President Foy, along with the presidents of all 16 colleges, submitted a letter outlining concerns with the proposed rule. They addressed several provisions in the rule, including the gainful employment provisions. At a high level, comments pointed to the added costs and burdens for institutions with potential to limit student choice and opportunity. We will be watching the developments closely.

Next steps are that the Department will review the public comments that were submitted and will release a final rule. The Department hopes to issue final rule by November 1 for it to go into effect July 1, 2024.

ITEM N: Announcements/Adjourn

Board Member Bahr thanked everyone across the System for their words of wisdom with this being her final meeting on the Board. Board President Tyler thanked Board Member Bahr for her service and for participating in so many events and representing the Board and WTCS so well.

The next meeting of the Board will be held September 12-13, 2023, at Gateway Technical College.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Drake