

MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
MARCH 11-12, 2025
MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Members Present: Lindsay Blumer, Quincey Daniels, Jr., Janixa Franco Gonzalez, Douglas Holton, Sr., Dan Klecker, Alex Lasry, Sara Rogers, Daniel Sperberg, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly.

Members Absent: Amy Pechacek, Karen Walsh.

System Office Staff Present: Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Stephanie Glynn, Paul Hammer, Tou Ya Khang, Colleen Larsen, Christina Lorge, Colleen McCabe, Layla Merrifield, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Ann Westrich, Danika Woods.

District/Others Present: Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Erin Greenawald, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Chuck Bolstad, Diane Handrick, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Tina Ahedo, Tim Casper, Anita Mazvimavi, Sylvia Ramirez, Gretchen Rixie, Kristin Rolling, Jonah Teixeira, Mark Thomas, Madison College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Anthony Cruz, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Scott Anderson, Kristen Raney, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Holly Clendenen, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Kai Brito, Wisconsin Student Government.

Board 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.

Board President Tyler thanked Interim President Dr. Tim Casper and his team for hosting the WTCS Board. Dr. Casper welcomed the Board to Madison College.

ITEM A: Approval of January 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Underly, seconded by Board Member Klecker, that the January 21, 2025 meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board President Tyler reminded Board members that discussions among Board members must not take place when a quorum is present unless the meeting is properly noticed, including an agenda. This applies to in-person meetings, emails and phone calls. Additionally, meeting minutes are required and should be facilitated through the System Office. Board members must adhere to these requirements and legal guidelines, ensuring that no discussion or action occurs on items not included on the agenda. To request an issue for discussion, members should email the Board President at least four weeks before a scheduled meeting to allow sufficient time for research.

The Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents report for February was shared with Board Members on March 4, 2025.

Board President Tyler expressed appreciation to President Dr. Shelly Mondeik from Mid-State Technical College for hosting Ag Day in Marshfield the morning of March 11, which included breakfast, a program, farm tour and lunch.

Board President Tyler encouraged Board members to attend the Ambassador banquet on Thursday, April 10 in Wisconsin Dells. Contact Ms. Drake if you are able to attend.

ITEM C: Report of the System President

System President Layla Merrifield shared System updates:

- Dr. Colleen McCabe attended the cross-sector Chief Academic Officer meeting in February to foster collaboration and build stronger connections among the higher education institutions across all sectors in Wisconsin. This meeting was designed to be a forum to identify shared goals, discuss promising practices and plan for future systemic collaborations. This was the inaugural event with each participant charged to work on one concrete action item to strengthen partnership between institutions.
- On Friday, March 7, WTCS Fire Service Testing & Certification Specialists Shari Jacobson and Denise Perkins were recognized by the Wisconsin State Firefighters Association for their years of service to the fire industry. Ms. Perkins has been with the State since 1993 and Ms. Jacobson since 1998. Their contributions to the System and Fire Service and the thousands of men and women who have interacted with them over the years is immeasurable.
- The Department of Workforce Development held the Wisconsin Biennial Apprenticeship Conference February 19-21, 2025, in Wisconsin Dells. Over 400 individuals registered, and System President Merrifield addressed attendees on the importance of the technical college system's partnership in developing Wisconsin's skilled workforce through apprenticeship. WTCS Associate Vice President for Instruction Chrystal Seeley-Schreck sat on a panel for Wisconsin Technical College System Degree-Aligned Apprenticeships. Carl Newman, Western Technical College, received the Registered Apprenticeship Educator Award and Greg Phillips, Blackhawk Technical College, was inducted into the Apprenticeship Hall of Fame.
- On February 27 nearly 100 staff and faculty attended the New Leaders Conference hosted by Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point to learn more about the System Office and meet and network with colleagues from other colleges. Topics included the history of the technical colleges and the System's impact on the state of Wisconsin, the roles of directors and staff at the System Office and how we can best support faculty and staff at the colleges through technical assistance, convening annual meetings, providing college and System-wide data and a variety of professional development opportunities.
- In February, individuals from various WTCS colleges, the YMCA, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, CAP Services, Reach Dane and other state agencies and community-based organizations gathered at Madison College to focus on Supporting Student Parents and Family Economic Mobility at a 2Gen Student Parent Convening. 2Gen approaches seek to address and interrupt cycles of poverty by creating the foundations for positive educational, economic and other outcomes that can pass from one generation to the next. The next in-person convening will be held on Tuesday, April 15.
- March is recognized as National Criminal Justice Month to promote societal awareness regarding the causes and consequences of crime, as well as strategies for preventing and responding to crime. WTCS will be promoting all that our colleges do to help those who are justice-involved, whether it is teaching adult education or career-oriented programming, those

who leave the justice system with skills are much more likely to have success, and this is one more way we can help employers find the talent they need.

- The announcement of Ascendium's Tools of the Trade Apprenticeship Scholarships is scheduled for the end of April, aligning with the celebration of Apprenticeship Day on April 30.
- The 2025 WTCS Ambassador Banquet will take place on April 10 in Wisconsin Dells. Please attend if your schedule allows.

ITEM D: Teaching & Learning – The Art of Articulating Transfer Pathways into Opportunities and Careers

Wisconsin Technical College System Provost and Vice President Dr. Colleen McCabe provided an overview of the articulation process, emphasizing its importance, defining types of educational agreements and discussing the development and oversight of these agreements at the System level.

Madison College Dean, School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Dr. Kevin Mirus and Transfer Center and Services Director Yohlunda Mosley Hill provided an overview of the art of articulating transfer pathways into opportunities and careers.

Board Member Holton inquired about the top three barriers Madison College is facing. They emphasized that these barriers vary based on perspectives and student connections.

1. Transfer Student Awareness – Many students do not initially consider transferring, making it essential to increase awareness and understanding of transfer opportunities.
2. Access to Higher Education – Addressing institutional accessibility challenges is critical in ensuring students can successfully enroll and navigate their educational pathways.
3. Student Confidence & Pathways – Encouraging student confidence in their potential by highlighting available pathways for success, empowering them to take the next steps in their academic and professional journeys.

Board President Tyler discussed evolving attitudes toward transfer students from two-year institutions at four-year universities. Historically, technical colleges were often overlooked, but perceptions are shifting. Two key factors driving this change are enrollment pressures—as universities seek additional student pipelines and faculty collaboration. Faculty from both sectors are engaging, building trust, and recognizing the rigor of courses taught at technical colleges.

A broader national trend shows increased reliance on transfer students, particularly in regions like the West, where some institutions have a 60% transfer student base. Universities recognize the diversity and accessibility benefits of integrating transfer students.

Private nonprofit institutions and UW campuses alike are actively working to engage and support transfer students, offering tuition reductions, scholarships and greater campus presence. UW-Madison, for example, has expressed strong interest in deeper campus integration. They will continue monitoring partnership development and student transfer opportunities.

Board Member Klecker asked if there is research data on how successful transfer students have been in completing four-year programs compared to students who start as freshman in the four-year system. Ms. Mosley Hill commented that four-year institutions' are increasingly receptive to transfer students, driven by enrollment declines and the need to fill seats. While institutional commitment varies, research shows transfer students perform on par with those who started at four-year colleges.

A study from UW Madison's transfer center found Madison College transfer students succeed at similar levels as their peers. Two-year institutions provide strong academic advising, faculty engagement and

research opportunities, helping students transition smoothly. Some students struggle with the larger environment of four-year campuses, but their classroom performance and leadership potential remain competitive.

Dr. McCabe shared that research from the Community College Research Center shows 80% of community college students intend to complete a bachelor's degree, but only 17% succeed. Factors beyond credit transfers such as relationships, academic support and student confidence impact success.

Board member Franco Gonzalez left the meeting at 5:25 pm

A UW-Madison study found students who complete associate degrees before transferring are more likely to complete their four-year degree. Institutions are adjusting articulation agreements to encourage completion before transfer, strengthening students' success rates. They will continue monitoring research and advocating for policies that support transfer student success.

Board President Tyler remarked that a lot of our students receive their technical degrees and move right into industry and they are successful. The employers then look to promote them into a management/supervisory position but the student may not have had the liberal arts content of supervision and marketing skills for managerial roles. Dr. McCabe indicated that changes to general education requirements now allow pre-major and occupational-focused courses, helping students transition to management and leadership roles in industry. Universities like UW-Platteville have embraced these pathways, accepting technical credits and facilitating degree completion in STEM and business disciplines.

Several four-year partners, including UW Online, offer bachelor's degree programs tailored to management and supervisory skills, ensuring students can apply their technical credits effectively. Efforts continue to maximize credit transfer and prevent unnecessary coursework, supporting students' progression in higher education and career development.

It was moved by Board Member Holton, seconded by Board Member Sperberg, to recess the meeting until Wednesday, March 12, 2025. The Board adjourned at 5:49 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Members Present: Lindsay Blumer, Janixa Franco Gonzalez, Douglas Holton, Sr., Dan Klecker, Sara Rogers, Daniel Sperberg, Leslie Svacina, S. Mark Tyler, Sharon Wendt for Jill Underly, Karen Walsh.

Members Absent: Quincey Daniels, Jr., Alex Lasry, Amy Pechacek.

System Office Staff Present: Sarah Arneson, Hilary Barker, Danielle Cook, Julie Drake, Stephanie Glynn, Paul Hammer, Mandy Johnson, Tou Ya Khang, Ben Konruff, Christina Lorge, Chris Martin, Joel Mathis, Colleen McCabe, Carolann Nelson, Jeremy Nichols, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Brent Simmons, Lenard Simpson, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Megan Stritchko, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, Ann Westrich.

District/Others Present: Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Chuck Bolstad, Diane Handrick, District Boards Association; Chris Matheny, Fox Valley Technical College; Ritu Raju, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Tim Casper, Anita Mazvimavi, Sylvia Ramirez, Madison Area Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Anthony Cruz, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Nicolet Area Technical College; Katie Felch, Chet Strebe, Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; John Will, Northwood Technical College; Holly Clendenen, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Becky Jacobs, The Cap Times; Rich Barnhouse,

Waukesha County Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Kai Brito, Wisconsin Student Government.

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 Madison College for the dinner served by students on Tuesday evening and enjoyed meeting with Dr. Kaplan from UW-Health along with the nursing students. The Board recognized [UW Health with the Board's Futuremaker Partner Award](#) for their collaboration with Madison College, pioneering innovations like the nation's first Registered Nurse Apprenticeship, which demonstrates their commitment to equity, innovation and workforce development in healthcare.

ITEM E: 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 Diane Handrick updated the Board on recent activities.

The DBA participated in the National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. in February, alongside college presidents who did an outstanding job engaging with legislators and sharing the good work our colleges do as open access colleges. Together, they effectively communicated our ongoing commitment to serving students in the most impactful ways possible.

The DBA and System office co-hosted a Legislative Open House with a biennium budget briefing at the State Capitol for legislators on January 30. WisconsinEye filmed the presentation and it was shared with all legislators. Follow-up meetings continue to take place by System President Merrifield, Ms. Handrick and legislators.

The DBA also encouraged everyone to attend the Ambassador banquet. The DBA will hold a shortened spring meeting on Friday morning and, new this year, will host the WTCS Student Ambassadors for breakfast, giving trustees and the Ambassadors time to network.

ITEM F: WTCS Presidents' Association

Dr. Rich Barnhouse, president of Waukesha County Technical College and chair of the Association, provided the Board with an update on recent activities.

The Presidents' Association will convene the afternoon of March 12 to discuss approaches to executive orders, federal grants, potential changes to Act 10, the biennial budget, college name changes and Aspen Board Development.

Following the January WTCS Board meeting and Board Member Holton's request, the Presidents' Association recommended a narrower range for consideration by the Board tuition workgroup. They will continue this process, and Board President Tyler thanked them for their contributions. Additionally, the Board Tuition Workgroup sought input from students as they always do, recognizing the value of different perspectives.

Dr. Barnhouse expressed gratitude for being part of the System, acknowledging the strength of its president colleagues and support of the System Board. He emphasized how effectively the colleges collaborate to serve the Districts, taxpayers and business and industry leaders.

ITEM G: Consent Agenda

It was moved by Board Member Rogers, seconded by Board Member Wendt 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 Klecker, seconded by Board Member Sperberg that the Board approve the facility development request for Waukesha County Technical College. Board Member Franco Gonzalez abstained. Motion carried.

ITEM H: State and Federal Grant Awards

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang presented an overview of the System's grant timeline, categories, process, examples and highlights of 2024-25 grant work of the colleges. The goals of the 2025-26 grants align with the priorities of the Board, including:

- expanding Wisconsin's skilled workforce;
- prioritizing student success;
- continuously improving instruction at the colleges; and
- encouraging innovation.

Following Board approval, the System Office will issue grant action notices informing applicants of their grant status – whether approved, disapproved, or requiring revisions for funding eligibility. Technical assistance will be available for those needing revisions.

Applicants whose grants are not funded will receive formal notification via turn-down letters. Additionally, the System offers feedback calls to provide insights on unsuccessful applications.

All grant activities for FY26 will begin July 1, 2025. Support will be provided by WTCS as needed during the grant period.

Three videos were shared with the Board highlighting benefits to students from grants approved by the Board last year:

- [English Language Learning Camp – Southwest Wisconsin Technical College](#)
- [Surgical Technology – Chippewa Valley Technical College](#)
- [Architectural Technology – Northeast Wisconsin Technical College](#)

It was moved by Board Member Sperberg, seconded by Board Member Holton, that the Board approves funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant programs for fiscal year 2025-26, as presented, with the exception of Waukesha County Technical College grant awards. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Board Member Sperberg, seconded by Board Member Klecker, that the Board approves funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant programs for fiscal year 2025-26 for Waukesha County Technical College. Board Member Franco Gonzalez abstained. Motion carried.

Board member Sperberg left the meeting at 10:30 am.

The Board reconvened at 10:45 am after a short break.

ITEM I: 2025-26 Tuition Recommendation

WTCS Executive Vice President Paul Hammer, who facilitated a tuition workgroup of Board members, provided the Board with an overview of the group's findings and recommendation along with the process and historical trends.

The tuition workgroup included Board Members Franco Gonzalez, Holton and Rogers, and Board President Tyler. The group considered factors currently affecting the technical colleges and forwarded a recommendation for a 2.25% increase in tuition for Occupational degrees and a 1.75% increase for Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (AA/AS) degrees.

Board Member Holton, with five years of experience on this workgroup, felt the discussions were different given the current environment. The primary focus was on maintaining adequate funding for colleges while considering financial constraints. The workgroup reaffirmed its recommendation, emphasizing the value it provides to students. Confidence remains in the existing system, ensuring competitiveness and financial sustainability.

Board President Tyler acknowledged the extensive work of staff in gathering and presenting requested information, commending their thorough efforts. The discussion emphasized the impact of slow and steady tuition increases, highlighting how the workgroup's conservative yet predictable approach has preserved its authority and strengthened financial stability. Compared to universities facing different financial conditions, this strategy has positioned the System well over the past decade. Appreciation was expressed for the decisions and approach taken, which continue to support long-term sustainability.

Board Member Blumer inquired about data correlating tuition increases with student enrollments. Mr. Hammer is unsure whether we have quantitative data on this. The workgroup consulted financial aid officers at all of the colleges, who stated that while tuition is a factor in enrollment decisions, it is considered alongside other financial elements such as financial aid, employment and childcare costs. While tuition rates do have an impact, there are few specific examples of students making enrollment decisions solely based on tuition changes.

It was moved by Board Member Franco Gonzalez, seconded by Board Member Rogers, that upon the recommendation of the president of the Wisconsin Technical College System, the per credit tuition rates for 2025-26, beginning with the summer session, shall be as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Occupational | \$158.25 per credit |
| • Occupational non-resident addition | \$76.43 per credit |
| • Associate of Arts/Associate of Science | \$192.20 per credit |
| • Associate of Arts/Associate of Science non-resident addition | \$96.10 per credit |

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM J: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Paul Hammer, along with Policy Advisors Megan Stritchko and Brandon Trujillo and DBA Executive Director Diane Handrick provided an overview of legislative items affecting the System.

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided the following updates:

- Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) - a recap of the WSG legislative session held on February 17, which featured several notable speakers, including President Merrifield and Secretary Pechacek, and a surprise appearance by Governor Evers, marking the first time a

sitting governor attended the event. Following the session, students engaged in meetings with legislators, preparing through games where they practiced elevator speeches and received real-time feedback from advisors. Reports from participating colleges indicated positive experiences, with no negative feedback received. WSG President Kai Brito was recognized for his efforts in securing the Governor's attendance.

- Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) & Wisconsin Grants - A significant change is underway for Wisconsin Grants under Act 80 (passed in 2023), allowing funding for students enrolled less than half-time starting in the 2025-26 academic year. Awards will be prorated based on enrollment, with half-time students receiving 50% funding, three-quarter-time receiving 75%, and full-time students receiving 100%. If the Governor's budget provides full funding, grant awards may be increased, benefiting additional students. HEAB has committed to working closely with financial aid directors to ensure smooth implementation.
- Wisconsin GI Bill Updates - Senate Bill 59 / Assembly Bill 47 proposes removing the residency requirement for Wisconsin GI Bill eligibility. Under current law, veterans must have been Wisconsin residents upon enlistment or reside in Wisconsin for five years post-service to qualify. The new bill would eliminate this requirement, allowing veterans to qualify immediately upon moving to Wisconsin. Financial concerns persist due to insufficient legislative funding—In 2024, WTCS provided remissions to 1,622 veterans, spouses and children in the amount of \$4,071,658 and was reimbursed at \$621,861, a difference of about \$3.4 million dollars. This comes out to .15 cents on the dollar. The funding gap remains a focal point in fiscal discussions with the legislature. The committee will continue monitoring legislative developments and potential impacts on student funding and veteran benefits.

Executive Vice President Paul Hammer shared significant updates affecting the System regarding the state budget since the last meeting in January. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau's revenue forecast released in January projected an additional \$600 million in revenue over the next three fiscal years, providing the legislature with more resources for budget deliberations.

On February 18, the governor introduced his biennial budget proposal, which includes almost all WTCS requests submitted in September—a strong starting point for discussions.

- \$45 million increase in general aid for colleges, with \$20 million in the first year and \$25 million in the second year, distributed through the existing aid framework (70% statutory formula, 30% outcomes-based funding).
- \$10 million in grants for AI initiatives over the biennium (\$8 million in the first year, \$2 million ongoing). Funding supports curriculum/resource development, educator recruitment, credential development and infrastructure.
- \$3 million for open educational resources (OER) - funded only for one year, rather than ongoing.
- \$10.8 million annual increase for Wisconsin Grants for WTCS students, expanding financial aid access.
- \$660,000 per year for System Office operations, targeting IT infrastructure, cybersecurity preparedness and position funding gaps.
- In-state tuition eligibility expanded to include certain undocumented individuals and tribal members from Wisconsin and neighboring states.
- Full tuition remission for Wisconsin federally recognized tribe members and student teachers enrolled in educator preparatory programs during their student teaching semester.
- Pilot program for nursing refresher courses—\$150,000 annually for tuition reimbursement for former nurses returning to practice through technical colleges.

- Provision allowing rehiring of retired Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) annuitants without requiring annuity suspension, under specific conditions.
- Mandate for employers with 50+ employees to provide eight weeks of paid family medical leave with income replacement benefits.

Additional budget items are still under review, and legislative deliberations will determine final provisions. The policy team continues monitoring developments to ensure technical education receives appropriate funding and support.

DBA Executive Director Diane Handrick shared state legislation updates affecting the System.

- Several bills are under consideration, including Senate Bill 116 / Assembly Bill 102, which addresses policies related to collegiate sports, locker room use and gender classification at birth. A K-12 version was heard last week. The collegiate bill has undergone lengthy hearings, with potential amendments introduced to clarify the application of regulations to co-ed and e-sports programs. The policy team continues to monitor changes and the governor's stance on signing the bill remains uncertain.
- The Assembly Government Operations, Accountability and Transparency Committee held its first meeting, bringing in multiple state agencies to discuss telework and workspace efficiency. Concerns were raised about office occupancy levels and how to quantify remote work. Agencies such as Department of Administration, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Department of Public Instruction and Department of Health Services participated, along with private entities like banking representatives and Jay Rothman from the Universities of Wisconsin. WTCS may be called before the committee in the future.
- The Senate is reviewing confirmations for various boards and councils, including the System and Board of Regents, with anticipated decisions in the near future.
- Legislative discussions on the state budget remain active. While the governor's budget provided significant funding, the legislature intends to rewrite it entirely, making ongoing advocacy essential. WTCS staff members, including President Merrifield, Policy Advisors Stritchko and Trujillo and Executive Vice President Hammer, continue engaging with legislators through formal meetings and follow-ups to provide information supporting technical education investments.
- Technical education maintains strong credibility within the legislature. Efforts are focused on ensuring it remains a priority amid shifting legislative decisions. Regular communication with legislators and their staff remains crucial, as they rely on accurate information provided by the System.
- The policy team will continue monitoring developments and maintaining engagement to support funding and policy priorities.

WTCS Policy Advisor Megan Stritchko provided federal updates and continues to track the significant federal activity following the new administration, noting a record number of executive orders and ongoing legal challenges. As the situation is rapidly evolving, they will closely monitor developments and assess potential impacts on policy and operations.

Board President Tyler asked if there will be impacts of name, image and likeness (NIL) compensation for athletes, noting that sizeable payments have been permitted through legislation or court rulings. While these changes primarily affect National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) athletes, there are emerging discussions about impacts at the high school level. Mr. Trujillo clarified that the colleges fall under the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) rather than the NCAA, and his initial understanding is that NIL rules would not apply. However, he will further investigate to ensure accuracy.

Given ongoing discussions about high school athletics, they will monitor the issue for any potential implications.

Board President Tyler asked if the System has always been refunded, including training programs and adult education, through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Ms. Stritchko stated that in the last session, a bipartisan agreement on WIOA was nearly reached, with plans to include it in the continuing resolution, but it was pulled at the last minute. The reauthorization process will need to be repeated in this session. There is bipartisan support for WIOA, and a recent hearing on the matter was positive. While the current focus remains on broader funding considerations, the policy team remains optimistic that WIOA reauthorization could progress once other financial issues are addressed.

ITEM K: Announcements/Adjourn

Board President Tyler commended WTCS Multimedia Specialist Jeremy Nichols for producing videos for Futuremaker Partners and adding context to grant recipients and various programs. Board members appreciate the effort to highlight individuals rather than solely focusing on data, enhancing their understanding of the impact.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held May 20, 2025, at the Hill Farms State Office Building in Madison.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Drake