

FALL 2022

Impact



WAUPACA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

START YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT WCTC!

Liberal Arts Transfer Degrees
Offer Seamless Transitions



WHAT'S INSIDE

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ENJOY THE FALL EDITION OF IMPACT!

WCTC Impact is designed to showcase stories of how our graduates, students, instructors, and community and business partners strive to make a difference in the world around them, and how WCTC has propelled them to succeed. This publication highlights the latest happenings, changes and improvements at the College and it shines a light on student and alumni achievement.

Impact is published for the communities of Waukesha County Technical College.

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A Message from the WCTC **PRESIDENT**

Excelerated Start to a Bachelor's

Waukesha County Technical College continues to move the goal posts leading in the future of higher education. Just a few months ago, we launched the WCTC Exceleerate initiative and we've had a tremendous response. WCTC is now becoming known as the institution where college begins as a junior in high school.

In January 2023, WCTC will be expanding offerings even further. Our College will begin offering Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. These new programs allow students to work toward a bachelor's degree while attending classes at WCTC. A myriad of options will be available, including evening programming. High school juniors and seniors can also apply to these new programs through the WCTC Exceleerate initiative.

WCTC continues moving forward creating programming for specific employers.

Our partnerships with employers highlight the importance of education and industry coming together to meet workforce needs. WCTC will be expanding these opportunities with more partner employers for years to come.

I'm proud to lead WCTC into our upcoming 100th year. Thank you for your support as WCTC continues working toward education and training solutions to meet the needs of our workforce now and in the future.

Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D.



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COUNTY TECHNICAL
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Hands-on
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800 Main Street, Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072



“Students will be taught by exceptional faculty in small classrooms, and they will be well prepared when they get to a university as a (college) junior.”

- WCTC President Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D.





SMART PATHWAY TO A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Liberal Arts Transfer Degrees Offer Seamless Transitions to Four-Year Colleges, Universities

When high school and adult students start thinking about college programs, they will soon have two new options available to them at Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC).


Starting in January, and for the first time in WCTC's 100-year history, the College will begin welcoming students into the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) liberal arts transfer degree programs. This adds to the College's already robust offerings, including Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees, technical diplomas, certificates and apprenticeships, and it provides students an affordable, convenient option to earn the first two years of a four-year degree - right in their own backyard.

The AA and AS degree programs allow students to seamlessly transfer to

regional partner University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), as well as other four-year colleges and universities, with the general education requirements of a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree already completed.

And it's a boon to different types of students: recent high school grads, returning adult students and even current high school juniors and seniors.

"Students are going to get that associate degree at a reasonable price. They will be taught by exceptional faculty in small classrooms, and they will be well prepared when they get to a university as a (college) junior," said WCTC President Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D. "I also think we'll see a number of working adults who want to complete or start their bachelor's degree, and that will be an unbelievable access point."



There are additional benefits for current high school students who use a new dual enrollment initiative to enroll in a full WCTC program while still in high school, Barnhouse said. "By pairing the AA and AS with Excelerate, it's going to speed up the education process, lower costs for parents and families, and reduce college debt."

Flexible Learning Options and Cost Savings

The AS program is comprised of 61 credits – 49 general education and 12 electives – and focuses on math and science, while the AA program is comprised of 61 credits – 51 general education and 10 electives – with a focus on arts, humanities and social sciences. By completing one of these degrees, students will satisfy the first two years of general education requirements for different majors at UW and other institutions, guaranteeing them admission at junior standing, provided all requirements are met.

By offering the AA and AS at WCTC, students will save money on courses, as most cost around \$143 to \$189 per credit; have opportunities for flexible learning options, including in-person (day or night), online or hybrid classes; and benefit from the College's eight-week, year-round calendar. In addition, some classes will be offered at UWM's regional campus – UWM at Waukesha.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for students to get to know UWM before continuing their education at the main campus in Milwaukee. This partnership makes a high-quality bachelor's degree available to students at a very affordable price," UWM Chancellor Mark Mone, Ph.D., said. "We appreciate the excellent education provided by WCTC and, equally important, their collaboration as we focus on what really matters: student success."

Strengthening Relationships with Partner Institutions

A number of WCTC students who have graduated from WCTC with AAS degrees and have sought bachelor's degrees have gone on to earn them at UWM, Barnhouse said. The new liberal arts transfer degrees will only strengthen the relationship between the two institutions, support additional students and prepare more employees for the workforce.

"At WCTC, we're always excited to offer something new for our students – but to be able to partner with a great institution like UW-Milwaukee and provide them with unbelievably qualified students who are ready to go as juniors takes this partnership to the next level," Barnhouse said. "This improves how two public



“If we want to be a place that students choose to come to, we have to do our part in terms of greater flexibility.”

- Wisconsin Technical College System President Morna Foy, Ph.D.

institutions, supported by the taxpayers, work together to streamline the college process for all students in this general region.”

Expanding Access to the Liberal Arts

The UW System Board of Regents in spring approved a plan to allow eight technical colleges within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) - including WCTC - to offer liberal arts degrees and partner with UW System campuses. To date, all 16 colleges within the WTCS now offer the AA and AS programs and a more direct, clear academic path for those interested in furthering their education. Additionally, both programs at WCTC were also accredited by the Higher Learning Commission in July.

For many years, some technical colleges, but not all, offered AA and AS degrees, said Morna Foy, Ph.D., president of the WTCS. But because of COVID-19, societal change and other factors, the expectations of a technical college grew: students and employers demanded more, and system colleges needed to provide new ways for students to earn credentials. This pushed technical colleges to seek approval from policymakers for the liberal arts transfer degrees.



"If we want to be a place that students choose to come to, we have to do our part in terms of greater flexibility," Foy said. "It also creates more equitable access to educational opportunities and pathways around the state."

With solid transfer agreements in place and resources to help students navigate that process, the greater the probability for them to advance in their education.

"The more people expect to choose the educational pathway that works best for them, the more it's going to push us as institutions to improve the clarity and accuracy in our transfer relationships," she said. "We are able to demonstrate, with data, that the clearer the path is, the

more likely the students will successfully traverse it."

However, Foy said, technical colleges need to stay true to their mission, but continue to collaborate with other institutes of higher education to help students achieve their ultimate academic goals.

"We do want to keep the focus and primacy of technical education at technical colleges," she said. "We don't want AA/AS degrees to be our main business, but we do want to make sure all our credits are as portable as possible." ■

Applications for the AA and AS programs are now being accepted for the spring semester.

LEARN MORE

wctc.edu/liberal-arts



SELECT HIGHLIGHTS

Admission to UWM

Upon graduation, all 61 credits will transfer to UW-Milwaukee.

Flexible Options

These programs can be completed at night, during the day, online or in person.

Cost Savings

Most courses in these programs cost between \$143 - \$189 per credit.

“The combined efforts of the teams created a whirlwind of synergies.”

– Jon Wehrli,
president of Eaton,
Power Systems
Division

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND

Collaboration Between WCTC, Eaton Corp. Helps Train Coil Winders

To better prepare their workforce for specialized coil winding roles, Eaton Corporation collaborated with WCTC to offer a niche bootcamp. Six Eaton employees met for 120 hours of intense training to learn how to safely and effectively prepare for their jobs. They are tasked with winding wire coils used in electrical components, such as transformers, which generate power used to run critical infrastructure and technology.

WCTC’s longtime manufacturing instructors Ken Heinritz and Jason Solberg led the bootcamp, which included hands-on TIG welding, coil winding training and classroom work.

“Coil winders are in such high demand right now, and with good starting wages,” said Mike Shiels, dean, WCTC School of Applied Technologies.

Training focused on reviewing engineering documents, examining coil materials, using specialty tools, practicing TIG welding and brazing techniques, threading machines and more.

“The first-of-its-kind coil winding training program is a result of many hours of close partnership between Eaton and WCTC. The combined efforts of the teams created a whirlwind of synergies,” said Jon Wehrli, president of Eaton, Power Systems Division.

Bootcamps will be offered regularly, starting in January, and will extend to the public. Additionally, Eaton has donated a coil winding machine to WCTC, which is being refurbished and will be used for future trainings. ■

To learn more, contact Aly Scharf, training manager at Eaton, Power Systems Division, alyscharf@eaton.com.



Nontraditional Journey

Meet Mara Dobb, Human Resources '13



A lumna Mara Dobb ('13) found herself facing a fork in the road as she crossed the stage at her high school graduation. While her peers went on to their freshman year of college, Dobb followed personal obligations to the workforce. Without knowing it then, she had already taken her first step on the path to a rewarding career in human resources.

Dobb's first post-high school employer was Citizen Bank of Mukwonago, where she would go on to hold several positions over the coming years. By her final role, Dobb had found her way to a position focused on training new hires and employees looking to change roles. "While I loved to develop and train individuals, I found my conversations were more focused around what's next for them and helping them connect to others in the network to build on their skill sets," said Dobb. She realized it was time to ask herself the same question: what's next?

Ready to take her own skills to the next level, Dobb decided to pursue an associate degree. "I had worked multiple jobs, worked long hours, and for several years worked my way up to promotions to prove I was worthy as I compared myself to my classmates earning their degrees," said Dobb. "I decided to stop comparing and make an action."

Dobb's search led her to WCTC. "I opted to find a community college that was flexible with my work schedule," she said. Other

draws were the cost-effectiveness, small class sizes and invested instructors. "What they taught, they were passionate about." Dobb took advantage of evening and online classes and was even able to earn WCTC credit for her experience in the workforce.

As she continued her education, Dobb was ready to take on bigger challenges at a larger company. She landed an interviewing coordinator role at Kelly Services, where she quickly took on extra responsibilities to learn the ropes of recruiting. By the time she finished her associate degree, she was promoted to recruiter. Dobb graduated from WCTC early and with honors – a trend that would continue.

As one big step led to another, Dobb immediately enrolled in Concordia University Wisconsin's Human Resource Management program, and she capitalized on the same evening and online course offerings that would allow her to earn her bachelor's degree while working full-time in her new role. Again, Dobb excelled in her courses and graduated with high honors.

"I put myself on the fast track to graduate within the same timeframe my classmates did to prove to myself what I was capable of, but as I got older, I recognized something: our journeys are unique to us," said Dobb. "I'm proud of my nontraditional journey. It shaped me into the person I am today."

By 2018, Dobb was ready to move into a new sphere: in-house corporate recruitment.



“Never believe things are impossible or unachievable. If you have grit and hunger, you can make things possible, even as a nontraditional student.”

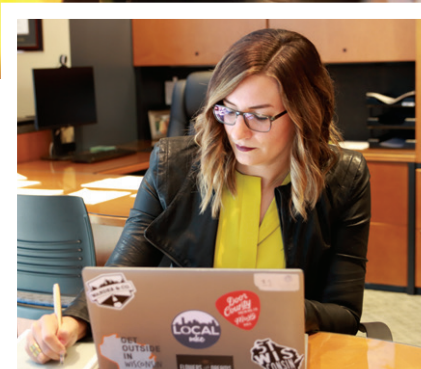
- Mara Dibb

She joined the newly developed Talent Acquisition team at SC Johnson as an associate manager recruiter. "Not only was I managing a full-time recruiting desk, myself and the team were establishing the fundamentals of recruitment at SC Johnson," she said. Soon after, she was asked to extend her support to additional teams and found herself managing a variety of projects, including rolling out a new interview training program and implementing new technology to support video interviewing.

The organization recognized her skill set and created a role where Dibb could shine. "Within a year, I was promoted to lead that department and shortly after took on Global Head of Talent Acquisition Programs, Employment Brand and Early Careers," she said. "Talent Acquisition is a

space that is constantly evolving. Workforce dynamics, economic factors and global-wide pandemics really change the way we find quality talent and bring them to SC Johnson. Myself and my team are constantly at the forefront, learning, diving into data, networking and exploring new ways to recruit the next best talent."

Dibb's advice for fellow nontraditional students is simple: "Never believe things are impossible or unachievable. If you have grit and hunger, you can make things possible, even as a nontraditional student," she said. "Find your why and don't follow someone else's. Don't ever compare yourself. Your purpose is already here." ■



Mara Dibb's path led her to a rewarding career as Global head of Talent Acquisition Programs, Employment Brand and Early Careers at SC Johnson.

IN THE NEWS



Educators Earn Infant Mental Health Endorsement

Early Childhood Education (ECE) students Kimberly Miles, Joyce Sorenson, Christine Stern (also a WCTC Child Development Center (CDC) teacher), Holly Wilson and Anne-Marie Wolter – along with CDC teacher Jennifer Mendoza and ECE instructor Jennifer Koel, Ph.D., were awarded the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health Endorsement, after a rigorous evaluation process. The endorsement demonstrates knowledge and experience in nationally recognized competencies in the infant and family field; meets nationally recognized standards for providing culturally sensitive, relationship-focused services; and recognizes a commitment to providing services that promote infant mental health with a high level of quality and integrity.

WCTC has built the support for attaining this specialty endorsement into the Infant-Toddler Credential coursework, so students have the opportunity to be awarded both distinctions upon completion of the program, said Joan Hader, associate dean, Education and Human Services. Additionally, WCTC is the first college in Wisconsin to graduate students earning this endorsement through the Infant Toddler Credential process. ■

Chef Jack Birren Named ACF Chef Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Culinary Management instructor Chef Jack Birren for earning the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Chef Educator of the Year award! Birren was presented the award at the ACF National Convention in summer. As part of the competition, chefs gave a 60-minute live educational presentation consisting of a lesson, cooking demonstration, plating of a composed entree and question-and-answer session. Chefs also submitted a written lesson plan to competition judges and the ACF National Office. ■



WCTC President Pays Students a Surprise Visit

In the weeks leading up to the start of the fall semester and the new academic year, WCTC President Rich Barnhouse,

Ph.D., stopped at a few students' homes to pay them a surprise visit and welcome them to WCTC. Among them were visits to Macauley Omereoyne, Human Services student, and Nicholas Mydlowski, Metal Fabrication/Welding student. In addition, students received lawn signs to display in their yards to show their WCTC pride! ■



WCTC's Maple Street location in 1956.

100 NEXT century of IMPACT

Next year - 2023 - marks the 100th anniversary of Waukesha County Technical College, and a number of celebrations will start in spring! Planning is in the works for events designed to engage the greater Waukesha County community, including a campus/community clean-up effort, golf outing, open house and ticketed, formal gala. Visit wctc.edu in the coming months for details. ■



Remembrance Scholarships Leave a Legacy

Sunflowers will forever be a reminder of Sarah Mindiola Barse. A native of Kansas, she always loved the cheerful state flower. She was a first-generation college graduate, earning her bachelor's degree from UW-La Crosse in 2004 and her Nursing degree from WCTC in 2007 and began working as a nurse shortly thereafter. In 2008, she married her husband, Mike, and nine months into their marriage, she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She courageously battled the disease, but lost her fight in 2014. Her family established the Sarah Mindiola Barse Sunflower Scholarship and Endowment in her memory. This WCTC Foundation scholarship benefits a first-generation Nursing student in their final semester of study and honors Sarah's legacy. ■

To learn more about the WCTC Foundation Remembrance Program, please contact the Foundation Office at 262.691.5202 or foundation@wctc.edu.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

March 2023

WCTC & Foundation Board Celebration Event

April 2023

Earth Day Campus & Community Clean-Up Event

May 2023

Child Development Center Golf Outing Collaboration

July 2023

Celebrity Chef Dinner & Fundraiser

November 2023

100th Anniversary Celebration Gala

*Dates and events are tentative and subject to change. Please visit wctc.edu for the most up-to-date information.



A Head Start on College

Fall Marks Official Start of Excelerate Initiative



Automotive Technology
60-credit AAS | wctc.edu/auto-general

WCTC welcomed its first official group of Excelerate high school students to campus in August! According to the College's Center for Early College Opportunities (ECO), more than 60 students were admitted into a program for fall through the Excelerate initiative – and those students hail from 24 different school districts/institutions.

Through Excelerate, high school juniors and seniors can earn dual credit – both high school and college credits at the same time – and possibly earn an associate degree, technical diploma or certificate, even before they graduate from high school.

The WCTC initiative offers several benefits to program-seeking students, including priority registration for courses, academic advising, new student orientation and numerous other on-campus resources. ■

Learn more at wctc.edu/excelerate.

“It allows (high school) students just to be regular college students.”

- WCTC President
Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D.

SUMMARY OF WCTC PROGRAMS

Apply NOW! Choose from over 90 Degree Programs!



Check out all our programs online at wctc.edu/programs.

Architecture and Construction

Building Trades - Carpentry
Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating Service Technician
Concrete Finishing (ABC)
Electrician (ABC)
Plumbing (ABC)

Business, Management and Finance

Accounting
Human Resources
Marketing
Real Estate

Education

Autism Technician

Cosmetology

Aesthetician

Interior Design

Graphic Communications

Health

Nursing
Phlebotomy
Surgical Technology
Medical Assisting

Hospitality, Culinary and Baking and Pastry

Information Technology

Manufacturing

Welding
Robotics
Tool and Die

Protective Services

Criminal Justice
Emergency Medical Technician
Fire Protection Technician

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

Biomedical Electronics
Electrical Engineering
Manufacturing Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Transportation

Automotive Maintenance
Diesel Maintenance
Truck Driving (CDL Class A)

New Program!

IT - Cloud Technical Solution Specialist

27-CREDIT TECHNICAL DIPLOMA
WCTC.EDU/CLOUD-TECH

The new IT - Cloud Technical Solution Specialist program began welcoming students this fall. Those in the program will learn to research, implement, manage, maintain, monitor and troubleshoot a secure cloud infrastructure essential for day-to-day business operations.

Waukesha County Technical College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Member college of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS).

All information in this edition of *Impact* is current as of publication printing. The most current information is located on our website at wctc.edu.

Text "wctcalerts" to 78015 to sign up for WCTC emergency alerts.

WCTC prohibits discrimination or harassment based on any status protected by applicable state or federal law.



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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Join us at WCTC's

Open House

Your tomorrow starts today.

**Thursday, October 27, 2022
& Thursday, February 23, 2023**

Waukesha County Technical College's Open House is your one-stop shop for all things WCTC.

Register at wctc.edu/open-house.

