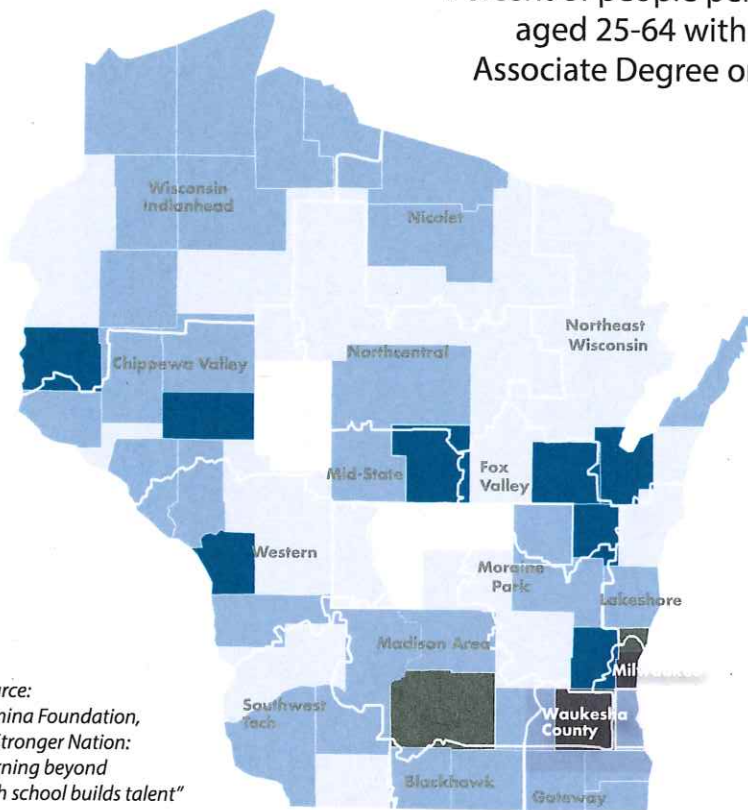


Percent of people per county
aged 25-64 with an
Associate Degree or more



Attainment	# of counties
< 26%	3
26 - 35.9%	25
36 - 45.9%	33
46 - 55.9%	8
56 % >	3

Attainment rates are available in an online layered map at wtcsystem.edu/map

Source:
Lumina Foundation,
"A Stronger Nation:
learning beyond
high school builds talent"

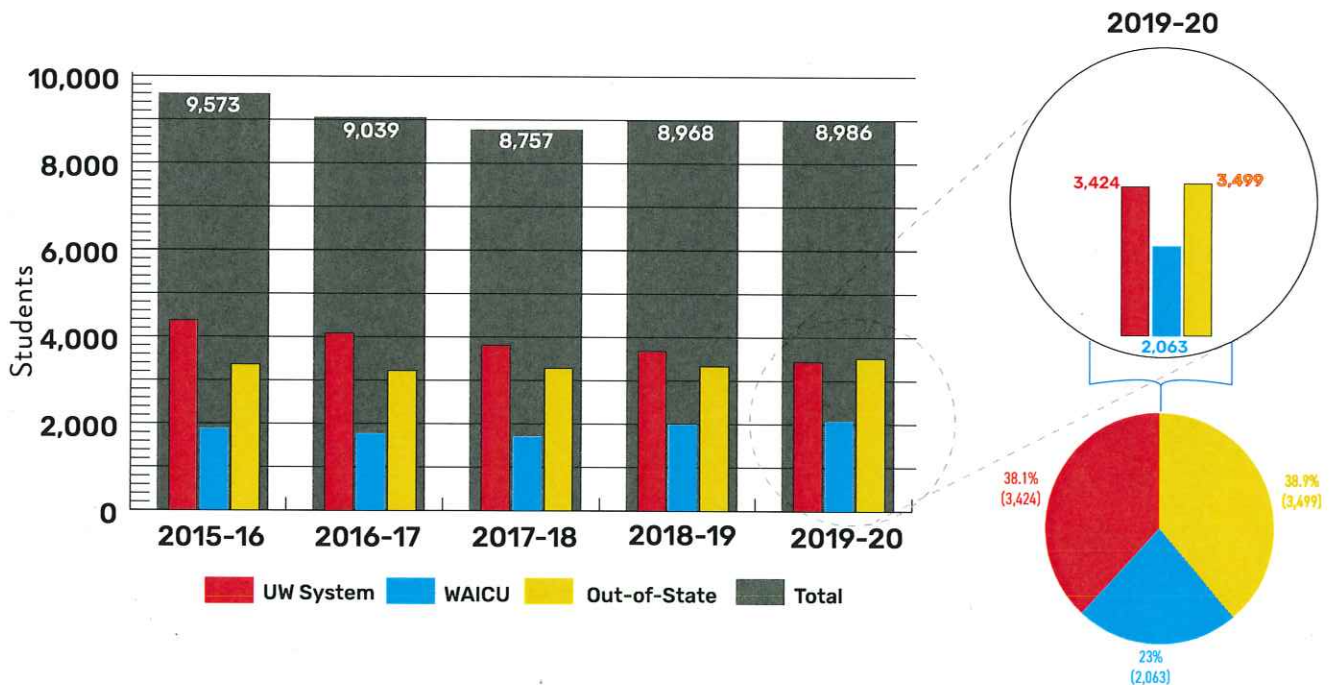


TRENDS IN STUDENT, CREDIT TRANSFER

TRANSFER FROM WTCS

Transfer from WTCS to UW, WAICU or Out-of-State Institutions: Total Students
2015-16 to 2019-20

TRANSFER FROM WTCS

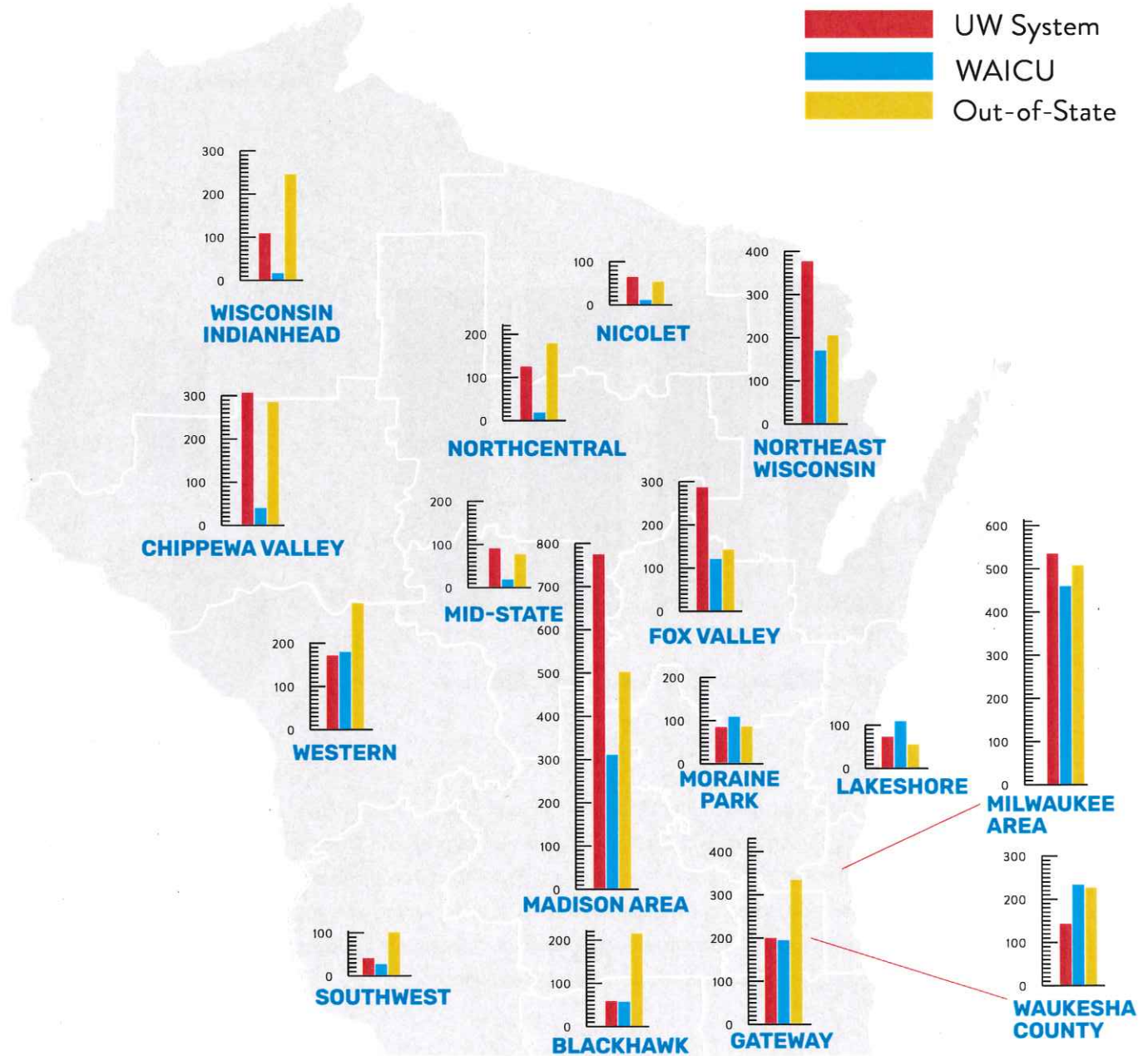


The source for the above figures regarding students transferring out of WTCS and into the University of Wisconsin (UW) System in year's 2015-16 through 2016-17 was UW System's Undergraduate Transfer Students 2016-17 Informational Memorandum, data for the years 2017-18 through 2019-20 was provided by a data request to the UW System Office of Policy Analysis and Research. The data source for all calculations and figures regarding WTCS students transferring out of WTCS and to a Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) institution or out-of-state institutions was the National Student Clearinghouse.

TRANSFER FROM WTCS

Transfer from WTCS to UW System, WAICU and Out-of-State Institutions: By College
2019-20

TRANSFER FROM WTCS



The source for above figures regarding students transferring out of WTCS and into the University of Wisconsin (UW) System was a data request to the UW System Office of Policy Analysis and Research. The data source for all calculations and figures regarding WTCS students transferring out of WTCS and to a Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) institution or out-of-state institutions was the National Student Clearinghouse.

WAUKESHA COUNTY BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Advocate / Develop / Network / Promote

To: Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

From: Waukesha County Business Alliance (WCBA)

Date: May 20, 2021

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 266 (Eliminating certain restrictions on the respective educational roles of the University of Wisconsin System and the Technical College System)

Of the 16 Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) campuses, six can currently offer Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees in general education. An AA/AS degree in general education typically satisfies the first two years of general education requirements for four-year colleges and universities. Current state law requires the remaining 10 technical colleges to get approval from the UW System Board of Regents before expanding associate degree offerings in general education beyond what was offered in 1973. Likewise, the UW System must get approval from the Wisconsin Technical College System Board to expand "semiprofessional or skilled-trade" programs beyond what was available in 1973.

- *AB266 will let WTCS colleges provide an AA/AS degree in general education without approval from the UW System Board of Regents and will let UW System institutions expand their two-year degrees without approval from the WTCS Board.*
- *AB266 will allow students who plan on transferring to a four-year UW campus to earn general education credits at over 50 WTCS campuses, close to their families, jobs, and lives, while having access to federal and state need-based financial assistance.*

Recognizing that education is critical to developing a strong future workforce, the Waukesha County Business Alliance is focused on fostering effective education pathways that prepare students for job opportunities in the marketplace today, and in the future. Support for a comprehensive, coherent credit transfer system has been a policy priority of the Alliance for years. We strongly believe that the post-secondary education experience should be an effective, efficient and flexible pathway for students, and ultimately their employers.

One aspect of making those pathways effective is reducing the time and cost to obtain a post-secondary degree. Both time and cost can be positively impacted by giving students options and encouraging our post-secondary partners in Wisconsin to ensure those options work together seamlessly.

Wisconsin needs flexible pathways for students who are transferring between technical colleges and public or private four-year universities. Economic growth requires ongoing investments into building a talent pipeline and our employers require an agile workforce that can adapt quickly to changing demands. We must continue to remove barriers and build connections among our education institutions and our employers. A cooperative and reciprocal relationship between technical colleges and four-year universities will benefit our students, our employers and the state.

As the demand for highly skilled workers continues to grow, Wisconsin's technical colleges are prepared to close the degree gap by providing expanded access for groups that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education. We think this is a critical topic and the business community supports continued engagement and effort to improve the credit transfer system in Wisconsin.

WAUKESHA COUNTY BUSINESS ALLIANCE

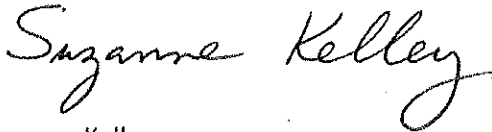
Advocate / Develop / Network / Promote

Even as we recover from COVID, workforce development continues to be the number one issue facing Waukesha County. On the heels of the tumultuous and turbulent last year, the unemployment rate in Waukesha County was back down to 3.8 percent by March of 2021. Just as before the pandemic, our employers need employees.

The Alliance has a broad and diverse membership representing everything from sole proprietorships to some of the largest employers in the region from a variety of industries. Our 1,200 member organizations represent more than 75,000 employees.

The business community needs our post-secondary institutions to help usher more people into the pipeline and accommodate nontraditional students who have families, jobs, and limited time. The more opportunities available for collegial transfer credits across Wisconsin, the better.

Best,



Suzanne Kelley
President & CEO
Waukesha County Business Alliance, Inc.



PATRICK SNYDER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 85th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Assembly Bill 266

Chairman Murphy and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Assembly 266 which would allow Wisconsin technical colleges to provide Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer programs without approval from the University of Wisconsin system.

Currently, only six technical colleges have the ability to offer these programs. Expanding the number of the technical colleges that would be able to offer transfer programs would create more coverage across the state providing better opportunities to students. Increasing access will only make our state better and allowing students to choose the educational path that best works for will ensure that Wisconsin has students across the state educated and prepared for the future.

Degree transfer programs are incredibly important tools to put non-traditional and minority students on the path towards earning degrees. Currently technical colleges across the state are connecting with non-traditional students and have a proven track record in their communities that and have built trust between the institution, employers, and students. Technical colleges are offering educational opportunities to students who would otherwise never pursue a degree of any kind. Expanding the schools able to offer transfer programs would also increase the financial aid available to non-traditional and minority students that rely on technical colleges.

Expanding the amount of technical colleges that able to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer programs will benefit employers, schools, communities, and most importantly students across Wisconsin.

I urge you to join me in supporting Assembly Bill 266 and I am happy to address any questions you may have.



Administrative Service Center • 3 North Jackson Street, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Phone: (262) 723-3160 • Fax: (262) 723-4652

JASON K. TADLOCK
District Administrator

WILLIAM TREWYN
District Business Manager

RITA GEILFUSS
Director of Pupil Services

AMY GEE
K-5 Director of Instruction &
Care

SARAH BOSCH
6-12 Director of Instruction

TRISHA SPENDE
Director of Online & Blended
Learning

CHRIS TROTTIER
Director of School to Work
Opportunities

5/18/2021

RE: Legislative Bill 36.31

My name is Jason Tadlock, Superintendent of Schools of the Elkhorn Area School District and future Superintendent representative on the Gateway Technical College Board. Our school district serves approximately 1000 high school students in a traditional setting, a virtual charter school, and a Career and College Academy located on Gateway's Elkhorn campus.

It is a pleasure to be here with you today and express my support of the legislative changes being proposed to 36.31.

My school district and others around us have a proud history of partnering with Gateway Technical College to provide our students with advanced post secondary opportunities while in high school. This saves students and families time and money and it accelerates young men and women's preparation to enter the job force. Just last year, despite COVID causing quite the disruption, we had a total of 1242 seats filled in college-level courses. This included 482 seats in AP courses, 300 seats in PLTW courses, and 460 seats in transcribed and traditionally enrolled courses at Gateway. This represented a potential earning of 3,742 college credits by Elkhorn students in the 2019-2020 school year. At approximately \$450 per in-state credit, that is the equivalent to \$1,683,900 in potential tuition savings for EASD students, or \$6,735 per graduate. In addition, thanks to our partnership with Gateway and local industries our students earned a total of 307 industry certifications and completed 45 youth apprenticeships. If not for the COVID shutdowns those numbers would have been higher.

We have High School freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors currently working on their Associate's and other technical degrees. My own daughter, who is a sophomore just completed the first year of her Associate Degree as a Paramedic Technician. A degree that she will be able to leave high school with and begin her career with a livable wage and no college debt.

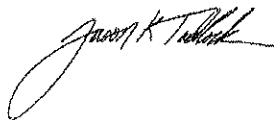
I share this information with you not to boast, okay, maybe to boast a little, but more importantly to show what can be done at the 9-12 level when strong partnerships and opportunities exist with your local college.

Our current offerings are great for my daughter and students like her who do not wish at this time to pursue a four-year degree. However, over 65% of our students have the desire to pursue four-year degrees. Unlike programs available in Minnesota, Florida, other locations in WI and across the nation, our students cannot currently earn an AA or AS from our local college. This is detrimental to our students, in particular those wanting to pursue four-year degrees.

Our students need access to the Associates of Arts degree and Associates of Science degrees just as other students around the state have. Without the legislative change, it is difficult to assure a full transfer of the college credits that our students have worked hard to earn in high school and unnecessary duplication of credits is likely to take place.

Modifying 36.31 as proposed will lead to greater completion of bachelor degrees as students will enter school with two full years completed. Students will have less tuition and housing costs and as a result less student debt. It may also lead to a faster pathway into the job force and greater equity for students in southeast Wisconsin. All of which is good for our students, good for our communities, and good for our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason K. Tadlock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jason Tadlock

District Administrator



ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE SENATOR • 1ST SENATE DISTRICT

Phone: (608) 266-3512

Fax: (608) 282-3541

Sen.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

State Capitol - P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

*Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
State Senator André Jacque
May 20, 2021*

Chairman Murphy and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on eliminating certain restrictions on the respective educational roles of the University of Wisconsin System and the Technical College System through Assembly Bill 266. I am pleased that Senator Felzkowski and Representative Snyder are reintroducing this powerful reform, which was a component of the 2019 AB 371/SB 342 proposal that Rep. Murphy and I brought forward last session to improve student credit transfer opportunities and reduce delays in getting graduates into our workforce.

Assembly Bill 266 repeals the outdated 1972 requirement for the UW to seek approval from WTCS to offer new courses related to semiprofessional or skill based occupations and the requirement for WTCS to seek approval from the UW to offer new courses for collegiate transfer programs. These restrictions have unnecessarily hampered Wisconsin's ability to adapt educational programs to better serve students and industry, and lifting them will provide the opportunity for a significant expansion in dual enrollment courses available to high school students across the state and lower cost post-secondary credit options.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 266.

May 17, 2021

Chairman Murphy
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Room 318 North
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairman Murphy:

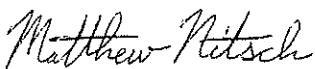
As a student representative of the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) organization, I support amending Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees.

Currently, only 6 of the 16 WTCS colleges can offer these degrees because of Wis. Stat. 36.31, which became law in 1972. Removing this restriction from the other 10 colleges will expand educational opportunities for nontraditional students and persons of color throughout the state as well as help combat declining enrollments in higher education.

As of 2020, the annual tuition and fees of attending a WTCS school was \$4,167⁸ while the cost of tuition at a four-year University of Wisconsin (UW) school was as high as \$10,725⁹. Permitting WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees will help students better afford a four-year education. It will also help reduce future student loan debt and prepare students to succeed academically if they choose to continue their educations within the UW System.

I chose Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) for its fully accredited, quality educational opportunities as well as its affordability. I am also furthering my education by attending Lakeland University next year after graduating from LTC this year. LTC and Lakeland have a program known as the Lake-to-Lake program which allows for credits to fully transfer from one school to the other. This program is a great example of how these degrees would work but expanded to the whole UW system. Amending this law will afford thousands of WTCS students like me greater opportunities for success. Ultimately, this will benefit employers and communities throughout Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Matthew Nitsch
LTC IT-Network Specialist Program Student
LTC Student Leadership Board Vice President/WSG Lieutenant Governor 2020-21

⁸ WTCS Tuition Workgroup

⁹ UW HELP System Tuition Chart the College Board 2020, College Costs: Calculator

May 13, 2021

Chairman Murphy
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Room 318 North
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairman Murphy:

As a student representative of the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) organization, I support amending Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. I am also the Vice President of the Student Leadership Board through LTC and enjoy advocating for students at the college for degrees such as this.

Currently, only 6 of the 16 WTCS colleges can offer these degrees because of Wis. Stat. 36.31, which became law in 1972. Removing this restriction from the other 10 colleges will expand educational opportunities for nontraditional students and persons of color throughout the state as well as help combat declining enrollments in higher education. Part of the reason I chose to attend LTC when I decided to begin college was because of the flexible learning avenues offered, the abundance of help and live support enrolling in classes and filling out applications for financial aid, as well as the groups I could be apart of to truly drive home what LTC stands for. As a single mom, being able to fit school into my already busy schedule was huge for me. I also did not want to have to stress every day over how to afford college when focusing all my energy into attending my classes and performing my best was the utmost priority. Being able to offer students graduating from high school or, attending college for the first time the ability to enroll at LTC, complete general education courses while figuring out exactly what it is they want to do, and then encouraging them to obtain a general degree that is fully transferrable really puts LTC with another reason why attending this college is a fantastic choice. I am sure you understand how life goes; it changes constantly. Why not be able to offer peace of mind to students by allowing them to take their transferrable degree anywhere they go?

As of 2020, the annual tuition and fees of attending a WTCS school was \$4,167⁺ while the cost of tuition at a four-year University of Wisconsin (UW) school was as high as \$10,725⁺. Permitting WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees will help students better afford a four-year education. Attending school after school does not seem fun to everyone especially when tasked with the question, "What do I want to do with my life or for the rest of my life?" It is a hard choice to make. Being able to work your way up to a four-year-education would limit most anxiety and stresses that are always swimming through students' minds. My plan as of now is to complete my Paralegal course through LTC and take full advantage of the Lake-to-Lake transfer program to Lakeland university to then obtain my bachelor's degree in the law field. It will also help reduce future student loan debt and prepare students to succeed academically if they choose to continue their educations within the UW System.

I chose Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) for its fully accredited, quality educational opportunities as well as its affordability. I also chose LTC because of the flexibility, reliability, and hands-on experience I am gaining even while attending school virtually. Teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond with myself and others to truly ensure the information being taught is being understood and retained, as well as always being available for anything life may throw at us. Amending this law will afford thousands of WTCS students like me greater opportunities for success. Ultimately, this will benefit employers and communities throughout Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Jordyn Wright

LTC Legal Studies/Paralegal Program Student

LTC Student Leadership Board Vice President/WSG Lieutenant Governor 2020-21

8 WTCS Tuition Workgroup

9 UW HELP System Tuition Chart the College Board 2020, College Costs: Calculator

Dear Representative Murphy and committee members:

I am writing to offer written testimony in strong support for the repeal of s. 36.31 (1) being advanced as AB-226/SB-291 which is being considered at the May 20 public hearing. Currently six of the sixteen WTCS institutions are allowed to offer at least one of the collegiate transfer associate degrees: the associate of arts (AA) and the associate of science (AS). According to the WTCS website the following schools are able to confer the collegiate transfer associate degrees:

Associate of Science (AS)	Associate of Arts (AA)
Chippewa Valley Technical College	Madison College
Madison College	Milwaukee Area Technical College
Milwaukee Area Technical College	Nicolet College
Nicolet College	Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Western Technical College	
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College	

For students who live in these districts, they have a wonderful opportunity to earn a two-year associate degree from a WTCS institution that will provide them with an excellent foundation for continuing in higher education at a four-year college or university. Typically, when students complete a collegiate transfer associate degree they complete the first two years of general education requirements at many four-year colleges and universities. For example, the UW-Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment webpage shares important information related to the UW-Madison/Madison College Transfer Contract which allows students enrolled in the collegiate transfer associate degrees at Madison College entrance to UW-Madison:

The University of Wisconsin–Madison offers a transfer contract for students enrolled in the Liberal Arts Transfer Program at Madison College. Students who begin as college freshman at Madison College, who declare an intent to use the contract to gain admission to UW–Madison, who meet requirements for admission to UW–Madison, and who meet specified levels of academic achievement at Madison College will be granted admission to UW–Madison as a transfer student. (<https://admissions.wisc.edu/transfer-agreements/>)

As such, offering the collegiate transfer program would provide an expanded area for the four-year colleges and universities to recruit from – beyond the six WTCS institutions listed above. Moreover, creating this transfer pathway for students across the state would increase the number of students who can access a four-year degree and would create an additional recruiting base from which the UW institutions could matriculate students.

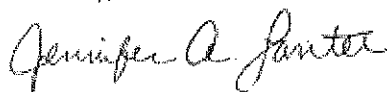
One might ask why students would not just start at the four-year institution? There are numerous reasons for this, including that students may not meet the entrance requirements following their high school career and/or that students may not be in a financial position to afford four years at a four-year college or university. Firstly, WTCS institutions are open-access institutions, allowing all students to work towards a college degree. Completing a collegiate transfer associate degree at a WTCS institution would allow students to accomplish the first step towards their four-year degree, when they otherwise may not have had the opportunity to do so given their high school record. Also, WTCS colleges are often substantially more affordable than four-year colleges and universities. For example, the tuition for the two-year collegiate transfer program at Madison College is currently shown to be \$11,271 whereas two

years of tuition at UW-Oshkosh calculates out to be \$15,384. Attending a WTCS institution for the first two years of a four-year degree could save a student thousands of dollars.

The collegiate transfer associate degree allows students to enroll in general education courses which provides them with an excellent foundation for continuing in higher education. Importantly, for the numerous WTCS institutions that do not have the ability to offer the collegiate transfer program, students end up completing general education courses without the help of federal financial aid. In fact, financial aid is only available to students at a WTCS institution if they are enrolled into a program at the college and so where there are not collegiate transfer programs, students cannot receive financial aid to complete their general education courses if they wish to do so with the intent to transfer to a four-year institution. Allowing all WTCS institutions to offer the collegiate transfer program allows students across the state to access financial aid to help support their ability to pay for college.

In summary, it is crucial for students across the state to have the same access to the collegiate transfer associate degrees – providing equal access to students in all corners of the state, across rural counties and communities. I ask you to repeal this statute and allow the WTCS to approve collegiate transfer programs without the need for the UW Board of Regents approval.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lanter, Ph.D.
Dean, General Studies
Fox Valley Technical College
Office phone: 920-735-2520
lanter@fvtc.edu



Are you **READY?** We are! Fox Valley Tech has big plans for fall. From on-campus to online, start or continue your education in a way that suits you best. Learn more: www.fvtc.edu/ready.

May 17, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this written testimony in strong support for the repeal of s. 36.31 (1) being advanced as AB-226/SB-291. Currently, six WTCS institutions offer a collegiate transfer degree in the form of an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree. The six institutions that offer either an AA or AS or both include Madison College, Nicolet College, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College and Western Technical College. These collegiate transfer degrees provide an opportunity for students within these districts to obtain a two-year Associate degree that will provide a direct path into the workforce, or, more likely, a path to a four-year degree. Students completing this degree most often will transfer into a four-year institution with their first two years of general degree requirements met. While this is a wonderful opportunity for students living in these districts, access to a four-year degree would be more accessible to students across the state if s. 36.31 (1) was repealed.

There are many reasons why a student may not directly enter a four-year institution but find that the technical college is a more appropriate and accessible option. Students may not be in a financial position to afford a four-year institution and find that the two-year Associate degree is more affordable. A student could potentially save up to \$20,000 by beginning their four-year degree at a technical college. Students may have familial obligations and may find it difficult to attend a four-year institution but are able to stay local and attend the technical college. Students may not meet entrance exams at the four-year institution. WTCS institutions are open access institutions, allowing all students to access a college education. Students may feel they are not socially or emotionally ready for large four-year institution classes and may find the small intimate classes less intimidating as they enter their college careers.

The collegiate transfer program allows students to complete general education courses which provides for an excellent foundation in their educational career. Students attending institutions that do not have a collegiate transfer program may take general education courses however, if those courses are not within a specified program, financial aid is not allowed. In particular, at Mid-State Technical College, which has one of the highest rates of poverty of all of the districts, many students would not have access to these

courses. This is particularly true for a portion of the Mid-State Technical College district near our Adams campus where poverty is high and educational attainment is very low, in fact, Adams County is ranked 72/72 for post-secondary attainment with less than 25% of adults having any post-secondary credential. To exacerbate the situation, reliable broadband continues to be a challenge throughout this county and economics prevents some students from acquiring broadband where it is available. Having a local educational partner, such as the Mid-State Adams campus, students experience access and equity in education, thus allowing them a pathway to a life of economic stability.

Mid-State Technical College has entered into a collaborative agreement with Nicolet College, one of the six that has the collegiate transfer degree. This agreement allows for a student to attend both Mid-State Technical College and Nicolet Technical College at the same time, earning 30 credits of freshman level courses at Mid-State and 30 credits of sophomore level courses at Nicolet. Once the student completes all of the requirements, Mid-State credits are transferred to Nicolet where a degree is conferred from Nicolet College. This allows students in the Mid-State district to access a collegiate transfer program close to home. The agreement between these two colleges is inclusive and accessible however, students have the challenges associated with enrolling in two colleges at the same time, using two learning management systems, using two separate email accounts, buying/renting textbooks from two institutions, dealing with two advisers, and coordinating financial aid between the two institutions. While this is possible, it is not the most efficient and effective for the student. Allowing each WTCS institution to offer the collegiate transfer degree eliminates the hassles and challenges for the students and increases accessibility.

A significant amount of FTE/Headcount in the collegiate transfer program lead by Nicolet College comes from students within the Mid-State district. Recent estimates indicate that the number is approximately 20%. Data collected by Nicolet College estimates that the majority of students transferring to a four-year institution attend primarily the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point with University of Wisconsin Green Bay coming in second. It has been said that allowing Mid-State or other non-collegiate technical colleges to offer this program would reduce tuition at the four-year institution nearest them, but we have seen that students are transferring to those four-year institutions nearest them. A more seamless transfer option for students within the Mid-State Technical College district could increase the number of transfers even more.

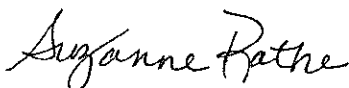
To be a better partner within our districts technical colleges need to provide accessible pathways to degree attainment and for some students that is a two-year collegiate transfer option. Without this option, many of these students simply wouldn't seek a degree or credential. To meet our 60 Forward goal in Wisconsin, to move the state to a 60% educational attainment rate by 2027, it is important to provide accessible pathways.

An important point to remember is that there are students who are accepted at a UW institution but, for whatever reason, find it doesn't work for them at that time, but want to return in the future. The collegiate transfer option allows a step back into another educational environment where they'll often experience smaller class sizes to best reset for a return to the UW. These students are often left without good choices to return if their local technical college does not have a collegiate transfer pathway. A collegiate transfer program allows the technical colleges to be a good partner with the UWs for students by providing a Plan B should they need it with a clear track to return to Plan A. As a former faculty member prior to becoming the Dean, I have seen many students in this situation and have talked through options with many students and their parents.

As the Dean of General Education, I'm writing this testimony from the perspective of students within the Mid-State Technical College district, but please know that these types of stories can be found throughout the state.

In summary, it is paramount that all students in Wisconsin have an accessible pathway regardless of whether they live in an urban or rural community. Please repeal this statute and allow the WTCS to approve collegiate transfer programs without the need for the UW Board of Regents approval.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Rathe, MA MS
Dean, General Education
Mid-State Technical College
Office phone: 715-342-3124
suzanne.rathe@mstc.edu

Dear Representative Murphy and Committee Members:

Every employer that I speak with realizes that the economic vitality of our region is rooted in training, retaining, and engaging a highly skilled workforce. In fact, most of Wisconsin is far below the 60% post-secondary attainment threshold cited by the Lumina Foundation and Wisconsin 60 Forward (<https://www.60forward.org/>) for our state to remain competitive. With 60% of jobs requiring some form of post-secondary education by 2025, we must act to quickly expand access to associate degree programs which provide the essential employability skills of communication, teamwork, math, and science that are so critical to our economic vitality.

Expanding access to associate degree programs through the repeal of s.36.31 as outlined in AB-266/SB-291 will improve employers' access to talent within our state and region and lower costs of higher education for our residents. Just over 1/3 of the WTCS colleges currently offer collegiate-transfer programs (Associate of Science or Associate of Arts). In 2020, the WTCS colleges with this authority enrolled nearly 21,000 students in AA and AS programming. It is clear that having a trusted, well-established, and cost effective educational partner impacts individuals' decisions on where and how to pursue post-secondary education. Students already choose the WTCS for this programming by a factor of 4x compared to any other educational provider or system. Repeal of s.36.31 would open access to the other two-thirds of our state and provide many more students the ability to quickly and efficiently complete an associate degree.

Some have expressed concerns about the duplication of resources necessary to offer these programs. While I cannot speak directly for our sister colleges, at Fox Valley Technical College, we have the capacity to offer this programming without large investments in faculty and facilities. However, the duplication of resources is real. It is real in that we already have a local and a state governing board which fully reviews and authorizes programming to make certain that it is in alignment with the mission and needs of our communities. And it is real in that we each maintain accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission which requires us to evaluate the effectiveness of our programming and the employment and transfer outcomes of our graduates. The additional oversight required by s.36.31 is duplicative and does nothing to add real value to the educational experiences of our state's residents.

I urge you and your committee to recommend repeal of s.36.31 and allow for the WTCS to utilize its existing processes to evaluate and approve Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees for all WTCS colleges without the need for secondary approval by the UW Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Matheny, PhD
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
Fox Valley Technical College
920-735-2401 (o)
matheny@fvtc.edu

Are you READY? We are! Fox Valley Tech has big plans for fall. From on-campus to online, start or continue your education in a way that suits you best. Learn more: www.fvtc.edu/ready.

Dear Rep. Murphy:

Thank you for your work in chairing the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. Please consider this as written testimony for the May 20 public hearing regarding the repeal of s. 36.31 being advanced as AB-266/SB-291.

I would like to provide testimony from my perspective as the Executive Director of the Fox Valley Technical College Foundation. In our work to make college assessible to all students, we regularly see barriers to education in the areas of finances, logistics, and self-confidence. These barriers exist for students throughout the FVTC district, but especially those in our regional center communities of Chilton, Clintonville, Waupaca and Wautoma. Repealing s. 36.31 to allow all Wisconsin students access to collegiate transfer pathways starting at their local technical college would address all of these frequently seen barriers.

Finances: Because FVTC cannot currently offer general education associate of arts or associate of science programs, students wishing to take general education classes are not eligible for financial aid. Allowing all of Wisconsin's technical colleges to provide general education collegiate transfer programs will remove a significant financial barrier by increasing access to federal and state financial aid. Other costs of attendance, like housing and transportation, can also be reduced by providing more local post-secondary education options as more students will be able to continue to live at home. For some low-income families, not only are the parents unable to provide financial help to their child to attend college, the child's income is needed to contribute to the financial sustainability of the household.

Logistics: Both new high school graduates and returning adult students face logistical barriers to post-secondary education. Moving to a new community and securing housing is not possible for many students, and those who which to commute can be hindered by the cost of gas and the lack of reliable transportation. College students who have children must navigate a complex childcare landscape, which has only become worse during the pandemic. By being able to take a fuller range of programs at their local technical college, students can stay close to home and have increased options for childcare from family and friends. Most FVTC students work a full or part-time job. Keeping students in their home community allows them to keep their existing job, an important benefit for both the student and employer.

Self-confidence: It is important to remember that many individuals don't continue their education due to lack of confidence in their ability to succeed. They may not have enjoyed high school, or had poor grades. They may also be intimidated about moving to a bigger community or taking classes at a four-year institution. They may have fears about leaving family. Providing education in a convenient, familiar location will help students feel more confident and provide a solid foundation to future success in a bachelor's degree program.

If Wisconsin is to achieve its *60 Forward* goal, we need to remove as many barriers to education as we can. We need to make it as convenient and affordable as possible for students to start their post-secondary education journey. Repeal of s. 36.31 does just that – it will allow all 16 of the WTCS institutions, not just six, to make local, lower-cost collegiate transfer programs equally available to students across the state. I do not see this as creating competition between UW and WTCS; in fact, it would create dozens more feeder institutions into UW four-year programs. According to the Lumina

Foundation, only three Wisconsin counties have 56% or more of their population aged 25-64 with education attainment of an associate degree or more. Our future economy and success as a state depends on us taking action now to increase educational access and opportunity for all.

Rebecca Boulanger, CFRE

Executive Director

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FVTC Foundation – Making College Possible

Want to support education for current and future FVTC students? Visit www.fvtc.edu/foundation to learn how.

Are you READY? We are! Fox Valley Tech has big plans for fall. From on-campus to online, start or continue your education in a way that suits you best. Learn more: www.fvtc.edu/ready.



May 20, 2021

Representative David Murphy, Chair, Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

Written Testimony Against Assembly Bill 266

My name is Dr. Maria Cuzzo. I serve as the Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of UW-Superior in opposition to Assembly Bill 266.

It is our belief that AB 266 would stifle innovation and smart use of taxpayer dollars, plus hinder collaboration between WTCS and UW System institutions. To provide some context regarding our concerns with AB 266, I'd like to share how the current structure and process works, demonstrated by innovative University Transfer Degree – Associate to Bachelor's program that UW-Superior has recently developed in partnership with Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC).

Northern Wisconsin, the area that both WITC and UW-Superior serve, has lower degree attainment rates than other regions of the state (38% versus the state average of 53%, according to the Lumina Foundation). WITC approached UW-Superior about developing a partnership that would provide WITC students guaranteed transfer and articulation of credits to address the lower attainment rates and give more residents in the area an opportunity to pursue higher education—thus our partnership was born. Through this partnership, WITC students take general education courses through UW-Superior to earn their associate degree through WITC. Qualified WITC graduates are then guaranteed transfer of up to 72 credits to UW-Superior, or any campus, allowing them to enroll at junior status.

Here are the features and benefits of the UW-Superior/WITC partnership:

- Students have a seamless pathway for earning their AA or AAS through WITC, as well as their bachelor's degree from UW-Superior if they choose to continue their education.
- Students work through WITC for the admissions and financial aid processes, and due to the partnership agreement parameters, no entrance exams and little or no placement exams are necessary to take classes at UW-Superior.
- Collaborative WITC/UW-Superior advisement helps students choose the best courses to complete their degree based on their chosen career path.
- This collaboration allows each college to continue to do what they do best in their respective areas to provide a well-rounded experience for students.
- By working together, we leveraged the strengths of our institutions in a cost-effective manner that will lead to more access for students in our region and will provide an important boost to the region's workforce needs.
- This partnership creates a natural enrollment pipeline for UW-Superior and enables us to maximize capacity in our general education courses.

- This approach optimizes faculty loads at both institutions, allowing us to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.
- Given the location of WTS schools in relation to UW System institutions, there is room in the Wisconsin higher education landscape for similar types of partnerships throughout the state.

It is our belief that AB 266 would negatively impact innovation, waste taxpayer dollars, and prevent collaboration between WTCS and UW System institutions. Instead of win-win partnerships, AB 266 would create duplicative programs and unnecessary competition between our two systems. On behalf of UW-Superior, I ask you to reconsider moving forward with AB 266.

Sincerely,

Maria Stalzer Wyant Cuzzo, PhD, JD
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Superior
(715) 394-8449
mcuzzo@uwsuper.edu



Testimony to Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

Thomas Gibson, Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

May 20, 2021

Thank you, Representative Murphy and members of the Committee on Colleges and Universities for allowing my written testimony to be presented to the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities regarding Assembly Bill 266. As the relatively new chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, I want to express to you my appreciation for the collaborative relationship that exists between our university and the technical colleges in our region. These partnerships directly benefit students at all our institutions and provide numerous paths to degrees in high demand professions in the State of Wisconsin. Current provisions in state law have provided clear directives for collaboration, while allowing reducing inefficient duplication of educational programming. To be sure, more work can be done to increase the number of partnerships between UW System and Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institutions. I have personally invited every president of every technical college in Wisconsin to speak with me about opportunities to partner with UW-Stevens Point. My conversations with my technical college counterparts have highlighted both the current strengths of our collaborative efforts and areas where we can improve.

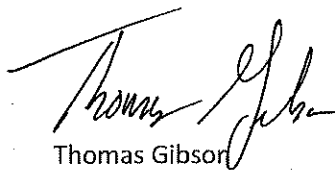
On a regional level, UW-Stevens Point currently has more than 20 articulation agreements with Northcentral Technical College (NTC) and 10 with Mid-State Technical College (MSTC). Of particular note is our recent nursing articulations with MSTC and NTC, which have created new pathways for nursing students in the region. Additionally, we are continuing our efforts to partner with UW-Stout and NTC to deliver UW Stout's Manufacturing Engineering degree and Engineering Technology degree in the Wausau area. Our collaborative efforts with our technical college partners in the region are continuing to expand in response to the training, educational and economic development needs of central and northcentral Wisconsin.

The students enrolled in our respective institutions benefit directly from the partnerships we have created. In the fall of 2020, 25 percent of the new student transfers to UW-Stevens Point were from Wisconsin Technical College institutions, with 50 percent of the WTCS transfers coming from NTC and MSTC. Additionally, the creation of UW-Stevens Point at Wausau and UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield have created new opportunities for our institution to provide access to varied educational pathways for students in an expanded region. Although we have seen a significant decrease in students who are interested in solely pursuing associate degrees, we are confident of the desire of many students in the region to pursue a bachelor's degree through a transfer to a UW System institution.

Our past successes providing comprehensive postsecondary educational pathways for the citizens of Wisconsin are directly connected to the intentional partnerships and collaborations between the UW

System and the WTCS. These partnerships succeed because of the synergy created when these institutions bring their unique educational offerings together. AB 266 would expand the number of institutions offering the liberal arts associate degree in a market where the number of prospective students is clearly constrained. Consequently, it may be best to study these issues more thoroughly before acting. UW-Stevens Point is committed to partnering with the technical colleges to expand educational pathways for the students and communities we collectively serve. I know my fellow technical college presidents feel the same. As the population of youth and returning adult students continues to decline in our state, the resources of our postsecondary institutions should be directed to creating and expanding partnerships that leverage our respective educational specialties. Removing the statutory requirement for collaboration may make collaboration less likely. I support continued study of how the UW System and the WTCS can expand partnerships and collaborate statewide. In advance of any new legislation, I encourage the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities to explore the creation of a blue ribbon commission to provide a comprehensive study of this topic. UW-Stevens Point would welcome the opportunity to participate in such a process.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of UW-Stevens Point, I thank you for your work on the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities.



Thomas Gibson
Chancellor



Office of Government Relations

Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
www.wisconsin.edu

May 20, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

FROM: Scott Neitzel, Vice President for University Relations

RE: Testimony on Assembly Bill 266

Thank you, Chairman Murphy and committee members for providing us an opportunity to speak about our current collaborations with the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) and the changes suggested by Assembly Bill 266.

We believe this bill, which would eliminate both the WTCS and UW System (UWS) approval of expansion into each system's degree offerings is unnecessary to promote the growth in these programs. Removing these statutory provisions would instead have a negative impact on the collaborative relationship that currently exists between the two systems and could lead to costly duplication of programs.

The relationship between the two systems is critical for our students and our state. WTCS is the number one transfer partner for UWS, and the two systems have many longstanding partnerships in place to help serve our students and taxpayers. For example, to ensure statewide access and opportunity for individuals seeking a pathway to a 2-year or 4-year degree, local UWS and WTCS campuses have collaborated to allow for growth in the number of WTCS colleges that offer liberal arts associate degrees. Currently, there are six WTCS colleges that offer associate degree programs, which includes Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College that was just approved by the Board of Regents earlier this year. Additionally, Gateway Technical College and Blackhawk Technical College are in the approval process to join the six already approved. WTCS has also developed a 1+1 agreement program, in which a WTCS approved campus serves as a bridge to another non-approved tech campus to offer the degree. The two systems are in the process of having up to 11 technical college campuses offer an associate degree under the current statutory framework.

The associate degree opportunities offered by the technical colleges previously mentioned, enhance what is already offered by UWS branch campuses, universities, and as of last year, an online associates degree offered by UWS Extended Campus.

Beyond the pathways mentioned above, UWS and WTCS have already developed over 1,800 unique articulation agreements between the two systems. The updated universal credit transfer agreement (UCTA), which requires up to 72 credits be universally transferrable from WTCS to UWS schools, is set to be signed in the coming months, by the



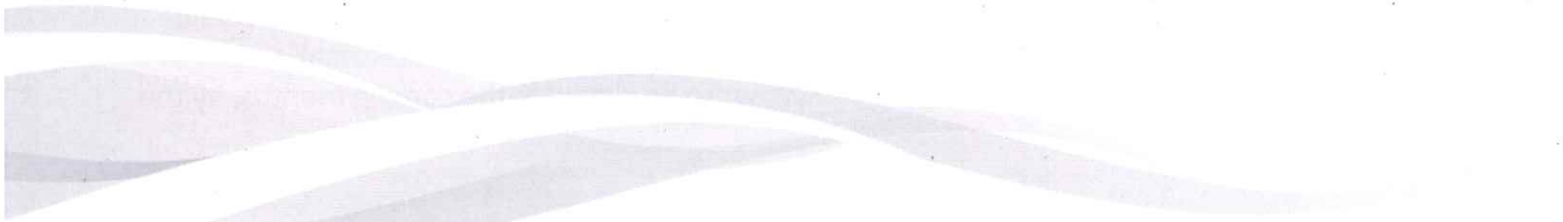
Office of Government Relations

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two systems, doubling the portability of credits between the two systems. The current statute enables and in fact requires a continual dialogue between UWS and WTCS that benefits both students and taxpayers.

UW System acknowledges the need for continuous improvement and that is why we have worked to increase associate degree access and improve transfer between the two systems to benefit students. We are well aware WTCS remains our number one transfer partner and a key entry-point for many students. That is why we have increased the number and type of articulation agreements and degree delivery formats to better serve the changing demographic of postsecondary students in Wisconsin. Specifically, we have supported the liberal arts transfer of WTCS programs to be delivered where there are no other UW access points or where they can be done in a cooperative manner.

UW System President Tommy Thompson has stated his desire to engage in a big picture discussion about higher education in Wisconsin—and that includes considering the relationship and organizational structure of UWS and WTCS. We urge the committee to consider a more global and strategic review of higher education delivery in Wisconsin so that students, employers, and taxpayers receive the most benefit for the dollars spent.



Testimony to Committee on Colleges and Universities

Rob Ducoffe, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly at today's hearing. I am Rob Ducoffe and serve as the provost and vice chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. As a provost, I am the chief academic officer of my university and my goals at UW-Parkside are to improve student success and increase the number of students who graduate each year with a high-quality education.

I'm here today to express my opposition to Assembly Bill 266 as it would remove the current process that ensures that campuses in the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System collaborate on the development of new programs.

Currently, Gateway Technical College is not authorized by the UW Board of Regents to offer associate degrees. Yet, UW-Parkside and Gateway Technical College are currently in the process of seeking authorization to add these degree programs because we see the inherent value for our students and employers in our area of the state. In our region, I fully support Gateway offering these degrees, but I do not support this legislation as I believe the current structure provides direction for our faculty to develop these programs in a manner that

creates the best outcomes for our students through ensuring they are prepared and their credits transfer.

For several years, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Gateway Technical College have worked closely, meeting monthly as a “Talent Hub” that was funded by the Lumina Foundation to improve student success in our region. In the last few months, we have focused our efforts on developing a memorandum of understanding supporting Gateway’s initiative to add traditional Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees to their existing portfolio. We believe the Legislature ought to encourage more collaborations like the Parkside-Gateway partnership rather than create more competition among our institutions.

At UW-Parkside, we are working with Gateway under the current system because we believe adding these degree programs will improve transfer pathways between our two institutions. We know from the data it will reduce the time and cost for students to graduate and increase the number of students that successfully complete their studies.

It will also help us achieve the most important goal in our 2025 Strategic Framework at UW-Parkside, to increase the number of students that graduate each year by 50 percent.

Gateway Technical College is UW-Parkside’s largest single transfer institution. About 100 students transfer each year. Unfortunately, of

these 100, only 30 go on to graduate. In comparison, almost half the students that transfer to UW-Parkside from other two-year colleges go on to complete their degrees.

The reason for the difference is that many of the courses Gateway students currently take in a technical college degree program do not transfer toward bachelor's degree programs. This leads to wasted time and money for students and causes fewer to graduate.

The first two years of a bachelor's degree program focus on general education courses to help students acquire foundational knowledge and skills used across all academic disciplines. At UW-Parkside, there are three broad learning goals of our General Education program: communication (e.g., oral and written communication, information technology, and creative expression), reasoned judgement (e.g., critical thinking, scientific methods, and aesthetic skills) and social and personal responsibility (e.g., individual accountability, civic engagement, social justice, and teamwork). These build students' knowledge and skills used throughout their lives. These are also the critical thinking and soft-skills that employers are seeking in employees.

As mentioned previously, to improve the transfer pipeline, we are partnering with Gateway as they seek approval to add traditional Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees that include the general education courses intended for students who wish to eventually

earn bachelor's degrees at UW-Parkside or at other four-year institutions. Gateway convened an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee with partners from UW Parkside to work on the justification for an additional AA/AS degree option in our region and a memorandum of understanding between our institutions to outline commitments and contributions of each partner including reviewing coursework to ensure transfer.

We have an excellent example nearby of what we expect will occur in our region if Gateway adds these degree programs.

In Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) is a major transfer student feeder to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. MATC offers both the technical college degree as well as traditional associate degrees. In a recent five-year period, over six times the number of students transferred from MATC to UW-M after earning a traditional associate degree as compared to a technical college degree (284 vs. 47). Further, the MATC transfer students with traditional associate degrees graduated from UW-Milwaukee at almost double the rate (73 percent vs. 38 percent).

The data from MATC, as well as data on our own transfers to UW-Parkside from other two-year colleges, suggest we should expect the number of transfers to UW-Parkside and the rates at which they graduate to increase if Gateway is authorized to add traditional associate degrees.

Having UW-Parkside at the table when developing these programs, rather than having Gateway develop these programs without collaborating, further ensures these outcomes.

If UW-Parkside already had its own two-year college nearby, as is the case for other UW campuses, we would expect our transfer pipeline to function differently, as it does in other parts of the state. In Kenosha and Racine Counties, our main service areas, there is no UW or other two-year campus that offers traditional associate degrees. Most of the students we serve at UW-Parkside choose to attend university close to where they live and many start their higher education careers at Gateway. Other regions of the state have a combination of technical colleges, two-year campuses and four-year institutions all serving the needs of students and employers.

The current statute that outlines the educational roles of our institutions, provides a framework to promote collaboration amongst these entities to increase access but reduce duplication of programs.

The increase in education attainment in our region that will result from this Gateway-Parkside partnership will yield more talent for employers and increase prosperity and quality of life in Southeastern Wisconsin. Our collaboration to improve student success, perhaps a model for others, is encouraged by existing law.

I am very appreciative of the Committee on Colleges and Universities for the opportunity to testify at today's hearing.

Thank you.



May 20, 2021

Assembly Committee on Colleges & Universities
Wisconsin State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of Madison College, we strongly support Assembly Bill 266, a proposal to change existing statutes to permit *all* Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer college transfer, without approval from other state agencies. At Madison College, we have seen direct benefits to students who desire to continue their education and obtain a bachelor's degrees after receiving an Associates of Arts or Associates of Science degree.

This educational opportunity should be extended to all WTCS students. By earning credits that count toward both the associate's and bachelor's degree, students can accelerate their professional development. Technical college graduates can combine their technical college education with a bachelor's degree to fill roles that will increase the productivity and profitability of businesses in each region of the state; just as we do in Southcentral Wisconsin. I believe, based on my experiences, that we must meet demands of students and employers and establish pathways that provide high quality and affordable education that leads to a baccalaureate degree.

I came to Wisconsin nearly 9 years ago from having experiences in Florida, Texas, California, and Illinois. I was surprised that not all of our system's colleges were able to offer AA and AS degrees leading to transfer to our universities and colleges. The offering of those degrees has been a staple in each of those states I served in and the majority of states. This opportunity to transfer is so key to many students who simply, cannot access 4-year institutions immediately. Having those two years of learning at a community and technical college, leading to a transfer degree, at an affordable cost, provided opportunities for many who did not enroll initially at the university due to cost or personal comfortability.

Two-year colleges provide the requisite education to allow students to be successful at a 4-year institution. Our community and technical college transfer students, nationally, and here in Wisconsin, succeed at a higher rate than the native student at the 4-year universities and colleges. Each one of the states I identified have strong relationships between the major 4-year public and private institutions in those states. It was expected that our community college students who wished to go to a 4-year institution had the opportunity to begin at the 2-year level and transfer to the 4-year institution. In some of those states, the transfer is guaranteed for students who elect to go to the 4-year institution

after completion of their AA/AS degree. In the four states I have worked with, Florida has a guaranteed transfer program to the public universities; Texas has a guaranteed transfer program to the public universities as well as major out of state public institutions; California has guaranteed transfer to both higher education systems – UC and CSU; and Illinois has a bill before its legislature for statewide transfer though many of the Illinois community colleges have established transfer programs with many of the public institutions as well as with some of the UW system universities. Our faculty at the community colleges I previously led worked with faculty peers at the 4-year institutions jointly to ensure that curricula is aligned between the institutions, outcomes are the same, and the transfer pathway is clear to students as they planned their academic and career programs. I was a part of the review team of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum in California – again, where faculty at both the community college and the public universities worked collaboratively to align curricula. These agreements were approved not by the system’s boards or oversight committees, but locally and through the appropriate educational agencies specific to either the community colleges or the universities. There was no approval process by one system over another. Madison College currently has 35 articulation agreements with the UW System’s universities that were developed in this manner. Let me reiterate, these agreements were developed with UW institutions by the process of both faculties at our college and the universities agreeing to the transfer articulation - NOT because the Board of Regents approved Madison College’s AA/AS degree authority. Madison College offered these degrees prior to Chapter 36.31. Madison College has been offering the AA and AS degrees for over 50 years.

We admire your continued commitment to students. We ask you support AB266 to repeal and amend the statutes so WTCS students may enjoy the opportunity of life-long learning and enrich the vitality of communities and businesses across Wisconsin. If you would like to discuss further, I may be reached at jdanielsiii@madisoncollege.edu or by calling 608.246.6676. Or contact EVP of Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Tim Casper at tcasper@madisoncollege.edu or by calling 608.246.6033.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Daniels, III, Ph.D.
President

KIMBERLEY BRUDNY
Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President
of Student Affairs & Institutional Effectiveness
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School District of Altoona

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715-839-6032 715-839-6066 FAX

Dr. Heidi Taylor-Eliopoulos, Superintendent

www.altoona.k12.wi.us

March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Altoona is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the School District of Altoona, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at heliopoulos@altoona.k12.wi.us or at 715-839-6033.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Eliopoulos
Superintendent



Blair- Taylor School District

N31024 Elland Road • P.O. Box 107 • Blair, WI. 54616 • www.btsd.k12.wi.us

BLAIR-TAYLOR ADMINISTRATION

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Superintendent

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Lynn S. Halverson

K-6 Principal

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halvel@btsd.k12.wi.us

Fax: 608.989.2451

March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. The Blair-Taylor School District is in a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the Blair-Taylor School District, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at eided@btsd.k12.wi.us or at (608)989-2525 ext. 6.

Sincerely,

Dana T. Eide



Blair- Taylor School District

N31024 Elland Road • P.O. Box 107 • Blair, WI. 54616 • www.btsd.k12.wi.us

BLAIR-TAYLOR ADMINISTRATION

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Superintendent

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Principal

Blair-Taylor Middle-High School



AUGUSTA

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

E19320 Bartig Road
Augusta, WI 54722
715-286-2291
augusta.k12.wi.us

OUR VISION

"Transforming the path for student growth and achievement."

May 25, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Augusta is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the Augusta Area School District, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at rpecha@augusta.k12.wi.us or at 715-286-3350.

Sincerely,

Reed Pecha
Principal

Ryan C. Nelson
District Administrator

Reed W. Pecha
MS & HS Principal

Nicole R. Steinmetz
Elementary Principal

Angela M. Axelrod
Pupil Services Director

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
BLOOMER

March 22, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

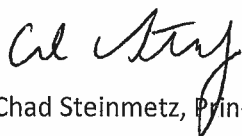
Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Bloomer is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the Bloomer School District, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at chad.steinmetz@bloomer.k12.wi.us or at 715-568-2800 x4108.

Sincerely,



Chad Steinmetz, Principal

Bloomer High School

District Office	High School	Middle School	Elementary School
1310 17 th Ave	1310 17 th Ave	600 Jackson Street	401 8 th Ave
Bloomer, WI 54724	Bloomer, WI 54724	Bloomer, WI 54724	Bloomer, WI 54724
715-568-2800	715-568-2800 Option 2	715-568-2800 Option 3	715-568-2800 Option 4

Chippewa Falls Senior High School

March 22, 2021

Donna K Goodman
Principal

David M Hutzler
Assistant Principal

Adam J Zenner
Assistant Principal

Michael J. Thompson
Activities Director

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Chippewa Falls is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the (Name of school district), I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at abelkj@chipfalls.org or at 715-726-2406.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ken Abel
School Counselor



Cornell School District

111 S. 4th Street P.O. Box 517
Cornell, Wisconsin 54732
(715) 239-6463 Fax: (715) 239-6587
Cornell Elementary – A National Blue Ribbon School



March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

“Education will set you free!” This is a common phrase I say to the students of the Cornell School District. This being the case, I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort. We already have nearly half of our senior students taking dual enrollment courses at CVTC and allowing the Associate of Arts degree would definitely encourage more of them to enroll in CVTC while in high school and get them on a path in obtaining an advanced degree.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone. This is why the Cornell School District does not cap the number of college credits a high school student can enroll in. We understand and value advanced degrees for our students in making a better life for themselves and your support would help in this matter as well.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Cornell is a rural, impoverished community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the Cornell School District, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at pmschley@cornell.k12.wi.us or at 715-861-6970.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Schley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul M. Schley, Ed.D.
Superintendent

**GREENWOOD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

PO BOX 310 | 700 EAST DIVISION STREET
GREENWOOD, WI 54437-9330
PHONE: 715.267.7211
FAX: 715.267.7209

JOE GREEN
Elementary Principal
jogreen@greenwood.k12.wi.us



**GREENWOOD
MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL**

PO BOX 310 | 306 W CENTRAL AVENUE
GREENWOOD, WI 54437-9470
PHONE: 715.267.6101
FAX: 715.267.6113

TODD FELHOFER
District Administrator / 7-12 Principal
tofelhofer@greenwood.k12.wi.us

JENNI MAYENSCHIN
Dean of Students / Athletic Director
jemayenschein@greenwood.k12.wi.us

May 25, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Greenwood is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the School District of Greenwood, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at tofelhofer@greenwood.k12.wi.us or at 715-267-6101.

Sincerely,

Todd Felhofer
District Administrator/7-12 Principal



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ELEVA-STRUM

Mr. Joshua Skoug
Middle/High School Principal
skougj@esschools.k12.wi.us

Mr. Cory Kulig
Superintendent of Schools
kuligc@esschools.k12.wi.us

Mr. Marty Kempf
Elementary Principal
kempfm@esschools.k12.wi.us

March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. The villages of Strum and Elewa are rural communities and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the (Name of school district), I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at kuligc@esschools.k12.wi.us or at 715-695-2696

Sincerely,

Cory Kulig
Superintendent



March 22, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Fall Creek is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the (Name of school district), I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at johngoodman@fallcreek.k12.wi.us or at (715) 877-1073

Sincerely,

John Goodman
6-12 Assistant Principal, CTEC

School District of Gilman

325 North Fifth Avenue,

Office Phone: 715-447-8211 Gilman, WI 54433 Office Fax: 715-447-8731

March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Gilman is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the (Name of school district), I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at wleipart@gilman.k12.wi.us or at (715) 447-8211.

Sincerely,



Walter Leipart
Superintendent



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GLENWOOD CITY

850 MAPLE STREET

GLENWOOD CITY, WI 54013

Home of the Hilltoppers

March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Glenwood City is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the School District of Glenwood City, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at patrick.gretzlock@gcsd.k12.wi.us or at (715)265-7471.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gretzlock, MSE
High/Middle School Principal

TIM JOHNSON, SUPERINTENDENT
District Office
715-265-4757

PATRICK GRETZLOCK, PRINCIPAL
High/Middle School Office
715-265-4266

BETSY HALTINNER, PRINCIPAL
Elementary Office
715-265-4231

NICOLE BRITE, DIRECTOR
Pupil Services
715-265-7120

Downsville Elementary
N2681 460th Street
PO Box 78
Downsville, WI 54735
(715) 664-8546

March 22, 2021

Knapp Elementary
110 South Street
Knapp, WI 54749
(715) 665-2131

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Menomonie High School
1715 5th Street West
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 232-2606

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

Menomonie Middle School
920 21st Street South
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 232-1673

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

Oaklawn Elementary
500 21st Street South
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 232-3798

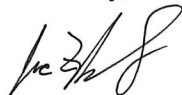
For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Menomonie is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

River Heights Elementary
615 24th Avenue West
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 232-3987

On behalf of the students and staff of the School District of the Menomonie Area, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at joe_zydowsky@msd.k12.wi.us or at 715-232-1642.

Wakanda Elementary
801 Pine Avenue East
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 232-3898

Sincerely,



Joe Zydowsky, PhD
District Administrator



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEILLSVILLE

March 23, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Neillsville is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the School District of Neillsville, I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at jgaier@neillsville.k12.wi.us or at 715-743-8763.

Sincerely,

John Gaier
District Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE
JOHN GAIER, ADMINISTRATOR
614 EAST 5TH STREET
NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456
PHONE: 715-743-3323 (5)
FAX: 715-743-8718

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL
MARCY KUNZE, ES PRINCIPAL
KORY POESCHEL, MS PRINCIPAL
504 EAST 5TH STREET
NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456
PHONE: 715-743-3323 (3)
FAX: 715-743-8715

HIGH SCHOOL
CRAIG ANDERSON RUSKIN, PRINCIPAL
401 CENTER STREET
NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456
PHONE: 715-743-3323 (4)
FAX: 715-743-8714



School District of New Auburn

New Auburn, Wisconsin 54757

www.newauburn.k12.wi.us

[/newauburnschool](https://www.facebook.com/newauburnschool)

[@NewAuburnSchool](https://www.instagram.com/NewAuburnSchool)

SCOTT JOHNSON
District Administrator
715/237-2202

ASHLEY MASON
Principal
715/237-2505
Fax: 715/237-2350

March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. New Auburn is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the (Name of school district), I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at johnsons@mail.newauburn.k1.wi.us or at 715-237-2202.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson
District Administrator

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THORP

605 South Clark Street, PO Box 449
Thorp, WI 54771
Phone: 715-669-5401 Website: www.thorp.k12.wi.us

March 17, 2021

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our community increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Thorp is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the (Name of school district), I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at pblanford@thorp.k12.wi.us or 715-669-5401 Ex: 20202

Sincerely,

Paul E. Blanford, District Administrator

Paul E. Blanford District Administrator 715-669-5401 ex: 2020	Misti Trowbridge Elementary Principal/Director of Pupil Services 715-669- 5548 ex: 1050	Adrian Foster Middle School/High School Principal 715-669-5401 ex: 2010
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STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

From: "May, Susan A" <may@fvtc.edu>
Subject: Collegiate Transfer Letter
Date: April 20, 2021 at 9:50:13 AM CDT
To: "Foy, Morna" <morna.foy@wtcsystem.edu>, "Layla Merrifield - WTC District Boards Association Inc (lmerrifield@districtboards.org)" <lmerrifield@districtboards.org>

Morna and Layla, I don't have the actual letter, but the following is being sent this week from the Brillion HS Principal:

Rep. Ron Tusler
State Capitol
Room 22 West
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Tusler

On behalf of Brillion High School, I would like to encourage you to support the amendment of Wisconsin Statute 36.31. This amendment will allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts/ Associate of Science degrees in general education. The current state law from 1974 is antiquated and does not reflect the quality work done by all technical colleges or the changes in educational programming over the past 40 years.

As a high school, we promote students to explore all avenues of education that will assist them in meeting their goals. Because of the current law, students are not allowed to achieve some of those goals and remain close to home. Approval of this amendment will enhance the opportunities of students graduating from Brillion High School and will also give credibility to the great work done at our technical colleges in the area.

We are seeing first hand the need for a highly qualified workforce. The level of training required by young people entering the workforce continues to increase and providing them every possible opportunity to get that training is important to the future of our state. This amendment will only enhance the opportunities for individuals to receive the degrees required to advance their training.

The education system in Wisconsin has long been one of the best in the country. Our ability to allow as many students as possible to leverage all facets of our system will make this great system even more impactful. I strongly encourage you to support this amendment.

Sincerely,
Peter Kittel

Dr. Susan A. May
President
Fox Valley Technical College
Appleton, Wisconsin
P: (920) 735-5731
C: (920) 284-7486
F: (920) 735-2582
may@fvtc.edu



Visit my blog: [A blog by FVTC President Dr. Susan May](#)

From: "Lanter, Jennifer A." <lanter@fvtc.edu>
Subject: Written Testimony for Public Hearing on AB-266/SB-291
Date: May 17, 2021 at 10:16:51 AM CDT
To: "rep.murphy@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.murphy@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Cc: "May, Susan A" <may@fvtc.edu>, "Matheny, Chris" <matheny@fvtc.edu>, "lmerrifield@districtboards.org" <lmerrifield@districtboards.org>, "morna.foy@wtcsystem.edu" <morna.foy@wtcsystem.edu>, "Boulanger, Rebecca A." <boulange@fvtc.edu>, "Lanter, Jennifer A." <lanter@fvtc.edu>

Dear Representative Murphy and committee members:

I am writing to offer written testimony in strong support for the repeal of s. 36.31 (1) being advanced as AB-226/SB-291 which is being considered at the May 20 public hearing. Currently six of the sixteen WTCS institutions are allowed to offer at least one of the collegiate transfer associate degrees: the associate of arts (AA) and the associate of science (AS). According to the WTCS website the following schools are able to confer the collegiate transfer associate degrees:

Associate of Science (AS)
Associate of Arts (AA)
Chippewa Valley Technical College
Madison College
Madison College
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Nicolet College
Nicolet College
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Western Technical College

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

For students who live in these districts, they have a wonderful opportunity to earn a two-year associate degree from a WTCS institution that will provide them with an excellent foundation for continuing in higher education at a four-year college or university. Typically, when students complete a collegiate transfer associate degree they complete the first two years of general education requirements at many four-year colleges and universities. For example, the UW-Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment webpage shares important information related to the UW-Madison/Madison College Transfer Contract which allows students enrolled in the collegiate transfer associate degrees at Madison College entrance to UW-Madison:

The University of Wisconsin–Madison offers a transfer contract for students enrolled in the Liberal Arts Transfer Program at Madison College. Students who begin as college freshman at Madison College, who declare an intent to use the

contract to gain admission to UW–Madison, who meet requirements for admission to UW–Madison, and who meet specified levels of academic achievement at Madison College will be granted admission to UW–Madison as a transfer student. (<https://admissions.wisc.edu/transfer-agreements/>)

As such, offering the collegiate transfer program would provide an expanded area for the four-year colleges and universities to recruit from – beyond the six WTCS institutions listed above. Moreover, creating this transfer pathway for students across the state would increase the number of students who can access a four-year degree and would create an additional recruiting base from which the UW institutions could matriculate students.

One might ask why students would not just start at the four-year institution? There are numerous reasons for this, including that students may not meet the entrance requirements following their high school career and/or that students may not be in a financial position to afford four years at a four-year college or university. Firstly, WTCS institutions are open-access institutions, allowing all students to work towards a college degree. Completing a collegiate transfer associate degree at a WTCS institution would allow students to accomplish the first step towards their four-year degree, when they otherwise may not have had the opportunity to do so given their high school record. Also, WTCS colleges are often substantially more affordable than four-year colleges and universities. For example, the tuition for the two-year collegiate transfer program at Madison College is currently shown to be \$11,271 whereas two years of tuition at UW-Oshkosh calculates out to be \$15,384. Attending a WTCS institution for the first two years of a four-year degree could save a student thousands of dollars.

The collegiate transfer associate degree allows students to enroll in general education courses which provides them with an excellent foundation for continuing in higher education. Importantly, for the numerous WTCS institutions that do not have the ability to offer the collegiate transfer program, students end up completing general education courses without the help of federal financial aid. In fact, financial aid is only available to students at a WTCS institution if they are enrolled into a program at the college and so where there are not collegiate transfer programs, students cannot receive financial aid to complete their general education courses if they wish to do so with the intent to transfer to a four-year institution. Allowing all WTCS institutions to offer the collegiate transfer program allows students across the state to access financial aid to help support their ability to pay for college.

In summary, it is crucial for students across the state to have the same access to the collegiate transfer associate degrees – providing equal access to students in all corners of the state, across rural counties and communities. I ask you to repeal this statute and allow the WTCS to approve collegiate transfer programs without the need for the UW Board of Regents approval.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Lanter

Jennifer Lanter, Ph.D.
Dean, General Studies
Fox Valley Technical College
Office phone: 920-735-2520
lanter@fvtc.edu



Are you READY? We are! Fox Valley Tech has big plans for fall. From on-campus to online, start or continue your education in a way that suits you best. Learn more: www.fvtc.edu/ready.



March 22, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey the School District of Beloit's strong support for Blackhawk Technical College's strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts Transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties. This BTC initiative would open up new opportunities for our district's high school students to take a broader array of college courses and reduce the cost of completing a two or a four-year degree program.

BTC is School District of Beloit's go-to partner for creating dual-credit pathways to college and careers. Unfortunately, what we find now is that our students often earn credits from BTC that do not easily transfer into four-year degree programs. The cost savings of transferrable credit earned in high school is an important factor for our students and their families when making their decision to pursue a college education after high school. Approval of AA/AS transfer degrees will significantly improve our students' ability to apply their BTC credits toward completion of baccalaureate degrees, thus saving them thousands of dollars in cost of tuition. BTC AA/AS programs will also provide more opportunities for our college-ready students to complete their associate degree while still in high school.

The School District of Beloit serves over 1880 high school students in <Rock/Green> County. As residents of the BTC district, these students and their families deserve access to the personal opportunities and financial benefits that WTCS approval of AA/AS programs at BTC can provide.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Keyser

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELOIT TURNER

1237 Inman Parkway, Beloit, WI 53511

April 13, 2021

DENNIS McCARTHY, Ed.D.

Superintendent
(608) 364-6372
(608) 364-6373 fax

CHRISTINE BROWN

Director of Pupil Services
(608) 364-6372
(608) 364-6373 fax

BRAD BOLL

Director of Business Services
(608) 364-6372
(608) 364-6373 fax

CHRISTOPHER KOEPPEN

Principal
F.J. Turner High School
1231 Inman Parkway
(608) 364-6370
(608) 365-4768 fax

CORY EVERSON

Principal
Turner Middle School
1237 Inman Parkway
(608) 364-6367
(608) 368-3148 fax

MATTHEW BRIGHT

Assistant Principal
High School / Middle School
1231 Inman Parkway
(608) 364-6370 HS
(608) 364-6367 MS
(608) 365-4768 fax

RYAN BERTELSEN

Principal
Townview Elementary School
2442 West Beloit Newark Road
(608) 364-6365
(608) 365-7549 fax

VICKIE SMITH

Principal
Powers Elementary School
620 Hillside Drive
(608) 364-6360
(608) 364-6362 fax

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey the School District of Beloit Turner's strong support for Blackhawk Technical College's strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts Transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties. This BTC initiative would open up new opportunities for our district's high school students to take a broader array of college courses and reduce the cost of completing a two or a four-year degree program.

BTC is Beloit Turner's go-to partner for creating dual-credit pathways to college and careers. Unfortunately, what we find now is that our students often earn credits from BTC that do not easily transfer into four-year degree programs. The cost savings of transferable credit earned in high school is an important factor for our students and their families when making their decision to pursue a college education after high school. Approval of AA/AS transfer degrees will significantly improve our students' ability to apply their BTC credits toward completion of baccalaureate degrees, thus saving them thousands of dollars in cost of tuition. BTC AA/AS programs will also provide more opportunities for our college-ready students to complete their associate degree while still in high school.

Beloit Turner serves over 475 high school students in Rock County. As residents of the BTC district, these students and their families deserve access to the personal opportunities and financial benefits that WTCS approval of AA/AS programs at BTC can provide.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dennis McCarthy, Superintendent
School District of Beloit Turner



QUALITY CUSTOM PLASTIC SHEET

April 22, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey GOEX's support for Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible. This initiative would provide low cost, flexible access to the bachelor degree programs needed by our regions's current and future workforce.

BTC is a responsive business partner that GOEX can rely on for training our current and future employees. Our region's companies readily hire BTC graduates from applied associate degree and technical diploma programs. These graduates quickly become valued employees because they are well prepared and skillfully apply their knowledge to contribute to the success of our business. As a company that is challenged to find highly skilled workers with the necessary educational background, we know that the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase and it is important to us that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees needed to support regional economic growth.

Rock and Green Counties lag the state and the nation in bachelor's degree attainment. Only 14% of our residents have a four-year degree, this leaves our companies at a competitive hiring disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs that are abundantly available in our region.

Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. With most graduates of BTC choosing to remain living and working in Southcentral Wisconsin it is time to let BTC offer associate transfer degrees!

If you have any questions, I welcome you to contact me at 608-373-7236.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pellizzi
Director of Human Resources



March 22, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

On behalf of the Green County Development Corporation (GCDC), I am writing to provide our strong support for Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible. This initiative would provide low cost, flexible access to the bachelor degree programs needed by our region's current and future workforce.

GCDC, a multi-jurisdictional economic development corporation, was formed to bring professional economic development expertise to Green County communities and businesses to spur growth and new investments. We work to build the economic future of Green County communities and businesses through public-private partnerships.

Green County relies on BTC as a responsive partner to train our current and future employees. Our county's businesses eagerly hire BTC graduates from applied associate degree and technical diploma programs. These graduates are well prepared and skillfully apply their knowledge to contribute to the success of our businesses. As an economic developer working with our area's businesses, I understand the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase. It is important to us that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees needed to support regional economic growth.

Rock and Green Counties lag the state, and the nation, in bachelor's degree attainment. Because only 14 percent of our residents have a four-year degree, our business attraction efforts are left at a competitive disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs available in our region.

GCDC fully supports BTC's goal to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer degrees. Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. With most graduates of BTC choosing to live and work in Southcentral Wisconsin, it is time to allow BTC offer associate transfer degrees!

If you have any questions, please contact me at (608) 328-9452 or cara.gcdc@tds.net. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cara Carper, Executive Director, GCDC





March 18, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter in support of Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) of Liberal Arts degree. The AA/AS of Liberal Arts pathway would be a great benefit to not only students at the post-secondary level, but will also be a great benefit to students who are still enrolled in high school and looking to take college credits that are directly related to an associate's degree program at BTC and easily transferrable to four-year colleges.

We recognize the importance of these degrees as a meaningful pathway to bachelor's degree attainment in Rock and Green Counties. The School District of Janesville continues to develop multiple pathways for our high school students to earn dual credit. What we often find is that these students take courses but those courses do not always relate directly to a program of study at the post-secondary level. The desire would be for our high school students to be in a position to have nearly completed the associate's degree program prior to their graduation from high school and better positioned to pursue multiple pathways including bachelor's degree attainment. These new AA/AS degree programs would establish this pathway and would also create a direct stackable degree pathway for students who wish to continue their education at a four-year college or university after completing the AA/AS program, thus positioning them for better success and reduced student debt.

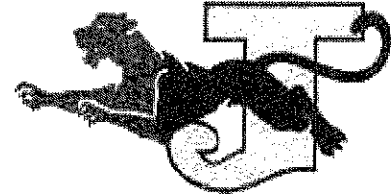
BTC continues to be a valued partner in creating dual-credit pathways leading directly to the workforce. We have developed many opportunities leading to associate degree and technical diploma programs that develop the skills to contribute to our businesses. Yet, the demand for skilled workers for our industry and region will only increase and it is important for our region to keep pace. Rock and Green Counties lags both the state and the nation in bachelor's attainments by over 5%. With only 14% of our population attaining a four-year degree, our region is at a competitive disadvantage. Offering these degrees will assist our district to successfully address the ever-increasing need for higher levels of skill and education.

Please consider full approval of the AA and AS Liberal Arts programs. This type of programming can become a game-changer for high school students, traditional post-secondary students, and non-traditional students.

Sincerely,

Steve Pohpal
Superintendent

School District of Juda
N2385 Spring Street Juda, WI 53550
(608)-934-5251



March 25, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter in support of Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) of Liberal Arts degree. The AA/AS of Liberal Arts pathway would be a great benefit to not only students at the post-secondary level, but will also be a great benefit to students who are still enrolled in high school and looking to take college credits that are directly related to an associate's degree program at BTC and easily transferrable to four-year colleges.

We recognize the importance of these degrees as a meaningful pathway to bachelor's degree attainment in Rock and Green Counties. The School District of Juda continues to develop multiple pathways for our high school students to earn dual credit. What we often find is that these students take courses but those courses do not always relate directly to a program of study at the post-secondary level. The desire would be for our high school students to be in a position to have nearly completed the associate's degree program prior to their graduation from high school and better positioned to pursue multiple pathways including bachelor's degree attainment. These new AA/AS degree programs would establish this pathway and would also create a direct stackable degree pathway for students who wish to continue their education at a four-year college or university after completing the AA/AS program, thus positioning them for better success and reduced student debt.

BTC continues to be a valued partner in creating dual-credit pathways leading directly to the workforce. We have developed many opportunities leading to associate degree and technical diploma programs that develop the skills to contribute to our businesses. Yet, the demand for skilled workers for our industry and region will only increase and it is important for our region to keep pace. Rock and Green Counties lags both the state and the nation in bachelor's attainments by over 5%. With only 14% of our population attaining a four-year degree, our region is at a competitive disadvantage. Offering these degrees will assist our district to successfully address the ever increasing need for higher levels of skill and education.

Please consider full approval of the AA and AS Liberal Arts programs. This type of programming can become a game-changer for high school students, traditional post-secondary students, and non-traditional students.

Sincerely,

Traci Davis, Superintendent/Principal
Juda School District

April 28, 2021



Dr. Morna Foy

Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing to thank you for your support. Kurt Bauer and I have been in discussions, and he put me in touch with several of the Technical Colleges across the State, as we pursue a long-term partnership with the Technical Colleges to create a sustainable workforce pipeline of skilled and educated talent for our company and the great State of Wisconsin.

As part of this effort, Kerry is engaging with Blackhawk Technical College and I am writing to express our full support for Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible.

As you may know, Kerry has a \$100+ million Technology & Innovation Center employing hundreds of employees with undergrad, graduate and PhDs here in Beloit – as well as hundreds more in our nine manufacturing locations across the State. As such, we rely on the local high schools and BTC to provide low cost, flexible access to bachelor degree programs needed to support the development of our current and future workforce.

As a company that is challenged to find highly skilled workers with the necessary educational background, we know that the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase. Rock and Green Counties lag the state and the nation in bachelor's degree attainment.

Only 14% of our residents have a four-year degree and this leaves Kerry and other companies at a competitive hiring disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs that are abundantly available in our region.

Therefore, it is important that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees needed to support our company's growth and the region's economic prosperity. Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. With most graduates of BTC choosing to remain living and working in Wisconsin, the time is now to enable and support BTC in offering associate transfer degrees.

If you have any questions, I welcome you to contact me.

Sincerely,

James K. Egan

James Egan

Regional Director | Kerry, Inc

Jim.Egan@kerry.com

+1-608-299-5110



March 30, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Industry's support for Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible. This initiative would provide low cost, flexible access to the bachelor degree programs needed by our regions' current and future workforce.

BTC is a responsive business partner that Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Industry can rely on for training our current and future employees. Our region's companies readily hire BTC graduates from applied associate degree and technical diploma programs. These graduates quickly become valued employees because they are well prepared and skillfully apply their knowledge to contribute to the success of our business. As an economic developer working with our area's businesses, we know that the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase and it is important to us that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees needed to support regional economic growth.

Rock and Green Counties lag the state and the nation in bachelor's degree attainment. Only 14% of our residents have a four-year degree, this leaves our companies at a competitive hiring disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs that are abundantly available in our region.

Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. With most graduates of BTC choosing to remain living and working in Southcentral Wisconsin it is time to let BTC offer associate transfer degrees!

If you have any questions, I welcome you to contact me at 608-325-7648

Sincerely,

Melissa Even
Executive Director



School District of Monroe

925 16th Avenue, Suite 3

Monroe, WI 53566

608-328-7109

School District of Monroe

RESOLUTION NO. 21-1 Associate Degree WTCS Resolution

WHEREAS the School District of Monroe partners with Blackhawk Technical College to provide valuable postsecondary education opportunities to high school students; and

WHEREAS the presence of Blackhawk Technical College in Green County provides an essential link to postsecondary education for the community; and

WHEREAS over 400 high schools throughout Wisconsin partnered with all 16 technical colleges to provide postsecondary education to 52,000 high school students in 2019-20; and

WHEREAS these local dual credit partnerships saved Wisconsin families \$31 million in tuition costs in 2019-20; and

WHEREAS Wisconsin high school students earned 228,769 technical college credits through dual credit programs in 2019-20; and

WHEREAS the vast majority of Blackhawk graduates choose to live and work within the Blackhawk district; and

WHEREAS sound economic and workforce development strategy encourages investment in the local talent development pipeline and removing barriers to educational attainment; and

WHEREAS the opportunity to access local, flexible and affordable bachelor's degree programming is a critical need in the Monroe community and throughout Green County; and

WHEREAS it is the strategic goal of Blackhawk Technical College to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees throughout the Rock and Green County areas, and to facilitate seamless transfer for students who wish to pursue bachelor's degrees; and

WHEREAS only 14.2% of Rock and Green County citizens currently have a bachelor's degree, which is 4.6% below average for Wisconsin, and nearly 5% below the US average; and

WHEREAS the School District of Monroe supports the development of multiple meaningful pathways to postsecondary degree attainment for all students; and

THEREFORE, the Monroe School Board supports legislative efforts to permit technical colleges to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees with the approval of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, without the approval of the UW System Board of Regents. The Monroe School Board further supports the ability of Blackhawk Technical College to offer general education transfer degrees, which would expand opportunities for Monroe area students to attain degrees with accredited bachelor's degree granting partner institutions.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, GREEN COUNTY, this is to certify that the foregoing document is a true copy of the Resolution of the Board of Education of the School District of Monroe.



Nikki Matley, Clerk of the Board of Education

04.12.21

Date



District Administrative Center

925 16th Avenue, Suite 3
Monroe, WI 53566

"Preparing for the Future, One Child at a Time"

April 6, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey the School District of Monroe's strong support for Blackhawk Technical College's strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts Transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties. This BTC initiative would open up new opportunities for our district's high school students to take a broader array of college courses and reduce the cost of completing a two or a four-year degree program.

BTC is Monroe's go-to partner for creating dual-credit pathways to college and careers. Unfortunately, what we find now is that our students often earn credits from BTC that do not easily transfer into four-year degree programs. The cost savings of transferrable credit earned in high school is an important factor for our students and their families when making their decision to pursue a college education after high school. Approval of AA/AS transfer degrees will significantly improve our students' ability to apply their BTC credits toward completion of baccalaureate degrees, thus saving them thousands of dollars in cost of tuition. BTC AA/AS programs will also provide more opportunities for our college-ready students to complete their associate degree while still in high school.

Right now, we have a number of our graduates attending Highland Community College in Freeport, Illinois because they can attain an associate degree from their institution and then transfer. This causes our students to travel out of the state for their educational programming and our community loses the economic impact of having those students attend school closer to Monroe. It would be much better for our graduates, and for our local economy, if we could keep these students in Monroe.

The School District of Monroe serves over 720 high school students in Green County. As residents of the BTC district, these students and their families deserve access to the personal opportunities and financial benefits that WTCS approval of AA/AS programs at BTC could provide.

Sincerely,

Rick Waski
District Administrator
School District of Monroe



April 22, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey Prent Corporation's support for Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible. This initiative would provide low cost, flexible access to the bachelor's degree programs needed by our region's current and future workforce.

BTC is a responsive business partner that Prent Corporation can rely on for training our current and future employees. Our region's companies readily hire BTC graduates from applied associate degree and technical diploma programs. These graduates quickly become valued employees because they are well prepared and skillfully apply their knowledge to contribute to the success of our businesses. As a company that is challenged to find highly skilled workers with the necessary educational background, we know that the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase and it is important to us that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees needed to support regional economic growth.

Rock and Green Counties lag the state and the nation in bachelor's degree attainment. Only 14% of our residents have a four-year degree, this leaves our companies at a competitive hiring disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs that are abundantly available in our region.

Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. With most graduates of BTC choosing to remain living and working in Southcentral Wisconsin, it is time to let BTC offer associate transfer degrees!

If you have any questions, I welcome you to contact me at 608-921-0531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachel P. Andres'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rachel Andres
VP of Operations



March 18, 2021

Dr. Morna K. Foy
President - Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53707-7874

RE: Supporting Degree Transfer Mechanisms

Dr. Foy:

The purpose of this correspondence is to communicate that Rock County's Economic Development Agency strongly supports Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degree transfers in Rock and Green Counties. This type of workforce development initiative would provide individuals and employers alike with opportunities to access local, flexible and lower-cost bachelor degree programming.

BTC has a reputable, strong and well-established brand that students and businesses gravitate toward. As such, businesses throughout the Stateline Area consistently lean on BTC to develop and deliver incumbent worker training. Moreover, businesses actively hire graduates from any number of BTC's applied associate degree and/or technical diploma programs. As a matter of fact, the employer demand in certain disciplines is so high that a large percentage of those students are hired well in advance of their projected graduation dates.

As an economic development professional, with nearly 25 years of direct experience in rural and urban environments, I can attest to the value-proposition that a skilled workforce provides. Building and supporting a diversified economy requires ongoing investments into an area's talent development pipeline. Hence, it's important to remove antiquated barriers that prohibit, restrict or slow-down degree transfer mechanisms and/or education attainment opportunities.

Considering that most BTC graduates choose to remain living and working in the BTC District, enabling the district to offer AA/AS degrees represents a sound investment strategy. This type of commitment will facilitate life-long learning, while simultaneously elevating the business case for continually planting business roots throughout the greater Rock County region.

Thank you in advance for supporting these types of workforce development initiatives.

Sincerely,

James R. Otterstein

James R. Otterstein
Economic Development Manager



SSI Technologies, LLC

— an Amphenol Company —

April 23, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey SSI Technologies, LLC's (SSI) support for Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible. This initiative would provide low cost, flexible access to the bachelor's degree programs needed by our region's current and future workforce.

BTC is a responsive business partner that SSI can rely on for training our current and future employees. We frequently partner with BTC for onsite training opportunities. Our region's companies readily hire BTC graduates from applied associate degree and technical diploma programs. These graduates quickly become valued employees because they are well prepared and skillfully apply their knowledge to contribute to the success of our business. As a company that is challenged to find highly skilled workers with the necessary educational background, we know that the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase and it is important to us that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees needed to support regional economic growth.

Rock and Green Counties lag the state and the nation in bachelor's degree attainment. Only 14% of our residents have a four-year degree, this leaves our companies at a competitive hiring disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs that are abundantly available in our region.

Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. Our recruitment efforts will be enhanced if BTC begins to offer AA/AS degrees. With most graduates of BTC choosing to remain living and working in Southcentral Wisconsin it is time to let BTC offer associate transfer degrees! We full heartily support this request.

If you have any questions, I welcome you to contact me at 608-373-9228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Randles".

Jean Randles
Director of Human Resources



March 18, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

The Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB) strongly supports Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible. This initiative would provide low cost, flexible access to the bachelor degree programs needed by our region's current and future workforce.

BTC is an active and integral partner in our region's workforce development initiatives. Fully engaging local industry, economic development, and all partners within the American Job Center System, BTC is a leader in all efforts that address the training and retraining of our workforce. Our region's companies readily hire BTC graduates from applied associate degree and technical diploma programs. These graduates quickly become valued employees because they are well prepared to skillfully apply their knowledge and contribute to the success of our businesses. True workforce development is a process that never ends, requiring quick pivots and transitions as business operations and needs change. BTC responds quickly to these ever changing needs.

We know the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase, and it is important to us that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees to support our region's economic growth. Rock and Green Counties lag the state and the nation in bachelor's degree attainment. Only 14% of our residents have a four-year degree, and this leaves our companies at a competitive hiring disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs that are abundantly available in our region.

Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. With most graduates of BTC choosing to remain living and working in Southcentral Wisconsin it is time to let BTC offer associate transfer degrees!

If you have any questions, I welcome you to contact me at 608-295-9908

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Suda".

Rhonda Suda
Chief Executive Officer
Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc.



United Alloy, Inc.
4100 Kennedy Rd.
Janesville, WI 53545
608-758-1272

April 23rd, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter to convey United Alloy's support for Blackhawk Technical College's (BTC) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees in Rock and Green Counties as soon as possible. This initiative would provide low cost, flexible access to the bachelor degree programs needed by our region's current and future workforce.

BTC is a responsive business partner that United Alloy can rely on for training our current and future employees. Our region's companies readily hire BTC graduates from applied associate degree and technical diploma programs. These graduates quickly become valued employees because they are well prepared and skillfully apply their knowledge to contribute to the success of our business. As a company that is challenged to find highly skilled workers with the necessary educational background, we know that the demand for highly skilled workers in our area will only increase and it is important to us that BTC offers both the applied and transfer degrees needed to support regional economic growth.

Rock and Green Counties lag the state and the nation in bachelor's degree attainment. Only 14% of our residents have a four-year degree, this leaves our companies at a competitive hiring disadvantage. This disadvantage is magnified because BTC is prohibited from offering the transfer degrees needed to prepare students for the four-year programs that are abundantly available in our region.

Offering AA/AS degrees at BTC will accelerate workforce development in our region. With most graduates of BTC choosing to remain living and working in Southcentral Wisconsin it is time to let BTC offer associate transfer degrees!

If you have any questions, I welcome you to contact me at 608-758-4717 X118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Guenther', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nick Guenther
Director of Workforce Development



Elk Mound Area School District

Elk Mound, WI 54739

March 18, 2021

Mr. Eric T. Wright

Superintendent

405 University Street

715-879-5066

FAX: 715-879-5846

Dear Wisconsin Technical College System Office:

I am writing this letter in support of Chippewa Valley Technical College's (CVTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as a complement to their existing Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree.

Mr. Paul Kling

High School Principal

405 University Street

715-879-5521

FAX: 715-917-1190

Already a college of choice, CVTC is well-positioned to help our communities increase the bachelor's degree attainment of those who live and work in west-central Wisconsin and the addition of the AA degree is a necessary step in supporting that effort.

Mr. Christopher Hahn

Middle School Principal

302 University Street

715-879-5595

FAX: 715-879-5886

College affordability is a concern for many of our students and their families. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree with an AA focus at CVTC would provide an affordable pathway for our local high school students and graduates and better supports some of the college and career pathways than the Liberal Arts – Associate of Applied Science degree alone.

Mr. Eric Hanson

Elementary Principal

455 University Street

715-879-5744

FAX: 715-917-1174

For many of our rural students, geographic access to a 4-year college is an additional barrier. CVTC has the ability of offering the AA of Liberal Arts degrees through multiple delivery options including online and on-campus opportunities and addresses the issues of equitable access to a pathway to a baccalaureate degree for our rural communities. Elk Mound is a rural community and we are grateful for the partnership and opportunities that our students have been provided through CVTC. I feel that the additional offering of the AA of Liberal Arts degree will increase those post-secondary opportunities for our students and community members even further.

On behalf of the students and staff of the (Name of school district), I strongly support the CVTC application to offer the AA of Liberal Arts degree. If you should have questions, feel free to contact me at ewright@elkmound.k12.wi.us or at 715-879-5066.

Sincerely,

Eric T. Wright
District Administrator

Ms. Jennifer Olson

Special Education Director

455 University Street

715-879-5744

FAX: 715-917-1174



EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

1000 Edgewood College Dr
Madison, WI 53711-1997
www.edgewood.edu

(608) 663-2262

Office of the President

March 31, 2021

President Jack E. Daniels, III
Madison College
1701 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Dear President Daniels:

I write to express our appreciation of Madison College as the largest provider of transfer students to Edgewood College, and to compliment you on preparing students for academic success after transfer.

Each year, dozens of students transfer from Madison College to Edgewood College, the majority from the Liberal Arts Transfer (LAT) program, taking advantage of a guaranteed transfer agreement that provides scholarship money to high-achieving students. In addition to the guaranteed transfer agreement for Madison College LAT students, we have an articulation agreement with the Madison College Honors Program that allows students to apply their Honors Program credits toward our own Honors Program, and we have a reverse transfer agreement with Madison College that eases use of Edgewood College credits toward completion of a student's associate degree if they transfer before completion.

Madison College transfer students are well-prepared academically, succeed in classes, and complete at rates comparable to completion rates of students who start with us as first year students.

Edgewood College also recognizes select Madison College applied programs as transfer pathways, including Graphic Design, Web Design and Development, various IT programs, and select applied engineering programs. The most important Madison College program for transfer, however, is the Liberal Arts Transfer program.

I think you also are aware of our newest demonstration of our commitment to supporting transfer students from Madison College to Edgewood College: the George Floyd Scholarship. This scholarship has been created to complement the scholarship at Madison College honoring the memory of the late George Floyd, and is exclusively for transfer students from Madison College.

In summary, Madison College is an important transfer partner for Edgewood College, and we are a stronger institution as a result of our transfer collaborations. If I can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Manion, PhD
President, Edgewood College





BRILLION HIGH SCHOOL

W1101 CTY HWY HR BRILLION, WI 54110
(920) 756-9238 ext. 2105 pkittel@brillionsd.org
Peter Kittel – Principal



Rep. Ron Tusler
Wisconsin State Capitol Room 22 West
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708



Representative Tusler

On behalf of Brillion High School, I would like to encourage you to support the amendment of Wisconsin Statute 36.31. This amendment will allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees in general education. The current state law from 1974 is antiquated and does not reflect the quality work done by all technical colleges or the changes in educational programming over the past 40 years.

As a high school, we promote students to explore all avenues of education that will assist them in meeting their goals. Because of the current law, students are not allowed to achieve some of those goals and remain close to home. Approval of this amendment will enhance the opportunities of students graduating from Brillion High School and will also give credibility to the great work done at our technical colleges in the area.

We are seeing first hand the need for a highly qualified workforce. The level of training required by young people entering the workforce continues to increase and providing them every possible opportunity to get that training is important to the future of our state. This amendment will only enhance the opportunities for individuals to receive the degrees required to advance their training.

The education system in Wisconsin has long been one of the best in the country. Our ability to allow as many students as possible to leverage all facets of our system will make this great system even more impactful. I strongly encourage you to support this amendment.

Sincerely,

Peter Kittel
Brillion High School Principal



CLINTONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
45 W. Green Tree Road
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-7215 Ext. 2610
Fax: 715-823-1315

March 25, 2021

Rep. Gary Tauchen
State Capitol - Room 13 West
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Tauchen:

Greetings from the home of the Truckers! As you know, Clintonville is fortunate to have a Fox Valley Technical College Regional Center in the community as an outstanding partner and resource to the school district. The purpose of this letter is to offer the support from the Clintonville School District towards the amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees.

The statewide expansion of Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (AA/AS) transfer programs ensures affordable, accessible pathways to bachelor's degrees regardless of geography. Students would benefit greatly from flexible, multi-pathway options for seeking a transfer from FVTC to the UW System and other universities. It is essential our local students have equal access in choosing the higher education experience that best meets their needs. Under the current statute, FVTC students who are taking general education courses with the intent to transfer into a bachelor's degree granting university are penalized because of their ineligibility for federal financial aid. The inability to transfer core program credits also presents a problem to students as they may have to retake classes to earn a bachelor's degree, costing them additional time and money, delaying entry in their intended careers and workforce. Currently, students in Clintonville are able to take advantage of many dual credit courses and programs while still in High School because of our partnership with Fox Valley Technical College.

The Wisconsin Technical College System has over 50 campuses that ensures equitable access to higher education opportunities throughout the entire state. As the need for highly skilled workers increases, this localized access to educational opportunities becomes even more important, especially for students from communities like Clintonville.

Thank you for your support of our Wisconsin Technical College Students. Please realize there is no monetary investment needed for amending Wis. Stat. 36.31. We strongly urge your support and consideration for the amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees.

Sincerely,

David C. Dyb, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Cc: Dr. Susan May

HIGH SCHOOL
64 W. Green Tree Road
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-7215
Ext. 2200

MIDDLE SCHOOL
255 N. Main Street
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-7215
Ext. 2400

**REXFORD/LONGFELLOW
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
105 S. Clinton Avenue
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-7215
Ext. 3200

PUPIL SERVICES
105 S. Clinton Avenue
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-7215
Ext. 3221

**DELLWOOD EARLY
LEARNING CENTER**
238 N. Harriet Street
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-7215
Ext. 2500



Sen. Roger Roth
State Capitol
Room 313 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

March 29, 2021

Dear Senator Roger Roth:

We are writing to express our full support for the amendment of Wisconsin State Statute 36.31 to allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) campuses to confer the Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

Lakeland University is a proud educational partner of the WTCS system, a relationship that began over four decades ago with our colleagues at Fox Valley Technical College. Since that time, we have worked closely with the WTCS campuses to develop seamless transfer pathways that allow students to pursue a competitive bachelor's degree in a format and at a pace that supports their learning goals and professional ambitions. These students persist and complete at high rates and go on to pursue a range of rewarding careers that improve their lives and benefit our Wisconsin communities.

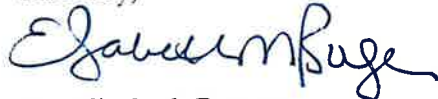
We recently revised our transfer policies to reflect the fact that WTCS programs offer a comprehensive general education experience that directly aligns with Lakeland's focus on the liberal arts. By adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees, WTCS campuses will be able to formally recognize their innovations in this area. The degrees also will enable the WTCS to develop pre-major pathways that expand educational options for students across the state.

The degrees will further allow WTCS campuses to increase the college options they offer to local high school students. We have observed that many of these students take dual-credit courses that satisfy general education requirements. By design, these courses comprise a good part of such degrees as the A.A. and A.S. We anticipate as a result that many of these students will be eager to continue their post-secondary studies at a WTCS campus.

Finally, the amendment will support students who are seeking a bachelor's degree and want to leverage the flexibility of the A.A. and A.S. and WTCS tuition prices to reach their goals. Such students otherwise might not have the opportunity to earn a degree. As you are aware, current legislation disallows students from receiving need-based assistance if they are pursuing general education credits at the ten WTCS campuses that do not offer the A.A. and A.S. We urge legislators to remove this barrier so that all students can benefit from these degree options.

Thank you for your consideration. We are glad to answer any questions or discuss our letter further.

Sincerely,



Dr. Elizabeth Borgen
President



Dr. Joshua P. Kutney
Vice President for Academic Affairs



March 29, 2021

Sen. Robert Cowles
State Capital
Room 118 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Cowles:

I am writing to express my support for the effort to provide an Associate of Arts/Associate of Science of Liberal Arts Degree at the Wisconsin Area Technical Colleges regional campuses, including Fox Valley Technical College. This initiative would allow financially challenged, as well as, practical/logical/busy students from the area to earn, and then potentially transfer, all the general-credits associated with this degree. Many of our associates look for these types of incremental steps on a part time educational journey. This specific incremental strategy may help motivate Walker Forge employees to continue that journey to a Bachelor's Degree end.

We need people with the skills to work in ALL types of situations. I think Humanities infused education actually makes people more interesting and well rounded. The exposure to these people-centric curriculums creates the ability to 'relate' and thus more effectively solve problems. This is what we need.

In the Fox Valley region of Wisconsin, we are experiencing an acute skills gap in the many aspects of dealing with people. We look to Fox Valley Technical College to help us produce associates with these important skills.

Richard C. Recktenwald, Jr.
President

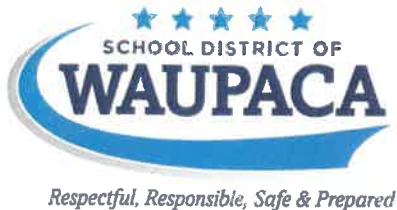
Richard.Recktenwald@walkerforge.com

(715) 823-6557 x1232 Phone

WALKER FORGE www.walkerforge.com

PTP www.precisionthermal.com





Ronald S. Saari
District Administrator
E2325 King Rd.
Waupaca, WI 54981
Phone- 715/258-4121
FAX- 715/258-4125

April 12, 2021

Sen. Joan Ballweg
Wisconsin State Capitol
Room 409 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Ballweg,

On behalf of the School District of Waupaca, I offer our support for the amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to allow our Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) to provide Associate of Arts / Associate of Sciences (AA / AS) degrees. This amendment will allow for WTCS colleges to expand their two-year degrees without formal approval from the WTCS Board.

In addition, we support amending Wis. Stat. 36.31 to allow students who plan on transferring to a four-year UW System or other four-year institution, the ability to earn their general education credits at over 50 WTCS campuses across WI, including our own Fox Valley Technical College campus in Waupaca. Doing so will ensure affordable and easily accessible access close to home in our rural community.

For students to receive need-based financial aid, like Pell grants, they must be enrolled in an eligible program that leads to a recognized credential. Our WTCS colleges are accredited, however students taking general education credits are prohibited from having a transfer program, and do not qualify for this need-based assistance.

As you are aware, our community, and others across the State have a need for more highly skilled workers. Local access to educational opportunities are very important, especially for low socio-economic rural, and nontraditional students who have families, jobs, and limited time. The more opportunities available for college transfer credits here in Waupaca, and across our State, the better.

Thank you for your interest in hearing our perspective from the School District of Waupaca. We truly believe Wis. Stat. 36.31 will provide a simpler and stronger pipeline to the UW system and our WTCS students. As you know, there is no monetary investment needed for this amendment. We vigorously urge your support regarding the proposed amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts / Associate of Science degrees.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Saari
Superintendent



WAUSHARA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
WAUTOMA, WISCONSIN

April 15, 2021

*Senator Patrick Testin
Wisconsin State Capitol
Room 8 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707*

Dear Senator Testin,

On behalf of Waushara County, I am pleased to offer our support of the Wisconsin Technical College System's (WTCS) initiative to offer Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees in general education at Fox Valley Technical College and all WTCS colleges.

Providing AA and AS degrees in general education at WTCS colleges will allow students to earn their general education credits close to home, with the ability to transfer these core credits to a four-year university if desired. Local residents need this flexibility in choosing a higher education experience that best meets their needs, and need equitable access to federal and state needs-based financial assistance.

The County has enjoyed a successful collaboration with Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) to help ensure accessible, localized, quality education for all residents. Amending Wisconsin Statute 36.31 to allow for increased program offerings will also benefit Waushara County employers by assisting with the ever increasing need for highly skilled and educated employees.

I support amending Wisconsin Statute 36.31 to expand the baccalaureate degree pipeline in Wisconsin, and strongly urge your support and consideration of this effort.

Respectfully,

Donna Kalata
Donna Kalata
Waushara County Board Chair

Wautoma Area School District

'Creating Positive Foundations for the Success of our Children'

Website: www.wautomasd.org

Email: administration@wautoma.k12.wi.us

State Senator Patrick Testin
State Capitol
Room 8 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Testin,

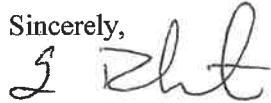
On behalf of the Wautoma Area School District, I would like to clearly communicate our school district's support for the amendment of Wisconsin State Statute 36.31 to fully allow the entire Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), all 16 campuses, to provide an Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees without the approval from the University of Wisconsin System. Currently, only 6 schools in the Wisconsin Technical College System have the opportunity to provide such an AA/AS path to their students

The amendment of Statute 36.31 will provide great flexibility to the students in our communities to earn their general education credits through the Wisconsin Technical College System, which can then be transferred to a 4-year UW System School or another 4-year college. This amendment will remove student transportation barriers, allow students to continue to work in their communities while also working on their AA/AS, and allow students to stay close to their family to receive and/or provide support. This action provides a clear and successful path for our students to receive a 4-year degree.

More importantly, the amendment of Statute 36.31 will allow students to qualify for federal and state needs-based financial aid, as students must be enrolled in an eligible program to qualify for this financial aid. Currently, students, who are registered in general education courses at 1 of the 10 WTCS campuses that do not have approved transfer programs by the UW-System, are not eligible for this financial aid. The amendment of Statute 36.31 removes this daunting barrier to student success.

It is my role as the leader of the Wautoma Area School District to advocate for the educational success of our students and our community members. Your role in amending Statute 36.31 is crucial in the educational advancement of the citizens in our community. As always, I greatly appreciate your concern for the communities in the Wautoma Area School District, and I appreciate your leadership on this item.

Sincerely,



Tom Rheinheimer – Wautoma Area School District Administrator

CC: Dr. Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College, PO Box 2277, Appleton, WI 54912 - 2277

Administration Office
514 S. Cambridge Street
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.7112
920.787.1389 Fax

Wautoma High School
Crossroads Academy
Grades 9-12
514 S Cambridge Street
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.3354
920.787.1513 Fax

Parkside School
Grades 4-8
300 S 16th Avenue
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.4577
920.787.7336 Fax

Riverview School
Grades EC-3
525 S Water Street
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.4590
920.787.1556 Fax

Redgranite School
Grades K-5
513 Bonnell Avenue
PO Box 649
Redgranite WI 54970
920.566.2357
920.566.0490 Fax

Bus Garage
564 S Cambridge Street
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.3875
920.787.1389 Fax

Wautoma Area School District

'Creating Positive Foundations for the Success of our Children'

Website: www.wautomasd.org

Email: administration@wautoma.k12.wi.us

Representative Scott Krug
State Capitol
Room 207 North
PO Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Krug,

On behalf of the Wautoma Area School District, I would like to clearly communicate our school district's support for the amendment of Wisconsin State Statute 36.31 to fully allow the entire Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), all 16 campuses, to provide an Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees without the approval from the University of Wisconsin System. Currently, only 6 schools in the Wisconsin Technical College System have the opportunity to provide such an AA/AS path to their students

The amendment of Statute 36.31 will provide great flexibility to the students in our communities to earn their general education credits through the Wisconsin Technical College System, which can then be transferred to a 4-year UW System School or another 4-year college. This amendment will remove student transportation barriers, allow students to continue to work in their communities while also working on their AA/AS, and allow students to stay close to their family to receive and/or provide support. This action provides a clear and successful path for our students to receive a 4-year degree.

More importantly, the amendment of Statute 36.31 will allow students to qualify for federal and state needs-based financial aid, as students must be enrolled in an eligible program to qualify for this financial aid. Currently, students, who are registered in general education courses at 1 of the 10 WTCS campuses that do not have approved transfer programs by the UW-System, are not eligible for this financial aid. The amendment of Statute 36.31 removes this daunting barrier to student success.

It is my role as the leader of the Wautoma Area School District to advocate for the educational success of our students and our community members. Your role in amending Statute 36.31 is crucial in the educational advancement of the citizens in our community. As always, I greatly appreciate your concern for the communities in the Wautoma Area School District, and I appreciate your leadership on this item.

Sincerely,



Tom Rheinheimer – Wautoma Area School District Administrator

CC: Dr. Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College, PO Box 2277, Appleton, WI 54912 - 2277

Administration Office
514 S. Cambridge Street
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.7112
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Wautoma High School
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920.787.3354
920.787.1513 Fax

Parkside School
Grades 4-8
300 S 16th Avenue
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.4577
920.787.7336 Fax

Riverview School
Grades EC-3
525 S Water Street
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.4590
920.787.1556 Fax

Redgranite School
Grades K-5
513 Bonnell Avenue
PO Box 649
Redgranite WI 54970
920.566.2357
920.566.0490 Fax

Bus Garage
564 S Cambridge Street
PO Box 870
Wautoma WI 54982
920.787.3875
920.787.1389 Fax



March 17, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Dear Dr Foy:

Convergence Energy is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have a strong track record of supporting the educational needs of our community. We have been pleased to collaborate with them in the past to support the educational priorities of **Convergence Energy**. Increasing the educational attainment of our local citizens is essential to the success of Southeast Wisconsin, and this partnership between Gateway and Parkside will help to grow the pool of well-educated employees for our local economy.

We appreciate the contributions that Gateway and Parkside make to the educational success of our region, and we support Gateway adding the AA and AS degrees to the ever-growing list of innovative programs they offer.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kivlin".

John Kivlin
President
Convergence Energy



JASON K. TADLOCK

District Administrator

WILLIAM TREWYN

District Business Manager

RITA GEILFUSS

Director of Pupil Services

AMY GEE

K-5 Director of Instruction & Gate

SARAH BOSCH

6-12 Director of Instruction

TRISHA SPENDE

Director of Online & Blended Learning

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing in support of Gateway Technical College's (GTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

Gateway is a valued partner with the Elkhorn Area School District in the education pathways toward higher education and careers throughout Southeast Wisconsin. Each year hundreds of our students enroll in courses through GTC. This new AA and AS degree pathway would be of great benefit for students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway's articulated programs with our high school adds to the career development of students and allows a smooth transition into college. The AA and AS degree would enhance these opportunities for those students choosing to continue from Gateway into a university which comprises a large percentage of our student base.

Without question, Southeast Wisconsin would benefit from having a highly educated workforce. Given the changing demographics and cost of higher education, we recognize the need to provide equitable access to both technical education as well as a bachelor's degree. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree. I know that we would have many students take advantage of such a program through Gateway.

I encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Respectfully,

Jason Tadlock



District Administrator
Elkhorn Area School District



Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Rosemont, March 19th, 2021

Dear Dr. Foy:

HARIBO of America is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have a strong track record of supporting the educational needs of our community. We have been pleased to collaborate with both of these wonderful organizations in the past to support the educational priorities of **HARIBO of America**.

Increasing the educational attainment of our local citizens is essential to the success of Southeast Wisconsin, and this partnership between Gateway and Parkside will contribute significantly to the growth of the pool of well-educated employees for our local economy.

We appreciate the contributions that Gateway and Parkside make to the scholastic success of our region, and we support Gateway adding the AA and AS degrees to the ever-growing list of innovative programs they offer.

Thank you for your consideration,

Toni Hansen

Toni Hansen, Human Resources Director
HARIBO of America, Inc.

Babatu Short

Babatu Short, Vice President of Human Resources
HARIBO of America, Inc.



KENOSHA AREA BUSINESS ALLIANCE

5500 6th Avenue, Suite 200
Kenosha, WI 53140-3710
P 262.605.1100
F 262.605.1111

March 17, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

The Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have a strong track record of supporting the educational needs of our community. We have been pleased to collaborate with them in the past to support the educational priorities of KABA. Increasing the educational attainment of our local citizens is essential to the success of Southeast Wisconsin, and this partnership between Gateway and Parkside will help to grow the pool of well-educated employees for our local economy.

We appreciate the contributions that Gateway and Parkside make to the educational success of our region, and we support Gateway adding the AA and AS degrees to the ever-growing list of innovative programs they offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Battle", is written over a large, stylized blue scribble that extends across the width of the signature area.

Todd Battle, President

March 19, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

Gateway is a valued partner with Kenosha Unified School District in the education pathways toward higher education and careers throughout Southeast Wisconsin. This new AA and AS degree pathway would be of great benefit for students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway's articulated programs with our high schools add to the career development of students and allows a smooth transition into college. The AA and AS degree would enhance these opportunities for those students choosing to continue from Gateway into a university.

Without question Southeast Wisconsin would benefit from having a highly educated workforce. Given the changing demographics and cost of higher education, we recognize the need to provide equitable access to both technical education as well as a bachelor's degree. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree.

I encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Respectfully,



Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis
Superintendent of Schools
Kenosha Unified School District



9449 - 88TH AVENUE • PLEASANT PRAIRIE, WI 53158 • PHONE 262.359.8155 • FAX 262.359.8159

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

March 23, 2021

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

I am a high school principal at LakeView Technology Academy within Kenosha Unified School District and I sit on the Gateway Board of Trustees. I can attest to the fact that Gateway is a valued partner to my high school and to all KUSD schools. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit, experience college classes and build the confidence needed to envision themselves a college graduate.

Gateway offers affordable ways for high school students to earn college credit and the new AA and AS degree pathway only continues this opportunity. The ability to continue post-secondary education at an affordable cost is essential to ensure equitable access to learning for all students. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree.

I encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Respectfully,

Bethany Ormseth, Ed.D
Principal - LakeView Technology Academy
Kenosha Unified School District

March 22, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 – 7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

The Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC) is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have a strong track record of supporting the educational needs of our community. We have been pleased to collaborate with them in the past to support the educational priorities of RCEDC. Increasing the educational attainment of our local citizens is essential to the success of Southeast Wisconsin, and this partnership between Gateway and Parkside will help to grow the pool of well-educated employees for our local economy.

We appreciate the contributions that Gateway and Parkside make to the educational success of our region, and we support Gateway adding the AA and AS degrees to the ever-growing list of innovative programs they offer.

Sincerely,



Jenny Trick
Executive Director

March 22, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

Gateway is a valued partner with the Racine Unified School District in the education pathways toward higher education and careers throughout Southeast Wisconsin. This new AA and AS degree pathway would be of great benefit for students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway's articulated programs with our high school adds to the career development of students and allows a smooth transition into college. The AA and AS degree would enhance these opportunities for those students choosing to continue from Gateway into a university.

Without question Southeast Wisconsin would benefit from having a highly educated workforce. Given the changing demographics and cost of higher education, we recognize the need to provide equitable access to both technical education as well as a bachelor's degree. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree.

I encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Regards,



Eric N. Gallien, Ph.D.
Superintendent

WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL

507 West Main Street • Waterford, WI 53185 • Telephone: (262) 534-9059 • Fax: (262) 534-6871 •
www.waterforduhs.k12.wi.us

March 24, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

Gateway is a valued partner with Waterford Union High School in the education pathways toward higher education and careers throughout Southeast Wisconsin. This new AA and AS degree pathway would be of great benefit for students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway's articulated programs with our high school add to the career development of students and allows a smooth transition into college. The AA and AS degree would enhance these opportunities for those students choosing to continue from Gateway into a university.

Without question, Southeast Wisconsin would benefit from having a highly educated workforce. Given the changing demographics and cost of higher education, we recognize the need to provide equitable access to both technical education as well as a bachelor's degree. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree.

I encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Sincerely,



Luke Francois, Ed.D.
Superintendent

ADMINISTRATION

Lucas D. Francois, Ed.D. – Superintendent
Daniel F. Foster – Principal
Brian A. Belot – Associate Principal
Mark D. Peperkorn – Associate Principal
Jill E. Stobber – Athletic/Activities Director



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Don D. Engler – President
Michael L. Schoenfeld – Vice President
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Nancy R. Klemko – Clerk
Douglas P. Schwartz – Director



March 31, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

Bellevue University is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees in Southeast Wisconsin. We believe that this will increase access to baccalaureate degree programs.

Gateway and Bellevue University have a strong history of partnership, and we are proud of our existing articulation agreements, and our many collaborative efforts to support students who desire a bachelor's degree and businesses who need a well-educated workforce. Our data shows that students who complete the associate degree and transfer to BU have the highest graduation rate among all transfer students. The opportunity for our advisors to work side-by-side with the Gateway Technical College advisors creates seamless transfers and further the missions of both our institutions.

Adding the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees will create even more opportunities for Gateway students, particularly to transfer more general education credits and get a better head start on their ultimate educational goals. We have the utmost confidence in Gateway's leadership, faculty, and staff to create high quality AA and AS degree programs that will have a significant impact on Wisconsin's educational attainment.

We look forward to exploring all the additional partnership opportunities that Gateway's Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees will create for Southeast Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Hawkins".

Mary Hawkins, Ph.D.
President
Bellevue University



Central High School - District of Westosha

24617 75th Street • Post Office Box 38
Salem, Wisconsin 53168

(262) 843-2321

www.westosha.k12.wi.us

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

Gateway is a valued partner with Westosha Central High School in the education pathways toward higher education and careers throughout Southeast Wisconsin. This new AA and AS degree pathway would be of great benefit for students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway's articulated programs with our high school adds to the career development of students and allows a smooth transition into college. The AA and AS degree would enhance these opportunities for those students choosing to continue from Gateway into a university.

Without question Southeast Wisconsin would benefit from having a highly educated workforce. Given the changing demographics and cost of higher education, we recognize the need to provide equitable access to both technical education as well as a bachelor's degree. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree.

I encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Respectfully,

John Gendron
District Administrator of Westosha Central High School

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I offer this letter in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree programs to further support student access to post-secondary educational opportunities.

We value our partnership with the Gateway Technical College system as it supports our local students in their chosen education pathways towards certification, degrees, and careers that are beneficial and available in our local community, and surrounding communities around Southeastern Wisconsin. The majority of Delavan-Darien students come from an impoverished background, and providing these new pathways would therefore benefit our students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway has partnered with us for several years now, offering our students an opportunity to earn transcribed credit (both high school and college credit) to further access for students in the career pathways. Having Gateway "in our backyard" has made access to post-secondary options for our students a reality. Adding these degree programs would only enhance opportunities for our students.

I fully endorse and support the efforts of Gateway Technical College to offer an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science in Liberal Arts degree programs, and ask that you endorse it as well!

Respectfully,

Jim Karedes

Jim Karedes
Proudly Serving the Delavan-Darien Communities as Principal
Delavan-Darien School District



EAST TROY

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to the Growth & Success of Each Student, Each Year

EAST TROY HIGH SCHOOL

3128 Graydon Ave, East Troy, WI 53120

Phone: 262-642-6760 • Fax: 262-642-6776

Kent Kleinowski, Principal

kleken@easttroy.k12.wi.us

Stacey Kuehn, Principal

kuesta@easttroy.k12.wi.us

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

We are writing in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

Gateway is a valued partner with East Troy Community School District in the education pathways toward higher education and careers throughout Southeast Wisconsin. This new AA and AS degree pathway would be of great benefit for students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway's articulated programs with our high school adds to the career development of students and allows a smooth transition into college. The AA and AS degree would enhance these opportunities for those students choosing to continue from Gateway into a university.

Without question Southeast Wisconsin would benefit from having a highly educated workforce. Given the changing demographics and cost of higher education, we recognize the need to provide equitable access to both technical education as well as a bachelor's degree. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree.

We encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Respectfully,

Dr. Christopher G. Hibner
East Troy District Administrator

Amy Foszpanczyk
Director of Teaching & Continuous Improvement of Student Learning

Kent Kleinowski
East Troy High School Principal, Grades 9 & 10

Stacey Kuehn
East Troy High School Principal, Grades 11 & 12



HERZING
UNIVERSITY

April 1, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

Herzing University is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway and Herzing University have a strong history of partnership, and we are proud of our existing articulation agreements and our many collaborative efforts to support students who desire a bachelor's degree and businesses who need a well-educated workforce. We support students enrolled in a variety of programs but have seen the strongest collaboration with nursing and healthcare students. Our partnership has furthered the missions of both our institutions.

Adding the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees will create even more opportunities for Gateway students, particularly to transfer more general education credits and get a greater head start on their ultimate educational goals. We have the utmost confidence in Gateway's leadership, faculty, and staff to create high quality AA and AS degree programs that will have a significant impact on Wisconsin's educational attainment.

We look forward to exploring all the additional partnership opportunities that Gateway's Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees will create for Southeast Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Hill
Regional President
Herzing University – Wisconsin & Northern Illinois



KENOSHA AREA BUSINESS ALLIANCE

5500 6th Avenue, Suite 200
Kenosha, WI 53140-3710
P 262.605.1100
F 262.605.1111

March 17, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

The Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have a strong track record of supporting the educational needs of our community. We have been pleased to collaborate with them in the past to support the educational priorities of KABA. Increasing the educational attainment of our local citizens is essential to the success of Southeast Wisconsin, and this partnership between Gateway and Parkside will help to grow the pool of well-educated employees for our local economy.

We appreciate the contributions that Gateway and Parkside make to the educational success of our region, and we support Gateway adding the AA and AS degrees to the ever-growing list of innovative programs they offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Battle", is written over a large, stylized blue scribble that extends across the width of the signature area.

Todd Battle, President

May 3, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

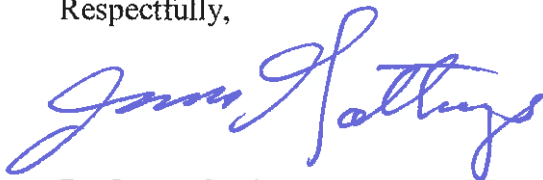
I am writing in support of Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degree.

Gateway is a valued partner with (insert school district) in the education pathways toward higher education and careers throughout Southeast Wisconsin. This new AA and AS degree pathway would be of great benefit for students as they plan an affordable pathway through higher education. Gateway's articulated programs with our high school adds to the career development of students and allows a smooth transition into college. The AA and AS degree would enhance these opportunities for those students choosing to continue from Gateway into a university.

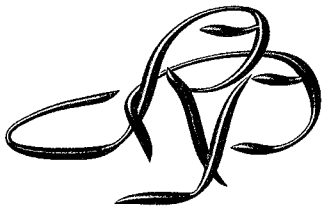
Without question Southeast Wisconsin would benefit from having a highly educated workforce. Given the changing demographics and cost of higher education, we recognize the need to provide equitable access to both technical education as well as a bachelor's degree. The availability of the AA/AS degrees at Gateway would create low cost, flexible, intensive academically supported opportunities for current and future students who might not otherwise have an affordable path to a college degree.

I encourage you to support Gateway's request to offer AA and AS degrees to strengthen educational opportunities for all Wisconsin citizens.

Respectfully,



Dr. James Gottinger
District Superintendent
Lake Geneva-Genoa City UHS



Randall & Pobar, LLC

Your Financial Partners

1458 Horizon Blvd, Suite 100, Mt Pleasant, WI 53406

(262) 373-6300 • www.randallandpobar.com

March 18, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

Randall & Pobar, LLC is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have a strong track record of supporting the educational needs of our community. I have been pleased to collaborate with them in the past to support the priorities of Randall & Pobar, LLC. Increasing the educational attainment of our local citizens is essential to the success of Southeast Wisconsin, and this partnership between Gateway and Parkside will help to grow the pool of well-educated employees for our local economy.

As a proud graduate of Gateway Technical College who later waded through the complex process of transferring credits toward a Baccalaureate degree, I know, firsthand, the benefit this request will have for each potential student.

The contributions that Gateway and Parkside make to the educational success of our region are very much appreciated, and I support Gateway adding the AA and AS degrees to the ever-growing list of innovative programs they offer.

Thank you,

Michele Randall, CFP®

Co-founder and Financial Advisor, Randall & Pobar, LLC – Your Financial Partners
Gateway Technical College Foundation Board Chairperson

CC: Dr. Bryan Albrecht
Stephanie Sklba

Snap-on Incorporated

SAMUEL E. BOTTUM

Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer

March 17, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Re: Snap-on Support for Increased Access to Degree Programs

Dear Dr. Foy:

Since the 1920s, Snap-on has collaborated with educational institutions to prepare the next generation for the workplace. Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have helped propel our company through the decades by providing a talent stream to support our strong workforce.

Snap-on stands behind Gateway Technical College in their application to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees as they look to increase access to a four-year baccalaureate degree programs. This degree attainment would be possible through their continuing partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Snap-on believes that increasing educational pathways for our citizens is critical to the success of employers in Southeast Wisconsin. Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside each have proven capabilities and will be extremely strong partners for this program. We respectfully urge your approval. Thank you.

Regards,



Snap-on Incorporated

2801 80th Street, Kenosha, WI 53143 USA • Office: +1-262-656-5793 • samuel.bottum@snapon.com



March 17, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Ave.
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707 - 7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA) is pleased to support Gateway Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to increase access to baccalaureate degree programs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside have a strong track record of supporting the educational needs of our community. We have been pleased to collaborate with them in the past to support the educational priorities of Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA) as they relate to the needs of our business community and also our K-12 students. Increasing the educational attainment of our local citizens is essential to the success of Walworth County and the region, and this partnership between Gateway and Parkside will help to grow the pool of well-educated employees for our local economy.

We appreciate the contributions that Gateway and Parkside make to the educational success of our region, and we support Gateway adding the AA and AS degrees to the ever-growing list of innovative programs they offer.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background, appearing to read "Derek D'Auria".

Derek D'Auria
Executive Director
Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA)
400 County Road H, Suite 105, Elkhorn, WI 53121



HERZING
UNIVERSITY

April 1, 2021

President Jack E. Daniels, III
Madison College
1701 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Dear President Daniels:

I write to express our appreciation of Madison College as a significant provider of transfer students to Herzing University, and to compliment you on preparing students for academic success after transfer.

Each year, many students transfer from Madison College to Herzing University, a large number from the Liberal Arts Transfer (LAT) program. Madison College transfer students are well-prepared academically, succeed in classes, and complete at rates comparable to or above completion rates of students who start with us as first year students.

Herzing University also recognizes Madison College applied programs as transfer pathways, however, the Liberal Arts Transfer program provides an invaluable pipeline of students to our University.

In summary, Madison College is an important transfer partner for Herzing University, and we are a stronger institution because of our transfer collaborations. If I can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Hill
Regional President
Herzing University – Wisconsin & Northern Illinois



March 24, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our support for legislation that will allow Mid-State Technical College to confer the Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

Lakeland University has partnered with Mid-State Technical College for many years. In fact, we operate our Central Wisconsin Center out of the college's location in Wisconsin Rapids. This partnership has allowed Mid-State students to transfer seamlessly to Lakeland to pursue a bachelor's degree at a campus that is familiar and accessible to them. In the past five years, approximately 150 Mid-State students have transferred to Lakeland. These students persist and complete at high rates and go on to pursue a range of rewarding careers that benefit them and our Wisconsin communities.

By adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees, Mid-State will be able to create a pre-major curriculum that expands these educational options, at all four of its campuses. In turn, Mid-State will be able to recruit a wider range of students, especially those coming directly from high school. It also will be able to attract students who are seeking a bachelor's degree and want to leverage the flexibility of the A.A. and A.S. and Mid-State's tuition prices to reach their goals. Such students will be prepared well for college academics and therefore likely to complete the degrees on or ahead of schedule.

The degrees will further allow Mid-State to expand the college options it offers to local high school students. We have observed that many of these students take dual-credit courses that satisfy general education requirements. By design, these courses comprise a good part of such degrees as the A.A. and A.S. We anticipate as a result that many of these students will be eager to continue their post-secondary studies at Mid-State. Lakeland will gladly support this pathway by offering one of seven graduate certificates to high school teachers seeking the credentials to teach dual-credit courses.

Finally, we think it is worth noting that Mid-State currently offers the coursework for the A.A. and A.S., yet current legislation requires a different WTCS college to award the degrees. Presumably, this practice complicates Mid-State's efforts to accurately report its graduation rates. We encourage legislators to formally recognize the fact that Mid-State is the one delivering the A.A. and A.S. by allowing the college to confer the degrees. It is a logical and accurate choice. Moreover, the change will allow Mid-State faculty, staff, and students to take additional pride in their success as the college also increases its ability to serve the emerging educational needs of its community members.

Thank you for your consideration. We are glad to answer any questions or discuss our letter further.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Borger
President

Dr. Joshua P. Kutney
Vice President for Academic Affairs

May 17, 2021

Chairman Murphy
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Room 318 North
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairman Murphy:

As a student representative of the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) organization, I support amending Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees.

Currently, only 6 of the 16 WTCS colleges can offer these degrees because of Wis. Stat. 36.31, which became law in 1972. Removing this restriction from the other 10 colleges will expand educational opportunities for nontraditional students and persons of color throughout the state as well as help combat declining enrollments in higher education.

As of 2020, the annual tuition and fees of attending a WTCS school was \$4,167⁸ while the cost of tuition at a four-year University of Wisconsin (UW) school was as high as \$10,725⁹. Permitting WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees will help students better afford a four-year education. It will also help reduce future student loan debt and prepare students to succeed academically if they choose to continue their educations within the UW System.

I chose Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) for its fully accredited, quality educational opportunities as well as its affordability. I am also furthering my education by attending Lakeland University next year after graduating from LTC this year. LTC and Lakeland have a program known as the Lake-to-Lake program which allows for credits to fully transfer from one school to the other. This program is a great example of how these degrees would work but expanded to the whole UW system. Amending this law will afford thousands of WTCS students like me greater opportunities for success. Ultimately, this will benefit employers and communities throughout Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Matthew Nitsch
LTC IT-Network Specialist Program Student
LTC Student Leadership Board Vice President/WSG Lieutenant Governor 2020-21

8 WTCS Tuition Workgroup

9 UW HELP System Tuition Chart the College Board 2020, College Costs: Calculator



April 1, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dr. Foy:

I am writing in support of Lakeshore Technical College's request to offer two new Associate degrees. I believe the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Degrees will be excellent additions to LTC's offerings and provide beneficial opportunities for residents to improve their career prospects.

Graduates with these degrees will be well prepared with the technical skills to compete and thrive in today's ever changing work environment. Alternatively, they could pursue a more economical four-year degree with fully transferable credits.

It is my understanding LTC is not currently authorized to offer an AA or AS degree due to state statute. This seems a bit unfair given the number of non-traditional students that LTC serves, as well as the proven high-quality education consistently provided by Lakeshore Technical College.

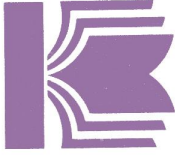
Graduates with these degrees and skillsets are precisely the type of people we are looking to hire at Heiden Inc. here in Manitowoc. Please help rectify this situation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Jacobson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Jacobson
President, Heiden, Inc.

CC: Dr. Paul Carlsen, President of Lakeshore Technical College



KIEL AREA
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

A Second Century Of Excellence

March 22, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter in support of the Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts program that is being considered at Lakeshore Technical College. This new Associate of Arts program would be of great benefit to not only students at the post-secondary level but will also be of great benefit to students who are still enrolled in high school and looking to take college credits that are directly related to an associate degree program at Lakeshore Technical College.

Here in the Kiel Area School District, we are striving to continue to partner with our neighboring schools in so many ways; this opportunity would very much help our students in the sense that they will have additional opportunities to pursue.

The School District of Kiel continues to look for multiple pathways for our high school students to earn dual credits. What we often find is that these students take courses, but those courses do not always relate directly to a program of study at the post-secondary level. The desire would be for our high school students to have as many transferable credits as possible prior to their graduation. This new Associate of Arts program would establish another pathway to include for our students. Our students would benefit from a direct stackable degree pathway for those students who wish to continue their education at a four-year college or university after completing the Associate of Arts program.

I understand the 36.31 statute limits this option for our students and appreciate the efforts by Dr. Carlsen and others who are working with our local legislators to potentially amend this practice.

Please continue to advocate for the Associate of Arts program expansion. This type of programming will add substantial value for our high school students, traditional post-secondary students, and non-traditional students alike.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Brad Ebert".

Dr. Brad Ebert



Manitowoc Public School District

April 5, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy-

I am writing this letter in support of the Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts program that is being considered at Lakeshore Technical College. This new Associate of Arts program would be of great benefit to not only students at the post-secondary level but will also be of great benefit to students who are still enrolled in high school and looking to take college credits that are directly related to an associate degree program at Lakeshore Technical College.

The Manistowoc Public School District continues to look for multiple pathways for our high school students to earn dual credits. What we often find is that these students take courses, but those courses do not always relate directly to a program of study at the post-secondary level. The desire would be for our high school students to have as many transferable credits as possible prior to their graduation.

Please continue to advocate for the Associate of Arts program expansion. This type of programming will add substantial value for our high school students, traditional post-secondary students, and non-traditional students alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lee Thennes'.

Lee Thennes
Lincoln High School
Principal

THE Metal Ware CORP

1700 Monroe Street • P.O. Box 237 • Two Rivers, WI 54241-0237 • P: 920.793.1368 • FAX: 920.793.1086
nesco.com • chardproducts.com

April 1, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing in support of Lakeshore Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate's of Science (AS) of Liberal Arts Degree.

LTC is a strong partner in our shared efforts to train and advance our workforce in the Lakeshore region. LTC graduates holding associates degree and technical diplomas are well-prepared and possess the skills that contribute to businesses like ours. But we believe there is more for them here in our region if given the opportunity to advance into the next degree.

We believe that there is a need to provide equitable access to both technical education and bachelor's degrees in NE Wisconsin. We have a relative deficit of bachelor-degreed individuals in our region. Offering the AA and AS degrees through LTC would provide our region's residents with access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate degree while living and working here. The AA and AS through LTC would provide our region's students with greater options in the pursuit of their educational and professional goals. This can be a game-changer for non-traditional students, first generation students, and traditional post-secondary students alike in this region.

Sincerely,



Ross Niemi
Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer

CC: Dr. Paul Carlsen, President of Lakeshore Technical College

May 13, 2021

Chairman Murphy
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Room 318 North
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairman Murphy:

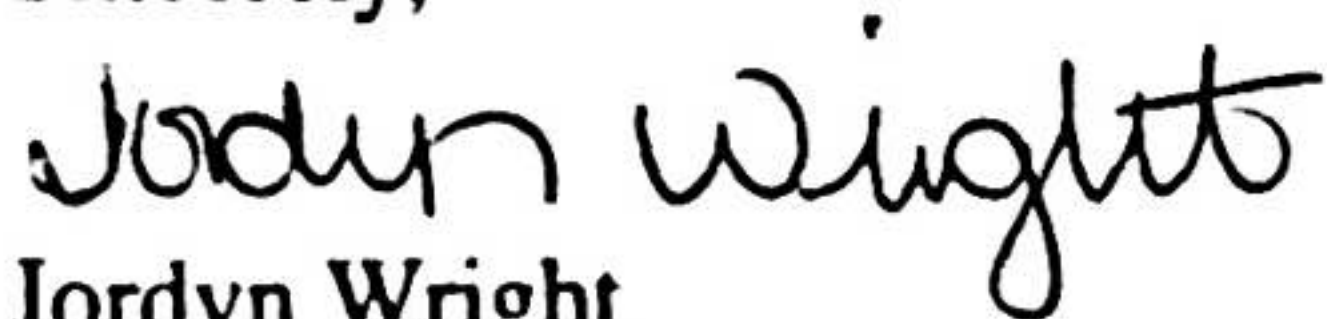
As a student representative of the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) organization, I support amending Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. I am also the Vice President of the Student Leadership Board through LTC and enjoy advocating for students at the college for degrees such as this.

Currently, only 6 of the 16 WTCS colleges can offer these degrees because of Wis. Stat. 36.31, which became law in 1972. Removing this restriction from the other 10 colleges will expand educational opportunities for nontraditional students and persons of color throughout the state as well as help combat declining enrollments in higher education. Part of the reason I chose to attend LTC when I decided to begin college was because of the flexible learning avenues offered, the abundance of help and live support enrolling in classes and filling out applications for financial aid, as well as the groups I could be apart of to truly drive home what LTC stands for. As a single mom, being able to fit school into my already busy schedule was huge for me. I also did not want to have to stress every day over how to afford college when focusing all my energy into attending my classes and performing my best was the utmost priority. Being able to offer students graduating from high school or, attending college for the first time the ability to enroll at LTC, complete general education courses while figuring out exactly what it is they want to do, and then encouraging them to obtain a general degree that is fully transferrable really puts LTC with another reason why attending this college is a fantastic choice. I am sure you understand how life goes; it changes constantly. Why not be able to offer peace of mind to students by allowing them to take their transferrable degree anywhere they go?

As of 2020, the annual tuition and fees of attending a WTCS school was \$4,167^{*} while the cost of tuition at a four-year University of Wisconsin (UW) school was as high as \$10,725^{*}. Permitting WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees will help students better afford a four-year education. Attending school after school does not seem fun to everyone especially when tasked with the question, "What do I want to do with my life or for the rest of my life?" It is a hard choice to make. Being able to work your way up to a four-year-education would limit most anxiety and stresses that are always swimming through students' minds. My plan as of now is to complete my Paralegal course through LTC and take full advantage of the Lake-to-Lake transfer program to Lakeland university to then obtain my bachelor's degree in the law field. It will also help reduce future student loan debt and prepare students to succeed academically if they choose to continue their educations within the UW System.

I chose Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) for its fully accredited, quality educational opportunities as well as its affordability. I also chose LTC because of the flexibility, reliability, and hands-on experience I am gaining even while attending school virtually. Teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond with myself and others to truly ensure the information being taught is being understood and retained, as well as always being available for anything life may throw at us. Amending this law will afford thousands of WTCS students like me greater opportunities for success. Ultimately, this will benefit employers and communities throughout Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Jordyn Wright

LTC Legal Studies/Paralegal Program Student

LTC Student Leadership Board Vice President/WSG Lieutenant Governor 2020-21

8 WTCS Tuition Workgroup

9 UW HELP System Tuition Chart the College Board 2020, College Costs: Calculator



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PRESIDENT & CEO:

Ruben L. Anthony Jr., Ph.D.

April 1, 2021

Dr. Jack Daniels, III
President
Madison College
1701 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Dr. Daniels:

We are very proud and have enjoyed a long-term relationship with Madison Area Technical College (Madison College) with special initiatives, programs and events. The Urban League of Greater Madison is stronger and able to serve more families because of this partnership.

You continue to provide transformative leadership and have led the way in advancing innovative educational and community initiatives. Madison College has been a beacon of hope in the community for Black students. The college has prepared students to be able to transfer or obtain workforce skills with a high degree of success. While the university may not be an immediate option for many Black students, when they graduate from high school, Madison College makes a four-year college degree attainable for many of our city's impoverished populations.

Your College provides students with a seamlessly transfer from your two-year degree programs to a four-year degree programs in the UW System of Colleges/Universities and in many colleges across the nation. This is so critical, because all graduating high school students may not be ready immediately for a four-year college. Your approach should be the standard for two-year colleges in this state. We applaud this and other innovative approaches that you are taking at Madison College to meet the needs of a very diverse student body.

We were extremely proud when the Goodman South Campus was constructed and opened. It has ignited a renaissance which has caused a multiplier effect of positive educational and economic development opportunities for students and their families. Most importantly, without Madison College serving our communities, attainment of quality skills would be lessened.

Madison College's efforts and success in serving the BIPOC community is tremendous and well-documented. We look forward to future collaborations that allow young students and adults to be successful in their endeavors.

With Regards,

Ruben L. Anthony Jr., Ph.D.
President & CEO



April 1, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53707-7874
Sent Via Email: morna.foy@wtcsystem.edu

Dear Dr. Foy,

As a business community that is highly dependent on its workforce acquiring skills through the Wisconsin Technical College System, we are writing in support of the amendment to Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees. This is a positive move for many reasons.

The ability for students to obtain higher education degrees via affordable pathways, no matter where they live, can only improve the education and our overall workforce in Wisconsin. Seamless transfers of credits into UW institutions will help reduce student debt, lessen administrative work and improve our statewide baccalaureate attainment.

Beaver Dam is a lower income, rural community and our students will be better served and more likely to succeed in education if it is an affordable, flexible and accessible pathway. This statewide expansion of the Associate of Arts /Associate of Science degrees is a smart move for Wisconsin that will ultimately provide our employers with a more educated workforce. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at 920.887.8879. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Tracy M Propst
Executive Director

April 6, 2021

Dr. Mona Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter in support of Moraine Park Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) of Liberal Arts degree.

MPTC is a valued partner in training future employees for Fives Giddings & Lewis as well as many other companies in our community. We hire both associate degree and technical diploma graduates who have obtained a great foundation at MPTC and can hit the ground running when they come onboard.

As the world around us evolves and changes the need to be flexible in education has never been more important. By offering the AA/AS of Liberal Arts degrees at MPTC it would create low cost, flexible option for our current and future employees who might not otherwise qualify for or have access to a four-year degree. The flexibility to take the proper steps to the student's career path will be present as well.

You never know where the road may take you as I know being a graduate of MPTC with a technical diploma. They have given me a great foundation to build upon in my career and with these two additions MPTC will be given some avenues to help our workforce of the future with even more opportunities.

Feel free to contact me at 920-204-2225 if you have any questions.

Thanks for your time!

Dave

Dave Brenner
Director of Quality

Fives Giddings & Lewis, LLC

A subsidiary of Fives Machining Systems, Inc.

142 Doty Street - Fond du Lac, WI 54935 - USA

Tel.: +1 (920) 921 9400 - Fax: +1 (920) 906 2522 - Email: fivesmsi-sales@fivesgroup.com

www.fivesgroup.com

From: Bonnie Baerwald <bbaerwald@morainepark.edu>
Subject: FW: Support for MPTC
Date: April 23, 2021 at 4:10:13 PM CDT
To: "Layla Merrifield (lmerrifield@districtboards.org)"
<lmerrifield@districtboards.org>, Morna Foy <morna.foy@wtcsystem.edu>

Sharing as an fyi.

Bonnie Baerwald, MPA, CPA
President
Moraine Park Technical College
Website: morainepark.edu
bbaerwald@morainepark.edu
Phone: 920.924.6430
Fax: 920.924.6663
235 N. National Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1940
imagine what's next

Mission: Preparing students for success in a diverse and globally connected world.

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From: Bob Lloyd <BLloyd@lomira.k12.wi.us>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Bonnie Baerwald <bbaerwald@morainepark.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Support for MPTC

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Moraine Park Technical College. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents are safe. Any doubts about the email? Click the Phish Alert button to report the email to IT.
Just an FYI

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Bob Lloyd <BLloyd@lomira.k12.wi.us>
Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 3:00 PM
Subject: Support for MPTC
To: Mark Born (Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov)
<Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Mark,

On behalf of the Lomira School District, I would like to offer my support for the amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees. The statewide expansion of Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (AA/AS) transfer programs ensures affordable, accessible pathways to bachelor's degrees regardless of geography. Our students need flexible, multi-path options for students seeking to transfer from MPTC to the UW System and other universities. It is vital local students have equal access in choosing the higher education experience that best meets their needs. Under the current statute, MPTC students who are taking general education courses with the intent to transfer into a bachelor's degree granting university are penalized because of their ineligibility for federal financial aid. The inability to transfer core program credits also presents a problem to students as they may have to retake classes to earn a bachelor's degree, costing them additional time and money.

In conclusion, I think we can agree that many of our recent graduates have significant debt that will burden them and ultimately hurt our economy. For once, let's take a proactive approach so we do not have to even consider forgiving poor financial decisions.

Thanks for your consideration and enjoy the day!

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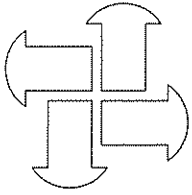
Bob Lloyd
Lomira School District
Superintendent/Middle School Principal

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Bob Lloyd
Lomira School District
Superintendent/Middle School Principal

Journal - Sentinel Top Workplace 2018 - 2020

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E-Mail: mail@nationalrivet.com

Dr Morna Foy
President, Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53707-7874

March 23, 2021

Dr Foy,

I am writing to request that you share my support of the Wisconsin Technical College System's efforts to amend Wisconsin Statute 36.3. This statute currently restricts the ability of 10 of the 16 technical colleges to offer Associate of Arts & Associate of Science degrees. That is an inequity that deserves to be corrected.

I currently serve on the Moraine Park Technical College District Board, in the role of Board Chairman. My interest in supporting the WTCS request comes from my board role at MPTC, as well as my roles of Employer and Parent. In each of these roles, individuals and communities would be better off if the proposed changes were enacted.

I have attached the WTCS Budget support document, which explains the rationale and benefits of this request in a far more informative way than I could do. Please ask the decision makers to study it carefully and then I believe they will find it to be good educational policy, as I do.

Sincerely,

John Bur Zeratsky
President

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) 2021-23 BUDGET REQUEST

Amend Wis. Stat. 36.31 to Expand Equity, Access & Opportunity

We respectfully request the amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees. Currently only 6¹ of the 16 WTCS colleges are able to offer these degrees; the remaining 10 must go through a cumbersome approval process that includes approval from four different boards (the College Board of Trustees, the WTCS Board of Trustees, the UWS Board of Regents and the Higher Learning Commission). As the largest higher education system in the state², the WTCS is well poised to expand opportunities for learners while serving a distinct and unmet need.

Create affordable and accessible pathways to higher education.

The statewide expansion of Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (AA/AS) transfer programs ensures affordable, accessible pathways to bachelor's degrees regardless of geography. Students throughout the state of Wisconsin should have equitable access to the AA/AS transfer programs available to their peers in Madison and Milwaukee. By creating seamless, reliable transfer into UW institutions, we have the ability to lessen administrative overhead, reduce student debt and expand statewide baccalaureate attainment.

Expand opportunities for free choice in the market.

As consumers, students should have equal access in choosing the higher education experience that best meets their needs. Students desiring the UW experience will continue to select a UW college. Students desiring a technical college experience (and price tag) for college transfer should not be denied that option by a state statute.

Broaden the pipeline to equitable educational opportunities.

Wisconsin needs flexible, multi-path options for students seeking to transfer from the WTCS to the UW System and other universities. Older students, first generation students and low income students are often better served at a technical college that provides comprehensive student support services. This amendment removes barriers to degree completion for qualified students, as it has been noted that students who begin at a technical college are more likely to progress along their educational pathway due to the accessibility of lower tuition and flexibility of course offerings.

Improve access for rural and underserved populations.

WTCS has over 50 campuses statewide with the infrastructure to support learners in the most rural and underserved areas. By ensuring equitable access to people in rural communities, we

¹ The six colleges include Chippewa Valley, Madison College, Milwaukee Area, Nicolet, Western and Wisconsin Indianhead.

² 173,239 postsecondary students were served by WTCS colleges in Fall 2019; the University of Wisconsin (UW) universities/colleges served 167,688 postsecondary students in Fall 2019



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NORTH FOND DU LAC

1115 Thurke Avenue
North Fond du Lac, WI 54937
Phone: (920) 929-3750
FAX: (920) 929-3696

Monday, March 29th, 2021

Senator Feyen, Representatives Theisfeldt and Schraa
Wisconsin State Capitol
2 East Main Street
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Support for Amendment to Wisconsin State Statute 36.31

Dear Senator Feyen and Representatives Theisfeldt and Schraa,

On behalf of the School District of North Fond du Lac, I would like to offer our support for the amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees. The statewide expansion of Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (AA/AS) transfer programs ensures affordable, accessible pathways to bachelor's degrees regardless of geography.

Our students need flexible, multi-path options for students seeking to transfer from the Moraine Park technical College (MPTC) to the UW System and other universities. It is vital local students have equal access in choosing the higher education experience that best meets their needs. Under the current statute, NTC students who are taking general education courses with the intent to transfer into a bachelor's degree granting university are penalized because of their ineligibility for federal financial aid. The inability to transfer core program credits also presents a problem to students as they may have to retake classes to earn a bachelor's degree, costing them additional time and money.

The WTCS has over 50 campuses in rural and areas underserved by the UW System through no fault of its own. This ensures equitable access to higher education opportunities throughout the entire state. As the need for highly skilled workers increases, this localized access to educational opportunity becomes even more important, especially for students traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to provide additional information and support for a simpler and more robust pipeline to the UW system for MPTC and other WTCS students.

Please realize there is no monetary investment needed for amending Wis. Stat. 36.31. We strongly urge your support and consideration for the amendment of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. 36.31) to readily allow all WTCS colleges to offer Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degrees.

Sincerely,

Aaron Sadoff – Superintendent

Phone (m): (920) 539-7151

Email: asadoff@nfdlschools.org

can broaden the reach and accessibility to higher education for learners who are traditionally underserved.

Provide financial support.

Under the current statute, technical college students who are not in an Associate of Arts/Associate of Science pathway, yet are taking general education courses with the intent to transfer into a bachelor degree granting university, are penalized because of their ineligibility for federal financial aid. Without access to federal financial aid, committed students are less likely to complete and more likely to accumulate debt.

Support statewide workforce development.

As the need for highly skilled workers grows in the state, Wisconsin's Technical Colleges are well poised to close the degree gap by providing expanded AA/AS opportunities for groups that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Wisconsin's employers continually demand a better educated, more nimble workforce that can adapt to changing demands. This change supports a pipeline of lifelong learners who will live and work in the state of Wisconsin.³

Community and technical colleges have long been recognized across the country as symbiotic, rather than threatening, to four-year universities. Expanding access to AA/AS degrees will not compromise our focus on career/occupational and technical education. However, as higher education continues to evolve, it is increasingly vital that Wisconsin's technical colleges keep up with current market (student and workforce) demands. Amending Wisconsin Statute 36.31 is the catalyst for change needed to provide Wisconsin residents with inclusive, equitable access to college transfer opportunities. While there is no monetary investment required, amending Wis. Stat. 36.31 has the ability to reap benefits far into the future for our students, our businesses and our state.

³ 93% of WTCS program graduates work within Wisconsin after graduation (7,924 of 8,491 graduates) in 2018-19.

April 2, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
President, Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Re: Changes to State Statute 36.31 – College Transfer Program

Dear Dr. Foy:

The Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin (WDBSCW) is pleased to share our support of Moraine Park Technical College's (MPTC) request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Liberal Arts degrees. We have a long-term, collaborative relationship with MPTC and will continue to invest in, and value our long-standing partnership.

The WDBSCW's mission is to build public and private partnerships that support innovation and excellence in workforce development in the Wisconsin counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Marquette, and Sauk. Through these partnerships, we drive to deliver solutions that work for businesses, workers, and communities to make our region a better place to live, work, and do business. The importance of our partnerships and the ability to facilitate opportunities for individuals to initiate, build, and transfer their academics to support their careers pathway progressions is crucial to the success and viability of our region.

MPTC's district covers an estimated population base of nearly 308,000 individuals. Of the 14,412 graduates within the 2019-2020 academic year, 46.33% graduated with an Associate's degree (6,677). Businesses throughout the area consistently learn on MPTC to develop the talent of their existing and future workforce.

Considering that, most MPTC graduates choose to remain living and working within the MPTC districts, enabling the districts to offer AA/AS degrees represents a sound talent and community development strategy. Thank you in advance for supporting these types of talent, workforce economic, and community development initiatives.

Sincerely,



Seth Lentz
CEO / Executive Director



Partnerships and pathways for economic growth

WDBSCW

3513 Anderson St, Ste 104
Madison, WI 53704 USA

+1 608 249 9001
www.wdbscw.org

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March 25, 2021

Dr. Morna K. Foy

President - Wisconsin Technical College System

4622 University Avenue

Madison, WI 53707-7874

RE: Supporting Degree Transfer Mechanisms

Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter in support of Moraine Park Technical College request to offer the Associate of Arts Transfer Degree. But more importantly I write in support of equitable education opportunities for all students of Wisconsin.

It is of the utmost importance that we provide students with equitable opportunities for local, flexible, and affordable educational avenues. Providing equitable opportunities to students will increase enrolment throughout the UW system. It will provide opportunities to those that cannot afford a traditional four-year degree.

Students that enroll in an Associate of Arts degree program at the Technical College level would be afforded the opportunity to explore different educational opportunities while enrolled in an Associate of Arts degree program on the technical college level. They may decide during the program that a four-year bachelor's degree is not for them but rather a two-year technical degree would better suit them. Offering an Associate of Arts degree program throughout the totality of the technical college system would provide equitable education opportunities statewide, from Superior to Kenosha.

Dave Biermann

Quality/Operations Manager

Willer Tool Corporation

W225 N16683 Cedar Park Court

Jackson, WI 53037

Ph.:(262) 677-6000 Ext. 107

<mailto:dbiermann@willer.com>



April 8, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter in support of Moraine Park Technical College's request to offer a two-year Liberal Arts Associate Degree.

Moraine Park provides high-quality education and is a valued community training partner. The Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Development Board routinely works with Moraine Park to train Washington County's future workforce. Local demand continues to be strong for a well-educated and skilled workforce, and projections show that this demand will only increase due to local demographics and changing industries.

Participants in public workforce programming are able to access additional training opportunities through a variety of pathways. However, funding assistance is oftentimes required in order to enroll and successfully complete the program. Offering the two-year Liberal Arts Associate Degree will open up new opportunities to individuals and make continuing education a reality for more individuals in Washington County. With the growth in high-skill positions, this would provide more individuals a cost-effective pathway to four-year baccalaureate degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Catherman
Workforce Development Board Director



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JOHN Y. WALZ

P 414.277.7100

April 1, 2021

President Jack E. Daniels, III
Madison College
1701 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Dear President Daniels:

I write to express our appreciation of Madison College as a significant provider of transfer students to MSOE, and to compliment you on preparing students for academic success after transfer.

Each year, students transfer from Madison College to MSOE to enter either our Technical Sales program or our Electrical Engineering program. We work closely together on these transfer collaborations. Madison College transfer students are well-prepared academically, succeed in classes, and complete at rates comparable to students who start with us as first year students.

In summary, Madison College is an important transfer partner for MSOE, and we are a stronger institution as a result of our transfer collaborations. If I can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Y. Walz'.

John Y, Walz, Ph.D.
President



ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 30, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

The Adams-Friendship Area School District is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and a new direct admit programs for our graduates.

Adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees will allow Mid-State to minimize affordability and accessibility barriers and provide students with a degree or a university bachelor transfer opportunity at all four of its local campuses. Additionally, Mid-State will be able to serve a wider range of diverse students, especially those coming directly from our high school and others. We anticipate this will have a direct impact on the 60-Forward initiative whereas the state is seeking to reach 60% of the working population having a post-secondary credential by 2027. The Mid-State district ranges from 24-47% percent secondary credential attainment, currently.

Importantly, this initiative will allow Mid-State to expand general education dual credit options to local high school students providing students with a strong, confident pathway to their post-secondary journey. Last year alone, Mid-State district families saved over \$700,000 in college tuition through earned dual credits.

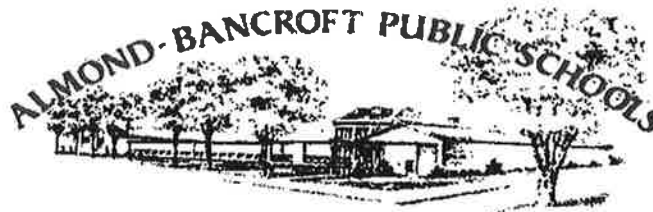
We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Wermuth, Ph.D.

The Adams-Friendship School District believes in promoting a safe, friendly and supportive educational experience for our students. Our staff, parents and students work together to live up to our mission statement:

"Preparing students to perform for life."



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1336 ELM STREET ALMOND, WI 54909
www.abschools.k12.wi.us
Phone 715-366-2941

District Office Fax 715-366-2940 Secondary Office Fax 715-366-2943

April 23, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

The School District of Almond-Bancroft is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

Adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees will allow Mid-State to minimize affordability and accessibility barriers and provide students with a degree or a university bachelor transfer opportunity at all four of its local campuses. Additionally, Mid-State will be able to serve a wider range of diverse students, especially those coming directly from our high school and others. We anticipate this will have a direct impact on the 60-Forward initiative whereas the state is seeking to reach 60% of the working population having a post-secondary credential by 2027. The Mid-State district ranges from 24-47% percent secondary credential attainment, currently.

Importantly, this initiative will allow Mid-State to expand general education dual credit options to local high school students providing students with a strong, confident pathway to their post-secondary journey. Last year alone, Mid-State district families saved over \$700,000 in college tuition through earned dual credits.

We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,


Dr. Penny L. Boileau, Superintendent

The School District of Almond-Bancroft does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, learning disability or handicap in its educational programs and activities.

“Soar With Eagle Pride”



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AUBURNDALE

10564 School Ave. • P.O. Box 139 • Auburndale, WI 54412
715-652-2117 • Fax: 715-652-2836 • <http://www.aubschools.com>

Mr. James Delikowski ~ District Administrator

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

The School District of Auburndale is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

Adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees will allow Mid-State to minimize affordability and accessibility barriers and provide students with a degree or a university bachelor transfer opportunity at all four of its local campuses. Additionally, Mid-State will be able to serve a wider range of diverse students, especially those coming directly from our high school and others. We anticipate this will have a direct impact on the 60-Forward initiative whereas the state is seeking to reach 60% of the working population having a post-secondary credential by 2027. The Mid-State district ranges from 24-47% percent secondary credential attainment, currently.

Importantly, this initiative will allow Mid-State to expand general education dual credit options to local high school students providing students with a strong, confident pathway to their post-secondary journey. Last year alone, Mid-State district families saved over \$700,000 in college tuition through earned dual credits.

We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Delikowski
District Administrator
School District of Auburndale
Auburndale, WI

David Farmbrough MA (Lond), BA (Lond)
40 Airport Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

04/01/21

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

As you know, Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) is asking for the repeal of Wisconsin Statute 36.31, in order to allow the college to offer associate degrees in arts and sciences.

As a resident of the area and former newspaper editor, I have witnessed Mid-State's commitment to excellence in all areas, from courses offered to high school students to engineering degrees. The faculty and campus are first-class, and exceed my expectations of a technical college.

Two major socioeconomic problems face our community in the immediate future. The first is the "grey tsunami" (the retirement of trained and experienced workforce), the second is the talent drain from Midwest rural communities toward big cities. Both issues are ameliorated by the training and retention of local people. At present, in order to complete associate degrees, Mid-State students have to finish their courses at colleges outside our area. Many students are dissuaded from going to MSTC initially because they cannot offer associate degrees, and therefore go out of the area for tertiary education.

If the restriction on offering associate degrees were to be lifted from MSTC, it would be ideally-placed to help deal with these problems. As well as providing training and qualification that meets the needs of our regional businesses, it does so in a way that is less costly than other options for local people, ten percent of whom are below the federal poverty level.

Please support MSTC's request to add AA and AS degree programs, and the request from the WTCS Presidents to the State Legislature for repeal of Statute 36.31.

Yours sincerely,

David Farmbrough (715-323-8594)

Founding Editor of Wisconsin Rapids City-Times, former Secretary of the Central Wisconsin Literacy Council, Finance Director of Wisconsin Rapids Children's Museum, current President of the McMillan Memorial Library Board Of Trustees, Board Member Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre and Friends Of Rapids Music. Exhibiting Artist and Committee Member at Central Wisconsin Cultural Center. Secretary of River City Rhapsody, Member River City Writers and Mid-State Poetry Towers.

March 19, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy:

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) has requested to be allowed to offer Associate's degrees, both Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS). Gamber-Johnson strongly supports this request.

With the very real talent shortage challenging businesses in Central Wisconsin, MSTC is an integral partner in combatting this shortage. MSTC can serve not only to bridge skills gaps which exist but also to attract talent to the region which is faced with a declining, aging population. The Technical Colleges in Wisconsin provide a more affordable, accessible pathway to higher education which may otherwise be unavailable to many students particularly among underprivileged populations.

MSTC can play a pivotal role in helping to increase access to higher education by expanding its degree offerings. An important aspect of this increased access will be the ability to attract more diversity and, frankly, more students in general to the region. It is patently unfair that five of 16 technical colleges are allowed to offer such programs while the remaining 11 are not.

MSTC does an excellent job with its many technical programs but the restrictions against offering AA and AS degrees limits the population it can serve and thereby limits a pipeline of educated students with knowledge needed by many employers in the region.

My company has enjoyed great success and thrived in Central Wisconsin. As a two-time Manufacturer of the Year award winner, and recently named Great Place to Work®, Gamber-Johnson has benefitted from and invested in our great partnership with MSTC. Having the resources of MSTC available is a key enabler to our success and their ability to offer AA and AS degrees will great enhance that.

Not only do I serve as President and CEO of Gamber-Johnson but I am also on the Board of Centergy (Central Wisconsin's Economic Development Organization). I would proffer that the issues I express reflect not only apply to Gamber-Johnson but most, if not all, employers in our region.

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3001 Borham Avenue, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481 - (+1) 715.344.3790 - gamberjohnson.com
An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company

I would ask you to please support MSTC's request to add AA and AS degree programs as well as the request from the WTCS Presidents to the State Legislature for repeal of Statute 36.31.

If you would like to discuss my perspective further or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 715-340-8725.

Sincerely,

Brian Wagner
President and CEO

Granton Area School District

James Kuchta
Interim District Administrator
715-238-7292

Amanda Kraus
4K-12 Principal
715-238-7175



April 28, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

The Granton Area School District is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

Adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees will allow Mid-State to minimize affordability and accessibility barriers and provide students with a degree or a university bachelor transfer opportunity at all four of its local campuses. Additionally, Mid-State will be able to serve a wider range of diverse students, especially those coming directly from our high school and others. We anticipate this will have a direct impact on the 60-Forward initiative whereas the state is seeking to reach 60% of the working population having a post-secondary credential by 2027. The Mid-State district ranges from 24-47% percent secondary credential attainment, currently.

Importantly, this initiative will allow Mid-State to expand general education dual credit options to local high school students providing students with a strong, confident pathway to their post-secondary journey. Last year alone, Mid-State district families saved over \$700,000 in college tuition through earned dual credits. Students from Granton Area School saved over \$6,000 in tuition costs and earned 44 dual credits.

We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James Kuchta in black ink.

James Kuchta, Ed. S.
Interim District Administrator

Handwritten signature of Amanda Kraus in black ink.

Amanda Kraus
4K-12 Principal

Handwritten signature of Michelle Schmitz in black ink.

Michelle Schmitz
School Counselor

GUNDERSEN

MOUNDVIEW HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

March 23, 2021

Dear Dr. Foy:

I am writing this letter in support of all Wisconsin Technical College's, and specifically Mid-State Technical College's request to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees by eliminating Wisconsin State Statute § 36.31.

We have partnered with Mid-State for many years and consider them a valued source for well-trained future employees and enhancing the skills of the current workforce in our area. As a healthcare provider, we hire associate degree and technical diploma program graduates to help care for the patients we serve in our local rural communities. As you are likely aware, there is a shortage of skilled workers in many of the roles in healthcare. As the population ages, this demand will increase.

Based on the above, it is vital that students who choose to pursue a degree with a technical college be given the opportunity to obtain an Associate of Arts or Science degree. Many potential technical college students come from or live in rural communities and need the availability, flexibility, and lower cost of a technical college degree. In many cases these students choose to stay in or return to support the communities in which they were raised. Without the availability of these graduates our ability to provide quality and timely services can diminish.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Feel free to contact me at if you have any questions related to my stance of this very important matter.

Sincerely,




Francisco Perez-Guerra
Administrator/CEO

Moundview Hospital
402 West Lake Street, P.O. Box 40
Friendship, Wisconsin 53934
(608) 339-3331

Friendship Clinic
402 West Lake Street, P.O. Box 40
Friendship, Wisconsin 53934
(608) 339-6350

Westfield Clinic
207 North Pioneer Park Road, Unit 8
Westfield, Wisconsin 53964
(608) 296-6350



Heart of Wisconsin

Chamber of Commerce

March 18, 2021

Dr. Morna K. Foy
President - Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53707-7874

The purpose of this correspondence is to communicate that the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce strongly supports Mid-State Technical College's (Mid-State) strategic goal to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degree transfers in Wood and Portage Counties. I am specifically referring to the Wisconsin statute 36.31. The type of workforce initiative that Mid-State would provide individuals and employers alike with opportunities to access local, flexible and lower cost bachelors degree programming.

Mid-State has a reputable, strong and well-established brand that students and businesses gravitate toward. As such, businesses throughout the Stateline Area consistently lean on Mid-State to develop and deliver incumbent worker training. Moreover, businesses actively hire graduates from any number of Mid-State's applied associate degree and/or technical diploma programs. As a matter of fact, the employer demand in certain disciplines is so high that a large percentage of those students are hired well in advance of their projected graduation dates.

As an economic development professional with experience in rural environments, I can attest to the value-proposition that a skilled workforce provides. Building and supporting a diversified economy requires ongoing investments into an area's talent development pipeline. Hence, it's important to remove antiquated barriers that prohibit, restrict or slow-down degree transfer mechanisms and/or education attainment opportunities.

Considering that most Mid-State graduates choose to remain living and working in the Central Wisconsin, enabling the district to offer AA/AS degrees represents a sound investment strategy. This type of commitment will facilitate life-long learning, while simultaneously elevating the business case for continually planting business roots throughout the Central Wisconsin.

Thank you in advance for supporting these types of workforce development initiatives.

Sincerely,



Angel Whitehead
President
Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce



INNOVATIVE MACHINE SPECIALISTS, INC.

March 23, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Dr. Foy,

I am writing this letter in support of Mid-State Technical College's request to offer the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) of Liberal Arts degree.

Innovative Machine Specialists, Inc. supports and values MSTC as a partner in training future employees and current workforce. Many of our employees have received post-secondary education from a technical college such as MSTC. As our workforce continues to near retirement age, the demand for skilled workers in the manufacturing industry continues to increase.

Having the availability of the AA/AS Liberal Arts degree at Mid-State Technical College would continue to create affordable, flexible, academically supported opportunities for our current and future employees. Many of which have families and continue to pursue post-secondary education while also maintaining full time employment, making it difficult to pursue post-secondary education.

Offering degrees such as the AA & AS of Liberal Arts degrees helps to ensure that individuals have accessibility to higher levels of skill and education that may not otherwise be afforded to them. Promoting and ensuring degrees such as these also promotes the vitality of the community of which they live and work in. Providing access to the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate college education at Mid-State Technical College offers Wisconsin residents inclusive, accessible and equitable education in which Innovative Machine Specialists, Inc. fully supports.

Feel free to contact me at 715-389-1511 should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ashley Vogel
Human Resources Administrative Assistant



March 24, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our support for legislation that will allow Mid-State Technical College to confer the Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

Lakeland University has partnered with Mid-State Technical College for many years. In fact, we operate our Central Wisconsin Center out of the college's location in Wisconsin Rapids. This partnership has allowed Mid-State students to transfer seamlessly to Lakeland to pursue a bachelor's degree at a campus that is familiar and accessible to them. In the past five years, approximately 150 Mid-State students have transferred to Lakeland. These students persist and complete at high rates and go on to pursue a range of rewarding careers that benefit them and our Wisconsin communities.

By adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees, Mid-State will be able to create a pre-major curriculum that expands these educational options, at all four of its campuses. In turn, Mid-State will be able to recruit a wider range of students, especially those coming directly from high school. It also will be able to attract students who are seeking a bachelor's degree and want to leverage the flexibility of the A.A. and A.S. and Mid-State's tuition prices to reach their goals. Such students will be prepared well for college academics and therefore likely to complete the degrees on or ahead of schedule.

The degrees will further allow Mid-State to expand the college options it offers to local high school students. We have observed that many of these students take dual-credit courses that satisfy general education requirements. By design, these courses comprise a good part of such degrees as the A.A. and A.S. We anticipate as a result that many of these students will be eager to continue their post-secondary studies at Mid-State. Lakeland will gladly support this pathway by offering one of seven graduate certificates to high school teachers seeking the credentials to teach dual-credit courses.

Finally, we think it is worth noting that Mid-State currently offers the coursework for the A.A. and A.S., yet current legislation requires a different WTCS college to award the degrees. Presumably, this practice complicates Mid-State's efforts to accurately report its graduation rates. We encourage legislators to formally recognize the fact that Mid-State is the one delivering the A.A. and A.S. by allowing the college to confer the degrees. It is a logical and accurate choice. Moreover, the change will allow Mid-State faculty, staff, and students to take additional pride in their success as the college also increases its ability to serve the emerging educational needs of its community members.

Thank you for your consideration. We are glad to answer any questions or discuss our letter further.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Borger
President

Dr. Joshua P. Kutney
Vice President for Academic Affairs



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEKOOSA

Empowering all students to succeed in a global community

www.nekoosasd.net

March 30, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy:

The School District of Nekoosa is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

Adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees will allow Mid-State to minimize affordability and accessibility barriers and provide students with a degree or a university bachelor transfer opportunity at all four of its local campuses. Additionally, Mid-State will be able to serve a wider range of diverse students, especially those coming directly from our high school and others. We anticipate this will have a direct impact on the 60-Forward initiative whereas the state is seeking to reach 60% of the working population having a post-secondary credential by 2027. The Mid-State district ranges from 24-47% percent secondary credential attainment, currently.

Importantly, this initiative will allow Mid-State to expand general education dual credit options to local high school students providing students with a strong, confident pathway to their post-secondary journey. Last year alone, Mid-State district families saved over \$700,000 in college tuition through earned dual credits.

We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Whitmore', is written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Terry Whitmore
District Administrator



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE

Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships

HIGH SCHOOL
Dr. Cynthia Porter, Principal
5407 First Avenue
Pittsville, WI 54466
715-884-6412
FAX 715-884-2870

DISTRICT OFFICE
Rodney Figueroa, Superintendent
5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2
Pittsville, WI 54466
715-884-6694
FAX 715-884-5218

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Heather Friday, Principal
5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 1
Pittsville, WI 54466
715-884-2517
FAX 715-884-5232

March 29, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

The School District of Pittsville is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.


We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

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Importantly, this initiative will allow Mid-State to expand general education dual credit options to local high school students providing students with a strong, confident pathway to their post-secondary journey. Last year alone, Mid-State district families saved over \$700,000 in college tuition through earned dual credits.

We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,



R. Figueroa

March 29, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

The Port Edwards School District is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

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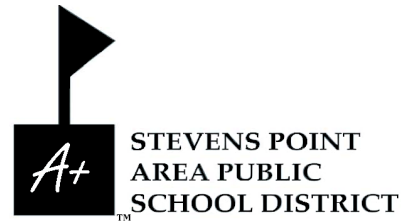
We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,

Kyle Cronan
District Administrator
Port Edwards School District

Prepare Each Student To Be Successful
www.pointschools.net

Craig Gerlach, Ed.S., Superintendent
Bliss Educational Services Center
1900 Polk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Ph: (715) 345-5444 Fax: (715) 345-7302



March 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

As one of the largest K-12 school districts in Central Wisconsin, we continually look for ways to expand and provide educational opportunities for our students; which is why I fully support allowing all Wisconsin Technical Colleges to offer the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees.

The elimination of antiquated State Statute 36.31 opens educational doors in central and northern Wisconsin to students who need accessible, affordable, and relevant skills training.

I can state with certainty that our senior high students would benefit greatly from additional Dual Credit opportunities and options at Mid-State Technical College.

Therefore, please consider approval of the Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts program. This opportunity will provide pathways that are invaluable to students and local communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Gerlach', written in a cursive style.

Craig Gerlach
Superintendent
Stevens Point Area Public School District

AMHERST
HIGH SCHOOL

357 N. Main Street
Amherst, WI 54406
Ph: 715.824.5522 Fax: 715.824.5454



Mike Klieforth
Principal

Shelley Swanson
Counselor

Merry Dudley
Executive Secretary

March 29, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

The Tomorrow River School District is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

Adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees will allow Mid-State to minimize affordability and accessibility barriers and provide students with a degree or a university bachelor transfer opportunity at all four of its local campuses. Additionally, Mid-State will be able to serve a wider range of diverse students, especially those coming directly from our high school and others. We anticipate this will have a direct impact on the 60-Forward initiative whereas the state is seeking to reach 60% of the working population having a post-secondary credential by 2027. The Mid-State district ranges from 24-47% percent secondary credential attainment, currently.

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We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Klieforth', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mike Klieforth
High School Principal



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

510 Peach Street ♦ Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 ♦ 715-424-6700

April 26, 2021

Dr. Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear President Foy,

Wisconsin Rapids Public School District is writing to advocate for the upcoming legislation to repeal Statute 36.31 that will allow all Wisconsin Technical Colleges, including our local partner Mid-State Technical College, to join 5 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges in conferring Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees.

We have been a K-12 educational partner with Mid-State Technical College for many years. Together we share the mission of preparing our students to be career ready in many occupations. Examples of our collaborations and partnerships include dual credit, ACP supporting activities, campus tours, joint district counselor meetings, joint administrative meetings, grant partnerships, and many more.

Adding the A.A. and A.S. degrees will allow Mid-State to minimize affordability and accessibility barriers and provide students with a degree or a university bachelor transfer opportunity at all four of its local campuses. Additionally, Mid-State will be able to serve a wider range of diverse students, especially those coming directly from our high school and others. We anticipate this will have a direct impact on the 60-Forward initiative whereas the state is seeking to reach 60% of the working population having a post-secondary credential by 2027. The Mid-State district ranges from 24-47% percent secondary credential attainment, currently.

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We encourage legislators to formally increase accessibility and affordability leading to student equity in post-secondary options through the repeal of the antiquated Wisconsin Statute, 36.31.

Sincerely,

Craig G. Broeren
Superintendent
craig.broeren@wrps.net
715-424-6701
