



**DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING**

March 7, 2017  
Northcentral Technical College  
1000 W. Campus Drive  
Wausau, WI 54401  
Timberwolf Conference Center - Room D100  
1:00 p.m.

**12:00** Lunch

**1:00** Call to order, compliance with Open Meetings Law (Wis. Stat. 19.81-19.88)

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**II. PUBLIC INPUT**

A. Public Comments

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. [Approval of minutes from February 14, 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting](#)

Motion: That the Northcentral Technical College Board Approve the meeting minutes from the February 14, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting.

Voice vote required to approve.

**IV. REGULAR VOTING AGENDAS**

A. [Approval of Final 2017 – 2018 Capital Budget](#)

Approval of Final 2017-2018 Capital Budget not to exceed the \$11,615,000 capital expenditures budget, funded through capital borrowings of \$10,700,000, fund balance of \$700,000, and donations of \$215,000 including identified items exceeding \$50,000.

Motion:

That the Northcentral Technical College District Board move to approve the Final 2017 – 2018 Capital Budget not to exceed the \$11,615,000 capital expenditures budget, funded through capital borrowings of \$10,700,000, fund balance of \$700,000, and donations of \$215,000 including identified items exceeding \$50,000.

Voice vote required to approve.

B. [Incidental fees and miscellaneous student charges](#)

Motion:

That the Northcentral Technical College District Board move to approve the revised incidental fees and miscellaneous student charges.

Voice Vote required

**V. CONSENT VOTING AGENDA**

A. Approval of consent Voting Agenda (Roll Call Vote)

- [Receipts & Expenditures](#)
- [Personnel Changes](#)

Motion: That the Northcentral Technical College District Board move to approve the Consent Voting Agenda including:

Receipts & Expenditures  
Personnel Changes

Roll call vote required to approve.

**VI. BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

A. [Economic Status Report](#) – Vicki Jeppesen/Angie Servi

**VII. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

A. President's Report

- Marketing Update – Katie Felch
- Achieving the Dream Project Update - Vicki Jeppesen
- Comments from Informational Update

B. Chairperson's Report

- Spring 2017 Board Appointment Update – Maria Volpe/PaHnia Thao
- WTC District Boards Association 2017 Spring Meeting – April 6 – 8, 2017 –Lakeshore District

C. Information

- [Capital Projects Monitoring Report](#)
- [Upcoming Meetings/Events](#)
- [Good News](#)

**VIII. CLOSED SESSION**

**(Approximately 3:00 CLOSED SESSION)**



- A. Adjourn Board into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (b) (g) for the purpose:
- Approval of the February 14, 2017 Closed Session Minutes
  - Update on pending litigation
  - Personnel

**Motion:** To Adjourn Board into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (b) (g) for the Purpose of:

- Approval of the February 14, 2017 Closed Session Minutes
- Update on pending litigation
- Personnel

Roll Call Vote Required

#### **IX. OPEN SESSION**

- A. Adjourn Board into Open Session to take any action deemed necessary as a result of the closed session.

**Motion:** To Adjourn Board into Open Session to take any action deemed necessary as a result of the closed session.

Roll Call Vote Required

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Note: Meetings of the Northcentral Technical College District Board are held in compliance with Wisconsin's "Open Meetings Law".

*Mission Statement:* Northcentral Technical College is the customer-focused, accessible provider of innovative life-long learning that builds a globally competitive workforce.



**DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 14, 2017  
Northcentral Technical College  
1000 W. Campus Drive  
Wausau, WI 54401  
Timberwolf Conference Center – Room D100  
1:00 p.m.

The Northcentral Technical College District Board of Trustees met on February 14, 2017 at the Wausau Campus. Chairperson Maria Volpe called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Douglas Faragher	X	Ruth Risley-Gray	X
Tom Felch	X	Dale Smith	X
Kristine Gilmore	X	Maria Volpe	X
Lee Lo	X	Paul Proulx	E
Douglas Moquin	E		

**Compliance with Open Meeting Law**

PaHnia Thao reported the meeting was being held in compliance with Open Meetings Law 19.81-19.88 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

A. Recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. There were no public comments.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. It was moved by Kristine Gilmore and seconded by Tom Felch that the NTC Board of Trustees meeting minutes from January 10, 2017 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

A. 2017 – 2018 Capital Budget

Tentative approval not to exceed the \$11,700,000 capital expenditures budget, funded through capital borrowings of \$11,000,000 and fund balance of \$700,000 including identified items exceeding \$50,000.

Roxanne Lutgen provided an overview of the tentative 2017-2018 Capital Budget. The option of purchasing the Medford Campus is being explored at this time. If the Medford Campus could be purchased, it would help the Operating Budget side. We are exploring the idea of taking the Culinary Arts Program to the Regional Campuses. We will come back in the future with more information.

It was moved by Kristine Gilmore and seconded by Lee Lo that Northcentral Technical College District Board tentatively approve the 2017-2018 Capital Budget not to exceed the \$11,700,000 capital expenditures budget, funded through capital borrowings of \$11,000,000 and fund balance of \$700,000 including identified items exceeding \$50,000. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Driveway easement, walking trail, lighting and other courtyard improvements-Capital Purchases**

It was moved by Lee Lo and seconded by Dale Smith that the Northcentral Technical College District Board approves to utilize up to \$170,000 of land sale proceeds for the driveway easement, and up to \$270,000 of grant funds and current budget to create a walking trail, lighting, and other courtyard improvements to enhance student life and increase student enrollment. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. CONSENT VOTING AGENDA**

A. It was moved by Kristine Gilmore and seconded by Lee Lo that the NTC District Board approves the consent voting agenda including:

- Receipts & Expenditures
- Personnel Changes
- IT – Systems Analyst Associate Degree
- IT – Mobile Application Developer Associate Degree
- Fire Services Leadership Associate Degree
- Fire Science Technical Diploma

Roll call vote ayes: Faragher, Felch, Gilmore, Lo, Risley-Gray, Smith, Volpe. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

A. Faculty Qualifications & Development – Karen Brzezinski/Beth Ellie/Deb Stencil

Karen Brzezinski, Beth Ellie, and Deb Stencil presented to the Board explaining about Faculty Qualifications & Development. They went over accreditation requirements for faculty, WTCS/State of Wisconsin Requirements for Faculty, and College Investments in Faculty Development. NTC meets/exceeds the Higher Learning Commission faculty requirements. NTC implemented FQAS requirements as of July 1, 2015. NTC provides multiple opportunities to help faculty complete the 7 FQAS Competencies. NTC offers comprehensive faculty development opportunities to help both students and faculty succeed. NTC puts a lot of effort and time into professional development. The full PowerPoint presentation is included in the official meeting minutes.

**VI. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

A. President's Report

- Status on Enrollments – Jeannie Worden/Shelly Mondeik/Katie Felch  
Jeannie Worden provided an update to the Board. FTEs are down. We've noticed some trends. Virtual College has an increase in FTEs. There is an increase in student enrollment for short-term training. We have experienced a large drop in Associate Degree enrollment. All regions are experiencing this with the Associate Degree enrollment. There is a 16% decline in High School enrollment. The minority population is increasing at the high schools. One strategy we have implemented is going to the high schools and enrolling the students into college, instead of waiting for them to come to us. Achieving The Dream (ATD) will help us focus on graduate completion. Lori wanted to thank the Student Services Team for all of their hard work. We have a huge number for enrollment.

There are 275 applications received for the NTC Promise. The application deadline was February 1<sup>st</sup>. Regardless if the applicants are eligible for the NTC Promise or not, we will still serve them.

- Achieving the Dream ICAT Results Summary – Vicki Jeppesen  
Vicki Jeppesen presented to the Board on the ATD results summary. On page 3 of the report, the results indicate that NTC uses data to make informed decisions. We also will need to identify the data that is needed and data that is not needed. The results also show that equity is one area that we have not reached yet, so that is another area we will focus on.

The ATD Coaches indicated that NTC is a high achieving College. We will continue to focus on the data to help us make informed decisions. ATD Coaches said they learned from Kristine Gilmore, NTC Board Member, and are going to take Kristine's four questions she asked and redo their curriculum so they can share at their presentation during the ATD Conference in San Francisco, CA. The NTC ATD team is also attending the conference in San Francisco, CA in the upcoming week. Thank you Kristine Gilmore for your commitment in attending breakfast with the ATD Coaches.

- Comments from Informational Update.  
Governor Walker conducted his budget tour, and stopped to visit NTC. The \$5 million GPR increase for general aid, which is a total of \$10 million in 2 years is listed in the Governor's budget. Agreed to put a 30% cap on Outcomes Based Funding, and froze our tuition for 2 years. The Outcomes Based Funding formula has changed. This year each college will be rated on all 10 categories. NTC has always looked at all 10 areas of Outcomes Based Funding. There will no longer be an annual report for outcomes based funding. Instead, each technical college will have a report card that will be provided by the WTCS Office.

There are changes to the veteran guidelines. Veterans do not have to be a Wisconsin resident for 5 consecutive years to be eligible for Veterans Benefits.

Lori, Jeannie, & Shelly met with Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, regarding a partnership with Marian University. This partnership would help NTC students in the Applied Technology & Engineering and IT programs who graduate with an associate degree, to transfer to Marian University with junior status to obtain a teaching degree, and then go teach in K12's. This way, the student can remain in the Wausau area while in school, and then be employed in the local K12. NTC would be a pilot for this. Tony agreed and is very supportive of this idea. He felt that NTC has the best relationship with K12s. The plan is to start this in Fall 2017.

Wausau Fire Chief Tracey Kujawa, and Wausau Mayor Mielke met with Lori to explore the idea of a location for a 4<sup>th</sup> fire station.

Construction on Timberwolf Suites will start on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Timberwolf Suites will not be ready in Fall of 2017, but we have a plan to place students in housing. We are working with the Plaza Inn to provide housing for students until the Timberwolf Suites are ready. DeLeers will work with us on transportation of students to and from the Plaza. We are working on a communication to go out.

- Spring 2017 Board Appointment Update – Maria Volpe/PaHnia Thao  
Douglas Moquin has served 18 years on the Board and is not planning on being reappointed.
- WTC District Boards Association 2017 Winter Meeting & Legislative Seminar Update – Douglas Moquin/Paul Proulx
- WTC District Boards Association 2017 Spring Meeting – April 6 – 8, 2017 – Lakeshore District.  
Board Members who are interested in attending this, please let PaHnia know so she can get you registered.

C. Information

- Quarterly Dashboard – Angie Servi
- Advisory Meeting Minutes
- Upcoming Meetings/Events
- Good News

**IV. CLOSED SESSION – 2:52pm**

It was moved by Maria Volpe and seconded by Kristine Gilmore to Adjourn Board into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (g) for the Purpose of:

- Approval of the December 6, 2016 Closed Session Minutes
- Update on pending litigation

Roll call vote ayes: Faragher, Felch, Gilmore, Lo, Risley-Gray, Smith, Volpe. Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. OPEN SESSION**

Reconvene into Open Session to take any action deemed necessary as a result of the closed session.

**IX. MEETING ADJOURN**

By consensus the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristine Gilmore, Secretary/Treasurer  
Northcentral Technical College District Board of Trustees

*Note: Meetings of the Northcentral Technical College District Board are held in compliance with Wisconsin's "Open Meetings Law".*

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2017

**TOPIC:** Approval of Final 2017-2018 Capital Budget

**POLICY**     **1.3.1 Budgeting** – may not cause or allow budgeting which contains too little information, as determined by the Board to enable *credible projection* of revenues and expenses, separation of capital and operational items, cash flow, and disclosure of *planning assumptions*.

**1.6.5 Asset Protection** - may not make any purchases or commit the organization to any *expenditure of greater than \$50,000*.

**INTERPRETATION:** *Credible projections* are based on multiyear plans supporting community benefits statements and executive limitations. *Planning assumptions* are based on multi-year capital expenditure plans and funding sources. *Expenditures greater than \$50,000* must have board approval.

**DATA/RESULTS:** Attached are three planning documents.

1. *2017-2018 Capital Expenditure Funding Sources* shows the funding plan for the next year's capital budget.
2. *2017-2018 Capital Expenditure Summary* shows categories of capital expenditures for next year's capital budget.
3. *2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Requests* provides additional information and identifies *expenditures greater than \$50,000* requiring board approval.

At the February meeting the Board tentatively approved these same capital expenditures of \$11,700,000, which is now reduced to \$11,615,000.

At this meeting the Board is being presented with the authorization to borrow \$10,700,000 toward this capital expenditure plan.

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

- Regular Voting Agenda

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

Approval of final 2017-2018 Capital Budget not to exceed the \$11,615,000 capital expenditures budget, funded through capital borrowings of \$10,700,000, fund balance of \$700,000, and donations of \$215,000 including identified items exceeding \$50,000.

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY:** I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed           Lori A. Waynes          

Dated February 28, 2017



## 2017-2018 Capital Expenditure Funding Sources

	<b>\$11,615,000</b>	<b>Total Capital Expenditures Budget</b>
	\$10,700,000	Funded through Annual Capital Borrowings
	\$700,000	Funded through Fund Balance
	\$215,000	Funded through Donations

## 2017-2018 Capital Expenditure Summary

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2017-2018</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Previously Committed Capital Expenditures		
Distance Education Leases	\$142,000	
Other Items	\$531,000	
	<hr/>	\$673,000
Capital Contingency Fund	\$400,000	
	<hr/>	\$400,000
Technology Maintenance		
Microcomputers and Consulting	\$1,500,000	
Network Equipment	\$1,145,000	
Smart Classrooms	\$400,000	
Advanced Technology Initiatives	\$900,000	
	<hr/>	\$3,945,000
High Priority Educational Needs		
Equipment and Software	\$1,760,000	
	<hr/>	\$1,760,000
Long Range Facility Plan Recommendations		
Regional Campuses	\$2,652,500	
Central Campus	\$2,184,500	
	<hr/>	\$4,837,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,615,000</b>

**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

<b>fDivision</b>	<b>Item Requested</b>	<b>(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)</b>	<b>Life Cycle</b>	<b>Strategic Direction College Goals</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Information Technology	Distance Education Leases	P	Charter Wide Area Network, WiscNet, and WTCN Teach Link all support distance education.	District-wide and distance learner impact. Provides connectivity to regional campuses and the Internet. Impacts all students, employees, and stakeholders.	Yearly	Growth and Innovation	\$142,000
Information Technology	Microsoft products and other Software Licenses	P	NTC student and staff access to Microsoft products, and other Software licenses necessary for college business throughout the District.	Provides unrestricted use of most-used software licenses necessary to conduct business and training throughout the District.	Yearly	Growth and Innovation	\$482,000
Information Technology	Computer workstations	R	Replace approx. 25% of all computers. Purchase approx. 521 items of computers/peripherals for students with all replaced items passing down to staff.	Replaces workstations per the long-term computer refresh plan.	Yearly	Growth and Innovation	\$700,000
Information Technology	HD Video Conferencing	P	We plan to replace/upgrade Interactive video conferencing (IVC) rooms on an as needed basis.	Replaces/upgrades our IVC system/rooms per the long-term IVC refresh plan.	5 Year Plan	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$300,000
Information Technology	Consultant support	P	Consultant support of Highstreet to enhance the usability of PeopleSoft and to build complex master images of computer desktops utilized for instruction.	District-wide and distance learner impact.	Yearly	Growth and Innovation	\$800,000

**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Item Requested</b>	<b>(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)</b>	<b>Life Cycle</b>	<b>Strategic Direction College Goals</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Information Technology	Server and Network Equipment Replacement	R	Replacement and repairs of servers and network equipment.	Servers that provide communications within the network as well as the network itself need regular maintenance and replacement.	Yearly	Growth and Innovation	\$400,000
Information Technology	PeopleSoft Student Information System Maintenance	P	The PeopleSoft system is the student information system for the entire college.	District-wide impact.	Yearly	Growth and Innovation	\$135,000
Information Technology	Smart Classrooms	P	Maintenance of Smart Classrooms. Classrooms are equipped with DVD, document camera, computer, LCD screen, instructor station with control system, speakers and wiring.	District-wide impact.	5 Year Plan	Growth and Innovation	\$400,000
Information Technology	Starfish	N	Starfish is a learning analytics tool implemented in our Virtual College. Starfish helps instructors identify students that may need assistance in their online course. We are looking at expanding our Starfish implementation.	District-wide and distance learner impact.	Yearly	Growth and Innovation	\$60,000
Information Technology	Staff email conversion	R	Migrating employees to a cloud based email system to improve the robustness of our email system.	District-wide impact.	7 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$150,000

**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Item Requested</b>	<b>(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)</b>	<b>Life Cycle</b>	<b>Strategic Direction College Goals</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Information Technology	Learning Management System	R	To support the growth rate of our online instruction we need to make sure that our LMS is able to keep up and is offering our instructors and learners all the technology benefits that are currently available.	District-wide and distance learner impact.	7 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$250,000
Information Technology	PeopleSoft training	N	Training for functional staff on new PeopleSoft features.	District-wide impact.	Yearly	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$50,000
Information Technology	Computer and software management / tracking software	N	Additional data on computer lab usage for future program planning purposes.	District-wide impact.	Yearly	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$50,000

**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Item Requested</b>	<b>(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)</b>	<b>Life Cycle</b>	<b>Strategic Direction College Goals</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Facilities	Wausau Pharmacy Tech Renovation	N	Wausau Pharmacy Tech Renovation	New program/FTE	20-30 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$ 60,000
Facilities	Purchase Leased Diesel Building	N	Purchase Leased Diesel Building	Acquisition of leased building to reduce operational lease expenses (\$150,000 donated to the College).	20-30 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$650,000
Facilities	Agricultural Center of Excellence Remodeling	R	Remodeling Equipment Repair Shop to add classroom and bathrooms	Provide ADA bathrooms and dedicated classroom for program students.	20-30 Years	Continuous Quality Improved	\$100,000
Facilities	Agricultural Center of Excellence Additional Square Footage	N	Student Center	Provide science lab, classroom for Veterinary Tech program and student engagement center for Ag students.	20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$800,000
Facilities	Agricultural Center of Excellence Additional Square Footage	N	Feeder Building	New training methods and equipment, increase cow comfort and milk production.	20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$125,000

**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Item Requested</b>	<b>(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)</b>	<b>Life Cycle</b>	<b>Strategic Direction College Goals</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Facilities	Agricultural Center of Excellence Additional Square Footage	R	Manure Pit Expansion	Increase storage capacity and enhance manure management.	20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$300,000
Facilities	Merrill Campus Additional Square Footage	N	CDL Building	Merrill Campus Addition to provide CDL training on Merrill Campus (\$50,000 donated to the College).	20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$390,000
Facilities	Wausau Campus Remodeling	R	H Building Roof Replacement	H Building Roof Replacement	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$300,000
Facilities	Wausau Campus Remodeling	R	Main Road Lighting	Main Road Lighting to update to more efficient technology.	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$ 50,000
Facilities	Remove old Coldwater Storage/Install Trash Collection	R	Remove old Coldwater Storage/Install Trash Collection	Increase waste collection capacity, lower operating cost, and prevent material handling injuries.	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$ 60,000

**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Item Requested</b>	<b>(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)</b>	<b>Life Cycle</b>	<b>Strategic Direction College Goals</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Facilities	Main Road Patch and Crack Sealing	R	Main Road Patch and Crack Sealing	Normal life cycle replacement	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$ 60,000
Facilities	Merrill Campus Additional Square Footage	N	Multi-media Classroom added to the Emergency Village with School or Religious Facade	Merrill Campus Addition to provide training on Merrill Campus (\$200,000 donated to the College).	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$200,000
Facilities	Merrill Campus Heat in Emergency Village	R	Merrill Campus Heat in Emergency Village	Merrill Campus Heat in Emergency Village	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$ 75,000
Facilities	Merrill Campus TSR Parking Lot	N	Merrill Campus TSR Parking Lot	Merrill Campus TSR Parking Lot	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$ 75,000

**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Item Requested</b>	<b>(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Justification (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)</b>	<b>Life Cycle</b>	<b>Strategic Direction College Goals</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Facilities	Wausau STEM Center Remodeling	N	Remodeling STEM Center	New educational delivery method (project based learning)/FTE	20-30 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$300,000
Facilities	Antigo STEM Center Remodeling	R	Remodeling STEM Center	New educational delivery method (project based learning)/FTE	20-30 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$200,000
Facilities	Wausau Campus Remodeling	R	F & H Building Bathrooms	Updating the F & H Building bathrooms in the Wausau Campus building	10-20 Years	Continuous Quality Improvement	\$200,000



**2017-2018 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items greater than \$50,000)**

Division	Item Requested	(N) New (R) Replacement (P) Previously Committed	Definition	Justification (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)	Life Cycle	Strategic Direction College Goals	Cost
Learning	Vector Feeding System	N	Vector Feeding System	This is new technology that is available to keep fresh feed in front of cattle at all times. It helps keep NTC on the cutting edge of technology and will increase the milk production by 3 pounds of milk per cow each day due to cow comfort. In addition, students in all programs and visitors to the farm will be exposed to a new technology being used in agriculture.	5-10 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$222,500.00
Learning	5 Axis Machine	N	5 Axis Machine Center	Purchase of this cutting edge 5 Axis milling machine would be an additional asset to our 2 year Machine Tool Technical Degree program. The addition of this equipment would also support the creation of an Advanced Machining Certificate. This piece of machinery is supported by the Machine Tool Advisory Board and will help us build more Continuing Education offerings in the Machine Tool instructional area.	5-10 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$139,000.00
Learning	Caesar Trauma Simulator	N	Caesar Trauma Simulator	This is a high fidelity trauma mannequin that provides realistic indoor and outdoor patient scenarios (capability to get wet). The system is robust and can withstand outdoor climates and constant transferring; which the EMS/Health area needs, due to the environments they are called out to in real life situations. Our health advisory committees are fully supportive of this new mannequin.	5-10 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$87,994.00
Learning	Discovery Solid Floor Barn Cleaner	N	Discovery Solid Floor Barn Cleaner	Students will be learning how to use this equipment and repair it. Currently we have two discovery barn cleaning units; however, they are designed for floors that have open slats in them to let the manure go through. These units are now available to use on solid cement floors which NTC has. These cleaners will be more effective for our barn setup along with keeping our cows much cleaner.	5-10 Years	Growth and Innovation	\$64,000.00

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2017

**TOPIC:** Incidental fees and miscellaneous student charges

**POLICY:** Wisconsin Statue 38.14(9) District board powers. Activity and incidental fees. *The district board may establish student activity and incidental fees to fund, in whole or in part, the cost of services and activities offered as support services for regular instruction.*

**INTERPRETATION:** A change in miscellaneous student charges requires board approval.

**DATA/RESULTS:**

Northcentral Technical College charges incidental fees and miscellaneous student charges for various services. A change in the testing fee & Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) fee are recommended for the 2017-18 academic year.

Testing Fees

An Accuplacer Testing Fee increase from \$20 to \$25 is recommended to accurately reflect the cost to NTC to administer the test.

Prior Learning Assessment Fees

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is “the evaluation and assessment of an individual’s life learning for college credit, certification or advanced standing toward further education or training.” PLA is often applied to military and work experience, as well as community service, informal online learning, and other learning acquired outside traditional academic institutions. PLA often uses evaluation of competency mastery to “translate” these learning experiences into college credits. A standard fee for PLA assessments has been established and agreed upon for all 16 WTCS institutions and will go into effect for the 2017-18 academic year.

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)	Prior Learning Assessment Fee
<b>PLA Test</b>	\$50.00
<b>PLA Skill Demonstration</b>	\$90.00
<b>PLA Portfolio</b>	\$90.00

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**  
Regular Voting Agenda

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

The board approves the revised incidental fees and miscellaneous student charges as identified above.

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY:** I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: Lois A. Weyers

Dated: February 28, 2017

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2017

**TOPIC:** Receipts & Expenditures

**POLICY 1.1 – General Executive Constraint** – The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in execution of her duties, shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is either imprudent or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics or that results in failure to be accredited.

**INTERPRETATION:** To avoid *violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics* NTC will follow Wisconsin statute 38.12 **District Board Duties (2)** “...All expenditures exceeding \$2500 shall be approved by the district board.” Also, in compliance with Wisconsin statute 38.12(4) District board duties, “The publication proceedings shall include a statement of receipts and expenditures in the aggregate.”

**DATA/RESULTS:** The following Status of Funds listing receipts and expenditures in the aggregate is included for informational purposes as of January 31, 2017.

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Revenues: \$53,596,042

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Expenses: \$58,426,101

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

Consent Agenda

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

(Motion is included with consent agenda.)

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY:** I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed Lois A. Weyers

Dated February 28, 2017

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2017

**TOPIC:** Personnel Changes

**POLICY 1.1 – General Executive Constraint** – The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in execution of her duties, shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is either imprudent or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics or that results in failure to be accredited.

**INTERPRETATION:** NTC will follow Wisconsin Statute 118.22 (2) “...No teacher may be employed... except by a majority vote of the full membership of the board. Nothing in this section prevents the modification or termination of a contract by mutual agreement of the teacher and the board.”

**DATA/RESULTS:** A request is made to approve the following personnel changes:

New Hires:

1. Timothy Dailey, IT Help Desk
2. Debbie Spiegel, Custodian

Resignations:

1. Jordan Mueller, Farm Equipment Manager

Retirement:

N/A

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

Consent Agenda

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

(Motion is included with consent agenda.)

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY:** I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed Lois A. Waynes

Dated February 28, 2017

# **Economic Status Report**

NTC District

February 2017

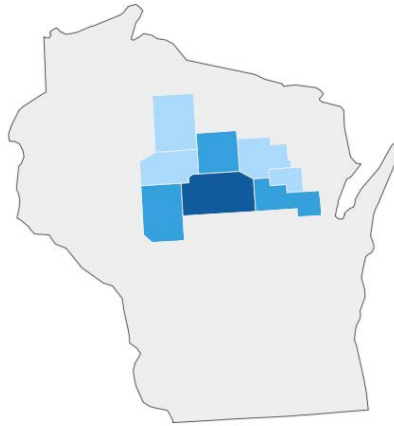
**Northcentral Technical College**



1000 W. Campus Drive  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

## Economy Overview – NTC District\*

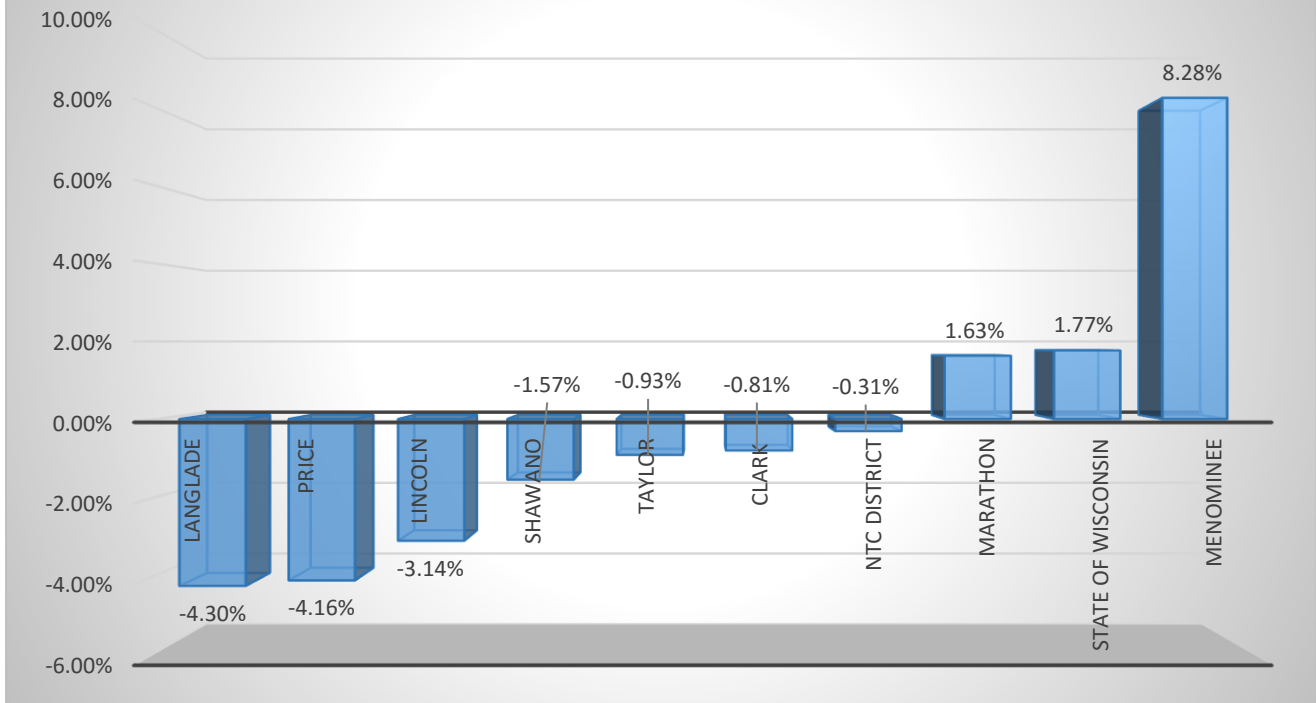
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Population (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 297,467 (Decrease of 1,398 since Fall 2016)</li> <li>• Has declined by 0.3% since 2010 (compared to state growth of 1.8%)</li> </ul>
Jobs (2016)	143,002 (decrease of 716 jobs since Fall 2016 report)
Average Earnings (2016)	\$47,036 (steady since Fall 2016 report)
Unemployed (10/2016)	5,285 (decrease of 1,490, or 22%, since February 2016 – not seasonally adjusted)
College Program Completions (2015)	2,563 (steady since Fall 2016 report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,008 are in the health field</li> <li>• 592 are in the manufacturing field</li> </ul>
Gross Regional Product (2016)	\$12.1 Billion (decrease of \$200 million since 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21% (\$2.5 Billion) is from the Manufacturing Industry</li> <li>• 12% (\$1.4 Billion) is from Finance &amp; Insurance</li> </ul>
Exports (2016)	\$18.8 Billion (increase of \$900 million since 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45% (\$8.5 Billion) is from the Manufacturing Industry</li> <li>• 11% (\$2 Billion) is from Finance &amp; Insurance</li> <li>• 8.5% (\$1.6 Billion) is from the Crop and Animal Production Industry – was 10% in 2014</li> </ul>
Imports (2016)	\$20 Billion (decrease of \$200 million since 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22% (\$4.4 Billion) is from Government – was \$3.8 Billion in 2014</li> <li>• 21% (\$4.1 Billion) is from the Manufacturing Industry – was \$5 Billion in 2014</li> </ul>

\* Data includes only counties that are more than 5% in NTC’s District (Waupaca and Portage excluded).

## Population Trends - 2010 through 2016 (Updated)

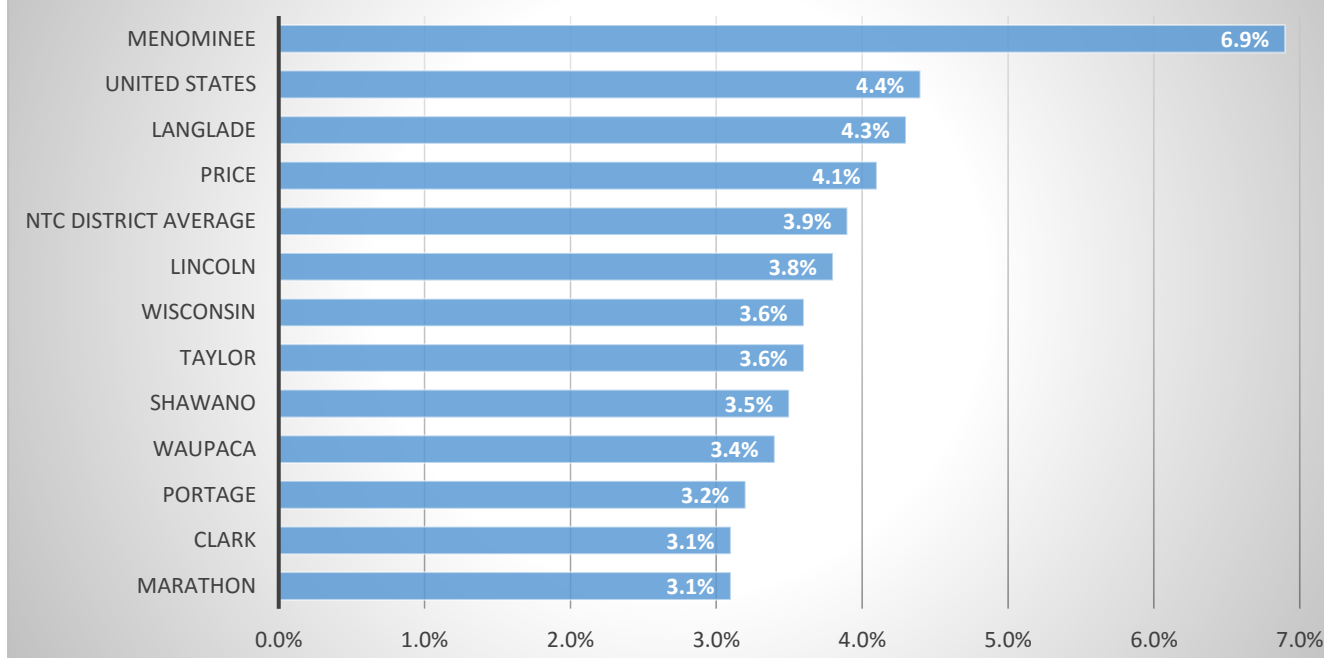


Source: EMSI – Demographic Overview by County (Counties more than 5% in NTC District included)

### Changes since Fall Report:

- Many counties saw less growth at year-end 2016 than was reported during Fall 2016. Most notably:
  - Langlade County decreased by 4.3% since 2010 (as of Fall 2016, was -3.8%)
  - Lincoln County decreased by 3.14% (as of Fall 2016, was -1.2%)

## Unemployment Rates - November 2016



Source: [http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet\\_info/maps/pdf/uRatesCo.pdf](http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet_info/maps/pdf/uRatesCo.pdf) (DWD)

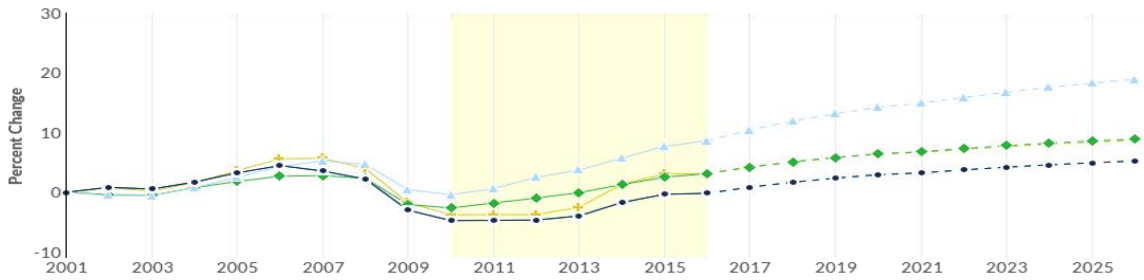
- Unemployment rates are down, with an average unemployment rate of 3.9% in the NTC District.
- The NTC District unemployment rate is lower than the National rate of 4.4% and slightly higher than the State rate of 3.6%.
- Some counties, such as Menominee, Langlade, and Price have unemployment rates higher than 4%.
- A job market continuing to recover means that adults returning to college may stay flat or decline. It also indicates that students enrolling at NTC are more likely to be employed, and thus may take less credits during a semester. Since more students are employed, they are in need of flexible course and program offerings in order to return to school.

### Changes since Fall Report:

- All counties except Price saw a decline in unemployment rates from July to November.
- Price County saw an increase of 0.3% in unemployment. Price moved from the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest unemployment rate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest unemployment rate.
- Marathon and Clark Counties remain the counties with lowest unemployment rates.



## Job Trends – 2010 through 2016\*



Region	2010 Jobs	2016 Jobs Update	Change	% Change
● NTC District	136,468	143,002	6,534	4.8%
● United States	144,205,572	157,312,564	13,106,992	9.1%
● Wisconsin	2,920,049	3,092,749	172,700	5.9%
● Wausau, WI	71,409	76,525	5,116	7.2%

\* Data includes only counties that are more than 5% in NTC's District (Waupaca and Portage excluded).

- When the data was updated, it appears district growth has decreased slightly (growth for the district was 5.4% at the Fall 2016 report and is now 4.8%). State and National growth has also decreased slightly since the Fall report.

## Job Trends by County – 2010 Through 2016

County	2010 Jobs	2016 Jobs	Change Since 2010
Menominee County (100% is in NTC District)	2,869	2,275	-20.70%
Langlade County (86% is in NTC District)	9,129	8,756	-4.09%
Price County (100% is in NTC District)	6,688	6,551	-2.05%
Shawano County (25% is in NTC District)	14,506	14,666	1.10%
Taylor County (81% is in NTC District)	9,013	9,168	1.72%
Lincoln County (69% is in NTC District)	11,577	12,068	4.24%
<b>NTC District Average</b>	<b>136,468</b>	<b>143,002</b>	<b>4.79%</b>
Marathon County (98% is in NTC District)	71,409	76,525	7.16%
Clark County (32% is in NTC District)	11,277	12,991	15.20%

- The 6-year job trend in the NTC district shows growth of 4.8%.
- Some counties, such as Menominee, Langlade, and Price have lost jobs since 2010.
- Clark and Marathon counties have seen higher job growth than the rest of the district since 2010.
- Projected job growth from 2016 through 2021 is 3.4% - the District is expected to gain 4,883 jobs. (this is up from the projection made in Fall of a gain of 3,776 jobs)
- **Since 2010, the population in the District has declined by 0.3% and jobs have grown at a rate of 4.8%.**
- **Since Fall 2016 report, job growth numbers have fluctuated in each county. These numbers are a year-end view of 2016, whereas the Fall numbers were preliminary.**

## 2016 Highest Level of Education – NTC District\*

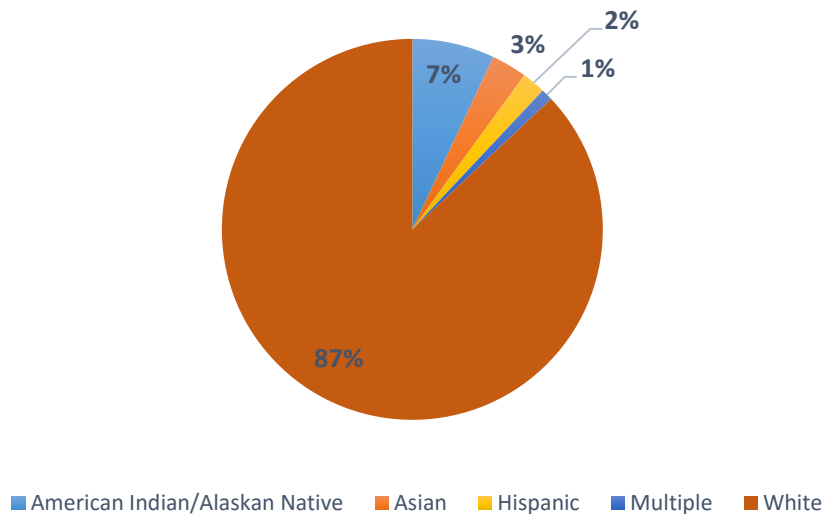


	Education Level	2016 Population	2016 Percent	Trend Since 2010
●	Less Than 9th Grade	11,791	5.7%	↑
●	9th Grade to 12th Grade	11,848	5.7%	↓
●	High School Diploma	83,969	40.6%	↓
●	<b>Some College</b>	<b>40,390</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	↑
●	Associate's Degree	21,563	10.4%	↑
●	Bachelor's Degree	25,472	12.3%	↑
●	Graduate Degree and Higher	11,968	5.8%	↑

\* Data includes only counties that are more than 5% in NTC's District (Waupaca and Portage excluded).

- Change since Fall report: The percentage of population with Associate Degree as highest level of education is up 0.5%. All other levels of education are steady since Fall.

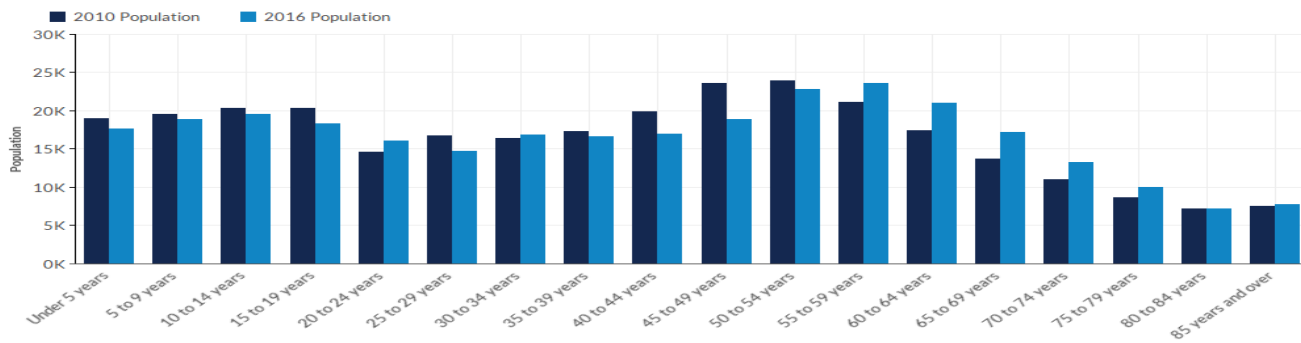
## NTC District Race/Ethnicity



\* Data includes only counties that are more than 5% in NTC's District (Waupaca and Portage excluded).

- The percentage of Black and Pacific Islander residents are less than 1%, so they do not appear on the chart. However, the number of Black residents within the NTC District has increased by 62% (862 individuals) since 2010.
- The Hispanic population within the district has grown by 26% (1,685 individuals) since 2010.
- The Asian population within the district has grown by 14% (1,056 individuals) since 2010.
- The only race/ethnic group in decline since 2010 is the White population – decreased 1% (3,994 individuals) since 2010.
- **This data has remained steady since the Fall 2016 report.**

# Population by Age Cohort



Age Cohort	2010 Population	2016 Population	Change	% Change	2010 % of Cohort
Under 5 years	19,000	17,663	-1,337	-7%	6.37%
5 to 9 years	19,596	18,867	-729	-4%	6.57%
10 to 14 years	20,378	19,578	-800	-4%	6.83%
15 to 19 years	20,294	18,285	-2,009	-10%	6.80%
20 to 24 years	14,655	16,071	1,416	10%	4.91%
25 to 29 years	16,783	14,758	-2,025	-12%	5.62%
30 to 34 years	16,415	16,896	481	3%	5.50%
35 to 39 years	17,288	16,677	-611	-4%	5.79%
40 to 44 years	19,851	16,948	-2,903	-15%	6.65%
45 to 49 years	23,597	18,900	-4,697	-20%	7.91%
50 to 54 years	23,899	22,831	-1,068	-4%	8.01%
55 to 59 years	21,173	23,571	2,398	11%	7.10%
60 to 64 years	17,366	21,006	3,640	21%	5.82%
65 to 69 years	13,701	17,192	3,491	25%	4.59%
70 to 74 years	11,022	13,250	2,228	20%	3.69%
75 to 79 years	8,694	10,031	1,337	15%	2.91%
80 to 84 years	7,201	7,169	-32	0%	2.41%
85 years and over	7,492	7,772	280	4%	2.51%
Total	298,405	297,467	-938	0%	100.00%

\* Data includes only counties that are more than 5% in NTC's District (Waupaca and Portage excluded).

## Changes since Fall Report:

- The 20 to 24 age group has grown 10% since 2010 (was 7% in Fall 2016).
- The 25 to 29 age group has declined 12% since 2010 (was -9% in Fall 2016).

NTC District Public High School Graduates - 2010 through 2017				
High School	# Grads 2010	# Grads Projected 2017*	% Change	School District Special Populations Highlights
Abbotsford High School	47	41	-13%	43% Hispanic; 64% Econ Disadv
Antigo Senior High School	247	187	-24%	5% Hispanic; 41% Econ Disadv
Athens High School	39	49	27%	5% Hispanic; 37% Econ Disadv
<b>Bowler High School</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>37% American Indian; 55% Economically Disadvantaged</b>
<b>Chequamegon High School</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>2% Pacific Islander; 54% Economically Disadvantaged</b>
Colby High School	73	74	2%	17% Hispanic; 55% Econ Disadv
DC Everest High School	379	363	-4%	13% Asian; 32% Econ Disadv
Edgar High School	55	51	-7%	3% Total Minority; 32% Economically Disadvantaged
Loyal High School	39	31	-20%	6% Hispanic; 53% Econ Disadv
<b>Marathon High School</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-40%</b>	<b>4% Hispanic; 18% Econ Disadv</b>
Medford High School	157	154	-2%	5% Hispanic; 38% Econ Disadv
Menominee Indian High School	91	70	-23%	92% American Indian; 85% Economically Disadvantaged
<b>Merrill High School</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>2% Black; 41% Econ Disadv</b>
Mosinee High School	161	158	-2%	3% Hispanic; 27% Econ Disadv
<b>Phillips High School</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>2% Hispanic; 44% Econ Disadv</b>
<b>Prentice High School</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-39%</b>	<b>2% Hispanic; 37% Econ Disadv</b>
<b>Rib Lake High School</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-48%</b>	<b>7% Hispanic; 51% Econ Disadv</b>
Rosholt High School	49	44	-11%	3% Hispanic; 23% Econ Disadv
Spencer High School	38	52	38%	4% Hispanic; 43% Econ Disadv
Stratford High School	68	73	8%	4% Hispanic; 22% Econ Disadv
Tigerton High School	21	21	0%	4% Total Minority; 67% Economically Disadvantaged
Wausau: East High School	288	248	-14%	14% Asian; 42% Econ Disadv
Wausau: West High School	386	319	-17%	19% Asian; 37% Econ Disadv
White Lake High School	18	15	-16%	7% Hispanic; 68% Econ Disadv
Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School	97	74	-24%	6% Hispanic, 5% American Indian; 42% Economically Disadvantaged
<b>Total NTC District</b>	<b>2936</b>	<b>2474</b>	<b>-16%</b>	

Source: [wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/](http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/)

\* 2017 Graduate Projections are based on the number of Juniors at each school during the 2015-16 school year, multiplied by the estimated high school graduation rate of 95%. Projections do not account for students moving into or out of the area. **These numbers have not changed since the Fall 2016 Report, as DPI has not updated enrollment numbers for the 2016-17 school year.**

## High School Summary:

- Public high school graduates of high schools within NTC's district are expected to decrease by 16% from 2010 to 2017.
- Some high schools are expected to experience especially large decreases in the number of graduates since 2010, such as Rib Lake, Marathon City, Merrill, Bowler, Chequamegon, Prentice, and Phillips. All of these high schools are expected to see decreases greater than 25%.
- Some high schools are expected to experience high growth in the number graduates since 2010, such as Athens and Spencer.
- Minority populations within the public schools are increasing, and a large proportion of public high school students are classified as economically disadvantaged.
- **These numbers have not changed since the Fall 2016 report, as DPI has not updated enrollment information for the 2016-17 school year.**

## Additional Challenges, by County:

- According to the 2010 Census, Menominee County is the poorest county in the state of Wisconsin, with per capita income of \$14,794. The county also has an unemployment rate of 6.9%.
- According to the 2010 Census, Clark County has the third lowest per capita income in the state of Wisconsin, at \$19,797.
- Price County's population has declined by over 4% in the past 5 years. Price County also lost over 15% of its jobs during the past 10 years. Additionally, Phillips High School is expected to see a 26% decline in its high school graduates since 2010, and Prentice High School is expected to see a 39% decline.
- Langlade County has experienced a 4.3% decline in population over the past 5 years. Additionally, the unemployment rate in Langlade County remains higher than the state and district averages, at 4.3%. Over the past 10 years, the county has also seen a 9% loss of jobs. Antigo High School expects to see a decrease of 24% in high school graduates from 2010 to 2017

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2017

**TOPIC:** Capital Projects Monitoring Report

**POLICY 1.6 – Asset Protection** – Capital project monitoring reports will be presented to the Board.

**INTERPRETATION:** The Board reviews the year-to-date financial progress on the fiscal year’s capital projects.

**DATA/RESULTS:**

All projects are on track to completion within dollar amounts allotted.

- See the following *2016-2017 Capital Expenditure Summary of Projects*.

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**  
Other Information that may properly come before the board

**PROPOSED MOTION:**  
(None required)

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY:** I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed Lori A. Waynes

Dated February 28, 2017

**Northcentral Technical College  
Capital Projects Activity  
Fiscal Year 2016-2017  
As of January 31, 2017**

Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Expenditures	Current Fund Balance	% Complete
Main Entrance/Community Room Addition	849,786	848,558	1,228	100%
CI/Finance/IT Renovation	84,170	68,725	15,446	82%
Student Success/Security Renovation	449,718	449,718	0	100%
Campus Store Renovation	490,882	435,889	54,993	89%
CHS Cadaver Lab	5,661	5,661	0	100%
Culinary Arts Renovation	318,166	282,818	35,348	89%
Simulation Center Renovation	406,635	336,283	70,352	83%
Student Life Renovation	923,620	894,400	29,220	97%
Alternative High School Renovation	34,047	34,047	0	100%
Merrill Tactical Safety Range Addition	1,432,495	1,432,346	149	100%
A111 Reconfiguration	96,576	96,576	0	100%
Wittenberg Campus	20,909	20,909	0	100%
Total IT & IVC Projects	3,954,200	2,224,043	1,730,156	56%
Total Facilities Projects	1,523,781	1,086,686	437,096	71%
Total Instructional Equipment	2,642,358	1,361,570	1,280,788	52%





Board of Trustees Meetings/Upcoming Events - 2016-2017

Date	Event	Douglas Faragher	Tom Felch	Kristine Gilmore	Lee Lo	Douglas Moquin	Paul Proulx	Ruth Risley-Gray	Dale Smith	Maria Volpe	
<b>2016</b>											
<b>July 11</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau – CBI 110)</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	F	X	X	X	X	X	F	X	X
July 14-16	WTC District Boards Assn. Summer Meeting (NTC - Wausau)			X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>August 9</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	X	X	F	X	X	F	X	X	
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	X	X	X	X	X	F	X	X	
Oct. 5-8	ACCT National Congress (New Orleans, LA)					X					
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Antigo Campus)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	
Oct. 27-29	WTC District Boards Assn. Fall Meeting (MATC - Milwaukee)										
Nov. 17	NTC Foundation Scholarship Reception (Wausau 4:00 – 5:30)										
Nov. 28	NTC Foundation Regular Meeting 4:00 – 5:30 (Boardroom)										
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	
Dec. 10	Mid-Winter Commencement			X	X		X	X	X	X	
<b>2017</b>											
<b>Jan. 10</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	E	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	
Jan. 11-13	WTC District Boards Assn. Legislative Seminar and Meeting – Concourse Hotel, Madison					X	X				
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	
Feb. 14-17	ACCT National Legislative Summit (Washington, DC)										
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>									
March 8	NTC Foundation Regular Meeting 4:00 – 5:30 (Wausau)										
March 13	NTC Board Appointment Committee (Marathon County Courthouse – 1:00 p.m.)										
<b>April 4</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>									
April 6-8	WTC District Boards Assn. Spring Meeting (LTC – Cleveland/Sheboygan Osthoff-Elkhart)										
April 27	NTC Foundation Spring Scholarship Banquet (E101/102 4:00 – 5:30 pm)										
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>									
May 20	Commencement – Wausau West Fieldhouse 9:00 – 12:00										
<b>June 13</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>									
June 15	NTC Foundation Board Meeting										
<b>July 10</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting (Wausau)</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>									

Updated: 2/28/2017



# NTC named one of the best online colleges

**Northcentral Technical College**, which operates a campus in Antigo, has been named a 2017 Best Online College in America by BestColleges.com for the third year in a row.

**NTC** ranked fourth in the nation for accredited schools offering online associate degrees in the 2017 analysis.

"**NTC** is proud to be recog-

nized for our commitment to online educational opportunities," President **Lori Weyers** said. "Whether you are a student in our innovative Virtual College or someone taking advantage of one of our many online courses or programs, we are dedicated to ensuring a flexible, engaging and quality student experience that

See **NTC** Page 7



Feb 01  
2017  
Page A001  
Clip resized 94%



Feb 01 2017 Page A007 Clip resized 43% From A001

White House hotline to register  
Continued

# NTC

mirrors the outstanding education you receive when you're on campus."

Using data collected from the National Center of Education Statistics and the institutions themselves, BestColleges.com included admissions, enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and cost of attendance to rank the top schools accordingly. All institutions included in the ranking are not-for-profit and offer at least six accredited, 100 percent online degree options.

"The Best Online Colleges ranking is intended to inform and guide prospective students toward institutions that provide a quality education and a meaningful learning experience at an affordable cost," Stephanie Snider, General Manager of BestColleges.com., said. "As online higher education demand grows and more schools bring programs online, it's important and necessary to hold institutions to a standard of excellence that students can depend upon when making their college choice."

NTC's Virtual College offers 47 associate degree and technical diploma programs, including programs in video production, medical coding, IT, supervisory management and more. Learners can also take advantage of the more than 20 short-term, certificate options offered through Virtual College.

"Virtual College is our most flexible option – classes begin weekly and students can complete their coursework on their own schedule," Brad Gast, dean of continuing education & virtual college, said. "Once students begin with us, we remain committed to their success with dedicated advisors to guide them through the program."

# City explores alternative **NTC** project funding

**JEREMY RATLIFF**  
REPORTER

Tuesday evening, the city of Merrill's Personnel and Finance Committee unanimously approved an interim City General Fund Loan in the amount of \$100,000 to Tax Increment District (TID) No. 11.

The funds would be used for the pur-

chase of property from Russ Davis Wholesale and then transferred to **NTC** for the price of \$1, for the development of a new CDL Training Center in Merrill.

As part of a resolution to be forwarded for council approval in February, the city indicates TID No. 11 was created last May but has yet to generate any revenue.

The resolution further indicates the city's Community Development economic development fund, originally from a Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) grant to the City of Merrill, is receiving annual loan payments of about \$30,000 and could be an alternate funding source.

"At this point TID 11 has no money, but will start generating revenue with the development of the Premier Apartments (ongoing project near the MARC)," stated city Finance Director Kathy Unertl. "Over all three phases of the Premier project, extra increment generated could cover several things. In hindsight we probably should have had a joint meeting about this between the Committee of the Whole and the RDA. It is possible over the life span of TID 11, there will be other development to cover this \$100,000 purchase."

Unertl recommended interim financing for the project in the form of a short term general fund loan, in the event TID 11 doesn't generate adequate revenue in five years.

"Down the line we have a potential pot of money to be available," she added.

As part of her written recommendation to the city, Unertl states: "Since Tax Increment District (TID) 11 has no tax increment at this point, I recommend a \$100,000 land purchase be financed by an internal City General Fund Loan to TID

11, with a preliminary time frame of five years at no interest.

"In five years, there could be TID 11 increment available. If not, this **Northcentral Technical College** project is a workforce economic development initiative.

"Use of Community Development economic development funds that originally came from a Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) grant, could be an appropriate alternative funding source. There is currently about \$150,000 in SBA funds available (annual payments of about \$30,000 are being made on a major current Community Development loan, with an outstanding principal balance of just over \$300,000."

As part of the January meetings of the city's Redevelopment Authority (RDA) and ultimately the Common Council, the purchase of the property was approved based on funding being provided by TID 11.

During the January RDA meeting, mayor Bill Bialecki advocated for the purchase.

"(NTC President) Dr. **Lori Weyers** came to me some time ago with the desire to place this facility in Merrill," Bialecki said. "We went to Russ Davis Corporate and asked if they would donate the land. They stated they would sell for \$100,000. We got back to Dr. Weyers and she decided

*See FUNDING page 8*

**TerX Shredding & Recycling Co. LLC**  
715-675-0680 • 107 Everest Ave, Brokaw  
(Former Wausau Paper Mill)

**Mention this ad for a FREE TerX T-shirt**

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- Unprepared: \$145 Net Ton
- Clean 316 Stainless Steel: 60¢/lb\*
- Clean 304 Stainless Steel: 50¢/lb\*
- Aluminum Cans: 45¢/lb

(\* Stainless pricing is 20 lb minimum)

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Foto News

A 29 year old Merrill man was arrested Thursday week in Lincoln County.

**FUNDING** *from page 4*

that was beyond their budget and the project wouldn't happen."

Bialecki further indicated he felt the proposal would be an opportunity for the city to give back to NTC, and possibly capitalize on the economic boost brought by the NTC Public Safety Training Center of Excellence.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the city to show some reciprocity for all NTC has done for us," he added. "It's not going to do anything for the tax base, but it will bring people to train in Merrill much the same as the safety course has done now."

The matter will now proceed for council approval in February.



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TWENTYFOUR PAGES

# Rural EMS missing pages, says official

Phillip Rentmeester, director of Marathon County Emergency Government, told town officials in Halsey on Thursday that western Marathon County rural ambulance services have been missing pages from county dispatch. The missed pages, which number 20 between January and August 2016, are symptomatic



**Phil Rentmeester**

of national problems with staffing volunteer ambulance services, he said.

When pages are missed, Rentmeester said, county dispatchers find another department to go to an emergency, but response time suffers.

A follow-up call to the Marathon County Sheriff's Department this morning (Wednesday) confirmed Stratford Area Fire Department and Ambulance and Spencer Area Fire Department are responsible for all of these missed ambulance calls.

Rentmeester voiced concern about western Marathon County ambulance service at a Marathon County Western Towns and Villages Association meeting last year and, over the last several months, has been researching the issue by interviewing a large number of EMS officials.

He said the officials "have a lot to say" about problems that are common to ambulance departments both

# Ambulance

Continued from page 1

across Wisconsin and nationally.

Rentmeester said these officials had a bleak outlook on the future of volunteer ambulance services. "They told me volunteer EMS is dying," he said.

Rentmeester said mandated training was tough on volunteers. To become an EMT, he said, a volunteer must take a 180-hour course that costs around \$1,100, an expense that is often but not always financed by an ambulance department. After certification, he said, EMTs must attend mandatory training sessions that task busy people. "People are getting meeting-ed to death," Rentmeester reported. He said most ambulance departments rely on a core group of volunteers that get overused and burned out.

Employment realities are another problem, the official said. People work out of the local area and are not available for ambulance response during the day, he said. Rentmeester reported that volunteer compensation is low. EMTs get paid up to \$3 an hour to be on call and up to \$18 per hour to respond to an emergency.

Rentmeester said local EMS volunteers were "dedicated, loyal people" who "do a great job," but don't see a bright future for their departments.

The official said rural fire department response, however, seems to be adequate. "When there is a fire, plenty of people show up," he said.

Rentmeester said the county sheriff's department will page a department, wait eight minutes and, if there

is no response, page another department to respond to a call.

He said state officials understand the problem with EMS response. Bills have been drafted to shorten up EMT training, give EMTs tax credits and length of service awards. [Northcentral Technical College](#) will void normal class size rules to offer needed EMT training, he said.

Rentmeester called for more discussion among EMTs and the public to fashion a solution to the rural ambulance response problem.

Local ambulance service spokesmen interviewed this past week agreed with Rentmeester that staffing ambulance crews was a struggle, but two local chiefs, Athens Fire Chief Ron Lavicka and Edgar Fire Chief Dan Dvorak, said that while staffing a rural volunteer ambulance service isn't easy, their department's response to county dispatch pages has been stellar.

"We have not had a problem, not one," Lavicka said. "Our EMS response, just like the fire department, is number one."

Edgar Fire Chief Dan Dvorak said his department's response is solid.

He said the Edgar department has between 22 and 26 EMTs living in both Edgar and Marathon and the department has not missed a call for staffing reasons over the past two years.

Dvorak said his department, following the example of Athens Fire Department, pays EMTs to be on-call over the weekend and this has helped

with response.

The chief said his department has missed one page, but that was because of a county dispatch communications issue.

On Friday, Chad Willemsen, EMS coordinator for Stratford Fire Department, said his department suffered many of the problems identified by Rentmeester.

"Reduced interest in volunteerism," he said, has plagued his staff, forcing a core group of volunteers to shoulder the burden of emergency response.

"People are getting burned out," he said.

Willemsen said EMS volunteers feel like they miss too much time from work, family and the sporting events of their children.

"It's an avalanche of missed opportunities," he said.

Willemsen said many businesses practice "lean manufacturing" and can't afford to let employees go for a three or four hour ambulance call during the day.

"Business is tight," he said. "You don't have a lot of fluff."

Willemsen said if he knew what the answer to the EMS problem was he would have implemented it two years ago. His department, he said, now exists between "a rock and a hard place."

Willemsen said many other volunteer departments struggle to find people to be EMTs.

"We're all hurting together," he said.



COMMUNITY LIVING



Law enforcement graduate

Nick Rudolph of Athens graduated from Northcentral Technical College's (NTC) Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement Academy on Dec. 16, 2016. Pictured, from left to right, front row, are Sara Gossfeld-Benzing, Dean of Public Safety at NTC, Nick Rudolph, Andrew Kleppe, NTC instructor; back row: Brian Fiene, (NTC) instructor, and Paul Clarke, (NTC) instructor.

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COVER FEATURE by B.C. Kowalski

# Planting a S.T.E.M.

Local boys and girls are among the first Scouts in the U.S. to swap out camping and canoeing for robotics and engineering

More than a dozen students are focused intently on their project in a classroom at North Central Technical College. On this Thursday evening, they've been divided into four groups, each with an engineer, a project manager, an architect and a builder. They're simulating a team that will design and build a bridge able to withstand the most weight possible. Concentration levels are high and conversations intense as plans are made and models are tested.

This isn't a college class. These are Scouts, boys and girls in grades three through five, with Popsicle sticks and straws in front of them. The competition is fierce to build the strongest bridge. The prize: getting to smash the instructor's pre-made bridge into bits. The prospect of a bit of mayhem spurs them on.

They've signed up for a new type of Scouting, and this particular group, along with several others around the area, is part of a national pilot program created by the Boy Scouts of America to instill wonder for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The co-ed program, available for grades 3-12, aims to recruit future STEM professionals and provide exposure to real-world opportunities.

Forget about the camping weekends, tying knots to earn merit badges, canoeing, cooking or geocaching. Instead of building fires, STEM Scouts build trestle bridges; instead of studying weather patterns, they study robot programming.

That's attracting a new kind of youth, many who aren't interested in or didn't fit into traditional Scouting, says Amanda Flannery, director of the STEM program for the Samoset Council Boy Scouts of America.

In 2015, the Weston-based Samoset Council, which covers 13 counties in north central Wisconsin, was among the first 12 councils out of 243 total in the United States chosen to launch STEM Scouts. Of those 12, Samoset is easily the most rural, with other STEM programs in places such as Chicago, Tucson or Denver. Samoset also was likely chosen because of its strong, overall Scouting program—it ranks third among the 243 councils.

And remarkably, Samoset has the highest participation rate of those 12 pilot programs, Flannery says.

With the number of STEM-related jobs expected to grow—U.S. Labor Statistics project more than 9 million by 2022, an increase of more than 1 million from 2012—the importance of getting more children interested in those fields is becoming increasingly important to America's workforce.

That interest, it turns out, isn't hard to foster in the Wausau area with boys and girls alike. If the STEM Scouts early success is any indication, plenty of kids have the interest; they just needed the opportunity. Watching a group of third graders tackle an engineering problem with little outside direction is pretty convincing.

## STEM fun

"I promised you last week we could build a bridge next week and that's what we're going to do," says Robert Gregurich of Weston, a parent volunteer, who leads the class at NTC with his wife, Michelle.

"Will this be a suspension bridge?" A boy asks from the back.

"Oh no, this is way cooler," Gregurich says, enthusiasm in his voice. "One of my favorite pastimes passes over these bridges."

Boys and girls alike, shout out various types of bridges they might be building. Finally one child in the back calls out the correct answer: a trestle bridge. "You have your book open to the next chapter, don't you?" Gregurich laughs. The boy sheepishly but proudly nods his head.

The girls and boys in the class show remarkable restraint, considering they already have the building materials in front of them: a set number of straws, popsicle sticks and toothpicks, along with some glue.

But first things first. Like any scout meeting, students stand and recite the Scout pledge and Scout law — creeds about helping people, keeping strong and staying mentally awake and morally straight. Then it's down to bridge-building business.

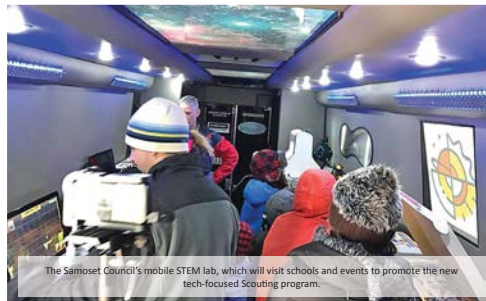
Parents line the back of the room. Some occasionally help when asked, but Gregurich doesn't need them much. The students are interested in the task, and many of the parents alternate between observing and typing away on laptops and smartphones. The kids don't need much encouragement or cajoling to participate—the prospect of a contest only helps propel their interest.

But before they begin, Gregurich gives them some lessons on bridge design. What's the strongest shape? Gregurich asks. Students name all manner of shapes, including squares and trapezoids, but most give the right answer: a triangle. Gregurich shows them different bridges and points to how triangular structures are incorporated into each design. He explains how weight is distributed from the top point to the entire bottom platform of the triangle.

Gregurich admits he's learned a lot himself through teaching the STEM Scouts program. "One of the big things for me was when we studied suspension bridges," Gregurich says. "It's held up entirely by those cables. Every time you drive across one, you think about that."

## The future professionals

If you're reading this in the evening, there's a chance that a Samoset STEM Scout meeting is happening right now. Participation in the program started off strong and grew quickly in its second year, Flannery says. Last school year (the STEM Scout season roughly follows that calendar) the Samoset council saw 253 scouts participate, Flannery says. So far this season, 330 have signed up.



The Samoset Council's mobile STEM lab, which will visit schools and events to promote the new tech-focused Scouting program.



Robert Gregurich demonstrates the design principles of a triangle to the co-ed group of STEM Scouts. Lauren Edwards (back) and her sister Avery tried a year of Girl Scouts but found their niche in STEM Scouts. "It's a highlight of their week," says their father.

## Wausau, City Pages

Girls make up 45% of the participation in STEM Scouts. That stat could be key to the program's effectiveness. Women have historically been less involved in STEM fields, and large tech companies today struggle with how to diversify their workforce and avoid "bro-culture" monikers.

In a 2016 report, statistics from the National Science Foundation indicate that while gender has little to do with enrollment in science classes at an early age, male students are more likely to enroll in higher-level engineering classes (3% of male students versus 1% of female students) and computer science classes (7% versus 4%).

The co-ed nature of STEM Scouts seems to work, as boy and girl STEM Scouts equally throw out ideas, give suggestions, and otherwise involve themselves in the discussion.

Because the lessons are so task oriented, the students stay occupied and interested. The 90 minutes can go surprisingly fast, Gregurich says.

Parents and students alike seem to love it. "We're pretty proud of it here," Flannery says. "We've got lots of support from the community — I think working in a smaller community makes it easier to get volunteers to get things done."

What's also interesting is that while some STEM Scouts came from other traditional scouting programs, the vast majority are new to Scouting or didn't find their niche in either Boy or Girl Scouts. The opportunity to direct the same Scouting principles toward areas of technology attracted a whole new demographic, Flannery says.

The STEM Scouts program is open from third graders all the way through seniors in high school. Scouts meet weekly in labs under the tutelage of either parent volunteers or volunteer STEM professionals (all middle school or high school labs have at least one STEM professional). Those labs are spread out through Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa and Marshfield. And it's all very hands on. While the kids spend some time learning the principles of a project, they spend most of the time applying what they've learned to solve problems.

A STEM Lab consists of five to 15 youth that meet weekly to engage in modules such as "Chemistry Mania," "Hydro-Hype," "Robotics" and more. Each module runs four to six weeks and often include field trips.

While STEM Scouts aren't camping to earn merit badges, staples such as the Scout Oath and Scout Law still apply. That means being a good citizen, being respectful of others opinions and demonstrating integrity in all aspects of their lives.

And those famous Scout badges? Here, they're electronic, of course. Completing a module helps Scouts earn a number of e-badges. Scouts can delve deeper through individual learning modules completed on their own, and middle and high school Scouts can earn opportunities to participate in an online, peer-reviewed journal.



Justin Gregurich and Bryce Blaibach engineer a model trestle bridge.

### A different kind of Scout

To help spread the STEM Scout word, the Samoset Council purchased a mobile STEM lab, thanks to a donation by the local Paul and Ruth Schultz Foundation. Starting this spring, the lab will visit schools to offer activities and experiments including 3D modeling, robotics, "monster" genetics, paper helicopters, electrical circuits and the chemistry of Play-Doh.

The mobile lab also will show up at special events—the truck appeared at downtown Wausau's The 400 Block for Winter Fest last Saturday—to reach families that maybe haven't even heard of STEM Scouts yet.

Despite not using a computer herself, Ruth Schultz, 96, funded the mobile STEM lab because she can see that technology is the future. "It gets the children interested in that stuff," Schultz says. "They get to see and do different things, and that's good."

Many local businesses and organizations jumped at the chance to host STEM Scout modules. Jarp Industries, which manufactures hydraulics, is one of those. Two Jarp employees currently help run labs, says owner Kevin Kraft. "They're enjoying it. The Scouts are doing a wonderful job putting everything together."

Kraft says building the future workforce is important in tech industries like his. "The challenge right now is a lot of engineers and other technically inclined people are retiring from the workforce," Kraft says. "We want to connect with kids at an early age, because that's our future workforce."

Gregurich became a STEM Scout teacher primarily for the sake of his son, Justin. When Gregurich was a kid, he was the type of person to pull apart household items and put them back together. "My mother used to joke that my brother could take anything apart and I could put it back together," Gregurich says.

His eight-year-old son Justin is the same way, Gregurich says, and didn't fit into the traditional scout program like his older brother did. "Camping wasn't his thing," Gregurich says. "He didn't fit in, it wasn't him. He was big into science, anything he can tear apart or build, or come up with on his own."

STEM Scouts ended up being the perfect fit, Gregurich says.

The same could be said of Lauren Edwards, 10, who worked alongside Justin and Bryce Blaibach, 10, on the bridge

project. Lauren and her sister, Avery, are both in the STEM Scouts, and prefer it to traditional Girl Scout activities. "I like building and doing stuff like that," Lauren says. "Not a lot of places have programs like this, so it's cool that we have the opportunity."


Justin also chimed in while setting one of the trestles of the bridge into place. "I tried it," he said of traditional Boy Scouts. "You don't get to build anything."

The boys and girls concentrate on their bridges, discuss problems, and work through solutions with little assistance. Gregurich says that's a focus of the program—give them a task that teaches them to come up with solutions, which in turn helps them internalize the principles being taught.

Douglas Edwards, one of those parents in the back of the room, says both of his daughters, Lauren and Avery, tried a year of Girl Scouts but found their niche in STEM Scouts. "They definitely look forward to it; it's a highlight of their week."

Edwards says he has a background in science, so his family's interest was quickly piqued when they learned about STEM Scouts. "I think any time you're exposed to these concepts — engineering, science — those are practical things to take with you into later life, or as lifetime skills," Edwards says.

Diana Budde, a UW-Marathon County art instructor whose 11-year-old children are in the program, says they already have shown a proclivity for those subjects. Enrolling them in STEM Scouts was an easy decision. "It's an intellectual challenge for them," Budde says. "They like working with their hands and figuring out problems."

So there's learning, there's science, there are life skills. And as Justin Gregurich on that Thursday night summed up, "I will stay in this every year. This is the most fun Scouts I've ever done." 

For more information on the local STEM Scout program, see [SamosetCouncil.org](http://SamosetCouncil.org), call 715-355-1450, or visit the Scout Center at 3511 Camp Phillips Road in Weston

Romance Her  
This Valentine's Day

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THE BIG GAME!

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Ben Zelazoski, shown outside Zelazoski Wood Products, is a [Northcentral Technical College](#) spotlight graduate.

## Spotlight series looks at local [NTC](#) graduates

### Ben Zelazoski reflects on his tech college experiences



By ZACHARY POPP  
[NTC](#) regional manager

Zelazoski Wood Products has been a figure in the Antigo community for a long time. As a family owned and operated wood product manufacturing facility, you get the sense that the secretary, Ben Zelazoski, is very pleased with what the business has become.

Ben's story starts right here in Antigo where he was born and raised.

Upon graduation from high school, Ben decided to attend the local [Northcentral Technical College](#) campus to study data processing. Two weeks into that first year he decided that was just not for him and he transferred to an accounting program.

It was an interesting time to be in college in 1968-1970 because as Ben stated, "Although there were students that were trying to keep themselves from being drafted, the vast majority were attending to better themselves. They were serious about their educa-

tion. "I think the instructors picked this up and went out of their way to see that we learned."

When asked why he chose [NTC](#), Ben noted that it was combination of being a local option where he could be taught applicable skills, the cost was lower than other colleges, and if he wanted to transfer to another college he knew that was a possibility.

While that was 46 years ago, many students choose [NTC](#) today for those same reasons.

**See Spotlight Page 7**

Brooklyn Bridge, Friday in New York. Friday. A story is printed on today's front page. Guzman, charged with running a massive

Continued

# Spotlight

Upon graduation Ben didn't find an accounting position that was especially interesting to him. He decided to come back and work for the family business until he found something else. Ben must have found his niche, because he is still there today.

He found the business itself to be interesting and was pleased that he was able to use all of the accounting skills he learned in college including, payroll, cost, tax, and general accounting.

Ben has enjoyed his position with the family business because he doesn't like doing the same thing all the time

Continued

and his job has allowed him a lot of diversity.

Ben would say that the downside of that is there are days where it is hard to stay on one task without any interruptions. Zelazoski Wood Products also manufactures a diverse range of products and which has kept Ben and the company constantly challenged.

Regarding the Antigo community as a whole, Ben stated, "This area had provided me and my family with a good living in a friendly atmosphere. The majority of the people take pride in the area and in what they do."

And when asked about what is the most valuable thing he has learned in his life so far Ben would say that, "Life is what you make of it.

You are going to have some bad days. That's fine because if you didn't the good ones would not seem so good. Don't dwell on your mistakes, learn from them."

*Do you know of an NTC graduate who is working successfully as a professional in our community? Please contact Zach Popp at 715-348-7739, or popp@ntc.edu to recommend that individual as a featured story.*

Continued

# Health

Affairs Research poll found 53 percent want to keep Obama's law in some form, and 56 percent concerned that repeal means many will lose insurance.

Vice President Mike Pence stood by the tougher sounding "repeal and replace" language on FOX News

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Julie Berndt on the manufacturing floor at Johnson Electric Coil.

## For Julie Berndt, **NTC** provided push that led to rewarding career with Johnson Coil



By **ZACHARY POPP**  
Northcentral  
Technical  
College  
regional dean

Julie Berndt's story of success in her career is one that exemplifies lifelong learning, continuous advancement, hard work, and the value having family and mentor who supports you.

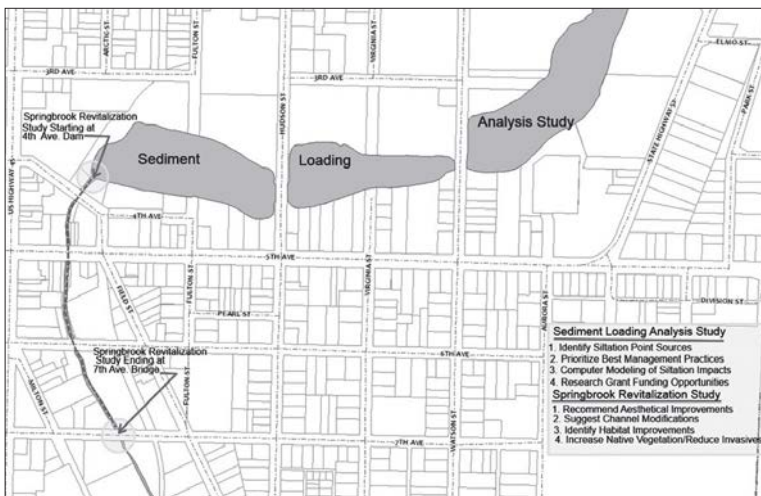
Julie was born in Crandon and moved to Antigo in the eighth grade. She admittedly needed a "push" from her grandma and mother to attend college after graduating from Antigo High school. She initially pursued a one year technical diploma at the **Northcentral Technical College** Antigo campus and soon after found herself in an accounts payable/receivables position at Johnson Electric Coil.

Julie would admit that accounting was not her strong suit and this position was just not the right fit for her. Thanks to intuitive leadership at Johnson Electric Coil this was realized, and Julie was able to move into a customer service role where she began to flourish.

Through a conversation with a customer Julie realized that her career **See Spotlight Page 7**



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LAKE, BROOK PLANS—This map, provided by the city of Antigo, shows plans for Spring Brook and Antigo Lake that will be considered by the Inland Lake District Monday. The three lake basins are being tar-

geted for a study of sediment loan and remediation while the brook between Fourth and Seventh Avenues will be the focus of a revitalization study. A story and photo are printed on today's front page.

Continued

### Spotlight

path could be very limited without further education, and she simply did not want that. She went on to complete her associates degree through NTC and has said that she was "very blessed to work for a company like Johnson Electric Coil," because not only did Bill Bockes, the business owner, approve of her furthering her education, but they also accommodated a schedule that included the demands of education. It helped that she was able to take classes in flexible formats, including online.

Julie would say that her time at NTC was very meaningful. She was impressed with the amount of practical education and the opportunities to apply what she learned in the classroom to her work position. Another

Continued

critical aspect of the education experience for Julie was making a connection with an English instructor who was truly encouraging and motivational, that instructor was Allie Brehm. Julie stated that she can pinpoint that time in her life where her writing skills improved through education in Allie's class.

Julie went on to receive her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and is now on the path to soon complete her master's degree.

One of her personal requirements through her educational journey has been that she not complete a program just to get a piece of paper, she has always wanted to be able to take what she has learned and apply it. Julie would say she has been able to do that through her education at NTC and UW-Stout. It has been a total of 13 years that Julie been a

part time college student.

The Antigo community has been a great place for Julie and her family to call home. Overall it is a "beautiful place to live," and Julie has liked the small town environment. She spoke highly of the education her children received, the access to a beautiful hospital, and the opportunities through community organizations like the Boys and Girls Club.

Working for a local manufacturer has also been a huge plus for Julie who said that she "never would have guessed that she would love manufacturing." The Antigo community has a strong manufacturing presence that helps drive the local economy.

In speaking of working for Johnson Electric Coil, Julie has loved being a leader and developing a deeper understanding of not only herself but also the people she has on her team. She has said that "the only reason she can do what she does is because she has such good people."

Julie has also enjoyed working for a company that has strong family value and a good mission statement. Johnson Electric Coil places a strong emphasis on continuous improvement at not just the personal level, but as an organization as a whole.

In fact, Julie would say that if she were to pick out the most valuable thing she has learned through her life experience so far, she would say to never stop learning and value continuous improvement. She recognizes that she is only as good as the people around her.

Do you know of an NTC graduate who is working successfully as a professional in our community? Please contact Zach Popp at 715-348-7739, or [popp@ntc.edu](mailto:popp@ntc.edu) to recommend that individual as a featured story.

Continued

### Bits

and reservations are being taken.

There will be residences, a brewery, retail area and park with multi-season uses.

It is expected to be the new location for Hinterland, which will transfer its brewery, bar and restaurant from downtown to the site in a much large configuration.



An artist's drawing of a portion of the Packer Titledown facility now in the works.

The article also reminded me that the Northland Hotel restoration project is underway right in the middle of the downtown district and north



Keshena, Menominee Nation News

# NTC Named a 2017 Best Online College in America

**Submitted Article**  
*Northcentral Technical College*

(WAUSAU, Wis.) – Northcentral Technical College (NTC) has been named a 2017 Best Online College in America by BestColleges.com for the third year in a row. NTC ranked fourth in the nation for accredited schools offering online associate degrees in the 2017 analysis.

“The Best Online Colleges ranking is intended to inform and guide prospective students toward institutions that provide a quality education and a meaningful learning experience at an affordable cost. As online higher education demand grows

and more schools bring programs online, it’s important and necessary to hold institutions to a standard of excellence that students can depend upon when making their college choice,” said Stephanie Snider, General Manager of BestColleges.com.

Using data collected from the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) and the institutions themselves, BestColleges.com included admissions, enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and cost of attendance to rank the top schools accordingly. All institutions included in the ranking are not-for-profit and offer at least six accredited, 100 per-

cent online degree options.

“NTC is proud to be recognized for our commitment to online educational opportunities,” said President Lori Weyers. “Whether you are a student in our innovative Virtual College or someone taking advantage of one of our many online courses or programs, we are dedicated to ensuring a flexible, engaging and quality student experience that mirrors the outstanding education you receive when you’re on campus.”

NTC’s Virtual College offers 47 associate degree and technical diploma programs, including programs in Video Production, Medical Coding, IT,

Supervisory Management and more. Learners can also take advantage of the more than 20 short-term, certificate options offered through Virtual College.

“Virtual College is our most flexible option – classes begin weekly and students can complete their coursework on their own schedule,” said Brad Gast, Dean of Continuing Education & Virtual College. “Once students begin with us, we remain committed to their success with dedicated advisors to guide them through the program.”

For more information on NTC’s Virtual College, visit [virtualcollege.ntc.edu](http://virtualcollege.ntc.edu) or call 715.803.1373.

## Vietnam Veterans Scholarship opportunity for students



Merrill Courier

# City stamps loan for \$1 NTC property sale, development agreement of former Fox Point site

JEREMY RATLIFF  
REPORTER

In the wake of just over a month's worth of various discussions and consideration, a property sale of \$1 from the city of Merrill to Northcentral Technical College will soon come to fruition.

Tuesday night, the Merrill Common Council considered an agenda item recommending a General Fund loan in the amount of \$100,000 to Tax Increment District (TID) No. 11.

The funds would be used for the purchase of 4.5 acres of property on West Taylor Street from Russ Davis Wholesale, and then transferred to NTC for the price of \$1. The college would then use the property for the development of a new commercial driver training center in Merrill.

The item came as a recommendation from the January meeting of the Personnel and Finance Committee.

Discussion of the matter was minimal Tuesday night.

Second district Alderman Pete

Lokemoen was the lone voice of discussion; immediately voicing opposition to the matter based on contact from an estimated 30 community members, who also voiced opposition to the property purchase.

The council proceeded forward with approval by a 7-1 vote.

The purchase concept stems from last month's meetings of the city's Redevelopment Authority and Common Council.

As a result of those meetings, the purchase of the property was approved based on funding being provided by TID #11.

During the January RDA meeting, mayor Bill Bialecki advocated for the purchase.

"(NTC President) Dr. (Lori) Weyers came to me some time ago with the desire to place this facility in Merrill," Bialecki said. "We went to Russ Davis Corporate and asked if they would donate the land. They stated they would sell for \$100,000. We got back to Dr. Weyers and she decided that was beyond their budget and the project

wouldn't happen."

During those meetings, consideration was also given to projections from Weyers of an estimated \$100,000 to be generated annually in direct and indirect economic impact for the Merrill area, as a result of the training center.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the city to show some reciprocity for all NTC has done for us," Bialecki stated during the Jan. 3 RDA meeting. "It's not going to do anything for the tax base, but it will bring people to train in Merrill much the same as the safety course has done now."

The idea of a General Fund loan for the purchase was raised during the Jan. 24 meeting of the city's Personnel and Finance Committee.

The measure gained unanimous approval, following information from city Finance Director Kathy Unertl of TID No. 11 not having generated any revenue since its inception last May, hence being unable to fund the purchase.

See SITE page 3



# local & region

## Career, technical programs build valued skills

**KATHLEEN WILLIAMS**  
FOR USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

February is Career and Technical Education Month across the nation and in the Wausau School District. Thus, I'd like to highlight the wide range of exciting



Williams

opportunities and career pathways available to our students.

CTE programs in the Wausau School District include:

- » Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- » Business, Marketing and Information Technology
- » Family Consumer Sciences
- » Health Science
- » Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship
- » Technology and Engineering Education

Because of our community's referendum support in 2015, our district's CTE departments underwent significant renovations and expansions at both Wausau East and Wausau West high schools. As you might recall, the facilities

were carefully planned in collaboration with several of our central Wisconsin business partners. Further, focus groups were developed in the areas of manufacturing, automotive, diesel and auto collision. Our business partners helped our school leaders determine efficiencies in space, safety aspects, instructional curriculum and desired equipment.

Our goals included providing our students with state of the art facilities and supplying resources for businesses to meet their need for a pipeline of future employees in central Wisconsin. [Northcentral Technical College](#) continues to assist us in supporting and developing our future workforce. Consequently, students are receiving dual credit in high school courses that will later articulate into [NTC](#) credits. This past year, 680 students were enrolled in at least one dual credit class with [NTC](#).

Our district strongly believes our CTE students are experiencing the benefits of extremely dedicated teachers. Many of our CTE teachers have attended additional professional development and training to use effectively new

equipment, such as CNC milling machines, auto collision bays, paint mixing booths and CNC routers.

The new Wausau East automotive lab continues to partner with the Wisconsin Automotive and Truck Education Association, a highly supportive business partner. One of the innovative ways in which we partner is through a program called Wheels to Work. This program offers low-cost vehicles and repairs to struggling Marathon County families and individuals. Our students receive vehicles from WATEA and repairs them in partnership with local auto dealers for needy families in our community. The program also connects individuals with financial guidance and community help agencies. This program has afforded our students enriching experiences and opportunities for all involved to give back to our community.

On Feb. 21, Wausau East High School's new automotive lab will be the host site for this year's Auto Career Expo. Hosted at Wausau East High School and sponsored by Fred Mueller Automotive, WATEA, and [Northcentral Technical Col-](#)

[lege](#), the expo will give high school students the opportunity to connect with local businesses to learn about the transportation industry and [NTC](#) transportation programs. Hands-on activities include a pit crew challenge, Hunter wheel alignment activity, scan tool diagnostics and many more.

There are more than 500 high school students who participate in career and technical student organizations in the Wausau School District. These organizations help to develop citizenship, technical leadership and teamwork skills essential for students who are preparing for the workforce and further education. They also enhance students' civic awareness and provide opportunities for developing social competencies and a wholesome attitude about living and working.

For information about the career and technical education programs or to become a community or business partner, contact Jon Winter, CTE coordinator, at [jwinter@wausauschools.org](mailto:jwinter@wausauschools.org) or 715-261-0568.

*Kathleen Williams is superintendent of the Wausau School District.*

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# Mike Kolpack returns to tech school after 18-year absence, he's persistent



By ZACHARY POPP  
**Northcentral  
Technical College  
regional manager**

Mike Kolpack is not the kind of person who goes out of his way to brag about his accomplishments. He seems content to simply do a good job and fly under the radar. However, individuals like Mike often deserve as much recognition as anybody for the work that they do and the way that they contribute to

the community and the economy.

Mike's story starts in Antigo where he was born and raised. He started working at Kretz Lumber two months before he graduated from Antigo High School in 1994. According to Mike, he started "at the bottom, piling boards, and working behind saws." For the past 22 years, Mike has been a familiar face at Kretz Lumber considering it has been his only employer since high school. This commitment to an employer

**See Spotlight Page 7**



Mike Kolpack, shown at work at Kretz Lumber, began taking classes at **Northcentral Technical College** in Antigo 18 years after his high school graduation.



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# Spotlight

has definitely become more of a rarity in recent years.

Mike started his educational pursuits in 2012 when he began the industrial electronics and maintenance technician technical diploma program. Mike was part of the first graduating class of this program at the Northcentral Technical College Antigo campus where he learned about hydraulics, pneumatics, and AC/DC electronic controls and circuits. Mike chose NTC Antigo because it allowed him the opportunity to still work and attend school at the same time. While he was preparing to be a new father, this was important.

In speaking about the Antigo community, Mike said that first thing that comes to mind related to the greatest benefit of living here is the safe environment it provides. In his personal life and hobbies, he stays plenty busy with home projects that he takes on in his free time.

When asked about what he specifically likes in working with Kretz Lumber, Mike said that he really enjoys that there is "always something different every day." He really can't anticipate each problem or project that he may need to tackle when he comes to work each day. He said he never gets bored and enjoys having to troubleshoot and get creative with making things work.

As far as his job title, Mike works as an electrician but assists with a variety of maintenance items at Kretz Lumber. Between his first position of stacking lumber and becoming a maintenance Electrician Mike also worked as a second shift supervisor and even spent nine months working at a mill in Tomahawk.

Related to the environment at Kretz Lumber, Mike likes that it is an employee owned business. He said that the culture has a family atmosphere and there is a lot of strong connections among the team.

If Mike were to give advice to anyone regarding their career he would say to not put school on hold. He admitted that the 18-year gap between graduating high school and starting his college degree was a little weird.

*Do you know of an NTC graduate who is working successfully as a professional in our community? Please contact Zach Popp at 715-348-7739, or [popp@ntc.edu](mailto:popp@ntc.edu) to recommend that individual as a featured story.*





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# Educational News

A regular Tuesday feature

## Career, technology students hone skills through programs

By JOSH ZALEWSKI  
Antigo school district CTE department chairman

CTE??? POS??? ACP??? Pathways??? Dual Credit??? The educational profession tends to speak a different language, but I can assure you these are opportunities you don't want to miss.

The state of Wisconsin declares February as CTE month. CTE stands for Career and Technology Education. The Unified School District of Antigo is fortunate to have the opportunity to provide a wide variety of career pathways for our students to assure their success in becoming college and career ready upon graduation. To accomplish this we must start by building a solid foundation.

The Middle School level provides students the exposure to the world of graphic design, drafting, engineering, transportation, and metal working. Our eighth graders have all had the opportunity to spend the morning at the high school and further explore their options we offer which they may want to pursue next year.

Currently our students are engaged in our academic career planning process where they are meeting with their school counselors, taking a series of career interest inventories, and selecting their program of study which will become the roadmap of coursework for their high school career to achieve their future goals.

While in high school students further explore their interests. We are very proud of all of our programs, state of the art facilities, and have the ability to provide an expert educator in the fields of agriculture, drafting and design, engineering, family and consumer science, graphic communications, marketing, metals manufacturing, transportation and engineering, along with woods manufacturing.

Students have a number of courses to select from in each of these programs. These courses are tied to local, state, national and industry standards where the students are able to earn industry-recognized certificates such as Snap On multimeter certification, and OSHA safety training just to name a few.

To best prepare our students for the world of work or continuing education, we continually work to build strong ties with our local businesses, industries, and post-secondary partners. Our goal for the past few years was to provide at least one dual credit opportunity for each of our CTE programs. Last year 221 students at AHS achieved 806 college credits in 16 courses through our partnership with

Northcentral Technical College for a value of \$117,152.10. This is a free opportunity for our students where, upon successful completion, they receive a college transcript which may have the ability to transfer to other post-secondary institutions. This is truly a win-win for the students.

We have a lofty goal of providing the opportunity for students to complete a semester of college in their chosen program of study upon high school graduation. This takes hard work and collaboration between not only CTE instructors but also core educators and the professionals at NTC to assure the college curriculum is identical to the high school's curriculum.

Other opportunities we provide to ensure the students are college and career ready, which 48 students are taking advantage of this year, are called youth apprenticeship, and our co-op program. In these programs students are taking related coursework at the high school along with working in the field of their chosen career pathway. They have to meet strict program competencies along with time requirements and then upon completion receive high school credit along with a state certificate. This provides real-world hands-on experience working with an industry expert while the student is still in high school.

Some students are athletes; some excel in the arts others excel in the CTE areas. We have active organizations where students can compete at the local, state, and possibly national levels. DECA, FCCLA, FFA, and Skills USA are organizations if your son or daughter has a passion for one of our program offerings. Please contact the instructor or advisor for more information on how to join.

Finally our newest endeavor or we are very excited about is our fab lab. This is a state of the art design and engineering facility where students can take their ideas from concept, to 2d/3d renderings, and create working scale models. Students will be using industry design software, 3d printers, laser engravers, and CNC milling machines to bring their ideas to life. The skills learned here will directly relate to current and future industrial trends. Right now design engineers are developing new products, sending them to 3d printers, coming back the next day and running tests on their new parts to assure proper form, fit, and function before they go to large-scale high-dollar parts.

We are looking forward to collaborating with our local business and industry leaders to provide a highly skilled local workforce. Stay tuned for our grand opening.



Career and technical education students study and work at Antigo High School.



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[Representative Mary Czaja \(/assembly/35/Felzkowski/\)](/assembly/35/Felzkowski/)

[/ Newsletter Read More \(/assembly/35/Felzkowski/newsletter-read-more/\)](/assembly/35/Felzkowski/newsletter-read-more/)

[/ Student Showcase](#)

**Tech College Student Showcase:**



**Above: Nicolet Student Showcase**

The Wisconsin Technical College System hosted their "Student Showcase" in the Capitol rotunda last Tuesday. Nicolet and Northcentral Technical College (NTC) showcased three programs and were among 16 colleges that participated in this event. Nicolet featured their Center for Diversity and Inclusion (<http://www.nicoletcollege.edu/current-student/learner-success/diversity-inclusion/>) and Welding Program (<http://www.nicoletcollege.edu/academics/academic-programs/welding-technician/>), while NTC presented their Culinary Arts Associate Degree program (<https://www.ntc.edu/programs-courses/all/associate-degrees/culinary-arts>). Speaking with students and instructors is a great learning experience, and it's always great to see their excitement for education. I was particularly excited for the welding simulator Nicolet brought to the Capitol. Did you know that students can now use electronic welding simulators to train their skills? Technology continues to revolutionize the way our students learn, and their progress is astounding.

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**Press Releases**

Statement on Budget Address  
[\(/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media/1236/2017-02-08-budget-address-statement.pdf\)](/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media/1236/2017-02-08-budget-address-statement.pdf)  
 2/8/2017

Statement on State of the State  
[\(/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media/1234/2017-01-10\\_sots.pdf\)](/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media/1234/2017-01-10_sots.pdf)  
 1/10/2017

NAIC Welcomes Rep. Czaja to Weigh in on Insurance Issues  
[\(/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media/1223/2016-12-20-naic-welcomes-rep-czaja-to-weigh-in-on-insurance-issues.pdf\)](/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media/1223/2016-12-20-naic-welcomes-rep-czaja-to-weigh-in-on-insurance-issues.pdf)  
 12/20/2016



Above: NTC Student Showcase



(<https://twitter.com/MaryCzaja>)

### E-Updates

Meet My New Intern:

Christiaan Parnell

(/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media

/eUpdates

/02-24-17.html)

2/24/2017

Rep. Felzkowski (Czaja) E-Upda of the State, Snowmobile Trials, :

Deer Advisory Council (/assembl/35/Felzkowski/media

/1235/felzkowskieupdate2017-01/1/13/2017

January 6, 2017 (/assembly/35/Felzkowski/media

/1232/felzkowskieupdate2017-01 Name Change, Back to Work, Fishing, ar 1/6/2017

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**WJFW (NBC) - Newswatch 12 at 6, Wausau  
2.9.17**

**Local Market Viewership: 3,817**

**Local Publicity Value: \$228.80 per 30 seconds**

**WAUSAU** - Governor Scott Walker believes the Milwaukee area should get less state money to repair roads and bridges. He says rural areas like Northern Wisconsin should start getting more money.



The governor toured the state today and stopped at Northcentral Technical College. Walker's budget proposes borrowing 500-million dollars to pay for long-term transportation projects.

"If you're building an infrastructure that lasts 20 years or so, bonding is appropriate at those levels for something you're paying off not over one or two years, but over a 20-year cycle." (Gov. Scott Walker)

Walker's planned borrowing level would be the lowest in 16 years, according to the capital times. Even so, some Democrats criticize the level of Walker's transportation bonding - 20% of the state's transportation budget goes to paying interest on previous borrowing.

"For 20 percent on every dollar going to no new projects, but just to interest, that's fiscally irresponsible. We really need to get a handle on borrowing. The governor continues to delay this decision, to delay projects, and to rely on borrowing." (Rep. Katrina Shankland)

Even some Republicans expressed concern about the level of bonding in the transportation budget. The budget now goes to the republican-controlled joint finance committee, of which Shankland is a member.