

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Northcentral Technical College
1000 W. Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Zoom: [February 8, 2022 NTC Board of Trustees Meeting](#)

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

II. SWEARING IN CEREMONY – Nikki Kopp

- a. Keith Langenhahn

III. PUBLIC INPUT

- a. Public Comments

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of minutes from January 11, 2022 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Motion: That the Northcentral Technical College District Board approve the meeting minutes from the January 11, 2022 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting.

Voice vote required to approve.

V. CONSENT VOTING AGENDA

- a. Approval of Consent Voting Agenda
 - i. [Receipts + Expenditures](#)
 - ii. [Personnel Changes](#)

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

- i. Receipts + Expenditures
- ii. Personnel Changes

Roll call vote required to approve.

VI. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- a. Program + Product Development – Darren Ackley

VII. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- a. President's Report
 - i. Board Dashboard – Katie Felch + Mitch Block
 - ii. Capital Budget Philosophy + Goals – Roxanne Lutgen
 - iii. Comments from Informational Update
- b. Chairperson's Report
 - i. Spring Board Appointment Update

1. Application period is open and they are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2022
2. Appointment Hearing: Friday, March, 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
- ii. Reminder to Complete Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by 5/2/2022
 1. Email was sent to Board members on January 11 from ETHNoReply@wisconsin.gov
- c. Information
 - i. [Advisory Meeting Minutes](#)
 - ii. [Upcoming Meetings + Events](#)
 - iii. [Good News](#)

VIII. CLOSED SESSION (Immediately following the above Open Meeting)

- a. Adjourn the Board into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of:
 - i. Approval of January 11, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes
 - ii. Update on Potential Litigation

Motion: Adjourn Board into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of:

- i. Approval of January 11, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes
- ii. Update on Potential Litigation

Roll call vote required

IX. OPEN SESSION

- a. Reconvene the Board into Open Session to confirm any action deemed necessary as a result of the Closed Session.

Motion: Reconvene Board into Open Session to confirm any action deemed necessary as a result of the Closed Session.

Roll call vote required

X. MEETING ADJOURN

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

Mission: Northcentral Technical College provides high-quality, learner and employer focused, educational pathways committed to enriching lives and strengthening the economy.

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

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2022

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 including operating transfers in the aggregate is included for informational purposes as of **December 31, 2021** (preliminary).

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Revenues: \$59,926,067.51

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Expenses: \$52,310,586.98

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: 

Dated: February 8, 2022

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

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2022

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:

- Steve Chaignot – Welding Assistant, Instruction and Materials
- Kristy Elliott – Timberwolf Learning Commons Manager
- Ben Knopse – Faculty, Electromechanical/Automation
- Yvonne Liska – Custodian

Resignations:

- Jason Beasley – Faculty, Surgical Technology
- Vicki LaPorte – Administrative Assistant, School of Business
- Doreen St Onge – Human Resources Manager
- Carla Weaver – Executive Assistant, VP, Finance & General Counsel and VP, HR & Risk Management
- John Xiong, Instructional Assistant, Automotive Technology

Retirement:

- Sue Ghrist Priebe – Faculty, Psychology

Terminations/Non-Renewals:

None

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 Dr. Janis Worden

Dated 2/8/2022

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Manufacturing Engineering Technology & Safety Engineering Technology

23rd November 2021 | 3:00pm to 5:00pm | Zoom Meeting



- **Manufacturing Engineering Technology &
Safety Engineering Technology**
- **Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Summary**

- **NTC Board of Trustees**

Date: 11/23/2021

- **Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

- **Location: Zoom**

- **Meeting Attendees**

- **Industry Members:** Jenna Drengler (Greenheck Fan Corp.), Paul Swanborg (Ryan Manufacturing), Ashley Witzeling (CHR Hansen), Jason Witzeling (Woods Equipment), Kevin Woolsey (Crystal Finishing)

- **NTC Members:** Iain Cameron (Dean, ScEAM), Tim Fetting (Associate Dean, ScEAM), Brad Gast (Dean, WT&PD), Travis Allen (Faculty), Bob Mindock (adjunct faculty), Joe Proulx (adjunct faculty), Amy Pippenger (Math faculty), Jessica Benton (Recorder)

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- o All in attendance introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.
 - o New Instructor - Travis Allen: Travis introduced himself as the new faculty for the AET program. He previously served as NTC's Wood Science program faculty.
 - o New Instructional Assistant – Matthew Jacobson started 11/15/21. His background is in Electromechanical and Automation.
 - o New NTC President – Dr. Jeannie Worden: Dr. Worden has been with NTC for 26 years, serving in a variety of roles that make her uniquely qualified for her new role.

- **Highlights from the previous meetings / updates**

- There were no updates from the previous meeting to be discussed.

- **NTC College-Wide Updates**

- NTC Strategic Plan: The plan was formulated based on feedback received from the communities NTC serves. Consideration was given to several data points including: Business & Industry, Region-wide K12 school districts, parents & students, advisory committees, among others. The plan highlights the following areas:
 - o Wildly Important Goals (WIGs)
 - Increase Student Success: Increase 3-year graduation rate for all WTCS-approved programs from 42% to 50% by 6.30.2022
 - Grow Skilled Workforce: Increase FTEs from 2,799 to 3,058 by 6.30.2022

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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- Strengthen Infrastructure: Streamline college-wide processes to increase the safety, sophistication, and efficiency of learning and work environments by 6.30.2022
- Learner Success: Provide timely and relevant education, training, and services within safe and secure learning environments.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Identify and reduce obstacles within learning and working environments, and actively promote purposeful diversity awareness and conversations.
- Access: Foster the ability to learn, train, and work anywhere and anytime through training, connection, flexibility and innovation.
- Collaboration: Create, cultivate and strengthen intentional, mutually beneficial partnerships and practices.
- Innovation & Growth: Apply research, implement new technologies, encourage creative intellectual exploration, and provide leading-edge education.
- Advocacy: Actively promote policy and practice changes that impact education.
- Evaluation & Analysis: NTC practices continuous assessment and improvement. An evaluation and analysis of the successes and challenges of the work implemented toward the College's Strategic Directions and Wildly Important Goals will be presented to the Executive Leadership Team and Board of Trustees annually; a Board Dashboard will be created and adopted through 2023 to track and report data important to transparency and accountability; and the Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 will be reviewed twice a year by the Executive Leadership Team in order to ensure it remains nimble, proactive, and responsive to changing/shifting economies, environments, trends, and needs. Best and promising practices will be shared with staff, advisory committees, donors, and external partners in order to broaden impact.
- More information may be found by clicking [here](#)
- Legislative Updates
 - The budget includes:
 - \$2.25 million annually for WTCS general aid, with 70% distributed through the general aid formula and 30% distributed as Outcomes Based Funding
 - \$2.25 million annually for grants to technical colleges
 - \$29 million in 2021-22 and \$43 million in 2022-23 in property tax relief aid. This is a dollar for dollar swap rather than new funding
 - Unfortunately, the budget did not include need-based grants for technical college students, which is part of our WTCS budget request.
 - The bill to repeal WI Statute 36.31 was introduced as separate legislation (AB-266/SB-291) and is not part of the budget process. NTC has moved forward with a private partner to offer both the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. Please watch for more to come on our ability to offer both degrees on our own.
- Dual Credit Accomplishments (Fall 2006-Spring 2021)
 - 100,718 Dual Credits earned
 - \$14,037,074.55 Dual Credit tuition saved
 - 9,849 High School graduates transitioned directly to NTC
- NTC Connect
 - 32 courses will be offered in NTC Connect

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Manufacturing Engineering Technology & Safety Engineering Technology

23rd November 2021 | 3:00pm to 5:00pm | Zoom Meeting



- Students can take their courses in a way that suits their needs:
 - In person, Zoom live or online when they can
- Wraps education around the life of the student rather than expecting the student to wrap their life around education
- Competency Based Education: This modality eliminates time as a variable when completing course content. This is beneficial to those currently in the workforce needing additional training as it doesn't require the learner to commit to a traditional weekly course schedule. Learners have the opportunity to complete the content at their own pace; thus, allowing for learners to master course competencies at a faster rate. NTC plans on piloting this modality with the Electromechanical and Automation associate degree programs as these programs currently offer a flexible, self-paced learning format.
- Industry 4.0 Updates
 - NTC's first step will be Manufacturing
 - Automating traditional manufacturing and other systems to improve efficiencies and reliability
 - Up-skill employees, invest in your best. Pathways for first-time learners, full-time workers, and those seeking expertise
 - Cross functional projects planned (e.g. data analytics)
 - AME Lab addition will feature:
 - Lights out manufacturing line
 - Student Automation cell development lab
 - Flexible Learning Space
 - Future NTC programs areas will include Health Sciences, Agriculture and Transportation
- Central WI Science & Engineering Festival (Mind Trekkers, April 8-9, 2022): Approximately 6000 middle school students participate at the Wausau campus on Friday (4/8). The event is open to the public on Saturday (4/9). This STEM roadshow is hosted at NTC and run by volunteers and the Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers team, which consists of undergrad and graduate students. Mind Trekkers will guide those who attend through fun, hands-on experiments. Let the Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers be your guide as you explore the excitement of STEM. [Click here](#) to watch event video.
- Student Support Initiatives
 - Timberwolf Table (food pantry), Peaceful Solutions Counseling, Timberwolf Learning Commons, ARP Grant direct student funding, "It's in our Jeans" employee giving campaign, Student Scholarships
- **Workforce Training and Professional Development initiatives**
 - Brad Gast (Dean, Workforce Training & Professional Development): As mentioned earlier, Workforce Training and Professional Training are also piloting offering using NTC Connect. Thus far, participation has been approximately 30% participating in-person (on NTC's campus) and 70% access digital content. Again, the purpose of this new modality is to meet learners on their comfort level/terms as companies and communities relax pandemic protocols.
 - Additionally, NTC is offering continuing education classes focusing on lifestyle courses (i.e.: culinary courses, wellness, mindfulness/stress management, ballroom dancing).

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- Workforce Training and Professional Training received a Workforce Advancement Grant from Governor Evers to expand the Move to Manufacturing(M2M) program. NTC will be launching new opportunities for M2M at its Medford and Phillips campuses. Additionally, NTC will be partnering with Northwood Technical College (formerly WITC) to launch programs in Superior and Ashland.
 - WT&PD continues to expand event and training opportunities by using NTC Connect technology. This allows participants to participate in person, via Zoom or asynchronously by viewing a video after the event. Initial results have shown that approximately 30% participate in-person while 70% take advantage of some form of digital training (synchronous or asynchronous).
 - WT&PD has also received significant finding through the Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grant through WTCS. These dollars are allocated toward professional development and upskilling incumbent workers, both soft skills (i.e.: leadership) and technical skills.
 - The employment shortage is forecasted to continue, especially as productivity increases and exceeds goals. If there is anything NTC can develop and/or provide to help upskill incumbent workers, please reach out to Jared Eggebrecht at eggebrecht@ntc.edu or Brad Gast at gast@ntc.edu.
- Program Math Discussion (Amy Pippenger): Amy sought feedback from the attendees to identify what math skills are necessary for entry- and mid- level positions in manufacturing. Several suggestions were provided, including: how to accurately read a tape measure, calipers/micrometers (dial/digital), understanding of 3D coordinates, geometry, ability to read blueprints, and conversions between metric/standard measurements and fractions/decimals. Ideally, cultivating a greater understanding of Excel/spreadsheet software would be an asset.

- **Instructional Area / Program Updates**

- **General Program Information, Overview, and Updates**

- Spring 2021 Enrollment Information	- 47 Total Students
- In district/In state	- 17 students (36%)
- Out district/In state	- 7 students (15%)
- Out district/Out state	- 23 students (49%)

- Two-year enrollment analysis (2019-2020 & 2020-2021)
- Eight programs offerings
 - 221 duplicated headcount (141 unduplicated headcount)
 - 93 students enrolled in single program
 - 48 students enrolled in multiple programs
 - 38% out of state (unduplicated head count)

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Manufacturing Engineering Technology & Safety Engineering Technology

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- **Industry Trends:**

- A survey was sent to all advisory committees associated with the School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (ScEAM). Of all members surveyed, there were 50 total responses. Key points include:
 - o 89% stated business has been flat or demonstrated growth (year over year)
 - o 81% of staffing needs are low to medium skilled positions
 - 31% Low = Entry-level, general laborers
 - 50% Medium = Technicians
 - o 95% are forecasting growth over the next fiscal year
 - o Technology and Investment Goals
 - 37% Automation, equipment, facilities
 - 32% Personnel
- A new survey will be sent to advisory committee members Spring 2022 prior to the next meeting.
- The advisory committee members present stated challenges recruiting and retaining new employees. This is forcing many organizations to investigate automation as a solution. Additionally, each reported growth to their businesses with an expectation to exceed last year's performance. Finally, it was shared there is a resource acquisition bottleneck that is pushing lead times for projects further out than desired.

- **MET/SET Program Updates:**

- Short-term Credentialing:
 - o Designed to help address current skills gap
 - Quality Technician Certificate (Quality Control, Quality Inspector)
 - Targeted skill set: Entry level QC, Quality Technician or Inspection
 - Flexible Virtual College or in-person classes through NTC's Workforce Training team
 - Courses include: Interpreting Engineering Drawings (1 cr.), Precision Measuring (1 cr.), Quality Assurance (1 cr.), Quality Systems (2 crs.)
 - o Credential total = 5 credits
 - o ***After discussion, the advisory committee fully supported further investigation and packaging of this credential in collaboration with Brad Gast's team.***

- **Grant Update (Year 2):**

- o Positions and projects funded such as Instructional assistant, curriculum modifications and professional learning
- o Professional development through MIT – Tim and Travis enrolled
- o Industry 4.0 equipment and supplies

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Manufacturing Engineering Technology & Safety Engineering Technology

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- Industry 4.0/Smart Manufacturing Integration:
 - Timeline: Course updates will occur during spring and summer 2022
- Share program sheet and get feedback
- Course that will be updated with Industry 4.0/Smart Manufacturing Language
 - Operations Management (2 cr.): Completed
 - Precision Measuring (1cr.): Seeking to incorporate laser micrometers
 - Manufacturing Processes (3 cr.): Introduce automation and analytics
 - Workplace ergonomics (2cr.): Introduce Co-Bots in relation to repetitive motion activities

- **Program and Curriculum Modification Discussion**

- Manufacturing Engineering Technology Associate Degree
 - Manufacturing Process Planning reduced from 3 cr. To 2 cr.
 - Add Fluid Power 1: Fundamentals (1 cr.) to semester 4
 - Add Tooling and Production (2cr.) to semester 4
 - These were approved in Spring 2020 advisory committee meeting and are not yet reflected on the program sheets).
 - Removing Work Measurement and Production Planning and Control and replacing with new Operations Management course
 - This was approved Fall 2020 advisory committee meeting and is reflected on program sheets)
- There was great discussion regarding the future of the program/s and how changes to the curriculum would benefit the learner. The advisory committee found value in the additions of the new courses.
 - Possibly revising/modifying Statistical Process Control
 - Consider moving one of the Quality classes into third semester
 - Do any of the courses cover engineering economics? This content is covered in the Operations Management course.
 - Where would automation/robotics programming fall into this program? Tim explained that these concepts will be carried through the program without transitioning MET into an Automation program. It was recommended to add a basic troubleshooting content/course (i.e.: data, sensors and basic programming).
 - Contemplating creating an Introduction to Industry 4.0 class.
 - The preference would be to integrate Industry 4.0/Smart Manufacturing content throughout the course work rather than developing new classes to replace existing courses.
 - Iain shared that NTC will be developing a separate Smart Manufacturing credential that will package automation and mechanical content together.

- **Any Other Business**

- No other business was discussed.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Manufacturing Engineering Technology & Safety Engineering Technology

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- **Next Meeting Details and Suggestions**

- Last spring meeting was scheduled for 5/3/2021. NTC is currently uncertain what spring protocols for in-person gathering will be. Plan for the next meeting to take place either late April or early May 2022.
- We are always open to suggestions and feedback, so please get in touch if you have anything to share! Our contact details are on the agenda.

Architectural Design Technology

Summary of Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for NTC Board of Trustees

Date: 11/30/2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Attendees

Industry Members:

- Brandon Boris – Luoma Design Solutions
- Thomas Grund – Oldcastle Building Envelope
- Dawn Keel – S.C. Swiderski
- Frank Opatik – Opatik Engineering LLC
- Thomas Woller – S.C. Swiderski
- Craig Uglendrauck – Miron Construction

NTC Team:

- Iain Cameron – Dean
- Tim Fetting – Associate Dean
- Travis Severson – Faculty
- Mike Block – Faculty
- Heidi Latendresse – Learning Coordinator
- Susan Clark – Administrative Assistant
- Amy Pippenger – Math Faculty
- Andy Somers – Graphics Faculty
- Dan Seanor – Graphics Faculty

Welcome and Introductions

Iain Cameron, Dean of the School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing at Northcentral Technical College (NTC), welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Highlights from the previous meetings/updates

The previous meeting minutes were distributed in advance for the committee to review. There were no specific follow-ups to discuss from previous meetings.

NTC College-Wide Updates

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Architectural Design Advisory Committee

30th November 2021 | 3:00pm to 4:30pm | Zoom Meeting



Iain Cameron share a PowerPoint regarding the College-Wide updates and provided summaries of the information for the committee.

- NTC Strategic Plan - The plan was formulated based on feedback received from the communities NTC serves. Consideration was given to several data points including Business & Industry, Region-wide K12 school districts, parents & students, advisory committees, among others. The plan highlights the following areas:
 - Wildly Important Goals (WIGs)
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 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Identify and reduce obstacles within learning and working environments, and actively promote purposeful diversity awareness and conversations.
 - Access: Foster the ability to learn, train, and work anywhere and anytime through training, connection, flexibility, and innovation.
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 - More information may be found by clicking this link [NTC Strategic Plan](#).
- Legislative Updates
 - The budget includes:
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Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Architectural Design Advisory Committee

30th November 2021 | 3:00pm to 4:30pm | Zoom Meeting



Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. Please watch for more to come on our ability to offer both degrees on our own.

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- NTC Connect
 - 32 courses will be offered in NTC Connect
 - Students can take their courses in a way that suits their needs:
 - In-person, Zoom live or online when they can
 - Wraps education around the life of the student rather than expecting the student to wrap their life around education
- Competency-Based Education (CBE) was explained to the committee. We are piloting CBE in our Automation Systems. In Competency-Based Education time is switched to be the variable in learning. The student sets their own pace of learning and progresses through classes as they master skills. We believe this can be an evolved version of flexible learning and may be an option for our Welding, Automotive, and Machine Tool classes.
- Industry 4.0 Updates
 - NTC's first step will be Manufacturing
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 - Pathways for first-time learners, full-time workers, and those seeking expertise
 - Cross-functional projects planned (e.g. data analytics)
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- Student Support (available resources)
 - Timberwolf Table
 - Peaceful Solutions Counseling
 - Timberwolf Learning Commons
 - ARP Grant directs student funding
 - "It's In Our Jeans" employee giving campaign
 - Student Scholarships

Instructional Area / Program Updates

- **Program Enrollment**

- 22 first semester students enrolled in the ADT program for fall 2021
- 14 third semester students enrolled in the ADT program for fall 2021
- 3 students are enrolled in Construction Technologies Technical Diploma

- **Program Information Update**

- Iain Cameron shared that there is an ongoing discussion about offering a Surveying program in partnership with Civil Engineering.
- We are also exploring offering a Restoration certificate.
- Committee members were informed that approximately 75% of the first-semester students have enrolled directly out of high school.
- The Architectural Design Software Technical Diploma was discussed and some points were clarified for the committee. Classes included in this technical diploma are Revit, Residential and Commercial, SketchUp, AutoCAD 2D, and one general education class.
- The Committee discussed the name of the Construction Technologies Embedded Technical Diploma which ladders into the Architectural Design degree. The name is confusing to individuals looking for classes that previously were included in the home building degree called Residential Design. Travis Severson and Iain Cameron stated that the name of the technical diploma will be reviewed and Iain will check with the School of Agriculture, Utilities, and Transportation to make sure we do not duplicate the name of the certificate that they are developing.

- **Industry Trends:**

Iain gave the committee an overview of the employer survey that was sent in spring regarding Industry Trends:

- 50 total responses were received
- 89% stated business has been flat or demonstrated growth YOY
- 81% of staffing needs are medium to low preparation positions
 - 50% Medium – technicians
 - 31% Low – general laborers
- 95% are forecasting growth over the next fiscal year
- Technology and Investment Goals
 - 37% Automation, equipment, facilities
 - 32% Personnel
- Tom Grund, Oldcastle Building Envelope, stated that the company has been seeing an increase in business and are scheduling several months out at this point. The company is in a good place right now.
- Brandon Boris, Luoma Design Solutions, has seen a steady increase in business. The construction side is increasing as well. We are seeing a larger backlog than we have seen since the business started. The backlog is great for production but we need new staff on board to accommodate the new business. Brandon mentioned that our instructors do a really good job of preparing students for the industry. The only suggestion he had was for the students to improve their communication skills.
- Tom Woller, S.C. Swiderski, said that his company is seeing growth now and into next year. Their biggest struggle is finding employees. They have hired NTC students in the past and have been

very happy with those employees. The students hired from NTC are doing a fantastic job. They were well prepared for working in the industry. If anything could have had more emphasis, it would have been a broader knowledge base on how things interact structurally.

- Dawn Keel, S.C. Swiderski, added that she agreed with the comments Tom Woller shared. She also stated that it would be helpful if incoming employees would have more experience understanding calculations and integrating that data into a spreadsheet or other technology. The increase in current projects does not show any indication of slowing down. Dawn mentioned that MiTek, Inc. seems to be the one company dominating the industry for truss engineering and a lot of employees do not know how to best use this program. Offering training on this program would be beneficial to companies in the industry.
- Frank Opatik, Architect, shared that all his clients are very busy. All the companies he is dealing with cannot find enough help. Frank stated that he uses excel spreadsheets for all his engineering. It is an important tool for all aspects of a project and with formula development, the uses are unlimited.
- Craig Uhlenbrauck, Miron Construction, stated that Miron is extremely busy. Their major hurdle is material availability and price escalation. Also, we need employees in all areas including project managers, site superintendents, mason's, and carpenters, etc.
 - Travis Severson voiced that he would like to get his fourth-semester students through commercial construction sites. Craig replied that Miron would be happy to schedule a student tour at any of their construction sites other than hospitals which would be difficult at the current time.
 - Iain Cameron brought to the attention of the group that we are, once again, NTC is scheduling Lunch & Learn meetings with students. These are one-hour sessions where employers can meet students in the program. Any company that would like to do one of these sessions can reach out to the program instructors or Iain. Instructors added that the first and third Tuesday of the month work well with the schedule.

General Education Update

- Amy Pippenger, Math Instructor, attended the meeting to survey the employers regarding the Math that is being taught to students in the Welding Program. She asked for feedback on the specific mathematical calculations and formulas that a student will have to use on the job. The committee mentioned that employees need to be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide along with knowledge of conversions, percentages, quantities, algebra, and geometry. They need to be able to use a calculator and excel. Travis Severson mentioned that the ADT students need to know how to use an architectural scale and the Construction Master Calculator.

• Facilities and Equipment

- NTC is adding an approximately 1.7 million dollar addition to the school, relating to Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0. The timeline shows the building being completed between December 2021 and April 2022. We are exploring how we can adapt this new technology to different program areas. We have a lot of robotic welding in our Welding program but we are hoping to create a live manufacturing line for students to plan out and analyze a production line.

This will be a manufacturing space for students from various programs to collaborate. More information will be forthcoming.

- **Workforce Training and Professional Development Update**

- Iain reminded the committee that the Workforce Training and Professional Development division is available to provide customized training that any employers may need. Companies can also use our facility for events. There are also dollars available for employee training through the Workforce Innovation Grant. Iain shared the link at <https://www.ntc.edu/about/locations-facilities/center-business-industry.com> for the Workforce Training and Professional Development division at NTC.
- Frank Opatik shared that professional engineers need continuing education on a two year rotation and a course such as Ethics course would probably be needed by several people.

- **Career Fair**

- Iain informed the committee that the Career Fair on October 25, 2021, was well attended by students and employers. The students appreciated seeing employers in person. We are planning to have another career fair in spring. Iain asked employers to watch for information on this spring event and plan to attend.
 - Travis added that six, third-semester, students attended this Career Fair. Three students are either in the process or have accepted internships based on this Career Fair. The feedback from the students was that they really enjoyed this event. Travis told the committee that there will be more students attending the spring event since graduates are finishing their program and first-semester students are looking for summer jobs.

Program and Curriculum Modification Discussion

Travis Severson shared that instructors will be changing Architectural Design 1 class. It will be divided into two separate classes to help with student success.

- 10-614-101, Architectural Design 1, 3 Credits, will be changed to 2 Credits
 - This course will be divided into two courses; Intro to Architectural Design, 1 credit and the Architectural Design 1, 2 credits. This will increase student success and improve completion rates due to having two eight-week classes versus one 16 week class.
 - The advisory committee supports this change.
- 10-614-xxx, 1 credit, Intro to Architectural Design, will be added to the curriculum.
 - The advisory committee supports this change
- Construction Technology certificate will change to 3 credits rather than 4 credits with these changes.
 - The advisory committee supports this change.

Next Meeting Details and Suggestions

We will decide on the date and format for the spring meeting and inform the committee at a later date.

Tentatively, we are looking at the middle of April for the next advisory meeting. We will let you know what the

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Architectural Design Advisory Committee

30th November 2021 | 3:00pm to 4:30pm | Zoom Meeting



protocols are for the meeting whether in person or virtual, depending on the situation at the time. Frank Opatik added that having the meeting after work hours may increase attendance.

WIOA/NTC Advisory Committee Summary of Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for NTC Board of Trustees

Date: November 30, 2021

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Attendees

Industry Members:

- Bob Bauer – Labor Education & Training Center (LETC)
- Monica Littlegeorge – Labor Education & Training Center (LETC)
- Der Lo – Forward Service Corporation
- Emily Lukacs – Forward Service Corporation
- Nicole Rice – North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (NCWWB)

NTC Team:

- Nicholas Blanchette – Senior Director, Enrollment Strategy, Student Services
- Jeff Cichon – Director of Financial Aid
- Ashley Deaver – Senior Director of Student Recruitment, Enrollment Strategy
- Brad Gast – Dean, WTPD Apprenticeship & Learning
- Barb Juliano – Instructional Assistant, Marathon County Jail & Marathon County Job Center
- Dina Kilinski – Manager, Career Services and Youth Apprenticeship, Student Services
- Jacki Knoblock – Academic Transitions Advisor, College Prep Center & School of General Studies
- Kathy Krause – AE Program Director, GED/HSED Advisory, AE Faculty; Wausau NTC
- Nick Lampone – Director of Enrollment
- Kari Lazars – Regional Manager
- Hannah Lee – Administrative Assistant, School of General Studies
- Shannon Livingston – Dean of Student Services
- Becky Michels – Regional Campus Manager
- MaiGer Moua – Academic Transitions/Academic Promise Advisor
- Angela Reimer – Compliance Coordinator, Program Development
- Erika Rist – Administrative Assistant (Temp), College Prep Center
- Brooke Schindler – Dean, School of General Studies
- Lindsey Zakrzewski – Accommodations Coordinator

Summary—Include a brief statement(s) of topics and action items

- Brooke Schindler, Dean of School of General Studies at Northcentral Technical College, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.
- The group was given a few minutes to review the minutes from the previous meeting. The meeting minutes were approved by all.
- Brooke presented the Fall Advisory Committee PowerPoint.

A. Industry Trends

- Nicole: We recently received just under \$1 million in the Worker Advancement Initiative (WAI), for which we are partnering with Forward Service, LETC, and the technical colleges across our region, including for short-term trainings with NTC. This two-year grant is designed for those who are unemployed, part-time, underemployed, and people who have been affected by the pandemic, to get them re-skilled and back into the workforce. Our goal is to enroll 100 people.

We continue our other two grants outside of our traditional WIOA programs: Rural Healthcare Grant through H-1B and our Support to Communities Grant.

We are exploring trainings in construction, pre-apprenticeship in welding, training in heavy operator equipment. We have interest in childcare, CNA, and home health aide.

- Emily: I am pretty new here! I am excited to be involved in many of the new initiatives Nicole was discussing, including in some of the construction trades and on the WAI generally.
- Bob: We have been working here in Wausau quite a few days a week while adapting to Dean Schultz's retirement. We have a workshop in Financial Literacy next Thursday for our Wheels to Work partner, as their customers need budgeting help.

Activities have been somewhat slow, because the pool is small, and that the potential workers who are there have not been visible to those who might be looking to recruit them. They have adapted to the pandemic, have found ways to navigate without actually having to utilize a physical building. We are brainstorming to figure out ways to get that foot traffic back in, though traditional methods, hanging flyers, etc., are not as useful as they once were.

- Nicole: Our frontline staff have started to meet regularly. Those staff are the ones with the ideas that will get people in the door, because they are working closest with our clients every day.
- Brooke: The topic of recruitment came up at our Common Ground Conference, which focused on serving our Adult Education demographic.
- Nicole: Referrals are definitely critical to the whole process of getting people connected with the right opportunities. We are fortunate to have a lot of resources available, right now.
- Der: There have been a lot of new referrals, including from NTC. Many are eligible for the Adult Program, so right now we are in the process of determining eligibility and getting them started. NTC's Alternative High School has asked me to come in over the next few months and help out with unemployed students. I know we focus on the out-of-school youth, but we are still open to collaborating with high schools to get word out there.
- Monica: We are just getting opened back up in Adams County. I get the sense that as COVID has slowed everything down, people no longer think of schooling the way they had in the past.
- Brooke: This sounds like what Bob was saying: trying to find participants from a very small pool.
- Nicole: We have two smaller job centers, in Adams County and in Marshfield. We have had multiple staff turnover in a short amount of time at both. We are ready to move forward.

B. Program Information

a. Enrollment Update

Our Adult Basic Education enrollments are slightly up from last year, thanks in part to the number of virtual offerings we have incorporated. These offerings are helping us continue to expand our reach and helped bolster enrollments through some of the tougher times we have seen.

- Job Center FTEs: 2021: 0.0 FTE; 2021: 0.4 FTE; 1-yr change: +0.4 FTE

The refugee resettlement going on locally is very exciting to us as an English Language Learning provider. We look forward to serving these students, coming to us as Afghan refugees out of Fort McCoy. We have a meeting tomorrow afternoon with the interagencies locally. The individuals that will be resettling



here have a variety of needs (personal, housing, clothing, education, etc.). One of the expectations of their visa is to obtain employment, obtain housing, and to get enrolled in the English classes within a fairly short window. The Foundation is hoping we can provide some fiscal support, if necessary, for anyone who might be seeking some post-secondary coursework or degrees.

b. Staff and Student Tours

NTC is now open to the public to do tours, and most recently had a group of eight GED/HSED students. They met with faculty and a career coach. Walking into a college setting can be intimidating, so having two WIOA staff that they know and are comfortable with helped.

We have another of our College Exploration Days scheduled, which will be hosted at all of our campuses, on January 12. We can schedule time to meet with the faculty of programs they are interested in. We have seen success with prospective students from K-12 but also with adult students who may want to get back into school.

c. New Programs (currently offered)

Data Analytics Associate's Degree (61 credits) (Virtual College); Veterinary Technician Associate's Degree (66 credits); Introduction to Education Certificate (9 credits) (Virtual College).

d. New Programs (coming soon)

EMS Firefighter Embedded Technical Diploma (Spring 2022) (10 credits); Managerial Accounting Certificate (Spring 2022) (16 credits); Move to Manufacturing Certificate (Spring 2022) (4.7 credits); Construction Fundamentals Certificate (Spring 2022) (8 credits).

C. Curriculum/Assessment

a. Adult Education and Business and Industries Solutions Alignment

Business and Industry Solutions is now Workforce, Training, and Professional Development (WTPD). We have added some ABE components to the WTPD offerings in order to fill in any skill gaps. There is an effort being made across the state technical colleges to align the work of those two areas.

We recently completed a self-evaluation to ensure we continue to support these students with this IET (Integrated Education and Training).

D. Equipment/Facilities

a. Marathon County Job Center Update

We are back open full-time, no appointments needed. We hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in October, and then later that month we held an open-house week. We will be expanding some of our services virtually. Again, there are new staff, including Emily and our new WIOA Team Lead, Kat Draper.

b. NTC COVID Protocol Update

At NTC this week, following the Thanksgiving Holiday, regardless of vaccination status, we require masks when in public spaces. We have also repositioned our temperature kiosks near the doors. If you register above a 100.4, we are asking that you seek services virtually.

Our Fall commencement typically happens in December, at the Grand Theatre. This year, it will take place in our newly renovated cafeteria area. Students and their families will come up programmatically, get the chance to walk across the stage in their regalia.

E. Focus Discussion Item: Promoting CDL IET, Marketing Spring 2022 Offering

Currently, we offer CDL straight-truck training for class B at the College. We have incorporated some Adult Basic Education into the Workforce Training, to help students who may have some skill gaps that are preventing them from getting through the material of the Workforce Training.

- Kathy: We very recently got our CDL IET approved by the WCTS. Our goal is to help them with some math and communications skills, support the senior instructor, as well as to do some of that

workplace training and prep. Kathy Stamos will lend our ELL students additional support.

- Brooke: An Integrated Education and Training (IET) is a goal in the state, not only for the technical colleges, but also as a part of WIOA. You could think of an IET as a three-legged stool: one leg for Workforce Training, one for Workforce Readiness, and one for Adult Basic Education.
- Kathy: I will just add that because NTC is also an authorized testing center for CDL, they can take their coursework here and roll right into their exam.

F. Workforce Training and Professional Development Update

a. Move to Manufacturing Update

Our two-week Move to Manufacturing program is not only now a Certificate but is also now on the ETPL (Eligible Training Program List) down at DWD as well. We are exploring how this certificate could ladder into some kind of pre-apprenticeship or other manufacturing program. This certificate is a nice entry into manufacturing careers that are high-paying with great benefits.

We received a grant to expand to Phillips and Medford. We are partnering with Northwood Technical College, which will be operating sites in the Northwest. They are considering finding a trailer and setting up a community training. We are talking with the other technical colleges about a statewide expansion.

b. Construction Programs Update

We will be launching the Construction Foundations in the Western part of our district in January, after receiving a lot of interest from the Spanish-speaking population about upskilling in that field. We will partner with the Abbotsford School District and will look to additional cohorts and sites moving forward.

c. Google IT Workforce Announcement

We have had the Google IT Workforce Certificate in the past. We want to resurrect this certificate, which gives individuals who are looking for IT opportunities the skills for help desk careers locally. It is completely online but with full-time faculty support. This certificate is also on the ETPL.

Other Items:

Brooke: The Strategic Plan (2021-2024) booklet is a summary document that pulls together all of NTC's plans for the next three years and into the future. It is available to view/download on the NTC website (<https://www.ntc.edu/about/current-publications>).

MaiGer: For WIOA or the Job Centers, working with participants or individuals that come through your doors, just a reminder that we do have an NTC Promise tuition support program for adults.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2022, 11:00pm – 12:30pm

Electromechanical Technology & Automation Systems Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Summary NTC Board of Trustees

Date: 12/7/2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Industry Members: Ryan Hall (Rocket International), Brady Hoes (Loos Machine & Automation), Jim King (Greenheck), Justin Krzanowski (Welcome Dairy), Mike Lawyer (Complete Control Solutions), Mike Martin (Complete Control Solutions), Brandon Rindfleisch (A & B Process Systems), Scott Towle (L & S Electric), Theran Peterson (Wausau West High School)

NTC Members: Tim Fetting (Associate Dean, ScEAM), Iain Cameron (Dean, ScEAM), Heidi Latendresse (Learning Coordinator, ScEAM), Brad Gast (Dean, WT&PD), Amy Peppinger (Math Faculty), Frank Fernandes (Physics Faculty), Bryan Schroder (Faculty), Jim Buck (Faculty), Dustin VanDeWeerd (Faculty), Mike Rhyner (Faculty), Matthew Jacobson (Instructional Assistant), Jessica Benton (Recorder)

Other: Daniel Fuhrmann (MTU), Dennis Livesay (MTU)

NTC College-Wide Updates

- NTC Strategic Plan: The plan was formulated based on feedback received from the communities NTC serves. Consideration was given to several data points including: Business & Industry, Region-wide K12 school districts, parents & students, advisory committees, among others. The plan highlights the following areas:
 - Wildly Important Goals (WIGs)
 - Increase Student Success: Increase 3-year graduation rate for all WTCS-approved programs from 42% to 50% by 6.30.2022
 - Grow Skilled Workforce: Increase FTEs from 2,799 to 3,058 by 6.30.2022
 - Strengthen Infrastructure: Streamline college-wide processes to increase the safety, sophistication, and efficiency of learning and work environments by 6.30.2022
 - Learner Success: Provide timely and relevant education, training, and services within safe and secure learning environments.
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Identify and reduce obstacles within learning and working environments, and actively promote purposeful diversity awareness and conversations.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Electromechanical Technology & Automation Systems Technology

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- Access: Foster the ability to learn, train, and work anywhere and anytime through training, connection, flexibility and innovation.
- Collaboration: Create, cultivate and strengthen intentional, mutually beneficial partnerships and practices.
- Innovation & Growth: Apply research, implement new technologies, encourage creative intellectual exploration, and provide leading-edge education.
- Advocacy: Actively promote policy and practice changes that impact education.
- Evaluation & Analysis: NTC practices continuous assessment and improvement. An evaluation and analysis of the successes and challenges of the work implemented toward the College's Strategic Directions and Wildly Important Goals will be presented to the Executive Leadership Team and Board of Trustees annually; a Board Dashboard will be created and adopted through 2023 to track and report data important to transparency and accountability; and the Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 will be reviewed twice a year by the Executive Leadership Team in order to ensure it remains nimble, proactive, and responsive to changing/shifting economies, environments, trends, and needs. Best and promising practices will be shared with staff, advisory committees, donors, and external partners in order to broaden impact.
- More information may be found by clicking [here](#)
- Legislative Updates
 - The budget includes:
 - \$2.25 million annually for WTCS general aid, with 70% distributed through the general aid formula and 30% distributed as Outcomes Based Funding
 - \$2.25 million annually for grants to technical colleges
 - \$29 million in 2021-22 and \$43 million in 2022-23 in property tax relief aid. This is a dollar for dollar swap rather than new funding
 - Unfortunately, the budget did not include need-based grants for technical college students, which is part of our WTCS budget request.
 - The bill to repeal WI Statute 36.31 was introduced as separate legislation (AB-266/SB-291) and is not part of the budget process. NTC has moved forward with a private partner to offer both the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. Please watch for more to come on our ability to offer both degrees on our own.
- Dual Credit Accomplishments (Fall 2006-Spring 2021)
 - 100,718 Dual Credits earned
 - \$14,037,074.55 Dual Credit tuition saved
 - 9,849 High School graduates transitioned directly to NTC
- NTC Connect
 - 32 courses will be offered in NTC Connect
 - Students can take their courses in a way that suits their needs:
 - In person, Zoom live or online when they can
 - Wraps education around the life of the student rather than expecting the student to wrap their life around education
- Competency Based Education: This modality eliminates time as a variable when completing course content. This is beneficial to those currently in the workforce needing additional training as it doesn't

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require the learner to commit to a traditional weekly course schedule. Learners have the opportunity to complete the content at their own pace; thus, allowing for learners to master course competencies at a faster rate. NTC plans on piloting this modality with the Electromechanical and Automation associate degree programs as these programs currently offer a flexible, self-paced learning format.

- Industry 4.0 Updates
 - NTC's first step will be Manufacturing
 - Automating traditional manufacturing and other systems to improve efficiencies and reliability
 - Up-skill employees, invest in your best. Pathways for first-time learners, full-time workers, and those seeking expertise
 - Cross functional projects planned (e.g. data analytics)
 - AME Lab addition will feature:
 - Lights out manufacturing line
 - Student Automation cell development lab
 - Flexible Learning Space
- Central WI Science & Engineering Festival (Mind Trekkers, April 8-9, 2022): Approximately 6000 middle school students participate at the Wausau campus on Friday (4/8). The event is open to the public on Saturday (4/9). This STEM roadshow is hosted at NTC and run by volunteers and the Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers team, which consists of undergrad and graduate students. Mind Trekkers will guide those who attend through fun, hands-on experiments. Let the Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers be your guide as you explore the excitement of STEM. [Click here](#) to watch event video.
- "Husky Pathway" Project: A meeting took place with Michigan Tech on 10/22/21.
 - Participants
 - Agenda
 - Program Discussions
 - Facilities Tour
 - Transfer options & format
- The College of Computing at MTC
 - Consists of two departments: Computer Science and Applied Computing offering six Bachelor's programs, including: Computer Science, Software Engineering, Cybersecurity, Computer Network & Systems Administration, Electrical Engineering Technology and Mechatronics
 - NTC Electromechanical transfers to MTU Electrical Engineering Technology Bachelor's degree (124 total credits)
 - NTC Electromechanical transfers to MTU Mechatronics Bachelor's degree (120 total credits)
 - Additionally, MTU offers six graduate programs, including MS and PhD in Computer Science, MS in Cybersecurity, MS in Data Science, MS in Health Informatics, and MS in Mechatronics
 - Existing and emerging research strengths in: Systems, AI/ML, Cybersecurity, Software Engineering and Industrial Automation
 - Growth in computing at MTC

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- 69% computing enrollment growth since 2014
 - Five computing programs with >75% growth this year alone
 - Nine national ranking of MTU's Software Engineering program (College Rank)
 - Computing enrollment goal is to have 2500 students by 2035
- Digital Transformation: At MTU, world-class programs in computer science are the foundation:
 - Computing & Data Science includes: Software Engineering, Cybersecurity, Data Science/Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Cloud Computing
 - Cyber-physical & Infrastructure includes: Robotics, Industrial Automation, Internet of Things (IoT), Process Twinning, Edge Computing, Networking
 - Disruption in other domains includes: Manufacturing, Healthcare, Biomedical Sciences, Business, Social Sciences, etc.
- Workforce Training and Professional Development initiatives:
 - Brad Gast (Dean, Workforce Training & Professional Development): Workforce Training and Professional Training received a Workforce Advancement Grant from Governor Evers to expand the Move to Manufacturing(M2M) program. NTC will be launching new opportunities for M2M at its Medford and Phillips campuses. Additionally, NTC will be partnering with Northwood Technical College (formerly WITC) to launch programs in Superior and Ashland.
 - WT&PD continues to expand event and training opportunities by using NTC Connect technology. This allows participants to participate in person, via Zoom or asynchronously by viewing a video after the event.
 - WT&PD has also received significant funding through the Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grant through WTCS. These dollars are allocated toward professional development and upskilling incumbent workers, both soft skills (i.e.: leadership) and technical skills.
 - The employment shortage is forecasted to continue, especially as productivity increases and exceeds goals. If there is anything NTC can develop and/or provide to help upskill incumbent workers, please reach out to Jared Eggebrecht at eggebrecht@ntc.edu or Brad Gast at gast@ntc.edu.
- Program Math Discussion (Amy Pippenger): Amy sought feedback from the attendees to identify what math skills are necessary for entry- and mid- level positions in manufacturing. Several suggestions were provided, including: formulas and electrical calculations (engineering/design), algebra, conversions between metric/English measurements, mental math skills (no paper, calculator, computer or phone), estimating and extrapolation.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Electromechanical Technology & Automation Systems Technology

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Instructional Area / Program Updates

- **Program Enrollments**

Fall 2021 Enrollments		
	Electromechanical	Automation
1 st Semester	22	4
2 nd Semester	6	1
3 rd Semester	16	3
4 th Semester	5	11

- **Industry Trends:**

- A survey was sent to all advisory committees associated with the School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (ScEAM). Of all members surveyed, there were 50 total responses. Key points include:
 - 89% stated business has been flat or demonstrated growth (year over year)
 - 81% of staffing needs are low to medium skilled positions
 - 31% Low = General laborers
 - 50% Medium = Technicians
 - 95% are forecasting growth over the next fiscal year
 - Technology and Investment Goals
 - 37% Automation, equipment, facilities
 - 32% Personnel
- The data captured is a generalization based on the number of responses. Those that completed the survey were thanked. As this was the first attempt at compiling data this way. NTC will send out another survey Spring 2022 prior to the next meeting.
- Members in attendance, regardless of the industry they represented, all reported growth. Challenges they were facing were supply bottlenecks and finding qualified employees. Many are looking to invest more in automated systems to address the workforce shortages.

Automation Grant Update

- Timeline: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023
 - 50% of dollars received to be spent on equipment
- Goals
 - Support Smart Manufacturing Concepts
 - Review Automation Systems Competencies
 - Increase Retention
 - CBE learning opportunities

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Electromechanical Technology &

Automation Systems Technology

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- Program support – Instructional Assistant position
- Partner with Manufacturing Businesses: This would include job shadowing, group tours, presentations and other opportunities for learners to gain exposure to industry.

Program and Curriculum Modification Discussion

- Industry 4.0/Smart Manufacturing Certificate: NTC is seeking feedback regarding a potential new certificate focusing on Smart Manufacturing. Courses included in the certificate are:
 - Industrial 4.0 Fundamentals (1 credit)
 - Industrial Internet of Things/IIoT (1 credit)
 - Designing a Solution in Smart Factory (1 credit)
 - Collaborative Robots & Vision (2 credits)
 - Simulation and Artificial Intelligence/AI (2 credits)
 - Producing Products in an Intelligent Factory (3 credits)
 - Lean Six Sigma in a Smart Factory (2 credits)
 - 10 of the credits would be developed by the EM/Automation team. Lean Six Sigma is a course that exists for the Applied Engineering Technology program.
 - **Over all, those in attendance felt this was a good credential.** One member asked what the target market was. Tim responded that both high school graduates (traditional students) and incumbent workers seeking to improve their skills would benefit from this credential. The advisory committee asked that NTC consider developing a course that deals with small batch runs and customization.

Other Business

- Advisory committee members shared their appreciation for the internship opportunity through the EM program. It was reported that many interns are hired on full-time at the conclusion of their course requirements.

Next Meeting Details and Suggestions

The next advisory committee will be scheduled for early May 2022. At this time, NTC is uncertain what spring protocols regarding in person meetings will be. More information will be shared with the committee as the next meeting draws nearer.

Wood Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Summary

NTC Board of Trustees

Date: 12/14/2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

- *Industry Members: Todd Braun (Robbins, Inc.), Troy Brown (Kretz Lumber Company), Ben Burghaus (LP Corporation), Jeff DeLonay (Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Co., Inc.), Scott Fletcher (Central Wisconsin Woodworking Corp.), TJ Morice (TNT Ventures LLC)*
- *NTC Members: Iain Cameron (Dean, ScEAM), Tim Fetting (Associate Dean, ScEAM), Travis Allen (Former Faculty), Heidi Latendresse (Learning Coordinator, ScEAM), Logan Wells (Faculty), Brad Gast (Dean, WT&PD), Amy Pippenger (Math Faculty), Jessica Benton (Recorder)*

Welcome and Introductions

All in attendance introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

- New NTC President – Jeannie Worden: Dr. Worden has a 26-year career at NTC, serving in a variety of roles that make her uniquely qualified for her new position as President.
- New Instructor – Logan Wells comes to NTC highly qualified and experienced in the woods industry. He brings a great deal of energy to the program and we're thrilled to have him.

Highlights from the previous meetings / updates

There were no updates from the previous meeting to be discussed.

NTC College-Wide Updates

- NTC Strategic Plan: The plan was formulated based on feedback received from the communities NTC serves. Consideration was given to several data points including: Business & Industry, Region-wide K12 school districts, parents & students, advisory committees, among others. The plan highlights the following areas:
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complete the content at their own pace; thus, allowing for learners to master course competencies at a faster rate. NTC plans on piloting this modality with the Electromechanical and Automation associate degree programs as these programs currently offer a flexible, self-paced learning format.

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 - Student Automation cell development lab
 - Flexible Learning Space
- Central WI Science & Engineering Festival (Mind Trekkers, April 8-9, 2022): Approximately 6000 middle school students participate at the Wausau campus on Friday (4/8). The event is open to the public on Saturday (4/9). This STEM roadshow is hosted at NTC and run by volunteers and the Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers team, which consists of undergrad and graduate students. Mind Trekkers will guide those who attend through fun, hands-on experiments. Let the Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers be your guide as you explore the excitement of STEM. [Click here](#) to watch event video.
- Workforce Training and Professional Development initiatives:
 - Brad Gast (Dean, Workforce Training & Professional Development): Brad discussed the robust, ambitious schedule for continuing education for Wood Technology, with a focus of promoting Antigo as a national training center for wood science and technology. The upcoming schedule will be revealed later in the presentation. NTC is receiving requests for trainings from all over the country.
 - Workforce Training and Professional Training received a Workforce Advancement Grant from Governor Evers to expand the Move to Manufacturing(M2M) program. NTC will be launching new opportunities for M2M at its Medford and Phillips campuses. Additionally, NTC will be partnering with Northwood Technical College (formerly WITC) to launch programs in Superior and Ashland.
 - WT&PD continues to expand event and training opportunities by using NTC Connect technology. This allows participants to participate in person, via Zoom or asynchronously by viewing a video after the event. Initial results have shown that approximately 30% participate in-person while 70% take advantage of some form of digital training (synchronous or asynchronous).
 - WT&PD has also received significant funding through the Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grant through WTCS. These dollars are allocated toward professional development and upskilling incumbent workers, both soft skills (i.e.: leadership) and technical skills.
 - The employment shortage is forecasted to continue, especially as productivity increases and exceeds goals. If there is anything NTC can develop and/or provide to help upskill incumbent workers, please reach out to Jared Eggebrecht at eggebrecht@ntc.edu or Brad Gast at gast@ntc.edu.

- Program Math Discussion (Amy Pippenger): Amy sought feedback from the attendees to identify what math skills are necessary for entry- and mid- level positions in manufacturing. Several suggestions were provided, including: how to accurately read a tape measure and conversions between metric/standard measurements.

Instructional Area / Program Updates

- **General Program Information, Overview, and Updates**

- First Year = 6 students
- Second Year = 4 students
- Marketing efforts – Logan shared pictures of students in action (both first year and second year). Students were able to take a number of tours, including: LSLA Education, Kretz Lumber Company, Tigerton Lumber Company, Wisconsin Veneer & Plywood and Granite Valley. Students Forest Products Club have gathered, planned and worked on projects over the semester. Students are constructing cutting boards as a fundraiser. In the spring they will be visiting the Ascent Building (tallest mass timber structure in the world) in Milwaukee and see a Brewers game.
 - Into the Outdoors Interview: This is a program through Discover Wisconsin. It is a compilation of videos that highlight different careers in the natural resources' fields. The WI DNR asked if NTC would be interested in participating and discussing forestry and careers in the woods industry. Logan and a few of the students were interviewed. The anticipate release/publish date of the video is March 2022. This will provide a great resource for teachers and students to learn more about the forestry products industry. Visit "Into the Outdoors" [here](#).
 - Wood Technology Discovery Days Postponed: NTC hopes to offer this program either in the spring or wait until Fall 2022.
 - Networking with HS Teachers: Summer 2022 has a few events and conferences that Logan hopes to present breakout workshops and deliver presentations highlighting the Woods programs. Events include: Wisconsin Technology Education Association (3/16-3/18), Wisconsin FFA Association (6/12-6/16), and Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (6/26-6/28)
 - Logan has been working with these organizations leadership at the state level to grow relationships.
 - Forest Products Dual Credit Class: Dual credit coursework is a magnet that draws high school students interested in a career in wood products/forestry careers. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the program and increase awareness of industry opportunities. He believes (Wausau school district example) that giving students the opportunity to learn the story from tree to finished product is invaluable.
 - It was asked what is needed to make Dual Credit a reality. The process involves bringing faculty together with a high school instructor to identify which course would be ideal for dual credit, then analyze the percent of alignment with NTC curriculum requirements. Once coursework has been settled, the high school instructor is certified to be a dual credit instructor. The faculty and the high school instructor closely collaborate throughout the process.

- Social Media: Logan is seeking to work with students to determine what messages work. During a summer campaign, website traffic increased 750%.
- Other opportunities: Please reach out to Logan if you have any ideas regarding marketing.
 - Troy recommended posting on videos on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, TikTok, etc.) regularly to grow interest. NTC should consider having students follow industry influencers on social media and share content on NTC social media platforms.
- Live Website pages: Travis recapped the culmination of the efforts to update and elevate the new Wood Technology webpages on NTC's website.
 - [Wood Technology Center of Excellence](#)
 - [Wood Technology Courses](#)
- Saw Filing Progress Update – Travis
 - Saw Filing Capital Campaign
 - Goal = \$105, 000
 - To-date = \$91,300!
 - Phase 1 well underway
 - Band Saw Filing Certificate: All equipment and tools are ordered
 - Supply chain issues are delaying receipt of equipment/tools. Anticipated delivery date is March 2022 (not guaranteed as of meeting).
 - Challenge: Neither of the two potential instructors are able to commit to a one-month training with NTC until equipment is in place.
 - Offerings begin Spring/Summer 2022
- 2021 Gold Outing: This event raised the most funds ever, netting over \$23,000 at the golf outing. Travis thanked Troy Brown, Cal Derricks, Ben Zelazoski and Jeff DeLonay invested great time and energy to soliciting donations for the cause.
 - The tentative date for 2022 Golf Outing is 6/3/2022
- Continuing Education Opportunities ([click here](#))
 - January: Applied Wood Science (1/10/22-1/12/22), Moulder Set-up & Knife Grinding Workshop (1/13/22-1/15/22), Custom Bamboo Flyrod Workshop (1/24/22-1/29/22)
 - March: Hardwood Log Scaling & Grading (3/18/22-3/19/22), Moulder Set-up & Knife Grinding Workshop (3/21/22-3/23/22), Intro to Woodworking (3/26/22)
 - April: Design Elements of Green & Green Workshop (4/2/22-4/3/22), Saw Filing Program (4/4/22-4/29/22), Greene & Greene John Hall Frame (4/30/22-5/1/22)
 - June: Hardwood Sawmilling Certificate (6/6/22-7/1/22), Hardwood Log Scaling & Grading Workshop (6/11/22-6/12/22), Wood Science for the Woodworker (6/25/22-6/26/22)
 - LSLA Hardwood Lumber Grading (August)
 - GLKDA Kiln Class (August)
 - Portable Sawmill Clinic (September)

• **Industry Trends:**

- A survey was sent to all advisory committees associated with the School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (ScEAM). Of all members surveyed, there were 50 total responses. Key points include:
 - 89% stated business has been flat or demonstrated growth (year over year)
 - 81% of staffing needs are low to medium skilled positions
 - 31% Low = Entry-level general laborers
 - 50% Medium = Technicians
 - 95% are forecasting growth over the next fiscal year
 - Technology and Investment Goals
 - 37% Automation, equipment, facilities
 - 32% Personnel
- The advisory committee members present stated challenges recruiting and retaining new employees. This is forcing many organizations to investigate automation as a solution. Additionally, each reported growth to their businesses with an expectation to exceed last year's performance. Finally, it was shared there is a resource acquisition bottleneck that is pushing lead times for projects further out than desired.

Any Other Business

- Discuss future of industry and automation/robotics – Spring 2022 agenda item
 - Ashley Furniture has invested highly in robotics
 - CWWC uses robotics for spraying
 - Wisconsin Bench (Thorpe) has extensive robotic integration in their facility
 - Tim will look into setting up tours (advisory members, NTC students, HS students)
 - Iain introduced the strategic plan to introduce an advanced certificate in Industry 4.0/Smart Manufacturing that all engineering/manufacturing students will be able to complete.
- Introducing Sustainability opportunities – Spring 2022 agenda item

Next Meeting Details and Suggestions

The next advisory committee will be scheduled for early May 2022. At this time, NTC is uncertain what spring protocols regarding in person meetings will be. More information will be shared with the committee as the next meeting draws nearer.

Machine Tool Technology Advisory Committee Summary of Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for NTC Board of Trustees

Date: 12/16/2021

Time: 7:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m.

Location: Zoom

Industry Members:

- Loren Beyersdorff – Greenheck Fan Corp.
- Kee Her – Jarp Industries
- Gary Sulzer – Sulzer Machine & Manufacturing
- Brad Cisewski – Pointe Precision
- Corrie Searles – Wausau Window and Wall and Linetec
- Mark Mudler – Integra Tool
- Zach Peissig – Loos Machine

NTC Team:

- Iain Cameron – Dean
- Tim Fetting – Associate Dean
- Heidi Latendresse – Learning Coordinator
- Jeffrey Block – Faculty
- Joe Bonke – Faculty
- Duane Yorde - Faculty
- Susan Clark – Administrative Assistant
- Brad Gast – Dean, Workforce Training & Professional Development

Other Members:

- Aaron Hoffman – D.C. Everest High School
- Chris Martin - Wisconsin Technical College System

NTC College-Wide Updates

- A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the committee. Key points include NTC's Wildly Important Goals (WIGs).
 - Increase Student Success: Increase 3-year graduation rate for all WTCS-approved programs from 42% to 50% by 6.30.2022
 - Grow the Skilled Workforce: Increase full time enrollments from 2,700 to 3,058 by 6.30.2022
 - Strengthen Infrastructure: Streamline College-Wide processes to increase the safety, sophistication and efficiency of learning and work environments by 6.30.2022

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Machine Tool Advisory Committee

16th December 2021 | 7:30am to 9:30am | Zoom Meeting



- 2021-2022 School Year: Where possible, NTC intends to return to normal program scheduling. Additionally, NTC has launched “NTC Connect”. This new modality will allow students to
 - Take courses in a format that best aligns with learner preference
 - Delivery will be a blend of Face-to-Face, Zoom (live), or online (videos to review) when it fits learner schedule/availability
 - Unlike Virtual College that allows learners to set their own due dates, the online component will have set due dates that align with the Face-to-Face course progression
 - Modality wraps education around the life of the student rather than expecting the student to wrap their life around education
- NTC has been meeting with local legislators as part of the biennium budget process. The WTCS Budget Proposal includes the following requests:
 - Amend WI Statute 36.31 to expand equity, access and opportunity
 - \$11.8 million investment in Wisconsin Grants to address rising student debt
 - \$12 million targeted annual investment for WTCS colleges to provide education enabling 2,000 under and unemployed individuals each year to earn a short-term credential
 - \$50,000 annual increase to the WTCS firefighter training state operations to support new fire certification software
- New Programs coming fall 2021:
 - Veterinary Technician Associate Degree
 - Data Analytics Associate Degree
 - Law Enforcement in the 21st Century Associate Degree
 - Medical Assistant Internship
- Budget Updates – CRRSAA Funding: NTC received a second round of federal emergency relief grants for 2021 under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). NTC received a grant of \$3,250,463 that must be used to defray college or student expenses associated with COVID-19.
- NTC as a Community Vaccine Clinic: NTC has been chosen as a designated large scale vaccination site by the Marathon County Public Health Department. The clinic is located at the NTC Center for Business & Industry and is operated by AMI Expeditionary Healthcare.
 - Hours of Operation: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11:00AM – 7:00PM
 - Appointments: Registration must be done through the DHS registry system online at Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry
- Presidential Search Update: NTC District Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Dr. Jeannie Worden as the next president of NTC at the regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, April 6th. She will begin her new role on Thursday, July 1, 2021. She will succeed President Dr. Lori Weyers, who will retire on June 30, 2021.
- NTC continues to support learners during the challenging and uncertain times. Resources available include:
 - Timberwolf Table
 - Peaceful Solutions Counseling

- Timberwolf Learning Commons
- CRRSAA Grant direct student funding
- “It’s In Our Jeans” employee giving campaign
- Student Scholarships

Instructional Area / Program Updates

- Program Enrollment
 - 3 first semester students enrolled in Machine Tool programs for fall 2021
 - 3 third semester student enrolled in a Machine Tool programs for fall 2021
 - 17 students are enrolled in Machine Tool Apprenticeships (1st, 6th, 8th semesters.)
- Program Information Update
 - Faculty and staff continue to review the program and determine possible changes.
 - Faculty and staff will work with other WTCS colleges to examine the decline in Machine Tool enrollments.
 - Iain asked for feedback from the committee members on what can be done by our industry partners, businesses, employers, and educators to try and make machining one of the careers that can attract people.
 - Members mentioned that since there are not a large number of graduates, the individuals being hired are being trained by companies. Loren from Greenheck mentioned that his company is putting individuals through the apprentice program to train them. Zack Peissig and Ker Her also mentioned that their companies are training new employees themselves since the majority of new hires have no machining experience.
- Industry Trends – Survey Results
 - 50 total responses
 - 89% stated business has been flat or demonstrated growth YOY
 - 81% of staffing needs are medium to low preparation positions
 - 50% Medium – technicians
 - 31% Low – general laborers
 - 95% are forecasting growth over the next fiscal year
 - Technology and Investment Goals
 - 37% Automation, equipment, facilities
 - 32% Personnel
- Industry Trends – Roundtable
 - Loren Beyersdordff, Greenheck, stated that his company is very busy. Loren felt that the Machine Tool program at NTC is very beneficial in training individuals for employment and helps employers hire individuals with a basic knowledge of the industry and equipment.
 - Brad Cisewski, Pointe Precision, shared that his business is doing well. Precision just purchased their fourth lathe as well as a Nakamura CNC machine and are adding a 60,000 square foot addition due to their increase in business. He stated that it is very evident that applicants are not willing to take employment with a second or third shift schedule and that is a drawback of the industry since

the machines are meant to run continuously. Brad mentioned that a training issue at the high school level is making sure the instructors have the tools and equipment they need to complete a student's training.

- Tom Ress, L&S, mentioned that his company is very busy. He added that it looks like the labor shortage may continue and schools may want to consider a hybrid class schedule for prospective students that would allow for a 20-hour class schedule and 20 hours on the job. This would be similar to the Move to Manufacturing program that was running through the Workforce Training and Professional Development division.
- Kee Her, Jarp, stated that Jarp is very busy and has immediate openings for machinists and welders. Jarp is currently training its employees internally. They are also forecasting growth through next year.
- Zach Peissig, Loos Machine, said business is going well and Loos is anticipating another 20% growth this year. Loos would like to hire employees who have gone through the NTC Machine Tool program and have a basic knowledge of machining. Zach added that reaching out to high schools, to promote the program, would be beneficial to the industry.
 - Tom Ress added that we need to address how to get machines and classes into the rural school districts.
 - Iain mentioned that he has been in contact with the Bowler School District and there have been discussions regarding planning a High School Academy at the Antigo Campus in the fall of 2022. We are going to canvas the high schools in the East Region. We are also investigating using the Machine Tool space at the Antigo Campus in conjunction with industry to utilize the machines located there.
- Aaron Hoffman, D.C. Everest School District, let the committee know that the school district recently passed a referendum to update the tech education labs for welding and machine tool. Previously, they had no students enrolled to take any Machine Tool classes and due to the renovations have four sections of Intro to Welding and Machining scheduled with a total of 103 students. Aaron also mentioned that there is a shortage of tech education instructors and bus drivers which is having any impact in his district. The bus driver shortage makes arranging tours for students very challenging.
- Mark Mudler, Integra Tool, gave the committee an update on his tool and die stamping operation. Currently, they are fully staffed with ten employees. Mark added that he prefers to hire an individual that has completed the technical college program and he stressed that it is important to know the basics.
- Gary Sulzer, Sulzer Machine, agreed with several employers that it is a challenge finding employees. His company is extremely busy and looking for more employees. Gary mentioned that if tuition is a hurdle for many and if there was a way to subsidize tuition that might help with student recruitment and retention.
- Chris Martin, WTCS, introduced himself as the new Education Director for Wisconsin Technical College System in Manufacturing. He comes to the system office from Quad Graphics. He informed the committee that if he can help with any questions or concerns they may have they should feel free to contact him. He can be reached by email at chris.martin@wtcsystem.edu.
- Corrie Searles, Wausau Window and Wall, and Linetec, stated that both divisions are extremely busy. In past years, there has been a slow-down at this time of year but they are not seeing that happen this year. Production is on overtime and with a doubling up of production due to orders that were put on hold last year as well as new orders. Wausau Windows and Linetec are both

seeing a lot of employee turnover. The company has adapted by allowing a remote work schedule with more flexibility. It is important to keep employees engaged. Recruitment efforts have been successful.

- Committee Survey – Wages, Retention, and Training

Iain asked the committee for input on how they are managing retention at their respective companies. He asked how they are attracting and keeping employees.

- Tom Ress, from L&S, stated that his company tries to stress core values to employees due to the fluctuation in pay rates currently. Tom stated that his turnover rate is around 20% of his workforce.
- Kee Her, Jarp Industries, shared that he tries to treat people with respect and be more flexible if they need time off for family commitments. The major hurdle his company will face, in the next three to five years, is how to fill positions due to retirements.
- Mark Mudler, Integra Tool, added that the majority of employees are only looking at wages when they are first employed. It's up to employers to make sure these new hires understand that they can have a bright future in manufacturing and that they can make a very good living in a company if they stay with a company. They need to be made aware of the benefits that come from longevity with an employer.
- Brad Cisewski, Pointe Precision, shared that employees hired with no manufacturing experience would start around \$16 an hour but they can be making \$25-\$35 an hour as they progress with his company. He said that Pointe Precision has a very low turnaround rate.
- Loren Beyersdorff, Greenheck, stated that his division is the Tool & Die Division. The employees that take a position in this area are already employed by Greenheck and also in the Union. When they progress to the Tool and Die area, they start at \$26.25 and top out at \$34.
- Zach Peissig, Loos Machine, told the committee that he feels the key to employee retention is communication. He is on the floor daily to make contact with employees and update them on the company. Getting employees involved in the company is the key to keeping them engaged. Company events go a long way toward increasing company loyalty and keeping employees.

- Machine Tool Grant Opportunity

- The faculty will be submitting a proposal for an NSF, three-year, grant that would increase enrollment in the Machine Tool program. This grant would target the Hmong ethnic community with outreach events. This grant may have an impact on some of the curriculum requirements. In spring, faculty will be looking for input from advisory members regarding different aspects of it as it progresses. We may be able to address some issues students have with registering for this program.

- Facilities and Equipment

- We do not have any capital equipment purchases for the upcoming year.
- One of the upcoming projects for facilities will be adding an addition to the EM automation lab for smart manufacturing. This addition to the school will be around a 1.7 million dollar investment and will be related to Industry 4.0. The timeline shows the building being completed between December 2021 and April 2022. We are exploring how we can adapt this new technology to different program areas.

Program and Curriculum Modification Discussion

- Machine Tool Technics 2 Year Technical Diploma
 - Replacing Solidworks 1, 10-606-133, 1 Credit with Introduction to CAD/CAM, 32-420-361, 1 Credit, This will be a better fit for MT students, and more relevant to the required workplace skills.
 - The Advisory Committee approved this change.
 - Replacing Applied Physics, 32-806-303, 3 Credits, with College Physics 1, 10-806-143 3 Credits. Applied Physics is being discontinued and College Physics 1 will be reworked to include more contextual examples for different programs, including MT.
 - The Advisory Committee approved this change.
- Machine Tool Operation 1 Year Technical Diploma
 - Replacing Solidworks 1, 10-606-133, 1 Credit with Introduction to CAD/CAM, 32-420-361, 1 Credit, This will be a better fit for MT students, and more relevant to the required workplace skills.
 - The Advisory Committee approved this change.
- No changes to other Machine Tool Technical Diplomas.

Workforce Training and Professional Development Update

- Their website is <https://www.ntc.edu/about/locations-facilities/center-business-industry>
- Brad shared that his division is currently working with a state grant through the Department of Labor in conjunction with the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) to expand apprenticeship training. These dollars will be building pre-apprenticeship pathways into registered apprenticeships or technical college programs. The current focus is on manufacturing and health care. This grant includes funding for marketing to the Spanish-speaking populous in the western corridor of our district. The Diesel Apprenticeship is in the process of being approved for the fall of 2022. Part of this grant will be to increase apprenticeships in Diesel, Auto Collision, and Automotive Technology throughout the system.

Next Meeting Details and Suggestions

- We will make a decision on the spring meeting format, whether that will be in-person or virtual, and inform the committee of the date and format early in spring.



Date	Event	Troy Brown	Sherry Bunten	Michael Endreas	Tom Felch	Keith Langenhahn	Lee Lo	Charlie Paulson	Paul Proulx	Heather Renzelmann
2021										
MONDAY July 12	Annual Organizational Meeting	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
July 15-17	WTC DBA Summer Meeting (MSTC-Stevens Point + Zoom)		X						X	
Aug 10	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	E	X	X		X	E	X	
Sept 21	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	X	E		E	X	X	
Oct 19	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Oct 28-29	WTC DBA Legal Issues Seminar + Fall Meeting (Virtual)								X	
Dec 7	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Dec 18	Commencement (NTC – E101/E102)	X			X				X	
2022										
Jan 11	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	X	X		X	E	X	X
Jan 27-29	WTC DBA Winter Meeting (LTC-Cleveland + Virtual)									
Feb 8	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
Mar 8	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
Apr 5	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
Apr 28-30	WTC DBA Spring Meeting (MATC – Milwaukee)									
May 3	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
May 21	Commencement (Wausau West Fieldhouse)									
June 7	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (Public Budget Hearing at 12:00pm, Regular Meeting at 1:15pm)									

All Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meetings begin at 1:00pm and are held on the Wausau Campus located at 1000 W. Campus Drive, Wausau, WI 54401 in Room D100 – Timberwolf Conference Center unless otherwise noted.

Edgar, The Record Review

COMMUNITY LIVING

**Donation to the science classroom**

Jeannie Griesbach of Stratford gifted the microscope she used at GI Associates in Wausau to Stratford High School science teacher Kane Krummel for his students to use in his classes, including his [North-central Technical College](#) dual credit courses. GI Associates is updating its equipment, which made Griesbach's former microscope she used expendable to be gifted to Stratford High School.

Fifield to ensure officers are qualified

BY **TOM LAVENTURE**
tlaventure@pricecountyreview.com

FIFIELD — The town of Fifield will ensure that new fire department leadership has the required training and certifications prior to the transfer of officers that is due to take effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

The three-person town board acted to require the Fire Department No. 2 to provide information to show that individuals elected to officer positions by department members in November had successfully completed firefighter officer courses. The transition of leadership could only occur after the training and certifications were successfully completed.

The town of Fifield has two fire departments. The first operates out of a station in the town of Fifield, and the second station operates out of the eastern end of the township in Pike Lake.

"The stations are about 20 miles apart," said Lt. Butch Lobermeier, a firefighter officer with station No. 1, who attended the meeting.

Fire Department No. 2 submitted its monthly board report in writing. The report indicated that an election of fire department officers had been held in November and that Warren Johnson would take over as chief from Matt Langenham, effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Town board supervisor James Hintz asked if there was any way

to know whether the officers elected at the departments were qualified to serve in a leadership capacity. Town board chair William Felch, who is the fire chief for Fire Department No. 1, said he was not aware if Johnson had the required training but that the bylaws did allow a certain amount of time to complete the training.

Both Johnson and Langenham are members of the Pike Lake EMS team. Both serve with the fire department but Johnson's level of certifications were not made clear in the report to the town board and no department members were present.

With the transition of chiefs just a week away, Hintz said the board needed to ensure the department leadership is sound to protect the town from potential liabilities with operations including mutual aid agreements. With the required training hours likely requiring several months to complete, he said that a chief who is certified would need to run the department until such time as the elected chief was certified, if he was not already.

Fire department volunteers receive classroom training and certification from the Fire Science Administration program at [Northcentral Technical College](#). Individuals must complete the Firefighter 1 course before participating in hands-on training and working at a fire scene can occur with the department.

Firefighters can then advance to firefighter II, along with specialty certifications for truck driver and pumper operator, firefighting principles, advanced firefighter concepts, legal aspects of emergency services, principles of fire and emergency services and survival, building construction for fire protection, fire inspector, emergency services instructor, special rescue, and hazardous materials operations.

The National Fire Protection Association set the standards that fire departments are certified under in order to maximize operations and safety along with protecting municipal liability, according to Lobermeier. The firefighter 1 course to get started is a minimum of 90 hours, and it takes about a year and a half to become a certified firefighter these days.

This makes recruiting younger members difficult, he said. The classes are on a cycle and are not always available every semester, he said.

Lobermeier provided the report for Fire Department No. 1, as the fire chief William Felch also serves as town board chair. He said department leadership was reelected in November.

The report also noted that Fire Department No. 1 responded to two fire calls and five first responder calls since the last report in November. The department has an average of 1.5 fire calls per month and approximately 57 EMR calls so far this year.

The EMR calls are increasing annually, Lobermeier said.

The Fire Department No. 2 report noted there were no fires since the last meeting. There were three first responder calls during that time.

In her annual report to the board, Cathy Pagel, human resources manager for the town of Fifield, included the ongoing work to put fire department operations in line with bylaws.



Spider-Man No Way Home
Rated PG-13
December 24th, 25th, 28th and 31st at 7:00PM
December 26th and January 2nd at 2:00PM
January 1st and 4th at 7:00PM
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Antigo Daily Journal



COVID: County officials look back to step forward

By John Liesveld

jliesveld@antigojournal.com

The world changed in early December 2019 when a cluster of patients in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, presented with shortness of breath and fever symptoms.

Ominous signs followed Dec. 31 as numerous reports surfaced in China concerning a severe pneumonia with an unknown cause. The illness afflicted several people whose recent histories all traced back to the same seafood market in Wuhan.

Far away in Wisconsin,

the events in China on the last day of 2019 vaguely foreshadowed the two years that would follow, as COVID-19 swept across the entire world, even reaching forested isolation of rural Langlade County.

Knowledge gained and tools of insight

Throughout the last two years, employees with the Langlade Health and Social Services Departments and the Langlade Board of Health and Veterans took the lead on many fronts in confronting COVID that involved direct medical intervention, education, implementing measures of

prevention and maintaining the vital components of communication.

County Supervisor Robert Benishek, who also serves as chair of the Langlade County Board of Health, commended board members and health department staff for their collective response confronting the pandemic over the last two years.

Moreover, and due the lessons learned since the pandemic first gained a strong foothold in the U.S. in March 2020, Benishek still maintains a strong confidence that moving into the new year, the county

and its various health care facilities stand with solid footing in confronting any new surges or other related pandemic situations.

"I think the Langlade County Health Department responded very well to the pandemic," Benishek said. "In fact, the health department started the very first COVID vaccinations (in Langlade County) at the Northcentral Technical College (NTC)."

Seasoned by experience, health department frontline workers also continue to advance the fight

See COVID Page 6A

Antigo Daily Journal

Page 6A, Friday, December 31, 2021, Antigo Daily Journal

COVID

Continued from Page 1A

against the pandemic, and they stand from unique vantage to share valuable insight as the big clock turns over to 2022.

Public Health Nurse Karen Marten cited the numerous vaccination clinics that department staff offered throughout the spring and summer at NTC that helped to bolster immunity among many Langlade residents. Eventually hospitals, health care clinics and drug stores ramped up their own vaccination programs and supplies to take the lead.

In turn, Marten said the health department pulled back its vaccination efforts, turning its resources to other aspects in fighting COVID.

For her and other members of the county's health staff, the plethora of reliable information posted on the department's website and Facebook page hint at one of the most important resources and tools used to advance the frontlines against pandemic: aka education.

Disseminating facts through good communication

"I mean the pandemic was a huge learning curve for everybody," Marten said. "And things are still changing and we are still learning and making adjustments ... So, I would definitely say education has been one of the most beneficial tools."

Marten and Benishek said successful education starts with building strong and reliable lines of information dissemination that comes from credited experts, such as the Wisconsin Department of Health and the CDC.



John Liesveld

At the frontlines of Langlade County's battle against COVID-19, the handful of Health and Social Services staff that continue to persevere to ensure the necessary resources and most accurate information continues to flow, keeping the public informed. Pulling away from the work for a moment, health and human services staff muster for a photo at department's Antigo headquarters. From left, are office assistant Katalin Spurgeon, office assistant Deana Shestak, office assistant Elizabeth Rustick, office manager Sheila Rine, contact tracer Madison Taylor (kneeling), and Public Health Nurses Donna Wiegert (kneeling) and Karen Marten. Not pictured are Director of Langlade County Social Services John Zenkovich and Public Health Nurse Jean Turnun

"The state of Wisconsin provides the board almost daily records of what's going on and how (the pandemic) is being handled," Benishek said. "The Board of Health, at this time (in the midst of a pandemic), is

probably the most important part of county government. At the peak of (the pandemic), we were right on top of it, and we stood up to what we had to do and I was proud of our staff."

Marten also pointed out that

officials at the health department maintained strong lines of communication with area nursing facilities, clinics and hospitals. And those lines continue to remain strong as health officials stay focused, keeping close watch

on the county's COVID situation **Staffing and other challenges, but positive outlook**

"There are numerous facilities in this community, ... that are very short of help," Marten said, highlighting the nationwide health care staffing shortages.

In September, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) highlighted never before seen staffing shortages that plagued many COVID-19 hotspots.

"It's a lack of nursing assistants, a lack of nurses, it's everywhere," Marten said. "It is nobody's fault, it's just a health care shortage ... Even in the hospitals, to see the staff shortages they are experiencing is sad. At Aspirus Langlade Hospital, they have been boarding patients down in the ER."

Marten said that such shortages create adverse impacts on the patients and also overtask nursing and other staff. A study in the American Journal of Medical Quality reported in 2018 that the U.S. faced a shortage of more than 510,000 registered nurses by 2030. And COVID-19 only amplifies the nursing exodus as overtasked nurses burnout under tremendous workloads.

However, Marten adds some cautious optimism, pointing out the pandemic cannot last forever.

"I'm hoping as spring arrives these COVID numbers drop and more and more people get vaccinated and get their boosters," she said. "We are learning from this (crisis); we have more tools than we did two years ago, so there are good choices. And that is encouraging. It does seem like we are going to live with (COVID) for a while but I am hoping we can move toward some kind of normalcy as spring draws closer."

Jail Academy certification



Contributed
Langlade County Sheriff Mark Westen, left, and jail administrator Heidi Walrath, right, congratulate Chantelle Korbisch, center, following her recent certification from the Northcentral Technical College Jail Officer Academy, preparing Korbisch for a career as a corrections officer.

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Merrill Area Community Foundation announces \$2,820 in Beyond Crayons and Computers grants for Merrill schools

The Merrill Area Community Foundation is proud to announce that four grants totaling \$2,820 have been approved for the Beyond Crayons and Computers grant program to schools throughout the Merrill area's public and parochial schools. Funded through the Foundation, the Beyond Crayons and Computers program invites teams of teachers from three-year-old programs through the High School to submit grant applications that involve members of our Merrill Community and are innovative and creative.

The Merrill Area Community Foundation has been impressed with the variety of innovative and inspired projects that involve community members and enrich the educational experience. This year's grants were awarded to both public and parochial schools, from elementary schools to Merrill High School.

The following is a listing of grant recipients:

- Fifth Grade Merrill Community Kindness Ambassadors - Prairie River Middle School \$1,000.00
- DJ Elective - Trinity Lutheran School \$1,000.00
- Get Washington Singing Again! - Washington Elementary School \$520.00
- Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities - Merrill High School \$300.00

"Music production allows one to not only be creative in learning music methods and skills, but also allows for leadership opportunities in the community." Students at Trinity Lutheran School will be studying the career path of music production and DJing. Project goals include creating and mixing songs to build their own music; understanding the use and manipulation of rhythm and time signatures; using sounds, tones, and dynamics; and learning to lead groups in activities including dances, announcements, and event coordination.

Fifth grade students at PRMS will be partnering with area organizations to share kindness with members of our community. In doing so, the students will be learning about these organizations



Pictured, L to R: Deb Moellendorf, Merrill Community Foundation; Linda Murray, Merrill High School (MHS); Marla Konkol, MHS; Jill Reiche, Prairie River Middle School (PRMS); Tiffany Bucheger, Washington Elementary; Kristin Novitch, PRMS; Laura Huggins, Merrill Community Foundation; and Matthew Chupa, Trinity Lutheran School.

Submitted photo.

and how they serve our community. Some of the organizations they will be working with are the VFW, Meals on Wheels, Lincoln Industries, and the Farm Bureau.

Washington Elementary fourth grade students will be participating in the Get America Singing ... Again Series. They will be learning the songs in their weekly lessons. A family sing-along will be celebrated at the end of the school year.

Youth Apprenticeships are valuable hands-on job training for students in grades 11 and 12. Work locations included encompass Agriculture, Architecture & Constructions, Arts, A/V Technology & Communications, Finance, Health, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Science, Technology, Engineering & Math, Transportation, and Distribution & Logistics. Promoting the success of the apprenticeships increases participation in the program and provides a stronger work force for our community.

The Merrill Area Community Foundation is supported by individuals, corporations, and foundations as a means of giving back to their community. The Beyond Crayons and Computers program began in 2006 and is designed to enhance and reward innovative teaching, learning, and special motivational activities in our schools. Over \$145,000, including \$2,820 this year, has been awarded to our schools since 2006.

Renea Frederick, Board President of the Merrill Area Community Foundation, notes the importance of innovation in our children's learning. The children also learn

they can contribute to our community at any age. She stated, "The Merrill Community Foundation is proud to invest in the 'Beyond Crayon and Computer' grants for our public and parochial schools. These grants strengthen the bonds between our community and schools with innovative educational projects and partnerships created by our Merrill-area teachers."

The annual grants to the Beyond Crayons and Computers program are in addition to the grants provided to local organizations including: Merrill Community Theater, Northwoods Veterans Post Raise the Flag, Merrill Historical Society, Merrill Enrichment Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters New Website Development, NTC Foundations, River Bend Trail, Merrill City Band, Normal Park Gazebo Fund, City of Merrill Parks Development Fund, Three Rivers United Temporary Housing (TRUTH), Our Sister's House, River District Development Foundation, United Way for 211 Development, Merrill Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Merrill Rotary Club, EMT Paramedic Upgrade, Bell Tower Residence, Merrill Free Clinic, Athletic Park Improvement Project, Merrill Youth Softball, Disaster Preparedness for Senior Citizens, St. Vincent DePaul, Girls Scouts, Merrill Soccer Association, and Haven, Inc.

Donations may be sent to the Merrill Area Community Foundation Fund @ Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, 501 First St., Ste 2600, Wausau, WI 54403.



Local Happenings

Aaron Senner, Withee, a Senior at UW-Stevens Point, received Honors for the 2021-2022 Fall Semester. To be eligible for this recognition, students must have a GPA of 3.50 to 3.74.

Area students receiving scholarships from **Northcentral Technical College** for Spring 2022 are Joselyn Chacon and Marisol Garcia, Curtiss; Allison Milbert and Erin Rasmussen, Owen; and Cassandra Nicks, Desirae Weissmiller, Joshua Macdonald and Marlin Pogodzinski, Withee.

O-W Bridge Club results at the end of competition on January 10 were: first place, Betty Edgar; second place, Rob Mimier; and third place, Georgia Janssen.

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Athens



COMMUNITY LIVING

Send Athens news to:
RR@tpprinting.com
phone: 715-223-2342
fax: 715-223-3505
P.O. Box 677
103 West Spruce Street
Abbotsford, WI 54405

Top students

The following Athens Middle School students were awarded Students of the Month for December: Joe Servi, Math 6; Jordan Frahm, Math 8; Ted Schultz-Becker (6), Dakota Nowacki (7) and Gavin Frahm (8), English Language Arts; Isabella Zastrow, social studies and Vanessa Espinoza, science.

The following Athens High School students were awarded Students of the Month for December: Bailey Hanke, math; Hunter Hawley (biology) and Elizabeth Van Rixel (advanced biology), science; Savannah Epping, English and Emma Normand (U.S. history I), Azari Wiemer (U.S. history I) and Amanda Paul (U.S. history), social studies.

On campus

UW-Stevens Point honored more than 2,350 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2021-22 academic year.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 an honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

UW-Stevens Point students from Athens receiving highest honors are sophomores Cobie Ellenbecker and Kiera Weiler and seniors Bradley Draxler and Taylor Henrichs.

Students from Athens attending UW-Stevens Point receiving high honors are sophomores Sierra Eckardt and



Credit union donates to softball program

Valerie Murray, Athens Area Credit Union president, pictured to the far left, presents the Athens High School softball program with a donation so it can purchase a new scoreboard. Bluejay softball players join Murray in the picture.

Andrew Hartmann, juniors Allison Wolf and James Daul and senior Taylor Schwab.

UW-Stevens Point students from Athens receiving honors are freshman Faith Seliger, juniors Courtney Murkowski and Reanna Stowe and senior Jacylyn Gajewski.

Book Club

The public is welcome to stop by the Marathon County Public Library's Athens Branch during the month of January to pick up a copy of "A Year in the Wilderness" by authors Amy and Dave Freeman, along with discussion questions.

People with questions on the January Book Club can call the Athens library at 715-257-

7292.

COVID dashboard

Athens Public Schools reported seven positive cases of COVID-19 as of Jan. 10, out of 552 staff and students.

There are three students with positive COVID-19 cases in Athens middle/high school and two in Athens Elementary School. There are two school district staff with positive COVID-19 cases.

Forty-seven staff and students have tested positive for COVID-19 since Aug. 31, 2021.

NTC scholarships

The Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Foundation has awarded 264 scholarships totaling more than \$218,000 to

students who will be pursuing higher education at NTC during the spring 2022 term.

Marisa Radloff and Natasha Mendoza of Athens have been awarded NTC Foundation scholarships.

Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens card group met on Jan. 6 for weekly card playing at the Athens Area Fire and Ambulance Hall.

Two games of Sheephead was played. Steve Klockziem won the first game and Gale Verpoorten took second place. Ceil Frank won the second game and Norbert Lake placed second. Andy Hoeft received low score.

Newcomers are encouraged

SCHOOL LUNCH

Athens Public School

Monday, January 17:
Chicken strips, mac-n-cheese, steamed broccoli, applesauce

Tuesday, January 18:
Turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, baked beans, pineapple

Wednesday, January 19:
Chili soup, PBJ's, pears

Thursday, January 20:
Pizza, cheese/pepperoni, bread stick, steamed corn, fruit cocktail

Friday, January 21:
Blue Jay stackers, bun, sandwich fixings, chips, peaches

Lunches served with milk, veggie bar and fresh fruit.

St. Anthony's School

Monday, January 17:
Creamy chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dinner rolls

Tuesday, January 18:
Pizza dippers w/sauce, tuna salad, steamed peas

Wednesday, January 19:
Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garlic bread, corn

Thursday, January 20:
Scalloped potatoes, diced ham, cooked carrots, dinner rolls

Friday, January 21:
Chicken noodle soup, peanut butter & jelly sandwich, crackers, string cheese

Lunches served with milk, fruit, vegetables and salad

to come play Sheephead every Thursday from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Athens fire hall.

Fitness center hours

The fitness center inside the Athens middle/high school building is open to Athens School District residents to use from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays.

Athens School District residents must sign a liability waiver in the middle/high school office when it's open prior to using the fitness center.

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Stratford



COMMUNITY LIVING

Send Stratford news to:
RR@tpprinting.com
phone: 715-223-2342
fax: 715-223-3505
P.O. Box 677
103 West Spruce Street
Abbotsford, WI 54405

NTC scholarship

The **Northeastern Technical College (NTC)** Foundation has awarded 264 scholarships totaling more than \$218,000 to students who will be pursuing higher education at **NTC** during the spring 2022 term.

Sophia Hoffman of Stratford has been awarded a **NTC** Foundation scholarship.

Fitness center hours

The Knoll Fitness Center, which is attached to Stratford High School, is open from 4:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. on Monday thru Sunday, but the fitness center is closed from 12:30-1:30 p.m. each weekday for cleaning; it's not closed an hour on Saturdays and Sundays for cleaning.

Stratford School District residents need to visit the high school office to get their keyfob updated before they'll be able to gain access into the Knoll Fitness Center.

Grab & Go craft

From Jan. 3-31, 2022, adults can pick up a free Grab & Go craft kit that will contain nearly everything needed to make a decorative pompom coaster.

These Grab & Go craft kits contain a variety of pompoms, a plain round cork disc and directions on how to make a decorative coaster. All people will need to supply is some hot glue or Elmer's glue. This is a way for people to add a piece of color to their living room or office, wherever they'll be setting down a drink.

Grab & Go kits are free and available while supplies last. People can call the Marathon Public Library headquarters at 715-261-7220 for more information.



Proud of their son

Jett Schoenherr, a Stratford High School freshman boys basketball player, is greeted by his parents, Dawn and Todd Schoenherr, during Parent's Night this season.

mation.

COVID dashboard

Stratford Public Schools reported seven positive cases of COVID-19 as of Jan. 3, 2022, out of 933 staff and students.

Four positive cases of COVID-19 among staff and students are in Stratford middle/high school and the remaining three cases are in Stratford Elementary School.

Ninety-one Stratford staff and students have tested positive for COVID-19 since Sept. 1, 2021.

On campus

UW-Stevens Point honored more than 2,350 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2021-22 academic year.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of

3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 an honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

UW-Stevens Point students from Stratford receiving highest honors are freshman Bailey Bauer; sophomores Gracie

Hauke and Joseph Kloos and seniors Olympia Garrigan, Remington Mueller, Dakota Singer and Cacey Stini.

Students from Stratford attending UW-Stevens Point receiving high honors are sophomore Camryn Fisher, junior Angellia Verdane and seniors Trenton Heckel and Sydney Slominski.

UW-Stevens Point students from Stratford receiving hon-

SCHOOL LUNCH

Stratford Public School

Monday, January 17:
Chicken strips, peas, apple slices
Tuesday, January 18:
Mini corn dogs, baked beans, mixed fruit
Wednesday, January 19:
Chili, grilled cheese, berry cups
Thursday, January 20:
Cheese pizza, green beans, peaches
Friday, January 21:
No school

Lunches served with milk

St. Joseph's School

Monday, January 17:
Mini corn dogs, tater tots
Tuesday, January 18:
Chicken n gravy, scalloped potatoes
Wednesday, January 19:
Chicken casserole
Thursday, January 20:
Tomato soup, grilled ham and cheese sandwiches
Friday, January 21:
No school

Lunches served with milk, vegetables and fruit.

ors are sophomores Lexi Ossmann and Robin Young, juniors Heaven Bento and seniors Dahlia Gross and Danielle Lyons.

MaryAnn Stangl of Stratford was named to the dean's list at UW-Whitewater for the 2021 fall semester.

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Parent advocates for her son

Story
behind early
graduation

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE

— When Katie Hanson heard that her son's request to graduate early from Clintonville High School was questioned at the Dec. 13 Clintonville School Board meeting, she said she felt "deflated" and "sad" for her son.

The school board ultimately approved the request.

Hanson said she felt sad for her son is because his request was questioned by board member Elizabeth Ruskosky, who is the ex-wife of Hanson's fiancé.

"All I can say is his name and my name were on the request," Hanson said. "I'm hard pressed to believe that that didn't have something to do with it given that there had been other children (whose requests were approved) prior by the same member with no questions."

Hanson said she also thinks the way the questioning was done was negative towards her son.

As reported in the Jan. 6 issue of the Clintonville Tribune-Gazette, when questioning the request, Ruskosky said early graduation should be reserved for students who have worked hard and are goal oriented. She also stated the request contained only one complete sentence.

When contacted by email asking if she wanted to comment on the matter, Ruskosky said, she had no comment, as the matter has been discussed privately with the appropriate parties.

While Hanson acknowledged that her son wrote only one sentence in the request, she said he was told by teachers that the most important items in the request were having the required signatures on it and to make sure that all the completed graduation requirements were noted.

"He simply said, 'I want to work full time to save for my college education,'" Hanson said. "He didn't go into detail, but he actually is enrolled and starting at [Northcentral Tech](#) in two weeks."

Her son plans to study software engineering. Hanson said her son built his first computer when he was 13 years old.

Hanson said her son's schooling hasn't always been easy, as he has had to overcome several learning challenges.

"Going through the difficulty that he's gone through, I didn't want to discourage him from trying (to graduate early)," Hanson said. "Because I thought it was extremely important to him, and for him to try it and do it was extremely emotional for his entire family. School has not been easy. He's not an A+ student, he hasn't been a star athlete."

Success in Clintonville

According to Hanson, the previous school district that her son attended misunderstood his learning struggles and he regressed during middle school. That changed when her son switched to the Clintonville School District in ninth grade, and things changed for the better. She said maybe the fact Clintonville was a smaller district helped him. She also pointed out that several Clintonville teachers helped her son become a better student.

"More of the (Clintonville) teachers and staff were very open with me. We spoke more. We shared," Hanson said. "And they just had a different way of looking."

Attending the Clintonville School District completely changed his life, she said.

The process to graduate early didn't start until mid-October, according to Hanson.

To achieve his goal of graduating early, Hanson's son took all his first semester classes in-person, while at the same time, took all his second semester classes online.

"He's very goal oriented. When he can see the finish line, it's very easy for him to see it's there," Hanson said.

"If he challenged himself and didn't make it, he still had the second semester to do in-person classes. It wasn't going to hurt him," Hanson said. "He is pretty extraordinary to not give up and not be negative."

To say Hanson is proud of her son would be an understatement.

"I don't think I can put into words how proud I am of him for accomplishing something like that," she said. "When he approached me (about early graduation), I prayed that he would be able to, but I was reserved because that's a big undertaking. He has a lot of people rooting for him in his life. Nothing has ever been easy. I think that's a blessing and a curse. It makes you resilient, but it makes things a little bit more difficult."

Unfortunately, Hanson feels that the accomplishment has been tarnished because the request was questioned.

"He saw the article and so did his friends, and we all know what he wrote. Enough was said (at the board meeting) that everybody knows who's that was," Hanson said.

Instead of questioning a student's request to graduate early, Hanson said the accomplishment should be recognized in a positive light.

"I think it's our job as parents, especially board members who are here to represent the community and all of the students, to kind of give a kudos to that," Hanson said. "There's nothing more important to our children than stability, safety, and love."

Hanson also hopes that her son's story may inspire other students.

"To watch him go from almost giving up on himself to challenging himself in that way, that's super impressive, and that's something that the school district should be proud of," Hanson said.

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Oconto Falls, Oconto County Times-Herald

COLLEGE NOTES

St. Norbert College

The following students have been named to the 2021 fall semester dean's list at St. Norbert College:

- Bonduel: Rose Bunker, Breena Hansen
- Cecil: Gracelyn Giese
- Shawano: Jeffrey Green, Kori Halstead, Lindsey Roloff, Logan Steff
- Tigerton: Leah Jobe, Bethany Kreklow
- Wittenberg: Emma Herb

A minimum 3.5 grade point average is required for academic eligibility.

University of Maryland

Douglas Marquette, of Shawano, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at University of Maryland Global Campus.

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade-point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Milwaukee School of Engineering Milwaukee School of Engineering has named the following students to the fall quarter 2021 honors list:

- Nicholas Sherman, of Shawano. Sherman is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering.
- Christopher Teeter, of Shawano. Teeter is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering.
- Isabel Colon, of Shawano. Colon is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering.
- Cody Smith, of Suring. Smith is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering.

- Jack Stewart, of Hatley. Stewart is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering.

Undergraduate students who have earned a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher (out of 4.0) for this quarter are on the honors list.

UW-Milwaukee

More than 1,900 prospective candidates for degrees attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee virtual commencement exercises held Dec. 19 in Milwaukee.

- Tyler Dworshok, of Oconto, earned a Bachelor of Science from the College of Letters and Science.
- Leah Guiliani, of Mountain, earned a Master of Social Work from the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.
- Kaylee Simon, of Gillett, earned a Bachelor of Science from the College of Letters and Science.

UW-Superior

The University of Wisconsin-Superior has named Madeline Witt, of Lena; Brandon Olsen, of Cecil; and Amy Laatsch, of Tigerton; to the dean's list for academic achievement during the fall 2021 semester.

To be named to the dean's list, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.5 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale).

Columbia College

Columbia College in Missouri recently announced its dean's list for

fall 2021, and among those named is Kaitlynn Wittman, of Krakow.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must have completed 12 semester hours in a 16-week period and achieved a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Northcentral Technical College

The Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Foundation awarded 264 scholarships totaling more than \$218,000 to students who will be pursuing higher education at NTC during

the spring 2022 term.

Among the recipients are Richard Olson, of Birnamwood; Jacob Bratz, of Gresham; Austin Hoffmann, of Tigerton; and Liliana Doak, of Wittenberg.

Rockhurst University

Rockhurst University of Kansas City, Missouri, has announced Averil Vomastic, of Shawano, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 semester. This honor recognizes students who have achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or above.

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Loyal, Tribune Record Gleaner

Area students earn post-secondary academic honors

Milwaukee School of Engineering

Jonah Hinker from Greenwood was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Honors List for the 2021 fall quarter. Hinker is pursuing a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.

Undergraduate students who have earned a GPA of 3.20 or higher (out of 4.0) for this quarter are on the Honors List.

St. Norbert College

Kayla Bremmer of Loyal has been named to the 2021 fall semester dean's list at St. Norbert College. A minimum 3.5 grade point average is required for academic eligibility.

UW-Superior

Kimberly Rakovec of Granton and Sydney Schultz of Spencer have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Superior Dean's List for academic achievement during the Fall 2021 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

Harding University

Collin Nieman, a senior from Spencer studying finance, is among more than 1,200 Harding University students included on the dean's list for grades achieved during the fall 2021 semester. The dean's list is published each semester by Dr. Marty Spears, University provost, honoring those who have achieved high scholarship. To be eligible, a student must be carrying 12 or more hours with

a 3.65 or higher grade-point average and no incompletes.

Northcentral Technical College

The Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Foundation has awarded 264 scholarships totaling more than \$218,000 to students who will be pursuing higher education at NTC during the spring 2022 term. The following students were recently awarded scholarships to help them finance their education while pursuing their dreams:

- Brody Miller of Loyal
- Meliza Arias Hernandez of Spencer

UW-Stevens Point

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,350 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2021-22 academic year.

Students who received honors include:

- Granton: Eric Grottke, Senior, High Honors; Barbara Miller, Senior, Honors; Josephine Voigt, Junior, Honors
- Greenwood: Korinna Johnson, Freshman, High Honors; Kelly Nielsen, Senior, Highest Honors
- Loyal: Remi Geiger, Sophomore, Highest Honors; Madison Zettler, Freshman, Honors
- Spencer: Damian Albert, Senior, Honors; Zachary Dunbar, Sophomore, Honors; Zalexis Mannigel, Sophomore, High Honors; Haley Miller, Freshman, Highest Honors; Jasmyn Reckner, Sophomore, Highest Honors; Sawyer Schmutzler, Junior, Honors; Elijah Schuh, Senior, Highest Honors; Kaylee Wehrman, Sophomore, High Honors

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition

is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are sent to those who earned highest honors distinction.

UW-Whitewater

Alejandro Mendoza from Granton has made the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2021 fall semester. These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester. Mendoza is studying finance.

The Registrar's Office reports 3,558 students were selected for the Dean's List for the fall semester. About 11,500 students are currently enrolled at the university's Whitewater and Rock County campuses.

UW-Stout

The following students from the area have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester:

- Greenwood: Cooper Bredlau, Freshman, BS manufacturing engineering; Georgia Butterbrodt, Freshman, BS information and communication technologies; Hannah Hinker, Junior, BS packaging; Trenton Klabon, Junior, BS business administration; Cole Lindner, Senior, BS Computer Science; Adam Mueller, Senior, BS Graphic Communications; Brianna North, Senior, BS early childhood education; Madelin Raese, Junior, BS human development and family studies
 - Loyal: Jackson Lindner, Junior, BS engineering technology; Jordan Lindner, Senior, BS Criminal Justice & Rehab; Blain Schmidt, Senior, BS engineering technology
 - Spencer: Bryce Shaw, Junior, BS management; Alek Siegel, Senior, BS Computer and Electrical Eng
- UW-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, has 47 undergraduate majors and 23 graduate programs, including one doctoral degree. Enrollment was 7,692 in the fall.

UW-Green Bay

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has made public the names of undergraduate students receiving semester honors for fall 2021 semester academic achievement. Students who earn a 4.0 grade point average, which represents all "A" grades, receive highest honors. High honors go to students earning 3.99 to 3.75 grade point averages. Honors are given to students earning 3.74 to 3.50 grade point averages. Students are listed by the Wisconsin county or state claimed as place of permanent residence. All were full-time students in the fall term, earning 12 or more credits of graded coursework.

- Granton: Lisa Smith, Semester Highest Honors
- Greenwood: Cassie Elmer, Semester Honors
- Loyal: Ness Koopman, Semester Highest Honors
- Spencer: Jady Goodwin, Semester Honors

Spencer Lions
Scotch Doubles Bowling Tournament
Saturdays:
Feb. 5 & Feb. 12
Two shifts each day: 12 pm & 3 pm
\$35 per couple: 1 male & 1 female
1st Prize: \$100 • 2nd Prize: \$75 4 games
3rd Prize: \$50
Register by calling Rose Bowl and mention registering for the tournament at 715-387-1114
Proceeds from this fundraiser go to the Spencer Lions to help various organizations.

Greenwood American Legion
Post 238 will be holding its
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21
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COMMUNITY LIVING

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Abbotsford, WI 54405

COVID-19

Edgar Public Schools has reported that 27 people of 3.92 percent of Edgar students and staff had COVID-19 as of Jan. 17. There have been 89 cases of coronavirus since the start of the 2021-22 school year.

On campus

The Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Foundation has announced it has awarded two scholarships to Edgar students who are pursuing higher education at NTC during the spring 2022 term. They are Abigail Bargender and Jaxson Kurtzweil.

Three Edgar students have been named to the UW-Stout dean's list for the fall 2021 semester.

The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

The students, their year in school and major are: Colby Krebsbach, a freshman, marketing and business education; Brenna Manecke, a sophomore, hotel, restaurant and tourism; and Taiyah Tarter, a senior, graphic communications.

UW-Oshkosh officials have released the names of Edgar students who qualified for the dean's list and honor roll in fall 2021 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh).

The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for university honor roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for dean's list is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

The students are Olivia Baumann, dean's list; and Seth Schilling, honor roll.



Principal earns doctorate

Edgar Elementary School principal Lisa Witt, Edgar, graduated in December 2021 from Edgewood College in Madison with a Doctor of Education degree. Her dissertation was on "Building Resilience in Teachers." She conducted her research with two other area principals, Nathan Lehman, Mosinee High School, and Katie Colwell, Mosinee Elementary School. The dissertation recommends creating a positive school climate to battle teacher stress.

Honor roll

Angela Marcis, Edgar, a junior, has been named to the honor roll at Wisconsin Lutheran High School for the

second quarter of the 2021-22 school year.

Softball

Edgar girls who have com-

pleted kindergarten through eighth grade (as of the summer of 2021) are invited to sign up for Edgar youth fast-pitch summer softball. Forms were given to the schools and should have been sent home with children. Deadline for registration is Friday, Feb. 4. Late fees will apply to registrations received after that date. Games are played Monday through Thursday and tournaments are optional. For more information contact Kristina at 715-551-3080 or Craig at 715-680-1188.

Catholic Schools Week

St. John's School, Edgar, will celebrate Catholic Schools Week Saturday, Jan. 29, to Sunday, Feb. 6.

Holy hour

St. John the Baptist Church, Edgar, will host an hour of prayer for the legal protection of the unborn on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2-3:45 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

End times

The Rev. Alan Wierzbza will give a talk on "End Times" at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edgar, on Sunday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m. Child care will be provided. Call 715-342-3011 to make arrangements.

History speaks

Join the Marathon County Historical Society and Jay Dick on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2-3 p.m. for a virtual History Speaks presentation on the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company and Wisconsin River.

Born at the turn of the 19th century, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company traces its roots from the heart of the Northwoods, through the boom of the paper and power industry, to the river valley we know today. Come hear a bit of the WVIC history and what it takes to "run" the Wisconsin River system. This History Speaks pre-

SCHOOL LUNCH

Edgar Public Schools

Monday, January 24:
No school
Tuesday, January 25:
Corn dogs
Wednesday, January 26:
Creamy chicken dumpling soup
Thursday, January 27:
Cheeseburgers
Friday, January 28:
Potato bowl

Lunches served with fresh/canned fruit, salad bar and milk.

St. John's School

Monday, January 24:
No school
Tuesday, January 25:
Pizza
Wednesday, January 26:
Chicken alfredo, rice, bread
Thursday, January 27:
Pancakes, egg bake, bread
Friday, January 28:
Mac & cheese, peas, bread

Lunches served low-fat white or non-fat chocolate milk, bread, veggies, salad and fruit.

sentation will be broadcast live simultaneously via Zoom, the Historical Society's Facebook page and its YouTube channel. If you can't join them live, you can watch the archived recording anytime at the same places. The History Speaks and History Chats series, which are a collaborative effort between the Historical Society and the Marathon County Public Library, are free to watch and open to all ages, no registration required.

Call the Historical Society at 715-842-5750 for more information.

Woodland waddle

Edgar Area Trail Supporters will sponsor the annual Scotch Creek Woodland Waddle on Sunday, Feb. 13.

Proceeds from the event go towards maintenance of trails in the Scotch Creek Woodland Preserve in Edgar, including trail grooming for cross country skis and snowshoeing.

Book discussion

Join the Marathon County Public Library for a virtual reading and discussion with Wisconsin author and journalist Lawrence Tabak about his new book "Foxconned" on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7-8 p.m.

In 2018, the State of Wisconsin signed an economic-development deal with Foxconn, the China-based electronics manufacturer, nominally securing 13,000 jobs. Yet as



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See **EDGAR/** page 9

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Marathon



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On campus

The Northcentral Technical College (NCTC) Foundation has announced four Marathon students have received scholarships for the spring 2022 term. The students are Alexander Gosse, Benjamin Kopetzky, Dakota Hall and Noah Streveler.

UW-Green Bay has made public the names of undergraduate students receiving semester honors for fall 2021 semester academic achievement. Students who earn a 4.0 grade point average, which represents all "A" grades, receive highest honors. High honors go to students earning 3.99 to 3.75 grade point averages. Honors are given to students earning 3.74 to 3.50 grade point averages. Marathon students earning recognition are Zachary Baumann, semester honors; Mackenzie Longdo, semester high honors; Cassie Tucker, semester honors; and Preston Weber, semester high honors.

Students from Marathon have been named to the UW-Stout dean's list (a grade point of 3.5 or above) for the fall 2021 semester. The students, their year in school and majors are Jenna Dick, senior, construction; Sam Dick, freshman, information and communication technologies; and Tanner Hornung, junior, mechanical engineering and applied science.

UW-Oshkosh has released the names of Marathon students who qualified for the dean's list and honor roll in fall 2021 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh).

The term grade-point aver-



Knowledge Bowl

St. Mary's Academic Team took first place in the NERR Knowledge Bowl held at Edgar Public School. The team competed against St. Anthony's, Athens, St. John's, Edgar, and St. Joseph's, Stratford. Team members have been preparing for the Brains and Brawn Tournament which is a diocesan tournament held in La Crosse, although the Diocese is still determining whether the contest will be held this year. Pictured are, left to right, standing: Team captain Luke Hoenisch, Abram Jacobson, Sara Marek, Hailey Martin, Briggs Baumann and Coach Baeseman; kneeling: Taunna Rindt, Levi Scheiderer, Sam Altenhofen, Victoria Gruetzmacher and Martin Gruetzmacher.

age (GPA) requirement for university honor roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for dean's list is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0. The students are Jaicee Kunkel, dean's list; Erika Robbins, dean's list; Marlena Strasser, honor roll; and Kory Wokatsch, honor roll.

Citizen scholars

Marathon Venture Academy has announced its list of citizen scholars for first trimester of the 2021-22 school year.

Eighth grade: Isabella

Berenz, Mya Buchberger, Mason Fischer, Treyten Hornung, Brianne King, Halle Laabs, Emma Love, Christopher Marcell, Gavin Mathia, Reed McCain, Cassius Ninabuck, Brayden Pinter, Claire Riesgraf, Markus Sleiter, Danica Staus, True Thurs, Hudson Voigt, Madelyn Volkman, Elayne Westphal, Drew Woelfe.

Seventh grade: Sawyer Berens, Isabella Bowe, Garrett Bracewell, Sawyer Burish, Owen Chrouser, Kayla Cihlar, Lacey Cihlar, Aubrey Fieri, Kenley Fischer, Kayla

Freund, Brooke Hall, Brooklyn Hartway, Carlee Holte, Addison Knoeck, Brooke Lang, Katelyn Love, Madison Matthiae, Jace Ostrowski, Paxton Pietrowski, Allison Podjaski, Morgan Rohland, Ean Shuda, Morgan Sorge, Greenly Treankler.

Sixth grade: Sophia Bowe, Josephine Davis, Breanna Fitzgerald, Quade Fuhrman, Sophia Kleist, Brevyn Johnson, Brayden Krautkramer, Blake McCain, Alec Miller, Kaleb Ohde, Ava Richter, Cael Riesgraf, Charlotte Schlager, Ruby Trowbridge.

SCHOOL LUNCH

Marathon Public School

Monday, January 24:

Pepperoni or cheese pizza, corn

Tuesday, January 25:

Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, steamed broccoli, dinner roll

Wednesday, January 26:

Chicken wrap, steamed vegetables

Thursday, January 27:

Rib E. Que or sliced ham on a bun, baked beans

Friday, January 28:

Mini corn dogs, green beans

Lunches served with fresh/ canned fruit, salad bar and milk.

St. Mary's School

Monday, January 24:

Nachos w/all the fixings, fritos/ nacho chips, salsa/cheese, tater spuds, mixed fruit

Tuesday, January 25:

Turkey/ham/summer sausage/ bologna sandwich, fries, salad, pineapple

Wednesday, January 26:

Chicken patty/bun, fries, buttered green beans, tropical fruit

Thursday, January 27:

Wiener winks, fries, pasta salad, baked beans, peaches

Friday, January 28:

Waffles/syrup, scrambled eggs/ cheese, tater spuds, mandarin oranges, ice cream sandwich

Lunches served low-fat white or non-fat chocolate milk, salad and fruit.

Holiday donations

Arrow Tap Tavern of Marathon City held a food drive for the Circle of Joy during the Christmas season. Customers of Arrow Tap donated a pool table full of items, as well as cash donation. Marathon residents John and Lynn Lensmire delivered the food and the \$500 cash donation to the Circle of Joy. The Circle of Joy food pantry serves people in the Marathon, Edgar, Athens and surrounding communities.

COVID dashboard

Marathon Public Schools has announced that 10 people among 850 students and staff have COVID-19 as of Jan. 14. The school has 103 students on a close contact watch list and has had 132 students and staff get the coronavirus during the 2021-22 school year.

Baseball fundraiser

On Saturday, Jan. 29, the Marathon Baseball Association and the Marathon Athletic Club will host their fifth



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•Marathon Family Dentistry
981 Blue Stone Ln—(715) 443-2200

•Marathon Flooring, LLC
207 Pine St—(715) 581-0553

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Chacon awarded \$600 scholarship

The Curtiss Lions Club issued a scholarship at their January meeting to Joselyn Chacon of Abbotsford High for \$600. Her goal is to receive an education in nursing and become a registered nurse. She will attend [North Central Technical College](#). Her future plans are to attend UW - Madison to receive her BSN, then her masters. Curtiss Lions Club president Megan Zoellick, right, presents the \$600 scholarship check to Abbotsford High senior Joselyn Chacon, left, to help further her education on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Area students receive NTC scholarships

WAUSAU — The Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Foundation announced Jan. 6 that 264 scholarships totaling more than \$218,000 were awarded to Wisconsin students who will be pursuing higher education at the school in the spring 2022 term.

The following area students were among the scholarship recipients. The funds are to help students finance

their education while pursuing their dreams, according to the NTC Foundation.

Alison Smith and Tristen Mollman of Park Falls; Clayton Lyons, Justin Polacek, Mckenzi Franz and Raeanna Lyons of Phillips; Ethan Lundborg of Prentice; Jordan Morrow of Kennan; Carter Scheithauer of Ogema, and John Lynch of Butternut.

COLLEGE NEWS

UW-Green Bay

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has made public the names of undergraduate students receiving semester honors for fall 2021 semester academic achievement. Students who earn a 4.0 GPA, which represents all "A" grades, receive highest honors. High honors go to students earning 3.99 to 3.75 GPAs. Honors are given to students earning 3.74 to 3.50 GPAs.

Antigo: Kamri Grant, highest honors; Jonathan Lowery, honors; Madelyn Marvin, highest honors; Grant Meeks, honors; Dorothy Mifflin, highest honors; Ashlyn Nedden, high honors; Lil Nicholson, highest honors; Hannah Nonnenmacher, highest honors; Jena Nonnenmacher, high honors; Elliott Orgeman, honors; Marnie Umland, honors; Cassie Wiegert, honors.

Summit Lake: Kaitlyn

Paulsen, highest honors; Kelli Paulsen, high honors.

UW-Whitewater

The following local students are among the UW-Whitewater scholarship recipients receiving financial awards for the 2021-22 academic year.

— Wade Farmer, Antigo, who is studying finance, won the Chancellor Scholars award.

— Cj Kaegi, Antigo, who is studying art, won the Chancellor Scholars, Greenhill Endowment and Spirit of Whitewater Energy awards.

— McKayla Putnam, Bowler, who is studying early childhood education, won the Warhawk Exceptional Academics Scholarship.

Olivet Nazarene University

Jacob Radtke of Antigo was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill., during the recently completed fall 2021 semester.

To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester GPA of 3.50 or better on a 4.00 grading scale.

UW-Stout

The following students from the area have been named to the UW-Stout dean's list for the fall 2021 semester.

The award is presented to students who have a GPA of 3.5 or better.

Antigo: Luke Hitz, senior, bachelor of science, computer net and information tech; Jordan Miinch, sophomore, bachelor of fine arts, studio art; Alex Nagel, senior, bachelor of science, business administration; Cody Urban, senior, bachelor of science, plastics engineering.

Bryant: Trent Pavek, senior, bachelor of science, video production.

Deerbrook: Ethan Royce, sophomore,

bachelor of science, computer and electrical engineering; Luke Wendt, senior, bachelor of science, information and communication technologies.

Northcentral Technical College

The Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Foundation awarded 264 scholarships totaling more than \$218,000 to students who will be pursuing higher education at NTC during the spring 2022 term. The following students were recently awarded scholarships.

Antigo: Joshua Capek, Korbin Krueger, Laura Shields, Melissa Wilhelm.

Birnamwood: Richard Olson.

Deerbrook: Rebekka Sekeres.

Gleason: Shannon Staskiewicz, Whitney Marshall.

Wittenberg: Liliana Doak.



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Antigo Daily Journal



Students can learn about NTC programs

If you are or know a high school student interested in exploring local options for continuing their education beyond their diploma, the Antigo Public Library and North Central Technical College have teamed up to help.

There will be an information session at the library at 4 p.m. Jan. 27 for students 14-19 and their parents or guardians.

Registration is required by 5 p.m. Jan. 26 for this event. The registration form is found under the

program tab of the library website, www.antigopl.org.

“This is an opportunity for students to get the chance to make a personal connection with NTC and learn in a small group setting how programs offered

at the Antigo Campus and virtually can help them further their education.” Said Ada Demlow, youth services librarian.

For more information, call the library at 715-623-3724 or email Demlow at ademlow@antigopl.org.

Hass updates school board on class changes

Principal hopes to get students in real life situations

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Course books are being updated in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Principal Bill Hass updated the school board during its meeting on Jan. 17 about the changes, where the board unanimously approved them.

Hass said that changes were being made to different subjects including English.

"In the English department, we are no longer requiring that every student has to take a speech class," said Hass. "Students all do speeches

throughout English, so the English department felt that it was not necessary to have students take another class that was just about speeches."

He said that this would help to open up the English department to offer other classes.

"These would be classes that are approved through colleges, like [NTC \(Northcentral Technical College\)](#) and Oshkosh," said Hass.

The new classes that would be offered are world literature, journalism writing and theater appreciation.

Hass went on to explain what the plan was for the science department.

"We are going to each freshman

having to take intro to chemistry instead of making our juniors take chemistry," said Hass. "If you have ever been in a chemistry class and you have students who doesn't want to be there — it is not very fun for that teacher."

He added that the science department is also adding an ecosystem in crisis class, which could be used for college credits.

Hass also explained that the social studies department will offer new classes.

"They have some new classes, which would be first nation studies — that would be about the tribal affairs that going on in our area and throughout," said Hass. "Contempo-

rary issues would be another class that they are offering."

In the business department, Hass said that they are splitting accounting and quickbooks into two classes.

"The teacher wants to split these into two classes, due to the information that is presented in such a short time," said Hass.

Hass said that there is a reasoning for these changes.

"The changes that we are looking at are trying to make it so that our students are more successful," said Hass. "Last year, we started math in trades and that seemed to work. We are trying to get them in more real life situations, where they can apply what they learn."

Abbotsford, Tribune-Phonograph

Hammel named Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter

Abbotsford High School senior Olivia Hammel has been named the Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year.

Hammel carries a rigorous class schedule that includes Written Communications (NTC), Competitive Games, Trigonometry (NTC), Body Structure and Function, Food and Fitness, Mixed Choir, and Student Teacher Aide. Her co-curricular activities include National Honor Society, Student Senate, FBLA, FCCLA, BLAST, and Safe Schools Ambassadors. She is also a member of the volleyball and track teams.

English teacher and track coach, Ally Meserole, highly recommended her for the Student-of-the-Quarter award. "Olivia has excelled in my English courses for the past three years," Meserole stated. "As a track athlete, she works harder than most. Not only is she kind, responsible, respectful and intelligent, but she is also dedicated to helping others. She pays attention to detail, comes in on her own time to lift weights to be at the top of her game, and helps younger athletes understand the rules, expectations and opportunities they are given. She is one-of-a-kind; I am grateful to have spent so much time with her in her formative years."

Hammel's volunteerism attests to

her belief in community service. She has been actively involved by bell ringing for the Salvation Army, refereeing volleyball games, volunteering at the Edgar Steam Show, and helping with community cleanup, Red Cross blood drives, food drives, dairy breakfasts and the Christmas parade.

When asked to identify an outstanding feature of the community, Olivia applauds the many ways that Abbotsford is a caring community, citing the following examples. "Everyone is there for each other in times of need. Our community holds benefits to provide assistance to individuals and families who are fighting life-threatening diseases and facing hardships. Likewise, the community comes together to support our local athletes and teams, whether it is through sponsorships, state send-offs, or cheering at games. Support and love is everywhere which makes our community special."

When asked to define a major world problem, Hammel responded that she would "work to solve the human trafficking problem. Currently, it is estimated that 24.9 million people are enslaved in modern-day slavery. Whether it is sexual, labor, organ removal or marriage, it needs to be stopped. I feel deeply that every individual deserves a safe life full of opportunity for success and happiness. Everyone's life has a purpose and should be valued."



LIONS NAME CLUB STUDENT OF THE QUARTER - Olivia Hammel is named Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter. *SUBMITTED PHOTO*

After graduation, Olivia's college plans are to major in business and then pursue a profession in real estate. She is the daughter of Shane and Patricia Hammel, from rural Abbotsford.

Wausau Pilot & Review

More news. Less fluff. All local.

BIZ BRIEFS

Business of the Week: Northcentral Technical College

January 14, 2022

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Wausau Pilot & Review

*Editor's note: **Business of the Week** is a sponsored feature that shares the stories of locally-owned and operated businesses in the Wausau area, highlighting the products and services they offer and the ways they contribute to the metro area's unique flavor. Learn how to feature your business by emailing christina@wausaupilotandreview.com.*

This week's featured Wausau business is a cornerstone of the city's educational landscape for decades. Northcentral Technical College, 1000 W. Campus Drive, is proud to be a customer-focused, accessible provider of innovative lifelong learning that builds a globally competitive workforce. The College's 5,900 square mile, 10-county district includes six campus locations in Wausau, Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer and Wittenberg, as well as a Public Safety Center of Excellence, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence and an Agriculture Center of Excellence. The Wausau Campus also features a Center for Health Sciences, Center for Business & Industry, Center for Geriatric Education, Information Technology Entrepreneurial Center (iTEC Lab), STEM Center and an Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center of Excellence.

NTC President Dr. Jeannie Worden credits the organization's success to an outstanding team of people who work at the College in support of students in a wide range of programs, from welding to nursing to youth apprenticeships, culinary programs, veterinary services degrees and more, changing lives in central Wisconsin for more than 100 years. Here, Dr. Worden shares her thoughts with us on the history, achievements, direction and future of the school, which has educated hundreds of thousands of students who have gone on to fruitful, rewarding careers.

- NTC Welding Lab



- NTC Health Programs



- NTC Culinary Program + Spoons Restaurant.



- NTC STEM Center + Makerspace



- Dr. Jeannie Worden





- NTC Main Entrance

When was Northcentral Technical College launched?

Started in 1912 in a small, two-story building called the Wausau Industrial School, NTC has a long history of inspiring learners and supporting local businesses. Over 100 years, much has changed. Yet one thing remains the same — our commitment to our learners, our businesses and our communities.

Tell us about NTC. What programs do you offer today?

With more than 190 program options, NTC is committed to being the community's college. Dedicated to delivering accessible, attainable and flexible educational opportunities, we offer over 190 associate degree, technical diploma and short-term certificate programs, as well as high school completion programs, basic skills education, continuing education and customized business training opportunities. Additionally, over 3,000 high school students annually take dual credit courses with NTC, saving them nearly \$2 million in college tuition. NTC offers a variety of flexible course and program options, including Virtual College, January Session and summer Courses, late start courses and online courses. Many students also chose to continue their learning by transferring to one of our 50+ University of Wisconsin and private four-year universities who partner with NTC for transferability with junior status. The College has over 400 transfer agreements in place, including a Liberal Arts partnership for students seeking their AA or AS degree. By establishing a close connection with the community, the College fills a critical and growing need for a skilled workforce by providing comprehensive, quality education and training.

What makes NTC unique?

We offer flexible, highly technical courses, programs, credentials and continuing education opportunities that are responsive to industry needs.

What are you most proud of accomplishing?

We are most proud of the success of our students and our ability to positively impact our community through our support of learners and businesses. We take great pride in being the community's college.

How have you changed and evolved over time? What's different now from when the school first opened?

For over 100 years, we have listened to our community and responded to business and student needs. As industry changed and developed, NTC quickly and agilely adjusted program content and technology to meet the needs of an ever-changing global economy. Our structure ensures that we are well poised to continue to meet learner, business and community needs.

What are some of the most difficult challenges have you had to overcome?

In the short term, the COVID pandemic has certainly been a challenge but we are stronger because of it. Thanks to our investment and innovations in online learning, NTC was well prepared to offer students a meaningful experience and quality education remotely. We have remained committed to providing the support that our students and businesses need to be successful in these uncertain times. Additionally, we recognized the critical role we have in supporting the industries that are on the front lines of this pandemic. We resumed labs/hands-on activities in select essential and critical program areas as soon as we were safely able to do so to ensure that we were able to supply a steady flow of graduates needed to work in the front lines of the pandemic.

When we think more long term, one of the things we have struggled with is positioning the College as a first choice for higher education. We know that students who attend NTC receive a high quality, affordable education with the opportunity to transfer to continue their education should they desire. We also provide a robust campus life experience, including student housing. Unfortunately, many parents still see us as a second choice or alternate option. We work diligently to get students and parents on campus so they can see the breadth and depth of all we have to offer for a well-rounded collegiate experience. As the parent of two NTC graduates, I have seen the value of an NTC education firsthand. My daughter started at a four-year college and came back to NTC to get her Associate Degree in Nursing. My son obtained his Associate Degree and is currently completing his Bachelor's while working. I am committed to providing these same educational opportunities to the residents of our District.

What are your hopes and dreams for the future? Where do you see NTC headed?

I hope that we are continuing to produce a workforce that helps employers be ready as they advance in technology. I hope that our graduates are bringing their skills and abilities to the workforce to help not only their employers, but also the greater community.

Connect with Northcentral Technical College

- Visit in person: 1000 W. Campus Drive Wausau
- Call 715.675.3331
- Online at www.ntc.edu
- On Facebook at www.facebook.com/ntc.edu



Wausau Police Department

January 25 at 8:46 AM · 🌐

We are excited to welcome two new officers to our department! Officer Yeeleng Yang (#221) and Officer Andrew Palmini (#222) were sworn in last Friday at City Hall. Both of them are from Wausau, and look forward to serving their neighbors and fellow Wausaunians!

Officer Yang is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee, earning a degree in business administration. He started attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy at Northcentral Technical College yesterday. Officer Palmini graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in psychology. He previously completed his academy training, so he is starting his field training today.




















While policing is a career change for both new officers, they bring valuable experience from prior employment that will help them serve Wausau well.

Please join us in welcoming both Officer Yang and Officer Palmini to our family!



Boys & Girls Club of the Wausau Area
January 25 at 7:45 AM · 🌐

SERVANT LEADERSHIP: At our recent annual meeting, board members selected officers and directors to lead our organization as we celebrate 25 years of enriching and transforming the lives of young people. Included in the 2024 class, are the two newest directors to join our board - Kevin Kraft of Wisconsin River Partners and Shawn Sullivan of Northcentral Technical College. Please join us in recognizing all of these dedicated community leaders for their service
#GreatFuturesStartHere

2022 Board Officers	Directors elected to a new three-year term	Continuing Directors
 Candy Plann, President  Betsy Hagg, VP	 Donald "Buck" Clay  Kevin Kraft	 Betsy Calender  Jon Ewing  William Harris  Bob Lawson
 Terry Hagenson, Treasurer  Betsy Anderson, Secretary  Big Hawk Area Council Rep  Jim Hunter Area President	 Mary Jo Johnson  Sharon Gjornedal  Sharon Sullivan	 Amy Nelson  Rick Parler  Craig Olsenmark 

👍❤️ Tori Fischer, Mary Ninnemann and 46 others 2 Comments 1 Share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Merrill High School
January 25 at 11:17 AM · 🌐

This Bluejay has a plan! Riley Warren will be attending Northcentral Technical College for Criminal Justice. Congratulations Riley!



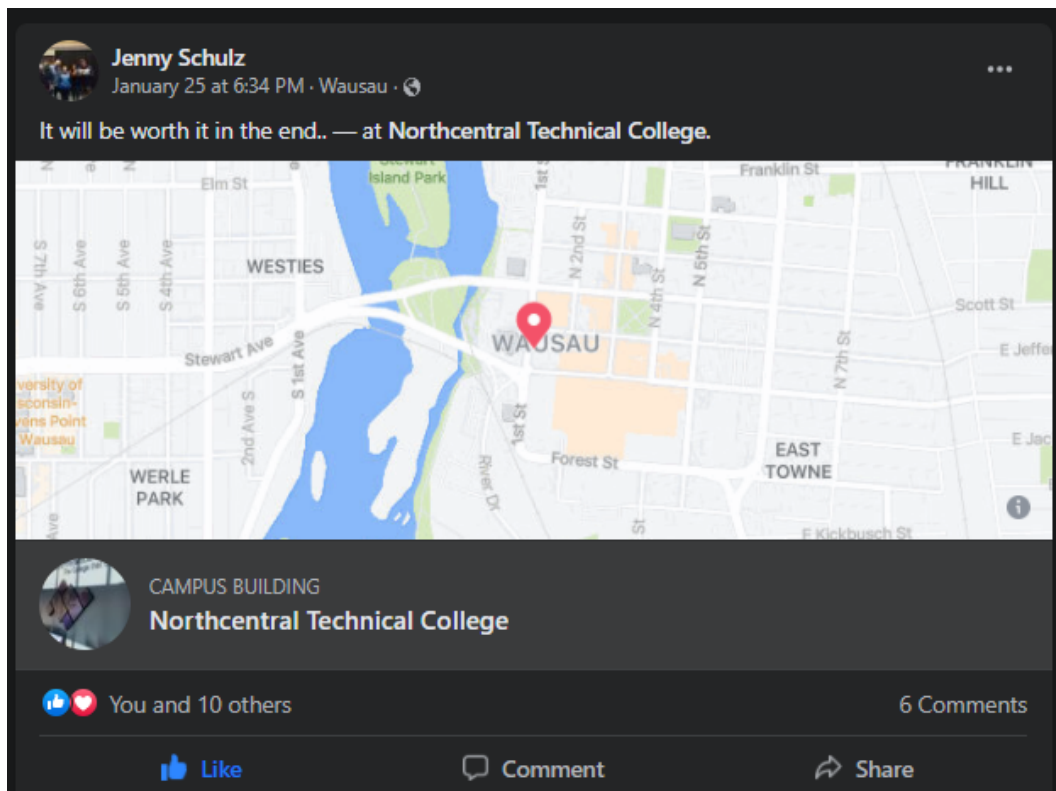
Riley Warren
Northcentral Technical College - Criminal Justice

This senior Bluejay has a plan!



👍❤️ Lori LaBonty Fehr and 79 others 12 Comments 4 Shares

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Wausau School District

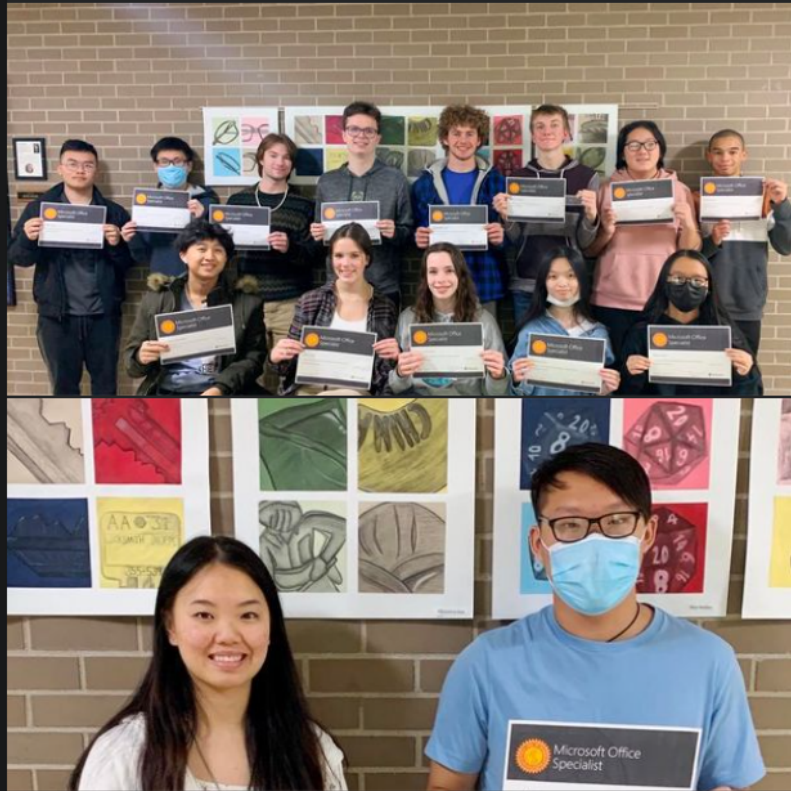
January 11 at 3:00 PM · 🌐

...

Congratulations to Microsoft Office students from [#WausauSchools](#) West High for earning their Microsoft Office Specialist Master certification by passing the exam in PowerPoint!

Word and Excel exams were also offered in the class. MOS Master certification demonstrates you have the deepest level of skills needed to proficiently use key office programs needed and required in today's industries.

Special thanks to [Northcentral Technical College](#) for their financial support with... [See more](#)



👍❤️ 76

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CTech Manufacturing
January 21 at 5:09 PM · 🌐

[Northcentral Technical College](#) has been named 'Busines of the Week' by [Wausau Pilot & Review!](#) 🏆 Congratulations to the staff and administrators. We are proud to have outfitted a number of spaces at NTC with superior CTech storage thanks to [FSS Business Systems](#). A variety of custom carts and cabinets are in place to help create a more dynamic and engaging learning environment for students.



👍 17


2 Shares

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Peoples State Bank
 January 3 at 5:00 PM · 🌐

Peoples State Bank is matching a \$5,000 donation by Kretz Lumber Company, totaling \$10,000 for a new Northcentral Technical College (NTC) program to fill a significant need in the lumber industry. The program will train workers on the skills needed to sharpen industrial blades and bandsaws for commercial lumber operations. #communitybanking #peepslife #community #NTC <https://www.bankpeoples.com/.../Peoples-and-Kretz-Lumber...>






 Kristin Reinicke, Karen Cronkrite Fonti and 33 others
 4 Shares

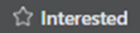
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Leanne Henriksen ▸ Joe's Social Dance Calendar
 January 14 at 9:55 AM · 🌐

Starting 2/1/2022...
 at Northcentral Technical College, Wausau Campus. Can't wait to dance with you!
 Info & registration see the link below
<https://www.ntc.edu/.../ballroom-dance-east-coast-swing...>



TUE, FEB 1 AT 6:45 PM AND 5 MORE
Ballroom Dance: Rumba & East Coast Swing (Tuesdays 2/1-3/8, 2022) at Northcentral Technical College
 Wausau
 You like Northcentral Technical College

 Interested



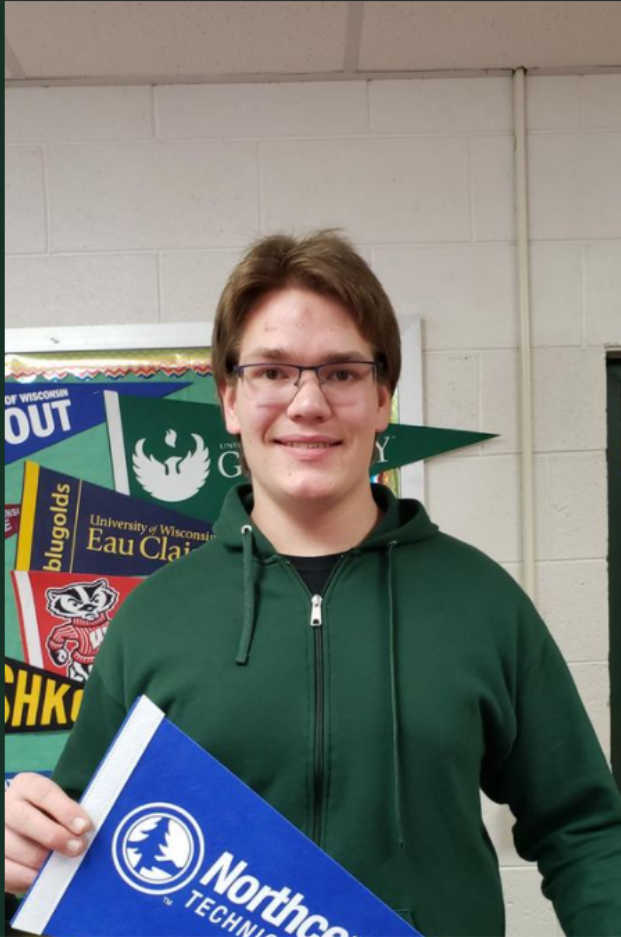
Colby School District

January 14 at 2:17 PM · 🌐



Senior Highlight

Congratulations to Jayson Wundrow for his acceptance to North Central Technical College majoring in Welding! Way to work hard! [#colbyhornets](#)



👍 23

4 Comments 2 Shares



Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. ✓

January 10 at 11:15 AM · 🌐

The Branch returns in 2022! Church Mutual is proud to be a part of this initiative with [Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Northcentral Technical College](#) helping students to gain real-world professional experiences.

The Branch needs students, mentors and businesses so don't miss your chance to sign up today!

<https://bit.ly/3pOBpS2>



👍 10

1 Comment 3 Shares



Liz Adsit is at Studio Max-Northcentral Technical College.
21h · Wausau · 🌐

...

I let [Kayla Rocio Balmaceda Jarquin](#) do my hair at NTC, best decision ever! She did such a good job 🙌 holy cow I'm so proud of her 😊





School District of Tomahawk

18h · 🌐



Sixteen members of the THS eSports team traveled to NTC in Wausau to tour the campus, but more importantly, talk to the NTC eSports coaches and game in their stadium.

#GoHatchets



55

1 Comment 2 Shares



Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin

January 10 at 9:43 AM · 🌐

...

The Community Foundation is excited to be teaming up with [NTC Workforce Training + Professional Development](#) and [Wisconsin Public Service Foundation](#) to offer the 2022 Nonprofit Management Institute. The Nonprofit Management Institute will provide learners with foundational knowledge and the tools and resources needed to lead and operate a nonprofit organization successfully. Class size will be limited and the deadline to register is January 26, 2022.



NTC.EDU

NonProfit Management Institute - Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops | Northcentral Technical College



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WJMN (CBS) - Marquette, MI
Midwest Farm Weekly

+ Local Market Viewership: 212
Local Publicity Value: \$23.20 per
30s

WJMN 1/2/2022 6:34:56 AM: ...furniture, wisconsin produces billions of dollars in forest products each year as a result, there's a growing demand for skilled forced industry workers here in antigo at the wood technology center of excellence in extensive northcentral technical **College** instructors and students work to hone in skills into impactful careers as a 20,000 square foot facility. and it set up for training. >> the incumbent workforce that we have here in the state of wisconsin, but also for college programming. the one that we're really proud of his or her, what science associate's degree. that's a 2 year program is the only associate's degree in which science in north america. a major the wood technology center of excellence provides over. 25 would related classes seminars and workshops each year, hands on training. their mission is to provide critical skills to the next generation of force industry leaders. students coming out of this program. >> and graduate with a much lower debt load. plus have excellent opportunities to go into a crew that they possibly could love for the rest of their life. >> and with 100% job placement for graduate students can be confident they're entering into an industry with a bright future. >> 17 million acres of forest land here in the state of wisconsin. and those 17 million acres we actually have about 1500 companies that are producing products from our forced, which is it's pretty big deal. take it one step further. they employ 64,000 people in the state wisconsin. and what most wisconsinites don't realize is that we actually produce more products. we ship more dollars with the wood price than any other state in the union. >> and that's something to be pretty proud of. and now, you know, your wisconsin. >> well, jen saying is also one of wisconsin's number one crops and it's often given as a gift during chinese new year celebrations. alice in dairyland shares a bit about how it's grown. >> tensing otherwise known as panic. squint can fully us is one of wisconsin's number one crocs. wisconsin produces about 95% of all covid in the united states with the majority being from marathon county. jim thing is a bittersweet route. often used in the celebration of the chinese w year this year, the year of the tiger begins on february. first 2022, what's so special about wisconsin, ginseng? well, wisconsin ginseng is known for being the highest quality ginseng and it produces a bittersweet taste that is recogniz all over the world. about 90% of wisconsin. ginseng is exported asian ...



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