

## DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

### AGENDA

**DATE:** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**LOCATION:** NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE – TIMBERWOLF CONFERENCE CENTER/D100,  
1000 W. CAMPUS DRIVE, WAUSAU, WI 54401 AND VIA [ZOOM](#)  
(ZOOM MEETING ID: 858 6609 2322 | PASSWORD: 088839)

### CALL TO ORDER

- A. Compliance with Open Meetings Law (Wis. Stat. 19.81-19.88)
- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- C. Public Comment

Public Comment periods are not considered to be public hearings or a forum for public debate. No person may speak more than once to an issue or for a period longer than three (3) minutes. Individuals wishing to speak during this period must complete the sign-in form at the meeting location no less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the meeting. The total amount of time devoted to public comment at any given meeting will not exceed thirty (30) minutes unless extended by a majority vote of the Board.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes from August 13, 2024, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

### ACTION ITEMS

- A. [Approval of Merrill - Community Safety Simulation Center \(CSSC\) Renovation](#) – Cher Vink

### CONSENT VOTING AGENDA

- A. Approval of Consent Voting Agenda Including:
  - a. [Receipts + Expenditures](#)
  - b. [Personnel Changes](#)

### BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- A. Storytelling – Katie Felch + Kelsi Seubert
- B. Enrollment Update – Sarah Dillon

### INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- A. President's Report

- a. Student Representative Update – Grace Koehler
  - b. [Annual Affirmative Action Report](#) – Cher Vink
  - c. Board Development Topics for 2024-2025
  - d. Comments from Informational Update
- B. Chairperson’s Report
- a. Next Regular NTC Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
  - b. WTC DBA Fall Meeting: November 20-22, 2024 at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC - Appleton) + Zoom
- C. Information
- a. Save the Date: NTC Mid-Year Graduation Ceremony – Saturday, December 14
  - b. [Upcoming Meetings + Events](#)
  - c. [Good News](#)

## MEETING ADJOURN

## CAMPUS TOUR

Following adjournment of the Regular Meeting, NTC Board of Trustees will tour the Mobile CNA Lab. It is anticipated that a quorum of NTC Board of Trustees may be in attendance. No official Board business will be conducted.

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

*Mission: Northcentral Technical College enriches our communities by providing high quality learner and employer focused educational pathways that transform lives.*

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

**MEETING DATE:** September 17, 2024

**TOPIC:** Remodeling: Merrill – Community Safety Simulation Center (CSSC) Renovation

**POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers –** (2) Buildings and Equipment.  
(a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

**TCS 5.04 (4) (a)** A resolution of the district board approving the remodeling of existing facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the remodeling.

**INTERPRETATION:** Remodeling of existing facilities requires Board approval.

**DATA/RESULTS:** At its July 2023 meeting, the Board approved the purchase of the Merrill Rivers Edge property located southwest of the Public Safety Center of Excellence (PSCE). The property consists of a 4,800 sq. ft. metal building located on 1.03 acres. NTC is partnering with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) and the Pennsylvania School of Safety Institute (PSSI) to establish the NTC Community Safety Simulation Center (CSSC). This initiative aims to leverage advanced technology to enhance safety training in a state-of-the-art multiroom simulator with 360-degree augmented reality trains participants in de-escalation tactics and other critical safety skills. The Center will incorporate immersive simulations, similar to those used in NTC's Healthcare 4.0 initiative, which has successfully allowed students in various healthcare programs to collaborate in simulated real-world environments. By integrating these advanced technologies, the CSSC will provide learners with practical experience in a safe and controlled environment, helping to reduce errors and improve outcomes in real-world applications.

This project involves the creation of an advanced technology Center within a newly acquired facility, with training set to begin in Spring 2025. This Center will provide a collaborative space for multidisciplinary learners from district K-12 schools, healthcare organizations, and places of worship, allowing them to realistically experience and simulate the sights, sounds, and scenarios of both emergency and routine situations. The immersive technology will be a crucial tool in preparing law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, administrative and security personnel for real-world challenges. The overall budget for the renovation project is set not to exceed \$400,000. In order to begin construction this winter, the College will be requesting WTCS State Board approval at its November Board Meeting. The NTC Board is asked to approve the proposed renovation and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with the statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

Regular Voting Agenda

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board Approves the Merrill – Community Safety Simulation Center (CSSC) Renovation at a cost not to exceed \$400,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

**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: 9/17/2024

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

**MEETING DATE:** September 17, 2024

**TOPIC:** Receipts & Expenditures

**POLICY 1.1 – Presidential Expectations** – The President, in execution of his/her duties, shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is either irresponsible or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics, or that results in failure to be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

**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 **July 31, 2024** (preliminary).

**F1-F7 Revenue:** \$7,979,088.27

**F1-F7 Expense:** \$7,004,781.82

**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: September 17, 2024



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

**MEETING DATE:** September 17, 2024

**TOPIC:** Personnel Changes

**POLICY 1.1 – Presidential Expectations** – The President, in execution of his/her duties, shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is either irresponsible or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics, or that results in failure to be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

**INTERPRETATION:** NTC will follow Wisconsin Statute 38.12 (3) "The district board shall employ and fix the compensation..." and 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:

- Maggie Long – Academic Coach
- Melissa Slattery – Assistant, Dental Clinic
- Erin Elsner – Assistant Manager, Farm
- Rachael Meyer – Administrative Assistant, WTPD & Contracts
- Colyn Berg - Instructional Assistant, Substance Use Disorder Counseling & Human Services

Separations:

- Mary Lou Zettler – Technician, Simulation & Equipment

Retirements:

- Lee Huckbody - Groundskeeper

**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 9/17/2024

**5 Year Affirmative Action Plan –ANNUAL UPDATE**  
**Northcentral Technical College**  
**September 2024**

**EMPLOYEE – FOCUSED ACTIVITIES**

**Recruitment of Employees and Talent Sourcing**

- Utilization of recruitment sites like Wisconsin Diversity.com which cross-posts our job postings to groups or agencies that target underrepresented groups, such as veterans, minorities, etc.
- Diversity interview question(s) are included for all interviews.
- Collaborated over the last year on a project with marketing to create a diverse and welcoming recruitment landing page on NTC's website. This included videos and testimonials from a diverse cross-section of employees.

**Employee Development and Training**

- All hiring supervisors need to complete interview bias training and review the Recruitment Manual which includes additional information on bias, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- All new employees are required to complete an online New Employee Orientation module which consists of Title IX training and Sexual Harassment training.
- Library Services offers curated library resources and materials for equity and inclusion topics.
- NTC expanded the Virtual Center for Innovation and Inclusion this academic year. Faculty shared leading practices in equitable instructional techniques, inclusion, belonging and shared with their peers leading practices they were discovering and implementing in the classroom related to creating a sense of belonging
- The College's preferred publishing partner, Cengage Unlimited, conducts regular Diversity audits of all instructional materials it provides, ensuring an additional layer of inclusive quality assurance.
- Expanded ELL offerings throughout the region.
- Scaled a staff mentoring program to identify and communicate internal sources of knowledge, insight, and support to aid new hourly employees as they acclimate to the College.
- Continued expansion and utilization of Ally in Canvas to improve course accessibility.
- Incorporating accessibility/DEI into course development projects within the WIDS/Canvas Course Review
- Adding accessibility/DEI into the Faculty Levels Identification Program (FLIP) for all full-time faculty
- Relevant Think Tanks sessions facilitated by Academic Excellence
- Alignment of the WTCS FQAS competencies with training and workshops provided to faculty (full-time and adjunct)
- NTC Book Club SPRING 2024 "The Norton Guide to Equity-Minded Teaching"
- NTC Book Club FALL 2023: "Grading for Equity: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How It Can Transform Schools and Classrooms"
- Employee Training:
  - Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts
  - Faculty Professional Development - Magna Online 20 Minute Mentor Trainings offered weekly for all full-time and adjunct faculty
  - ACTE Conference
  - Teaching Professor Conference
  - Americans with Disabilities Act Training (ADA Training)
  - 19th Annual Mental Health & Substance Use Recovery Conference
  - Council for Advancement and Support of Education - Federal Funding Task Force (CASE - Federal Funding Task Force)

- Human Services/Substance Use Disorder Counseling State Called Meeting (Human Services/SUDC State Called Meeting)
- Waukesha County Technical College Legal Issues Conference (WCTC Legal Issues Conference)
- National At-Risk Education Network Conference (NAREN Conference)
- National Career Pathways Network National Career Pathways Conference (NCPN National Career Pathways Conference)
- Women's Leadership Network 2023 Fall Conference (WLN 2023 Fall Conference)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Applied Conference (DEI Applied Conference)
- Higher Learning Commission Conference (HLC Conference)
- Wisconsin Area Counseling Conference (WI Area Counseling Conference)
- Wisconsin Indian Education Association Conference (WIEA Conference)
- NAADAC 2024 Northwest Regional Conference on Indigenous Peoples: Awareness, Knowledge, and Cultural Practices
- Immigrant and Refugee Support Summit
- LGBTQ+ Allyship Safe Zone Training
- Wisconsin Technical College System Compliance Symposium (WTCS Compliance Symposium)
- Training: Complying with Final Pregnancy and Postpartum Accommodation Rules
- Workhuman Live Conference

As part of the Perkins Grant for 23-24, Achieving the Dream (ATD) was contracted to provide a comprehensive analysis of NTC's efforts to foster a Culture of Belonging. The Academic Excellence Team served as the Liaison between ATD and NTC. Key insights include:

- **Intentional Culture of Care:** ATD highlighted that NTC's culture of care is not accidental but intentional. The College consistently creates an environment where students feel respected, valued, and supported.
- **Sense of Belonging:** The Sense of Belonging Opportunity Assessment indicated that NTC is making significant strides in this area, though there is room for improvement to ensure consistency across all student groups, including regional, online, and evening students.
- **Inclusive Practices:** The call center's provision of Hmong and Spanish language options, as well as inclusive practices such as specialized tools for left-handed students and accommodations for expecting students, were commended. These efforts contribute to normalizing diversity and inclusion on campus.
- **Student and Faculty Integration:** There is a strong integration between faculty and advisors, which helps create a familial atmosphere in classrooms. This teamwork is visible to students, who feel safe and supported in seeking help.
- **Student Voice and Engagement:** The involvement of student voices in institutional practices, such as the Timberwolf Amazing Race, underscores the importance of engaging students in ways that resonate with them.
- **Contextualized Learning:** Faculty are using data to identify and address student needs, such as offering sociology courses at the farm for agriculture students which is recognized as a strength.
- **Professional Development:** ATD emphasized the importance of continuous professional learning for staff, suggesting that teams engage in regular assessments to ensure that their efforts have a meaningful impact.
- **Future Considerations:** ATD recommended conducting an audit of policies to ensure they support a sense of connection and belonging for all students.

By incorporating these insights into strategic planning and applying for relevant grants, NTC can continue to enhance its culture of belonging, ensuring that all students feel connected, valued, and supported throughout their academic journey.

### **Employee Data**

- Continued collection of voluntary disclosed employee data related to disability and veteran status through confidential electronic process that will be used for future reporting purposes.

### **STUDENT – FOCUSED ACTIVITIES**

#### **Recruitment of minority/Recruit and support ABE/ELL students' transition**

- NTC participated in three in-person Wisconsin Education Fairs during the 23-24 academic year.
- NTC hosted a Fall and Spring in-person open house experience with excellent attendance.
- The K12 Team continued to work with all NTC school districts to support minority students' postsecondary planning and enrollment. The Career Coaches and Pre-College Specialist has continued to work with districts and local organizations like Hmong American Center, Boys & Girls Club, and others to build relationships. These organizations serve traditionally more diverse students.
- Our Career Coach team has a dedicated staff member for point of contact at Alternative High School to increase efforts on collaboration/transition. Alt High has dedicated staff to help students with transition to NTC or into the workforce. In addition, we offer the Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program to all these schools and support them with both their postsecondary and employment efforts. Our YA program is growing and exceeding expectations.
- NTC's Alternative High School had 106 graduates receive their high school credential, a 27.4% increase from the 22-23 academic year. 135 post-secondary credits were simultaneously earned, up 37% from the 85 post-secondary credits earned the previous year. This increase is partly attributed to recent changes in offering the HSED 5.09 option that has created a more efficient path for students.
- The Phillips Campus and Medford Campus have a dedicated Career Coach to support rural areas that have a larger minority population.
- ELL classes continue to be offered at the Spencer campus, with enrollment on the rise.
- NTC started offering HSED and GED courses at the Community Partners Campus with the intent to start offering ELL courses soon.
- NTC partnered with Ethiopian Community Development Council and New Beginnings to establish a bridge between pre-literacy instruction and ELL courses at NTC for Afghan and other refugees (Africa).
- NTC's Academic Transitions Advisor supports and guides ABE/ELL students' transition into post-secondary coursework.
- Dual Credit courses continue to be offered at nearly all District high schools including schools with high minority populations such as Abbotsford, Menominee Indian HS, White Lake, Bowler, and Wittenberg. NTC also partners with many school districts to offer the Youth Apprenticeship program to their students.
- NTC staff and faculty participated in the Wisconsin Indian Education Association conference and the Hmong Wausau Festival.

#### **Recruit females into School of Engineering and Technology and School of Advanced Manufacturing and Transportation programs**

- Activities and events to promote programs were offered again in-person this year. Events for students to explore STEM careers included: Campus Open Houses, Build Your Future (Agriculture, Construction, and Transportation), Heavy Metal Tour, Welding competition, Wood Technology Discovery Days, and the Central Wisconsin Science and Engineering Festival.
- Wood Technology Development Days took place in October with 20 female students participating.
- NTC Fall Preview Day allowed female students to learn about and interact in different programs in STEM, including welding and manufacturing.

- The Phillips Campus hosted the 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Prentice and Chequamegon high schools and introduced approximately 100 students (both male and female) to programs and careers in welding, machine tool, diesel, health and public safety.
- The Heavy Metal Tour saw over 2,000 students attend the NTC Main Campus and community businesses event that allows students to learn about various careers in manufacturing.
- Groups from the Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, and Alternative High School came on campus to explore programs, as well as from various schools across the district. Activities were also held for students to explore Electrical Power and Gas Utility, and Engineering.
- NTC hosted several summer camps focusing on STEM careers such as Make it Real, Engineering STEM Camp, Young Women's Welding Workshop, and RoboCamp. These camps saw high levels of female participation.
- NTC Hosted a high school welding competition that received many entries from female students.
- NTC's partnership with Engineering Tomorrow hosted numerous events between September and May. There were a total of 16 groups with 536 students participating in an in-person Engineering Tomorrow program.
- Transportation Careers Night in January at Kocourek Subaru was a success with many females participating.
- Job-related workshops, employer presentations and mock interviews provided opportunities for females to meet others employed in the field.

#### **Recruitment of students' w/disabilities**

- The Testing & Accommodations Supervisor and/or other Access & Accommodations staff attended transition meetings in Taylor, Marathon, Price, and Langlade County to share resources and support/advise area high school Special Education staff.
- NTC Access & Accommodations staff attended IEP transition meetings at local high schools for students interested in continuing their education at NTC. Staff then support the high school students through the application and accommodations process prior to high school graduation.
- NTC Access & Accommodations staff attended transition fairs and special events to provide information to parents and students regarding transition from high school to college. Student receive information on accommodations, assistive technology, admissions, program selection, and more. This is an opportunity to talk with students that are thinking of attending NTC after high school and they can learn about the services and resources available to them.
  - NTC partnered again with the Marathon County Transition Committee, the Wausau School District and D.C. Everest School District to host a county-wide, in-person transition event.
  - NTC Access & Accommodations staff participated in a reverse job fair event at Medford School District. Students shared information about themselves, and Access & Accommodations staff participated in interviewing the students.
  - Staff attended a Keshena transition event, and four high schools participated.
- Access & Accommodations staff support accommodations for high school students participating in academies and Start College Now courses. Staff attends academy orientations to provide accommodation onboarding.
- The Testing & Accommodations Supervisor presented to local high schools and instructors of dual credit courses on transition services.
- The Testing & Accommodations Supervisor spoke at NTC School to Career meetings and Youth Apprenticeship meetings to share transition supports and post-secondary services to high school counselors, teachers, and YA coordinators.
- High Schools brought transitioning students to tour NTC and meet with Access & Accommodations staff.

### **Activities to support retention/completion of minority students/students with disabilities**

- Targeted outreach to students with disabilities who are transitioning for Fall 2024 began in late March and continued through the summer. The Access & Accommodations staff attended High School IEP meetings with incoming students.
- An orientation to Access & Accommodation Services occurred in Fall 2023 and was well attended. This in-person orientation will continue for students transitioning out of high school in the last two years. Students are introduced to NTC systems, Blackboard Ally resources, and other tools to support their success at NTC.
- Blackboard Ally continues to provide faculty awareness of their course accessibility. In addition to providing access resources to students, faculty can monitor their accessibility score and make improvements. The Testing & Accommodations Supervisor presented to faculty and curriculum design staff at Faculty Development Days in January 2024.
- The Center for Access & Accommodations continued to be included in the mandatory New Student Orientation for new students to learn how to receive accommodations and become familiar with support available as well as assistive technology. Staff also had a presence at open houses, student picnics, and resource fairs.
- Through targeted grant activities, minority students and students with disabilities continued to receive intensive advising/case management services. Advisors and the Access & Accommodations Staff access student progress information in Canvas, which supported better case management.
- Additional community support has been offered to students with disabilities by helping them establish services with DVR. Supports range from financial assistance, transportation assistance, individual skill development, and housing supports. DVR has also shared additional grants available to students with disabilities such as the *Career Pathways Initiative Grant*. Students with disabilities receive additional training and financial assistance through these grant programs.
- A Predictive Analytics model has been continued each 8-week term to identify students who may need additional support to be successful. Advisors, instructors and other staff provide outreach to identified students to determine if resources or assistance are needed.
- Mandatory advising continued for students in most programs.
- Timberwolf Ready sessions hosted by Student Life introduced new students to NTC systems: E-mail, Canvas, their My NTC student account, what is needed for class, learn how to read their schedule, etc.
- Expanded laptop loan and laptop scholarship opportunities continued to be available to students. Additional laptops were purchased in the 2023-2024 year to increase access across the entire NTC district. The Timberwolf Learning Commons now offers a rental kiosk for students to rent laptops/chargers during all NTC's open hours. 345 student laptop checkouts were recorded for the academic year.
- NTC awarded \$93,776 in student emergency funds during the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Student Life's Timberwolf Table's relocation to the main building is more accessible and has seen a large increase in customers. Pantry inventory can see a shift of approximately 150 items some weeks as students get their food needs met.
- Student Life offered scholarship application workshops to students in the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Student Life hosted nearly 450 student focused events throughout the academic year to create a sense of inclusion and belonging.
- Career Services hosted five job fairs, serving 348 students. Along with student life, they conducted 184 resume and cover letter reviews and 190 mock interviews to support program completion and workforce preparation. Career Services offers support on how to share disability information with potential employers.
- College 101 continued to be required for students to support their success in College and in life.

- The Academic Resource Center/Timberwolf Learning Commons offered workshops on Conducting Research, APA, Exam Study Tips, Writing, Math, Notetaking, Time Management, Active Reading, and Email Etiquette. This past year, the Writing Coach added weekly drop-in workshops to assist students with writing papers, research and APA style.
- The Access & Accommodations staff connect students individually with Academic Resource Center coaches and tutors and the iTEC staff and faculty to support their success.
- Starfish Early Alert included an intake form which helped identify students needing support services. Starfish was used for case management of all students, but also supports other initiatives including faculty advising, the Promise program, students using the Academic Resource Center, Access & Accommodations, and students taking Enhanced General Education courses.
- Academically disadvantaged students enrolled in the Enhanced General Education (EGE) courses, Written Communications and College Math, received additional support from a Transition Advisor. These students benefited from double the instructor time to help meet course requirements and are 20% more likely to complete the program compared to those who do not enroll in EGE courses.
- Instructional Assistants supported key low-completion or gatekeeper courses.

#### **Professional Development to build cultural competence and inclusive culture at NTC**

- Access & Accommodations staff attended the Equity and Excellence AHEAD Conference in July 2023 to understand current trends and updates in supporting students with disabilities and accommodations.
  - NTC sent four staff members to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual WTCS Compliance Symposium at Madison College in July 2023 that focuses on General Compliance, ADA/504, Clery/Student Safety, and Human Resources.
  - Staff attended the Wisconsin Indian Education Association (WIEA) Annual Conference in April 2024. This is the only state conference that specifically addresses Native American educational issues.
  - Mid-State Technical College - DEI Applied Conference in January 2024 was attended by NTC Instructional Designers to learn how to drive systemic change in topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
  - Faculty participated in a Fall book club (August 2023) “Grading for Equity: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How it Can Transform Schools and Classrooms” By Joe Feldman.
  - Faculty participated in a Spring book club (January 2024) reading *The Norton Guide to Equity-Minded Teaching* by Isis Artze-Vega, Flower Darby, et al.
  - During Spring Faculty Development Days, Guest Speaker Flower Darby presented to faculty on “The Three Es of Teaching with AI: Ethics, Equity, and Empowerment”
  - Access & Accommodations staff attended the Wisconsin AHEAD conference in November 2023, attending sessions and workshops directly related to equity, access, and inclusion.
  - The 2024 Teaching Professor Annual Conference provided faculty practical tools, innovative strategies, inspiration, and support tailored to unique challenges face by educators and students today.
  - The American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference in June 2024 was attended by the School of Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing Faculty/Staff to identify opportunities for increasing NTO students in NTC’s Engineering programs.
  - NTC Staff and students attended the Wisconsin Conference on Race and Ethnicity (WisCORE) in October 2023 which allowed students and staff to learn about best practices in DEI across WTCS.
  - Wiscore Encore Sessions offered three free virtual sessions open to members of the WTCS community, including students, in February, March, and April. NTC had participation and engagement from students, faculty and staff at all three sessions.
  - The NTC Library has 26 topical research guides on subjects describing support for students, faculty and staff to access.
  - NTC partnered with Achieving the Dream to explore how its structures, processes, and culture contribute to a sense of belonging for students on campus.
  - NTC hosted a 2-hour in-person LGBTQ+ Allyship Training for 16 Student Services staff members.
- Show



Date	Event	Troy Brown	Sherry Buntin	VACANT	Tom Felch	Renae Krings	Nathan Lehman	Charlie Paulson	Paul Proulx	Heather Renzelmann
<b>2024</b>										
<b>MONDAY July 8</b>	<b>Annual Organizational Meeting</b>	X	E		X	X	X	X	X	X
July 23	RFSC Groundbreaking Ceremony	X				X	X	X	X	X
<b>August 13</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>	X	X		E	X	X	X	E	E
September 10	WTCS State Board Meeting (NTC)	X	X		X		X		X	
September 10	WTCS State Board Dinner (Holiday Inn)				X		X		X	
September 11	WTCS State Board Meeting (NTC)				X	X			X	
<b>September 17</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b> <i>(9:00 a.m. start time)</i>									
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
<b>November 5</b>	<b>Board Retreat</b>									
November 20-22	WTC DBA Fall Meeting <i>(Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton)</i>									
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b> <i>(Lunch at 12:00 p.m. w/Foundation Board)</i>									
December 14	Graduation <i>(10:00 a.m. @ The Grand Theater)</i>									
<b>2025</b>										
<b>January 14</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
January 15-16	WTC DBA Legislative Seminar   Capitol Day <i>(Madison)</i>									
January 17	ACCT Governance Leadership Institute (GLI) <i>(Madison)</i>									
<b>February 11</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
<b>March 4</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b> <i>(Tentative: Antigo Campus)</i>									
April 10	WTCS Ambassador Banquet <i>(Wisconsin Dells)</i>									



April 11	DBA Trustees + Ambassadors Breakfast ( <i>Wisconsin Dells</i> )									
May 6	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
May 17	Graduation ( <i>10:00 a.m. @ Wausau West Fieldhouse</i> )									
June 3	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting ( <i>Public Budget Hearing at 12:15 p.m.   Lunch at approx. 12:30 p.m.   Regular Meeting at 1:00 p.m.</i> )									

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

## **Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation Provides \$2 Million to Technical College Dental Workforce Program Improvement**

*DDWI Foundation will provide matching funds to 14 WI technical colleges directed under Wisconsin Act 89 to expand statewide oral care access*

**Stevens Point, WI** – September 10, 2024 – Today, the Delta Dental of Wisconsin (DDWI) Foundation announced the distribution of matching funds to 14 Wisconsin technical colleges to fund the expansion of oral health workforce programs in the state.

In January, Governor Tony Evers signed Wisconsin Act 89 into law, which allocates \$20 million “for oral healthcare workforce initiatives set aside for the Wisconsin Technical College System in the Joint Finance Committee’s supplemental appropriation during the 2023-25 biennial budget process.” Each college was required to match 20% of their funding request to the Joint Finance Committee. To further its mission of expanding access to dental care, ensuring a strong dental workforce, and improving the oral health of underserved and vulnerable populations, the DDWI Foundation pledged to match a portion (up to \$2 million in aggregate) of the State's funding of colleges’ approved initiatives.

“Delta Dental of Wisconsin looks forward to continuing its partnership with technical colleges across Wisconsin in support of their oral health workforce programs,” said Shannon Semmerling, executive director, Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation.

“The Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation’s matching funds to the Wisconsin Technical College System, in support of Wisconsin Act 89, significantly expands the state’s dental workforce. This grant will allow us to introduce two advanced career fields – dental therapy and expanded function dental auxiliary (EFDA) programs – new to Wisconsin,” said Layla Merrifield, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System. “This generous matching fund, combined with the state’s budget appropriation, will help us address the impending wave of retirements in the dental profession. Adding mid-level professionals through dental therapy and EFDA and increasing the number of dental hygienists will enhance patient care and boost the oral health of our most vulnerable populations. Strong partnerships between technical colleges and Wisconsin employers continue to be a cornerstone of our state’s success – providing a competitive edge in economic and public health outcomes,” Merrifield added.

Nationally, surveys have shown that one-third of dental assistants and dental hygienists expect to retire within the next five years, hence the need to be proactive in fortifying the workforce to avoid oral care access issues. “The funding and subsequent program augmentations will go a long way to inspire oral health careers and ultimately help secure oral health accessibility for neighbors throughout Wisconsin,” said Semmerling.

Funds will primarily be used to establish nine new dental hygienist, dental assistant, dental therapy, or EFDA programs – and expand or improve 13 current programs – by purchasing additional equipment and facility improvements. Colleges receiving funds are:

- Blackhawk Technical College
- Chippewa Valley Technical College

- Fox Valley Technical College
- Gateway Technical College
- Lakeshore Technical College
- Madison Area Technical College
- Mid-State Technical College
- Milwaukee Area Technical College
- Northcentral Technical College
- Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
- Northwood Technical College
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- Waukesha County Technical College
- Western Technical College

Funds will be distributed to colleges through the summer. You can read more about each college's program request [here](#).

**About Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation**

For more than 60 years, Delta Dental of Wisconsin (DDWI) has been working to maintain healthy communities and healthy teeth. DDWI provides dental and vision benefits to businesses and individuals. Through its Foundation, DDWI is committed to advancing solutions for Wisconsin's oral health by initiating, collaborating with, and supporting programs that extend access to dental care, ensure a strong dental workforce, and improve the oral health of underserved and vulnerable populations.

Delta Dental of Wisconsin is headquartered in Stevens Point, with a sales office in Milwaukee. As part of the nationwide Delta Dental Plans Association, DDWI joins 38 other Delta Dental plans to serve more than 90 million Americans with dental insurance.

# Northcentral Technical College pioneering agriculture programs

Students utilizing the facility are exposed to the latest agriculture equipment, farming technology



NTC's Agriculture Center of Excellence is located at 6625 County Road K in Wausau.  
Submitted Photo

August 5, 2024

WAUSAU – Most two- and four-year technical colleges and universities offer a wide-range of agricultural programs, but Greg Cisewski – dean of Northcentral Technical College’s (NTC) School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities and Transportation – said the college offers something above and beyond.

Cisewski said NTC’s Agriculture Center of Excellence – the school’s 120-acre, fully operational dairy farm – provides opportunities for students to not only milk and care for the farm’s herd of dairy cows, but also grow all of their own crops for the animals.

The agriculture center, he said, is the only working dairy farm and learning laboratory in the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Though students at other schools may intern on local farms, at NTC, Cisewski said classes are held right at the farm – which is located about four miles from the school’s Wausau campus.

Cisewski said the decision for NTC to operate its own farm came in 2011 when leadership determined that in order to deliver wide-scale agriculture training, a school-owned farm was the best way to accomplish that.

“The idea here is we are creating some of the best ways to learn to create crops and produce dairy, and to take care of (our animals) and our environment,” he said. “We are to be the example that our producers can come to and learn from.”

Cisewski said NTC encourages producers/farmers to come to the farm and learn what “we are doing and see how it works for us.”

“Maybe they can take some of these tactics or principles back to their own farm and help them increase their profits and increase their sustainability (efforts) of not only their land, but of the farm and their lifestyle,” he said.

### **Various areas of farming**

Thanks to its collaboration with agriculture, government and education partners, Cisewski said the Agriculture Center of Excellence is able to provide the knowledge and skills needed to excel in the management of a herd, nutrition, crops, equipment, facilities and agri-business.

The center, he said, also features an apple orchard, pollinator plot, greenhouse and grow pod.

Cisewski said all of these resources serve as instructional aids for both learners and visitors.



Greg Cisewski said students are exposed to the latest agriculture equipment and precision farming technology – allowing them to take full advantage of the 120 acres of farmland to plant and harvest peas, oats, alfalfa, red clover, grass, turnips, radishes and corn. Submitted Photo

He said the college also continues to explore alternative sustainable energy services that could be implemented at the center in the future.

Students utilizing the facility, Cisewski said, are exposed to the latest agriculture equipment and precision farming technology – allowing them to take full advantage of the 120 acres of farmland to plant peas, oats, alfalfa, red clover, grass, turnips, radishes and corn, as well as larger crops unique to areas like North Central Wisconsin, like ginseng and cranberries.

“Students are responsible for everything from managing the soil to keep it healthy enough to grow a crop, to keeping the soil in the field where it belongs,” he said. “(They) do pest and disease management and weed management, and then the harvest and utilization for sale of that crop.”

Besides its own farmland, Cisewski said the school rents 100-150 acres from neighboring farmers every year to ensure they have enough crops for all its needs.

Dairy science program students, Cisewski said, are responsible for everything related to growing and managing a dairy herd.

He said the school’s farm has both lactating and dry Holsteins on it, but students are exposed to several types of dairy animals, including goats and different breeds of milking cows.

“Students learn how to be sure they’re feeding the animals with the proper nutrients, balancing their diet and feeding them the right things at the right times,” he said. “So, when they have their calves and start milking, they’re as healthy as they can possibly be, not only for the long-term survival of the cow and calf, but also so they can be producing a lot of milk.”

All the cows have activity collars on them, which Cisewski said measures things like how much the cows are eating; what their eating habits are, their rumination, when they’re in heat or when they’re not feeling well.

Milking of the cows is done by a robot, something Cisewski said is used on more and more of today’s farms.

Using a treat as an incentive, he said the cows are trained to enter the robot at the appropriate times – with some cows being milked as often as four or five times a day.

“The cows are trained to know when they have milk and how to get rid of the milk,” he said. “They enter the robot, which is programmed to know when the cows get milked and how much they should be milking.”

Cisewski said the robot gathers a lot of its information from the cows’ activity collars.

“The cows enter the milking robot, stand on a scale to get weighed, and a laser-guidance system attaches milking cups to the teats,” he said. “The cups disconnect from the cow at the designated time, the teats are sterilized and they leave the robot.”

Cisewski said NTC’s herd is averaging about 100 pounds of milk per cow per day.

“We study all aspects of a cow’s life from the moment it’s born to how to properly take care of them so that they have long, healthy, enjoyable lives,” he said. “We start building the data on a cow long before the animal is bred or before she has her first calf.”



Cisewski said students also track cows with the activity collars.

Between activity collars and the milking robot, he said students and farmers are able to spend more time caring for the cows or doing other chores on the farm.

Before robots, he said a farmer may have been in the field or baling hay and they'd have to stop to go milk the cows.

Today, Cisewski said, if there's a problem, the system can call or text the farmer.

In addition to receiving a pelleted feed in the robotic milking machine, Cisewski said the school's cows are fed a customized mixed ration consisting of corn silage, haylage, dry hay, straw, vitamins and minerals by the robotic feeder.

Those taking a tour of the center, he said, are able to watch the robotic milker in operation as cows are being milked.

The milk produced by the school's herd, Cisewski said, goes to a local cheese factory for processing.



The school's 120-acre, fully operational dairy farm provides students with the opportunity to milk and care for the farm's herd of dairy cows. Submitted Photo

The center has also integrated technology into its field spraying processes.

Instead of spraying fields with a tractor, Cisewski said the center uses drones.

Using a drone camera, he said, operators can identify weeds, then send in a different drone to spray the fields.

"All this equipment is autonomous," he said. "Even tractors today are almost able to drive themselves through the field. As our economy continues to grow, we're seeing more and more of a need for these types of tools to help our people produce more of whatever it is they're producing, with less time and less people."

These types of technologies, Cisewski said, allow the farming industry to keep producing.

“We’re trying to reduce the input and increase our yield so that we can make it more profitable for our farmers to farm,” he said. “As a result we’ll be able to keep more of them in business.”

### **Garden-to-market specialist program**

NTC’s one-year garden-to-market specialist course, Cisewski said, is designed for anyone interested in market gardening and fruit and vegetable production in a variety of agricultural settings.

Students develop skills to start their own enterprises growing produce and other agricultural products, he said, to sell, either as a business or a smaller income-producing hobby.

Hands-on and classroom training, Cisewski said, are offered in both a hoop house and greenhouse lab setting.

Though both structures are somewhat similar, he said a hoop house is often a less permanent structure – and is covered with plastic in order to extend the growing season.

“We’re able to plant the crop earlier in the year, harvest it, then replant another crop,” he said. “So, we’re able to grow two crops on the same space of soil.”

Cisewski said some of the crops grown on the school’s farm are sold locally and the money earned is put back into the program.

“It gives the student experience in selling what they’re growing, ensuring they have a competitive product and pricing,” he said.

Other crops grown on the farm, Cisewski said, are used in the school’s culinary program or at the school cafeteria.

And those that go unused, he said, are given to local food pantries.

Cisewski said the center also utilizes a Grow Pod – a 8’x20’-long retired shipping container outfitted with LED lights and climate-controlled so crops can be grown year-round.

“They’re grown hydroponically so all the nutrients are put into the water that is filtered through the plants’ root systems,” he said. “There’s no soil in there whatsoever, so there’s no pests in there and no mold that comes from the soil. The crops can be harvested year-round. A lot of places are stacking these containers next to each other and producing crops year-round for lots of people.”

### **Veterinary technician program**

Cisewski said NTC’s veterinary technician program certifies graduates to work alongside veterinarians and be able to do things such as assist with surgeries, prep animals for exams or procedures and doing other very important tasks that help the veterinarian be able to see more patients, faster.

At a time when the U.S. is short of both veterinarians and vet techs, Cisewski said this program is critical.

Students, he said, get an opportunity to learn on small animals, like dogs or cats, as well as large farm animals, as they provide care for the school’s farm animals.



## **Agronomy and agri-business**

Cisewski said NTC's agronomy program looks at the different crops grown in Wisconsin and teaches students to understand the basic principles of crop production, as well as perform soil sampling and utilize a nutrient management plan.

Graduates from this program, he said, may get jobs with cooperatives (co-ops) or feed companies and work with the farmers when they run into problems with their crops, soil, a loss in their profit, etc.



Hands-on and classroom training in NTC's garden-to-market specialist course, Greg Cisewski said, are offered in both a hoop house and greenhouse lab setting. Submitted Photo

"They're looking to save the farmer from having to put things on the field that aren't necessary and just give the crops what they need, when they need it so we can keep all the nutrients on the field and don't have things coming off the field that shouldn't," he said.

Cisewski said cooperatives or feed companies often own specialty pieces of equipment that their agronomist will take to a farm to help the farmer so he or she doesn't have to purchase their own equipment that may only get used once a year.

"They move from producer to producer at the time of year it's needed," he said.

NTC's agri-business program, Cisewski said, is designed for students interested in an agriculture career but, for various reasons, aren't interested in direct production agriculture.

In addition to agriculture, he said students are taught business principles for positions as an economist or manager making decisions and helping farmers manage their businesses.

## **Embracing AI, other technology**

Cisewski said NTC not only welcomes, but embraces the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technology in farming, both today and in the future.

In support of these efforts, Cisewski said he serves on the Governor's AI Task Force.

"We're really seeing a technological boom in the equipment that's out there, and we're trying to make sure our students are ready for that," he said. "The college has an initiative where we're committing funds and resources and working with

industry leaders to make sure our students are learning with the latest and greatest techniques, technology and pieces of equipment.”

Cisewski said NTC strives to be on the leading edge of the technology game.

“We definitely want to be that resource for our community to come see the latest and greatest, and to train our students for the future,” he said.

For more on NTC’s Agriculture Center of Excellence, visit [ntc.edu](http://ntc.edu).

# Listening to, acting on the needs of the region's workforce, students

NTC adds Respiratory Therapy, Funeral Services to its associate's degree roster



**Rachel Sankey**  
Staff



In response to the needs of the region's workforce, Angela Roesler said NTC started two new associate's degree programs this fall – one of them being respiratory therapy. Photo Courtesy of NTC

September 2, 2024

WAUSAU – As a higher education institution, Angela Roesler – dean of the school of Health Sciences & Community Services at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) – said there are two key pieces of the college puzzle that must always be kept in mind:

- What's best for its students
- Making sure it's meeting the demands of the region's workforce

That's why, Roesler said, NTC introduced two new degree programs at the start of the fall 2024 semester: a Respiratory Therapy associate's degree and a Funeral Services associate's degree.

"For any new program, we work with our community partners to see what they need, where the workforce is at and maybe what gaps are in the workforce," she said.

Both programs launched last month.

### **Respiratory Therapy**

The decision to start a Respiratory Therapy (RT) program, Roesler said, came out of a request from local health partners to assess the long-term viability of an RT program.

"When we look at (adding programs, we say), 'yes, there's an immediate need, but is there a sustainable need, because of the expense of starting new programs,'" she said. "So, we worked with our local healthcare agencies (to learn more)."

Roesler said NTC also surveyed neighboring districts to see what programs they're offering to be aware of any possible competing courses.

"That's just the WTCS (Wisconsin Technical College System) process," she said.

Once NTC verifies the need – again, in this case, RT – then Roesler said, the next step is to work with the college's leadership to look at the new program as a whole.

"Where should it live? What's it going to take to get it started?" she said. "It's about a two-year process once we get going, because once we're committed, we then work with accrediting bodies to get the program accredited so students who graduate can take their certification exam."

Roesler said NTC received provisional accreditation this summer from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.

The first cohort of RT students that recently started, she said, will start with some anatomy and physiology classes – "because basically all of our health programs (take) foundational courses of really learning how the human body works."

Students, Roesler said, will also be able to begin some of their core classes for RT as well.

"The foundations of respiratory therapy classes are what they'll take this fall," she said. "There are two classes, and the focus is just learning the respiratory system, what impacts patients who maybe have respiratory complications and learning the very basic assessment and identification of issues," she said.

Some of the other courses for the program include:

- Respiratory pharmacology, which goes through pharmacology principles, drug dosage and calculations
- Respiratory life support, which focuses on the management of adult ventilatory support
- Respiratory neo/peds care, which delves into neonatal and pediatric respiratory care



All the general courses for the Respiratory Therapy associate's degree can be completed at any of NTC's campuses (Wausau, Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer and Wittenberg) or online, but Roesler said all labs for the program need to be completed at the college's main campus in Wausau where the respiratory lab is located.

"We want to make sure that students who are coming into RT can get some of the classes online if possible, where it's appropriate, but then also have hands-on (experience)," she said. "RT is obviously a very hands-on, patient-care focused program, so we want to make sure that (students) are on campus and in our RT lab space."



Since launching the Respiratory associate's degree, Angela Roesler said the first cohort has already filled up – and even included an additional student. Photo Courtesy of NTC

In total, to receive their associate's degree, Roesler said RT students must complete 64 credits to graduate.

They must also have a current Basic Life Support CPR certification from the American Heart Association or American Red Cross to start program courses.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the estimated wage for a respiratory therapist in Wisconsin is around \$38.25 per hour, or \$79,110 annually.

### **Funeral Services**

The Funeral Services associate's degree, Roesler said, will run a bit differently than the RT program – and not just because they lead to different career paths.

The degree program, she said, is in partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), which means students can join the program through either campus, take their general studies classes with NTC and then finish their degree with MATC.

“(Funeral services) has been one that we’ve been monitoring for a while, really looking at the need in the area, and then the viability of the program long-term,” she said.

Students in the funeral services program, Roesler said, can expect to knock out their standard general education classes in their first year, such as English, psychology and sociology.

Then, the core classes, she said, are completed at MATC, which include:

- Funeral service field experience
- Laws, rules and regulations of funeral service
- Embalming theory
- Funeral service science
- Restorative art lab

Roesler said students will need between 66-67 credits to complete the program.

Once students have their associate’s degree, she said they will be eligible to take the National Board exam for funeral directors, which is required for licensure.

On average – according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – an embalmer earns about \$21.86 per hour in the State of Wisconsin, or \$45,480 per year.

Morticians, undertakers and funeral arrangers are estimated to make about \$25.83 per hour, or \$53,720 annually, on average.

### **Continually meeting needs**

As a community college, Roesler said NTC’s whole existence is based on working with its community partners to meet the region’s workforce needs.

“We want to make sure we’re right at the center of meeting their needs so that students can come here, get their degree and stay here and serve our community,” she said.

Roesler said it’s also important for NTC to be offering classes and programs that students want to take.

“We listen to our students,” she said. “So, if we see an increasing demand, or students calling and asking about programs that raises our awareness that maybe we need to look into something.”

Sometimes, Roesler said, the volume of the demand takes NTC by surprise.

“With RT, I can say specifically that really was our community partners’ demand – it was really a health workforce request,” she said. “What we found out is, once we actually opened (the program) up, we started with a full cohort plus one, because there was that much demand in the community for the program.”

Roesler said the college was “really excited” about the turnout, “because you don’t always start programs full.”

“We actually had 13 qualified students who wanted to start this fall, so we went ahead and opened it up to one more student so that we could get all of the students who were qualified to start right away,” she said.

A new cohort for RT, she said, will begin next year in fall 2025.

When it comes to the Funeral Services program, Roesler said it's more flexible on NTC's end when it comes to class size.

"We can serve as many students as we need to serve with gen ed (courses)," she said. "Once they start that second year, then it would be an MATC process for students to get a seat there."

However, Roesler said it's important to note that NTC helps connect funeral services students with MATC right away.

"We help connect them with the right people, and help them get all of their paperwork in so that they have a seamless transition," she said. "We try to make that as easy as possible for our students."

To learn more, visit [ntc.edu](http://ntc.edu).

Neillsville, Clark County Press

## Seven ladies from Clark County vie for 'Fairest of the Fair'

By June Thompson

The Clark County Fair will be held August 7 – 11 at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Neillsville. In years past, one lady will be crowned the "Fairest of the Fair."

This year there are seven ladies from Clark County competing for the opportunity to be "Fairest of the Fair" for 2024-2025.

"Fairest of the Fair" committee, Janalee Kapusta, Trena Abbott and Jaidyn Teschner, assisted the contestants, helping them prepare for interviews and photos.

"I would love the girls to be

themselves and have fun with this amazing experience," said Kapusta, coordinator of "Fairest of the Fair." "No matter who walks away with a crown or who doesn't, it shows incredible strength and courage to run for the 'Fairest of the Fair.' There are so many opportunities to grow as individuals, and I hope they take the opportunity to soak it all in."

Amanada Durrstein was a contestant for "Fairest of the Fair" last year (2023-2024) and placed as first attendant. She is a contestant again for "Fairest of the Fair."

Durrstein is 20 years old. She is from Greenwood and was crowned Miss Greenwood 2021-2022.

"I wanted to run again. I enjoy being royalty," she said. "I want to encourage kids to try new things."

Durrstein works for PetSmart Veterinary Services in Wausau. Her goal is to be a veterinary technician. "I'd like to breed and train horses. I can continue to work and get hands-on experience." Her sponsor is K & S Logistics & Carriers in Greenwood.

Emma Moen is from Neillsville. She is 19 and a contestant for the "Fairest of the Fair." If she is crowned, Moen would like to help her community and help at the fair. She attends University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, majoring in accounting. She works for Unity Bank in Neillsville.

"I like anything outside,"

See FOF, page 3



June Thompson/Clark County Press

The Clark County Fair will be held Aug 7-11 at the Clark County Fairgrounds. Seven contestants vie for the title of Fairest of the Fair. They are (l-r): Ruby Kilmer, Laela Scott, Aspen Hagen, Lizzy Reinart, Ella Raatz and Emma Moen.

## Historic county bridge faces closure

By Edward DuBois

Bock had been informed



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she said. "Hiking, biking and snowboarding in winter." Moen's sponsor is Unity Bank.

Aspen Hagen is from Loyal, and she is also 19. She is a contestant for the "Fair-est of the Fair." "I want to be an advocate for the Clark County Fair, share my fair stories, and inspire someone else to run for the "Fairest of the Fair," she said. "I attend North Central Technical College in Wausau. My majors are dairy science agriculture and business. I want to get a job in dairy nutrition."

Hagen's goal is to raise dairy cows and continue to participate in the Clark County Fair. Her sponsor is Allied Cooperative.

Ella Raatz is from Colby. She is 17 years old and a contestant for "Fairest of the Fair." "I want to promote the small-town fair. We have a lot to offer," said Raatz. "I want to help people get involved in the fair. I've grown up showing projects at the fair."

Raatz enjoys photography, and baking. She plans on attending the University of Madison or River Falls to study dairy science. "I hope to get a job in the dairy industry," she said. Her sponsor is Ace Hardware.

Ruby Kilmer is from Thorp and is 19 years old. She is another contestant for "Fairest of the Fair." Kilmer was Miss Thorp in 2022-2023.

"I want to gain experience to help with social/personal skills by meeting

people through parades and events," she said.

Kilmer is studying early childhood at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "I like kids; sometimes too much," she said. Her hobbies are reading and cash crop. Kilmer's sponsor is FairBridge Inn & Suites.

Lizzy Reinart is from Neillsville and is 19 years old. She is a contestant for "Fairest of the Fair." "I didn't know much about the fair, but I'd like to promote all the events at the fair," Reinart said. She likes photography and baking. Her goal as "Fairest of the Fair" is "making sure the fair is all promoted with more participation," she said. "People can utilize their talents with arts and crafts."

Reinart plans to attend Chippewa Valley Tech School and study paralegal. Her sponsor is Genteman Enterprises.

Another contestant for "Fairest of the Fair" is Laela Scott from Neillsville. She is 17 years old.

"I would like to educate other communities about the Clark County Fair," she said. Scott's hobbies are archery, baking, cooking, reading historical fiction, hiking, kayaking and training dogs. Her goal is to attend college and figure out what she wants to pursue in the medical career. Her sponsor is Grit Nutrition.

The "Fairest of the Fair" coronation will be held Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

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## Superintendent's Corner

### School District of Athens

This month, I am happy to co-author this article with my colleague, Mrs. Robin Hanson who serves as the Maple Grove Charter School Principal. We wish to share information with our community regarding the Walter and Mabel Fromm and Sylvia Woller Scholarships.

The Walter and Mabel Fromm Scholarship Fund was established on July 12, 1976, and created as a living trust, through the sale of \$500,000 in Fromm Bros. Inc. stock. The trust was originally funded by the income generated from this half million dollar investment. The Walter and Mabel Fromm Scholarship amount awarded to students can vary each year, and is based upon available assets.

The scholarship criteria are broken into three categories: Class I, Class II, and Class III.

**Class I:** Students accepted in a four year degree full-time program in any accredited college or university located in the state of Wisconsin who meet the following requirements:

- Attended all grades available at Maple Grove School, beginning with grade one, and a graduate of Maple Grove;

- Attended all remaining grades in the Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens, through grade twelve, and a graduate of Merrill High School or Athens High School; and

- Maintained a 3.0 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale while attending grades nine through 12 in the Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens.

- Was a resident of the Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens.

**Class II:** Students accepted in a four year degree full-time program in any accredited college or university located in the State of Wisconsin who meet the following requirements:

- Attended all of the highest grades available at Maple Grove School, and a graduate of Maple Grove.

- Attended all remaining grades in the Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens, through grade twelve, and a graduate of Merrill High School or Athens High School; and

- Maintained a 3.0 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale while attending grades nine through 12 in the Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens.

- Was a resident of the Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens.

**Class III:** Students accepted in a full-time two year degree or associate program at [Northcentral Technical College](#), Wausau, or some other technical college within the Wisconsin Technical College System, provided the program desired by the student is not offered at [NTC](#)-Wausau, and who otherwise meet all Class I and Class II student requirements with preference given to students who meet all Class I requirements.

Based upon an unanimous vote by the scholarship committee, the criteria included in the three classifications will need to be adjusted during the 2027-2028 school



**Andrea  
Sheridan**

year, to remove all reference to the Merrill Area Common Public School District beginning with the 2028-2029 school year.

The scholarship committee has recommended a proposed change which is currently being reviewed by the US Bank lawyers associated with the Walter and Mabel Fromm Scholarship Fund:

- Proposed amendment: All open enrolled students would be eligible for the scholarship if they meet all other Class I and Class II requirements.

The Sylvia Woller Memorial Scholarship Fund started as a Parent and Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored project in the fall of 1966 by Virginia and Ben Punke and Sylvia and Emil Woller. Virginia and Sylvia were teachers at Maple Grove during this time, and it was called the Maple Grove Scholarship.

In 1968, Sylvia Woller was a kindergarten teacher at Maple Grove, and an art teacher for the Merrill School District. One day returning from Merrill she was involved in an accident one half mile from her home, and she passed away. The award committee decided to change the name of this scholarship to honor her memory, and it has since been called the Sylvia Woller Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship guidelines were established for those graduates who do not receive other financial aids or scholarships, and yet have a desire to continue their education, and further develop their skills. In 1991, the [NTC](#) Foundation assumed responsibility for the Sylvia Woller Memorial Scholarship.

Students chosen to receive this scholarship must attend [NTC](#) in Wausau.

- Graduating seniors from Athens High School or Merrill High School must have attended Maple Grove Charter School in grades one through five.

- Attended Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens, sixth through twelfth grades, and a graduate of Merrill High School or Athens High School.

- The student was a resident of the Merrill Area Common Public School District or School District of Athens.

- Graduating seniors who receive the Walter & Mabel Fromm Scholarship are not eligible to receive the Sylvia Woller Memorial Scholarship.

- Any student attending Maple Grove Charter School in the 2021-2022 school year in grades one through four and attending Maple Grove Charter School through the 5th grade, and graduating from Athens High School or Merrill High School (12th grade) will be eligible for the Sylvia Woller Memorial Scholarship year ending 2033.

Information regarding scholarship application criteria can be found on the School District of Athens website, [athens1.org](#). If you have specific questions regarding either scholarship, please email Mrs. Hanson at [rhanson@athens1.org](mailto:rhanson@athens1.org).

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## Clark County Fairest of the Fair candidates



Amanda Durrstein



Aspen Hagen



Ruby Kilmer



Lizzy Reinart



Laela Scott



Emma Moen



Ella Raatz

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Seven young ladies are vying for the title of Clark County Fairest of the Fair this year. The coronation ceremony will be held at the fairgrounds, 1121 E. Division St., Neillsville, on Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. From top left:

– Durrstein, from Greenwood, is enrolled at Northcentral Technical College and studying to be veterinary technician.

– Hagen, from Loyal, is enrolled at Northcentral Technical College, majoring in dairy science and agribusiness.

– Kilmer, from Thorp, is enrolled in the Aspiring Educators program at UW-Stevens Point.

– Reinart, from Granton, will begin her college education this August at Chippewa Valley Technical College for paralegal studies.

– Scott, from Neillsville, attends Neillsville High School and plans to pursue a career in the medical field after graduating.

– Moen, from Neillsville, attends UW-La Crosse, studying accounting.

– Raatz will be a senior at Colby High School this year. After high school, she plans to attend a UW school to major in dairy science.





# Business in Brief

## In The Lite Electric wins Badger Craftsman Award

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN – ITL Automations – a division of In The Lite Electric – won the 2024 Badger Craftsman Award for Best Smart Home from the Wisconsin Builders Association.

ITL Automations was recognized for its lighting and home automation project.

“We are honored to bring our second Badger Craftsman award home to North Central Wisconsin,” Daniel Langhoff, co-owner of In The Lite Electric, said.

The award was accepted at the Celebration of Housing event in Wisconsin Rapids.

## Keller, Inc. builds for Viroqua fire department, Rhinelander chamber

VIROQUA/RHINELANDER – Keller, Inc. has been chosen as the architect and construction manager on a 26,000-square-foot ground-up fire station project for the Viroqua fire department, located at 911 Nelson Parkway.

Department representatives said the new station is needed because the current facility lacks modern-day safety measures, such as a decontamination room, a turnout gear room and sufficient space to accommodate growing needs.

Keller will also serve as architect and general contractor/builder on an office remodel building project for Rhinelander Area Chamber of

Commerce located at 450 W. Kemp St.

## Mid-State celebrates first dental assistant program grads

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The inaugural cohort of Mid-State Technical College’s dental assistant technical diploma finished their coursework this June, making them the first five students to graduate from the program.

This 16-credit program was free to participants thanks to a grant provided by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Allied Health Professional Education and Training Grant.

Elizabeth Eades of Wisconsin Rapids, one of the graduates, said the dental field didn’t

interest her at first – but being let go from her previous employer – she decided it was time for a change and applied.

“My first day, I was in love, and every day after, my love grew more and more for dentistry and it was soon a passion,” Eades said.

Daniel Wall, dean of the School of Allied Health, said the demand for dental professionals in the area is high, and this program and its graduates are working to fill that need.

## NTC receives firefighter grant

WAUSAU – Northcentral Technical College

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(NTC) was one of four recent recipients of a \$25,000 Youth Firefighter Training grant from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

College representatives said the grant will help fund NTC's Youth Firefighter Academy, a new program that will train high school students to be firefighter level 1 volunteers/employees and prepare them for the Emergency Medical Responder certification exam.

Next year, NTC will train up to six high school students to be firefighter level 1 volunteers or employees.

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**Finance**

**Prevail Bank** recently named **Luke Champine** as the branch manager of its Wausau location. Champine comes to Prevail as an experienced bank manager and commercial loan professional, with expertise in customer service, professional development, operations management, team building and strategic planning/execution.

**Gabby Thurs** has joined **Forward Insurance** as an insurance agent serving Forward clients in the Athens area. Thurs joins a team of more than 20 serving rural Northern and Central Wisconsin. Before joining the insurance industry, Thurs accumulated 10 years of experience in the financial industry, primarily on the mortgage side.

**First State Bank** recently appointed **Brooke R. Sprang** as its new senior vice president of human resources. Her career in human resources management spans nearly 15 years, most recently serving as director of human resources at AmeriCollect, Inc. in Manitowoc. Sprang earned a bachelor's degree in human resources management and a master's degree in management and organizational development from Silver Lake College. In her new role at First State Bank, Sprang will oversee all aspects of human resources, including recruitment, succession planning, learning and development and compliance. She will also play a role in driving the bank's strategic initiatives, with a focus on employee engagement and culture.

**Accounting**

**CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP)** recently announced career advancements for professionals across the country, including seven in North Central Wisconsin. The individuals advancing include:

- **Angelica Krautkramer**, director (Wausau)
- **Brian Palm**, director (Wausau)
- **Gregory Erdahl**, BizOps assistant controller (Wausau, not pictured)
- **Haylee Glauner**, BizOps staff (Wausau)
- **Mary Strand**, BizOps chief financial officer (Wausau)
- **Teryn Lau**, wealth advisor (Stevens Point)
- **Trevor Braatz**, senior (Stevens Point)

**Legal**

**Ruder Ware** recently welcomed Attorney **Morgan Sweeney** to its team. After completing her undergraduate degree, Sweeney worked as a legal assistant at Ruder Ware as she contemplated law school. She recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School-Madison. In her new role at Ruder Ware, Sweeney will counsel employers on every aspect of federal and state employment laws, review employer wage and hour practices and draft employee handbooks, separation agreements, disciplinary memoranda, affirmative action plans, employment contracts, non-compete agreements and independent contractor agreements.

**Manufacturing**

**Steel King Industries**, a storage rack and material handling product manufacturer, recently named **Craig Heil** to the newly created position of specialty products manager. Heil joined Steel King in 2006 as an inside sales associate and also worked within the company's dynamic products group before becoming manager of Steel King's container, portable rack and custom shipping rack sales. In this new role, Heil will focus on building and leading a team dedicated to combining and growing these key product areas, to capitalize on market opportunities and enhance product offerings.



Champine



Thurs



Sprang



Krautkramer



Palm



Glauner



Strand



Lau



Braatz



Sweeney



Heil



Bredlau



Beck



Hastings



Bauer



Adams-Burkley



Onan



Harder



Engel



Strasser



Damerell



Colby



Lis



Klug



Clark



Foemmel



Keeku



Pankratz



Mueller



Rogalski



Miller



Stratman

**Health Care**

**Marnie Bredlau** recently joined **North Central Health Care** as director of human resources. Bredlau brings with her 22 years of experience in human resources, with 10 years serving as a human resources leader in the Central Wisconsin area. Bredlau will also serve as a member of the senior leadership team. Bredlau earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in human resources and labor relations from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Marshfield Clinic Health System** recently welcomed **Mark Beck**. As a pediatric surgery physician assistant, Beck sees pediatric patients for general surgery, including gastrostomy tube (G-tube) care and placements, abscesses, pilonidal disease, ileocecal tubes, appendicitis, gallbladder disease and post-operative care. He received his Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**ThedaCare** recently added Licensed Professional Counselor **Michelle Hastings** to its behavioral health team in Waupaca. Hastings works with patients aged 18 and older and specializes in depression, anxiety, ADHD, grief and navigating major life changes and transitions. She is trained in EMDR, an effective treatment modality for processing trauma and difficult life experiences. Hastings completed her postgraduate training at Capella University and is certified by the National Board of Certified Counselors.

**Scott Bauer** has joined the provider team at **Marshfield Clinic Wausau Center**. As a board-certified optometrist, Bauer offers comprehensive eye exams and helps patients with glasses and contacts, dry eye treatment and eye disease management. He sees patients five years and older.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker **Laura Adams-Burkley** has joined the team at **ThedaCare Behavioral Health-Waupaca**. Adams-Burkley completed her postgraduate studies at the University of Nebraska.

**North Central Health Care (NCHC)** recently appointed **Thomas Onan** as compliance officer and risk manager. Onan joined NCHC's quality and safety team in 2022, bringing with him almost 30 years of experience in health care, including past leadership experience as a director of clinical services, director of hospital-based clinician services and director of strategic initiatives & analysis. In the new role, Onan will establish and maintain effective compliance and risk management programs to proactively prevent and identify potential violations and ensure NCHC's adherence to regulatory compliance and ethical conduct. Onan will report directly to the executive director and work closely with the North Central Community Services Program Board's Executive Committee.

**Agriculture**

**Kalyna Harder**, who graduated in May from the dairy science program at **North Central Technical College (NTC)**, will serve as a national vice president on the Board of Directors for **Professional Agricultural Students (PAS)**. PAS is an organization dedicated to developing students in agriculture-related fields for the workplace through participation in employment experience programs, skillset development, network opportunities and organizational activities. Harder competed against 10 other students from across the nation, and this marks the sixth consecutive year **NTC** has had an officer on the national PAS board. She also served as the state president for PAS this year. Harder began her postsecondary education at a four-year institution, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, her lab-based classes were moved online, and she transferred to **NTC**. She first completed the veterinary technician associate degree, and then earned an associate's degree in dairy science earlier this year.

**Recognitions**

Several **Forward Bank** employees from various locations celebrated their work anniversaries recently. They include:

- **Tracy Engel** – four years (Athens)
- **Audra Strasser** – eight years (Marshfield)
- **Chris Damerell** – eight years (Marshfield)
- **Joshua Colby** – one year (Marshfield)
- **Lisa Lis** – one year (Marshfield)
- **Brooke Klug** – three years (Marshfield)
- **Dave Clark** – 14 years (Medford)
- **Becca Foemmel** – two years (Marshfield)
- **Jaimie Keeku** – two years (Stanley)
- **Chase Pankratz** – two years (Marshfield)
- **Chris Mueller** – 17 years (Marshfield)
- **Tori Rogalski** – five years (Stanley)
- **Jes Miller** – eight years (Marshfield)

**Erik Stratman**, a dermatologist at Marshfield Medical Center, recently received the **2024 C. Todd Stewart Clinical Excellence Award**. The

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Durst

award honors the legacy of Dr. Charles Todd Stewart, who died suddenly at age 48 while serving as Marshfield Clinic vice president. Stratman has been with the Health System for more than 20 years. He serves as the service line medical director for dermatology and is the



Strenn

dermatology resident program director. Stratman was recognized for his commitment to improving the lives of patients, which was showcased by the 2003 outbreak of Monkeypox that impacted dozens of people in a local community.

**Susie Durst** recently celebrated her 45th anniversary with the **Marshfield Clinic Health System**. Durst was hired as a medical transcriptionist in 1979. Her role has shifted a bit over the years and she now serves as medical secretary team lead in Mosinee.

**Nonprofit**

**Julie Strenn**, president/CEO of Opportunity

Development Centers, Inc. (ODC), has been selected to join **The IRIS Advisory Committee** (IAC). IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) is a self-directed state program supporting adults with disabilities and the elderly to have the freedom to make their own life decisions. The IAC is a group established to provide recommendations to the Department of Health Services on programmatic issues related to the administration of the IRIS program. Strenn has more than 25 years of experience in long-term care, having worked for provider agencies, managed-care organizations and state and local government agencies, including the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



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## Northcentral Technical College pioneering agriculture programs

Students utilizing the facility are exposed to the latest agriculture equipment, farming technology

by Cheryl Hentz

WAUSAU — Most two- and four-year technical colleges and universities offer a wide-range of agricultural programs, but Greg Cisewski — dean of Northcentral Technical College's (NTC) School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities and Transportation — said the college offers something above and beyond.

Cisewski said NTC's Agriculture Center of Excellence — the school's 120-acre, fully operational dairy farm — provides opportunities for students to not only milk and care for the farm's herd of dairy cows, but also grow all of their own crops for the animals.

The agriculture center, he said, is the only working dairy farm and learning laboratory in the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Though students at other schools may intern on local farms, at NTC, Cisewski said classes are



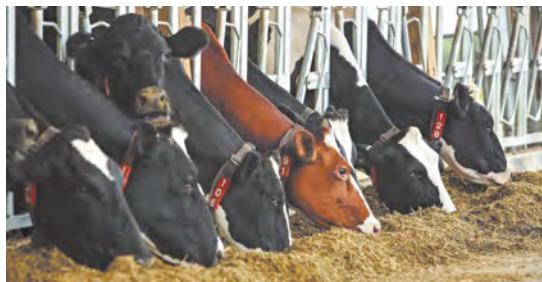
NTC's Agriculture Center of Excellence is located at 6625 County Road K in Wausau. Submitted Photos

government and education partners, Cisewski said the Agriculture Center of Excellence is able to provide the knowledge and skills needed to excel in the management of a herd, nutrition, crops, equipment, facilities and agri-business.

The center, he said, also features an apple orchard, pollinator plot, greenhouse and grow pod.

Cisewski said all of these resources serve as instructional aids for both learners and visitors.

He said the college also continues to explore alternative sustainable energy services that could be implemented at the center in the future.



The school's 120-acre, fully operational dairy farm provides students with the opportunity to milk and care for the farm's herd of dairy cows.

held right at the farm — which is located about four miles from the school's Wausau campus.

Cisewski said the decision for NTC to operate its own farm came in 2011 when leadership determined that in order to deliver wide-scale agriculture training, a school-owned farm was the best way to accomplish that.

"The idea here is we are creating some of the best ways to learn to create crops and produce dairy, and to take care of (our animals) and our environment," he said. "We are to be the example that our producers can come to and learn from."

Cisewski said NTC encourages producers/farmers to come to the farm and learn what "we are doing and see how it works for us."

"Maybe they can take some of these tactics or principles back to their own farm and help them increase their profits and increase their sustainability (efforts) of not only their land, but of the farm and their lifestyle," he said.

### Various areas of farming

Thanks to its collaboration with agriculture,

Students utilizing the facility, Cisewski said, are exposed to the latest agriculture equipment and precision farming technology — allowing them to take full advantage of the 120 acres of farmland to plant peas, oats, alfalfa, red clover, grass, turnips, radishes and corn, as well as larger crops unique to areas like North Central Wisconsin, like ginseng and cranberries.

"Students are responsible for everything from managing the soil to keep it healthy enough to grow a crop, to keeping the soil in the field where it belongs," he said. "(They) do pest and disease management and weed management, and then the harvest and utilization for sale of that crop."

Besides its own farmland, Cisewski said the school rents 100-150 acres from neighboring farmers every year to ensure they have enough crops for all its needs.

Dairy science program students, Cisewski said, are responsible for everything related to growing and managing a dairy herd.

He said the school's farm has both lactating and dry Holsteins on it, but students are exposed

to several types of dairy animals, including goats and different breeds of milking cows.

"Students learn how to be sure they're feeding the animals with the proper nutrients, balancing their diet and feeding them the right things at the right times," he said. "So, when they have their calves and start milking, they're as healthy as they can possibly be, not only for the long-term survival of the cow and calf, but also so they can be producing a lot of milk."

All the cows have activity collars on them, which Cisewski said measures things like how much the cows are eating; what their eating habits are, their rumination, when they're in heat or when they're not feeling well.

Milking of the cows is done by a robot, something Cisewski said is used on more and more of today's farms.

Using a treat as an incentive, he said the cows are trained to enter the robot at the appropriate times — with some cows being milked as often as four or five times a day.

"The cows are trained to know when they have milk and how to get rid of the milk," he said. "They enter the robot, which is programmed to know when the cows get milked and how much they should be milking."

Cisewski said the robot gathers a lot of its information from the cows' activity collars.

"The cows enter the milking robot, stand on a scale to get weighed, and a laser-guidance system attaches milking cups to the teats," he said. "The cups disconnect from the cow at the designated time, the teats are sterilized and they leave the robot."

Cisewski said NTC's herd is averaging about

100 pounds of milk per cow per day.

"We study all aspects of a cow's life from the moment it's born to how to properly take care of them so that they have long, healthy, enjoyable lives," he said. "We start building the data on a cow long before the animal is bred or before she has her first calf."

Cisewski said students also track cows with the activity collars.

Between activity collars and the milking robot, he said students and farmers are able to spend more time caring for the cows or doing other chores on the farm.

Before robots, he said a farmer may have been in the field or baling hay and they'd have to stop to go milk the cows.

Today, Cisewski said, if there's a problem, the system can call or text the farmer.

In addition to receiving a pelleted feed in the robotic milking machine, Cisewski said the school's cows are fed a customized mixed ration consisting of corn silage, haylage, dry hay, straw, vitamins and minerals by the robotic feeder.

Those taking a tour of the center, he said, are able to watch the robotic milker in operation as cows are being milked.

The milk produced by the school's herd, Cisewski said, goes to a local cheese factory for processing.

The center has also integrated technology into its field spraying processes.

Instead of spraying fields with a tractor, Cisewski said the center uses drones.

Using a drone camera, he said, operators can identify weeds, then send in a different drone to spray the fields.

"All this equipment is autonomous," he said. "Even tractors today are almost able to drive themselves through the field. As our economy continues to grow, we're seeing more and more of a need for these types of tools to help our people produce more of whatever it is they're producing, with less time and less people."

These types of technologies, Cisewski said, allow the farming industry to keep producing.

"We're trying to reduce the input and increase our yield so that we can make it more profitable for our farmers to farm," he said. "As a result we'll be able to keep more of them in business."

### Garden-to-market specialist program

NTC's one-year garden-to-market specialist course, Cisewski said, is designed for anyone interested in market gardening and fruit and

See Agriculture Center, Page 24



Hands-on and classroom training in NTC's garden-to-market specialist course, Greg Cisewski said, are offered in both a hoop house and greenhouse lab setting.





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## Agriculture Center/Milk produced goes to a local cheese factory

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vegetable production in a variety of agricultural settings.

Students develop skills to start their own enterprises growing produce and other agricultural products, he said, to sell, either as a business or a smaller income-producing hobby.

Hands-on and classroom training, Cisewski said, are offered in both a hoop house and greenhouse lab setting.

Though both structures are somewhat similar, he said a hoop house is often a less permanent structure – and is covered with plastic in order to extend the growing season.

“We’re able to plant the crop earlier in the year, harvest it, then replant another crop,” he said. “So, we’re able to grow two crops on the same space of soil.”

Cisewski said some of the crops grown on the school’s farm are sold locally and the money earned is put back into the program.

“It gives the student experience in selling what they’re growing, ensuring they have a competitive product and pricing,” he said.

Other crops grown on the farm, Cisewski said, are used in the school’s culinary program or at the school cafeteria.

And those that go unused, he said, are given to local food pantries.

Cisewski said the center also utilizes a Grow Pod – a 8’x20’-long retired shipping container outfitted with LED lights and climate-controlled so crops can be grown year-round.

“They’re grown hydroponically so all the nutrients are put into the water that is filtered



**Students are exposed to the latest agriculture equipment and precision farming technology.** Submitted Photo

through the plants’ root systems,” he said. “There’s no soil in there whatsoever, so there’s no pests in there and no mold that comes from the soil. The crops can be harvested year-round. A lot of places are stacking these containers next to each other and producing crops year-round for lots of people.”

### Veterinary technician program

Cisewski said NTC’s veterinary technician program certifies graduates to work alongside

veterinarians and be able to do things such as assist with surgeries, prep animals for exams or procedures and doing other very important tasks that help the veterinarian be able to see more patients, faster.

At a time when the U.S. is short of both veterinarians and vet techs, Cisewski said this program is critical.

Students, he said, get an opportunity to learn on small animals, like dogs or cats, as well as large farm animals, as they provide care for the school’s farm animals.

### Agronomy and agri-business

Cisewski said NTC’s agronomy program looks at the different crops grown in Wisconsin and teaches students to understand the basic principles of crop production, as well as perform soil sampling and utilize a nutrient management plan.

Graduates from this program, he said, may get jobs with cooperatives (co-ops) or feed companies and work with the farmers when they run into problems with their crops, soil, a loss in their profit, etc.

“They’re looking to save the farmer from having to put things on the field that aren’t necessary and just give the crops what they need, when they need it so we can keep all the nutrients on the field and don’t have things coming off the field that shouldn’t,” he said.

Cisewski said cooperatives or feed companies often own specialty pieces of equipment that their agronomist will take to a farm to help the farmer so he or she doesn’t have to purchase their own

equipment that may only get used once a year.

“They move from producer to producer at the time of year it’s needed,” he said.

NTC’s agri-business program, Cisewski said, is designed for students interested in an agriculture career but, for various reasons, aren’t interested in direct production agriculture.

In addition to agriculture, he said students are taught business principles for positions as an economist or manager making decisions and helping farmers manage their businesses.

### Embracing AI, other technology

Cisewski said NTC not only welcomes, but embraces the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technology in farming, both today and in the future.

In support of these efforts, Cisewski said he serves on the Governor’s AI Task Force.

“We’re really seeing a technological boom in the equipment that’s out there, and we’re trying to make sure our students are ready for that,” he said. “The college has an initiative where we’re committing funds and resources and working with industry leaders to make sure our students are learning with the latest and greatest techniques, technology and pieces of equipment.”

Cisewski said NTC strives to be on the leading edge of the technology game.

“We definitely want to be that resource for our community to come see the latest and greatest, and to train our students for the future,” he said.

For more on NTC’s Agriculture Center of Excellence, visit [ntc.edu](http://ntc.edu). **TBN**



Owen-Withee, Enterprise-Sentinel

# Owen-Withee and Greenwood School Districts discuss possible collaboration

By Cindy Cardinal

Towards the end of the Owen-Withee School Board meeting on July 15, the board met with representatives from the Greenwood School District to discuss ways they might collaborate. Greenwood was represented by their District Administrator, Middle/High School Principal, and the school board president, vice-presi-

dent, treasurer, and a board member.

Greenwood District Administrator Joe Green did most of the talking. He said that Greenwood and Loyal share some staff. They started doing this two years ago feeling if you have something that others need, you should help. They work together to make sure they are giving kids opportunities. The two districts are only seven

miles apart. Greenwood and Owen-Withee themselves are a little farther apart, but it was felt that it would still be doable. Green said they started with aligning their calendars for the most part. They then started sharing some in-service costs. They aligned their bell schedules, although lunch is different in both schools. Loyal had a college prep English class so 10 students from Greenwood

went to Loyal. Greenwood offered AutoCAD to six students from Loyal. No money was exchanged. Greenwood contracted with the Loyal Band teacher for their 6th grade band students. They share marching band and the one-act play. For technology education they move teachers and students. He said there are hurdles with resistant staff sometimes. Green added that transpor-

tation costs are relevant but shouldn't prevent giving kids opportunities. He said sports were where the worst roadblocks to collaboration occurred. Green said that a partnership is never perfect for both parties at the same time, that "it is more like a marriage relationship where it is not always convenient for both sides." He said they are expanding on what "our" means and looking at a big-

ger circle for "our" kids.

Green said that all small schools are in the same boat. O-W Board president Julie Wendler said, "We have to work together." Green said they began by visiting Whitehall as the four districts in Trempealeau County have a cooperative. They talked about creating something similar in Clark County.

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# O-W SB

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O-W guidance counselor Morgan Mueller pointed out that Greenwood is on a trimester system while O-W has semesters. She said the alternative program might be a place to start. She also felt that the Rural Virtual Academy had really helped offer students at O-W opportunities. She said that O-W doesn't have staff credentialed to do advanced classes and wondered if CVTC could work with the districts to make transcript college credit easier. She suggested talking to staff about how they feel about this.

O-W board member Dean Schmelzer felt it might work for seniors that have met most of their requirements. They could take the time to do a course at Greenwood that wasn't offered at O-W. He said many students are going to work or whatever and missing out on their senior year. Green said that CVTC conversations are about inequity for dual credits. They are different from NTC. He said that Loyal students can get dual credit for classes, while Greenwood students in the same class with the same instructor cannot. NTC credits transfer directly to CVTC. Mueller said if a class is offered in-house at O-W, it has to go through CVTC, but if it is online, students can go through NTC. Wendler pointed out that students in bigger schools can start college as sophomores because of dual credits. She said they have to figure out how to be competitive. Mueller said the maximum allowed in-house

through CVTC is 18 credits.

Green said CESA has been a really good resource. Mueller said that CESA also offers classes, some of which are dual credit.

Green said that trimesters is what Loyal had so Greenwood changed to trimesters. It offers students more opportunities. He said that last year is the first year they did this. Greenwood's principal said there is no perfect schedule set-up. With trimesters, if you don't do well in a class, you have another opportunity to take the class in the same year.

Wendler asked if Greenwood and Loyal share anything else. Green said they did share a food service director for a time and they are looking at sharing some elementary guidance counseling for next year. There was also talk about teachers mentoring new teachers, which is hard to do when you only have one teacher per subject in a small school district. Green said this is not about

eliminating positions. It is about enhancing what both districts are doing with what they have.

O-W board member Todd Nelson asked about all three districts working together. Green said there was some conversation at the WASB conference about setting up a group with Owen-Withee, Greenwood, Loyal, Granton and Neillsville. He said he is less confident each time they have to go to referendum, so they have to do something.

Mueller asked how they move forward, did it involve forming a committee. Green said the school boards meet together if they need to and that the ultimate goal is to be in a position where they don't have to shift money. O-W staff member Caleb Green asked what co-curricular looked like. Green said they share transportation costs.

Nothing was decided at the meeting and more conversation needs to take place before anything can happen.

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## Northcentral Technical College Announces New Programs For Fall 2024

The fall semester begins at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Monday, August 26. Admissions staff is available to help prospective students get started, answer questions and apply for financial aid. Prospective students are encouraged to finalize their fall schedules by Monday, August 19.

Additionally, NTC is pleased to announce two newly developed programs based on industry and community feedback that begin during the fall 2024 semester:

### ***Respiratory Therapy Associate Degree***

This program will prepare learners to work in a team of health care professionals to evaluate, treat and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders in a wide variety of clinical settings. Learn how to assess patients, provide respiratory care and evaluate patients' responses to care.

*Potential occupation:* Respiratory Therapist

### ***Funeral Services Associate Degree***

This program is offered in partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College and prepares learners to enter the funeral profession. Learn about the compassionate care needed to assist individuals and families after the death of a loved one, including embalming and restorative art.

*Potential occupation:* Funeral Director

For more information or to apply to one of NTC's new programs, visit <http://www.ntc.edu/> or contact Admissions at 715.803.1645.

Northcentral Technical College is north central Wisconsin's premier two-year college of choice and is a resource for all District residents. It provides individuals, organizations and businesses with quality skills training in a wide range of programs designed to build a competitive,

technologically advanced workforce in today's rapidly changing global environment.

NTC has six convenient campus locations in Wausau, Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer and Wittenberg, as well as a Public Safety Center of Excellence and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training Center in Merrill, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo and an Agriculture Center of Excellence and Diesel Technology Center just north of the Wausau Campus in the Village of Maine.

The Wausau Campus also features an Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Center of Excellence featuring an Industry 4.0 Smart Manufacturing Lab, the Butcher Block, a Center for Health Sciences, Communication Technology Center of Excellence featuring Studio 7, Community Collaboration Center, Emergency Services Training Center, Information Technology & Entrepreneurial Center (iTEC), Professional Conference Center, Studio Max Salon and Spa featuring the Therapeutic Massage Center and SPOONS Restaurant.



**Be Aware Of Road  
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Third Street, Mosinee  
Allow Extra Time To Get  
To Your Destination  
Safely**





Thursday, August 8, 2024

THE STAR NEWS  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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**Northcentral Technical College announces new programs for Fall 2024**

The fall semester begins at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Monday, August 26. Admissions staff is available to help prospective students get started, answer questions and apply for financial aid. Prospective students are encouraged to finalize their fall schedules by Monday, August 19.

Additionally, NTC is pleased to announce two newly

developed programs based on industry and community feedback that begin during the fall 2024 semester:

**Respiratory Therapy Associate Degree**

This program will prepare learners to work in a team of health care professionals to evaluate, treat and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders in a wide variety of clinical settings. Learn how to assess patients, provide respiratory care and evaluate patients' responses to care.

**Funeral Services Associate Degree**

This program is offered in partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College and prepares learners to enter the funeral profession. Learn about the compassionate care needed to assist individuals and families after the death of a loved one, including embalming and restorative art.

For more information or to apply to one of NTC's new programs, visit [www.ntc.edu](http://www.ntc.edu) or contact Admissions at 715.803.1645.





Merrill, Foto News

time and effort, Aspirus those you cherish and catch

# Community Night Out is Aug. 20

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Merrill's 12th annual Community Night Out will be held this Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, from 4-7 p.m. at the Bierman Building and Merrill Fair Grounds. The public is invited to

come down and see all of the services the Merrill community provides and offers. Learn more about the Merrill Police Department, Merrill Fire Department and EMS, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources, Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Merrill Enrichment Center, T.B. Scott Library, [Northcentral Technical College](#), Merrill Park & Recreation Department, and more!

The Merrill Police Department and Merrill Fire Department will have

special presentations, and there are free bus rides available to and from the event courtesy of the Merrill Go Round. Be sure to reserve your ride in advance by calling 715.536.7112 before 4 p.m. on Aug. 20. Pick ups will take place during the 5

o'clock hour, with the bus returning to load up riders for the return home at 6:45 p.m.

Enjoy free food and activities for the entire family, and music will be provided by Bluejay 96.3 radio. The event will take place rain or shine.

# Bug Tussel bond vote postponed

*By Kevin O'Brien*

Marathon County supervisors voted unanimously on Tuesday to postpone a vote on a \$12 million bonding request from Bug Tussel, which says it needs the money to complete a major broadband internet expansion by the end of the year.

The 35-0 vote, with three absences, came after supervisor John Robinson acknowledged that a motion to authorize the borrowing would likely not garner the three-fourths majority needed to pass a final resolution.

In June, the board voted 22-11 to pass an initial resolution that allowed county officials to begin bond negotiations with Bug Tussel, but since then, questions have been raised by supervisors who are concerned about signing off on a 30-year debt repayment.

The bond would provide \$5 million to complete a countywide fiber optic cable loop project approved in 2021, plus \$3 million for a project in the Kronenwetter (Leathercamp) area and \$4 million for debt reserves, capitalized interest and debt issuance costs.

In 2021, the board approved a \$25 million bond for Bug Tussel to put up 16 towers and install 190 miles of fiber, but the project ran into cost overruns and remains unfinished.

Robinson, chair of the county's broadband task force, said he spoke to Bug Tussel representatives just before Tuesday's meeting about a possible alternative financing plan

See **BOND/** page 13



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Edgar, The Record Review

that provide them from getting a phone ac  
Judicare mediators were able to resolve about  
Community, a non-profit that works with the  
The board approved the proposal Tuesday.

# Bond

Continued from page 1

that would involve the county using some of its reserve funds.

The goals would be to decrease the amount of money that needs to be borrowed and also shorten the payback period on the Leathercamp project, Robinson said.

As stated in his motion to postpone, county officials will have until the board's October meeting to come up with a new proposal.

Acting as a conduit borrower, the county would not be responsible for

making the annual debt payments, but if Bug Tussel and its parent company defaulted, the county would take on the liability and also gain ownership of all the cable and towers installed in the county.

At the board's Aug. 15 educational meeting, three members of the public spoke in favor of the bond and one was opposed.

Mary Hartwig, a certified public accountant, raised doubts about Bug Tussel's ability to pay off its

debt with revenue from customers.

"I am not opposed to the broadband infrastructure, but I am opposed to a loan to a private entity LLC," she said.

Chet Strebe, vice-president of business and technology at North-central Technical College, said broadband is critically important for both education and agriculture.

"In our increasingly connected world, reliable and high-speed internet is no longer a luxury," he

said. "It is a necessity for economic growth, educational opportunity and the sustainability of our agricultural sector."

Two town chairmen, Ron Zimmermann from Harrison and Milton Olson of Weston, also spoke in favor of the new Bug Tussel bond request, citing frustrations from their residents about unreliable internet and cell phone service.

Bill Millhausen, chief deputy of the county sheriff's department,

also spoke about the importance of having Bug Tussel's new towers available to improve emergency communications.

Scott Feldt, director of public affairs for Bug Tussel, told supervisors last week that the countywide fiber loop would be "delayed significantly" without more funding.

"We have made mistakes," he said. "We want to rectify them, and we don't want to walk away. We want to finish what we've started."



## NCTC GRADUATES AND HONORS LISTS

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WAUSAU — Northcentral Technical College (NCTC)

has released the names of students who were awarded diplomas and academic honors for the spring 2024 term.

### NCTC SPRING GRADUATES

The following students from the region were among the NCTC spring semester graduates.

Brantwood: Tristan Hoffman and Ty Heikkinen.

Butternut: Fredrick Pollex and Heidi Christian.

Catawba: Elizabeth Cook.

Glidden: Jocelyn Stovall, Kelcie Eder and Sophie Wells.

Hawkins: Julie Olsen.

Kennan: Anna Harbison.

Ogema: Carter Scheithauer and Riley Blomberg.

Park Falls.: Daniel Wible, Dominic Cain, Josh Pritzl, Nicole Hilgart and Olivia Sylvester.

Phillips: Alyssa Mueller, Bradley Kerner, Cadin Adams, Dylan Sinnott, Emily Connelly, Ethan Michek, Evan Hollinger, Hanna Klchosky, Jacob Dale, Jason Mulligan, John Rogers, Rebekah Patrick, Robert Bolz and Zachary Dombrowski.

Rib Lake: Aaron Matyka, Elliot Britz, Isabella Fallos, Preston Walters, Sheila

Schneider, Trey Klemann and Tyrek Annala.

### NCTC PRESIDENT'S LIST

The following regional full time NCTC students earned a 3.75 GPA or above for the spring term 2024 to qualify for the president's list for outstanding academic achievement.

Brantwood: Tristan Hoffman.

Butternut: Fredrick Pollex

Catawba: Jennifer Craig, Jerri Hibbard and Nathan Rymarkiewicz.

Fifield: Ashley Hilgart.

Glidden: Kelcie Eder and Sophie Wells.

Ogema: Carter Scheithauer.

Park Falls: Aiden Miesbauer, Dixie Weidman, Jonathan Pritzl, Josh Pritzl, Lindsey Peterson and Nicole Hilgart.

Phillips: Alyssa Mueller, Braden Yanich, Courtney Krawczyk, Dawn Carlson, Gary Williams, Jacob Dale, Jason Mulligan, Michael Mitchem and Zachary Dombrowski.

Prentice: Savannah Sutton.

Rib Lake: Aaron Matyka, Amber Yanko, Brandon Heiser, Isabella Fallos, Jayden Thums, Madison Grzanna, Sheila Schneider, Tasha Mannel and Trey Klemann.

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## New staff members welcomed at Loyal School District

The Loyal School District has welcomed several new staff members this year. As the school year gets underway — Tuesday was the first day of school — the TRG wanted to provide readers a chance to get to know these individuals and their education journey. The following are their answers.

### Austin Albanito

**Hometown:** Marshfield

**New position:** Math teacher

**Education:** Bachelor's of science degree in physics, with minors in astronomy and mathematics, from UW-Stevens Point; master's degree in education (secondary) from Western Governors University.

**Experience:** I've been teaching formally for two years, but have been informally teaching for around four years. I started by working at the planetarium and telescope at UWSP as a lecturer, teaching students about astronomy and the stars. I long-term subbed and was a general substitute teacher for the Marshfield School District for a year, then student-taught at the Pittsville School District. I worked as a full-time math teacher at Black River Falls High School last year, and now here I am at Loyal.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** I'm a learner. I love learning new things about the content areas I teach, my students and coworkers, etc. I am very passionate about content, math and science, and I show that passion by talking about it to others. So, I was kind of a shoo-in for a teacher!

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I have a huge, tight-knit family in Marshfield. The Lang family is the name. I love PC and console gaming, tabletop games and collectible card games like Magic: The Gathering. I love cats and have two of my own: a doof of an orange cat named Castiel, and a regal calico named Lillie.

**Anything else you would like the community to know:** I am a published author! If you want to know anything else, just ask! I'm an open book.

### Jason Belter

**Hometown:** Willard

**New position:** Science teacher

**Education:** Bachelor of science degree in biochemistry from UW-Madison, master of arts in teaching from Hamline University — licenses in general science 5-8, biology 9-12 and chemistry 9-12

**Experience:** I have 18 years of experience teaching, most of that in Minnesota. I have taught middle school classes for many years, along with biology, chemistry, AP chemistry, genetics and anatomy and physiology.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** I have always enjoyed the thrill of discovering the universe, whether that was in math, history and, of course, science. Teaching gives me the chance to share those discoveries and how cool the universe is, as well as show others how to discover for themselves.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** My wife is a nurse, my son is a math teacher and second-degree black belt in karate, and my daughter is studying equine science and creative writing. I enjoy Brewers, Packers and Badgers sports, as well as martial arts. I also play tabletop role-playing games.

### Kira Kalepp

**Hometown:** Abbotsford

**New position:** Second grade teacher

**Education:** I have an associate's degree in early childhood from [Northcentral Technical College](#) (2013) and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from UW-Superior (2020).

**Experience:** I spent seven years as a teacher's assistant and middle school volleyball coach in Abbotsford. I taught computer skills and assisted with 4K. I also spent four years teaching fourth grade at Athens Elementary.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** I enjoy the family that is built among staff (the school community). I entered the education world to care for, be a positive role model for and support students in all areas while educating them.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I enjoy going for walks with my dog, Emmy; traveling; and spending time with my fiancé, family and friends.

### Sara Koller

**Hometown:** Neillsville

**New position:** Middle/high school science

**Education:** Bachelor of science degree from UW-Eau Claire. I have eight licensures, so I am able to teach math and any science course.

**Experience:** This is my 20th year teaching. I've taught middle and high school level math and sciences.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** My favorite parts of teaching are



VALORIE BRECHT/STAFF PHOTO

New staff members at Loyal and their subjects/grade levels/roles include (front, l-r) Austin Albanito, math; Alexius Simon, first grade; Jason Belter, science; Justin Stoegbauer, 4K-12 assistant principal; (back) Kira Kalepp, second grade; Lindsey Mueller, high school secretary; Sara Koller, science; Randi Rondorf, elementary special education; Kendell Waughtal, kindergarten; Doddie Rahm, interventionist professional; and Maija McSorley, school counselor.

watching students grow and when I get to see the exact moment when something clicks for them.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I have two children, two dogs and several cats. My house is crowded! I like to chill with my family (human and other species), garden and hang out on the shore of Lake Superior.

### Maija McSorley

**Hometown:** Strum

**New position:** K-12 school counselor

**Education:** Bachelor of science degree is psychology from UW-River Falls, master of science degree in education and school counseling from UW-River Falls, school counselor license from the Department of Public Instruction.

**Experience:** First year! I was a long-term sub in the fall of 2023 in Durand while I was in grad school. I just graduated in May of this year, so this is my first role as a school counselor! I am so excited to be in Loyal!

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** I enjoy working with kids and helping them reach their goals. I am passionate about mental health and wanted to work in schools to be able to work with all students.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I am the oldest daughter of four. I have twin younger brothers and a little sister who is a senior in high school this year! In my free time, I enjoy being surrounded by friends and family, reading, tending my house plants and working out.

### Doddie Rahm

**Hometown:** Loyal

**New position:** Interventionist professional

**Education:** Graduate, Loyal High School

**Experience:** In the past, I was a lead childcare teacher. I have 15-plus years' experience working with birth to 12-year-old children.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** I enjoy helping and teaching children, and watching them thrive while learning.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I have four adult children, three grandchildren and one grandchild on the way. My husband and I enjoy riding motorcycle and pulling mini-roads.

**Anything else you would like the community to know?** Glad to be back in my hometown working.

### Alexius Simon

**Hometown:** Thorp

**New position:** First grade teacher

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in early childhood education with a minor in special education from UW-Stout.

**Experience:** I have worked at a daycare for the past two years and have experience working with children from birth through fifth grade. I've been around children and

have babysat since I was in elementary school. This is my first teaching job and I'm very excited to start in first grade.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** I have been around children my whole life, and after starting college, originally going for the medical field, I realized that teaching was more for me.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I live in Thorp with my boyfriend and our cat JoJo. I enjoy spending time outside going for walks, biking and watching sports. I love crafting and spending time with my family and friends.

### Randi Rondorf

**Hometown:** Abbotsford

**New position:** Elementary special education teacher

**Education:** I have my 1-6 elementary and K-12 special education degree (cross-categorical) from UW-Stevens Point.

**Experience:** I have been teaching for 24 years. I have taught K-12 special education in all areas and fifth grade general education.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** I enjoy working with young people and others (staff) that have the same feeling for teaching. I want to be a person that people can trust and are comfortable with.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I have three grown daughters and three grandchildren. I enjoy being with family and friends, camping, going to sporting events, movies, kayaking, etc.

### Justin Stoegbauer

**Hometown:** Fond du Lac

**New position:** 4K-12 assistant principal/athletic director

**Education:** Bachelor of science degree in physical education, health and adapted physical education from UW-Stevens Point; master's in educational leadership from Marian University.

**Experience:** I spent 12 years teaching middle/high school physical education. This is my first year as a principal/athletic director.

**What do you enjoy about schools/what made you enter the education world?** Working as a team to have a positive impact in our students' lives, during their educational journey.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** My wife, Kelsey, is a special education teacher. We enjoy golf together and I enjoy hunting and fishing.

**Anything else you would like the community to know?** I am super excited for the opportunity to serve the Loyal community and I look forward to meeting many of you at sporting events or around town.

Edgar, The Record Review

# Edgar School Board discusses bullying report

By Kevin O'Brien

While reviewing an annual report last week of bullying and other incidents that occurred this past school year, Edgar School Board members and district administrators discussed the importance of teaching students the difference between conflicts and bullying and the need for follow-ups with repeat offenders.

According to the 2023-2024 report, 33 incidents were reported to principals last school year, and of those, 18 were determined to be bullying. Middle/high school principal Mike Wilhelm said 33 incidents "seems like a lot," but a big part of the reporting process is ferreting out which complaints can truly be defined as bullying.

The incident report form on the school district's website allows any student or their parents to file a complaint with a principal regarding an incident at school. At the top of the form are definitions of "conflict" versus "bullying," which are typically distinguished by the frequency of the behavior and intent of the students involved.

"Conflict is characterized by the fact that it generally happens in the heat of the moment," the form states. "It is often a difference of opinion and most of the time both parties involved are equally upset."

Bullying, on the other hand, is "more of a deliberate act and there is the intention to hurt, insult or threaten the other person. In the case of bullying, there is a definite power imbalance where the bully seeks to manipulate the situation so that the target has no power."

As an example of a conflict incident, Wilhelm said a student might walk by a classmate and slam the cover of their Chromebook shut, but it ends there.

Elementary principal Lisa Witt said all of the incident reports come to their email inboxes, and depending on the severity of the incident, administrators may meet with the students involved, talk with witnesses and contact the parents. Even if not all the reported incidents are that serious, Witt said it's good for students to have an avenue for telling staff about something that is bothering them.



## New Edgar teachers and staff

Sixteen new teachers and other district staff attended a "meet-and-greet" with Edgar School Board members last week. In front, from left to right, are Becky Reissmann (high school English Language Arts), Ben Melke (middle school social studies) and Amanda Martinez (part-time food service). In the middle row are Fay Niemann (middle school math), Madison Borchardt (paraprofessional), Stephanie Rottscheit (speech clinician), Megan Arndt (high school special education), Pat Heidmann (custodian), Sara Farber (4K) and Kaylee Olund (high school counselor). In back are Chloe Moore (fifth-grade student teacher), Abigail Bratanich (fourth-grade student teacher), Tristan Knoblock (fourth grade), Sara Vine (third grade), Emilie Miller (third grade) and Jill Inda (part-time food service). Not pictured are Jennifer Rahn (IDS special education), T'Neal Morris (educational interpreter) and Mollie Maurer (paraprofessional).

STAFF PHOTO/KEVIN O'BRIEN

Board president Corey Mueller asked if the district tracks the number of incidents over time. Superintendent Cari Guden said that's something she can put together and provide to the board.

In response to a question from board member Alison Reinders, Wilhelm said the administrators could also track "repeat offenders" who are involved in multiple incidents.

Guden said the overall goal of the incident report forms is to allow administrators to intervene before a conflict escalates.

"We always want to make it a learning experience," she said. "Everybody makes mistakes."

## Other business

■ In honor of Jerry Sinz's 50th year of coaching football, Mueller said the Edgar Alumni group has agreed to cover the cost of admission for everyone who attends the

Wildcats' Oct. 4 home game.

■ Senior Mia Stencil introduced herself as the new student representative on the board and talked about the student council's plans for the start of the new school year.

■ Witt reported on the district's progress toward meeting the goals of the state's Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) program, which provides additional aid in exchange for districts implementing academic improvement strategies in kindergarten through third grade. One of these strategies is maintaining a maximum student-to-teacher ratio of 18-to-1, or 30-to-2, in each classroom. Witt said this year's kindergarten class will be particularly small, with two teachers for 26 students. In first through third, three teachers will be assigned at each grade level – for 38 first-graders, 38 second-graders and 51 third-graders.

■ The board approved a Start College

Now application for a student who is currently enrolled in the Rural Virtual Academy and wants to attend welding classes at [North-central Technical College](#).

■ The board renewed the district's lease with Wildcat Early Learning Center, which rents daycare space at a district-owned building near Edgar Elementary. The rent was kept the same for this year.

■ The board approved a request from the volleyball team to travel to UW-Stout in Menomonie for a tournament, Aug. 30-31.

■ The board approved a motion to proceed with up to \$1.3 million in annual short-term borrowing for the current school year. Guden said the borrowing will be done through a consortium of other school districts, resulting in less paperwork and a lower interest rate. The final amount to be borrowed, plus the interest rate, will be available at the board's Sept. 18 meeting.





# Athens looking for full-time officer

*By Casey Krautkramer*

Chairmen of two Village of Athens committees said at Monday's regular board meeting that there is a great need for the village to hire another full-time police officer.

Athens Police Chief Aaron Stencil is currently the only full-time police officer in the department. Board members said he is overworking himself because his part-time police officers have full-time jobs outside the department and are not able to fill several open shifts each month.

Cody Socha, chairman of the finance and personnel committee, along with Andy Thurs, chairman of the fire and police committee, both agreed that something needs to be done to give chief Stencil more help patrolling the village. To discuss the issue further, Socha and chief Stencil have scheduled a finance and personnel meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5, in the board room inside the new village municipal building.

Chief Stencil said, in the past, graduates with associate's degrees in criminal justice-

law enforcement from **Northcentral Technical College** in Wausau were eager to work part-time police officer jobs in the area to gain valuable experience. They did this before getting a full-time police officer job because there were so many candidates for those positions. Stencil said there are less law enforcement personnel these days, so **NTC** graduates can immediately get hired as full-time police officers right out of college.

## Other business

■ The board voted 6-1 to pay \$15,500 to MTS (Marathon Technical Services) in Wausau for engineering work on the Maple Street project in 2025. Board members Randy Decker, Tyler Socha, Taran Brodziski, Christopher Guden, Socha and Thurs voted in favor of the engineering contract with MTS, while Christopher Perkins voted against it.

■ Board members voted unanimously to change the ATV/UTV speed limit on village streets from 15 miles per hour to whatever the posted speed limit is for motor vehicles.

The board also unanimously voted to revise the ATV/UTV trail map to include Well Street, which goes to Erbach Park.

■ The board approved the first pay request from Switlick & Sons of Athens for \$154,045 for the Elm/Schlegel streets project. Board members also approved a final resolution for special assessments to charge residents living on Elm/Schlegel streets 50 percent of the cost for new curb and gutter along their property.

■ Board members voted unanimously to pay Jason Smola to crush the village's asphalt and concrete pile for \$4 a ton.

■ The board voted unanimously to pay \$500 to North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning in Wausau to digitize the village's zoning map. Village clerk Lisa Czech said it'll be easier for land appraisers to find the village's zoning map online instead of calling her to look at a large physical map in the municipal center.

■ Trick-or-treating in the village will be from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27.

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# PEOPLE

## ATHENS

### School open house

The Athens School District will hold open houses from 2-6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29 at Athens Elementary School, Maple Grove Charter School and Athens Middle/High School.

### College notes

The following students have graduated from Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Wausau: Addison Lavicka, Andrew Frick, Anthony Vogel, Braden Kapitiz, Brooke Rogaczewski, Celina Ellenbecker, Cody Murkowski, Grace Greenberg, Jennica Blaubach, Kenesha Schug, Kylee Wilde, Logan Daniels, Logan Ebben, Mason Knab, Parker

Tischhauser, Samantha Daniels, Savana Mata and Timothy Bingham.

### Dinner and a Concert

Friday Night by the Bandstand for Aug. 30 will start at 7:30 p.m. with a performance by the Old Timers Band. In the event of rain, dinner and concert will be held under the shelter in Memorial Park.

### Book Club

The Athens Book Club will meet at the local branch library at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, to discuss "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett. Recalling the past at her daughters' request, Lara tells the story of a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance, causing her daughters to examine their own lives and reconsider everything they thought they knew. For more information, call 715-257-7292.

### Family Story Time

Children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to visit the Athens Branch Library for Family Story Time. For 30 minutes, library staff will read books, sing songs, and offer other literature-based activities. Upcoming story times are scheduled for Wednesdays, Sept. 11 and 18, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. and on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m.

### Mini Makers

Kids throughout Marathon County will have the opportunity to explore process art this fall. Process art is child-led and focuses on creation instead of following specific directions. Each branch will have a different project each month so that children and caregivers have an opportunity to unleash their creativity while meeting other community members. Stop by the Athens Branch Library anytime during open hours Sept. 2-7. The event is free, all supplies provided and no registration is required. Call 715-257-7292 for more info.

### Farmers Market

The Athens Farmers Market is held every Tuesday, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Memorial Park.

## EDGAR

### College notes

The following students have graduated from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau: Amanda Fischer, Ashley Sterzinger, David Duerstein, Grace Johnson, Heidi Moen, Jon Hackel, Jordan Knoll, Kelly Sear-Vogel, Morriah Joyce, Owen Baumann, Parker Pietrowski and Sondra Pilgrim.

### Book Club

The Edgar Book Club will meet at the local branch library at 12 noon on Tuesday, Sept. 10, to discuss "The Phantom of the Opera" by Gaston Leroux. A classic novel about a young, talented opera singer and a disfigured musical genius who haunts the Paris Opera House and uses music to try to win the woman's



### Edgar Golf League champs

Paul Knetter and Dan Jacobson, left, were the champions of the Edgar Late Tuesday Golf League and Bob Tess and Dale Stencil, right, were champions of the Edgar Early Tuesday Golf League for 2024.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

love. New members are always welcome. For more information, call 715-352-3155.

### Free athletic passes

The annual free athletic passes for all citizens 62 or older residing in the Edgar School District are now available for distribution. Passes are available in the high school office or from ticket sellers at events. Passes are not accepted for any WIAA tournament events which Edgar may host.

### Family Story Time

Children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to visit the Edgar Branch Library for Family Story Time. For 30 minutes, library staff will read books, sing songs, and offer other literature-based activities. Story times are scheduled for the first and third Thursday of the month, Sept. 3 and 17, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

## MARATHON

### Fun Days breakfast

The Marathon Baseball Association and American Legion Post 469 will be hosting their 18th annual Fun Days breakfast in the Marathon High School cafeteria on Saturday, Aug. 31. The breakfast will run from 7 to 10 a.m. Carry-outs are available. Proceeds will benefit the high school and Legion baseball programs.

### Annual golf outing

The Marathon Athletic Club will hold its 6th annual golf outing and

social on Saturday, Sept. 7. The social event starts at 5 p.m. at the Marathon Sports Center. Multiple raffles will be set up to support all athletic programs in Marathon. Tickets can be purchased at the Sports Center before the social begins, and participants need not be present to win. Raffle prizes will be announced at 8 p.m.

### College notes

The following students have graduated from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau: Andrea Hamilton, Austin Wood, Ethan Gacke, Hailey Mathwich, Heidi Heinrichs, Jacob Rhyner, Kyle Rau, Lindsey Larson, Samantha Richards and Tiffany Her.

### Book Club

The Marathon Book Club will meet at the local branch library at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 9, to discuss "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern. In this fantasy novel, the circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it, it is simply there. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. For more information, call 715-443-2775.

### Family Story Time

Children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to visit the Marathon Branch Library for Family Story Time. For 30 minutes, library staff will read books, sing songs, and offer other literature-based activities. Story times are scheduled for Thursdays, Sept.

12, 19 and 26, from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

### Mini Makers

Kids throughout Marathon County will have the opportunity to explore process art this fall. Process art is child-led and focuses on creation instead of following specific directions. Each branch will have a different project each month so that children and caregivers have an opportunity to unleash their creativity while meeting other community members. Stop by the Marathon Branch Library on Wednesday, Sept. 4, anytime from 1-7 p.m. The event is free, all supplies are provided and no registration is required. Call 715-443-2775 for more info.

### Legion Auxiliary

Alois Dreikosen Unit 469 of the American Legion Auxiliary held its monthly meeting on Aug. 8. President Betty Blume called the meeting to order. Opening meeting protocol was followed. The July minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.

The unit currently has 105 members for the 2024 year. Dues for adults for the coming year are \$34. Cost for junior members is \$5.25. 2025 renewal notices have been sent out.

No members were on the sick list.

Texts and emails have gone out to parents of junior members inviting them and their friends to participate in the Kiddie Day parade and/or in Sunday's parade. It is a patriotic theme. The Legion will

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If you would like to purchase a spot on this directory, call (715) 223-2342

GROUP PAID ADVERTISEMENT 155118

See PEOPLE/ page 5

# ATHENS

## School open house

The Athens School District will hold open houses from 2-6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29 at Athens Elementary School, Maple Grove Charter School and Athens Middle/High School.

## College notes

The following students have graduated from Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Wausau: Addison Lavicka, Andrew Frick, Anthony Vogel, Braden Kapitz, Brooke Rogaczewski, Celina Ellenbecker, Cody Murkowski, Grace Greenberg, Jennica Blaubach, Kenesha Schug, Kylee Wilde, Logan Daniels, Logan Ebben, Mason Knab, Parker

Tischauser, Samantha Daniels, Savana Mata and Timothy Bingham.

## Dinner and a Concert

Friday Night by the Bandstand for Aug. 30 will start at 7:30 p.m. with a performance by the Old Timers Band. In the event of rain, dinner and concert will be held under the shelter in Memorial Park.

## Book Club

The Athens Book Club will meet at the local branch library at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, to discuss "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett. Recalling the past at her daughters' request, Lara tells the story of a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance, causing her daughters to examine their own lives and reconsider everything they thought they knew. For more information, call 715-257-7292.



# EDGAR

## College notes

The following students have graduated from **Northcentral** Technical College in Wausau: Amanda Fischer, Ashley Sterzinger, David Duberstein, Grace Johnson, Heidi Moen, Jon Hackel, Jordan Knoll, Kelly Sear-Vogel, Morriah Joyce, Owen Baumann, Parker Pietrowski and Sondra Pilgrim.





## Edgar, The Record Review

# People

Continued from page 4

award vouchers to all Kiddie parade participants.

The Marathon Funs Days parade will be Sunday at 1 p.m.

Members are celebrating 75 years as an Auxiliary Unit this year. We encourage members to come ride (transportation available) or walk in the parade. Decoration, patriotic aprons, a banner and parade swag will be provided. Please dress patriotic, meet at 8th and Washington Street.

Betty Blume gave a report on the recent American Legion Auxiliary Wisconsin convention. The state of Wisconsin currently serves 300,000 veterans. Becky Miller is the new president for the WI ALA. Her theme this year is "Sharing from the Heart." Unit 469 from Marathon received a presidential award from the ALA Department of Wisconsin.

Thank you letters were read for recent donations.

### New Business

Blume shared information about an organization called Freedom 13 and asked members to look online to learn more about their mission.

The WI ALA sponsors a program called "Give 10 to Education," and the unit would like to participate. Members were asked to bring their ideas to the next meeting.

The unit made a motion to purchase a Legacy stone at the Highground Veterans Memorial Park.

Donations were made to department general funds and department poppy funds.

Plans are underway to acknowledge Milestone Memberships (increments of 10) in the ALA.

The District 8 fall meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Peplin VFW.

The unit is asking for the names of members who are currently in nursing homes or homebound. Contact Kathy Grell.

There will be an ALA in the Know session held in Gillett on Saturday, Sept. 28.

### ALA Resources

Facebook: Alois Dreikosen Unit #469-American Legion Auxiliary Marathon, WI

ALA State of WI Website: amlegionauxwi.org

ALA National Website: alaforveterans.org  
Closing prayer was given by chaplain Julie

Cariveau.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

### Farmers Market

The Marathon City Farmers Market will be open from 2 to 6 p.m. every Thursday at 400 Main St. More than 45 vendors will be selling produce, bakery items, flowers, arts and craft. Food trucks and drinks will also be available. For more information, call 715-506-1355.

## STRATFORD

### College note

The following students have graduated from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau: Allison Wiesman, Brenda Stack, Brenden Fecker, David Eckes, Delaney Dennee, Ella Heidmann, Gavin Kirsch, Jerry Hilbelink, Kaedyn Dahl, Kylee Manecke, Makenzie Schreiner, Miranda Schneider, Sierra Custer and Tessa Miller.

### Book club

The Stratford Book Club will meet at the local branch library at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18, to discuss "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See. Sent into an arranged marriage and forbidden to continue her work as a midwife-in-training, Yunxian is ordered to act like a proper wife and seeks a way to continue treating women and girls from every level of society in 15th century China. For more information, call 715-687-4420.

### Family Story Time

Children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to visit the Stratford Branch Library for Family Story Time. For 30 minutes, library staff will read books, sing songs, and offer other literature-based activities. Story times are scheduled for Wednesdays, Sept. 11, 18 and 25, from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

## MARATHON COUNTY

### MAREA

The Marshfield Area Retired Educators' Association meeting was held on Aug. 19 at The Country Aire. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the introduction of

guests by Doreen Schultz, president of MAREA, the minutes were approved with corrections and the treasurer's report was placed on file for audit.

Committee reports included Community Action, where Ruby Pinter reported on food pantry donations for August and September. Kathleen Hasenohrl reported about the use of supplements for improvement of arthritic conditions. She included that the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging has regular presentations on health and there is an upcoming one on Sept. 5. Check on the website for further information.

Curt Hansen reported about recent happenings in the legislature. The loss of state aid to Milwaukee schools because of voucher and charter schools was in the July reports. The Department of Public Instruction is trying to further reading with 3rd grade screening. There were monies allotted for this program, but with a late release of those monies, it will be hard for schools to be ready this fall.

Ruby Thomas reminded members that state dues will be going up in January. MAREA dues are due in September. Members should contact her if they want to pay now for local and state dues.

Carol Subera reported on the numbers of the current pension.

Carol Ballerstein, who chairs the Public Relations/Sunshine and Shadows, sent a thank you to Annaliece Rynes, who was the speaker at the last regular meeting. She also informed members of the passing of Jerome Sjostrom. He and his special cookie treats will be missed.

Ruby Pinter talked about the three \$500 scholarships that were presented in June to Claudia Garcia from Abbotsford High School, Carter Roth from Colby High School and Lilly VerBerkmoes from Marshfield Senior High School. They will receive their scholarships after completing the first semester of college. Part of the money for the scholarships comes from the annual MAREA brat fry usually held in June. This year the Fry was very successful. Thank you to all the members who helped out on that day.

Dorothy Dietsche reported that the last collection for the WREA Foundation will be at the September meeting. The Pennies for WREA pot was passed around. Cindee Loos reminded members that volunteer forms need

to sent to her before Sept. 1 for this year's submission.

Old/new business began with Sally Lucas reporting on the Executive Board meeting held in July at Nutz Deep II in Spencer. The number of members attending made great progress on the planning for next year's speakers and setting goals for the coming year for MAREA with an emphasis on increasing membership by three members. Sally indicated that there is a need for suggestions for more speakers to complete the year's meetings.

This year's fall WREA Convention will be held at Lake of the Torches Resort and Casino on Sept. 23-25. Several members are already planning to go. Members were asked to let Doreen know if they plan to attend so that carpooling can be arranged.

The regular meeting concluded with the birthday song for those members whose birthdays were in July and August.

The speaker for the meeting was Dana Schultz. Her emphasis was on the uses of clean energy like solar panels, geothermal, and windmills. She is part of a group called Localyst. (See the website at Localyst.us) Her topic included the definitions of two different types of information. Disinformation is false information which is deliberately intended to mislead—intentionally misstating the facts. Misinformation is false or inaccurate information.

Members discussed the use of Facebook, and face to face information that is used to spread some misleading information. Dana explained some strategies to help inform people just how to get to the facts. One is to inoculate yourself by asking for the source and not sharing that information until you do some checking yourself. Redirect the speaker to help you better understand where they are coming from and what is their source.

Dana is working to help the public know about the facts of what "clean energy" does mean through her work with the Localyst group.

The speaker for the Sept. 16 meeting will be Kristine Johaneck, who will be speaking about teaching in Egypt.

For more information about MAREA or about attending a meeting, call Doreen Schultz at 715-219-2249.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 715-266-1333.

# STRATFORD

## College note

The following students have graduated from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau: Allison Wiesman, Brenda Stack, Brenden Fecker, David Eckes, Delaney Dennen, Ella Heidmann, Gavin Kirsch, Jerry Hilbelink, Kaedyn Dahl, Kylee Manecke, Makenzie Schreiner, Miranda Schneider, Sierra Custer and Tessa Miller.



Medford, The Star News

Through Bloomberg has primary care made with something, then the conse each other is special.

## Abel is new Medford Area Middle School assistant principal

BY BRIAN WILSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Tara Abel is excited to be the new assistant principal at the Medford Area Middle School.

Abel was recently hired to fill the position, which was vacant due to former assistant principal Jodi Butler moving into the MAMS principal position.

Abel was born and raised in Medford. "Besides college and a year stint in Spencer after getting married, I have lived in Medford my entire life," she said.

Abel said she looks forward to serving as MAMS assistant principal.

"I look forward to contributing to the Medford School District's mission of ensuring that all students learn," she said.



Tara Abel

"Becoming the middle school assistant principal here at MAMS fulfills my professional goals as an educator while allowing me to serve the community in which I live. This role lets me work with many students and staff members, which I highly enjoy. My own children will attend school here in the district and being close to family is important to me," she said.

As assistant principal, Abel's role will primarily be working with students in terms of attendance and behavioral support, but she said she will assist in any way that is needed.

Abel went to Immanuel Lutheran for grade school and graduated from MASH in 2008. After high school, she attended Northcentral Technical College's early childhood program and obtained her associate's degree. She then transferred to UW-Stout for her bachelors degree.

"At UW-Stout I majored in early childhood, early childhood special education, and middle childhood education. I received my masters degree as a reading specialist from Concordia in 2017. This past July I completed my certifications for

principal, as well as director of curriculum and instruction from Viterbo," Abel said.

After graduating from UW-Stout Abel spent 10 years with the School District of Spencer. She was primarily a 5th grade teacher for seven years. Her last three years at Spencer were spent as the District Reading Specialist, Title-I Coordinator, and District Assessment Coordinator.

She and her husband, Brian, have been married for seven years. He works for the RVA as the technology director. They have two boys, Kai, four, and Kase, two and a half.

When not at school she said she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, cooking, hunting, gardening, and spending time outside.

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## Medford Schools welcome new educators to start year

### Maria Schroeder

Maria Schroeder will be the new Library Media Specialist in the Medford School District.

Schroeder is a graduate from UW-Eau Claire and recently received her Master's degree from UW-Milwaukee. Coming into her ninth year of teaching, Schroeder previously taught middle school ELA at Columbus and Social Studies at St. Mary's. Schroeder grew up in Pickett and enjoys reading, spending time in nature, hiking in new places with her sister, and hunting, fishing, and spending time outside with her fiancé and their dog.

### Ashley Nelson

Ashley Nelson is an incoming Special Education Teacher at Medford Area Senior High School. Nelson was born in Paintsville, Ky., and graduated from the Kentucky Christian University. After moving to Medford three years ago, Nelson worked as a special needs paraprofessional for two years. This is Nelson's first year as a teacher. Nelson and her husband, Billy, have a 5-year-old daughter named Annley. Nelson spends her free time with her family, especially fishing in the summer with her husband and their little girl.

### Kailee Mann

Kailee Mann, a Rib Lake native, will be a Social Studies teacher at Medford Area Senior High School. Mann graduated from MASH before attending college at UW-Stevens Point. When she isn't teaching, Mann enjoys tennis, basketball, watching tv shows, visiting with her friends and drinking coffee.

### Jenae Weyer

Jenae Weyer is an incoming Social Worker at the Medford Area Senior High School. Weyer graduated from UW-Green Bay in 2011 and UW-Whitewater this year. Weyer is from Ashland, but worked as the area director for a non-profit and in human services in Green Bay. Weyer also taught four year old kindergarten and worked as the 4k-12 school social worker, both in Loyal. Weyer is married to her husband, Derek, and they have three children. Weyer enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

### Brenda Mahner

Brenda Mahner is an incoming Cross-Categorical Special Education Teacher in the Medford School District. Mahner is originally from Rib Lake where she attended high school before graduating from UW-Superior earlier this year. Mahner has

previously taught K-9 general education and K-12 special education. She was also a paraprofessional at Medford Elementary in 2023 and a student teacher at Stetsonville Elementary this year. Mahner and her spouse, Rodney, have three children, Michael, 22, Jillian, 21, and Aaron, 18. Mahner enjoys crafting, knitting, art, drawing, and gardening.

### Cassidy Balciar

Cassidy Balciar, a current graduate school student at UW-Green Bay, will be a middle school Social Worker in the Medford School District. Balciar recently graduated from UW-River Falls and completed an internship in Woodbury, Minn. Balciar is a Medford native and graduate from MASH. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family, and traveling.

### Kiah Ching

Kiah Ching will be teaching Small Group Instruction for 5th grade and coaching 7th grade volleyball. Ching is from Medford where she graduated high school before going on to UW-Eau Claire, where she recently graduated. Ching likes spending time with her family and friends as well as engaging in sports, volleyball in particular, traveling, and being outdoors.

### Cassie Rudolph

Cassie Rudolph will be teaching Kindergarten at the Stetsonville Elementary School. Rudolph, an Athens native, graduated high school in Athens before going on to UW-Stevens Point, graduating in 2020. Rudolph taught 4K in Abbotsford for three years before coming to Stetsonville. Rudolph and her spouse, Cole, have one child, Levi. Rudolph enjoys hiking, spending time outside and shopping.

### Katie Sackmann

Katie Sackmann will be teaching 5th grade at Medford Area Middle School. Sackmann attended UW-Marathon and Northcentral Technical College for healthcare, later attending Western Governors University to complete a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Prior to coming into the 5th grade teaching position, Sackmann was a long term substitute teacher for the same grade. Sackmann and her spouse, Jake, have two children,

Amelia, 10, and Calvin, 8. A Medford native, Sackmann enjoys spending time outdoors with her family, camping, geocaching and traveling.

### Lauren Gierl

Lauren Gierl is an incoming 3rd grade teacher at Medford Area Elementary School. Gierl attended UW-Stevens Point and became a student teacher at MAES, later going on to teach 3rd grade at the Holy Rosary Elementary School. Gierl, who is originally from Medford, enjoys spending time with her friends and family, reading, traveling and seeing new places. Gierl is also an active participant in community theater during the summer months.

### Lauren Gierl

### Dilan Schneider

Dilan Schneider will be teaching Physical Education at the Medford Area Elementary School. Schneider, who is from Rib Lake, attended college at UW-Stevens Point. This is Schneider's first year of teaching. When not in the classroom, Schneider enjoys working out and spending time with his family.

### Dilan Schneider

### Chelsea Pipkorn

Chelsea Pipkorn is an incoming Special Education Teacher at Medford Area Elementary School. Pipkorn grew up in Madison and graduated from Northcentral Technical College in 2016 before going on to attend UW-Whitewater, graduating earlier this year. Pipkorn spent two years as a daycare provider and seven years as a paraprofessional with five of those years taking place at MAES. Pipkorn is married to her husband, Scott. She enjoys fishing, gardening, spending time with her family and friends and being outside.

### Chelsea Pipkorn

### Kiera Weiler

Kiera Weiler will soon be teaching 3rd grade at Stetsonville Elementary School. Weiler graduated from Athens High in 2020 and from UW-Stevens Point in 2023. Weiler is going into her first year as a teacher. Originally from Athens, Weiler likes to read and spend time up north.

### Kiera Weiler

### Paige Brandner

Paige Brandner, a Medford native, will teach Pre-K at Stetsonville Elementary School. Brandner graduated from MASH in 2020 and later graduated from UW-LaCrosse this year. Brandner is a first time teacher. She enjoys spending time on the lake at her cabin in Northern Wisconsin.

### Paige Brandner

### Ross Weinert

Ross Weinert will be teaching English at Medford Area Senior High. Weinert is from Bruce where he attended high school before graduating from Ripon College. Weinert spent five years as a substitute teacher and is going into his 4th year as a full-time teacher. Weinert enjoys reading, gaming, and playing golf.

### Ross Weinert

### Sami Breneman

Sami Breneman will be teaching Kindergarten at Medford Area Elementary School. Breneman is originally from Denver, Colo. She attended high school there, graduating in 2017 before later attending and graduating from the University of Northern Colorado in 2021. She then spent three years teaching 1st grade in Greeley, Colo. Breneman enjoys spending time with her family, reading, watching movies, and doing yoga.

### Sami Breneman

### Marissa Ellenbecker

Marissa Ellenbecker is a new 1st grade teacher at Medford Area Elementary School. Ellenbecker graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato this year. Ellenbecker is going into her first year as a teacher, though she was a student teacher at St. Peter South Elementary in Minnesota. Ellenbecker, who is from Edgar, has a boyfriend, Cade. Ellenbecker enjoys working out, going on adventures and exploring the outdoors, playing sports, being active, relaxing, and especially likes family board games.

### Marissa Ellenbecker

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Menu: Pancakes (potato, regular, blueberry), sausage, cheese, applesauce, juice, milk & coffee

**Adults: \$10 • Children 5-12: \$5**  
**Children 4 & Under: Free**

Funds to help our youth attend the National Youth Gathering July 2025



# Eland woman receives \$1,000 CWEC scholarship

Kalee Gilmeister, of Eland, has been named one of the recipients of the 2024 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWE) Electric Utility Worker Scholarship. She will receive \$1,000 for her studies.

Gilmeister, a 2024 graduate of D.C. Everest High School, said she decided to seek a career as an electric utility worker because she wanted to pursue her path in the trades and do something that would help other people.

"I feel like it's going to be something that I honestly will really enjoy," Gilmeister said.

Because Gilmeister's mom works for a plumbing, heating and electrical company, Gilmeister said electricity is something that has long interested her. This had her thinking about becoming an electrician. After speaking with the career coach at D.C. Everest, Gilmeister said he encouraged her to consider the Electrical Distribution program at [Northcentral Technical College \(NTC\)](#).

After visiting [NTC](#) in February to learn more about the program, Gilmeister decided that was the path she wanted to take.

"He (the instructor) let me try out some of the things and get my hands on some of it," Gilmeister said. "I just really enjoyed the teachers, the learning environment, some of the things that he taught. I just found it all really interesting and something that I could see myself learning more about."

Gilmeister said she understands that she will be entering a male-dominated career, and she will have to prove that she has the skills and knowledge to do her job. She added that, in



Kalee Gilmeister, of Eland, has been accepted into [Northcentral Technical College's](#) electrical distribution program, and a \$1,000 scholarship from Central Wisconsin Electrical Cooperative is helping her pursue her career.

CONTRIBUTED

the future, she would be all right with being a role model for young girls.

"Showing that women can do stuff and you don't have to be afraid if you're a little different," Gilmeister said. "How many women are now welders? Times can change. If you love something and it's your passion, go for it."

Spending time outdoors and having hands-on work experiences are a couple of things that attracted Gilmeister to pursue an electric utility worker career.

"I'm not the type of person who likes to sit at a desk all the time," she said. "Having that hands-on thing and trying something that most people don't

really do is something that I think sets me out and will be something that will carry me on for a long way."

Gilmeister has been accepted to the electrical distribution program at [NTC](#) in Wausau, but she is on the waiting list to start the program.

Receiving the CWE Electric Utility Worker Scholarship is something for which Gilmeister is thankful.

"It's just absolutely amazing to me that I was able to receive it," she said. "It will allow me to pay off my debt sooner and have a more fulfilling life — hopefully, even give back to other people who need help."

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# Wausau Pilot & Review

COMMUNITY

## NTC announces new programs for fall

August 7, 2024



WAUSAU — Northcentral Technical College has announced two newly developed programs that will begin with the fall semester: respiratory therapy associate degree and funeral services associate degree. The fall semester begins Aug. 26.

Admissions staff is available to help prospective students get started, answer questions and apply for financial aid. Prospective students are encouraged to finalize their fall schedules by Aug. 19.

### Respiratory therapy associate degree

This program will prepare learners to work in a team of health care professionals to evaluate, treat and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders in a wide variety of clinical settings. Learn how to assess patients, provide respiratory care and evaluate patients' responses to care.

Potential occupation: Respiratory therapist

## **Funeral services associate degree**

This program is offered in partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College and prepares learners to enter the funeral profession. Learn about the compassionate care needed to assist individuals and families after the death of a loved one, including embalming and restorative art.

Potential occupation: Funeral director

For more information or to apply to one of NTC's new programs, visit [www.ntc.edu](http://www.ntc.edu) or contact admissions at 715-803-1645.



# Students learn about welding, career possibilities

Young Women's Welding Workshop teaches fabrication and more



By Lincoln Brunner | August 29, 2024 | Article | Arc Welding



Student Karlee Ravn practices GMAW during the Young Women's Welding Workshop at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wis.

Whoever said that welding wasn't a woman's profession may have missed the memo about Northcentral Technical College's recent Young Women's Welding Workshop in Wausau, Wis. One of three Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs manufacturing camps that NTC hosted this year, the Young Women's Welding Workshop helped girls as young as 14 learn not only gas metal arc welding (GMAW, or MIG) but also how to cut and bend sheet metal and design pieces on AutoCAD.

The project that week was a bird-shaped planter that offered students the chance to learn the basics of metal fabrication and have a bit of artistic fun in the process.

"I just really love to weld," said Genna Cisewski, 17, whose father, Greg, is dean of the Agricultural Science, Utilities, and Transportation department at Northcentral. "I just like the art and creativity with it. We get to create a design on the bird planters that we're making. We get to do both the design and the building of it at the same time, which is something I really love to do—both the designing and the welding."

## What Do the Welders Think?

Northcentral has hosted NBT camps for several years now as a way to expose students to something that just might provide the path to a career. Some students are brand-new to welding while others like 17-year-old Jasmine Weiland already have dived into the metal fabrication business as a youth apprentice.

Weiland has been working at stainless steel vessel manufacturer A&B Process Systems in Stratford, Wis., learning many aspects of metal fabrication, especially gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW, or TIG).

Weiland said she prefers GTAW over GMAW or even shielded metal arc welding (SMAW, or stick) because it gives her more control over the wire and the weld's final appearance.

"It's been good," said Weiland, who lives in Stratford and made the 35-minute drive each day to the camp from there. "I've been moving around, learning a lot of new processes and what we do. Being the only girl on night shift, it can be a lot, especially being the youngest and the smallest [person] on our team. I get put into confined spaces a lot, but it's been pretty good overall.

"Everybody looks out for each other," she added. "It's not just one person working on a tank. There's usually two or three of us working as a team and not just individually."

Karissa Zastrow, Northcentral's K-12 events and communications coordinator, said that giving young students like Weiland the kind of early exposure to welding and manufacturing is what makes the summer camps her favorite part of her job.

"I think it's important for them to get into something like this because it just opens doors and avenues for what they could potentially do," Zastrow said. "I never was really exposed to welding or any of this, and the older I get the more I [think], 'That could have been a really cool profession.'"



A student practices some plasma cutting at the Young Women's Welding Workshop.

"There's definitely a benefit to exposing them early so they can take some of those opportunities before they even graduate and save themselves some time and some money and get that skill set."

At the camp, girls are encouraged to make use of Northcentral's array of fabrication machines—its 3-kW fiber laser, press brake, and of course welding machines. The week is designed to give both beginners and returning students a chance to explore new fabrication methods or sharpen skills they've already learned.

### **Another Welding-Related Career Path**

No one needs to convince Grace Koehler of the value of learning skills at an early age. Koehler, 20, graduated in May with an associate degree in welding, fabrication, and robotics. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie so she can get certified to instruct in virtually any shop class, fulfilling her longtime goal.

"I never was interested in this [welding] as a career," Koehler said. "I always wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to be a history teacher, but then I started realizing, if you're not passionate about what you teach, you're not a very good teacher. I had some really rough experiences in high school with teachers that just weren't passionate about it, and I was like, 'I want to do better. I could be that person for somebody else that I didn't have.' So that's why I'm here today."

Students like 14-year-old Karlee Ravn of Merrill, Wis., are keeping step with Koehler in the early-jump-on-the-industry Department. Even though Ravn's just entering high school and doesn't do much welding at home, she's already a camp veteran and is planning to pursue welding further in the fall.

"I just think it's interesting," Ravn said. "There's not a lot of females in welding, so I'm trying to set that standard. I just really enjoy it. I really like the instructors. I have a passion for welding, so I just enjoy spending time here."

"I want to be a teacher eventually, like Veronica."

That would be Veronica Hope, the ebullient head of the camp and a longtime welding instructor at Northcentral. Hope came to the college 23 years ago after working full time as a trainer at a rail car factory in Illinois and as an adjunct instructor at a nearby community college.

When Hope arrived at Northcentral, there were just two full-time welding instructors. Today, there are five. Hope has been there since the beginning of the school's partnership with NBT about six years ago and loves to watch students grow through it—the laser cutting, the design work, the welding, everything.

"I do it because it's so amazing to watch kids discover what they're capable of and to see what they can create," Hope said. "It's amazing ... to see how well they take to these processes."

"We have a lot of repeat campers who come multiple years," she noted. "And that's kind of a benefit that I didn't see coming, because those older repeat students, they take the new students under their wing, so there's some informal mentorship that's going on that's kind of informal but so amazing to watch."

Some of those campers have migrated to Northcentral's degree program—Hope's wheelhouse. In that role, Hope keeps tabs on how the businesses that are potential employers for her graduates are changing so that she can adjust her curriculum to match. For example, when Hope started at Northcentral, SMAW was the thing. Today, most shops prefer using GMAW, which is just fine with Hope since it's the easiest process for newcomers to pick up and for repeat students to master.

"We have changed the emphasis to match our employer base," Hope said. "We taught a lot of stick welding in the beginning, and now our program is kind of split between MIG and TIG. We still do a little stick and some flux core."

Koehler said her hope for the camps is that students will see possibilities for themselves through what they learn during their short time there.

“I just hope that they feel like they have a purpose,” Koehler said. “I don’t expect everybody to go and become welders, but there are lots of roles, from engineers to our actual fabricators and architects. I want everybody to find their place in society.”





Northcentral Technical College

3 days ago · 🌐

...

Chris and Carrie Mann, of Park Falls, were snowmobiling in northern Wisconsin in early January 2023 with another couple. What started as a typical afternoon enjoying the winter weather with friends turned into an emergency, and a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course through Northcentral Technical College (NTC) helped save a life that day.

Read the story here:



NTC.EDU

**Couple Uses CPR Knowledge to Save a Life | Northcentral Technical College**

Chris and Carrie Mann, of Park Falls, were snowmobiling in northern Wisconsin in early January...

NTC NEWS

# Couple Uses CPR Knowledge to Save a Life

BY KALEY FECH SEP 05, 2024

Chris and Carrie Mann, of Park Falls, were snowmobiling in northern Wisconsin in early January 2023 with another couple. What started as a typical afternoon enjoying the winter weather with friends turned into an emergency, and a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course through Northcentral Technical College (NTC) helped save a life that day.

The trail the group was snowmobiling on narrowed at one point, and their friend didn't realize it as he came around Chris. He hit a large pile of snow and was thrown off his snowmobile. Chris estimates he was thrown more than 130 feet.

“I saw his gloves fly over me, it was like Superman through the air,” Chris said. “He landed face down in the snow with no movement.”

Chris told Carrie to call 911, and he rushed over to help their friend. When he got to him, Chris could hear he was struggling to breathe. As a full-grown male in full snowmobile gear, it took quite a bit of effort to get him flipped over. The shield of his helmet cracked on impact and was full of snow, so Chris worked to remove his helmet and get his jacket unzipped.

Meanwhile, Carrie was on the phone with 911 answering their questions. The operator told her that he was not getting enough oxygen to his brain and that they needed to start CPR.

It just so happened that both Carrie and Chris had recently taken CPR courses. Carrie took a course through NTC, and Chris took a CPR course at work. With the knowledge fresh in their minds, they were able to use their skills to administer CPR to their friend.

“Her and I work really well as a team,” Chris said. “I knelt on one side of him and did compressions until I got tired. Then she would tap in, and we just continued like that, back and forth.”

It took emergency medical services around 20 minutes to reach them due to the rural location. While 20 minutes may not ordinarily seem particularly long, that is a lot of time in an emergency situation.

“He’s alive, and that’s what matters,” Carrie said. “I don’t think the outcome would have been as favorable if we didn’t have the knowledge.”

By the time first responders arrived, their friend had begun to come around, and although he had some injuries, he is now okay. He is getting married soon, and both Chris and Carrie will be standing up in the wedding as the best man and the maid of honor.

“I told so many people after that experience to go get CPR certified,” Chris said. “You never know what’s going to happen. Sometimes it takes too long for help to respond, and having that knowledge could be a matter of life or death.”

NTC’s Workforce Training + Professional Development offers CPR courses throughout the year at each of its campuses. To find a CPR course, visit: [www.ntc.edu/academics-training/courses/emergency-medical-services/bls-basic-life-support-cpr](http://www.ntc.edu/academics-training/courses/emergency-medical-services/bls-basic-life-support-cpr)





Northcentral Technical College

August 7 · 🌐

...

Nursing is a longstanding profession, and while the premise of patient care has remained the same, the education and technology continue to evolve.

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) first began offering a nursing program in 1969, and several graduates from the second and third classes recently returned to campus to see all that had changed over the past 50 years.

Read the full story here:



NTC.EDU

Early Graduates from NTC's Nursing Program Return to Campus, Admire Advancements | Northcentral Technical College

NTC NEWS

# Early Graduates from NTC's Nursing Program Return to Campus, Admire Advancements

BY KALEY FECH    AUG 06, 2024

Nursing is a longstanding profession, and while the premise of patient care has remained the same, the education and technology continue to evolve.

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) first began offering a nursing program in 1969, and several graduates from the second and third classes recently returned to campus to see all that had changed over the past 50 years. Patti Rossman, Marlin Kalafice and Susan Ellerman graduated from the program in 1972, and Heidi Duley graduated in 1973.

They toured the Center for Health Sciences, a building that did not exist during their schooling days. Their first stop on the tour was the classrooms, which are designed to facilitate interaction between students. Learning is very hands on and interactive and continues to evolve as technology advances.

"All the medical technology, add 50 years to what we learned," Patti said. "We can only imagine."



*Susan Ellerman (from left), Marlin Kalafice and Heidi Duley marvel at the realistic nature of the patient simulators in the skills lab.*

Their next stop on the tour was the skills lab. The skills lab is equipped with a variety of tools and technology for students to practice and improve their techniques. The ladies were all in awe of the advancement in the technology available to students to help them learn and improve.

The group then walked through the wing of the Center for Health Sciences designed to replicate a hospital. There are rooms for patients, medical charts and medications, and there are simulators that serve as patients. The simulators allow students to practice running a full code, starting IVs, delivering a baby and so much more.





*Realistic patient rooms help prepare students for a hospital setting.*

“The simulators enhance what they get in clinicals because you won’t see all scenarios in clinicals,” said Dr. Angela Roesler, Dean of Health and Community Services. “They are able to practice those low frequency, high risk events.”

During their time at NTC, current nursing students run the wing as if it were a hospital. They are assigned two patients each and are responsible for assessing the patients to determine what is wrong with them and work through the scenario. Instructors can observe the students as they run the simulation and make adjustments.

“We try to emulate real scenarios as much as we can to give students that exposure,” Dr. Roesler said. “There isn’t anyone else – you are the nurse – what are you going to do? We try to train them for that right from the beginning.”

The ladies asked if students practice reading and filling out patient charts, and they learned that NTC has a software system that allows for the creation of electronic medical records. Instructors can create a chart that includes things such as medication recommendations, doctor’s and nurses’ notes, CT results, labs and more.

“Years back, all we had was paper and a pencil,” Marlin joked.

Next up, the group had the opportunity to check out the immersive reality room, in which they can create any clinical environment they want using 360-degree video, including the floor and ceiling. Eventually, the goal is to recreate the exact rooms in the

facilities where students will do their clinicals to help them become familiar with the environment before ever stepping inside.

“It’s really only limited by your imagination,” Dr. Roesler said.



*The immersive reality room allows for the creation of real-life scenarios and environments.*

The ladies talked about taking their boards to become licensed nurses, and Heidi shared a memory that after they took their boards, they had a plan to charter a bus to take them to another testing site because they were all certain they had failed. They all passed, and the planned trip proved unnecessary, but the fear is relatable to most.

Last year, NTC’s nursing students attained an impressive 99% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), but Dr. Roesler said she has never talked to a student after taking their boards who thought they had passed. No matter how much things change, it seems some things will always stay the same.

To learn more about NTC’s Nursing Associate Degree program, visit: [www.ntc.edu/academics-training/programs/all/associate-degree/nursing](http://www.ntc.edu/academics-training/programs/all/associate-degree/nursing)





Northcentral Technical College

5 days ago · 🌐

...

The fall semester is in full swing at Northcentral Technical College, and we caught up with Lilliana Lopez during the first week of classes to find out what she is excited about this semester.

"I am looking forward to becoming my own person and having new experiences with people I've never met and being able to get the full college experience," Lilliana said. "I had to work really hard to get into the program, so I'm very appreciative."



3110G463544

Lilliana Lopez, Cosmetology



Northcentral Technical College

4 days ago · 🌐

...

The fall semester is in full swing at Northcentral Technical College, and we caught up with Connor Butler during the first week of classes to find out why he chose NTC.

"I've had a passion for making videos for awhile," Connor said. "It's been a big part of my life. I've done videos, gaming and other short-form content. Being here has been a great experience so far."



3110G463544

Connor Butler, Video Production





Northcentral Technical College

August 8 · 🌐

We are excited to announce NTC was nominated for Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Foundation's Future of Industry award for our summer manufacturing camp programs.

NTC offers three manufacturing summer camp opportunities for students. These camps, which focus on fields like welding and machine tool technology, are designed to introduce middle and high school students to various career opportunities in manufacturing. By engaging students early, NTC aims to spark their interest in these vital industries and provide them with valuable skills that will benefit them in their future careers.

The winner of the Future of Industry award will be announced during the Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Awards Gala Wednesday, October 2, 2024



Northcentral Technical College

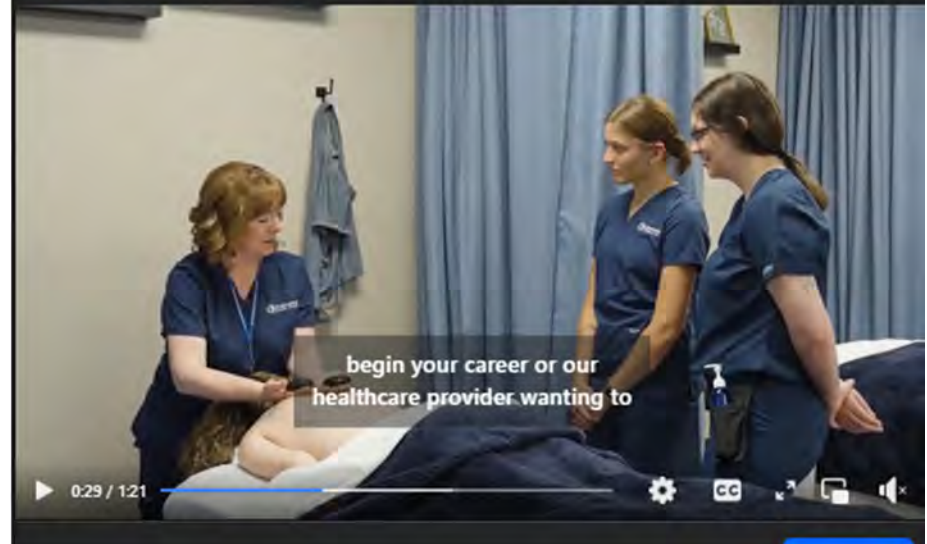
August 6 · 🌐

Discover a rewarding career in therapeutic massage!


Are you interested in a career that combines hands-on skills with the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives? NTC's Therapeutic Massage Technical Diploma program is your gateway to a fulfilling career in massage therapy.

Learners gain a comprehensive understanding of the human body and a high degree of technical skill, with an emphasis on personal and professional development, increased self-awareness and sensitivity.

To learn more about the program + apply, visit: <http://www.ntc.edu/.../technical-diploma/therapeutic-massage>





 **Northland Lutheran High School**  
a day ago · 🌐

As our brains are warming back up into our studies here at NLHS, how about this fun "math equation" 🧐  
You take 59 dual credit NLHS students with their 304 attempted college credits and this equals over a \$46,900 savings in college tuition for these NLHS students. 🤯  
#northcentraltechnicalcollege #NTC #NLHS

# 59

DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS

at

## Northland Lutheran High School

attempted 304 college credits from Northcentral Technical College, saving


# \$46,938.85\*

in tuition during the 2023-24 academic year.


\*Tuition value based on 2023-2024 cost per credit of \$143.35. Based on actual credits earned.





▶ 🔊 ⋮



# NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE



**Skyward, Inc.** 

Following

It's National College Colors Day! 🏆 Follow us around the office to see a few of the awesome alma maters repped at Skyward HQ.

#SchoolPride #CollegeColors





Lindsey Quante

July 31 at 1:40 PM · 🌐

I am so excited for this next chapter in my life! Beyond excited to mentor/train with these amazing ladies! ✨💖



Beauty by Joan

July 31 at 9:25 AM · 🌐

Please welcome [Lindsey Quante](#) to the salon!!! She is our new stylist having just recently graduated from [Studio Max-Northcentral Technical College](#) 🎓. She came in and did a little training with Christy and some natural teasy lights and healthy trim on her model. She did SO GOOD! Over the next 1-2 months she will continue training here with mentoring from Christy, Cassandra, and myself. She will be in the salon Tuesday - Thursday to start. Please call us 785-5017 or message this page to book with Lindsey!! Her model/training prices are:

Color services \$50  
Men's cut \$15  
Women's cut \$25  
Eyebrow wax \$8  
Perm \$50

Please share and support Lindsey on her new career!! Welcome 🙌



Edgar School District

21 hours ago · 🌐

Proud of our 144 DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS at Edgar High School! Together, they tackled 1,023 college credits from Northcentral Technical College, saving an impressive \$140,489.45 in tuition for the 2023-24 academic year! 🙌💖 Investing in their future while maximizing opportunities at Edgar School District! WAY TO GO!

🌟 This is #EdgarExcellence! 🌟

144

DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS

at

Edgar High School

attempted 1023 college credits from Northcentral Technical College, saving

\$140,489.45\*

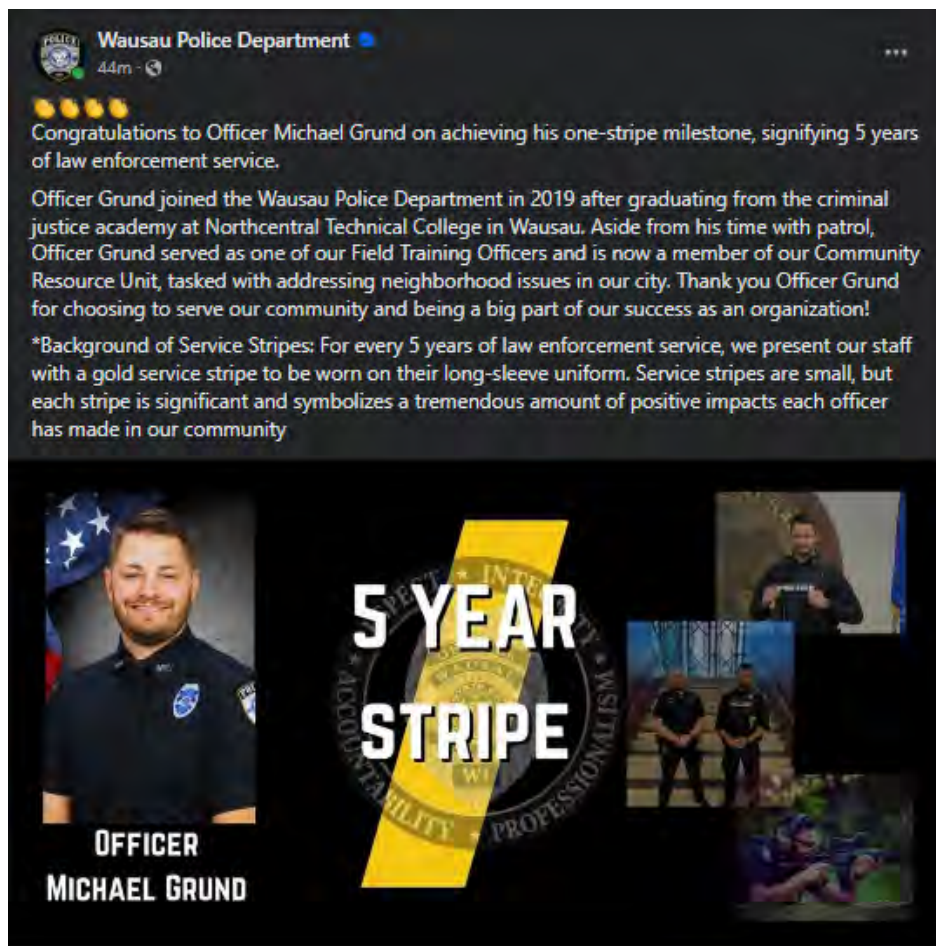
in tuition during the 2023-24 academic year.

\*Tuition value based on 2023-2024 cost per credit of \$161.55. Based on actual credits earned.

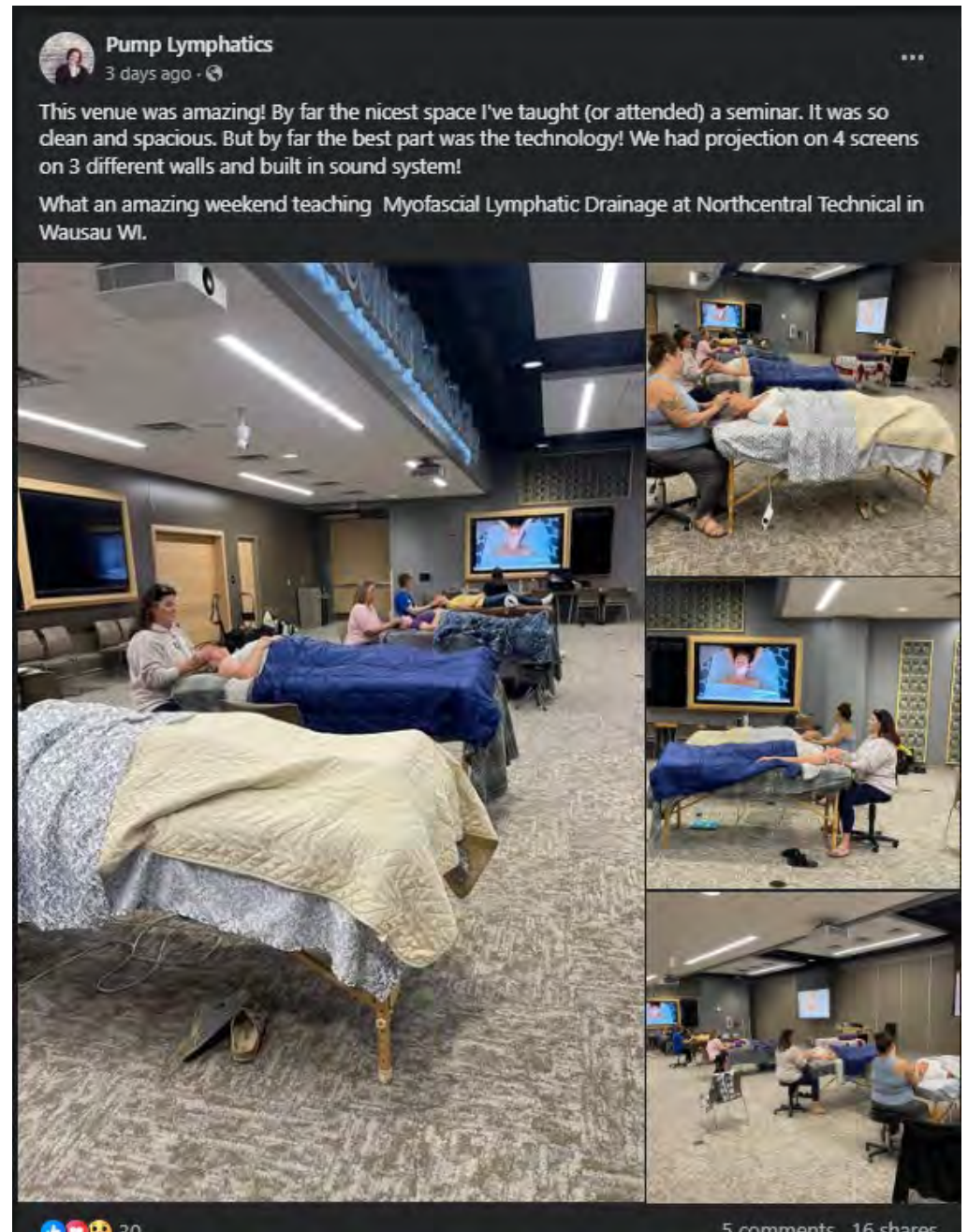
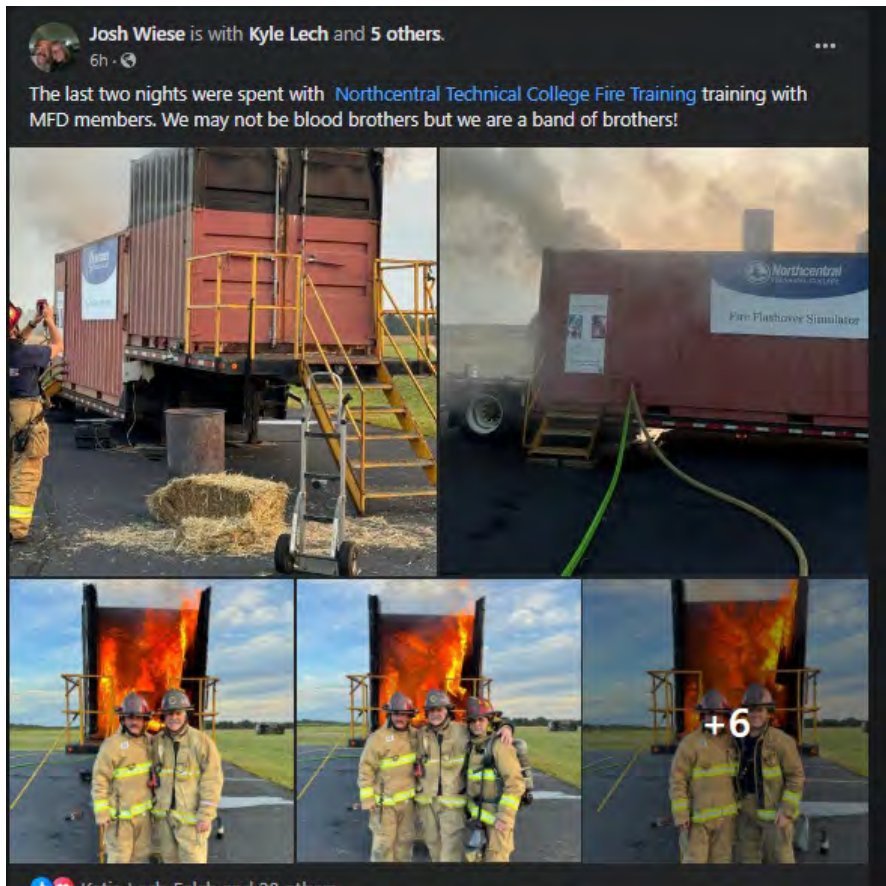


Northcentral  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE













Merrill Chamber

5 days ago · 🌐

🌟 What a Fantastic Start! 🌟

We're excited to share that our first AI session, hosted in partnership with Northcentral Technical College, was a huge success! 🎉

📖 Highlights from Today's Session:

Engaging Content: Our attendees delved into the fundamentals of AI and explored how it can revolutionize their businesses.

Interactive Learning: Real-world examples made the concepts easy to grasp and directly applicable.

Expert Insights: Our instructor provided valuable tips and answered all questions, leaving everyone inspired and informed.

A big thank you to Josh, with Northcentral Technical College for his expertise and to all the participants who made the session so lively and impactful! Your enthusiasm and commitment to learning about AI are truly commendable.

Also thank you to [Courtside Furniture](#) for sponsoring this AI Series class.

📷 Check Out the Photo

Stay tuned for more exciting classes and events. We're committed to bringing valuable learning opportunities to our members!

#MerrillChamber #AIClass #NorthcentralTechnicalCollege #SuccessStory #LearningJourney #InnovateWithAI #LocalBusiness #MerrillWI

Also, thank you AI for writing the majority of this post for me! Haha



Mosinee Fire District

3 hours ago · 🌐

🔥 Mosinee firefighters continue to train improving both knowledge and skill.

For the past two evenings, [Northcentral Technical College Fire Training](#) was onsite providing live fire training. Training was conducted in NTC's flashover trailer allowing firefighters to observe both smoke and fire behavior. Training like this is invaluable as it provides firefighters with live firefighting experience all while in a safe and controlled manner.

🙌 Thank you NTC for providing a g... See more







Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin is 🥰 feeling blessed.

23 hours ago · 🌐

Did you know applying for grants takes some time and insight? It's one of the tasks nonprofit leaders do to keep their organization moving forward, especially when they have a good idea they need additional support to bring to life. But writing out the application can be challenging! That's why we hosted Nonprofit Networking: Meet the Funders. And we couldn't be happier with how the event went.

Over 100 leaders from local organizations gathered to learn about the grant application processes of various funding sources. This is the best turnout we've ever had! 🙌

Thank you to this crew of presenters for preparing and providing guidance. Thank you to [Northcentral Technical College](#) for hosting all of us. Thank you to the [B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation](#) for co-sponsoring the event to keep it free for all participants.

And if you were able to join us, thank you for coming! We are so blessed to live in a community FULL of people who deeply care for others!



Chequamegon School District

a day ago · 🌐

CHS staff have their own school work to do. Faculty members sat in on a training seminar with the [Northcentral Technical College](#) to get the most current information on our dual-credit offerings for Chequamegon. This is a great benefit to those students who want to earn college credits while they're still in high school.

#DualCredit #CHSSoar #CSDSoar





**Wausau School District**  
a day ago · 🌐

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 West High Accounting 4 students for earning the Quickbooks Specialist Diploma from Northcentral Technical College!



**CERTIFICATION EARNED**

Students from Wausau West's Accounting 4 course earned NTC's Quickbooks Specialist Technical Diploma for completing 3 NTC courses: Accounting 1, Quickbooks 1, & Quickbooks 2.

**Students earning certification:**  
Carter Barwick  
Tod Deedon  
Anthony Jackson  
Madison Parsley  
Hope Thao


**Mosinee Fire District**  
3 days ago · 🌐

**FIREFIGHTERS EARN CERTIFICATION**

Today, 3 of our Firefighters were at [Northcentral Technical College Fire Training](#) being tested on practical firefighter skills. Each firefighter was successful in their testing and have achieved state certification.

👏 Please join us in congratulating Firefighter Ila Akey in earning Certified Firefighter 1 and both Firefighter Jeremy Wruck and Firefighter Alexis Straughan in earning Certified Firefighter 2. These certifications are a significant accomplishment for each one of them.

We are proud of each one of you and look forward to seeing what you achieve next!





## H2N Community Announcements

August 17 at 11:03 AM · 🌐


Northcentral Technical College CNA Class Starts August 29th!. This program is aimed at people who speak English as a second language. Fall 2024 classes will begin soon in Medford, WI. Cost, class days and more details are included in the flyers.

### Northcentral Technical College


Northcentral Technical College CNA Class Starts August 29th! This program is directed toward people who speak English as a second language. Fall 2024 classes start soon in Medford, WI. The cost, class days, and more details are featured in the flyers.

#northcentralcollege #NTC #cnatraining #CNA #healthcare #saludmedica  
#EnfermeriaProfesional #saludybienestar #comunidad #salud #community  
#englishasasecondlanguage #espanol #bilingual #spanish

🔗 See original · Rate this translation



**Nursing Assistant (CNA)  
Technical Diploma**  
NTC MEDFORD CAMPUS - FALL 2024



**CLASS STARTS**  
AUGUST 29

Please refer to the content in Spanish for those who speak English as a second language.

El programa de formación de asistente de enfermería (CNA) de Northcentral Technical College en el campus de Medford, WI, está diseñado para personas que hablan español como segunda lengua. Las clases comenzarán el 29 de agosto de 2024. El programa incluye formación teórica y práctica en un entorno clínico. El costo de la matrícula y los materiales es de \$1,200. Para más detalles, visite nuestro sitio web o llámenos al 715.431.1234.

Clase	Días	Horario	Costo
Clase 1	Viernes	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	\$300
Clase 2	Sábado	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	\$300
Clase 3	Domingo	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	\$300
Clase 4	Lunes	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	\$300



**Diploma técnico de asistente de enfermería (CNA)**  
CAMPUS DE NTC EN MEDFORD - OTORO DE 2024



**LAS CLASES**  
COMENZAN EL 29 DE AGOSTO

Por favor, consulte el contenido en español para aquellos que hablan inglés como segunda lengua.

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a day ago · 🌐

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August 17 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

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Also, thank you AI for writing the majority of this post for me! Haha



**Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Foundation**  
2 days ago · 🌐

We are pleased to announce the Future of Industry Award nominees! This award will be presented at the Awards Gala on October 2nd to recognize the recipient's commitment to the manufacturing industry by hosting summer camps introducing young people to the industry and exposing them to manufacturing career options.

Join us at the Gala to celebrate: <https://bit.ly/3M8ZmgZ>

[College of the Canyons](#) | [Gogebic Community College](#) | [Northcentral Technical College](#) ... See more

# Future of Industry Award

## 2024 NBT GALA AWARD NOMINEES



COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

ST. CLARITA, CA



GOGEBIC  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HOUGHTON, MI



Northcentral  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

WAUSAU, WI

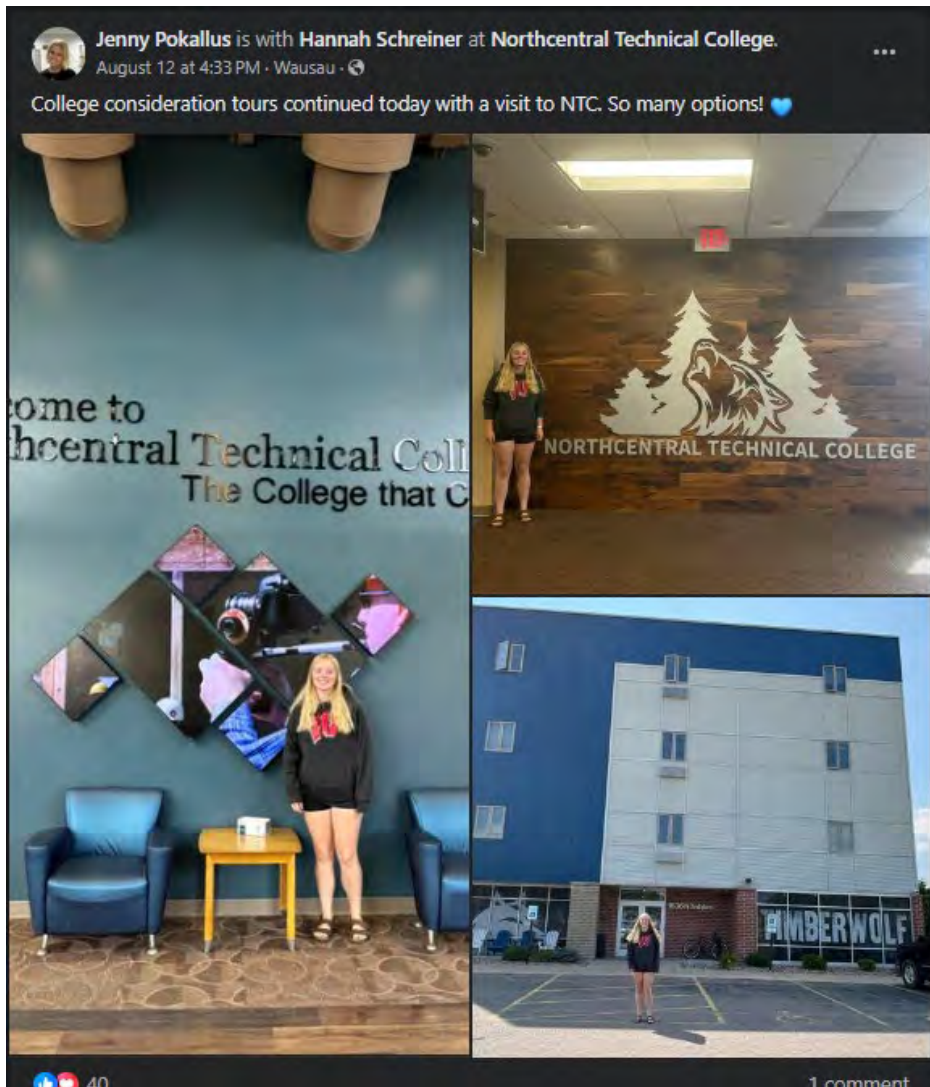
NUTS, BOLTS & THINGAMAJIGS

# AWARDS Gala

**Oct. 2, 2024**  
Victoria in the Park  
Mount Prospect, IL

**FMA | NUTS, BOLTS & THINGAMAJIGS**





**Jaekle Distributors** · Follow  
17 hours ago · 🌐

If you or someone you know is interested in pursuing a flooring installation career, consider exploring this fantastic opportunity!

Northcentral Technical College, located in Wausau, WI, will be starting a 10-week flooring installation training course on September 9th. Details and a registration link for the course can be found here: <https://www.ntc.edu/.../flooring-installation-technician...>

This program provides 300 contact hours of comprehensive ins... [See more](#)

### UPCOMING CLASSES

#### SEPTEMBER:

- Drake CC Huntsville, AL.
- Great Falls CC Great Falls, MT.
- Dickson TCAT Clarksville, TN.
- Chatt State Chattanooga, TN.
- Walters State CC Morristown, TN.
- Northcentral CC Wausau WI.

## TRAIN FOR **FREE**

## WITH A FCEF

## SCHOLARSHIP

APPLY TODAY!

[flooryourfuture.com](http://flooryourfuture.com)

For more info email: [info@fcef.org](mailto:info@fcef.org)





Sammie Thomas

August 9 at 5:42 AM · 🌐

Best program out there hands down! Just as impressed with all the upgrades since just 6 years ago. Congratulations to all. If you're hesitating between a 4 year or tech nursing program, I'd choose NTC program 100x over. Trust me when I say your future employers will be able to recognize you were an NTC nursing student right from the starting interview for your first job. 🍀



Northcentral Technical College

Published by Kaley Elizabeth

· August 7 at 11:00 AM · 🌐

Nursing is a longstanding profession, and while the premise of patient care has remained the same, the education and technology continue to evolve.

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) first began offering a nursing program in 1969, and several graduates from the second and third classes recently returned to campus to see all that had changed over the past 50 years.

Read the full story here:



NTC.EDU

Early Graduates from NTC's Nursing Program Return to Campus, Admire Advancements | Northcentral Technical College



Children's Imaginarium


1h · 🌐

Be sure to stop by the STEM Lab on Friday, August 16th to learn about the fascinating world of plants! 🌱 [Northcentral Technical College](#)









**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative**  
 3h · 🌐

Our final featured recipient of a \$500 Operation Round Up scholarship is Emma Wojtalewicz, who graduated from Rosholt High School. Emma plans to attend Northcentral Technical College to study Nursing.

Congratulations Emma and best wishes as you continue your education!

Funds in the CWEC Operation Round Up program come from the generous donations of CWEC members who elect to have their electric bills rounded up to the next highest dollar each month. For more information about Operation Round Up scholarships available through CWEC, or to view the 2024 first-time recipients, visit: <https://www.cwecoop.com/scholarship-opportunities>









**Taylor County Health Department** · Follow  
5 days ago · 🌐

**Northcentral Technical College - Medford Campus** is hosting a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class that is specific for people who speak English as a second language! CNAs are very valuable to many different settings, including long-term care and hospitals!

Classroom instruction will take place at NTC's Medford Campus and clinicals will take place at Abby Healthcare. Classes start on Thursday, Aug. 29 and run through Dec. 12.

To learn more + get started, visit <http://www.ntc.edu/.../technical.../nursing-assistant-cna> or call 715.803.1491.




**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative**  
1h · 🌐

The next featured recipient of a \$500 Operation Round Up scholarship is Hope Uttecht, who graduated from Wittenberg-Biramwood High School. Hope plans to attend Northcentral Technical College to become an X-Ray Technician.

Congratulations Hope and best wishes as you continue your education!

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**Photo Not Available**



navta\_official • Follow

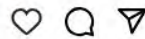
...



navta\_official 🎉 NAVTA is thrilled to honor Blue Ridge Community College - Virginia as the 2024 Student Chapter of the Year and Nicole Getzloff, CVT, from Northcentral Technical College as the Student Advisor of the Year. Their dedication to advancing veterinary education and community service is truly inspiring. Thank you for your outstanding contributions to the profession!

📺 Awards presented by Dr. Annie Lin, DVM, from Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets (our awards' exclusive sponsor) and NAVTA President Jamie Rauscher, LVT. Dr. Wynne DiGrassie accepted the Chapter of the Year on behalf of BRCC

1w



28 likes

August 1



Add a comment...

## Media Monitoring Suite



## Reports

## Name Report

Sort By  
**Date** DMAOrder:  
**Ascending** ▲[Export to Excel >](#)

WSAW (CBS) 8/1/2024 6:16:48 PM

Wausau, WI

NewsChannel 7 @ 6

Local Viewership: 9,642

Local Publicity Value: \$556.66

coursework. where it's heading to help out. northcentral technical college has a new tool to make learning more accessible in our community-- a mobile classroom! newschannel 7's bella laufenberg takes us into the lab to get the scoop. bella laufenberg, reporting "north central technical college debuted their mobile certified nursing assistant courses in march in abbotsford." the course is held in their new the course is abbotsford." courses in march in abbotsford." the course is held in their new mobile lab. it can hold up to ten students at a time for a 5 week c-n-a course. they're able course. they're able to do the entire class out of the mobile lab along with the state testing after the course ends. mason heldt, learning mgr. of health sciences and community



WJFW (NBC) 8/2/2024 5:06:24 PM

Wausau, WI

NewsWatch 12 at 5

Local Viewership: 4,237

Local Publicity Value: \$144.04

attend one of 11 u-w system schools without having to pay tuition or fees. u-w-madison and u-w-milwaukee separately operate their own tuition promise programs. northcentral technical college in wausau has two new programs for students in fall. they have a new respiratory therapy associate degree... where students will learn to evaluate.. treat and manage patients with respiratory illnesses and serious conditions that affect the heart and lungs. the second program is funeral services associate degree. the fall semester begins august 26. wolf sightings in a northwoods town are worrying some residents...after one family recently lost a pet.



WJFW (NBC) 8/5/2024 6:37:33 AM

Wausau, WI

NewsWatch 12 Morning News

Local Viewership: 2,450

Local Publicity Value: \$92.48

facility. governor evers signed an executive order which ordered flags to be at half-staff from sunrise to sunset on saturday to celebrate proulx's life. northcentral technical college in wausau has two new programs for students in fall. they have a new respiratory therapy associate degree... where students will learn to evaluate.. treat and manage patients with respiratory illnesses and serious conditions that affect the heart and lungs. the second program is funeral services associate degree. the fall semester begins august 26. a local clinic is providing low-cost reproductive services to patients in need. the oneida county



WAOW (ABC) 8/5/2024 4:08:49 PM

Wausau, WI

News 9 WAOW at 4 PM

Local Viewership: 10,992

Local Publicity Value: \$315.97

said they built more townhouse us. well, the school year is bringing some new core studies that northcentral technical college will tell you what they're offering. plus there surfing for gold in the olympics. but they don't have a thing on these competitors. look at the action when we return and a good chance of heavy rain headed our way later tonight. we've got an update on how long the showers and storms are going to stick look, here's a phone company who wants us to use our phones less. that's ironic. yeah, but in a good way! ( ) let's find us again with us mode. uscellular. built for us. it's a free ride. but i already paid!



WAOW (ABC) 8/5/2024 4:12:17 PM

Wausau, WI

News 9 WAOW at 4 PM

Local Viewership: 10,992

Local Publicity Value: \$315.97

let's take a look at some hometown headlines now. the fall semester is approaching at northcentral technical college classes begin on monday. august



26th. >> in addition to being a new school year, there are 2 new programs based on industry and community feedback. the college now offers a respiratory therapy, associate degree to evaluate treat and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses. they're also offering a funeral services associate degree which prepares learners to enter the funeral profession. there's more roadwork on the way in stevens point prentiss street is closed all the way to maria



WSAW (CBS) 8/27/2024 6:17:05 PM

Wausau, WI

NewsChannel 7 @ 6

Local Viewership: 11,735

Local Publicity Value: \$683.54

the renovations are mostly on the first floor where the classrooms are. but if enrollment grows... more upgrades are optional. in wausau... adam mueller... newschannel 7. northcentral technical college, taylor county human services and the health department are teaming up for a safety online talk tomorrow. officer david gomez will be talking about substance use, sexting and how to be safe online at ntc-medford's campus. you can also attend virtually by zoom. due to the maturity of the content, organizers are making the event for people 18 and older. melissa moore, public health foundationalist, taylor county health department: information is coming at us 24-7 and we look at who is utilizing that information, the predators that

Items in this report: 6

Total Local Viewership: 50,048

Total Local Market Publicity Value: \$2,108.65

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