

**DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, September 22, 2020  
Northcentral Technical College  
1000 W. Campus Drive  
Wausau, WI 54401

Microsoft Teams: [September NTC Board of Trustees Meeting](#)

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

**I. PUBLIC INPUT**

- a. Public Comments

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of meeting minutes from August 4, 2020 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

**Motion:** That the Northcentral Technical College Board approve the meeting minutes from the August 4, 2020 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote required to approve.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. [Approval of 2020-2021 CEO Goals](#)

**Motion:** That the Northcentral Technical College Board approve the 2020-2021 CEO Goals.

Roll call vote required to approve.

- b. [Approval of Draft 2020-2021 Board Dashboard](#) – Vicki Jeppesen + Angie Servi

**Motion:** That the Northcentral Technical College Board approve the Draft 2020-2021 Board Dashboard.

Roll call vote required to approve.

- c. [Approval of Board Policy 1.3: Budgeting](#) – Roxanne Lutgen

**Motion:** That the Northcentral Technical College Board approve Board Policy 1.3: Budgeting to align with the WTCS System Office Financial and Administration Manual (FAM).

Roll call vote required to approve.

**IV. CONSENT VOTING AGENDA**

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

ii. [Personnel Changes](#)

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

- i. Receipts + Expenditures
- ii. Personnel Changes

Roll call vote required to approve.

**V. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

- a. President's Report
  - i. Status of Enrollments – Jeannie Worden + Katie Felch
  - ii. Fall Reopening Update – Rob Elliott, Chet Strebe + Darren Ackley
  - iii. College Inservice Update – Cher Vink
  - iv. 2021-2023 Biennium Budget Request to Legislature
- b. Chairperson's Report
  - i. ACCT Leadership Congress – October 5-8, 2020 (Virtual)
  - ii. WTC DBA Fall Meeting – October 22-24, 2020 (Virtual)
- c. Information
  - i. [Upcoming Meetings + Events](#)
  - ii. [Good News](#)

**VI. MEETING ADJOURN**

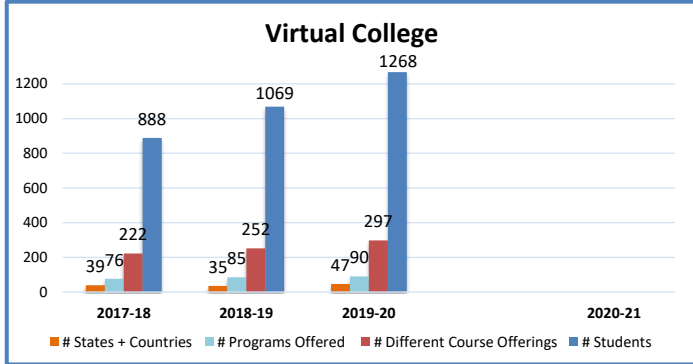
Note: Meetings of the Northcentral Technical College District Board are held in compliance with Wisconsin's "Open Meetings Law".

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

## CEO Goals 2020-2021

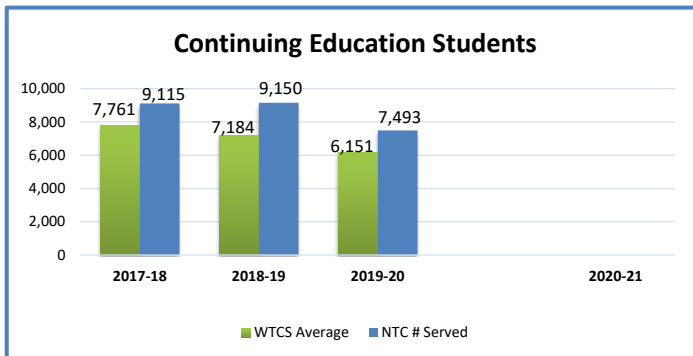
1. Complete a new strategic plan for the College with an emphasis on what NTC will look like post-pandemic.
2. Review and conduct an evaluation of policies and practices through an equity lens in the areas of curriculum, professional development and student services, with the intent to enhance a culture of inclusion.
3. Continue to lead NTC through the COVID pandemic with the health and safety of students and staff as a top priority, while keeping the College fiscally sound and maintaining our Aa1 bond rating.
4. Design and implement phase one of Industry 4.0 to include the facility expansion of a “lights-out” manufacturing hub and an IT infrastructure for a learning network supporting data analytics. Complete a plan for phase two implementation of agriculture and health Industry 4.0 hubs.
5. Lead our community efforts to establish NTC as a leader in engineering technology by establishing new partnerships with 4-year universities and colleges and design a new pre-engineering focus at our College.
6. Serve in a leadership role with the WTCS Presidents’ Association:
  - a. Chair of the Presidents’ Association Expanding Transfer Subcommittee
  - b. Liaison to the Student Services Administrators

**NTC Strategic Direction: Growth & Innovation**



**Virtual College COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

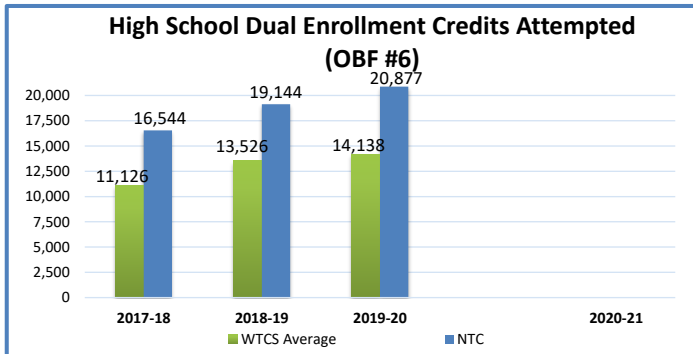
- During Spring, Summer and Fall 2020, NTC migrated many fully face-to-face course offerings to online, hybrid, and Zoom formats. Preliminary data shows that students were successful in these formats. Future reports will measure course completion and qualitative student feedback for flexible formats.
- NTC's online presence is growing: In 2019-20, NTC had over 11,000 enrollments in online courses, which was a 16% increase from the previous year. Future reports will monitor this trend.
- NTC has migrated to Zoom technology to increase access and quality of instruction. Future reports will measure this transition.



**Continuing Education COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

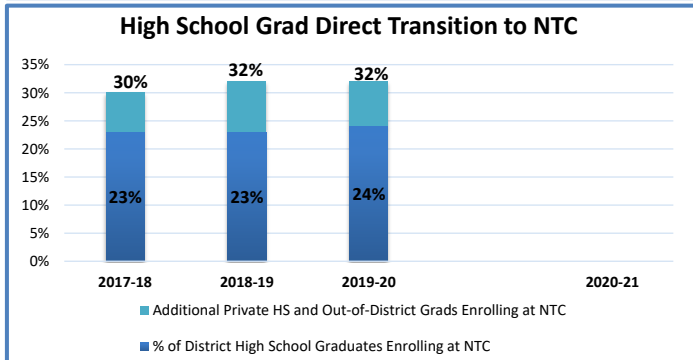
- NTC's Workforce Training and Professional Development team continues to expand and modify its offerings to connect with employees at local businesses. Offerings now include remote options such as webinars. Future reports will measure the percentage of students served through webinars vs. face-to-face.

**NTC Strategic Direction: Strategic Partnerships and Outcomes Based Funding Criterion #6 (Dual Credit Enrollments), Criterion #7 (Workforce Training), and Criterion #10 (Credit for Prior Learning)**



**High School Dual Enrollment COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

- NTC is engaging in new ways with area high schools and their students. Virtual tours are an example of how students can connect with NTC without needing to set foot on campus. Future reports will showcase NTC's methods of engaging K-12 students and schools.



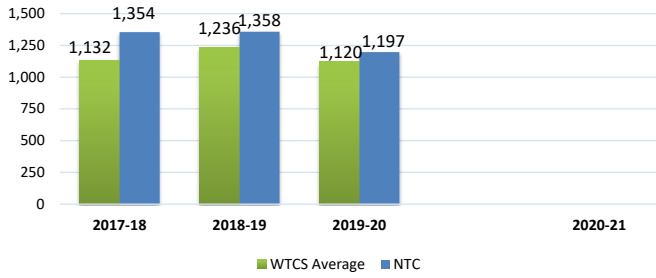
**High School Grad Direct Transition COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

- In order to ensure strong connections between high school seniors and NTC, tactics to connect with students are constantly evolving. Future reports will include how NTC's tactics differ between high schools using in-person learning and those using hybrid and fully virtual models.
- NTC is monitoring enrollment in area "virtual academies", such as Bridges Virtual Academy, WAVE, Medford Rural Virtual Academy, and others. Future reports will share strategies used with virtual academies and corresponding transition rates.



2020-21 DRAFT NTC Board of Trustees Dashboard, Continued

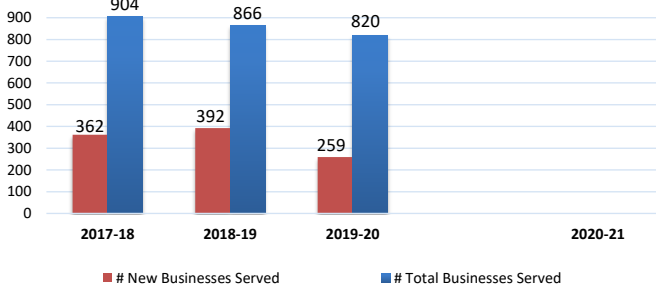
**High Demand Diplomas and Degrees Awarded (OBF #2)**



**High Demand Diplomas and Degrees COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

- Many high demand program areas require face-to-face learning, such as clinicals and labs. NTC has opened on-campus learning for these programs so students can graduate on time. Future reports will include adjustments made in order to ensure student, staff and faculty safety as well as successful program completion in high demand areas.

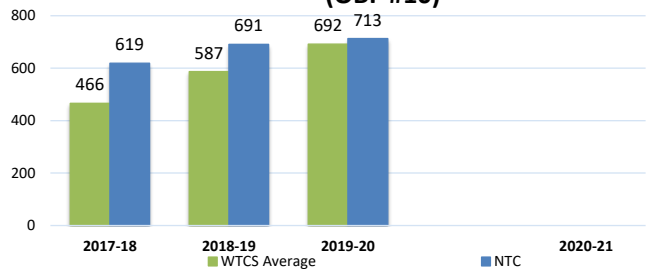
**Businesses Served**



**Businesses Served COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

- New safety guidelines and restrictions prevent NTC from delivering instruction and training services at some local businesses. Future reports will share strategies that NTC's Workforce Training + Professional Development team are using to connect with businesses in new and innovative ways.

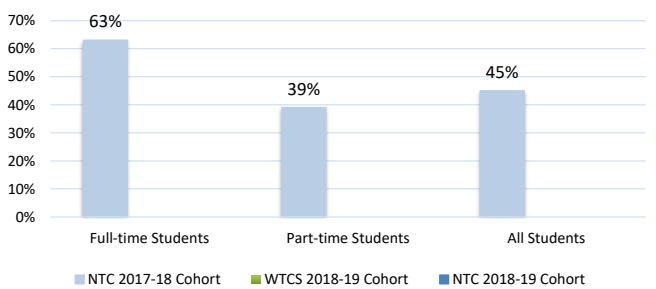
**Credit for Prior Learning - # Credits Awarded (OBF #10)**



**Credit for Prior Learning COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

- It is more important than ever that students earn credit for previous work experiences and training. Future reports will analyze shifts in the ways students are earning Credit for Prior Learning (i.e. through a test, skills demonstration, military experience, etc.).

**Graduation Rate - All Program Students**



**Graduation Rate COVID-19 Strategies and Adjustments:**

- NTC's graduation rose from 42% (2015-16 cohort) to 44% (2016-17 cohort) and to 45% most recently (2017-18 cohort). Future reports will include analysis on the number of credits taken each semester by students, how COVID-19 has impacted this, and longer-term graduation rates (i.e. 4-year, 5-year) for part-time students.



## BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICY 1.3 - BUDGETING

Budgeting any fiscal year or the remaining part of any fiscal year shall not deviate materially from Board Community Benefits Statements priorities, risk fiscal jeopardy, or fail to be derived from a multi-year plan.

Accordingly, he or she may not cause or allow budgeting which:

1. Contains too little information, as determined by the Board to enable credible projection of revenues and expenses, separation of capital and operational items, cash flow, and disclosure of planning assumptions.
2. Endangers the fiscal soundness of future years or ignores the building of organizational capability sufficient to achieve Community Benefits Statements in future years.
  - Fails to maintain the fund balance designated for operations within the range of 16 to 20% of the operating expenditures for Funds 1 and 2. Portions of the fund balance operational reserve dollars may also be designated for state aid fluctuations, subsequent year, and subsequent years' operations based on WTCS established limits, and the actuarially calculated OPEB liability. The board designated funds for post-employment benefits shall not be less than 80% of the actuarially calculated OPEB liability. Total fund balance operational reserve designations may or may not exceed the 20% by these designated amounts.
  - Provides less than required funds per annum for Board prerogatives, such as costs of fiscal audit, Board development, Board and committee meetings, and Board legal fees.

Revised and Approved July 8, 2002

Reviewed May 16, 2007

Reviewed and Approved June 20, 2007

Reviewed October 17, 2007

Reviewed June 18, 2008

Approved July 14, 2008

Reviewed June 17, 2009

Approved July 13, 2009

Reviewed January 19, 2011

Approved February 23, 2011

Approved June 26, 2013

Approved March 10, 2015

Revised September 1, 2020

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

**MEETING DATE:** September 22, 2020

**TOPIC:** Receipts & Expenditures

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

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

**DATA/RESULTS:** The following Status of Funds listing receipts and expenditures including operating transfers in the aggregate is included for informational purposes as of July 31, 2020 (preliminary).

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Revenues: \$10,122,105.57

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Expenses: \$6,674,442.94

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

Consent Agenda

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

(Motion is included with consent agenda.)

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

Signed Lois A. Waynes

Dated 9/22/2020

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

**MEETING DATE:** September 22, 2020

**TOPIC:** Personnel Changes

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

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

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

New Hires:

1. Evan Barshack – Accounting Faculty
2. Kelly Crockett – Psychology Faculty – LTE
3. Heidi Erickson – Interpreter/Student Services Specialist
4. Elizabeth Hillebrand – College Veterinarian
5. Kelly Poppe-Gale – Business Management & Leadership Development Faculty

Resignations:

1. Tamara Boornazian – Instructional Assistant, SLIE
2. Emily Clark – Grants Coordinator
3. Brittney Doll – Human Resources Specialist
4. Kathleen Duffert – Student Success Team Assistant
5. Brian Kawlewski – Project Manager
6. Chris Mayer – Custodian
7. James Meier – Customer Service Representative
8. Kendra Milbeck – Welding Instructional Assistant
9. Tami Seefluth – Customer Service Representative
10. Calvin Thorne – Information Technology Faculty

Position Eliminations:

1. None

Retirement:

1. Roxie Hoffman – Public Safety Administrative Assistant

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

Consent Agenda

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

(Motion is included with consent agenda.)

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

Signed Lois A. Waynes

Dated 9/22/2020



Date	Event	Troy Brown	Tom Felch	Kristine Gilmore	Lee Lo	Charlie Paulson	Paul Proulx	Ruth Risley-Gray	Dale Smith	Maria Volpe
<b>2020</b>										
<b>MONDAY July 13</b>	<b>Annual Organizational Meeting (via Zoom)</b>	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X
July 24	WTC DBA Summer Meeting (Marshfield)						X			
<b>Aug 4</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (via Zoom)</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Sept 22</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (via Zoom)</b>									
Oct 5 - 8	ACCT Leadership Congress (Virtual Event)									
<b>Oct 13</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (via Zoom)</b>									
Oct 22 - 24	WTC DBA Fall Meeting (Minocqua/Rhineland)									
<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (via Zoom)</b>									
Dec 3	Scholars & Donors Reception									
Dec 12	Mid-Year Commencement (Grand Theater)									
<b>2021</b>										
<b>Jan 12</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
Jan 13-15	WTC DBA Winter Meeting (Madison)									
<b>Feb 9</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
Feb 15-19	ACCT National Legislative Summit (Washington, D.C.)									
<b>Mar 9</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
Apr TBD	WTC District Board Assn. Spring Meeting (TBD)									
<b>Apr 6</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
Apr 29	Scholars & Donors Reception									
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting</b>									
May TBD	A Day for NTC Students (Wausau)									
May 15	Commencement (Wausau West Fieldhouse)									
<b>June 8</b>	<b>Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (Public Budget Hearing at 12:00pm, Regular Meeting at 1:00pm)</b>									
<b>MONDAY July 12</b>	<b>Annual Organizational Meeting</b>									

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

**(Note – Due to COVID-19, the NTC Board of Trustees are currently holding all meetings in a virtual manner through the end of 2020. Meeting format will be reassessed prior to that time.)**

# Wausau Pilot & Review

More news. Less fluff. All local.

SCHOOLS

## NTC to offer leadership development training

September 9, 2020

Share this:



WAUSAU – Northcentral Technical College will offer working professionals the opportunity to upgrade their leadership skills through Leadership Development Career Skills Path, short modules of skill-based training that add up to academic degrees over time.

The program gives working professionals the flexibility to earn college credit through modules that can be completed 100 percent online and take about five-hours to complete.

Modules are self-paced, led by NTC faculty and build toward the Leadership Development Associate Degree. Learners will develop skills in human relations, motivation, leadership, delegation, labor relations, problem-solving, decision-making, communication, stress management, training, time management, business ethics and computer skills.

“Now, more than ever, employers have a tremendous need for individuals with a high level of communication, critical thinking and leadership skills,” said Brad Gast, Dean of NTC’s Workforce Training and Professional Development, in a news release. “The Career Skills Path in Leadership is an easy way to gain in-demand skills while also taking a step toward earning college credits and degrees.”

Digital badges will be awarded upon completion of each module and course, so learners can showcase their learning and expand their professional portfolios.

Modules cost \$39 each. To view the complete listing of modules, visit [www.ntc.edu/academics-training/career-skill-paths](http://www.ntc.edu/academics-training/career-skill-paths).



## Northcentral Technical College waives application fees, expands walk-in hours



*The fall semester begins August 31.*

By [Ashley Hommer](#)

Published: Aug. 5, 2020 at 9:56 PM CDT

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) - Northcentral Technical College announced Wednesday that it will waive application fees for anyone who applies to the College for the fall 2020 semester.

According to a news release from the college, students will have the opportunity to select from in-person classes, all virtual courses, and hybrid courses offered through Zoom.

Prospective students can meet with Admissions staff by phone appointment, Zoom, or in-person following socially distant guidelines. Walk-in appointments are also welcome at NTC's Wausau campus. Visitors can expect to follow the same COVID-19 safety procedures that all staff follow including a brief survey, contactless temperature scan, and masking upon entry.

Prospective students can get help at NTC's regional campus in Phillips, Medford, Spencer, Antigo, and Wittenberg by calling their local campus to make an appointment.

You can find the application for NTC [here](#).

The fall semester starts on August 31st.





## NTC showcases online learning through “Thrive Online” events



(WSAW)

By [Desiree Fischer](#)

Published: Aug. 11, 2020 at 3:06 PM CDT

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) - Northcentral Technical College is offering an opportunity for prospective students to discover what online learning is like at NTC. Thrive Online is designed to provide learners with an overview of online classes at NTC and the tools that are used most often. Thrive Online events are free, open to the community and will be held through Zoom on the following dates:

### **Thrive Online:**

Thursday, August 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 20 at 4:00 p.m.

“NTC is a champion in online education and our student success rates prove it,” said Brandy Breuckman, NTC’s Dean of Business, Community Service and Virtual College. “We developed Thrive Online because we believe that learners should be able to pursue a brighter future, whether they take classes in person or online.”

Register to see what sets online learning at NTC apart from other colleges by visiting [www.ntc.edu/thriveonline](http://www.ntc.edu/thriveonline).



## NTC returns to in-person classes, implements COVID-19 guidelines



By [Noah Manderfeld](#)

Published: Aug. 31, 2020 at 5:55 PM CDT

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) - The fall semester of Northcentral Technical College began on Monday for in-person classes, and it looks quite a bit different.

Before you even enter the building, you have to pass a temperature check, put hand sanitizer on, and a mask has to be worn. All with staff making sure the protocols are followed.

“Really we want to make sure we are keeping our staff and students safe,” Dr. Jeannie Worden, NTC Executive Vice President, said.

And that is just the beginning of a list of precautions designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

“We’ve spent a lot of time this summer going through each classroom and lab area to make sure that we have a capacity,” Worden said.

Outside each classroom, a capacity limit is posted to limit the number of people in a room. They have also removed chairs or blocked them off to be sure it’s not possible to sit too close together. There are also guidelines for the instructor.

“Faculty, when they are lecturing, will lecture behind a Plexiglas. And then we’ve installed audio lifts, so the instructor’s voice can project,” Worden explained.

“It’s quite a change for people. Because you cannot go, there’s a distance you have to stand apart from people, there’s Plexiglass at the counters,” Brendan Raboin, a student at NTC, said.

In-person classes aren’t the only option for students. They can choose between an all online course load, both in-person and online, and fully in person. An online option is something NTC is used to.

“We’ve been doing it for years, but this gave us an opportunity to do it even more.,” Worden explained.

But those at NTC say even with the changes, it feels good

“It feels just really nice to have social interaction with other students,” Raboin said.

“I mean, the whole reason we’re here is for students and when they’re back on campus, it’s good to get back to normalcy,” Worden said.

They say that if a COVID-19 positive test pops up, they are prepared to follow the local health officials guidelines for the next steps.

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## NEWS STORIES

Northcentral Technical College showcasing online learning program

Submitted: 08/12/2020

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Story By Morgan Johnson

**RHINELANDER** - Northcentral Technical College announced an upcoming opportunity for prospective students to discover what their online learning program is like.

Thrive Online is designed to provide learners with an overview of online classes at NTC and the tools that are used most often.

The events are free, open to the community, and will be held through zoom on the following dates:

August 13 at 4:00 p.m.

August 18 at 4:00 p.m.

August 20 at 4:00 p.m.

To register for the virtual event visit NTC's website.





Frederic, Inter-County Leader

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 - INTER-COUNTY LEADER - NEWS SECTION - A - PAGE 15

# NWWIB celebrates Workforce Development Month with regional events

## Mobile Job Center will be at Spooner, Cable

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN - In Wisconsin, the number of unemployed peaked in April 2020 at 415,557 with an unemployment rate of 13.6% Nationally, the unemployment rate reached 14.7%.

While this rate has dropped in July, there are still more than 211,000 unemployed individuals in the state of Wisconsin.

"With the uncertainty surrounding the current economic climate because of COVID-19 and with individuals impacted across our communities by unemployment and business closures, it is more important than ever to bring attention to the workforce development partners and programs who are here to help both job seekers and businesses," said Mari Kay-Nabozny, CEO of the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board.

"We remain committed to developing a thriving workforce and strong economy in Northwest Wisconsin."

In Wisconsin, September is Workforce Development Month. Throughout the month, the WWIB will be hosting sev-

eral events to bring awareness to the resources available to assist both businesses and job seekers during these unprecedented times. Two free resources available now are their Workforce Waves podcast episodes for this month that examine how employers support the mental health of employees during a pandemic and the unexpected economic silver linings that have occurred in the midst of COVID-19.

A drive-thru job fair will take place on Thursday, Sept. 17, from noon to 4 p.m., in Superior, at the Superior Public Library. Job seekers can stay safely in their cars and collect job-posting packets. All they need to do is roll down their window and the packet will be handed to them. Upon arriving, job seekers are simply asked to follow the traffic flow and wait patiently while others are served.

The Department of Workforce Development's Mobile Job Center will be at two locations in Northwest Wisconsin. It will be at the Northwest Regional Planning Commission in Spooner, on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 2-4 p.m. The following day it will be at Lakewoods Resort in Cable, on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Mobile Job Center, also known as the Mobile

Career Lab, delivers workforce resources and services to individuals and businesses throughout Wisconsin.

The Mobile Career Lab assists those who may have challenges accessing workforce services, employers who have a training or hiring need, and partners who could use additional resources. We invite community members, businesses and other interested parties to come and see the Career Lab. Staff will be available to provide tours, assist job seekers and answer questions about workforce programs during these times.

On Friday, Sept. 25, from 10-11 a.m., via Zoom, the NWWIB, in partnership with Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College, Northcentral Technical College and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, will host the Employment, Education and the Economy E3 Roundtable event for Northwest Wisconsin employers. This roundtable is open to business owners and employers across Northwest Wisconsin who want to ask questions and provide input on their needs for training options for employees. Event outcomes include identifying necessary training to retain and attract employees as well as share information about worker training grants. Employers

can register for the event at [nwwib.com/events](http://nwwib.com/events).

The month of activities concludes with a Facebook Live event designed to assist job seekers in learning more about local services to set them up for employment success.

Join the NWWIB on Workforce Wednesday, Sept. 30, via Facebook Live to listen to representatives from Northwest Wisconsin CEP, Office of Veteran Employment Services, and Workforce Resource Inc. discuss what their programs have to offer job seekers and how to access services during COVID-19. Like them on Facebook, [facebook.com/nwwib](https://facebook.com/nwwib), to stay informed about this and other upcoming events.

For more information about any of NWWIB's Workforce Development Month activities, please contact Melissa Rabska, director of operations and communications, at [mrabska@nwwib.com](mailto:mrabska@nwwib.com) or 715-201-9514. More information about these events can be found on the NWWIB website, [nwwib.com](http://nwwib.com), including a link to the Workforce Waves podcast, [nwwib.com/podcast](http://nwwib.com/podcast), featuring two new episodes this month.



Abbotsford, Tribune-Phonograph

# Drive-thru job fair Sept. 17

The Marathon County Job Center, 731 North 1st St., Wausau, will host a community drive-thru job fair on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 12 to 4 p.m. The event is a collaborative effort between North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Northcentral Technical College, and Forward Service Corporation.

In a time when the job center is closed due to COVID-19, the center's partners are eager to assist job seekers with local

resources. Providing information on job openings in a safe manner is one way to serve employers and job seekers.

The hosts will practice safety guidelines by wearing personal protective gear as job seekers drive through the parking lot. Job seekers will receive a bag of employer handouts containing information on job openings in the region. Many of the job openings can also be found on JobCenterofWisconsin.com (JCW).

# NTC Announces Leadership Development Career Skills Path

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Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to announce a new opportunity for working professionals to upgrade their leadership skills through Leadership Development Career Skills Path, short modules of skill-based training that add up to larger degrees over time.

The Leadership Development Career Skills Path gives working professionals the ultimate flexibility to earn college credit through modules that can be completed 100% online and take approximately five-hours to complete.

Modules are self-paced, led by NTC faculty and build towards the Leadership Development Associate Degree. Throughout this Career Skill Path, learners will develop skills in human relations, motivation, leadership, delegation, labor relations, problem solving, decision-making, communication, stress management, training, time management, business ethics and computer skills.

“Now, more than ever, employers have a tremendous need for individuals with a high level of communication, critical thinking and leadership skills,” said Brad Gast, Dean of NTC’s Workforce Training and Professional Development. “The Career Skills Path in Leadership is an easy way to gain in-demand skills while also taking a step towards earning college credits and degrees.”

“These professional development modules are an excellent means for individuals to improve job-related skills and add value to their organization, Gast said.”

Digital badges will be awarded upon completion of each module and course, so learners can showcase their learning and expand their professional portfolios.

Individual modules cost \$39 each. To view the complete listing of modules for the Leadership Development Career Skills Path, visit <http://www.ntc.edu/academics-training/career-skill-paths>.

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## Marathon County Job Center to host drive through job fair

The North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (NCWWDB) is pleased to announce that the Marathon County Job Center in Wausau will host a community drive through job fair on Thursday, September 17 from noon to 4 p.m. The drive through job fair will be held at the new Marathon County Job Center location at 731 North 1st Street, Wausau, enter on 1st Street. The event is a collaborative effort between NCWWDB, [Northcentral Technical College](#), Forward Service Corporation, and the Marathon County Job Center.

In a time when the job center is closed due to COVID-19, the job center partners are eager to assist job seekers with local resources. Providing information on job openings in a safe manner is one way to serve employers and job seekers.

The Job Center partners will practice safety guidelines by wearing personal protective gear as job seekers drive through the parking lot. Job seekers will receive a bag of employer handouts containing information on job openings in the region. Many of the job openings can also be found on JobCenter-ofWisconsin.com (JCW), Wisconsin's free online job search tool.



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Antigo school district staff and a number of students helped break ground Friday at the Noboken School Forest for a new environmental education and community center. Staff included, from left, John Schimmels, Rachel Tassler, Matt Meronk, Clint Rogers, Mike Werdeo and Tom Beattie. Students were Lexi and Levi Strobel, Brynn and Brooke Parilek, Rickey and Jace Parilek, Ruby and Ben Beattie.

## *Groundbreaking for center held at Noboken School Forest*

The Antigo school forest project, a community effort to create a four-season environmental facility for local students, has taken a huge step forward as the Noboken Nature Center ground breaking took place Friday, August 21.

The Noboken Nature Center is

to be built north of Antigo just off of Highway J at Noboken Lake.

The school district has owned the 168 acres, in Upham since 1931 and it has been used for the past 30 plus years to serve the educational needs of students.

Currently at the school forest site there is a campsite, picnic

shelter powered by a generator, pit toilet and challenge courses. Although things are slowly coming together, there's still some limitations; un-useable in winter months, no running water, capacity limitations, lack of storage for equipment and slim spacing dur-

**See Noboken Page 7**



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**Noboken**

ing inclement weather.  
One of the goals for the school forest is to provide year round environmental education to the students. This will foster a better understanding of our natural resources and environmental issues for the Antigo community.

The educational benefits include year round accessibility, the ability to accommodate large groups, hands-on investigations, direct access to Noboken Lake, spacing for the district's taxidermy collection and housing for district outdoor recreation equipment.

Not only will the nature center benefit the children of the community but the community as a whole. It will increase awareness and knowledge of leading a healthy lifestyle, improving students physical, mental and psychological health through exploring and investigation of all the things the school forest has to offer. Studies show increasing physical activity leads to improved mental and emotional health.

The center will be available for family, business and community events. It's connection to the Ice-Age trail gives an increase for recreational opportunities.

The local economy will

also benefit, by sparking student interest in the forestry industry and collaborations with Northcentral Technical College's Wood Technology Center.

The forestry products industry is responsible for over 600 jobs in Langlade County, with \$90 million in output.

"We are hoping to spark interest in the forestry industry through awareness, demonstrations and related forest experiences," Mike Werdeo, school forest committee chairperson said. "It can serve as an introduction for a career pathway and expose students and the community to responsible forest management."

The cost of the environmental center, furnishing and sit development will be a approximately a half million dollars. Of this, \$50,000 will come from the district funds that have been kept aside from Board Policy 692, Sales of School Forest Products (timber sales). The remaining fund will be raised though grants and donations.

Donations may be sent to the Unified School District of Antigo, 120 S. Dorr St., Antigo, 54409. Checks should be made payable to the Unified School District of Antigo.

For more information on this project or to learn more about fund-raising opportunities, please contact Werdeo at 715-623-7611 or Tim Prunty at 715-627-4355.



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### COLBY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS



**Jack Krause**

Colby/Abby Crossings Chamber of Commerce, Casey Lee Blume Memorial Scholarship, Dorchester Public Library Stepping Up Scholarship, Colby Athletic Booster Club, IDEA Foundation, Clark County Foundation - Teresa Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Clark County Foundation-Melvin & Thelma Kunich Scholarship, Taylor County 4-H Federation, Vorland Family Scholarship



**Mary Streveler**

Roderick & Leona Cook Memorial Scholarship, National Honor Society, Viterbo University, Academic Excellence, Viterbo University President's Scholarship



**Kersten Wiese**

IDEA Foundation



**Erin Voss**

Taylor Credit Union, Derek Smith Memorial Scholarship, Vorland Family Scholarship, CUDA Youth Football & Cheer, Colby Elementary Parent-Teacher Club, Student Council, Dorchester Lions Club



**Roman Schmitt**

Roderick & Leona Cook Memorial Scholarship, Colby Athletic Booster Club, CUDA Youth Football & Cheer, Peissig Family Scholarship-Athletics



**Sierra Ramker**

IDEA Foundation, Vorland Family Scholarship



**Elizabeth Stange**

Vorland Family Scholarship, Dorchester Lions Club, IDEA Foundation, Taylor Electric Cooperative Board of Directors Scholarship



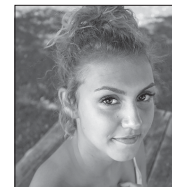
**Hailey Voelker**

Lake Superior State Women's Basketball



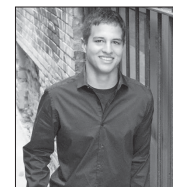
**Makenzie Seefeld**

Sierra-Pacific



**Shanna Kussrow**

Advantage Community Bank, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Derek Smith Memorial Scholarship, Dorchester Public Library Stepping-Up Scholarship, Dorchester Lions Club



**Gavino Lopez**

IDEA Foundation, Casey Lee Blume Memorial Scholarship



**Harley Schmelzer**

Casey Lee Blume Memorial Scholarship



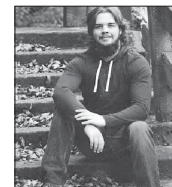
**Noah Robida**

Baumgartner/Sommer Family Scholarship, Casey Lee Blume Memorial Scholarship, Sierra-Pacific, Colby Pullers Club



**Isaac Karl**

AbbyBank



**Connor Jeske**

Vorland Family Scholarship, The Doctors' Healthcare Scholarship, Shayne Neuman Memorial Scholarship, CUDA Youth Football & Cheer



**Riley Kilty**

Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship



**Noemi Fuentes**

NTC Scott & Shelley Hogen



**Cassandra Gosse**

IDEA Foundation



**Hannah Fehrenbach**

Jamison Kampmeyer Memorial Scholarship, Emil Luchterhand Memorial, Clark Electric Cooperative



**Escamilla Mendoza**

American Red Cross



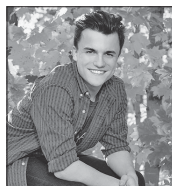
**Lauren Berg**

NTC Aspirus Inc.



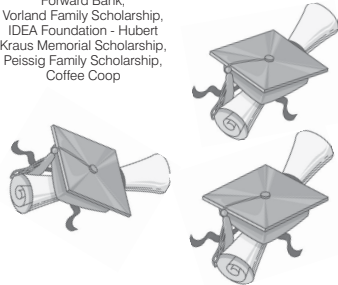
**Dalton Higley**

Roderick & Leona Cook Memorial, Clark County Community Foundation, Clark County Community Foundation - Melvin & Thelma Kunich Scholarship



**Michael Decker**

Forward Bank, Vorland Family Scholarship, IDEA Foundation - Hubert Kraus Memorial Scholarship, Peissig Family Scholarship, Coffee Coop



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The Mosinee Times

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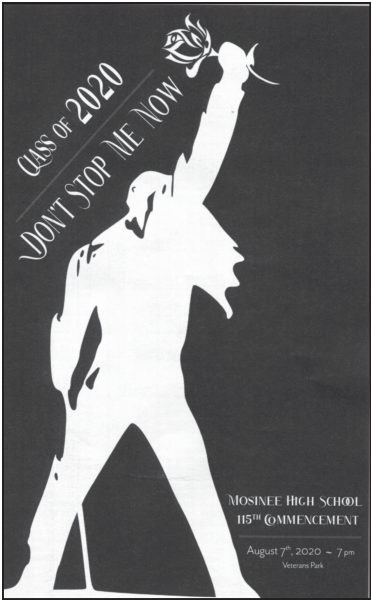
Celebrating Our 125th Year!

Mosinee High School Class Of 2020 Receive Scholarships And Awards

Following is a list of the 2020 MHS graduating class who received scholarships/awards/recognition. Congratulations to each graduate. No group photo was due to social distancing guidelines.
Kateri Andersen: State of Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship, Mosinee High School Chinese Club Scholarship
Reidun Backman: Creske Foundation Scholarship
Macl Barabasz: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Shirer Family "Class of 2005" Memorial Scholarship
Carter Barrett: Mosinee PTO Scholarship, Mosinee High School Multimedia Productions Scholarship
Makayla Best: Daniel Hoffman Memorial Scholarship, Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
Nicholas Bett: William B. & Caroline Mark Scholarship
Brent Block: NTC Foundation Scholarship
Jessica Borchardt: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee High School Band Boosters Scholarship, Mosinee High School Student Senate Scholarship, Mosinee SilverBlades Scholarship
Sarah Bouton: Mosinee SilverBlades Scholarship
Madelyn Brooks: Western Fraternal Life - Lodge No. 141 Scholarship
Tianna Bunn: Creske-Grassl Memorial Scholarship
Rylee Buska-Hack: Scott & Shelly Hogan Scholarship
Hannah De La Pena: DeBroux Family Scholarship, Educator Scholarship, Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Scholarship
Jordan Ebel: John & Fritzi Howland Memorial Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee High School Band Boosters Scholarship
Hannah Ellis: Shirer Family "Class of 2005" Memorial Scholarship
Trey Fitzgerald: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Calculus BC Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, M-Club Scholarship, Mosinee High School Boys Hockey Booster Club Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Baseball Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Football League Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Hockey Scholarship, Whitney Steingel Baseball Scholarship, WIAA Scholar Athlete
Hannah Flis: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mary Kuntz Memorial Scholarship, Mosinee SilverBlades Scholarship
Annie Fuchs: Marshfield Clinic Healthcare Scholarship, Mosinee Administrative Scholarship, Mosinee Area Soccer Association Scholarship, Mosinee High School National Honor Society Scholarship
Kaitlynn Gagnon: Dentistry Scholarship given by Drs. D. Fehrmann, J. Fehrmann-Roloff, W. Bouton
Travis Gruna: Fine Arts Scholarship in Theatre, John & Fritzi Howland Memorial Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee High School Band Boosters Scholarship, Mosinee High School Vocationalism Scholarship, Mosinee High School Multimedia Productions Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship
Evelyn Hintz: Wausau Paper Foundation, Inc. Scholarship
Jarrett Homolka: Heidi Pecha Memorial Scholarship, Whitney Steingel Baseball Scholarship
Emily Horak: Aspirus Inc. Scholarship, Charles Tabaka Memorial Foundation Scholarship, Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship
Megan Jones: Erwin Kernin

Memorial Scholarship
Kobe Kaiser: Luke Kaiser Memorial Scholarship
Alex Kerntop: Mosinee Education Association Scholarship, Mosinee High School Band Boosters Scholarship, Mosinee Soccer Booster Club Scholarship, Mosinee High School Multimedia Production Design Scholarship
Jake Klavitski: 12 Sport Achievement Award
Eric Kordus: Shirer Family "Class of 2005" Memorial Scholarship
Emily Korte: Advanced Disposal Scholarship, Galen Parkinson Memorial Scholarship
Jonrie Koskey: Erwin Kernin Memorial Scholarship, Mosinee High School Library Club Scholarship, Mosinee High School Varsity Dance Scholarship, Paige Bootz Memorial Scholarship, William B. & Caroline Mark Scholarship
Madison Kowalski: Central Wisconsin Storm Girls Hockey Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Girls Softball Scholarship, Wausau Lyric Choir Scholarship
Aurora Krause: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Kronenwetter Lions Club Scholarship, Mosinee High School Girls Volleyball Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation, Inc. Chancellors Scholarship
John Kress: Luke Kaiser Memorial Scholarship, Ruth Anna & Otto Carl Huber Memorial Scholarship, VFW Auxiliary 8733 Scholarship, VFW - Michael E. Clark Scholarship
Alex Kyhos: American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship, Daughters of the American Revolution - Good Citizen Award, E. Thom Rogers Memorial - Graphic Arts Scholarship, Erwin Kernin Memorial Scholarship, James T. Schrepp Memorial Scholarship, Lee Schultz Memorial Music Scholarship, Masonic Lodge Scholarship, Mosinee Community Theatre Scholarship, Mosinee High School Band Boosters Scholarship, Mosinee High School Student Senate Scholarship, Mosinee High School Multimedia Production Design Scholarship, Wesley & Anna Rein Memorial Scholarship, William (Bill) Hintz Memorial Scholarship
Benjamin Lardinois: Complete Control Solutions Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee High School Boys Hockey Booster Club, Mosinee Youth Hockey Scholarship
Caitlyn Lassa: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Dani's Journey Education Fund Scholarship, Mosinee High School Girls Volleyball Scholarship, Mosinee High School Girls Basketball Scholarship, Mosinee Soccer Booster Club Scholarship
Haley Lemker: Mosinee Area Action Club (MAAC) Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee High School Library Club Scholarship, Mosinee SilverBlades Scholarship, Schreyer Honors College Academic Excellence Scholarship
Gabrielle Lewens: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee Elementary School Scholarship, Mosinee SilverBlades Scholarship
Amanda Loppnow: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Louis & Mary Zebro Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Girls Softball Scholarship
Hailee Mackoway: Creske Foundation Scholarship, Mosinee

Community Fund Scholarship, UW-Stout Polytechnic Scholarship
Cade Maple: American Legion Roy L. Drew Post 492 Scholarship, Jen & LVO's Memorial Scholarship, Man of Honor Scholarship, SSG Andrew J. Hitt Memorial Scholarship
Justin Martin: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Don Dupey Memorial Snowmobile Scholarship, Edwin Olson FFA Leadership Scholarship, Ernest Soczka, Sr. Catholic Financial Memorial Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Heidi Pecha Memorial Scholarship, Mosinee Boys Backcourt Boosters Scholarship, Mosinee PTO Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Football League Scholarship, Pat Tobokey Memorial Scholarship, Patrick Buchberger Basketball Scholarship, Schwartz & Shea Memorial Scholarship, Stanley Zebro Scholarship, UW-River Falls Academic Achievement Award, Veterans of Foreign Wars Edgar Post 10187 Scholarship
Maxwell Martin: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Creske Foundation Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Boys Backcourt Boosters Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship
Adam Maurer: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Area Soccer Association Scholarship, State of Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship
Reese McCoy: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award
Brenna Murry: Creske Foundation Scholarship, Luke Kaiser Memorial Scholarship, Marathon County Farm Technology Days Scholarship
Madelyn Nechuta: Ann Truax Delinger Scholarship
Thomas Obrenski: Calculus BC Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Morris/Kuzminsky Wrestling Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee Wrestling Club Scholarship
Kaylee Olund: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Mosinee High School Student Senate Scholarship, Mosinee PTO Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Girls Softball Scholarship
Kyla Osowski: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Bremer & Trollop February Scholar of the Month Scholarship, Mosinee High School Girls Volleyball Scholarship, Mosinee Area Optimist Club Scholarship, Mosinee High School Girls Basketball Scholarship, Mosinee High School Student Senate Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Girls Softball Scholarship, St. John's Lutheran Church Scholarship, Stanley Zebro Scholarship, Valley Communities Credit Union Scholarship
Isabela Peters: Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship
Victoria Reuter: Mosinee Education Association Scholarship, Mosinee High School Varsity Dance Scholarship
Maximos Schira: Ryan Weyers Fire Medic Scholarship
Tyler Selenske: 12 Sport Achievement Award, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Medical Provider Scholarship, Mosinee High School Boys Hockey Booster Club Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Hockey Scholarship
Jayde Sitko: Elizabeth Geoffrey Memorial Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship, Stevens Point Dozynki Scholarship
Luke Spink: Dominic J. Schipferling Memorial Scholarship, Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Mosinee Boys



Backcourt Boosters Scholarship, Mosinee Youth Baseball Scholarship, Viterbo University Athletic Basketball Scholarship, Whitney Steingel Baseball Scholarship
Macy Stepan: James L. Cartwright Memorial Architecture Scholarship, Mosinee High School Student Senate Scholarship, Central Wisconsin Storm Girls Hockey Scholarship
Alex Wiedow: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award
Kali Wiesman: Garald Emerich Memorial Scholarship, Helen & Oscar Rockman Memorial Scholarship
Samantha Will: Mosinee High School Library Club Scholarship, Raymond and Marie Goldbach Foundation, Inc. Scholarship, St. John's Lutheran Church Scholarship, Stanley & Mary Sondelski Scholarship
Brigham Woyak: Ducey & Julia Wright Scholarship, Louis & Mary Zebro Scholarship, Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship
Samantha Zurfluh: Stevens Point Dozynki Scholarship, Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship
Macy Stepan: James L. Cartwright Memorial Architecture Scholarship, Mosinee High School Student Senate Scholarship, Central Wisconsin Storm Girls Hockey Scholarship
Alex Wiedow: Great Northern Conference Scholar-Athlete Award
Kali Wiesman: Garald Emerich Memorial Scholarship, Helen & Oscar Rockman Memorial Scholarship
Samantha Will: Mosinee High School Library Club Scholarship, Raymond and Marie Goldbach Foundation, Inc. Scholarship, St. John's Lutheran Church Scholarship, Stanley & Mary Sondelski Scholarship
Brigham Woyak: Ducey & Julia Wright Scholarship, Louis & Mary Zebro Scholarship, Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Mosinee Community Fund Scholarship
Samantha Zurfluh: Stevens Point Dozynki Scholarship, Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship

Knowlton Referendum To Ask For \$3 Million To Fix Old Highway 51

By Paul Nelles
The Knowlton Town Board approved putting a referendum question on the November 3rd ballot to rebuild Old Highway 51. That decision was made at the board's regular meeting Monday August 10th at the Municipal Center.
The referendum will be non-binding, serving only to advise the board of the preference of the town's residents.
The question will read: "Should the Town of Knowlton borrow up to \$3 million to re-construct Old

Highway 51 with an estimated increase in property taxes of \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed value or \$106 for a property assessed at \$100,000 for 15 years?"
The \$3 million would completely rebuild approximately 3.1 miles of Old Highway 51 from Bird Lane to Highway 34.
In other business the board approved \$17,500 to contract with J.D. Construction of Amherst Junction to replace the aging asphalt shingle roof on the municipal Center with a steel one.



## NTC Students Will Benefit From Historic Credit Transfer Agreement

**Northcentral Technical College** (NTC) students seeking to transfer credits to one of the state's private, nonprofit colleges and universities will have a much easier time in the future thanks to a historic, comprehensive credit transfer agreement.

More than a dozen popular introductory courses are included in the agreement, such as chemistry, psychology, and speech. Under the agreement, specified technical college credits will count toward requirements for a bachelor's degree at a private college, provided the student earned a grade of "C" or better within the last ten years. Technical college students must also meet the admissions requirements of the private college.

"We continue to expand transfer opportunities for all students," said **Lori Weyers**, President. "From our liberal arts transfer partnership to our program agreements that offer junior status to this latest partnership with Wisconsin's private colleges and universities, you can truly start here and go anywhere."

Dr. Morna K. Foy, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), and Dr. Rolf Wegenke, president of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges Universities (WAICU), recently signed the transfer agreement.

"Wisconsin's private colleges and universities have long been leaders in recognizing the rigor of a technical college education, and the value of creating transfer opportunities for our students," Foy noted. "This agreement sets a strong foundation for the future by allowing all of our institutions – in both sectors – to make lifelong learning opportunities even clearer for students."

The two organizations have negotiated "course equivalencies" that provide great value to transfer students by reducing or eliminating the need to spend extra time and money retaking courses. The ability to smoothly transfer credits provides more flexibility for students — especially those who wish to start their college career close to home as well as nontraditional students who are already in the workforce and are looking to further their careers with bachelor's degrees. With the new agreement in place, students can look forward to an educational experience that is more efficient and simpler to navigate, while shortening the time to graduation and reducing costs for students.

"Streamlining the process to transfer credits from a technical college to a four-year private college opens doors for more students to earn bachelor's degrees in Wisconsin," Wegenke said. "Our private colleges have longstanding relationships with the technical colleges, and this new agreement will make a difference as the state strives to increase the level of educational attainment and improve our position in the competitive knowledge economy."

All 16 Wisconsin technical colleges are participating, in addition to a first cohort of WAICU-member institutions, including: Alverno College, Cardinal Stritch University, Carroll University, Carthage College, Concordia University Wisconsin, Edgewood College, Herzing University, Lakeland University, Marian University, Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Mount Mary University, Northland College, Viterbo University, and Wisconsin Lutheran College.

About NTC: **Northcentral Technical College** (<http://www.ntc.edu/>) 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 in Merrill, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo and an Agriculture Center of Excellence just north of the Wausau campus in the Village of Maine. The Wausau campus features a Center for Health Sciences, Center for Business and Industry, Center for Geriatric Education, TEC Projects Lab and STEM Center.

About WTCS: The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) consists of 16 colleges that enroll more than 300,000 students each year in over 500 programs. The colleges award associate degrees and short-term credentials – boasting 94 percent graduate placement in Wisconsin – as well as dual credit to high school students and instruction for registered apprenticeships. Because the System is a major talent pipeline and premier provider of customized instruction and technical assistance for Wisconsin employers, 98 percent say a technical college is important to the success of their business. Learn More: <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/>

About WAICU: The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) is the official organization of the 23 independent (or private) institutions of higher learning in Wisconsin. Membership is limited to accredited, nonprofit institutions, headquartered in Wisconsin. WAICU members collectively enroll 56,000 students and graduate almost 14,000 each year. WAICU members offer over 420 academic programs and produce 23 percent of all the bachelor's degrees and 35 percent of all the advanced degrees awarded in the state. WAICU's mission is: "Working together for educational opportunity."

Learn More: <https://www.waicu.org/> or <https://www.wisconsinprivatecolleges.org/> cta

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# NTC's executive vice president receives Distinguished College Administrator Award

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to announce that Dr. Jeannie Worden, executive vice president of NTC, has received national recognition for her strong support of student success.

Dr. Worden received the Distinguished College Administrator Award, which is presented to college vice presidents, deans, or directors serving at post-secondary institutions who have shown strong support of student success on their campus by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students.

“This award is personally meaningful, not because I received it, but because I was nominated by NTC students,” said Dr. Worden. “I will continue to advocate for our students because when they succeed, we all succeed.”

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK), the premier honor society that recognizes the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges

and helps them grow as scholars and leaders, presents the award. The society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges.

NTC also received the following recognitions from the society:

- Most Distinguished Chapter in the Wisconsin Region
- 5-star Status for the 7th Consecutive Year
- 1st Place Overall in Honors In Action Hallmark
- 1st Place in Honors in Action Hallmark - Theme

## 7: Powers of Connection

Additionally, NTC's student development coordinator, Krista Reince, completed the Phi Theta Kappa 5-star Advisor program and was recognized by the Wisconsin Region with the Horizon Award, given to a newer advisor that has helped the region and their chapter be successful.



## **NTC** *waives application fees for Fall 2020 Semester, expands walk-in hours*

### **Fall semester begins on August 31**

**Northcentral Technical College (NTC)** is pleased to announce that it will waive application fees for anyone who applies to the College for the fall 2020 semester. Due to the generosity of the **NTC** Foundation, the \$30 application will be free for new applicants.

“We know that college-bound students are presented with unique obstacles while weighing their college options this fall,” said Shannon Livingston, Dean of Student Success at **NTC**. “Our commitment to support student success has never been stronger, which is why we made the decision to waive application fees to help students get started locally.”

Students will have the opportunity to select from a full menu of academic offerings, including in person classes, Virtual College courses that offer the highest level of flexibility with self-paced lectures and assignments and hybrid courses offered through Zoom that provide more structured learning with set lecture times and deadlines.

Prospective students can meet with Admissions staff by phone appointment, Zoom or in-person following socially distant guidelines. Walk-in appointments are also welcome at **NTC's** Wausau campus. Visitors can expect to follow the same COVID-19 safety procedures that all staff follow including a brief survey, contactless temperature scan and masking upon entry.

**NTC's** August Walk-in Schedule (Wausau Campus): Admissions, Advising, Career Coach + Financial Aid Services, Monday - Thursday: 7:30 AM–7:00 PM, Saturdays: 8:00 AM-Noon.

Additionally, prospective students can get help at **NTC's** regional campus in Phillips, Medford, Spencer, Antigo and Wittenberg by calling their local campus to make an appointment.

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply at no cost online by visiting [www.ntc.edu/apply](http://www.ntc.edu/apply).

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# Schools switch to four-day weeks

## *Abby, Colby districts both leave open possibility of five days*

*By Kevin O'Brien*

To the delight of many parents, the Colby School Board voted Monday to have students return to school for four days a week of in-person classes this fall.

Board members also agreed to proceed with the fall sports seasons as recommended by the WIAA, and to consider a full five-day week at their next meeting.

Monday's decision reverses one made a month earlier that would have split the student body into two groups, or cohorts, and had each cohort come to school for two days a week. For the remaining three

days, students would have received online instruction at home.

This didn't sit well with many parents, who said last spring's unexpected jump to virtual learning deprived their kids of the full school experience.

"They're not getting the education they deserve with online schooling," said Colleen Halopka, a mother of three students. "It doesn't compare to face-to-face schooling."

The newly approved plan maintains Wednesday as a day for students to stay

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See **COLBY K-12**/ Page 9

*By Sam Weber*  
*The Star News*

On Monday night, the Abbotsford School Board finalized the district's reopening schedule for the upcoming school year, electing to have in-person school four days a week, with the school complex closed on Wednesdays so it can be deep-cleaned by custodial staff.

During cleaning days, teachers will connect with students virtually and host online lessons. An all-virtual option will also be available to students who prefer not to attend school in the buildings.

The board was in consensus that the modified, slightly blended schedule is the best option available right now.

Superintendent Sherry Baker noted that if things go smoothly and a COVID-19 outbreak is avoided, returning to a five day, in-person schedule is possible for the near future.

"That is our goal," she said. "If we see things turning on the risk evaluator... and we're getting really good attendance, we will bring back an option for five days."

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See **ABBY K-12**/ Page 8



## Abby K-12

Continued from page 1

Baker went on to say the district will do everything it can to keep students in the building, but to reasonably and safely separate them. If successful, the five day option will be revisited, but Baker noted that a virus outbreak would take most possibilities off the table.

While the options for returning to school were generally well received, one matter met with slight backlash: The requirement to wear a face-mask while in the building.

Per Gov. Evers' emergency order, masks will need to be worn by staff and students who are five years of age or older, although Baker said the district will accept medical exemptions from those who claim to be unable to wear one. Staff members not wanting to wear a mask will need to provide medical proof, but a doctor's note will not be needed to prove a student's inability to wear a mask.

Baker said they can't reasonably demand everybody see a medical professional before attending school.

"Can I prevent a parent from lying just because they don't want their kids to wear a mask? Absolutely not," she said. "But our population can't afford to take their kids to a doctor just so they can get a mask waiver."

Some temporary exceptions apply to the mask mandate, such as when a teacher is up in front presenting to a class. However, when the teacher walks around the room and engages with students up close, they will need to once again don their mask.

While some mask exemptions may ap-

ply while in the school complex, no one will be exempt from wearing a mask during bus transit. Some parents said if their children are required to wear a mask on the bus, then they'll refuse to allow them to take the bus.

"That's OK, they can deliver their kids," was Baker's response to such comments. "If it is problematic for you to wear a mask and you can drop them off, that's great. Do what you gotta do as a parent."

Since masks will be, for the most part, mandatory to attend school, the district will be supplying each student with two washable cloth masks. Disposable masks will also be kept on hand for those who misplace or forget their mask at home.

If a student habitually shows up without a mask, the district will reach out to the parents and attempt to remedy the situation. If the student still refuses to comply with the mask mandate, punitive action may take place.

"If the student loses them or doesn't bring them back, then the parents are responsible to make sure they have a mask," Baker said.

Travel was looked at as another possible issue, since many Abbotsford staff members go on vacation over Christmas break, including several who visit Mexico. No restrictions were put into place regarding national or transnational travel, and anybody returning to Wisconsin from vacation will not have to quarantine for 14 days. Several other districts in Wisconsin have ruled that if a staff member leaves the state, they must quar-

antine before returning to work.

"The last thing I would want to tell my staff is 'You're not allowed to leave for vacation.' I'm not touching that with a 10-foot pole," Baker said. "My recommendation is that we don't require them to quarantine because that's putting our students and everyone else in kind of a tough spot."

Baker urged anybody who travels out of state to be upfront and honest with administrators, so the district can better keep tabs on who may be potentially infected. She said they should monitor their own symptoms and alert the district if they become symptomatic.

If a student or staff member does test positive for COVID-19, the individuals known to be in close contact with the individual for 15 minutes or more would be contact-traced.

### FEMA grant update

Baker told the board that she has received two inquiries as to whether the district would consider naming rights for portions of a proposed storm shelter/classroom addition in exchange for a sizable donation, in the range of \$100,000.

No action was taken by the board on that idea.

The district has qualified for a matching FEMA grant worth over \$2 million, with the funds intended for construction of a dome-shaped that could double as a storm shelter. The district is looking to contribute between \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million for its share of the project.

After a recent addition to its Fund 46,

the district now has \$819,384 available, putting district close to its goal, but those funds can't be touched until the 2021-2022 school year.

### Other business

■ Athletics will move forward as planned, although tournaments aren't necessarily a priority for fall sports. Inside event attendance will likely be limited. Grade requirements will be deferred for the immediate fall grading period.

■ The board updated its Title IX policy regarding sex-based discrimination, in compliance with federal requirements.

■ The board withdrew \$20,426 from the Carl B. Thompson Trust Fund to meet IRS requirements. The money will be put into Fund 46.

■ The board designated Forward Bank as the main depository for the district's accounts for the next two years.

■ The board approved the hiring of Abigail Schreiner as an elementary bilingual teacher assistant, Sandra Galan as a middle and high school bilingual teacher assistant, and Ethan Kramas as middle school football coach.

■ The board accepted the resignations of school board member Jen Krebs, library aide Laura Garcia Torres, cook helper Maria Garcia, and assistant football coach Marty Schwantes.

To fill the vacancy left by Krebs, the district will be seeking out people who are interested in serving until at least the April 2021 election. The board plans on appointing a replacement at its next meeting on Sept. 21.

# Colby K-12

Continued from page 1

at home while school facilities are deep-cleaned and teachers attend in-service training and host virtual office hours.

Parents who are worried about sending their students back to school due to COVID-related health concerns will still have the option of online-only instruction.

Seven parents spoke in favor of the four-day week at Monday's meeting, which drew a lot of mask-wearing audience members to the high school theatre to hear the discussion.

The possibility of not having fall sports under a two-day-a-week schedule was a major concern for many parents, who said they worried about their kids' mental and physical health if they were stuck at home most of the time.

Travis Boyer said he doesn't want to see Colby be the only district in the local sports conferences to cancel its fall sports seasons due to COVID-19 concerns.

"I don't think it's going to benefit the kids longterm by trying to keep them out of school and out of sports," he said.

Boyer acknowledged that it won't be easy to have school and sports in session with COVID cases still looming, but he thinks it's possible with some extra help. "The worst-case scenario is that it gets shut down," he said.

Boyer, whose sister is Clark County public health director Brittany Mews, said it's not the case that her department would only sign off on a two-day model, as suggested at the last meeting.

"If that's ultimately what you guys decide, that's fine, but I would just say take credit for it, and don't try to push it off on the health department," he said. "She got an awful lot of backlash for it, and I would say not deservedly so."

Later in the meeting, superintendent Steve Kolden took ownership for the proposal to have two cohorts attend two days a week, rather than all face-to-face or online-only options.

"That was my recommendation to the board in July," he said. "We did talk about the three options, but I steered that conversation."

Kolden also noted that, no matter what



**DELIBERATING** - Colby School Board members review their options for reopening to school in a couple of weeks. From left to right are board president Bill Tesmer, superintendent Steve Kolden, administrative assistant Kris Seifert, and board members Todd Schmidt and Jean Schmitt. *STAFF PHOTOS/KEVIN O'BRIEN*

the board decides, there will always be people who are unhappy with the decision. He said there is no such thing as "one best answer" because every option has its advantages and drawbacks.

When speaking to the board, mother of four Maegan Kaiser said she believes the benefits of more in-person instruction outweigh the risks of COVID-19.

"The risks of going back to school are potential — someone may get sick, there may be a spread, there may be a shut-down — but the risks of not sending the kids back to school have already been evident," she said.

Kaiser said last spring's online-only education left a lot of students struggling, to the point where the board needed to change grading policies and make exemptions. She also noted that 58 families reported in a recent district survey that they have poor or no internet service.

"That's definitely going to affect their ability to distance-learn," she said.

Parent Matt Oehmichen provided board members with a barrage of statistics showing that COVID fatality rates have plummeted locally while recovery rates have gone up. He also cited studies from Europe indicating that reopening schools has not significantly contributed to more COVID outbreaks.

Oehmichen also pointed to a survey of high school athletes in Wisconsin, which suggested that as many as 66,000 student-athletes are suffering from mental health problems due to COVID shutdowns. He said cancelling the fall sports season would be "beyond damaging."

"It gives our young men and women here social involvement, a sense of ac-

complishment and pride. When that is taken away, they are feeling isolated," he said. "Sure, they will be physically safe, lying home in their beds, but without sports or school, what gives them a reason to get out of that bed?"

At the end of the public comment period, a faculty member provided a different perspective on the issue.

Nathan Larsen, the high school band director and volleyball coach, said he applauded the board's decision last month because it took into consideration the health and safety of both staff and students.

"I would still prefer the cohorts, not for my health and safety, but for the health and safety of that student who goes home and lives with their grandparents, those staff members who are dealing with spouses that have health issues," he said.

Larsen said he has only seen his family once since March, and still feels reluctant to visit them in Kenosha or Illinois because of the higher case numbers in those areas. He said he will go along with whatever the board decides, but he hopes there is better planning in place.

"Teachers want to be in front of students," he said. "The way we ended last year was terrible. It didn't work, we were under-prepared for it, and it surprised us. It was unprecedented."

## The board decides

Board members ultimately sided with the majority of audience members who wanted to see four days a week of in-person instruction, but they also had a lot of questions about holding in-person classes during the age of COVID-19.



**ON ONE HAND...** - Parent Maegan Kaiser talks to the board about weighing the different options for going back to school.

Cheryl Ploeckelman wanted to know at what point the district would be forced to shut down its schools if students or staff started to test positive.

Kolden said the county health department will contact the district if there any positive test results, and contact tracing will be done to determine who has been exposed to the virus.

"That contact tracing is going to tell us what we have to shut down," he said. "If it's a child who's only been at the elementary, I don't know that I need to shut down the entire district."

Board member Teri Hanson said her family just returned from a trip to Pennsylvania, where school is being held five days a week with masking and other precautions in place. She said she would like to see a similar system in Colby, with five days a week.

However, she also questioned what would happen if a staff member got the virus.

Kolden said individuals who test positive will have to be quarantined at home, and he worries about losing entire grade levels' worth of teachers if they have frequent contact with each other.

"It's going to be the recommendation from Clark County," he said. "I'm not going to quarantine anybody."

Kolden said he believes it's inevitable that some students or staff will test posi-

See **COLBY K-12**/ Page 16

# Colby K-12

Continued from page 9

tive for COVID-19 at some point, and that's why he initially recommended two cohorts — to decrease the possibility of having to shut down the entire district.

Adjustments can be made to cut back on student contacts, like block scheduling and having students stay in one classroom throughout the day, but Kolden said nothing is fool-proof.

"Don't get me wrong," he said. "If we're putting 20 kids in a classroom, we're not socially distancing. We're not even coming close."

Board member Eric Elmhorst said he thinks the district should "lean heavily" on what the health department says, rather than people who don't have expertise, when making decisions going forward.

Hanson said the board should also be seeking input from community members and staff, noting that a public hearing should really have been held back in May or June.

"Communication has been the thing that's been missing throughout this whole process," she said.

Board member Todd Schmidt made the motion to bring students back to school for four days a week, to follow the WIAA's revised recommendations for fall sports seasons and reconsider a five-day week next month.

"Personally, I don't think I'm quite ready to go to five days, and I don't think the district is either, but I think four days is a good compromise, at least for a month," Schmidt said. "We can see where we're at next month and go to five days if we need to."

## Other business

- Due to the possibility of shortened or cancelled sports seasons this school year, the board voted to waive all athletic fees for 2020-2021. Former athletic director Jim Hagen said the fees usually bring in between \$8,000 and \$10,000 every school year, but it was "a nightmare" refunding them after schools were closed in March.

The motion also temporarily modified the district's athletic code so that students who are academically ineligible will miss 20 percent of their athletic contests, rather than a set number of days.

- The board accepted the resignation of Michelle Maurina as a food service cook.

- The board approved the hiring of Tara Nigon as an elementary reading interventionist, Janet Kunze as a food service cook, and Cheryl Beyerl as a computer aide for the middle school food service.

- During his superintendent's report, Kolden said Colby students were able to earn a total of 561 college credits at [Northcentral Technical College](#) last school year, saving their parents \$84,458 in tuition costs.

- Kolden told the board that replacing all of the doors at the high school this summer cost a total of \$64,400, which was \$11,000 under the original estimate.

- The board approved a new contract with Hudl, a company that records sports games for coaches. The new two-year, \$10,749 contract will include the installation of a camera in high school gym, which will allow games and other events to be live-streamed.

- During closed session, Kolden informed the board that he provided high school Spanish teacher Allie Kolb with a \$3,664 annual raise in order to match a competing offer from another school district.



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# NTC's Executive Vice-President receives Distinguished College Administrator Award

Northcentral Technical College (NTC)

is pleased to announce that Dr. Jeannie Worden, Executive Vice President of NTC, has received national recognition for her strong support of student success.

Dr. Worden received the Distinguished College Administrator Award, which is presented to college vice presidents, deans, or directors serving at post-secondary institutions who have shown strong support of student success on their campus by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students.

"This award is personally meaningful, not because I received it, but because I was nominated by NTC students," said Dr. Worden. "I will continue to advocate for our students because when they succeed, we all succeed."

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK), the premier honor society that recognizes the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helps them grow as scholars and lead-



**PHI THETA KAPPA**  
HONOR SOCIETY

ers, presents the award. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges.

## NTC also received the following recognitions from the society:

- Most Distinguished Chapter in the Wisconsin Region
- 5-star Status for the 7th Consecutive Year
- 1st Place Overall in Honors In Action Hallmark
- 1st Place in Honors in Action Hallmark - Theme 7: Powers of Connection

Additionally, NTC's Student Development Coordinator, Krista Reince, completed the Phi Theta Kappa 5-star Advisor program and was recognized by the Wisconsin Region with the Horizon Award, given to a newer advisor that has helped the region and their chapter be successful.

**About NTC-** Northcentral Technical College ([www.ntc.edu](http://www.ntc.edu)) 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 in Merrill, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo and an Agriculture Center of Excellence just north of the Wausau campus in the Village of Maine. The Wausau campus features a Center for Health Sciences, Center for Business and Industry, Center for Geriatric Education, iTEC Projects Lab and STEM Center.



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Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News

# NTC waives application fees, fall semester begins Aug. 31

Northcentral Technical College will waive application fees for anyone who applies to the college for the fall 2020 semester. The NTC Foundation will cover the \$30 application fee for new applicants.

“We know that college-bound students are presented with unique obstacles while weighing their college options this fall,” said Shannon Livingston, dean of student success at NTC. “Our commitment to support student success has never been

stronger, which is why we made the decision to waive application fees to help students get started locally.”

Students will have the opportunity to select from a full menu of academic offerings, including in-person classes, virtual college courses that offer flexibility with self-paced lectures and assignments and hybrid courses offered through Zoom that provide more structured learning with set lecture times and deadlines. Prospective students can meet

with admissions staff by phone appointment, Zoom or in-person following socially distant guidelines. Walk-in appointments are also welcome at NTC’s Wausau campus. Visitors can expect to follow the same COVID-19 safety procedures that all staff follow including a brief survey, contactless temperature scan and masking upon entry.

NTC’s August walk-in schedule at the Wausau campus for admissions, advising, career coaching and

financial aid services will be from Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Additionally, prospective students can get help at NTC’s regional campus in Phillips, Medford, Spencer, Antigo and Wittenberg by calling their local campus to make an appointment.

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply at no cost online by visiting [www.ntc.edu/apply](http://www.ntc.edu/apply).

Waupaca, Wisconsin State Farmer

# Northcentral Technical College partners with USDA

**Tivoli Gough**  
NRCS

MADISON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has issued a cooperative agreement with the [Northcentral Technical College \(NTC\)](#) and eight additional colleges in the Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement (C2A3). They will receive \$529,924.48 over the next four years as part of the agreement.

The nine Midwestern community colleges that make up the Alliance boast strong agricultural programs and traditions. The consortium was developed under a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA-NRCS and USDA North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (USDA-SARE). The main objective of the agreement is to realize a shared goal of ensuring quality education and training of field practitioners. By establishing a collaborative framework for cooperative activities, these partners will enhance and accelerate training and adoption of technologies and best practices for improved agricultural productivity and natural resources stewardship.

A key component of this agreement is hands-on learning in the field, utiliz-



**Northcentral Technical College Agriculture Center of Excellence in Wausau.**  
NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ing College land resources to model best practices. Faculty and students will work with NRCS field office staff to implement a conservation plan, install practices on the ground, collect data, and help inform current and future producers. [NTC](#) will utilize funds to implement a conservation plan with the Wisconsin NRCS, support research plots, teach students to collect and report samples and host field days.

The goal is not only to accelerate the adoption of conservation practices through the education of current, two-

year agriculture students, but to also disseminate information to the broader community through field days and other [NTC](#) events and partnerships.

[NTC](#) plans to hold at least one field day per year to demonstrate to our community the work we are performing through this grant to achieve successful crops utilizing the latest conservation practices in the Agricultural industry," said Dr. Greg Cisewski, Dean of [NTC's](#) School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities, and Transportation. [NTC](#) is also exploring opportunities to potentially

replicate in-person field day activities in an on-line environment so more community members can gain information at a time that's convenient for them."

The C2A3 collaboration was born out of a mutual desire to provide more ongoing education, training and demonstration to future farm producers and agricultural service providers with the goal of improving the health, and therefore the long-term productivity, resilience and sustainability of the soil.

"We're excited to be partnering with [Northcentral Technical College](#) to showcase that agricultural productivity and natural resource protection are compatible goals," said Angela Biggs, USDA-NRCS State Conservationist for Wisconsin. "Through this collaboration, applied research and conservation practice implementation will be publicly highlighted to demonstrate the most effective conservation systems that have the greatest environmental and economic benefit."

In addition to working together on applied research projects that advance student learning on their college farms, member institutions partner with one another to share resources, faculty expertise, curriculum and tools which will advance the future of agriculture production in this country.



# METRO BRIEFS by B.C. Kowalski

## COVID efforts

**The county hosted a community testing event Friday and is working on a form to report violations of the governor’s mask mandate**

The Marathon County Health Department says it plans this week to add a form to its website for people to file complaints about violations of the governor’s mask mandate.

Marathon County Coronavirus Public Information Officer Judy Burrows initially told City Pages and other news outlets the form would be up last Friday but says the department wasn’t able to get the form up by the end of the day. It will instead appear this week, Burrows says.

The form is intended to allow residents to report violations of the mask order they witness in Marathon County. Burrows says the county health and law enforcement will work with violators to make sure they are following the mask mandate.

“We’re working with the sheriff’s office and the district attorney’s office to review what kind of violations we’re seeing,” Burrows says. “We understand it’s a new habit for people to get into, so we don’t want to penalize people for forgetting to wear their mask one time; but we do want to get people into the habit of wearing masks.”

Gov. Tony Evers last month issued



a mandate for people in Wisconsin to wear a mask in indoor locations and recommended them for public gatherings outside when social distancing is not possible. Some northern sheriffs

such as Lincoln County’s have said they will not enforce the mask mandate, and Marathon County Sheriff Scott Parks told City Pages the enforcement aspect didn’t come with much instruction by the state.

The news comes as the health department hosted a community COVID-19 testing clinic at Northcentral Technical College with the aid of the National Guard Friday. The event started at 8 am and ended up closing early because they ran out of tests, using all 500 available.

The testing event went much smoother than the health department’s last because of a new streamlined process. One woman exclaimed just as much to a group of reporters as she drove by later Friday morning. “I was here for less than an hour,” she said.

### City-owned 120 Scott Street property to be re-evaluated

A city-owned site that once nearly became a Cobblestone Inn and later a mix-used development property will undergo a re-evaluation.

Merge Urban Development had

▲ Motorists get tested at an event put on by the Marathon County Health Department with assistance from the National Guard. The event was popular and the health department went through its 500 tests and had to close early.





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# MADA announces spring 2020 graduates



July 2020 MADA graduates, from left: Kyle Kasper, Stephanie Holloway, Tessa Randall, Raeanne Walker, Lance Baker, Brooklyn Bonke, Cole Holzem, and Cody Willis with lead teacher Mrs Erin Bailey. Not pictured: Isaiah Reich, Michael Hrobsky

Merrill Area Public Schools and Northcentral Technical College are proud to present the Merrill Adult Diploma Academy (MADA) July 2020 graduates. The graduating class consists of 10 students who have completed their goals and are ready to take the next step in their life journeys. Several of these students already have full-time jobs; some are planning on furthering their education.

In an outdoor ceremony held at Kitchenette Park on Wednesday, July 29, with social distancing made necessary by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

precautions, the students were congratulated by lead teacher Erin Bailey and principal Shannon Murray, along with family supporters.

The MADA Charter School is a partnership between the Merrill School District and Northcentral Technical College and has served the community since 2007. The primary purpose of MADA is to assist with high school completion, and help adult students earn a General Education Diploma (GED). In addition, MADA offers

*See MADA page 2*





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# **NTC** waives application fees for Fall 2020 semester, expands walk-in hours

**Northcentral Technical College (NTC)** is pleased to announce that it will waive application fees for anyone who applies to the College for the fall 2020 semester. Due to the generosity of the **NTC** Foundation, the \$30 application will be free for new applicants.



“We know that college-bound students are presented with unique obstacles while weighing their college options this fall,” said Shannon Livingston, Dean of Student Success at **NTC**. “Our commitment to support student success has never been stronger, which is why we made

*See **CAMPUS NEWS** page 20*

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## CAMPUS NEWS *from page 17*

the decision to waive application fees to help students get started locally.”

Students will have the opportunity to select from a full menu of academic offerings, including in person classes, Virtual College courses that offer the highest level of flexibility with self-paced lectures and assignments and hybrid courses offered through Zoom that provide more structured learning with set lecture times and deadlines.

Prospective students can meet with Admissions staff by phone appointment, Zoom or in-person following socially distant guidelines. Walk-in appointments are also welcome at NTC’s Wausau campus. Visitors can expect to follow the same COVID-19 safety procedures that all staff follow including a brief survey, contactless temperature scan and masking upon entry.

NTC’s August Walk-in Schedule (Wausau Campus)-

Admissions, Advising, Career Coach + Financial Aid Services



Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Additionally, prospective students can get help at NTC’s regional campus in Phillips, Medford, Spencer, Antigo and Wittenberg by calling their local campus to make an appointment.

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply at no cost online by visiting [www.ntc.edu/apply](http://www.ntc.edu/apply).

**About Northcentral Technical College-** NTC 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 in Merrill, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo and an Agriculture Center of Excellence just north of the Wausau campus in the Village of Maine. The Wausau campus features a Center for Health Sciences, Center for Business and Industry, Center for Geriatric Education, iTEC Projects Lab and STEM Center.



Marion Advertiser

# Tigerton Student Receives Automotive Technician Scholarship

Wisconsin high school graduates and continuing education students are selected to receive technician scholarships through The Foundation of the Wisconsin Automobile and Truck Dealers Association (WATDA) sponsored by local dealerships and other foundation partners. Recipients will use the scholarship awards to fund their vehicle service education in automotive, diesel, motorcycle or collision technology at the Wisconsin Technical College of their choice.

Among the recipients is Austin M. Hoffmann of Tigerton, Wisconsin. He will receive a \$3,000 tuition scholarship sponsored by Wisconsin Automotive and Truck Education Association, Inc. (WATEA) in Wausau. Beversdorf Garage in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, will provide Hoffmann with on-the-job training and mentoring while he attends the automotive program at [Northcentral Technical College \(NTC\)](#) in Wausau. In addition to the scholarship, Hoffmann will receive a tool set valued at \$4,270 from Snap-on Corporation headquartered in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

WATDA Foundation scholarship



**Austin Hoffmann**

recipients are selected based on completed application, GPA, testing and interviews. In 2019, the WATDA Foundation awarded it's 2,000th schol-

arship; encouraging and assisting young people to pursue a career in the automobile, truck and motorcycle industries in Wisconsin.



# NTC Foundation awards student scholarships totaling over \$300,000

The Northcentral Technical College Foundation awarded nearly 500 scholarships totaling over \$300,000 to students who will be pursuing higher education at NTC during the fall 2020 term.

The following local students include: Aniwa: Cassandra Bostwick, Brittney Martin; Birnamwood: Kaine Bernarde, Richard Olson; Eland: Tyler Giddings; Gresham:

Jacob Bratz; Hatley: Shelby Hintz, Austin Kluck, Evan Trzebiatowski, Ben Vosters; Mattoon: Matthew Pecha; Phlox: Lucas Dionne; Ringle: Tyler Westberg; Rosholt: Jenna Brandl, Shaina Niewiadomski, Mackenzie Yaeger; Tigerton: Austin Hoffmann; Wittenberg: Megan Gauderman, Evelyn Kizewski, Lindsey Schwalbach and Olivia Zoromski.



# NTC expands agriculture program with partnership

Northcentral Technical College and eight additional colleges in the Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement will receive \$529,924.48 over the course of the next four years as part of a cooperative agreement issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. The agreement is expected to realize a shared goal of ensuring

quality education and training of field practitioners. By establishing a collaborative framework for cooperative activities, these partners will enhance and accelerate training and adoption of technologies and best practices for improved agricultural productivity and natural resources stewardship. A key component of this agreement is hands-on learning in the field, utilizing college land resources to

model best practices. Faculty and students will work with NRCS field office staff to implement a conservation plan, install practices on the ground, collect data, and help inform current and future producers. NTC will utilize funds to implement a conservation plan with the Wisconsin NRCS, support research plots, teach students to collect and report samples, and host field days.

achieve successful crops utilizing the latest conservation practices in the Agricultural industry," said Dr. Greg Cisewski, dean of NTC's School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities, and Transportation. The college collaboration was born out of a mutual desire to provide more ongoing education, training and demonstration to future farm producers and agricultural service providers with the goal of improving the health, longterm productivity, resilience and sustainability of the soil.

## NTC Foundation awards student scholarships totaling over \$300 000

The goal is not only to accelerate the adoption of conservation practices through the education of current, two-year agriculture students, but to also disseminate information to the broader community through field days and other NTC events and partnerships. NTC plans to hold at least one field day per year to demonstrate to our community the work we are performing through this grant to

In addition to working together on applied research projects that advance student learning on their college farms, member institutions partner with one another to share resources, faculty expertise, curriculum and tools, which will advance the future of agriculture production in this country.





# Northcentral Technical College designs virtual labs to support student success

Instructional designers and faculty at Northcentral Technical College have been reimagining the future of science labs. The result is the creation of virtual lab simulations, built in-house, that give students the opportunity to learn at their own pace.

Through this collaboration, the team utilized backwards-design methodology, which allowed them to identify the knowledge, skills and abilities students need to be successful in their classes. Then, they designed custom learning solutions that met those needs.

“Virtual labs promote a high

level of student engagement and understanding, while not feeling overwhelming,” said Penny Tesch, a science instructor at NTC. “This is a great recipe for student success.”

Tesch leads students through modules where content and expectations are reviewed. Students read through materials and review diagrams. Then, students are able to experience virtual lab simulations where they can review videos, such as dissections, and have the opportunity for self-guided exploration where they are challenged with lab quiz questions to help them assess

their level of understanding.

“Building content in this way lets students hear about the content, read about the content and then interact with the content in a variety of ways,” said Cadie Larson, an NTC instructional designer. “For example, the tissues lab allows the students to work with a microscope to view real tissue slides under a variety of magnifications.”

Students enrolled in virtual science labs this summer have told Tesch that the user-friendly design has taken away their anxiety about online learning.



Merrill, Foto News

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Five MHS alum graduate UW-Eau Claire

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire awarded 1,441 degrees in May. Of the degrees awarded, 1,414 were received by students attending the Eau Claire campus and 27 were received by students attending UW-Eau Claire - Barron County.



Members of UWEC's Spring 2020 class included the following MHS graduates:

**Kayla Ament**, Business, Bachelor of Business Administration, marketing and Spanish, Eau Claire campus.

**Wesley Boehm**, Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Music, music, Eau Claire campus.

**Grace Huftel**, Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science, psychology and sociology, Eau Claire campus.

**Hannah Marrier**, Education and Human Sciences, Bachelor of Science, special education, Eau Claire campus.

**Morgan Mcallister**, Nursing and Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, nursing, Eau Claire campus.

### 31 MHS students garner NTC Foundation Scholarships

The Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Foundation is pleased to award nearly 500 scholarships totaling over \$300,000 to students who will be pursuing higher education at NTC during the Fall 2020 term. The following local students were recently

awarded scholarships to help them finance their education while pursuing their dreams:

Merrill: Kayley Bean, Calista Berger, Konnor Beyer, Allison Blaubach, Abigail Burgener, Brittany Cronin, Christina Doering, Amanda Frederick, Savannah Guenther, Katelyn Hahn, Dawson Heckendorf, Skylar Herdt, Joshua Jablonski, Joseph Johns, Kaylie Kleiber, Lisa Krueger, Jessica Magray, Daniel Mathews, Anna Miller, Morganne Morgan, Jesse Pierschalla-Zastrow, Elizabeth Schmidt, Brandon Stolz, Hailey Tellekson, Brielle Thorson, Hannah Tomajcik, Breann VerCauteren, Jerden Westfall, Mckenzie Wienke, James Zahn, Cole Zimmerman





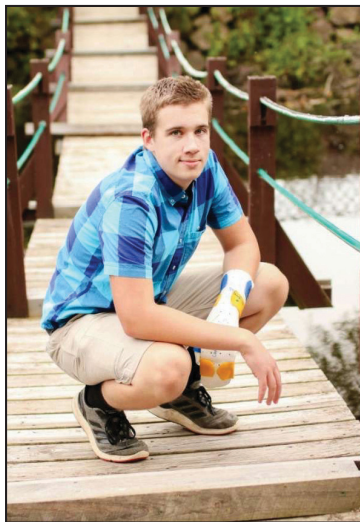
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# Marion Rotary Students of The Month

The Clintonville/Marion Rotary Club would like to recognize Mace LaCanne of Marion High School as Student of the Month. He is the son of Michelle Michonski and Todd LaCanne. During his high school career he participated in FFA, forensics, quiz bowl, math league, KMO, NHS, and Red Cross Blood Drives. He has plans to attend [NTC](#) liberal arts transfer program and will then transfer to a four year school to study psychology.

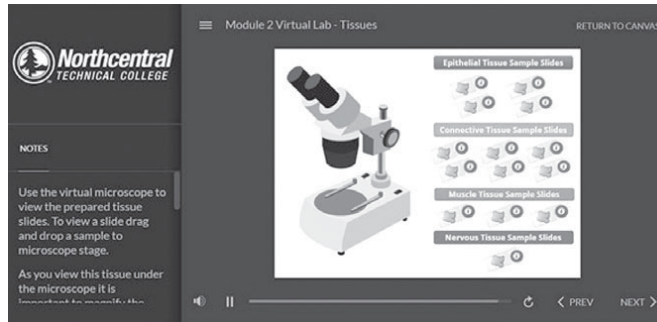
The Rotary Club would like to recognize Marion High School senior Zackary Watters as a Student of the Month. He is the son of Kathleen Duffey and the late William Watters. He participated in football, basketball, track, NHS and FFA. He is planning to attend UW-Platteville for mechanical engineering.

The Rotary Club would like to recognize Marion High School senior Jared Krueger as Student of the Month. He is the son of Dianne and Lonnie Krueger. He participated in football, basketball, baseball, quiz bowl, KMO, jazz band and honors band. He is planning to attend FVTC for Automotive tech and diagnostics.





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Students can drag and drop tissue sample slides for a close-up look under the virtual microscope in NTC's science labs.

## NTC designs virtual labs to support student success

Over the past few months, instructional designers and faculty at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) have been re-imagining the future of science labs. Together, they have worked in weekly sprints to create virtual lab simulations, built fully in-house, that give students the opportunity to learn at their own pace.

Through this collaboration, the team utilized backwards-design methodology, which allowed them to identify the knowledge, skills, and abilities students need to be successful in their classes. Then, they designed custom learning solutions that met those needs.

“Virtual labs promote a high level of student engagement and understanding, while not feeling overwhelming,” said Penny Tesch, science instructor at NTC. “This is a great recipe for student success!”

Tesch leads students through modules where content and expectations are reviewed. Students read through materials and review diagrams. Then, students are able to experience virtual lab simulations where they can review videos, such as dissections, and have the opportunity for self-guided exploration where they are challenged with lab quiz questions to help them assess their level of understanding.

“Building content in this way lets students hear about the content, read about the content, and then interact with the content in a variety of ways,” said Cadie Larson, instructional designer at NTC. “For example, the tissues lab allows the students to work with a microscope to view real tissue slides under a variety of magnifications.”

Students enrolled in virtual science labs this summer have told Tesch that the user-friendly design has taken away their anxiety about online learning.

“The layout is clear... and it gives me confidence that I can actually retain more of the parts (of the body) and what they do,” said one General Anatomy & Physiology student.

“The ability to leverage the instructional design team by providing a vision and utilizing their skills to turn that into a final product has been both demanding and inspiring,” said Tesch. “I am proud to partner with NTC's designers, Cadie Larson and Michael Kozlowski, to support student success in online labs at the college.”