

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
Northcentral Technical College
1000 W. Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401
Timberwolf Conference Center/D100

12:15 p.m. Lunch

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**II. PUBLIC INPUT**

A. Public Comments

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes from December 3, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion: That the Northcentral Technical College Board approve the meeting minutes from the December 3, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting.

Voice vote required to approve.

IV. CONSENT VOTING AGENDA

A. Approval of Consent Voting Agenda

1. [New Physical Therapist Assistant Associate Degree Program](#)
2. [Data Analytics Technology Associate Degree Program](#)
3. [Receipts + Expenditures](#)
4. [Personnel Changes](#)

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

1. New Physical Therapist Assistant Associate Degree Program
2. Data Analytics Technology Associate Degree Program
3. Receipts + Expenditures
4. Personnel Changes

Roll call vote required to approve.

V. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

A. Industry 4.0 – Lori Weyers, Darren Ackley, Rob Elliott, Chet Strebe + Brandy Breuckman

VI. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. President's Report

1. Mid-Year Institutional Updates (Handout)
2. Strategic Plan Update – Jeannie Worden + Vicki Jeppesen
3. Legislative Updates
4. Comments from Informational Update

B. Chairperson's Report

1. Spring 2020 Board Appointment Process
2. WTC DBA Winter Meeting – January 16-18, 2020 (LaCrosse, WI)

C. Information

1. [Advisory Meeting Minutes](#)
2. [Upcoming Meetings/Events](#)
3. [Good News](#)

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

- A. Adjourn Board into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of:
1. Approval of the December 3, 2019 Closed Session Minutes
 2. Update regarding competitive servicing arrangement

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

1. Approval of the December 3, 2019 Closed Session Minutes
2. Update regarding competitive servicing arrangement

Roll call vote required

VIII. OPEN SESSION

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

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

Roll call vote required

IX. MEETING ADJOURN

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

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

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

MEETING DATE: January 14, 2020

TOPIC: New Physical Therapist Assistant Associate Degree Program

POLICY: Community Benefit Statement 2
Employers have an available and skilled workforce.

DATA/RESULTS:

Physical therapy is a health profession with the primary purpose of promoting optimal human health and function through the application of scientific principles to prevent, identify, assess, correct, or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunction. The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a technical health care worker who carries out many patient treatments under the supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs find employment in clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, home care agencies, schools, private health and fitness centers, and other settings.

According to EMSI 2019 data¹, there are currently 64 jobs in the NTC District for this type of occupation. The number of projected job openings from 2018 to 2028 is 100 openings, or 10 annual openings. This total includes the projected growth of 15 additional jobs (26.2% growth) over the next ten years. The current workforce in this profession is aging, with approximately 11 (17.6%) of current workers in the NTC district being 55 years of age or older. NTC conducted a formal survey of 26 in-district employers in November of 2019, nine in-district employers responded. Respondents indicated they currently have a total of 17 employees with this type of skill set. Projected job openings from the respondents were as follows: year one – 5-6 openings, year three – 15 openings, and year five – 23 openings. One respondent commented, “Great idea, currently we are getting employees from Chippewa Valley and Eau Claire. We would be willing to partner with NTC for clinicals.” The majority of respondents indicated they would hire a graduate of this program, even if he or she had no previous experience.

The College wishes to submit the Physical Therapist Assistant Associate Degree program Concept Review documents to the Wisconsin Technical College System Office for consideration as part of the WTCS Occupational Program Approval Process. By approving the submission of the program proposal, the College will continue to the next step in the process for developing this as a WTCS approved program.

¹Economic Modeling Specialist International, EMSI 2019 data.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

PROPOSED MOTION:

✓ **Consent Agenda** Approval of program proposal of the Physical Therapist Assistant Associate Degree program

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

Signed Lois A. Weyers Dated 1/14/20

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

MEETING DATE: January 14, 2020

TOPIC: Data Analytics Technology Associate Degree Program

POLICY Community Benefit Statement 2
Employers have an available and skilled workforce.

DATA/RESULTS: : In today's society data is all around us and those who are able to map it, interpret it and use it strategically are essential to almost all industry sectors. The Data Analytics Technology program prepares students to work in the field of Information Technology with a specialization in data. Learners will identify data patterns and relationships, map data across different sources, create databases and reports, apply statistical tools, practice problem solving and strategic thinking, utilize technology to meet tactical objectives related to data and learn to communicate strategically in a business environment. Beginning with a foundation of data concepts, and moving into advanced topics such as database design and programming, data management, and data reporting, students will be eligible for careers such as systems analyst, data architect, data analyst and data developer.

According to EMSI 2019 data¹, there are currently 557 jobs in the NTC District for this type of occupation. The number of projected job openings from 2019 to 2029 is 39 per year. This total includes the projected growth of 16 additional jobs (3% growth) over the next ten years, as well as retirements and turn-over.

On February 4, 2020 NTC will host a Data Analytics Technology DACUM meeting with in-district employers to get their insight into the training needs for this industry and how we can best meet those needs.

The College wishes to submit the Data Analytics Technology Associate Degree program Concept Review documents to the Wisconsin Technical College System Office for consideration as part of the WTCS Occupational Program Approval Process. By approving the submission of the program proposal, the College will continue to the next step in the process for developing this as a WTCS approved program.

¹Economic Modeling Specialist International, EMSI 2019 data.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

PROPOSED MOTION:

✓ **Consent Agenda** Approval of program proposal of the Data Analytics Technology Associate Degree program

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

Signed Lori A. Weigman

Dated 1/14/20

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

MEETING DATE: January 14, 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 November 30, 2019.

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Revenues: \$51,531,012

YTD Fund 1 – 7 Expenses: \$44,781,181

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 1/14/20

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

MEETING DATE: January 14, 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. Iain Cameron – Dean, School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
2. Heidi Chitwood – Sociology Faculty (Interim)
3. Brady Cooper – Network Engineer
4. Lindsey Gile – Accommodation Services Coordinator
5. Nicholas Lampone – Director of Enrollment
6. Jose Munguia – Custodian
7. Nicholas Murphy – Academic Coach, Science
8. Nicole Riggs – Foundation Specialist
9. Eugene Simon – Custodian

Resignations:

1. Larry Poltrock – Maintenance
2. Nhia Thao – PC Support Specialist
3. Linda Willis – Director of Grants
4. Lori Zurawski – Nursing Faculty

Position Eliminations:

1. Derrick Vanzo – Instructional Assistant, Culinary

Retirement:

1. Tess Kaiser – Accountant

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 Lori A. Wayman

Dated 1/14/2020

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: October 1, 2019

Program Name: Surgical Technologist

Attendees

Industry Members

- Dr. Rick Abuzzahab, Surgeon, Orthopedic Associates of Wausau
- Suzi Okey, Manager, Bone and Joint Surgery Center
- Angie Schroder, Surgical Technologist, Bone and Joint Surgery Center

NTC Staff:

- Janet Baumann, Associate Dean of Health Sciences
- Jason Beasley, Surgical Technologist Program Director and Faculty
- Amanda Brzezinski, Learning Coordinator for Business and Industry and Continuing Education
- Linda Blume, Surgical Technologist Adjunct, Aspirus Surgical Associates
- Megan Eick, Surgical Technologist Adjunct, Marshfield Clinic Medical Center in Marshfield

Other

- Wendy Wilde, Treasury and Payment Solutions, BMO Harris
- Kendra Lewitzke, Surgical Technologist Student

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

- Since last May, the Surgical Technologist Program has graduated five of our students and have placed four of them in jobs. The remaining student was not sure if they wanted to continue in this field (of Surgical Technologist) or not. Three of the graduates are employed by Aspirus and the other one is employed at St. Claire's.
- We have ten students enrolled this 19/20 academic year, and all of them are doing phenomenally well in the program. The students are grasping concepts better/easier and we feel that the use of Cengage Unlimited has enhanced the students' learning.
- Cengage Unlimited is a subscription service through the publisher of the textbooks utilized by the Surgical Technologist Program. Students obtain digital access to a copy of the textbook and accompanying workbooks, resources, and tools to help make learning easier and more independent (students can also rent the hardcover book or can purchase a loose leaf book from Cengage if they wish). If a student does not have a laptop, NTC will issue the student one to use while they're in the program. Having the information available digitally allows our faculty to have more lab time with the students, which is a central part of the student being successful in the OR (Operating Room). Since being implemented, Cengage Unlimited is showing tremendous results in the early portions of the semester. Cengage transfers information directly into Canvas (the system we use at NTC) for grading. Our faculty are now able to see how the students are engaging and which students are having issues with tests and quizzes; therefore, faculty can address issues with the students quicker.

- The ARC/STSA (Accreditation Review Council/Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting) has set a goal of Fall 2021 for all Surgical Technologist programs nationwide to be Associate Degree level programs. This new format will be a four semester program, not including general education classes. NTC is currently in the planning stages with the standards being loaded to the NTC website so that we can start building the courses. There are a few different ways NTC can break the course load up, but NTC will need to go through the process of building the course to see how we can best implement the changes and still best serve our students.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: Friday, October 11, 2019

Program Name: Dental Programs

Attendees

Industry Members

- William Akey, DDS, New Horizon's Dental
- Melissa Gebhardt, Dental Hygienist, Schindelholz Dental
- Paula Hamann, Operations Assistant Manager, Marshfield Clinic
- Aleena Lepak, RDH, Skutak Dental/Dr. Jennifer Havel
- Kara Rode, RDH, Weston Family Dental
- Kelly Schroeder, DH – Research, Center for Oral and Systemic Health Marshfield Health Systems

NTC Staff:

- Brenda Alberts, Dental Faculty
- Rachel Alwin, Learning Coordinator Continuing Education and Virtual College
- Janet Baumann, Associate Dean of Health
- Michelle Hilts, Program Director and Dental Faculty
- Deb Koziel, Dental Faculty
- Karen Turner, Dental Faculty
- Rich Wilkosz, Science Faculty

Other

- Abigail Masticola, NTC Dental Student
- Renee Smith, NTC Dental Student

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

- As mentioned in our Spring meeting, we had three WIG goals and we met all of them! Those goals were: (Goal 1) to increase student retention from 70% to 80%, we met this goal and our retention for the fall 2018 semester was 84%. (Goal 2) was to decrease expenses in clinic by 2%; we ended up with a 19% decrease in costs! This was due to a few factors, the main one being the lab coats being laundered here versus sending them out to be dry cleaned. Our final goal (Goal 3) was to increase FTE's to 43, we achieved this and ended up with 45.26.
- NTC had 16 graduates in May and (CCC) had 9 graduates.

- At NTC, CRDTS 15 of 16 students passed on their first attempt and the other student passed on their second attempt. At CCC, seven of nine students passed on their first attempt and the other two passed on their second attempt.
- For NDHBE, NTC had a 100% pass rate on the first attempt and for CCC had eight of nine pass on their first attempt with the other student passing in their second attempt. Overall we are very pleased with our results!
- The Dental Program was approved to purchase two new radiography heads and also a new phosphorous plate scanner. Those items have been received and are working well. The dental team is still in need of having two other radiography units replaced and will be requesting this. The dental team now has new patient chairs in Pod One in our clinic. Our latest Capital Equipment request includes: One Panoramic machine, two Nomads (we don't have any Nomads currently, but this would be a great addition to the program), we are planning continued replacement of patient chairs, two more radiography units and radiography chairs, and one autoclave. The expectation is that this equipment request will be prioritized by the reviewers and this request is more of a 3-year plan for our program. We are also investigating purchasing a trimmer for our dental materials lab and a laser for the clinic. One of our DDS members stated that the Nomad would be a great addition to our clinic; his office has one and they prefer it to the traditional x-ray machines. He also stated that instead of a Panoramic machine, he suggested the program look into a CBCT/Panx combination since this is the direction dental is going.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: October 14, 2019

Program Name: Truck Driving/Diesel

Attendees

Industry Members

- *Marty Robbins – Marathon Cheese Transport*
- *Scott Eccleston – Transport National*
- *Kelly Trojanowski – Sutton Transport*
- *Courtney Costa – Krueger Wholesale/KW Transit*
- *Randy Adamski – Istate Truck*
- *Jon Shimel – JX Truck Center*
- *John Crass – Marth Transportation*
- *Evan Lang – E.L.M. Repair and Refrigeration*
- *Mike Cooper – Mid-State Truck Service, Inc.*
- *Cory Heckendorf – Wisconsin Kenworth*
- *Traci Champagne – Crystal Freight Systems, LLC.*

NTC Staff:

- *Greg Cisewski – Dean, School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities & Transportation*
- *Susan Clark – Administrative Assistant*
- *Paul Strehlow – Learning Coordinator, School of Public Safety*
- *Sarah Gossfeld-Benzing – Dean, School of Public Safety*
- *Kris Grod – Interim Dean, School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing*

Other

- *Sara Guild - WATEA*

- Doug Behnke – NTC Instructor
- Jame Eckardt – NTC Instructor
- Eric Antonson – NTC Instructor
- Amanda Brzezinski, Learning Coordinator, School of Business & Industry/Continuing Education

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

Discussion:

- **INDUSTRY TRENDS:** Marty Robbins, Marathon Cheese, shared that everyone in the industry should be aware that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will roll out their drug and alcohol regulations by January 6, 2020. Those involved in the industry should create a user account and register to ensure they are ready when the Clearinghouse is fully operational. E-credentials can be shown to DOT officers on your phone. Wisconsin was the first state to implement the E-credentials for companies. Marty distributed two informational handouts to committee members with specifics on these items. He also added that business insurance will see a large increase next year. Kelly Trojanowski, Sutton Transport, shared that the market is down right now and there is a shortage in freight. Tracy Champagne, Crystal Freight said they have purchased some new equipment and the newer trucks are automatics. Crystal is not seeing a lot of moving of employees. John Crass, Marth Transportation, stated that their automatic trucks are great and the drivers are liking them. He stated that they are struggling with back hauls. Scott Eccleston, Transport National, shared that he had to adjust rates quite a bit in the last few months and it is still a challenge to find drivers to haul oversize. Evan Lang, E.L.M. Repair and Refrigeration, feels that employees are staying where they are at the current time. Mike Cooper, Mid-State Truck Services, offered that the young employees do need some guidance on their career choice and where they need to start their career. He added that getting people through background checks and drug tests is a hurdle. Mike stated that you must be honest with employees if this career is the one for them or if they should pursue another opportunity. Joh Shimel said that he has had individuals applying that do not always fit what they are applying for but you might be able to move them to a job that fits them. Jon would like to see more reading comprehension when reading manuals. James will address this in his class in the future. Randy Adamski, Istate Truck, agreed that when interviewing new applicants they have been trying to hire a personality that fits their business atmosphere. Courtney Costa, Krueger Wholesale/KW Transit, voiced that generational differences have been their biggest challenge. Cory Heckendorf, Wisconsin Kenworth, shared that from the sales point of view, there has been a slow stretch but the used truck market has taken off. Kenworth is hiring technicians and parts people at this time. Flexibility is important to individuals applying for a job opening but Cory stresses to applicants that they will work with them but customer service is the number one goal. Business insurance will take a hit next years which may see a 100% increase in property insurance costs.
- **ENROLLMENT REPORT:** Eric Antonson shared that there are 16 first semester students enrolled and 8 third semester students returning for the associate degree. The second year has the technician diploma embedded in it and the second year builds upon the first year classes. Over the last three years enrollment has stayed steady. The Diesel program has a cap of 22 with usually 18 enrolled which is an optimum number for classes. Doug Behnke gave the update on the Truck Driving program which is at six students enrolled for the November 11th session. The October 28th session, with Mike Sewell, has 11 students. Each session can take twelve students. There are still spaces available for the January, February, March, and April 2020 sessions. The Diesel program has seven students matriculated for fall 2020, Electrical Power Distribution has 16 and Electrical Gas Utility has four. All of these students matriculated for fall, in these programs, will need truck driving classes. Currently the fourteen Diesel students will need truck driving in the summer of 2020. The Truck Driving program can take twelve students for each session. The evening truck driving session starting November 11th will be 10 weeks with night classes along with three, nine hour, Saturdays.

- **GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP REPORT:** James shared the 2016-2018 Graduate Report which is a survey given to students who have recently graduated. This report is distributed to prospective students, parents and guidance counselors. The report shows good earning potential for Diesel Equipment Mechanics. James explained that when the instructors stress the importance of completing this survey. The Diesel Technical Diploma had 34 graduates with 32 students reporting showing their approximate hourly wage was \$16.40. The Diesel associate degree had 23 graduates with 19 students reporting an average hourly wage of \$17.03. Of the associate degree students, 100 percent are employed in the field.
- **SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY:** Corey Heckendorf stated that state-wide, within the next ten years, 52.4% of our workforce will retire and in three to five years 27.5% of our state workforce will retire. We have to train those future employees now. We need to attract students into our industry. A summer camp for the Diesel program is being planned. The planning group would like to focus on marketing to groups of students that currently are not a focus on such as women and minorities. The camp would include industry tours, model building and other interesting topics. Flyers are being created for this summer camp and we are working with the K-12 division so that we do not compete with any activities they have running in the same timeframe.
- **CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT:** We have adding truck driving to the Electrical Power Distribution and Gas Utility programs. The requirement for truck driving was added to the Diesel program in a previous curriculum modification. The committee had a discussion on whether the first year diploma of the Diesel program should have the Commercial Learners Permit as a requirement. The committee agreed that the CLP requirement should be kept as a mandatory requirement in the one year technical diploma, but the remaining truck driving courses should be removed from the technical diploma. The associate degree will continue to have all of the truck driving courses within the program.
- **TSA REQUIREMENTS:** A handout was shared with the committee members showing the Technical Skills Attainment requirements. A handout was distributed showing the seven outcomes for Truck Driving program. There was a discussion on how the faculty will implement the assessments for these outcomes. Information was shared on the opportunities that students have throughout the program to display their competencies and have them assessed. Faculty will document the seven outcomes shared with the committee. The committee approved the faculty plan for assessing the TSA Scoring Guide outcomes for the Truck Driving program.
- **TRUCK DRIVING GRANT UPDATE:** Greg explained that a grant was written for Truck Driving to address how to differentiate Class A and Class B designations. The grant is covering the writing of the Class B curriculum which will then produce guidelines between the Class A & B differences. The committee unanimously approved moving forward with writing the Class B curriculum.
- **LEADERSHIP GRANT:** Mike and Greg previously attended a consortium meeting for publicly funded truck driving schools. The group discussed how to meet the new regulations and how to keep track of this information. A grant was written for \$75,000 to the WTCS which would fund the schools coming together to develop a unified plan for the record keeping. We were awarded the grant to fund the instructors and administrators coming together to discuss the requirements and equipment that may be needed. The first meeting will be held at NTC on October 24- 25th.
- **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT:** James Eckardt explained that they would like to update their older engines in the lab. Currently, they have three engines that were produced before the emission standards were in force. We need engines that are dated for the training that we want to accomplish. The cost of the newer engines is approximately \$10,000 each. The committee felt this should be done and approved this expenditure for the newer engines. Previously, multi-meters were replaced with an oscilloscope which has worked well integrating more advanced electric theory. Eric shared that they would like to acquire a life size pneumatic brake trainer. The trainers now incorporate the wheel ends and the ABS wheel sensors. The cost will be approximately \$15,000. The committee approved the purchase of a pneumatic brake trainer. With this purchase, we could cross train with the truck driving students.

Doug Behnke shared that the truck driving program would like to request two dump trucks and a trailer. We are looking at obtaining a bus as we go forward with providing bus driving training. Doug is looking into the option of possibly leasing busses through the summer rather than purchasing a bus. The committee agreed these would be beneficial purchases.

- **WATEA:** Sara Guild introduced herself as the new executive director for the WATEA. Sara informed the committee that WATEA is firmly promoting their Wheels To Work program. They also have undertaken a Commute to Careers program which is a shuttle service which addresses potential employees that have transportation issues. In the next few weeks, Sara will meet with Cory Heckendorf and other committee members to discuss implementing a new registered apprenticeship program for automotive and diesel. This involves developing the curriculum for these apprenticeships which will require input from service managers and technicians. Mike Cooper volunteered to help with this development.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: October 17, 2019

Program Name: Automotive

Attendees

Industry Members

- Ray Bikowski – Snap-On
- Tom Blaschka – Baer Repair
- Jon Griesbach – Griesbach Auto Service
- Jim Hubing – Car Connection
- Dan Klecker – WATDA
- Stephanie Lopez – Woosters Garage
- Matt Baer – Baer Repair
- Bob Arntz – Car Partz
- Kent Olson – Olson Tire & Auto
- Sara Guild – WATEA

NTC Staff:

- Ross Nevienski – Auto Instructor
- Randy Wesenick – Auto Instructor
- Matt Klug – Auto Instructor
- Greg Cisewski – Dean, School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities & Transportation
- Bobbi Lee – Learning Coordinator, School of Agricultural Sciences, Utilities & Transportation
- Bonnie Osness – Director Accreditation & Career Pathways
- Susan Clark – Administrative Assistant

Other

- Adam Olson – D.C. Everest
- Sara Guild – WATEA

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

Discussion:

- **BUSINESS & INDUSTRY UPDATE:** Amanda Brzezinski offered an overview of the classes and workshops offered by Business & Industry and Continuing Education. We have classes that include Supply Chain Management, Critical Core Business Skills, Team Building, Leadership and Lean Sigma. Business and

Industry can offer employers contract training or continuing education classes tailored to fit the needs of their specific business. Contact Business and Industry for more information on their offerings.

- **INDUSTRY TRENDS:** Ray Bikowski mentioned that the new driving systems that are coming online have created a need for additional technician training in static targeting, ABS, and cruise controls. There was a discussion about these advanced systems and how this will impact shop technicians. Kent Olson, Olson Tire & Auto, shared that dealerships today are “plugging in” cars and having them technologically diagnosed. The trend for more technology will force the need to change a business’s philosophy and business model. The technology needed for tomorrow’s world will lead to increased charges to the consumer. Greg mentioned that NTC was attracting about 17 % of high school students but due to social media marketing and the accessibility of information, we are now seeing 39% of high school seniors coming to NTC. Adam Olson, D.C. Everest High School, offered the idea that program instructors present to high school teachers during their professional development day. Greg shared that they are considering a continuing education class for high school math and art teachers to inform them about NTC programs. This type of event has a direct impact on what the community knows about our programs. The Antigo School District had their In-Service Day hosted by NTC where our instructors talked to the Antigo teachers and it was a great success. Sara Guild asked for an update on the INSPIRE program. Greg reported that Sarah Dillion from our K-12 division has been involved with this program. Kent Olson asked businesses to be involved in the Heavy Metal Tour which is a huge event that impacts eighth graders directly. The sponsorship by an industry business goes a long way toward making any event of this type a success. Sara Guild, WATEA, would be happy to partner in a sponsorship of an event. Kent Olson and other members shared that the Chamber of Commerce would be glad to be involved in a sponsorship of an event of this type. Jim Hubing, Car Connection, mentioned that women or minorities should be a target market for these programs. Stephanie Lopez volunteered to help with any activities that would promote automobile repair careers to women in particular. Adam Olson stated that he is currently teaching Auto Service Fundamentals for 21 students. Nineteen of the 21 students stated they were interested in a Youth Apprenticeship. Adam gave students the assignment to complete a Youth Apprenticeship application. Matt Baer, Baer Repair, asked if D.C. Everest still has a work release program for students. Adam Olsen shared that that work release program is active and now overseen by the social studies department. Greg informed members that Dina Kilinski hosts the Youth Apprenticeship Focus Group four times a year here at NTC and if anyone would like to be on that committee please contact Greg.
- **ENROLLMENT REPORT:** There are 13 students enrolled in first semester classes and 12 students in third semester classes. Seven students are enrolled in the open lab classes. There are five applicants for the spring semester. The program can accept 19 new students every fall and spring. The instructors saw a lot of interest at the NTC Open House held on October 16th. The majority of the students in the automotive program are employed. We have a job fair each year to specifically for employers to interview students who are available for employment. Employers can meet with students in a smaller group setting by sponsoring an event called a Lunch and Learn. Employers can pick a date to come in and inform students about their particular business while sharing a lunch. The committee was asked to contact Dina Kilinski to schedule this event. Matt Klug shared that students are coming into the program with very complicated lives and diverse backgrounds.
- **OPEN LAB UPDATE:** Ross gave the committee an overview of the open lab setting. This open lab is very much in its infancy. Eight of the sixteen courses were offered this semester. The lab is open 25 hours per week. Students can watch the lectures online and then attend the open labs as needed. This has created a customized approach to completing this degree. The new textbook program called Cengage Unlimited is working well and has saved the students over \$2000 in textbook costs.
- **GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP REPORT:** The report was distributed to the committee and covers the classes from 2016 through 2018. The report shows there were 21 graduates in the Automotive Technician degree with 14 reporting on the survey and 17 graduates in the Automotive Technology degree with 13

reporting. The students with the technical degree were 100% employed. The students with the associate degree were 91% employed.

- **AUTO CLUB UPDATE:** The club has been struggling to get first semester students excited about the club activities. Students have a lifestyle that is very busy so getting students to attend a club meeting is difficult. There will be activities scheduled throughout the year which we hope will bolster attendance and create excitement around the club events. If you are an NTC student in any program, you can be a member of the Auto Club. It was suggested that the graduates of the club, be asked to be involved in the club for a couple of years after graduation to help the new members feel connected to the program. Ross stated that the graduates are eager to participate. The challenge has been designing an activity that would entice several students across different degrees to participate. It was voiced that if a business would sponsor an event, that would increase attendance and get students excited. If any of the committee members would like to discuss this option, they can contact Ross. The Skills USA competition has been of interest to students in the past and all of the students from last year are eligible this year to compete.
- **TECHNICAL SKILLS ATTAINMENT PHASE 2:** Bonnie Osness explained the Technical Skills Attainment handouts that were distributed to the committee. All the technical schools have come together to standardize program outcomes and develop scoring guides. The handouts were showing the revised scoring guides. The scoring has been changed from one ASE Student Certification test at the end of the program to use eight smaller tests during the course of the class assessing their proficiency on the outcomes. Committee members reviewed the scoring guides for the Automotive Technology and Automotive Technician program and the committee unanimously agreed that guides were correct and should be implemented by instructors.
- **COMMITTEE MEMBER SURVEY:** The committee was informed that there was a survey scheduled for distribution to the committee to review curriculum. However, due to the discussion of the curriculum at this meeting, Greg asked if the committee needed that survey emailed. The committee agreed that a survey would no longer be needed since this was completed during this meeting.
- **ASE REVIEW:** Our ASE Education Foundation review will be coming up in the future. Dan Klecker, WATDA, shared what areas are included in the review process. The review committee consists of advisory committee members and industry representatives. Dan Klecker and Jon Griesbach volunteered to be part of the review committee. The committee was asked for volunteers to assist with the review. The committee will be emailed the date when it is scheduled and members can let one of the instructors know if they would like to participate. The review is due on January 1, 2020 with 60 day period for the review to be submitted.
- **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT:** We are looking to replace approximately 10 cadaver engines. We would also like to do a bulk update on our Snap-On electronics equipment and obtain some scanning equipment. This year we replaced two hoists that were giving us trouble passing our annual safety inspections that are done by Northwest Petroleum. Adam Olson asked the committee members if they have any vehicles they would like to donate to the high schools to contact him.
- **WATEA:** Sara Guild introduced herself as the new executive director for the WATEA. Sara informed the committee that WATEA is firmly promoting their Wheels to Work program. They also have undertaken a Commute to Careers program which is a shuttle service which addresses potential employees that have transportation issues. Kolbe Millwork and Crystal Finishing are the main businesses working with this program. Kent Olson stated that there are approximately 20 vehicles that are waiting for repairs and at a minimum 10 individuals that need transportation. If shops have any interest in this program, the WATEA board has authorized payment of the full door labor price of \$108 an hour to have these cars fixed at local repair shops. These vehicles will be inspected and ready for repairs. WATEA has been one of the partners involved in creating a registered apprenticeship in the automotive area. The goal is to include a bridge from Youth Apprenticeship (YA) to the Registered Apprenticeship (RA). Kent Olson shared that the YA pathway includes a training period with NTC before going into the registered apprenticeship.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 17, 2019

Program Name: Medical Assistant

Attendees

Industry Members

- Jody Baeseman, RN and Clinic Manager, Aspirus Clinic
- Tyler Dove, Recruiter, Aspirus Clinics
- Linda Schemenauer, MA, Aspirus Clinics
- Karin Schmoltdt, Clinic Coordinator, GI Associates
- Michelle Mader, Referral Liaison, Care Innovation, Marshfield Clinic
- Carrie Arrowood, Operations Assistant Manager, Marshfield Clinic
- Heidi Kramer, Human Resources, Marshfield Clinic
- Jessi Drake, Talent Rep, Aspirus Clinics

NTC Staff:

- Janet Baumann, Associate Dean of Health
- Tera Wiesman, MA Program Director and Faculty
- Jenny Stieber, MA Faculty
- Stephanie Fandrey, MA Instructional Assistant
- Katie Metko, Manager of Apprenticeship
- Michael Kozłowski, Instructional Designer

Other

- Tammy Kirsch, Community Member, Independent Sales Director with Mary Kay
- XiongMee Xiong, MA Student
- Stephanie Haka, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards
- Owen Smith, Department of Workforce Development

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

- The NTC Medical Assistant Program will be piloting the Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program for the WTCS with the first cohort set to start spring 2020. The Medical Assistant Apprenticeship is different than most apprenticeships in that students will take the full technical diploma through NTC while completing on-the-job learning hours as an apprentice. By graduating from an accredited program, this will make students eligible to sit for the national certification exam through the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA).
- Medical Assistant Grant with Nicolet Area Technical College (NATC) to help with student retention is in progress. An instructional assistant and curriculum designer have been hired to assist the medical assistant team in guiding student success activities.
- Marshfield Clinic, Aspirus, and GI Associates emphasized the continued need for soft skills among the younger generation.
- In 2018, the NTC Medical Assistant Program had a 100% passer rate on the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) exam through the American Association of Medical Assistants.
- The Medical Assistant team will be focusing their Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) on student recruitment and retention. A part-time track will be developed for Medical Assistant and published on the website. The instructional assistant will not only assist in program student but also preprogram students. The team is working with admissions to recruit students.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: October 22, 2019

Program Name: Criminal Justice

Attendees

Industry Members

- Clayton Schulz, Everest Metro Police Department
- Mark Westen, Langlade County Sheriff Department
- Tim Fischer, Lincoln County Sheriff Department
- Benjamin Bliven, Wausau Police Department
- Terry McHugh, Kronenwetter Police Department
- Rhae Stertz, Wisconsin State Patrol

NTC Staff:

- Brian Fiene, Faculty
- Paul Clarke, Faculty
- Matthew Kecker, Faculty
- Michelle Shepherd, Administrative Assistant

Other

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

College-Wide Initiatives

- An Electrical Power Distribution Program has been started. The program takes place at the NTC farm.
- The Cosmetology Program started this fall.
- NTC is launching an associate degree in Cybersecurity. It will be closely related to the IT programs and a majority of the classes will be in Virtual College.
- The college is looking at starting an associate degree in Sports and Recreational Management.
- A restaurant is being added to the culinary area. The new restaurant will be named “Spoons.”
- NTC is starting an Esports league. Esports is popular among our student demographic and we hope that it will draw students to attend the college.

Curriculum/Assessment

- **Fall 2019 Corrections Academy Hours** - Academy hours went from 160 to 200 hours. Jail certification track students are able to attend the fall jail academy which runs two days per week. The spring academy is full-time, runs five days per week, and overlaps the first 2 weeks of the associate degree program.
- **CPR/Advanced First Aid** – This one credit class is currently part of the associate degree program. It was in the program to satisfy a requirement for the law enforcement certification track. With the addition of the 720-hour law enforcement academy the one credit class is no longer necessary in the associate degree. The Criminal Justice Program is asking for feedback on whether or not to keep the CPR class in the associate degree. Members of the Advisory Committee voted in favor of dropping the CPR class from the associate degree. In the place of CPR Mark Westen suggested classes in digital forensics investigations, and electronic evidence. Another suggestion by the committee was to place an intro to dispatch, or telecommunications course in the associate degree. One of the members mentioned that the state is in the process of trying to come up with a course

or class that all dispatchers would take to help keep consistency within the state. Staff will look at some options to replace CPR and report back to the committee at the spring meeting.

Industry Trends

- Staff asked the committee how recent graduates are doing as new employees. One member mentioned that younger officers fail to collect cell phones as evidence. New hires tend not to proof read and could use improvement in this area. In addition, new hires lack report writing skills and tend to write reports like they text. Job interviewing skills could also be improved upon. Brian stated that students go through portfolio class and get a lot of exposure to interviewing. Some employers are washing out candidates based on their basic math skills. Some candidates are weak in the reading/comprehension areas. Wausau Police Department has found that report writing improves when officers can dictate reports rather than write them.

Program Information

- **New Faculty Member – Matthew Kecker** – Matt introduced himself and gave an update of his professional background.
- **Attendance for Law Enforcement Academy** – There are currently 16 students in the fall 2019 law enforcement academy.
- **Attendance for Jail Officer Academy** – There are currently 7 students in the fall 2019 jail officer academy. Lincoln County has open enrollment for corrections officers.
- **Facilities/Equipment**
 - **New Squads** – NTC has purchased two new SUV utility squads that are currently being outfitted with lights, siren and radio for use in classes.
 - **Glocks, Tac Lights, Holsters, Flashlights** – All of these items were purchase last spring and are currently in use by students.
 - A questions was raised by NTC faculty as to whether law enforcement departments have addressed by policy Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) training using SUV's. Most departments said that they are no longer doing PIT training.
- **Continuing Education/Business & Industry Solutions Initiatives**
 - **Field Force Training** – Training was held at the Merrill Public Safety Center of Excellence on June 4 and June 5, 2019. There were 55 officers that attended this training. Additional training for extrication was intended to happen next month, but the grant money from FEMA was reassigned, so training was cancelled.
 - **Instructor Development Course** – 15 students completed the Instructor Development Course in October 2019.
 - **Upcoming Instructor Classes** – Vehicle Contacts Instructor scheduled for November 18-20, 2019. EVOC Instructor School scheduled for January 6-10, 2020. Firearms Instructor School is scheduled for January 6-12, 2020, which includes both handgun and rifle training.
 - There was discussion regarding how difficult it is for departments to get their junior employees to answer their phone when overtime is offered. The younger officers do not want to be on call. They are struggling with methods to use to get them to volunteer or take the overtime that is offered.
- **Next Meeting** - Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at noon at the Wausau NTC campus.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: October 24, 2019

Program Name: Emergency Medical Services

Attendees

Industry Members

- Diane Cummings, AEMT, Town of Norwood
- Jason Foth, Chief, Spencer Fire & Ambulance
- Mary Guenther, AEMT, Pickerel Rescue
- Lynn Verhagen, AEMT, Pickerel Rescue
- Linda Vollmar, Critical Care Paramedic, City of Antigo Fire Department

NTC Staff:

- Sara Gossfeld-Benzing, Dean of Public Safety
- Susie Borchardt, AHA Specialist
- John Connor, EMS Clinical Coordinator
- Roxie Hoffman, Administrative Assistant
- Will Isham, EMS Program Director/Faculty
- Paul Scheffler, EMS Faculty
- Paul Strehlow, Learning Coordinator
- Jackie Wagner, EMS Faculty

Other

- Scott Krause, Battalion Chief, Merrill Fire Department
- Jay Sommers, Regional EMS Manager, Ascension

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

- **College-Wide Initiatives** – Sara Gossfeld-Benzing updated the committee on new programs at NTC, the e-sports team, and Culinary Arts restaurant.
- **Refreshers** - Will Isham reported that we have online refreshers scheduled for each licensure level. The online classes are scheduled with start and end dates. People can enroll anytime up to about a week before the class end date, but they must finish the whole course by the end date to receive credit. The refreshers follow the NCCP guidelines for National Registry; however, NREMT requires more hours than the state of Wisconsin, so individuals can use the refresher hours plus additional hours of individual content. One fire department is having its members enroll in the online refresher, but they are going to get together for discussion and basically run their own refresher based off the information. Each person would still have to log in and complete the quizzes. The instructor can be contacted with any questions that arise and will verify completion. We are encouraging other departments to do this.
- **DHS 110** – This is the legislation that governs all levels of EMS providers. John Connor reported that substantive changes that are being proposed:
 - Extending license period from two to three years.
 - A minimum ambulance crew must consist of at least two credentialed individuals; population level is still specified.
 - Repealing staffing for paramedic; services can run with one paramedic on a rig.
 - Community EMS and Community Paramedic – Discussion started with paramedic but now has expanded to all levels. The state EMS office is still looking at curriculum.
 - EMR squads that do transports for or are at that level with non-transport are required to do a WARDS report.
 - Updated WARDS reporting – Must be national EMS compliant.
 - Repealing references to I-85 and I-99.
 - Flexible staffing – If a service has a paramedic, but the service is licensed as an EMT level, it can run as paramedic.

- Language changes of Intermediate Technician to AEMT, so the levels are EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, CCEMT-P. I-99 certification will drop to AEMT level.
- **National Registry for EMT Basic** – John Connor reported that the psychomotor exam is being changed to scenarios and dropping from six stations to three. All the paperwork will be web-based. The scenarios will not be the same for each student.
- **EMR/EMT Part 1 and EMT Part 2** – Will Isham reported that the intent is to take the current EMT class and split it into two parts—EMR/EMT Part 1 and EMT Part 2. Part 1 would be the 70-hour EMR **class** and Part 2 would be 110 hours. CPR would most likely be a prerequisite. Students will have more options, this could save costs, and more EMRs may be available for services. Currently the students who take EMT and drop out or cannot continue are out time and money. With the new structure, those who take Part 1 can become EMR certified. They can then choose to continue with Part 2 or they can take the NREMT written exam for EMR and become certified. We have to get WTCS approval to make the change and are looking at Fall 2020 for implementation. Still being determined is the prerequisites for being able to start with Part 2. *Motion made and seconded to adopt EMR/EMT Part 1 and EMT Part 2 and allow those who have EMR certification to come into Part 2. Motion carried.*
- **Clinical Sites/Preceptors:** John Connor will be contacting services for site visits this fall or in spring. Preceptors must have preceptor training. A preceptor has to have two years of experience at that level; the experience does not have to be with the same agency.
- **AHA Training Center** – Susie Borchardt reported that we purchased all new manikins with feedback units for AHA classes. We implemented new processes this fall for the regional campuses. They are stocked with all the supplies needed for the classes scheduled for a semester, and we will go to each campus twice per year to replenish supplies and check the equipment. As cost-saving measures, we are capping regional campus classes at 8 students so no assistants will be needed and will also schedule BLS classes according to AHA guidelines of 4.5 hours per class. Students can do the whole class in one night instead of having to come for two nights.
- **NREMT Registry Exams** – John Connor said that EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic National Registry skills exams are coming up in December. We have a large group of AEMT/Paramedic students so we need lots of assistants for the exams. We are always looking for adjunct/assistants.
- **Next Meeting** – Date is set for April 23, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY MINUTES FOR NTC BOARD PACKET

Meeting Date: October 24, 2019

Program Name: Paramedic

Attendees

Industry Members

- Zach Becker, Current Paramedic Student
- Scott Krause, Battalion Chief, Merrill Fire Department
- Jay Sommers, Regional EMS Manager, Ascension
- Jared Thompson, EMS Division Chief, Wausau Fire Department
- Linda Vollmar, Critical Care Paramedic, City of Antigo Fire Department

NTC Staff:

- Sara Gossfeld-Benzing, Dean of Public Safety
- John Connor, EMS Clinical Coordinator
- Roxie Hoffman, Administrative Assistant
- Will Isham, EMS Program Director/Faculty
- Paul Scheffler, EMS Faculty
- Jackie Wagner, EMS Faculty

Other

- Dr. Daniel Judd, DO, EMS Medical Director (conference phone)
- Diane Cummings, AEMT, Town of Norwood
- Mary Guenther, AEMT, Pickerel Rescue
- Lynn Verhagen, AEMT, Pickerel Rescue

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

- **College-Wide Initiatives** – Sara Gossfeld-Benzing updated the committee on new programs at NTC, the e-sports team, and Culinary Arts restaurant.
- **Paramedic Program Minimum Expectation** – The committee endorsed the following statement as the minimum expectation: *“To prepare competent entry-level Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains with or without exit points at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and/or Emergency Medical Technician and/or Emergency Medical Responder levels.”* This statement is what CoAEMSP, the Paramedic accrediting body, recommends. We are encompassing this into all the levels—EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic. Our medical director, Dr. Judd, also approved the statement.
- **Required Minimum Numbers** – The committee endorsed the minimum numbers of student competencies, i.e., skills, patient ages, differential diagnoses or complaints, team leads, etc., according to CoAEMSP Appendix G and approved allowing simulation to be used for a portion of the requirements as determined by the instructor, program director, and/or clinical coordinator.
- **Program Annual Report and Outcomes** – The annual report to CoAEMSP for the 2017 cohort was reviewed. The outcome threshold is 70%. NTC met this threshold in the areas of Retention/Attrition, Positive (Job) Placement, Graduate and Employer Surveys, and Resource Assessment. We did not meet the threshold for the NREMT written exam, primarily due to the low number of graduates (5) that year; three out of five passed. If we do not meet the threshold, we need to analyze why and provide an action plan. NREMT identified medical, trauma, and cardiology as weak areas, so we are placing an emphasis on scaffolding skills. Students learn a skill such as airway and then use that skill in each class as they progress through the program. The final exam for each course has 80% of the questions for the current course and 20% on content from previous courses. The 2018 cohort report is due in 2020.
- **Other Assessment Results** – Students get a feedback survey for each class in the program. This is an internal survey that we can use to help with our data tracking. Faculty evaluations will be done using NTC evaluation forms. For long-range planning, we are trying to find a way to get students into their team leads quicker.
- **Program Changes** –
 - Questionnaire - John Connor will visit each clinical affiliation site next semester concentrating on paramedic services first. He has a questionnaire to be completed with information on the site and that data will be aggregated in a spreadsheet for easy access and usability.
 - *Preceptor Training* – Preceptors at any of our clinical affiliation sites must be trained, and we will be verifying preceptor training for our upcoming accreditation self-study. The training is to view a presentation and answer a quiz. The training can be done by someone in-house or John Connor will come to the site to do training. A preceptor must have two years of experience at the level precepting, but the experience does not all have to be at the same agency.
 - *Curriculum Changes* - The National Education Standards are undergoing revision. One comment period has passed already. Another will open in 2020. These standards include scope of practice, which is what can or cannot be done at a level. Wisconsin said they are going to use whatever is put out for national scope of practice and national standards.
 - *Platinum Planner* - This is a diverse software package with multiple facets. After consulting with a department regarding shifts and times available, we enter the information in Planner. Students then use the software to sign up for specific shifts. A calendar is generated from Platinum Planner for the department. Platinum Planner was designed with accreditation in mind. We can track information such as the number of contacts, etc., and print reports for accreditation.
- **Substantive Changes** - Dr. Daniel Judd, D.O., is our new medical director, and we are very happy to have him on board. His appointment as medical director was approved by CoAEMSP recently.
- **CoAEMSP/CAAHEP Updates** - Sara Gossfeld-Benzing, John Connor, and Will Isham are going to attend the ACCREDITCON conference in Louisville, Kentucky, in May. This conference is designed to offer resources and information on preparing for accreditation.

- **Next Accreditation Process** - Our self-study is due by February 2021 and our next site visit will be sometime in early 2022. A team is currently meeting once a week to determine what information is needed and to organize documentation. We will start putting together the self-study in August 2020. Accreditation is important because if we are not accredited, we cannot use NREMT as our certification body. If we do not have NREMT, none of our students can get a Wisconsin license.
- **Next Meeting** – Date is set for April 23, 2020, 4 p.m.



Date	Event	Troy Brown	Tom Felch	Kristine Gilmore	Lee Lo	Charlie Paulson	Paul Proulx	Ruth Risley-Gray	Dale Smith	Maria Volpe
2019										
July 8	Annual Organizational Meeting	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X
July 18-20	WTC DBA Summer Meeting (Rice Lake)						X			
Aug 6	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E
Sept 11	A Day for NTC Students (Medford)					X				
Sept 17	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	E	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X
Sept 25	A Day for NTC Students (Antigo)									
Oct 16-19	ACCT Leadership Congress (San Francisco, CA)						X			
Oct 22	NTC Board & NTC Foundation Joint Lunch Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (Merrill Public Safety Center of Excellence)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E
Oct 30 – Nov 2	WTC DBA Fall Meeting (Pewaukee)						X			
Dec 3	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	E	X	X	E	E	X	X	X	X
Dec 5	Scholars & Donors Reception									
Dec 14	Mid-Year Commencement (Grand Theater)	X	X	X			X	X	X	
2020										
Jan 14	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
Jan 16-18	WTC DBA Winter Meeting (LaCrosse)									
Feb 11	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
Feb 9-12	ACCT National Legislative Summit (Washington, D.C.)									
Mar 3	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
Apr 2-4	WTC District Board Assn. Spring Meeting (Milwaukee)									
Apr 7	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
Apr 30	Scholars & Donors Reception									
May 5	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
May 7	A Day for NTC Students (Wausau)									
May 16	Commencement (Wausau West Fieldhouse)									
June 9	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (Public Budget Hearing at Noon, Regular Meeting at 1:15pm)									
MONDAY July 13	Annual Organizational Meeting									

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.

NTC partners with Purdue for transfer agreement

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) and Purdue University have announced a new partnership between the educational institutions that will allow students to “seamlessly” transfer credits.

“Through the partnership, the colleges are working together to expand online baccalaureate degree options offered at NTC through Purdue,” NTC’s Kelsi Seubert wrote in a Nov. 7 press release.

The options will include business administration, criminal justice, fire services leadership, human services, medical assistant, nursing, organizational leadership and more.

An announcement was made during a formal signing event on Nov. 6 at NTC in Wausau.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to form this premier partnership with Purdue to bring expanded baccalaureate degree options to central Wisconsin,” NTC



Submitted photo

Northcentral Technical College President Lori Weyers and Purdue University Vice President and Purdue Global Dean Keith Smith ink a transfer agreement between the two secondary education institutions.

President Lori Weyers said. representatives met with representatives to discuss
 During the event, Purdue area business and chamber the new degree options.



Athens village tax increase

Overall property tax mil rate will increase 11.8 percent or \$2.31

The owner of a \$100,000 home in the village of Athens will see a large, \$172 increase in his or her 2019-20 property taxes, but only \$5 of that amount is because of the village levy, the Athens Village Board was told on Monday.

Board members approved next year's village budget and levy, but also got a report of next year's overall property taxes.

Trustees agreed to increase the village's tax rate five cents from \$6.81 per thousand dollars of property in the village in 2018-19 to \$6.86 in 2019-20. The village of Athens' total tax levy will increase \$8,112, from \$332,150 in 2018-19 to \$340,262 in 2019-20.

In the approved budget for next year, Village of Athens revenues

will decrease \$38,389 from \$635,850 in 2018-19 to \$597,461 in 2019-20. Village spending will follow suit, decreasing \$30,277 from \$968,000 in 2018-19 to \$937,723 in 2019-20.

Board members were told to expect bigger total property bills in the village.

Seventy-one cents of the village's overall tax rate increase is the result of Athens School District losing state aid to a school voucher program at St. Anthony's Catholic School.

Residents in the village of Athens who own a \$100,000 house will see a \$172 increase in their total tax bill in 2019-20 from a combination of village, [school district, Marathon County and Northcentral Technical College](#) taxes. A village of Athens resident own-

ing a \$150,000 home will see a \$287 increase in taxes in 2019-20, and the owner of a \$200,000 house will see a \$403 increase.

Board members were told the village's total property tax in 2019-20 will be \$1,454,455. The village's total tax mil rate will increase from \$19.59 this year to \$21.90 per thousand dollars of assessed property value.

This calculates to an increase of \$2.31 or 11.8 percent.

In other village news:

■ The Athens Village Board approved daily rate increases for village residents and non-residents renting village facilities, beginning on Jan. 1, 2020. A village resident will pay \$25 per hour and \$250 per day to rent Athens Community Hall, where

a non-village resident will pay \$30 per hour and \$300 per day to rent the same facility.

A village resident will pay \$100 each day to rent Erbach Park and a non-village resident will pay \$150 each day to rent the same park. Athens village residents will no longer pay a daily charge to use Athens Park, but non-village residents will need to pay \$100 per day.

The village of Athens doesn't charge a rental fee for people wanting to use Memorial Park, because the park cannot be reserved.

■ The next Athens Village Board meeting is at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16, in the municipal hall. The Athens Area Fire Commission meeting is at 7 p.m. in the fire hall meeting room.

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NTC students can earn four-year degree at Purdue

Students at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau will soon be able to earn a four-year degree through Purdue University, under a new agreement signed Nov. 6. The colleges will partner to combine online services to allow students to pursue four-year-degrees in business administration, criminal justice, fire services leadership, human services, medical assistant, nursing and organizational leadership. The agreement allows NTC students to seamlessly transfer their credits to the online platform of Purdue, a Big Ten university in Indiana, to complete their four year degrees. The deal does not apply to the university's in person campus, university officials say.



Abbotsford, Tribune-Phonograph

Abby K-12 discusses possibility of esports

By Ross Pattermann

There could be a new potential new sport coming to the Abbotsford School District, but it won't involve a net, a track or even a ball.

The Abbotsford board of education discussed the idea an entirely new extracurricular activity Monday, with the possible addition of an "esports" team.

Esports is a term for competitive online video gaming, which is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, with several teams and conferences already competing in the state of Wisconsin.

Schools across the state host tournaments and have conferences and compete during the fall and spring. The sport even has an official organization — the Wisconsin High School Esports Association (WIHSEA).

Network administrator Jesse Meddaugh discussed a recent trip to North Technical College that he and maintenance supervisor Mason Rachu made, when they saw the virtual arena where NTC's esports team competes.

"We would need to start small, baby steps I think, but . . . it is an evolving sport that deserves more credit," Meddaugh said.

Other campuses have become more welcoming to competitive gaming as well, with Lakeland University in Sheboygan recently adding esports to its list of varsity athletic offerings in 2020.

Some universities are even offering academic scholarships for esports.

Superintendent Sherry Baker noted that the possibility of an esports team is merely in the discussion stage and an actual team would take time to develop. She said it's impossible at this point to set a timetable for when a team will actually compete for Abbotsford.

But Baker was optimistic about the positive benefits of a potential esports team, the main benefit being that an esports team might encourage more students to become actively involved.

"Engagement is what we are looking for," Baker explained during a phone interview. "Video games have been around for a long time — they're not going away."

Baker was quick to note that an esports team would not take the place of any varsity sport, but that it would supplement a students's overall experience.

"This isn't something that's going to supplant a sport or physical activity," Baker said. "It's just another option and we have to be cognizant of new developments and changes — which come in all formats."

Other business

■ The board accepted the resignations of Kira Kalepp as a teacher's aide and Michelle Kind as an assistant bookkeeper.

■ The board passed a motion approving Heather Kulas and Morgan Geiger



A DIFFERENT KIND OF ATHLETE - A young man competes in an esports tournament. Esports, or online gaming, is a fast growing sport in Wisconsin, with many high schools fielding teams. Abbotsford's board of education discussed esports and potentially adding to its extracurriculars in the future.

as teacher's aides for Jena Elmhorst's classroom. The board also approved the hiring of Carry Bellanti as the JV2 boys basketball coach.

■ The board to set the 2021 graduation date for Saturday, May 22, 2021. The board also made a motion to approve the 2020-21 academic calendar.



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Thursday, December 19, 2019

THE STAR NEWS
NEWS

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School board gets update on college credit options

BY DONALD WATSON
REPORTER

Members of the Rib Lake School Board were briefed at its meeting on December 12 on the 2019-2021 partnership with **Northcentral Technical College (NTC)**.

District administrator Rick Cardey told the board the district offers different kinds of credits through the partnership. The first is Dual Credit College Coursework which allows high school students to earn both high school and college credits. He said the college courses are taught in the high school by district staff at no cost to the student or the high school for the credits.

Cardey said there are currently five faculty members teaching to **NTC** curriculum standards under the program in the areas of English, business/information technology (IT), math, science and manufacturing. He said last year 60 Rib Lake students took 280 credits in the dual coursework program, saving families \$38,390 in tuition costs.

Cardey said the Start College Now is a program where students take college credits taught by the university while still in high school. He said it's not easy for students to travel to a campus, so most of the courses are taught online. The district pays the tuition and an **NTC** grant reimburses the district for one-half of the amount. He said students took 102 credits — mostly in medical terminology, thinking critically and creatively, and psychology — last year through the Start College Now program.

Cardey said there currently are seven Rib Lake students in the welding and machine tool academies on the Phillips campus. He said it's a great opportunity for students who will receive their certification the weekend before graduation and start working in the \$20 plus an hour range right out of high school. Cardey later added that when a student receives their certification in a program, the district receives money. Rather than going into the general funds, he said the money goes back into the program to offset some of the costs so the district can continue to offer those opportunities to students in the future.

Cardey said the district also has a number of other partnership opportunities with **NTC**. He said the district takes part in a Career Coaching Program where a career coach visits the school every other month, Financial Aids Night, heavy metal manufacturing tour, Sophomore Campus Visit Day, Imagine College where eighth grade students have the opportunity to visit campus to see what college is about, welding competitions, High School Wood Sciences Day and summer school courses through **NTC**.

Cardey finished up his report on the **NTC** partnership by outlining several future program possibilities. He said the high school staff is looking at possibly offering dual credit programming in the Foundations of Teacher Education area to get students more opportunities to explore the educational field.

Cardey said the district is also looking at possible additions for summer school offerings, particularly in the area of EMT training or some other public service training. He said the third program the district is working on exploring Cengage, an online content area specific curriculum and instruction resource tool, and how it could be woven into the district's curriculum through **NTC**.

The board renewed its five-year agreement with the Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) program.

Cardey said it's a heavily-used resource with 23 students taking at least five classes through the RVA plus a number of other students taking just one or two classes. He said seven classes in Rib Lake use RVA resources as a learning tool. Cardey said because the RVA buys in bulk, the district receives a significant discounted rates on independent student learning costs. And finally, he said, the district does professional development with the RVA.

Cardey said cost to the district will be approximately \$3,000 for each student in the RVA, but the district collects the entire student aid of \$9,700 from the state. He said it's been a nice partnership with RVA and recommended the board renew the agreement.

Board members Stacy Tlusty asked if high school students have the opportunity to take a required class during the summer to make their schedule work for them during the school year.

Cardey said when he was the high school principal, he gave students the opportunity to do independent learning classes. He said if a student wanted to take a history course or some other course during the summer and had a good reason and goal for doing so, the district did it as part of summer school.

Tlusty said she was thinking of a student taking a required course during the summer in order to free up time during the school year to take an additional elective course.

"I think so because what we do is advertise it as a summer independent learning academy," Cardey replied. "I think it would be open to all interests. If kids want to learn in the summer, we're all ears."

Elementary principal Jon Dallmann updated the board on the timber harvest taking place in the school forest. He said the logging company has stopped cutting for the year and is approximately half finished with the project. Dallmann said the district has received a check for \$8,937. He said the company will be back to finish the project after July 15 when the oak wilt restrictions have ended.

Rollie Thums said there is a minor issue with the parking lot that the lumber company was using as a staging area for the cut timber. He said they did not leave it "very well" and

it was very hard to snowplow.

That issue aside, Thums thought the logging company had done a great job for the conditions they were under with the weather. He said they didn't destroy the land with as much rain as the area had received. "They did a great job," Thums said.

The money from the timber sale goes into a separate fund for projects in the school forest. One of the projects the district and a group of volunteers are working on is a wooden walkway supported on floating pads over a boggy area of the forest. Thums said the walkway will allow people to hike and snowshoe through the area to enjoy the beauty. Cardey added it would be a nice way to take students from science classes into a bog or swampy area to study nature without worrying about getting their feet wet or sinking in up to their knees. Thums agreed.

Board president Steve Martin said, for him, there was just a real simple beauty of being in the woods. "When you look around at everything and man had nothing to do with it. The plants and trees and how diverse everything is. Once you get that love of being in the woods, it never goes away."

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Is Market Timing a Smart Investment Strategy?

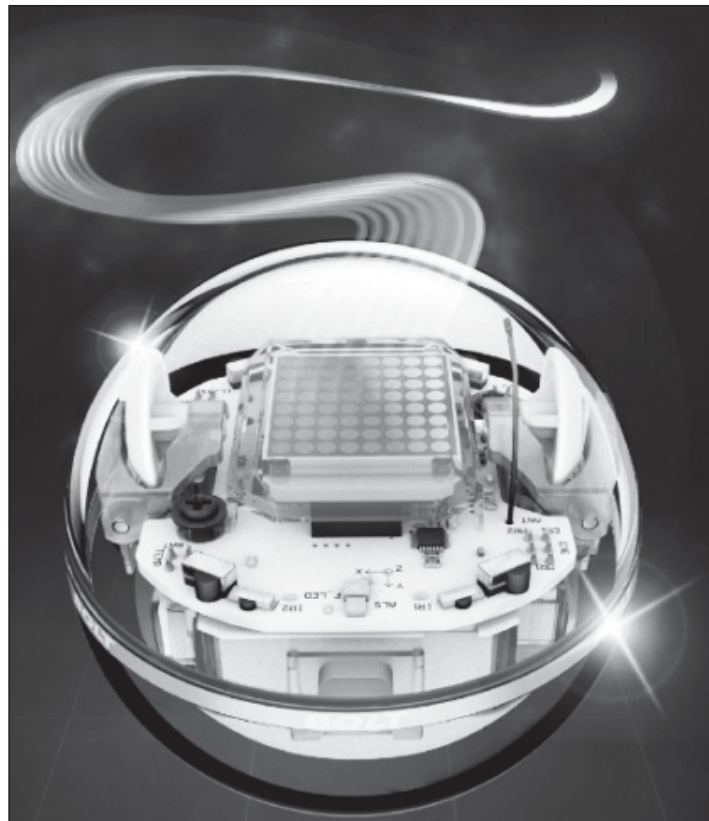
You may have heard that timing is everything. And in many walks of life, that may be true — but not necessarily when it comes to investing.

To understand why this is so, let's look at three common mistakes investors make:

- *Selling investments and moving to cash when stocks are predicted to drop* — If you follow the financial news on cable TV or the internet, you're eventually bound to discover some "experts" who are predicting imminent, huge drops in the stock market. And on rare occasions, they may be right — but often they're not. And if you were to sell some of your stocks or stock-based investments based on a prediction and move the money to cash or a cash equivalent, you could miss out on possible future growth opportunities if the predictor was wrong. And the investments you sold still could have played a valuable part in your portfolio balance.
- *Selling underperforming assets in favor of strong performers* — As an investor, it can be tempting to unload an investment for

you also might lose sight of why you bought certain investments in the first place. Specifically, you might own stocks or mutual funds because they are appropriate for your portfolio and your risk tolerance, and they can help you make progress toward your long-term financial goals. And these attributes don't automatically disappear when the value of these stocks or funds has dropped, so you could end up selling investments that could still be doing you some good many years into the future.

While trying to time the market is a difficult investment strategy even for the professionals, it doesn't mean you can never take advantage of falling prices. In fact, you can use periodic dips in the market to buy quality assets at more attractive prices. Suppose, for example, that you invested the same amount of money every month into the same investments. One month, your money could buy more shares when the price of the investment is down — meaning you're automatically a savvy enough investor to take advantage of price drops. While your money will buy fewer shares when the price of the investment is up, your overall investment holdings will benefit from the



Sphero Bolt is now available for check-out at the Antigo Public Library.

Public library now offers tech supplies for beginning programmers

The Antigo Public Library has received a number of technical kits and supplies through the assistance of a grant program.

The program, provided in partnership with EMMET (Explore Making Through Mobile Emergent Technology) and [Northcentral Technical College](#), supplied kits and training to regional libraries and schools. The kit includes a number of tools to help beginning programmers experiment with coding and other technologies in an entertaining and engaging way.

Items from the kit are now available to be checked out from the library by teachers, parents, organizations, or anyone who wants to experiment with science and technology. Available items include Makey Makey, Sphero Bolt, Ozobot, squishy circuits, Little Bits, and a BBC Micro inventor's kit, as well as iPads and Chromebooks with the relevant apps included.

Anyone interested in checking out the kits, or in partnering with the library in making full use of them, should contact the youth services librarian at 715-623-3724 or scherrywell@antigopl.org, or

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Loyal, Tribune Record Gleaner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NTS students receive CNA diplomas

Seven students completed their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Technical Diploma at [Northcentral Technical College's](#) Spencer Campus this December. The CNA degree consists of both classroom and clinical labs, and prepares learners to perform basic nursing skills under the supervision of a nurse for job entry as nursing assistants and home health aides in health care agencies. The new CNAs are (front from left) Barbara Isaacs (instructor) Rita Lew, Amya LaMarr, (back) Alise Birr, Courtney Schoen, Breuna Schultz, Addie Hall and Sara LaSee

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The big one

One of the biggest business openings last year was a doozy. The **Sawmill Adventure Park** (trampolines!) opened in spring in the Cedar Creek area, and people have been bouncing around its confines ever since. A visit a week after it opened found lines going out the door to get into the play area (they only let so many people in at a time to make sure it's not shoulder to shoulder people).

Another big one, in Stevens Point, could be open soon. **District 1 Brewing Co.** in Stevens Point is planning to open on Division Street. The 12,000 square foot space will be a potential coworking space and co-op for food truck startups too. They're hoping to roll out a soft opening just after Christmas and to have their own beer available in late January.

Other new Wausau-area business openings to note: KimBob's Cafe, The Boot Pros, Taqueria El Zebas, Inn at the River, Clean Slate Coffee House (in the former Periwinkles), Hemp Etc, Five Guys, a learning restaurant at **Northcentral Technical College**, Newch's Eatery, Ruby Coffee in Stevens Point, Doggie Day Care, Papagalos (former Checkers), a second location for The Local in Weston and Your CBD Store, also in Weston.

Other notable happenings: A new Wausau Triathlon is starting, Janke Book Store celebrated 100 years in business, Community Soul Yoga changed ownership to become 401 Flow Yoga.

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Mike Werdeo (left), chairman of the school forest committee, accepts the donation of boots and nets from the Antigo Chapter of Trout Unlimited represented by Tim Gregurich, Scott Henricks and Tom Demerath.

Noboken project earns supplies, funds Educational facility seeks dollars to reach \$500,000 goal

The new Noboken School Forest educational center has gotten a boost from a group of longtime outdoor enthusiasts.

Members of the Antigo Chapter of Trout Unlimited recently presented project chairman and school forest director Mike Werdeo with boots and nets to be used by students for water studies.

"With the new shelter being built right on the lake, we planned to utilize

the water for more lessons and activities," Werdeo explained.

Tim Gregurich, Scott Henricks and Tom Demerath presented the items.

Known formally as the Noboken School Forest Environmental Education Center, the new lodge will augment a simple, pavilion structure now at the forest, located north of Antigo just off of Highway J at Noboken Lake. The current facility is too small for larger groups of students,

not useable during the winter months, does not have running water and has limited space for equipment storage and during inclement weather.

The lodge will have electricity, full restrooms and a kitchen. There will be a deck, covered porch, large classroom and a display area for the district's taxidermy collection now located at Pleasant View Elementary School. The goal is to comfortably accommodate

See Noboken Page 12



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Noboken

large groups of students for direct hands-on environmental education.

There are other benefits as well, with the opportunity for community use and increased recreational choices. A Community Health Needs Assessment stressed the need for more awareness and knowledge of how to lead a healthy lifestyle and increased physical activity, all of which could be addressed by the lodge. An additional goal is to improve students' physical, mental and psychological health through exploring and investigating the outdoors.

The local economy will also benefit, Werdeo said, 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, he said, with \$90 million in output.

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

The school district has owned the 168-acre Noboken School Forest, located in the town of Upham, since 1931. It has been used for the past 30-plus years to serve the educational needs of students.

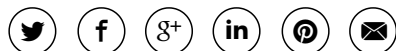
Fund-raising for the half-a-million dollar project has been ongoing for over a year, and while response has been enthusiastic, Werdeo said more dollars are needed to assure a spring groundbreaking.

And this is a good time to donate, he added. The project is tax deductible, making it a good choice for those who customarily ramp up their charitable deductions as the calendar moves towards the new year.

For more information, visit the school forest link on the Antigo school district website, <https://www.antigo.k12.wi.us/district/noboken-environmental-education-center.cfm> or contact Mike Werdeo at the high school, 715-623-7611 or Tim Prunty at the school district's central office, 715-627-4355.

Intelligent.com Announces Best Medical Coding Degree Programs for 2020

Share Article



Degree holders gain increased earning potential with career opportunities upon graduation from these top ranked institutions.

SEATTLE (PRWEB) DECEMBER 05, 2019

Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for online degree rankings and higher education planning, has announced the Top 60 Medical Coding Degree Programs for 2020. The comprehensive research guide is based on an assessment of 183 accredited colleges and universities in the nation. Each program is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment.

The 2020 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third party evaluations. Intelligent.com analyzed 183 schools, on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 60 making it to the final list. The methodology also uses an algorithm which collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to easily compare each university.

Students who pursue any one of these programs can expect to gain employment much quicker in comparison to candidates without a degree. In addition to accessibility and cost, the steady job growth in this market is one of the many reasons Intelligent.com researched and ranked the Top Medical Coding Degree Programs. To access the complete ranking, please visit: <https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-medical-coding-degree-programs/>

2020 Medical Coding Degree Programs featured on Intelligent.com (in alphabetical order):

Brookline College
 Calhoun Community College
 California State University, Bakersfield
 Camden County College
 Carrington College
 Cedar Valley College
 Central Maine Community College
 Central Texas College
 Charter Oak State College
 Collin County Community College District
 CUNY School of Professional Studies
 Dakota College, Bottineau
 Dakota State University
 Daymar College
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 Drexel University
 Everett Community College
 Fayetteville Technical Community College
 Fisher College
 Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
 Gogebic Community College
 Grantham University



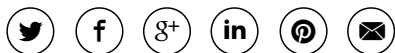
Great Basin College
Herzing University
Idaho State University
Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis
Keiser University
Labouré College
Lakeshore Technical College
Madison Area Technical College
Marion Technical College
Mercy College of Ohio
Midlands Technical College
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
National American University
North Dakota State College of Science
Northcentral Technical College
Northland Community and Technical College
Northwest Iowa Community College
Penn Foster
Pittsburgh Technical College
Purdue University Global
Rasmussen College
Rutgers University
San Joaquin Valley College
San Juan College
Santa Barbara City College
Sinclair Community College
Southwestern Illinois College
State University of New York, Herkimer
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University of Cincinnati
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About Intelligent.com

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Wausau Pilot & Review

MORE NEWS. LESS FLUFF. ALL LOCAL.



Demo Day for The Branch to highlight efforts of student teams in fall session

Published on November 26, 2019 in Biz Briefs/Community

PRESS RELEASE — **The Branch** will host another **Demo Day** on Tuesday, December 3 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in room E101/102

at **Northcentral Technical College** in Wausau. The event will include presentations by teams of college students to the leadership of **Church Mutual Insurance Company** and the **Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce** in partnership with the **Wausau River District Inc.** Beginning in September, students in The Branch have worked as teams on a pair of innovation challenges for these organizations.

“The Branch’s Demo Day is a real example of business, higher education and our Chamber working together to help our students build their resumes and to give them opportunities to work with businesses.” said Lori Weyers, President of **Northcentral Technical College**.

The Branch is a workforce development initiative introduced by the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce, **Northcentral Technical College** and Church Mutual Insurance Company in 2016. The program aims to build business and retain talent in central Wisconsin. The program’s previous Demo Day events, can be viewed on **The Branch’s YouTube channel**.

The spring session includes 14 students representing **Northcentral Technical College**, **UW-Stevens Point**, **UWSP at Marshfield** and **UWSP at Wausau**.

AROW Global, **Ansay & Associates LLC**, **Church Mutual Insurance Company**, **Incredible Bank**, **M3 Insurance** and **North Central Health Care** have also provided challenges to student teams in previous sessions. **Northcentral Technical College** has presented a pair of challenges to high school students in a summer The Branch Academy program.

Those interested in attending Demo Day should register at **WausauChamber.com** or RSVP by Friday, November 29 to Brian Otten, marketing manager at the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce at **botten@wausauchamber.com** or 715-848-5947.

For more information or to register for the program as a student or mentor, visit **The Branch’s website**. Businesses that are interested in becoming involved with the program can also register projects through the **site** or contact Brian Otten, marketing manager at the Chamber, at **botten@wausauchamber.com** or 715-848-5947.



Northcentral Technical College to Hold 2019 Fall Commencement

Thursday, December 12, 2019 2:42 p.m. CST by Liz Holbrook

WAUSAU, WI (WSAU) -- Over 400 graduates will receive their diploma on Saturday morning.

Northcentral Technical College is holding its Fall Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, December 12th in downtown Wausau. The ceremony is expected to last for about 2 hours and NTC Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator Kelsi Seubert says everyone is very excited about it.

"We are so excited at this time of year. Our graduates who are earning their credentials and entering the workforce are going through the commencement ceremony. That's happening on Saturday the 14th at the Grand Theater from 10 until about noon."

This fall over 400 students are graduating at the commencement ceremony. The graduates span a variety of the 190 programs offered at Northcentral Technical College. And 57% of the graduates will have the gold cord distinction of having a 3.5 or higher grade point average.

Seubert explains Saturday's fall commencement ceremony is a shorter ceremony compared to the one in the spring. "We do have a student speaker. So we get to hear one of the great success stories of the college.

"It's really a time for the community to come together. The people who have supported our students, loved ones, to really honor and recognize all the accomplishments of our students."

The commencement ceremony is at the Grand Theater and begins at 10 a.m. The ceremony is expected to last until noon. Tickets are needed to attend the ceremony, which is handled by the fall graduates.

THE BUSINESS NEWS

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NTC, Purdue University agree on transfer partnership

Dec 8, 2019

An agreement between **Northcentral Technical College** and Purdue University-Global was announced that will allow all **NTC** students to seamlessly continue their education and graduate from Purdue.

The partnership will allow students who have completed a degree from **NTC** to apply those credits to continue their education at the West Lafayette, Ind., school while remaining in Central Wisconsin.

Through the partnership, the colleges are working together to expand online baccalaureate degree options offered at **NTC** through Purdue including business administration, criminal justice, fire-services leadership, human services, medical assistant, nursing, organizational leadership and more.

Around NCW

Northcentral Wisconsin News Briefs

NTC President Lori Weyers said it's exciting to be able to bring the prestige of a Purdue degree to the Wausau campus. "They are innovative, they are creative, and it is a wonderful partnership for our students at **NTC** to have another great option to continue their education."

Purdue has similar partnerships in place with scores of other community colleges across the country including Waukesha County Tech, Gateway Community College, and a partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College is also in the works.

NTC has 6 campuses in Wausau, Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer, and Wittenberg, as well as a Public Safety Center of Excellence in Merrill.



Student graduates Northcentral Technical College ready to make a difference



By Stella Porter | Posted: Sat 4:23 PM, Dec 14, 2019 | Updated: Sat 6:42 PM, Dec 14, 2019

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) -- Saturday is graduation day for students at Northcentral Technical College. Hundreds of graduates were honored this morning at the commencement ceremony held at Wausau's Grand Theater.

"We've worked so hard to get to this point, and for it to finally come here at the Grand Theater, it's such a great feeling," said fall 2019 graduate Thomas Nienow.

More than 400 Northcentral Technical College graduates walked across the stage Saturday, and among them was Nienow, who will walk off the stage and start saving lives as an RN at Aspirus Hospital's cardiac unit.

"I'm graduating with my Associate's Degree in nursing, and right after this I'm going to be starting my job at Aspirus in their cardiac telemetry unit," he said.

He'll be earning his Bachelor's Degree with Purdue University online at the same time, but he's eager to start helping others right away.

"I'm going to be taking care of them at the bedside, so talking with them, maybe they've just come out of surgery, educating them on what those next steps are to helping them get back to the best that they can be," he said.

He found his love for nursing after a traditional four-year program was no longer exciting him.

"I stopped being interested in the topic I was studying in a four-year college setting. I knew I wanted to go to NTC, but I didn't know for what," said the Wausau area native.

"I dove right into the nursing program and I've fallen in love with it ever since," Nienow said.

38/43



NTC graduates process into the Grand Theater in Wausau (WSAW Photo).

At NTC, he already has hands-on experience in the field from simulations, clinicals and an internship.

"Just take one class and see where it leads you. If you're interested in healthcare, maybe take just a science class and see if you like it," he said, explaining how he found his passion.

"I had a goal, and it's so good to accomplish that goal, and have the rewards follow after," he said.

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[Main: General News](#): Local News

Rural agency looks for volunteers to fill EMS shortages; offers to cover training cost

Submitted: 11/25/2019

Prentice - In the midst of an emergency, first responders can't arrive soon enough. In Northern Wisconsin's most rural communities, a shortage of EMTs means longer wait times. The Prentice Ambulance Service in Price Co. hopes free training will encourage local volunteers.



"Yeah every EMT is juggling, they're doing a day job," said Prentice Fire Chief and EMS Coordinator Dale Andreae.

Andreae's team of volunteers is stretched thinner than ever with a shortage of first responders in the Northwoods.

"We service the entire southern third of Price County, roughly 525 square miles," said Prentice Village Board President Bruce Jilka.

Much of Price County is more than [30 minutes](#) away from a critical access hospital according to the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health.

Long distances and personnel shortages mean EMTs in Prentice often call on neighboring counties, namely Taylor County, for reinforcements.

"We've never failed to respond to a call but the response times becomes longer," said Jilka.

Jilka hopes an EMT [class](#) offered this spring at [North Central Technical College](#) in Phillips will help train a new class of volunteers.

While the fire department will pay for the course, Andreae says he hopes those new recruits will stay local.

"The biggest reward is helping people," said Andreae.

Written By: Stephen Goin

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Wausau Pilot & Review

MORE NEWS. LESS FLUFF. ALL LOCAL.



The Branch's Demo Day highlights student teams' project solutions

Published on December 17, 2019 in Community/News

PRESS RELEASE — **The Branch** hosted a **Demo Day** event for the program's fall session on Tuesday, December 3 at **Northcentral Technical College** in Wausau. The event included presentations by college students to leadership teams from **Church Mutual Insurance Company** and the **Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce** in partnership with the **Wausau River District Inc.** Beginning in September, students in The Branch have worked as teams on a pair of innovation challenges for these organizations.

The fall session included 14 students: Laura Guldan and Kaitlyn Kulp of **Northcentral Technical College**; Jayson Pfister and Jose Vasquez of **UW-Stevens Point**; Sarah Burnett of UWSP at Marshfield; Dakota Bokath, Ana Capetillo, Merrissa Immerfall, Chris Kloiber, Jennifer Maerz, Jennifer Sodke, Ryan Stevens and Kieran Talley of **UWSP at Wausau**; and Benton Edmondson of Wausau West.



STUDENTS IN THE BRANCH'S FALL 2019 SESSION PRESENTED THEIR PROJECT SOLUTIONS TO CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019 AT NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE

"Unemployment is extremely low in the Wausau region, so there are significant workforce challenges for businesses." said Brad Gast, Dean of Business & Industry and Continuing Education at [Northcentral Technical College](#). "The Branch aims to help them find the talented workforce they need."

The Branch is a workforce development initiative introduced by the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce, [Northcentral Technical College](#) and Church Mutual Insurance Company in 2016. The program aims to build business and retain talent in central Wisconsin. The program's previous Demo Day events, can be viewed on [The Branch's YouTube channel](#).

Along with Church Mutual Insurance Company and the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce, [Ansay & Associates LLC](#), [AROW Global](#), [Incredible Bank](#), [M3 Insurance](#), [North Central Health Care](#) and [Westphal Staffing Inc](#) are sponsors of the program.

"The Branch allows students to become engaged with local businesses." said Dave Eckmann, President/CEO of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce. "These businesses have challenges which they would like some fresh eyes upon. The Branch gives students real-life experience in our companies. At the same time, these programs give our companies access to the talent that exists in our communities."

College students are encouraged to [apply](#) for The Branch's spring and fall 2020 sessions. For more information or to register as a student or mentor, visit [The Branch's website](#). Businesses that are interested in the program can also register projects through the [site](#) or contact Brian Otten, marketing manager at the Chamber, at botten@wausauchamber.com or 715-848-5947.

Top photo : Students in The Branch's fall 2019 session presented their project solutions to the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce and the Wausau River District on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at Northcentral Technical College.

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	<p>WSAW (CBS) 12/14/2019 10:08:37 PM Wausau, WI NewsChannel 7 @ 10 Local Viewership: 9,117 Local Publicity Value: \$772.20 moderator margaret brennan to acquit you, i'd sort of get ((emerson)) coming up in this half hour... it's commencement day for northcentral technical college students -- we'll hear from one graduate eager to make a difference in the community. ((emerson)) and... it's wreath laying day throughout the united states -- more on that later. but first, jeremy? ((jeremy teases forward to your complete weather ((emerson)) it's graduation day for students at</p>
	<p>WSAW (CBS) 12/14/2019 10:11:01 PM Wausau, WI NewsChannel 7 @ 10 Local Viewership: 9,117 Local Publicity Value: \$772.20 for students at northcentral technical college. hundreds of graduates were honored this morning at the commencement ceremony held at wausau's grand theatre. newschannel 7's stella porter talked to one grad who's already making a difference in the community thanks to his education. nat "we've worked so</p>
	<p>WSAW (CBS) 12/15/2019 7:05:51 AM Wausau, WI Sunrise 7 Local Viewership: 4,346 Local Publicity Value: \$174.00 there on friday morning. both of those threats happened within a 24 hours timeframe. the district and police are continuing to investigate those threats. ((jerel)) it's graduation weekend for students at northcentral technical college. hundreds of graduates were honored at the commencement ceremony held at wausau's grand theatre. newschannel 7's stella porter talked to one grad who's already making a difference in the community thanks to his education. nat "we've worked so hard to get to this point, and for it to finally come here at the grand theater, it's such a saturday-- nat clapping and among them was thomas nienow (nee- no)... who will walk off the stage and start saving lives. "i'm graduating with my associate's degree in nursing... and right after</p>

Items in this report: 3

Total Local Viewership: 22,580
 Total Local Market Publicity Value: \$1,718.40

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