

1923



WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

2023

Memories from **WAUKESHA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ON MAPLE AVENUE**

Marge Albrecht, Instructor from 1965-99



“I started my wonderful journey with Waukesha Vocational School in 1965. I got the job tip from a sorority sister who worked there; I just had to meet with the director, Anthony J. Natalizio looked at my resume and asked me: ‘Do you have children, and do you have somebody to take care of them?’ When I answered, ‘yes,’ I got the job,” said retired business instructor Marge Albrecht.

Albrecht began working part time, teaching a variety of business classes, such as Typing, Office Operations and others, using both manual and electric typewriters. Her students varied in age, and many were women returning to school.

She recalls having to adjust her teaching schedule around the train schedule: “If you taught in the classroom on the east side of the building, all instruction had to stop when the train rolled by the building. It was so close, that it was impossible to hear.”

And unlike today, where faculty schedules are computerized and online, then-Supervisor of Instruction-turned-President Richard T. Anderson had a simpler method: “he had two blackboards in his office listing the classes and instructors,” Albrecht said.

In the late 1960s, more instructors were hired because of the new associate degrees being offered, and the school had to find creative ways to house faculty. “Space was rented in the (former Fox Head) brewery across the street for teacher offices,” she said.

Upon moving to the Pewaukee campus, Albrecht recalls providing individualized instruction, something the students enjoyed. Later, in 1984, she and another instructor, Mary Schlumpf, developed exercises to teach a software package called Framework. “It was compatible with the MS-DOS operating system of our new computers,” she said, noting the modern technology of the time.

“I was always looking for new ways to give my students the best learning experiences. I was in the right place at the right time.”

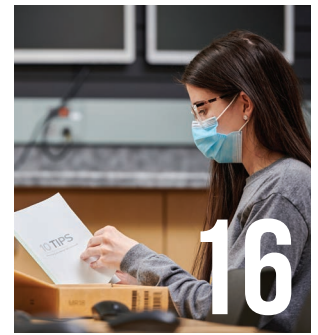
Albrecht also remembers serving as a co-advisor for the Business Professionals of America club and taking students to events. “WCTC always had a lot of winners at the state and national competitions.”

Over the next several years, she helped create curriculum for competency-based instruction, and she began to teach more computer and desktop publishing classes.

Albrecht said she thrived on challenge and change, and she said it was rewarding to be at the forefront of technology. “I was always looking for new ways to give my students the best learning experiences. I was in the right place at the right time.” ■

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Enjoy the **Special 100th Edition** of WCTC Impact!

For 100 years, Waukesha County Technical College has been igniting imaginations and instilling a love of learning through transformative education. We have witnessed the remarkable evolution of technology and the workplace, and experience has taught us that the needs of our community are ever-changing. Please enjoy this spring 2023 edition of WCTC Impact as we reminisce about our past and look ahead to our next century.

WCTC Impact is published for the communities of Waukesha County Technical College.

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WCTC THROUGH



Wisconsin became the first state in the U.S., in 1911, to start a system of technical education institutions. Legislation authorized the creation of local “continuation schools,” which became the nation’s first vocational, technical and adult education system. These schools were required to be established in any community that had a population of 5,000 or more.

The schools were governed by a small board, which had the authority to levy a tax to support the school, while the state provided matching funds. Also, in 1911, legislation required these schools to offer formal apprenticeship training programs, and trade and evening classes for adults. These modest beginnings evolved into today’s Wisconsin technical colleges and the 16-member Wisconsin Technical College System.

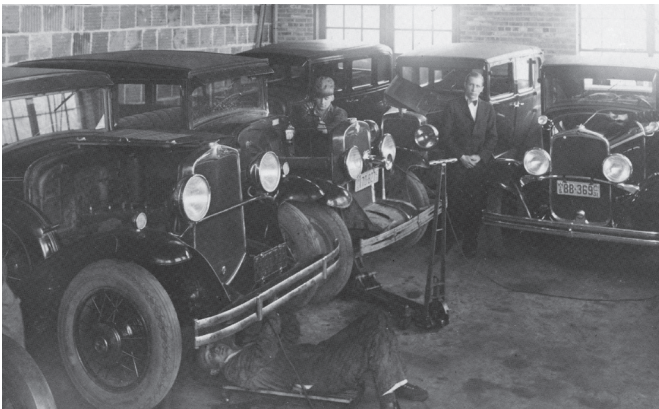
1923

The newly formed Waukesha Vocational School occupied the basement of Waukesha High School (now Les Paul Middle School). J.E. Worthington, who was the principal of the high school, served as part-time director. The 1920 board minutes authorized the purchase of materials to build 20 manual training benches and 20 mechanical drawing benches – to be constructed by students as their first project.

O.B. Lindholm was hired as the school’s first manual training instructor-turned-director. The school was officially established on May 1, 1923. The vocational school, over time, would move to different locations and go through several name changes – eventually becoming known as Waukesha County Technical College.

Enrollment was 443 – half were daytime continuation students and half were evening adult students; none were full time.

The school’s annual budget was \$15,500, which included \$4,500 in federal aid.



1920s

THE YEARS:

Humble Beginnings Lead to a Vibrant, Modern College

Facing the Great Depression,

enrollment of younger students waned and the school focused its educational emphasis on unemployed adults. An influx of funds from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was earmarked for occupational training, and this signaled the start of full-time, post-secondary trade training for adults. Courses were offered in commercial, trade/industry, home economics and general subjects.



1930

Enrollment rose to 700 and the school outgrew its space. A new building was constructed at 222 Maple Ave. for \$68,000.



Anthony J. Natalizio graduated from Carroll College with a degree in business and education, and took over teaching in the general education classroom until 1937. He would eventually become president in 1949, leading the school until 1973.



1938

Enrollment reached 1,400, and a combination gymnasium/auditorium was built. As the only local gym available to adults at the time, the new space was a popular addition.

1930s

World War II made evident the need for more highly skilled engineers, technologists, scientists and craftspeople. The school responded to this need by adding and expanding a number of offerings.



1944

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, or G.I. Bill, provided WWII veterans with funds for college education, unemployment insurance and housing. This caused a spike in postwar college and vocational school attendance, and it provided financial assistance for tuition, books, supplies and counseling services, among other benefits. WCTC proudly continues to provide educational opportunities to veterans, active service members and their families.

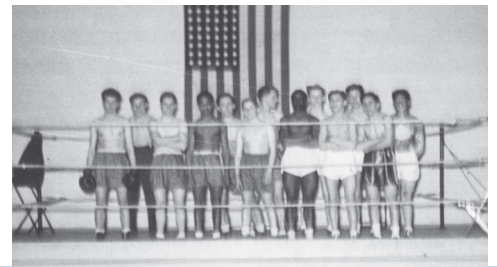
1949

Anthony J. Natalizio was named the school's director/president after O.B. Lindholm's death and served as president until 1973. Natalizio was unanimously selected by the board.



1949

The school changed its name to **Lindholm Vocational and Adult School** to honor its longtime director.



1940s

Waukesha County began to see a decline in farms and an increase in manufacturing businesses. New war-generated technologies also began making their way into the workplace, creating jobs that required more manual skills.

“From first-hand experience, this editor has learned that the vocational school is a place where interested people can go to learn interesting things. It is a place where folks, of any age group from high school up, can go and receive instruction from qualified instructors.”

- Published in The Waukesha Freeman, 1953

1953

The school's staff grew to 49 people, and more than 3,000 people used its facilities for classes, recreation and social activities. Most students were now over the age of 25.

1956

The school completed a 11,500-square-foot multi-classroom addition to its 11-room Maple Street location. The \$186,000 addition opened in 1957.

1958

After expanding its facilities, the school's enrollment skyrocketed by 800 students.



1950s

This decade saw many "firsts" for the school, and it continued to be a time of expansion.

1961

The school changed its name: Waukesha Vocational, Technical and Adult School.

The Wisconsin Board of Vocational and Adult Education authorized the awarding of two-year collegiate associate degrees and one- and two-year vocational diploma programs. WCTC's first diploma programs: a one-year technical program in Business Education and a one-year technical program in Metals were introduced.

1962

The first two-year programs were added: Electronics and Basic Electricity.

Occupational advisory committees were formed to provide "real-world" input into the development of new programs. **Today, more than 1,400 industry professionals serve on WCTC advisory committees.**

Enrollment reached 3,600, and the school announced an addition for a student center, library, classrooms, labs and offices. The west wing was constructed in 1965, but would soon be outgrown.

1964

The first student government organization was formed, the first formal athletic program began, and the first formal graduation ceremony was held.



1965

Waukesha Vocational, Technical and Adult School was renamed **Waukesha Technical Institute** and then, in **1967, Waukesha County Technical Institute (WCTI).**



1966

The first health occupations program is offered - Licensed Practical Nurse.

1968

A small group of law enforcement officers - the Waukesha County Chiefs of Police - organized a police training school that would provide officers with practical training.

1968-69

WCTI purchased 110 acres of farmland on the outskirts of the Village of Pewaukee from the Steele family as the site for the new campus. This land is ceded land of the Menomonic, Potawatomi, Sauk and Winnebago peoples. The College honors this ground as sacred, historical and significant to the First Nations People.

1960s



Globalization and technological advancements led to a surge of new job opportunities. Technical institutions were well equipped to provide effective, hands-on training in emerging career areas.

1970

The College broke ground for a historic new **\$7 million campus in Pewaukee.**

1972

Classes began at the new facility, with 12,147 students enrolled in more than 500 credit and noncredit courses. A formal Admissions and Counseling department was formed.

1973

Richard T. Anderson, Ed.D. was named director (then president) and retired in 2002.

1975

WCTC first gained accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on July 24, 1975. The HLC assures quality by verifying an institution meets standards and is engaged in continuous improvement.

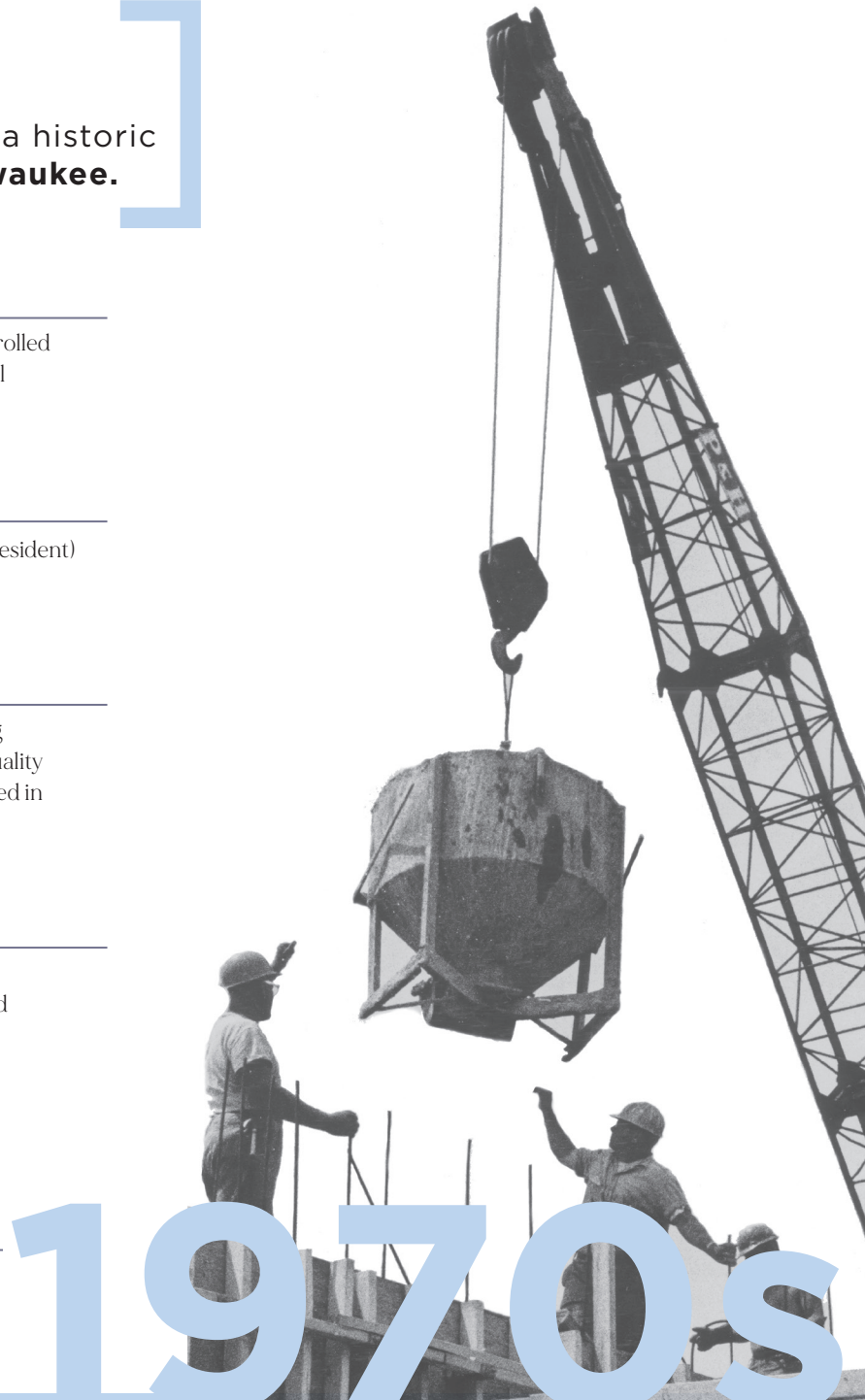
1977

The campus expanded to include space for an outdoor sports facility, emergency vehicles operations course and additional parking.

The WCTI Foundation was established to provide student scholarships.

1978

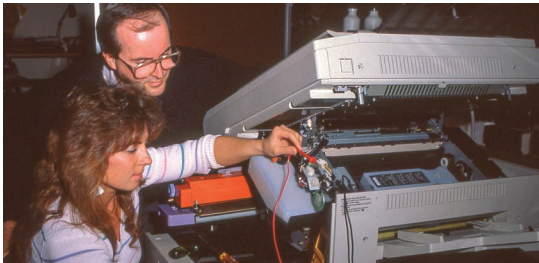
WCTI established the state's first formal "external high school" and offered adults options to earn their high school diplomas.



From the early 1980s and into the 1990s, the trend of older, part-time students continued to grow. Additionally, WCTI began to expand customized training to business and industry.

1980

With endorsement from the state, the district began to develop customized training classes specific to employers that were not available to the general public, and in 1981, the school offered courses at 20 companies.



1982

Aside from the 2007-09 recession, 1981-82 was the worst economic downturn in the history of the U.S. since the Great Depression. Because of the economic crisis, total enrollment reached its peak with more than 36,000 students taking credit, noncredit and enrichment courses.

1983

The board approved a policy to allow WCTI to contract entire customized programs for specific employers or employer groups. Examples include an Electronics program for General Electric Medical Systems, a customized degree program for Wisconsin Bell and a Real Estate program for Merrill Lynch Realty.

1986

The Classic Room training restaurant opened.

1988

Waukesha County Technical Institute (WCTI) was officially renamed **Waukesha County Technical College** (WCTC) to better reflect its mission.

1980s

WCTC continued to see solid enrollment—especially in the area of nontraditional students.

1991

Enrollment reached 36,304 students, and WCTC continued its efforts to support its growing student body with updated facilities and new technology.

The federal Vocational Education and Applied Technology Act provided funding to help high school districts collaborate with technical colleges.

1994

The College welcomed high school juniors and seniors into the Youth Apprenticeship program.

1995

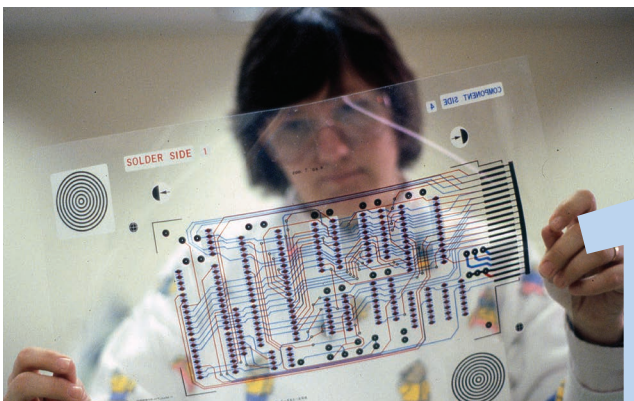
The first online courses were offered in the areas of business law, financial planning and real estate.

1996

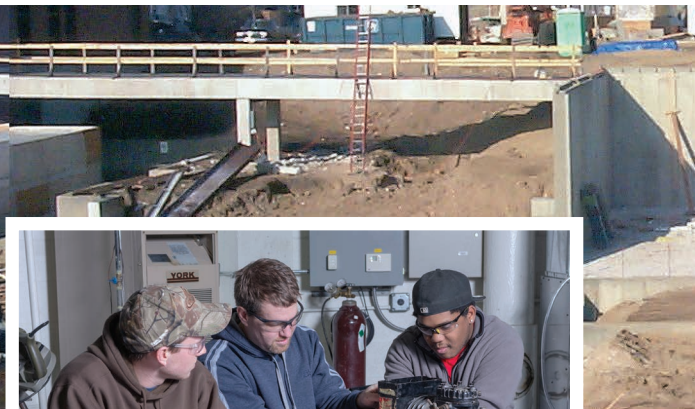
The Dental Hygiene Clinic opened on campus. A newly renovated and expanded clinic opened in the Waukesha campus in 2019.

1998

The average WCTC student was employed and 37 years old. More than 30 percent of students had previously attended a four-year college and many held bachelor's degrees. Nontraditional students made up 85 percent of the College's enrollment.



1990s



The College continued to evolve and change to meet the needs of students in the new millennium.

2001

The Small Business Center opened and offered noncredit workshops and courses for small business owners and entrepreneurs to help them achieve success in new and existing ventures.

2002

Carol Brown was named president and served until 2006.

The Harry V. Quadracci Printing and Graphics Center, which houses WCTC's Graphic Communications programs and classrooms, was completed. The Education and Technology Center was added in 2007.

2006

Barbara A. Prindiville, Ph.D., was named president and served until 2014.

2009

WCTC began offering the first accredited Paramedic program in the state.

2011

WCTC opened the Multicultural Resource Center (now Multicultural Engagement Center), which focuses on creating an accepting, inclusive campus culture through programs, events and leadership development.

2013

The Dual Enrollment Academy began, providing high school juniors and seniors with a jump-start in high-demand occupations while earning both high school and college credits. In this first year, 40 students from three K-12 school districts participated in three academies. For the 2022-23 school year, more than 200 students from 19 school districts are participating in 10 academies.

WCTC completed its 5,300-square foot firing range on Hickory Street. The range later moved to the main campus and into a newly constructed space in 2022.

The Multicultural Student Engagement Scholarship Program was established with a vision to empower underrepresented students to become successful leaders in their communities.

2000S & THE



WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

WCTC

*KNOWLEDGE
WORKING.*

2014

Kaylen Betzig was named president and served through 2020.

2016

The 24,000-square-foot **Integrated Manufacturing Center** was built to increase the amount of space dedicated to electronics, automation and manufacturing trades. The center was renamed to honor donor Terry Lutz in 2018.

WCTC 
waukesha county technical college



WAUKESHA
COUNTY TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Hands-on Higher Ed

2017

WCTC became the first college in Wisconsin to be designated as a Center of Academic Excellence – Two Year Education (CAE2Y) by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

2019

The College moved its Dental Hygiene Clinic to the Waukesha Campus.



NEW MILLENNIUM



modern co

Beyond the 21st Century



WCTC has seen a lot of positive change in the first few years of the 2020s. New opportunities have been brought to the fore – with many more to explore and new ones yet to discover.

In summer 2020, the College launched a year-round academic calendar featuring 8-week terms. In January 2021, President Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D., started as the College’s top executive in the midst of a global pandemic.

In 2022, WCTC began welcoming high school juniors and seniors into any WCTC program – just as any other College student – to earn an associate degree or technical diploma at the same time as their high school degree through the Accelerate initiative.

And in 2023, the College began offering Associate of Arts and Associate of Science liberal arts transfer degrees to streamline transfer processes. This will guarantee admission to the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and other

University of Wisconsin institutions. In looking toward the future, WCTC is eager to develop more offerings – courses and full programs – that focus on new technologies, some of which are still in their infancy. This includes battery cell technology, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI), which simulates the intelligence of humans through processes handled by machines or computers. AI will continue to grow in many fields, including healthcare, manufacturing, transportation, business and finance, among others, and the College will adapt and add programming that coincides with these technological advances.

Also, in fall 2023, the College is adding a recreational component to its facilities by converting an underused dining space in Building B to an esports lab. The lab is planned to be up and running in fall, and it will provide students with a dedicated space for competitive video gaming. ■

College.



Schedule of Events*

APRIL 22, 2023

Earth Day Campus & Community Clean-Up Event

We're celebrating Earth Day by showing love to our campus community. Join us to help clean up some of the beautiful outdoor spaces we share throughout Waukesha County.

MAY 12, 2023

Child Development Center Golf Outing Collaboration

Join us on the green for a special foursome scramble! Business partners, local employers, community members and golf lovers are invited to play in this fun, team-based competition.

JULY 2023

Celebrity Chef Dinner & Fundraiser

Local foodies can enjoy a special multi-course meal prepared by WCTC alumni chefs, bakers and culinary masters.

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

100th Anniversary Celebration Gala

Celebrate 100 years of WCTC at this gala event, where we'll highlight our proudest accomplishments and look ahead to our next century of impact.

Please visit www.wctc.edu/100 as more details become available.

*Subject to change.



A COLLEGE PRESIDENT is undoubtedly the face of any higher education institution. This skilled leader is charged with forwarding the mission of the college, creating a bridge between the academic and business worlds, providing strategic direction and prioritizing institutional goals. WCTC has been fortunate to have had several strategic visionaries to grow and expand the College for a century.

COLLEGE LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS



O.B. Lindholm
1923-1949



Barbara A. Prindiville, Ph.D.
2006-2014



Anthony J. Natalizio
1949-1973



Kaylen M. Betzig
2014-2020



Richard T. Anderson, Ed.D.
1973-2002



Richard G. Barnhouse, Ph.D.
2021-present



Carol Brown
2002-2006

WCTC's current president, Richard G. Barnhouse, joined WCTC in January 2021, bringing with him more than 20 years of progressive higher education leadership. He is active in several community and higher education organizations, including the Waukesha County Business Alliance, Higher Education Regional Alliance, the Independent Business Association of Wisconsin, among others, and he is focused on continuing to strengthen ties with business and industry. ■



Aniversaries are interesting. In most cases, they simply take a retrospective view of activities, accomplishments, and, for many, highlight the “good old days.” As WCTC celebrates its 100th anniversary, we are focused on the forward momentum of the College. As we look back, we are grateful for so many accomplishments, victories, and the growth and development of a college that has been at the forefront of higher education for an entire century. Most importantly, however, we recognize that WCTC is just getting started. As we complete our first century of educational excellence, we are shifting quickly to ensure the foundation for our second century is built to excel.

For me, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as the president of WCTC at the articulation point between our first and second centuries of operation. It is difficult for me to imagine what the first president of WCTC, O. B. Lindholm, was thinking when he began the College in 1923, or how he felt when he retired from WCTC in 1949. I do hope that if he were able to observe the College today that he would beam with pride. It is because of Lindholm, the six presidents who followed him, and the thousands of talented faculty and staff who labored so diligently over the past 100 years that WCTC is the preeminent institution that you know today.

As we move into our second century, many new initiatives are currently underway. WCTC is in the midst of building an artificial intelligence program, adding liberal arts degrees, and providing high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to complete an associate degree before graduating from high school. Most importantly, WCTC continues to do what it was designed to do in 1923 – provide our communities with the most highly skilled and educated workforce possible.

Thank you for 100 years of support.

Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D.



WCTC PIVOTS TO KEEP COMMUNITY ENGAGED FORWARD DURING COV

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

IN SPRING 2020, when the global COVID-19 pandemic began, it affected every person and every industry in some capacity. Higher education institutions, and WCTC in particular, had to swiftly develop a plan to keep students on track in order for them to complete their classes and reach their academic goals.

WCTC closed its doors at 5 p.m. on March 17, 2020, and the Academic Excellence team, along with other College staff and instructors, spent the next two weeks shifting all courses to either a fully online course, a fully virtual course or a hybrid delivery option combining these two strategies.

For that semester, 1,059 course sections were moved online, affecting 5,852 students. All converted classes resumed on April 6 after an extended break. (The first week of

the COVID-19-related shutdown happened during spring break.) Due to the campus closure, the spring 2020 term was extended into June to allow students who had to finish lab components the time to do so.

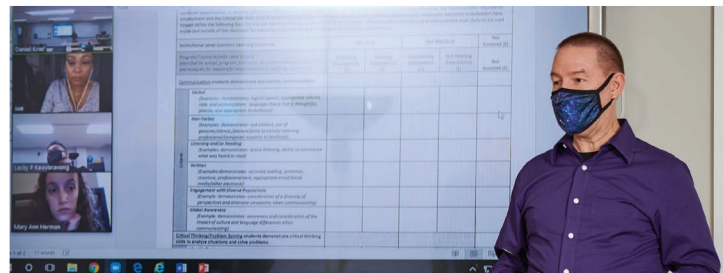
Faculty immersed themselves in learning the finer points of a web-based learning management system, set up teaching spaces in their homes and mastered the art of Zoom. Thanks to their dedication, they kept their courses moving forward and maintained connections with their students.

College buildings reopened in limited scope on June 1, 2020, and this continued through the fall 2020 semester.

WCTC remained diligent and cautious during those transitional times, continuing

to offer many classes remotely in fall 2020 (769 course sections affecting 4,572 students).

Throughout the pandemic, WCTC closely followed guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with other leading public health organizations; switched in-person events to virtual ones; intensified cleaning and sanitation practices; mandated social distancing and mask wearing; canceled and rescheduled events; among many other modifications to traditional daily College operations. ■



COLLEGE AND MOVING ID-19



Strengthening **BELONGING** at WCTC

The summer of 2020 saw widespread civil unrest nationwide. Riots and protests against systemic racism were held throughout the U.S. and in many other countries - shining a light on issues of racial and social injustice - leading to political, corporate and organizational change.

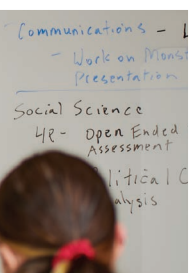
As an institution of higher learning, WCTC has always been committed to fostering an environment where all people feel welcome and included. In June 2020, the College took active steps to improve its campus culture and lived experience for the WCTC community.

The Office of Belonging, Access and Cultural Engagement (BACE) developed intentional advancement strategies based on enrollment trends, changing student demographics and national social unrest during the 2019-20 academic year.

BACE is tasked with increasing awareness to promote positive change and has been working toward this by focusing on five key areas detailed in its action plan, including:

- **Communication**
- **Curriculum**
- **Safety**
- **Professional development**
- **Recruitment, representation and retention**

BACE continues to advocate for members of the College community, while emphasizing the importance of respect, cross-cultural relationships and identity. ■



Shorter Classes, Bigger Impact

With

**8-WEEK
TERMS,**

students can complete more credits each semester and earn their

**DEGREES
FASTER.**



WCTC students' lives outside of school are often brimming with responsibilities at work, at home and in their communities. Their demanding schedules can make taking a full-time course load unrealistic. Nearly 80 percent of WCTC students enroll part-time, with the majority taking just one or two classes at a time— a pace that would require five years to complete a two-year associate degree.

The College often boasts that its courses are built for busy lives, but in 2020, WCTC took that commitment to the next level by overhauling its academic calendar. Most courses are now offered in 8-week terms, rather than traditional 16-week semesters. WCTC made the decision to switch formats after studying five years' worth of data from courses already offered in these shorter terms.

Students successfully completed those courses at a rate 10 percent higher than in traditional courses, with five percent fewer students withdrawing. Nearly three years in, the new format is still going strong.

With 8-week terms, students can complete more credits each semester and earn their degrees faster, which is especially helpful to the students who enroll part time. Although the classes are shorter in length, comprehensive, hands-on learning is still a top priority.

"We continuously hear from our students the need for us to provide more flexibility in our academic offerings, to provide clearer maps to completion and to be able to get through their credential in a much timelier fashion," said vice president of Academic Affairs, Brad Piazza, Ph.D.

In addition to student success, the needs of area employers played a key role in this change.

"Our employers want to get our students sooner, but yet just as competent as they've been accustomed to receiving," said Piazza. "It's imperative that we play an active role in getting our students out into the workforce." ■





READY, SET, Excelerate

In January 2021, WCTC announced a new dual credit opportunity for high school students called WCTC Excelerate. Through Excelerate, qualified high school juniors and seniors can apply to a full College program – just like any other student – and work toward a degree while earning high school credit at the same time.

Excelerate is ideal for students who already have a clear idea of which program they would like to pursue and are ready to jump-start their careers. Students ages 16 and up have the opportunity to earn an associate degree, technical diploma or certificate even before they graduate from high school, potentially at no cost.

“By combining Excelerate with Start College Now (which is a state program/funding mechanism that allows high school students to take technical college classes), many courses taken at WCTC can be paid by the school district, which leads to cost savings for our students and their families,” said Sandra Maylen, executive director of WCTC’s Center for Early College Opportunities. “We see Excelerate as an expansion of our commitment to

provide all students access to program courses that serve the economic need of workforce-ready students in Waukesha County and beyond.”

The addition of Excelerate enhanced WCTC’s already strong high school dual credit opportunities. The new initiative offers several added benefits to students, including priority registration for courses, academic advising, new student orientation and numerous other on-campus resources.

Additionally, Excelerate can allow students who successfully complete their WCTC program to transfer to a four-year college or university, with up to junior-level standing, right out of high school. “This builds upon and amplifies WCTC’s many current dual enrollment offerings,” said WCTC President Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D., “This really speeds up the cycle of higher education.” ■





WCTC has long been a proponent for high school students to get a jump-start on their post-secondary education, resulting in a savings of time and money. The College has a number of ways high school students can earn dual credit – high school and college credit at the same time – and these continue to expand each year.

Most recently, in 2022, WCTC introduced the **Excelerate** initiative, which allows high school juniors and seniors to enroll in a program just like any other WCTC student.

The Wisconsin **Start College Now** program allows all public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements to take postsecondary courses at Wisconsin technical colleges, so they can earn high school and college credit simultaneously. School districts generally pay for the cost of courses and required books. Also, students who participate in the Excelerate initiative may use Start College Now as a funding mechanism.

Advanced Standing and **Transcripted Credit** offers students opportunities to complete college-level work while still in high school. With Advanced Standing, a student takes an advanced-level course and earns high school credit that is activated when the student enters a program at WCTC; for Transcripted Credit, the high school student takes a WCTC course at their high school.

The **Youth Apprenticeship** program is a rigorous one- or two-year academic program for high school juniors and seniors that combines academic and technical instruction with paid work experience, giving students a head start in their careers.

The popular **Dual Enrollment Academy (DEA)** now in its 10th year, has grown from a modest 40 students from three school districts in three academies in 2013-14, to more than 200 students from 19 school districts in 10 academies in 2022-23. Students spend half their day at the College, taking classes with a cohort of their peers, and the other half of the day at their high school. Upon successful completion of the academy, students leave with high school credit, WCTC credit and an industry-recognized workplace certificate or technical diploma.

“This year marks the year that we have had 1,000 students (in total) enroll in DEA,” said Sandra Maylen, executive director of WCTC’s Center for Early College Opportunities. “What I’ve noticed is that it’s become part of the culture in the (K-12) school districts.” ■

Gives High School Students a Head Start on the Future



LIBERAL ARTS TRANSFER DEGREES

Offer Seamless Transitions to Four-Year Colleges and Universities

Starting with the 2023 spring semester, WCTC began offering Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degree programs, adding to the already robust offerings available at the College. The programs, offered in partnership with UWM at Waukesha, allow students to seamlessly transfer to UW-Milwaukee – or any institution within the University of Wisconsin System – to earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree.

The UW System Board of Regents in spring 2022 approved a plan to allow eight technical colleges to partner with UW System campuses on liberal arts degrees that would pave the way for graduates to earn bachelor’s degrees at the partner’s institutions. Students

benefit from lower tuition in their first two years and guaranteed admission to the four-year campuses, provided all

requirements are met. All 16 colleges within the Wisconsin Technical College System now offer the AA and AS programs and a more direct, clear academic path for those interested in furthering their education.

Each program is 61 credits; the AS focuses on math and science while the AA focuses on arts, humanities and social sciences. Students will take classes at WCTC and

UWM at Waukesha.

“Students will be taught by exceptional faculty in small classrooms, and they will be well prepared when they get to a university as junior.”

Richard Barnhouse, WCTC President

“Students are going to get that associate degree at a reasonable price. They will be taught by exceptional faculty in small classrooms, and they will be well prepared when they get to a university as junior,” said WCTC President

Rich Barnhouse, Ph.D. “I also think we’ll see a number of working adults who want to complete or start their bachelor’s degree, and that will be an unbelievable access point.” ■



CENTENNIAL STORIES

WCTC alumni are a part of the fabric of our daily lives. From the chef who creates a special anniversary meal, to the accountant who reviews income tax forms, to the nurse who provides skilled patient care with heart and compassion, to the law enforcement officer protecting people and property, they can be found in every corner of our communities enriching our lives in many ways. Hear from a few of our graduates who work in these critical roles, the instructors and College leaders who helped them along the way, and current students who are on the path to making a difference. ■



Joe Till

Graphic Design, '17

Current Job: Graphic Designer

Why did you choose WCTC?

When looking for college options back in early 2014, I learned about a dual enrollment opportunity that would allow me to learn the software and production techniques of the graphics industry. This was during my last year of high school, and I was so impressed with my experience that year, attending for my graphic design degree was a no-brainer!

How did WCTC set you up for success?

WCTC did an amazing job helping me understand the technical side of this job. I learned how to be efficient with software, how to understand the needs of a client, and how to execute the creative process. My transition into the workforce was seamless, and I give a ton of credit to my instructors at WCTC. They base their instructions on industry standards and do a tremendous job setting you up for success.

What do you like most about working in graphic design?

To put it simply, I just love design. I love looking over different art styles and eras. I love the inspiration that comes from collecting work, and seeing how the combination of design elements can perfectly capture a message and vibe. I love finding sources of inspiration before starting a

project. I probably enjoy brainstorming the most, because you feel that the possibilities are endless. Whenever a client brief comes my way that allows me to do something new, those are very exciting moments for me.



Jeff Edmonds

Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Academy, '17
Current Job: Patrol Sergeant for the City of Brookfield Police Department

How did WCTC set you up for success?

WCTC sets students up for success by employing some of the state's most knowledgeable instructors. They do a phenomenal job at giving students and law enforcement recruits the most realistic, hands-on experience to prepare them for the real world. Since graduating from WCTC in 2017, I have become a defensive tactics instructor, vehicle contacts instructor, patrol supervisor and a member of our SWAT team. (In 2016, he earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology, Criminal Justice emphasis from UW-Whitewater.)

What is your favorite memory from WCTC?

My best memory at WCTC is graduation day. At graduation, that's when I had time to reflect on the 720-hour journey from being pepper sprayed, tased, the long hours studying, the firearms training, and lastly, the friendships created that will last a lifetime.

What are the greatest benefits of a WCTC education?

The greatest benefit of a WCTC education is the hands-on experience you get while attending the school. The availability of equipment and facilities like MILO (interactive simulation training), the EVOG (emergency vehicles operations course) track, the firearms range and technology available in the classrooms ensures students get the best possible real-life experience, prior to going out into the real world.



Denise Merbeth

Interior Design, '03
Current Job: Independent Designer and Owner of Denise Merbeth, LLC, Kitchen & Bath Design

How did WCTC set you up for success?

The interior design program encompasses a wide variety of topics, providing a solid basis of knowledge - no matter the specific direction you pursue. Our design projects often involved real-world scenarios and real budgets, preparing us for real careers. Presenting design projects to my peers gave me the confidence to speak to a group, empowering me to take a position on the local National Kitchen & Bath Association chapter as programs chair and later as chapter president.

What is your favorite memory from WCTC?

One of our final projects involved designing a remodel that included an addition with a kitchen and bathroom for a local home. We presented to the homeowners,

who later implemented a similar plan, and I was able to physically walk through the completed project shortly after graduation.

What are the greatest benefits of a WCTC education?

I found the environment at WCTC to be like a community of people genuinely invested in your success. Whether you are beginning your journey at WCTC and continuing to another university, or honing in on a particular trade, you are set up to achieve your goals with experienced instructors and hands-on resources.



Jacob Mueller

Automotive Technology - General Option, '20

Mechanical Design Technology, '19

Current Job: Shop Foreman at Silver Lake Auto & Tire Centers, North Lake location



Why did you choose WCTC?

At WCTC, you're not just a number or a name; instructors really get to know each and every student. The hands-on learning is also the best, especially for the automotive program, where the majority of technicians learn best by really getting their hands on the vehicles.

How did WCTC set you up for success?

WCTC sets students up for success by getting the hands-on experience they deserve. The instructors are also industry professionals and have tons of connections to help students get a jump into their career- whatever direction it may be. WCTC also allowed me to work half days and go to school in the morning. I have worked at Silver Lake Auto ever since, and I have advanced through the ranks.

What's your favorite memory from WCTC?

My best memory of WCTC was when we had the dean come around and we had stations set up to show him what the automotive program is all about. Steve (Angove, the instructor) had me positioned right next to the dean the whole time describing what each station was. I very much enjoyed showing him that, for it's something I love to do every day now that I work in the field.

Samon Mahas

Cosmetology, '12

Current Job: Hairstylist

What's your favorite memory from WCTC?

I was involved with the Cosmetology Club, which helped us go to trade events with our classmates. Going to these hair shows was such an amazing experience, and we created memories we will never forget. I found my best friends there and we are all still friends.

How did WCTC set you up for success?

WCTC allowed students to go out and shadow salons to see where we wanted to take our career. If they hadn't provided that opportunity, it would have been much more difficult to line up a job right after school. They gave me all the tools I needed and guided me in my future.

How's life after graduation?

Life after graduation has been amazing! I am working at Hair Solutions in New Berlin, and I'm now a level 7 stylist specializing in color and hair extensions. I also mentor and educate our new talent. I love that I get to watch new talent grow and share all the knowledge I have with other stylists. What I love most about my job is getting to connect with people every day, and every day is always different.



Jasmine Boettcher

Human Resources, '21

Nursing Assistant, '15

Current Job: Supervisor at Waukesha County Communications Center

How did WCTC set you up for success?

WCTC sets up students for success by engaging every student in the building. Not only that, but since many students work, have children, families and homes to take care of, the instructors often related material to the real-world allowing them to have a ton of "a-ha" moments. I loved being able to connect the content I was learning in my program with my employer and my relationships with my employees. I felt myself becoming a better leader as I went through my education and work. I was absorbing the information as a working adult student with the ability and luxury to apply the knowledge right away. (She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from UW-Green Bay.)



What's your favorite memory from WCTC?

My ultimate greatest memory is that I found myself again and found out that I mattered. I found out that I could make a difference, I could be the change, and I could be successful.

What are the greatest benefits of a WCTC education?

WCTC has so many benefits, especially to those in the working world. The flexibility of their courses and the low-cost tuition allow students to obtain degrees without neglecting their work or bank account.

I loved being able to **connect** the content I was learning in my program with my employer and my relationships with my employees."

Jasmine Boettcher
WCTC Alumna





Kim Johns

WCTC Dental Hygiene Instructor

What led you to start teaching at WCTC?

I became interested in dental hygiene while I was working as a dental assistant for a pediatric dental practice as a co-op job in high school. I loved helping people every day to be healthier and have beautiful smiles. I always knew that I wanted to teach and share my knowledge with others. I kept in touch with an associate professor at Marquette University who guided me through the process of completing my Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene with an emphasis in Postsecondary Education. I had heard that WCTC was starting a Dental Hygiene program in 1995 and it was my goal to teach here.

Why is WCTC a great place to learn?

WCTC has so many resources to help students be successful and reach their goals. All of the faculty are passionate about their professions and are committed to student success, which makes WCTC a great place to learn.

What do you enjoy most about being an instructor?

I enjoy helping students as they navigate through patient care and celebrate with them their successes and "a-ha" moments. I feel so blessed to have met and taught hundreds of wonderful people who are now registered dental hygienists in our community. I have been lucky enough to be here from the beginning of our program and to see the forward progress we have made to help students be successful.

Allen Weiss

Tool and Die, '83
Current Job: Owner, Integrity Wire EDM

How did WCTC set you up for success?

WCTC sets students up for success by teaching them the fundamentals.

Tell us about your career:

I worked in local tool and die shops for 14 years, then started my own manufacturing shop, Integrity Wire EDM in 1997, located in Sussex, Wis. (After WCTC, he also completed a five-year Wisconsin State Indentured Tool and Die Apprenticeship.)

What's your favorite memory from WCTC?

My greatest memory from WCTC was the teachers and how passionate they were.





Watching students **grow professionally** and academically for a career of service is the greatest reward."

Amber Gonzalez Grant
WCTC Alumna & Instructor

Amber Gonzalez Grant

Nursing, '04
Current Job: WCTC Nursing Associate Degree Instructor

How did WCTC set you up for success?

WCTC gave me the confidence and foundational education that prepared me for a career I love. Before coming to WCTC, I was intimidated by larger college campuses and especially lecture halls where I was lost in a sea of many students. At WCTC, the staff and faculty are partners in education with students and create an environment of support while encouraging them to grow. After successfully completing my associate degree in Nursing at WCTC, I went on to complete my bachelor's and master's degrees, which I never thought was possible. With almost 20 years of a nursing career serving our community - at the bedside and in the classroom - I can look back and identify my education at WCTC as the key to my success. (She also earned a bachelor's and master's degree from UWM in 2008 and 2010, respectively.)



Why do you work at WCTC?

Being able to give back by preparing future nurses and continuing that legacy of supporting students is incredibly fulfilling.

What are the rewards of being a WCTC faculty member?

Working on a team with my colleagues, who are invested in the success of our students and dedicated to providing excellent nursing education, has been such an awesome experience. Watching students grow professionally and academically for a career of service is the greatest reward.





The **positive impact** that we have on our students is second to none."

Brad Piazza

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Brad Piazza

WCTC Vice President of Academic Affairs

What do you enjoy most about working at WCTC?

My biggest enjoyment comes from knowing that WCTC is changing the lives of not only our students, but the generations behind them. The positive impact that we have on our students is second to none.

What are the greatest benefits of a WCTC education?

Our students receive a high-quality, hands-on, practical education in facilities that are up to date with industry standards, that prepares them for careers and/or further education. While doing that, our students are not leaving here with tens of thousands of dollars of debt, which is a win-win. Finally, our faculty are very well trained for their transition from industry to teacher; this is not a common practice in higher education.

What do you enjoy about being a member of WCTC's current leadership team?

I consider it a privilege to be part of the leadership team – something I never take for granted. I am afforded the opportunity to be part of changing the lives of our students, to help develop staff and to assist in strategically positioning WCTC for the next 100 years.



Paul Farrow

Marketing, '87
Current Job: Waukesha County Executive

How did WCTC set you up for success?

The real-world experiences provided by instructors was invaluable. As students, we were able to see how the theoretical “book information” could be applied in real-world examples. This allowed me to see how I could utilize my education immediately to impact my work life. (He also earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Carroll University in 1991.)



How does a technical college benefit the local community?

Technical colleges are vital to our communities; they provide multiple pathways. Whether you have just graduated from high school and are looking for the education to get you into your field of choice sooner, have been working and want to get additional training to open more opportunities, or are looking for a career change and see the need for a new skill set – a technical college meets our residents where they are. It allows them to continue their education in the most convenient way possible.

Describe how WCTC is a solid partner of business and industry:

WCTC provides a wide breadth of educational options and keeps a finger on the pulse of market needs by maintaining close relationships with area businesses, and by developing creative strategies to get the workforce to connect with area industries.

Carlie Stigler

Early Childhood Education, '10
Current Job: Educator

How did WCTC set you up for success?

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) instructors and Child Development Center (CDC) staff helped me develop the skills, foundational experiences and knowledge that supported me in my undergrad and grad school programs, as well as my daily teaching practice. (She earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Carroll University in 2014 and 2019, respectively, along with the Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate through Via Lingua in 2016.)

Tell us about your career:

After earning my associate and bachelor’s degrees, I taught elementary for two years. I then spent a year in Europe to complete my TEFL certification in Italy and teach English in the Czech Republic. I returned to the states to continue teaching upper elementary and finish my master’s degree. I also completed the Breath for Change Educator Wellness and Social Emotional Learning and Facilitation certification. Following this, and while teaching, a colleague and I created the Educator Inquiry Project, with support from Carroll University. Now, I support families and children in their homes, focusing on their academic and social-emotional needs.



What’s your favorite memory from WCTC?

I loved the ECE classes as well as having the opportunity to work at the CDC. Having a lab school on site was a useful way for me to complete my practicums and work as a student employee.



Karyn Burrow

*Current Student: Criminal Justice (2023)
Human Services Associate, '18
Leadership Development, '20, Human Resources, '20*



Why did you choose WCTC?

After I attended WCTC the first time, I realized it gave me outstanding hands-on skills through in-class demonstrations and activities, and it provided me with one-on-one support. My decision to return was two-fold; the pandemic and personal experiences propelled me to pursue another degree that better aligns with my career passion: criminal justice. The faculty and staff, and the student supports that are in place, have helped me regain confidence and see my true academic and professional potential. What has resonated with me the most is that having a disability does not have to hold you back from going after what you want to pursue in your career.

What are the greatest benefits of a WCTC education?

The biggest benefits have been the hands-on skills that will be used in future jobs. Also, education has helped me stay informed with critical industry knowledge and the occupational skills that will prepare me for future career opportunities. Another big benefit has been becoming comfortable with moving out of my comfort zone.

What are your post-WCTC plans?

Once I graduate in May, I plan to continue on and earn a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. My long-term career goal is to become a district attorney in criminal law. (In addition to graduating from WCTC's Criminal Justice Studies program in 2023, she will also receive her bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from UW-Stout in 2023, with plans to earn another bachelor's degree.)



Nick Dillon,
WCTC Foundation
Board Member



Bradley Wooten,
Current Student



Sarina Vongsavath,
Current Student



Justin Aprahamian, '02



Janixa Franco-Gonzalez,
Current Student

Visit www.wctc.edu/100 for additional content!

Fire/EMT and Nursing Grads Find Academic Success – and Each Other – at WCTC

Husband & wife

Tyler (EMT '06, Fire Protection Tech '11 and Paramedic Tech '13) and Samantha Gall (Nursing '12) had different reasons for attending WCTC, but along their educational path, they found academic success – and each other.

Samm had spent two years at a local private college and was looking to change majors and find a more cost-effective way to earn a degree – which led her to WCTC. Tyler had attended career exploration camps at WCTC while in middle school and later took EMT and firefighter classes at the College during high school. That piqued his interest, and he wanted to continue.

The two met in Sociology class – when Samm was starting her program and Tyler was finishing his (Fire Protection Tech) program. Samm joked that their “dates” then consisted of her studying and Tyler helping with homework, but he also made sure she took a break from her studies every now and then. After Samm graduated in 2012, Tyler returned to WCTC for another program – accelerated Paramedic Technician. Now it was Samm’s turn to help Tyler with his studies – and make sure he took breaks.

The Galls’ experiences at WCTC have led them to successful careers and a happy family life.

Both were involved in several WCTC activities: Samm was a member of the Nursing Club and a participant in Partners in Patient Care simulations, while Tyler was vice president and president of the fire service organization, which focused on professional development opportunities for students.



The Galls credit the faculty for providing them with a solid start to grow their careers. Samm said her clinical instructors were supportive and built up her confidence, while Tyler said his instructors’ real-world stories, along with clinical teaching moments, contributed to the positive academic experience and fully allowed the students to grasp concepts.

The Galls’ experiences at WCTC have led them to successful careers and a happy family life. They married in 2015 and are now parents to two young children – and a 10-year-old pup.

Samm is a registered nurse at Froedtert Hospital in the medical intensive care unit, and she’s involved with shared governance in nursing. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Concordia University in 2015 and is now pursuing a master’s degree at Purdue University Northwest. Tyler is the education coordinator and recruitment manager at Midwest Medical Transport Company–Midwest MedAir. He found his true passion working in critical care, and he earned a Critical Care Paramedic diploma from the University of Iowa in 2015. Additionally, he is a licensed EMS educator and also teaches American Heart Association classes. ■





WCTC mascot named

'OLLIE'

In January 2023, WCTC announced the new name of the College's mascot – Oliver Lindholm Steele – that pays homage to the College's history. "Oliver" represents "all of you" – the faculty, staff, students, alumni, business and community partners who make the College a success; "Lindholm" pays tribute to the College's first, full-time director, O.B. Lindholm; and "Steele" is a nod to the family whose former farmland the main Pewaukee campus is built upon. More casually, the mascot will be known as "Ollie." The name was chosen through a voting process from submissions by members of the WCTC community. ■

LEADERSHIP

Working in tandem with WCTC's President Richard Barnhouse, Ph.D., is a talented leadership team, the President's Executive Cabinet, which helps advance the College and shape its future:

**Angela Frazier
Arthur, Ed.D.**

*Vice President of
Student Services*

**Jane Kittel,
Ed.D.**

*Vice President
of Finance and
Administration*

**Brad Piazza,
Ph.D.**

*Vice President of
Academic Affairs*

**Michelle
Skinder**

*Vice President of
Human Resources*

**Sherry
Simmons**

*Chief Diversity and
Compliance Officer*

Andy Palen

*Chief External
Relations and
Marketing Officer*

**Mary
Poehls**

*Organizational Transformation
and Quality Leader*

DISTRICT BOARD

The WCTC District Board is composed of nine members, all of whom are district residents. The board provides governance for the College, helping institutional leaders meet the needs of students, employees, local employers and the entire WCTC community. Members are selected by an appointment committee and serve three-year terms. *Current members include:

**Courtney R.
Bauer**

*Board Chairperson
Special Agent/Deputy
State Fire Marshal with the
Wisconsin Department
of Justice – Division of
Criminal Investigation*

Joe E. Garza

*Vice Chairperson
Superintendent of
the School District of
New Berlin*

**Brian K.
Baumgartner**

*Business Representative,
Glaziers Local 1204/941
of the International
Union of Painters and
Allied Trades District
Council 7*

Ryan J. Clark

*Director of
Manufacturing
Operations at
Bruno Independent
Living Aids*

**Thomas
Michalski**

*Elm Grove Village Trustee
and Waukesha County
Supervisor*

**Stephanie A.
Reisner**

*President/CEO of GPS
Education Partners*

Lois E. Vasquez

*Assistant Training
Specialist for Sussex IM*

**James C.
Zaiser**

*President/CEO of Hydro-
Thermal Corporation*

*The board has one vacant position as of Jan. 1, 2023.



The Generosity of Donors

WCTC Foundation Helps Students Achieve Goals

The WCTC Foundation provides support for students to access, continue and complete their educational journey at WCTC. It was established in 1977 with a clear mission: to secure charitable resources to help WCTC students achieve their educational goals. One-hundred percent of funds donated goes to help students with their educational expenses, maintain and start new scholarships, and enhance learning opportunities. Ellen Phillips has served as the Foundation's president since 1997.

Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has received more than \$30 million in charitable donations to benefit WCTC students and programs. During this time, more than 20,000 donations have been received by the Foundation representing individuals, businesses and organizations. These generous gifts exemplify the community's belief in technical education and in WCTC as an exceptional College along with its spirit of philanthropy.

The Foundation offers a number of ways for donors to provide a financial gift to WCTC, including general scholarship donations, endowments, named scholarships, advised funds, planned gifts and charitable bequests, as well as in-kind gifts. ■



The Ruth Project

As part of the WCTC centennial, a new initiative, The Ruth Project, has been established to honor Ruth Sells' rich legacy of outstanding leadership and commitment to WCTC.

This project will support WCTC Nursing students through scholarships and funding to improve the Nursing Skills Lab. Sells was appointed to an advisory committee at WCTC in 1972, and two years later, she became the first woman appointed to the WCTC District Board, where she served for 14 years. She was also the first woman to serve as chairperson of the district board. She later joined the WCTC Foundation Board, and served for 20 years until her passing in 2018. She was presented with an honorary WCTC Associate of Applied Science degree in 2012 for her generous service to the College. Like WCTC, Sells would have celebrated her 100th birthday in 2023. Please visit www.wctc.edu/foundation to learn more.





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WAUKESHA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Leave a Lasting LEGACY

Help pave the way for future students with the purchase of a commemorative brick! Bricks will be installed in the courtyard at WCTC's Pewaukee campus as part of its centennial celebration. A commemorative brick can represent the name of a family, an individual, an organization, a special occasion or the memory of a loved one.

All proceeds from the sale of these special commemorative bricks will directly benefit the future of Waukesha County Technical College and the success of its students.

Learn more at www.wctc.edu/100.

