



Ambassadors

By Jim Biros

New Student Ambassadors demonstrate love of college

Kim Boman, Lisa Paff, Stephanie Perry and Lisa Roberts have been named WITC's 2008 Student Ambassadors.

"The Ambassador program is an excellent way for the college to recognize some of our most highly motivated students, such as these four individuals," says Craig Fowler, vice president, continuing education/executive director, foundation, and campus administrator. "The program also allows the students to develop their leadership skills while they represent WITC in our communities."

Boman, a student in the Nursing – Associate Degree program at the Superior campus, was led to WITC by the recommendation of a former ambassador.

WITC's acceptance of previously earned credits was another factor Boman appreciated.

"I like WITC because it is a small campus," Boman says. "I really didn't appreciate sitting in a classroom with 200 or 300 people getting lectured to. The atmosphere and student-to-teacher ratio is excellent at WITC. It allows me to interact with my instructors much better."

In 2006, life changed for Paff. She was ready for a career change. She wanted excellent instruction and high job placement. After sharing with WITC staff what she liked and was good at, Paff was directed into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at the Ashland Campus.

"WITC has built me up educationally and culturally, and I know I'm ready to succeed with what I've received at WITC," Paff says. "I love my college."



Lisa Paff, Stephanie Perry, Lisa Roberts, and Kim Boman

For Perry, the path to WITC involved realizing that the four-year university she chose was not moving her toward her career goals or career path. With a desire to work with children, WITC's Early Childhood Education program proved to be an attractive option. With a helpful dialog from WITC instructors, Perry soon transferred to the New Richmond campus to begin her studies.

"The program offered at WITC allowed for student-teaching experiences right away," Perry says. "This is what I wanted – to immediately begin gaining valuable experiences in my chosen profession."

After a series of injuries forced Roberts to change her career goals, she was directed to WITC on the advice of a job center counselor. Currently, she is in the Accounting program at the Rice Lake Campus. Roberts is also pursuing Business Graphics and Computerized Accounting certificates 24 years after

graduating from high school.

"WITC is the right choice for me because it has given me the tools I need to succeed – an education, self-confidence and the resources I need to find a job," Roberts says. "The partnership between the Job Center of Balsam Lake and WITC brought me to Rice Lake to begin my college career."

More than 20 years ago, the Wisconsin Technical College System started the Ambassador program, a unique initiative that recognizes outstanding student achievement. WITC's latest ambassadors have distinguished themselves through community involvement, leadership qualities, and a determined commitment to higher education.

–Jim Biros is a publications and Web communications technician at WITC's administrative office.