

# the perfect plan

By Elizabeth Whitchurch,  
Photo by Suzanne Wynveen

Those with an architectural inclination will relish the expansion of WITC's architectural commercial design associate degree program from WITC's Rice Lake campus to the New Richmond campus fall 2013.

The program allows knowledge in construction, heating, plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems to create detailed construction documents. The program, unique in Wisconsin, provides students with the latest computer-aided drafting (CAD) and architectural software.

"Though the construction economy took quite a hit in 2009, it is recovering, and there's no better time to start in architecture and construction," says architectural commercial design instructor Deb Kutrieb.

## Architectural commercial design program grad found a wealth of possibilities



Meet program graduate, **Hattie (Bollom) Redmon**, who works in Missoula, Mont., for Jackson Contractor Group, Inc., as a project coordinator.

### *Why did you choose architecture?*

Because it is the balance of logic/math and creativity/art. I love the creative aspects of my job, but I also love the linear process of construction.

### *Do you feel your WITC degree in architectural commercial design helped you get where you are today?*

Definitely. I apply my degree to almost every aspect of my job. My knowledge of construction documents and the design/drafting/construction process assists me every day. I work with architects, specifications and critique drawings to help project managers so employees in the field have correct drawings.

### *What should new students consider before choosing an architecture degree?*

It's a lot more than drawing. A person should enjoy art and math, geometry and should have high attention to detail. They should also like working in a team environment, but also be a self-starter and complete tasks individually.

### *Do you think grads will find the architecture employment atmosphere hospitable?*

Because of the latest versions of software the [architectural commercial design] program works with, employers will be excited to put graduates straight to work without a lot of additional training. Our homes, offices and places of recreation are possible because of architecture and construction. It is gratifying to drive by a six-story building that, because you did your job well, was possible to complete.

### *What advice do you offer?*

Any career program requires commitment and hard work to get the most out of it. As a WITC student, you will be ready for a job in half the time as a university student. That is a short time to mentally and educationally prepare for the work force, so take everything you can from your education and apply it to your career and life.

**Are You a WITC Alumn?** Then we want to hear from you! Tell us what's new. Go to [witc.edu/alumniupdate](http://witc.edu/alumniupdate) and send us your information!