Seeking ideas for the future

The ‘Futurefest Ideas Competition’ will provide an outlet for students to express their potential impact on the future while competing to win $5,000 cash prize.

Wisconsin’s Technical College students have the opportunity to demonstrate their vision of the future in a new, statewide video competition beginning this month.

The “Futurefest Ideas Competition” will provide an outlet for students to express their potential impact on the future while competing to win cash prizes.

“Technical college students routinely exhibit impressive creativity and originality,” said Dan Clancy, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). “This will be an excellent opportunity for us to highlight those abilities and talents.”

The competition is designed to honor the creative spirit of its students, the educators who mentor them, and the culture of originality thriving at technical college campuses across Wisconsin.

All technical college students taking credit-based courses have until February 1, 2009 to submit their entries. A panel of judges at each college will determine a semifinalist who will compete statewide for one of three cash prizes: $5,000, $2,500 and $1,000. Prizes will be awarded in April.

The short videos may include students’ unique visions of the future at school, home, travel or play, and will be on display at www.wearefuturemakers.com. Entry guidelines are also available there.

“This competition celebrates our students’ unique talents of our students, of which we’re very proud,” said WTCS spokesperson Kyle Schwarm. “This is an exciting opportunity to see our students’ perspectives of the future.”

To learn more about the competition or about Wisconsin’s Technical Colleges, go to www.wearefuturemakers.com.
Career Days successful at WITC campuses

Recently, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College’s Ashland, New Richmond and Superior campuses played host to WITC Career Day 2008.

New Richmond’s event was held on Tuesday, October 28. “It was a great success,” said Jodi Saliny, WITC-New Richmond Admissions Advisor. “We had 468 high school students attend. Each of these visiting high school students attended two hands-on activity sessions. Our feedback from the high school students and their counselors and teachers was wonderful.”

Ashland had 150 students from nine area high school attend its Career Day on Nov. 5.

Superior played host to 350 juniors and seniors from Superior High School Nov. 11 during its WITC Career Day 2008.

Each student was given an individualized schedule that allowed them to sample five program areas. Schedules were created based on students registering for programs that interested them. This style of scheduling provides students an opportunity to discover which career fields they may want to pursue.

WITC instructors and students created 45-minute hands-on sessions for the SHS students to learn about specific aspects of that program.

Superior High students explored a wide variety of careers including accounting, marketing, barber and cosmetology, nursing, machine tool, welding, corrections and more. On campus lunch and entertainment were provided.

This is was fifth year of the collaborative education project between Superior High School and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Superior. The event is part of SHS’s Small Learning Communities.

WITC-Rice Lake holds its Career Day on February 25. Superior will host another event on March 31.
WITC-Rice Lake students help serve community

The WITC-Rice Lake first-year Law Enforcement Program Community Policing class recently organized a food drive, collecting food and cash donations from WITC staff and students, as well as setting up for donations at MarketPlace Foods in Rice Lake. They exceeded their goal of 2,000 items, which were delivered to food banks in Rice Lake, Barron and Chetek.

WITC- Rice Lake
Wood Technics students build duplex

For the sixth year, Wood Technics students of WITC-Rice Lake have the opportunity to build a house from the ground up. This year’s house is a duplex located on Gerland Avenue in Rice Lake. Working to get it framed in before the snow flies, they expect to be finished in April.

The project is generously sponsored by Sunset Construction.
Video technology meets the needs of students

With the growing demands of flexible learning models from our community, WITC is investigating into the implementation of video streaming opportunities for instructional delivery.

Office Technology instructor Amy Pozniak from the Superior campus has been working with Adobe Connect Web Conference system to deliver classroom instruction to students who cannot find the time or resources to travel to the Superior campus for the training.

“I thought the video streaming was great,” said Cheryl Ingalls, an engineering services administrator for the Nexen Group, Inc. “For people like me who live so far away, it’s the next best thing to being there. I truly hope WITC will continue its efforts offering video streaming classes.”

Ingalls is enrolled in Pozniak’s Dreamweaver class that is offered through the Adobe Connect Web Conference application and therefore does not have to make the 100-mile round trip to attend class in person. In fact, Ingalls participates in the class during her work hours at Nexen Group’s Webster Wis., facility.

Streaming video is a sequence of moving images that are sent in compressed form over the Internet and displayed by the viewer as they arrive. Streaming media incorporates video with sound. With streaming video or streaming media, a Web user does not have to wait to download a large file before seeing the video or hearing the sound. Instead, the media is sent in a continuous stream and is played as it arrives. A player can be either an integral part of the browser or downloaded from the software maker’s Web site.

With video streaming and podcasting tools alike, WITC’s faculty will be better prepared to offer the flexible learning options students need to take classes on their own time. Providing flexible learning options is one of the top priorities for WITC as the college continues to be focused on researching the various tools and developing training and implementation plans to help facilitate the growing demands of its customers.

Upcoming Events

**January**

Jan. 6 .................. Open House, Ashland
Jan. 26 .................. College Financial Aid Night, New Richmond
Jan. 26 .................. College Financial Aid Night, Rice Lake

**February**

Career and Technical Education Month
Feb. 1 .................. Futurefest Ideas Competition entries due
Feb. 10 .................. Campus Exploration Day, New Richmond
Feb. 25 .................. Career Day, Rice Lake

College Connect is published monthly for the students, faculty and staff, and friends of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

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