WITC fire training gets ‘Extreme’

Members of WITC’s fire training program took part in burning exercises for the ABC show ‘Extreme Makeover: Home Edition’

from the Superior Fire Department and several other area departments helped Ty Pennington and his team of designers demolish the home of Howie and Jessica Huber in preparation for their new dream house.

Outfitted in the proper gear, the Extreme Makeover team joined the fire fighting exercises for a first-hand perspective.

Don’t miss the Huber family and WITC starring in the season premier of ‘Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,’ Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. on ABC


Above, Ty Pennington, star of ABC’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” videos himself as WITC Fire Training personnel assist during demolition of the Huber home.

On the evening of August 4, six firefighters from WITC’s Firefighting Training Program stepped into smoke, flames and TV cameras.

Working with the production team from ABC’s hit show, “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” WITC joined crews
WITC sees significant increase in enrollment for fall semester

When Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College began its fall classes, the college welcomed an increased number of students to its classrooms.

This enrollment increase can be credited in part to unemployed workers looking for training and students bypassing the time and cost of four-year universities.

Compared to last year, WITC has experienced an increase of 7 percent in the number of students enrolled in credit classes. The college also has a 6 percent increase in non-credit students.

The increase in online and flexible course delivery options is another attribute that is motivating enrollment in technical colleges. These options give students the opportunity to expand skill sets while accommodating busy work schedules.

For prospective students, the ability to obtain a degree in two years or less, as well as graduate with considerably less debt incurred from student loans, technical colleges are quickly becoming the first choice for those pursuing higher education.

New students attended an orientation in August, which included information from Facilities Supervisor Greg Ricci. He talked with students about safety issues, parking and the construction of a new building at the New Richmond campus.

German cultural exchange students to tour WITC campuses

For three weeks this fall, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College will be hosting four students and two instructors from the Franz-Boehme Schule in Frankfurt, Germany, in the first cultural exchange for the college.

“The learning opportunities for WITC students and faculty have already begun even though our guests have not yet arrived,” says Lenore Knock, dean of students at WITC-New Richmond. Knock and Garry Krause, academic dean at WITC-Superior, will serve as the college’s representatives for the German group.

Arriving Sept. 23, the students and instructors will tour WITC’s four campuses, while also visiting area businesses and manufacturing facilities.

“These are business students seeking to experience US businesses and the US educational system,” says Knock.

“WITC students are actively planning their campus’ itinerary, social events and tours. Faculty are including the German visitors in their lesson plans for the days they are on campus. Faculty and staff are opening their homes for these visitors during this time.”

Yet their trip is not all work. Scheduled during their stay are visits to the Mall of America, the Great Lakes Aquarium and the Bayfield Apple Festival. The German guests will even take part in WITC’s Student Leadership Retreat.

“This visit will allow the opportunity to meet technical college students and instructors, experience how we teach and learn, compare and contrast business practices with those in their country, see the beauty of our part of the US, learn about our culture, discover Wisconsin uniqueness,” says Knock.
Survey says ...

Students, now it’s your chance to tell us what you think. Take part in WITC’s Media Preferences Survey from September 21 to October 2 and you’ll be entered into a drawing to win an Apple iPod or equivalent gift certificate to the iTunes Store.

- Go to: www.interactresearch.org/mp68/
- User ID: witc
- Password: student

Participating in this survey will help the college with its future planning. You’ll be asked questions like “what is your favorite radio station,” “what information do you look for in the newspaper,” and “how often do you go to a coffee house/shop.” Participating in this survey will help WITC with its planning. It will take 25-30 minutes to complete the survey and all responses are confidential.

Handing over the keys

Baldwin Area EMS Chief Craig Nelson (left) hands the keys to WITC’s training ambulance to EMS Coordinator and Instructor Greg Carlson. Nelson and the Village of Baldwin donated the ambulance to WITC to give students a hands-on learning experience. The ambulance will eventually be outfitted just like an ambulance in service, including the program’s stretchers. Carlson changed all the emergency lights on this vehicle to amber and the ambulance is clearly identified as a training ambulance to help minimize confusion with active ambulances.

Construction on Rice Lake campus

Work continues on Rice Lake campus student housing. The project, which broke ground in June, is scheduled to be completed December 31. For more photos of the construction, visit http://www.witc.edu/ricelakecontent/pdfs/HousingProjectonWeb.pdf

PR associates to attend conference

Members of WITC’s public relations and marketing department will attend the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations District 3 Conference Sept. 27 to 29 in Madison, Wis.

The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations is the only organization of its kind that represents marketing and PR professionals at community and technical colleges. The conference features numerous workshops and speakers intended to help two-year colleges improve marketing and public relations strategies. The conference also recognized outstanding media through its Medallion Awards, the only regional competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges. Winners are announced each year at the fall district conference.

WITC-Ashland PR Associate Shawnda Schelinder and Wisconsin NCMPR District 3 representative has been instrumental in organizing the Medallion Awards competition.
Thermal imaging camera donated by insurance agency

A thermal imaging camera was donated to Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College by Independent Insurance Agents of Northwest Wisconsin. The TIC will be used in fire training that WITC offers district wide to community fire departments throughout Northwestern Wisconsin.

The Independent Insurance Agents, covering 10 counties, hold a fundraiser golf tournament every August, with funds designated for fire safety. The $7,000 TIC allows firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness or heat-permeable barriers such as walls, enabling them to see the source of the fire or locate victims.

Jack Running, WITC Fire Training Coordinator, said the college now has two TICs and, “the training exercises will enable departments to determine whether it is an equipment investment they should make, or in the case of those departments that have a TIC, the firefighters can advance their skills in using it.”

In addition to the TICs, the college has its own pumper truck, burn simulator trailer, driving simulator and other up-to-date equipment for hands-on firefighting training.

Upcoming Events

October

Oct. 8 ....................... Preview Day, Rice Lake
Oct. 16 ...................... No Classes - Campus Inservice, Superior
Oct. 27 ....................... Fall Career Day, New Richmond
Oct. 29 ....................... Open House, Ladysmith

November

Nov. 4 ....................... Career Day, Ashland
Nov. 4 ....................... Fall Open House, Rice Lake
Nov. 5 ....................... Fall Open House, Hayward
Nov. 10 ..................... Campus Exploration Day, New Richmond
Nov. 10 ..................... Fall Career Day, Superior