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.