WITC looks into the future

Wisconsin’s Technical College students have the opportunity to demonstrate their preparedness for the future in a new, statewide video competition. The Futurefest Ideas Competition provides 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. “This will be an excellent opportunity for us to highlight those abilities and talents.”

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Upcoming Events

January
Jan. 26 ....................... Financial Aid Night, Rice Lake and New Richmond

February
February is Career and Technical Education month
Feb. 4 .......................... Counselor & Educator Inservice, New Richmond
Feb. 10 .......................... Campus Exploration Day, New Richmond
Feb. 25 .......................... Career Day, Rice Lake

March
March 4 ......................... Skills Competition, Ashland
March 10 ........................ Campus Exploration Day, New Richmond
March 31 ........................ Career Day, Superior

April
April 15 ......................... Bridges To Success Open House, Rice Lake
April 16 ......................... Spring Open House, New Richmond
April 24 ......................... Spring Counselor Workshop, Hayward

May
May 7 .......................... Campus Exploration Day, New Richmond

June
June 22-25 ...................... Facilitating the Future, Rice Lake

July
July 9 ......................... Summer Open House, New Richmond
July 20-23 ...................... Facilitating the Future, Rice Lake

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800.243.9482 TTY: 888.261.8578 witc.edu
Career Days successful at WITC campuses

Rice Lake will hold its Career Day February 25
On March 31 Superior will host a second event

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 WITC-New Richmond Admissions Advisor Jodi Saliny. “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 schools 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 programs 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 School 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 Superior’s Small Learning Communities.
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,” says Cheryl Ingalls, an engineering services administrator for the Nexen Group, Inc. “For people like me who live so far away, it is 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. The user needs a player, which is a special program that uncompresses and sends video data to the display, and audio data to the speakers. 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.

Financial Aid Night held Jan. 26

What is financial aid? Who is eligible? How do I apply? These questions and more will be answered at WITC’s Financial Aid Night Jan. 26 at both the New Richmond and Rice Lake campuses.

At both locations, the Parent Program and Campus Tours take place at 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The Financial Aid Presentation runs from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call 800.243.9482.

WITC-Ashland to host skills contest

Each year, more than 100 high school students put their business skills and knowledge to the test at WITC-Ashland’s Skills Competition.

The event is sponsored by the business and general education departments and is slated for March 4. The competition features more than a dozen different contests including business software, technical and oral presentation skills and more.

WITC-Ashland will be contacting area high school business departments in January. More details are available at www.witc.edu/ashland.
The Youth Options program allows all public high school juniors and seniors, who meet certain requirements, to take postsecondary courses at a Wisconsin technical college or institution of higher education. An institution of higher education (IHE) includes UW System institutions, tribally controlled colleges, and private, nonprofit institutions. The application deadline is March 1 for fall 2009 classes.

The program opens the door to greater learning opportunities for students who are considering a technical career, wishing to begin college early, wanting to prepare to enter the workforce immediately after high school graduation.

Online and Other Learning Options
WITC offers a variety of learning options for youth options students who seek an alternative to learning in the traditional classroom setting. Explore the WITC Web site at www.witc.edu/academics/online/index.htm to learn more about learning opportunities.

Online Instruction
Courses are available in a virtual environment where students can access class assignments, participate in online discussions with classmates, meet virtually with an instructor, and get feedback on performance.

Interactive TV/Internet Protocol Video
Students can access ITV/IPV classroom courses at a variety of sites including WITC campuses and branches, high schools and other sites that are a part of WITC’s network. Students from multiple locations interact with each other and the instructor via video and audio. This allows an option similar to a traditional classroom, while reducing the time of traveling to the campus for the course.

Flex Lab
Flex Labs provide an alternative to the traditional classroom offering a variety of courses that enable the self-motivated, self disciplined individual to acquire knowledge and skills leading to job advancement, college credit and personal enrichment.

The Flex Lab gives the opportunity to learn at an individual pace. Familiar material can be reviewed quickly, allowing students to focus on new topics. Students are not required to attend lectures on materials they may already know or risk being left behind on more advanced topics. An instructor is available to help students on an individual basis when problems or questions arise.
Getting in the act

High school seniors need to complete admissions requirements now to ensure a place at WITC for Fall 2009

With the rush of the holiday season, some high school seniors may have forgotten to consider future options. At Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, the time for seniors to complete admissions requirements to ensure a place for fall 2009 is quickly running out. High demand has some programs filling quickly.

High School students can call WITC Admission Advisors to explore program choices. Shadowing opportunities and campus tours are also available.

WITC has a one-stop process for admissions, which allows students to complete the application process in one visit. First, the student will schedule an appointment to take an assessment.

Following the assessment, the student will meet with a counselor to review program choices and assessment scores.

For this visit, students should bring the printed application and $30 non-refundable admission fee to the WITC campus. Payment may be made by check, money order, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover). Cash is accepted when applying in person.

Students are encouraged to bring high school transcripts. WITC uses the outcomes to measure the student’s skill level and to help place the student in courses and programs.

Some programs will have additional entrance requirements. Those requirements will be discussed with a counselor during the student’s scheduled interview time.

A printable form may be downloaded from www.witc.edu/admissions/pdfs/WTCsapp.pdf and is available at the WITC campus. High school counselors may also obtain printed copies for distribution.

For more information about the admissions process, please call 800.243.9482 to contact a campus admissions advisor.

Career Impact online

The latest issue of Career Impact magazine is available online. Follow this link to find out what career options await WITC graduates.
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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 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.”

The Futuremakers campaign will show how faculty and staff are the foundation on which the future is built and how much they foster potential.

To learn more about the competition, go to www.witc.edu/wearefuturemakers.

Judicial Reporting program added

In cooperation with Lakeshore Technical College, WITC has added a two-year associate degree Judicial Reporting program to its Fall 2009 catalog. This program is available at the New Richmond campus and is approved by the National Court Reporters Association.

Many people have seen high-profile trials with a person keying the testimony into a stenograph machine or read the scrolling captions for the hearing impaired on a TV screen. The person recording the spoken words at speeds ranging from 180 to 225 words a minute is a judicial reporter. If a person is an excellent listener, enjoys keyboarding, has strong language and communication skills, and is committed to accuracy and confidentiality, a career in judicial reporting may be a perfect fit.

A student enrolled in WITC’s judicial reporting program will attend live, interactive TV classes sent from Lakeshore Technical College to WITC. The student will also take general studies classes and labs at WITC-New Richmond.

Judicial reporters are in demand throughout Wisconsin and the country. Judicial reporters don’t just work in the courtroom; there are also alternative careers as captioning experts, rapid data operators, or as reporters capturing teacher lessons in classrooms for the benefit of hearing-impaired students.

High School Relations Report now available

A primary emphasis for WITC is to meet the changing needs of its students, employers and communities.

One way of accomplishing this important goal is through partnerships with the K - 12 schools in WITC’s region that result in seamless transitions to postsecondary education and career path options. This is highlighted in WITC’s High School Relations Report, which will be mailed out to all the high schools in WITC’s district in the upcoming weeks.

“We’re excited to present information that highlights the opportunities available to K - 12 staff and students,” said Barb Landstrom, Director of Assessment and Tech Prep at WITC.