Agreement will benefit students in Early Childhood Education

A transfer articulation agreement initiated by Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Superior has resulted in the official signing of a transfer articulation agreement between UW-Superior and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) on April 6th.

This articulation agreement will provide an “educational bridge” for students who obtained an Early Childhood associate degree from a college in the WTCS to transfer credits into the UW-Superior system.

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Upcoming Events

April
April 16 ....................... Spring Open House, New Richmond
April 21 ....................... Spring Open House, Ashland
April 22 ....................... Spring Open House, Superior
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
Updates have been made to WITC’s 2009-10 offerings with many new or expanded programs and certificates. The catalog is also available online at: www.witc.edu/publications/index.htm.

**Judicial Reporting 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.

**New Online Programs**

Also new for fall 09-10, Accounting and Marketing will join Information Technology - Web Analyst/Programmer as being offered totally online.

Accounting Assistant is also available online.

EMT – Paramedic, a one-year technical diploma will be offered collegewide.

**Marine Repair Technician program** has been changed from two year to three semester.

The Telecommunication Technician program has been modified to match the first-year curriculum of Telecommunication Technologies. This program changed from a two-year associate degree program to a two-year technical diploma program.

**Professional Inclusion Credential (Wisconsin) certificate** is new and will be offered collegewide.

A **Renewable Electricity certificate** is has also been recently added at Ashland. Other changes include:

- **Early Childhood Education** – reinstated at Ashland as a collaborative evening offering with Superior
- **Dietary Manager** – reinstated collegewide
- **Medical Claims Examiner/Billing Specialist certificate** – added at Ashland
- **Business Graphics certificate** – added at Ashland
- **Barber/Cosmetologist Instructor certificate** – new at Rice Lake and Superior
- **Auto Specialty Apprenticeship** (two-year apprenticeship with L’Cars)
- **Cabinetmaking Apprenticeship** (two-year apprenticeship in partnership with LCO, classroom instruction at LCO and apprenticeship work hours at Chippewa Wood Crafters)

The new catalog arrived March 12
Time’s running out

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

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 and ask to speak with 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.
Scholarship provides opportunity for high-demand trade

Despite hard economic times in some trades, the machine tool industry is projected to grow in the region, offering high-paying jobs to skilled workers. The problem? There simply aren’t enough qualified individuals to fill the positions.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College’s machine tool operation program has the training required for many of the open positions in the region, and now C.G. Bretting Manufacturing has stepped up to help prospective students make education a reality.

“We’ve received a $10,500 endowed scholarship for high school students entering the machine tool operation program,” says Deb Ellefson, college advancement associate at WITC-Ashland. “That means we’ll be able to award a $500 scholarship this spring for a student starting in fall. It is extremely rewarding to receive this gift from Bretting Manufacturing during a time when students need financial support more than ever before.”

The $500 scholarship is primarily aimed at high school students in the region. Applications are available online and at high schools in the region.

The need for a scholarship was identified through the program’s advisory committee, according to MTO instructor Paul Kalin.

“We wanted to be able to express the need for good machinists in the area – Bretting Manufacturing is definitely willing to do that,” Kalin says. “It’s a nice thing for parents and students to hear there’s a company that’s willing to support education.”

Kalin is quick to point out that many of the businesses represented on the advisory committee are also generous, from donating used equipment to materials to their time. In fact, the advisory committee offers guidance regarding the curriculum of the program and helps Kalin identify equipment needs, including the recent purchase of a Haas VF1 Vertical machining center.

“We train our students to use the same equipment they’ll be using out in the workforce. Our advisory committee helps to make sure our students are fully prepared for the workforce once they graduate,” Kalin said.

The MTO program is one of a handful of WITC programs that can boost a 100 percent placement rate for graduates. In fact, three of Kalin’s current students already have jobs lined up for spring.

“That simply highlights the need for workers in this region,” Kalin says. “Employers are trying to scoop up the highest qualified students before they even get their diploma.”

Machine Tool Operation Instructor Paul Kalin (far left) says his program has a 100 percent placement rate for the last four years. Kalin’s current students include Robert Mattson, Cody Marincel, Tyler Krone, Chase Turner and Tim Roguski.
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WITC Divisional Dean, Family and Consumer Services, Laura Wassenaar explains, “The WTCS Early Childhood associate degree curriculum meets the essential requirements for the UWS Early Childhood minor and may also meet other requirements needed to earn a BS in Elementary Education.”

This agreement will benefit any student who graduates from the Early Childhood Education program in the Wisconsin Technical College System who chooses to build on their associate degree by pursuing an Elementary Education major / Early Childhood minor at UWS.

This articulation agreement comes after many years of effort by both colleges to enter into a partnership that would benefit ECE students.

At the official signing of the articulation agreement attended by representatives from UWS and WITC, Dr. Christopher Markwood, provost and vice chancellor of UWS stated, “This agreement is really about students. It’s a big step for our students, your students and all the students in the community.”

WITC President Dr. Bob Meyer sees this partnership as a way the two colleges can foster an ongoing relationship that will benefit the community.

“I’d like to thank all the faculty and staff involved in this process,” Meyer said. “This agreement is a milestone in our relationship with UW-Superior. I hope we will have many more to come. This agreement is good for the citizens of our community.” Dr. Julius Erlenbach, UWS chancellor, echoed these sentiments adding, “I’m delighted this agreement is making our relationship stronger.”

WITC’s Early Childhood Education program is offered at all four campuses. As an accelerated program, daytime students at New Richmond and Superior may be able to complete the degree in one calendar year. An evening cohort option is available at New Richmond and Rice Lake so students can complete the program in two years with classes one to two nights a week and occasional Saturdays. For more information, visit www.witc.edu/pgmpages/earlychild/index.htm

Career Day successful at WITC-Rice Lake

WITC- Rice Lake recently held a special 8th Grade Career Day. The event provided career exploration for hundreds of students from across northwest Wisconsin. The morning session involved more than 600 students from 12 schools, the afternoon session hosted more than 250 students from five schools.

“Every high school counselor I spoke with told me how valuable they believe our Career Day is, which helps to explain why it gets better every year,” says Craig Fowler, vice president, continuing education/executive director, foundation, and Rice Lake campus administrator.

Participating schools or homeschooled families had the choice of attending three program orientations, either in the morning session from 10 a.m. to noon, or the afternoon session from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The day featured more than 35 speakers, experts in their fields, who provided overviews of their career clusters.

“This has been the third year that WITC has hosted this event and look forward to continuing it,” says Christy Roshell, a career specialist at WITC. “We hope that by students attending, they not only get a better idea of some potential careers they can enter, but also what they need in high school to prepare for these areas.”

Presenters are asked to talk about how they became interested in their field, their education, as well as what can be expected while employed in the field. The presentations included careers in agriculture, architecture, arts, information technology, law, manufacturing, science, technology, transportation and many others.
Meet WITC’s 2009 Student Ambassadors

Hattie Bollom, Leslie Borchers, Aaron Martineau and Sarah Miller have been named WITC’s 2009 Student Ambassadors.

“The Ambassador program is an excellent way for the college to recognize some of our most highly motivated students, such as these four individuals,” says Craig Fowler, vice president, continuing education/executive director, foundation and campus administrator. “The program also allows the students to develop their leadership skills while they represent WITC in our communities.”

Hattie Bollom
Architecture and Commercial Design
and Accounting
Rice Lake

After attending a four-year college for a year, “it just did not feel like the right fit for me,” Bollom says. She decided that architecture, which “combines both logic and art,” was what she had a passion for.

Leslie Borchers
Medical Administrative Specialist
Ashland

“I chose a technical college because of the learning environment,” Borchers says. “The staff at WITC-Ashland is student-success oriented and is motivated in helping students realize their full potential.”

Aaron Martineau
Accounting and Finance
Superior

Aaron Martineau realized that without an education, he wasn’t going to have the life he wanted. With hard work and dedication, Martineau will soon graduate with two degrees earned in two years.

Sarah Miller
Criminal Justice
New Richmond

“I wanted to go to WITC because I heard how intimate of a place it is,” Miller says. “When you go to WITC you form lifelong bonds with people.”

More than 20 years ago, the Wisconsin Technical College System started the Ambassador program, a unique initiative that recognizes outstanding student achievement.
Congratulations to Futuremaker from WITC-Ashland

With a touch of humor and plenty of facts and statistics, Renee Danczyk has set herself apart from the competition.

Danczyk was recently chosen as a semifinalist in a state-wide video competition, Futurefest, sponsored by the Wisconsin Technical College System. Five videos were submitted from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College students. A panel of judges at WITC determined the semifinalist who will compete statewide for one of three cash prizes. Finalists were announced in late March.

The Futurefest contest asked students to present their vision for the future. Danczyk, a first-year student in WITC’s associate degree nursing (ADN) program, wanted her video to highlight the need for skilled nurses, as well as the opportunities in the field. “In the area of nursing, it’s pretty open field as far as where you can go and job opportunities,” Danczyk said. “I also wanted to let people know what they need to be employable, and that’s where WITC comes in.”

Danczyk said she worked closely with her instructor Jill Sauld on the concept of the video and the script. Danczyk’s video opens with a patient calling for a nurse and fades to a skeleton holding a sign that indicates the extent of his illness. Danczyk wanted to use that bit of humor to demonstrate the lack of nurses in the workforce and the impact it has on patient care. Her video went on to share statistics regarding the need for nurses and the different opportunities available.

The WITC panel of judges was impressed with Danczyk’s ability to convey her message. One judge commented, “This video was very well done. Great information, well-paced and filmed nicely.”

Danczyk, who is not competitive by nature, was surprised to learn she was WITC’s semifinalist. She said the experience was fun and a chance to be creative, as well as learn new skills. Danczyk is on track to graduate from the ADN program in May 2010. She plans to continue her education to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degrees and would eventually like to work in a geriatric-care setting.

View Danczyk’s vision of the future at www.wearefuturemakers.com/futurefest/entry/id/69

These WITC students also submitted videos for the competition: Jordan Kuschel, Aaron Pablo, Nick Segner, Mitch Frederick and Jesse Nellis. Those videos are available at www.wearefuturemakers.com/futurefest/gallery?sort=WITC
Rice Lake students provide hurricane relief

Eighteen students traveled to the Houston, Texas, area to volunteer their services in the continued clean-up following Hurricane Ike.

While most students spent winter break relaxing with family and friends, 18 students from the WITC-Rice Lake campus took part in a trip to the Galveston, Texas, area, to volunteer their services in the continued clean-up following Hurricane Ike. A Galveston church group, CORE Alliance (Christians Organized for Relief Efforts) provided the arrangements for food, shelter and work schedule for their stay.

Six WITC staff members accompanied the students on the trip. Together, the group assisted in the demolition and reconstruction of homes and property damaged during the storm this past September.

Mike Robert and Justin Candler use torn-out carpet to haul debris from a house. One of the challenges students faced was finding efficient ways of getting the torn out debris to a pile on the street curb. The students became creative in their solutions and used whatever materials were at hand.

“Looking back, it was a great experience,” says Deb Kutrieb, architectural commercial design instructor. “Personally, it felt good to be helping others and to be creating an opportunity for students to do the same.”

The students, members of the Architectural Commercial Design, Mason and Bricklaying, Accounting, and Medical Administrative Specialist programs at WITC-Rice Lake, were able to take in a few of the tourist attractions the Houston area has to offer, like the Houston Space Center and trips to the beach, but such leisure activities were overshadowed by five days of hard work.

An image to the mess Hurricane Ike left behind. This kitchen had been abandoned for four months. It was the group’s job to remove all items from the home, take down drywall and then bleach the studs, exterior walls and floors twice.

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Dani Duetsch stands in front of a huge debris pile created on the first day working. The pile includes everything from the house: clothing, carpet, furniture, dishes, cabinets, drywall and more. This house had not yet been emptied, so the student's task was to completely muck out things that have been flooded four months prior. "The smell cleaning out the house was horrible," Kutrieb says. "Think of a fully stocked refrigerator that has been doused in storm surge water and left open for four months."

After mucking is completed, the next step for the home is sanitizing. The group had to bleach the studs, exterior walls and floors. Twice. The first time, the bleach is mixed 1:3 with water and little dishwashing soap. During the first bleach, one person has the sprayer and another person scrubs. The second time, the bleach is mixed 1:1 with water, no soap, and no scrubbing. The odor of this job is intense and the group took a lot of breaks to breathe and to stop their eyes from stinging. "This was a really smelly job," Kutrieb says. "You could only be in the building for about five minutes before you started coughing and your eyes started watering."

Even in homes that had been previously emptied, the group found they still had work to do. The group had to pull off chunks of drywall that were left on walls, remove bathroom tile, not to mention...
Above, students and staff from the WITC-Rice Lake pause for a group photo during their clean-up work following Hurricane Ike. A Galveston church group, CORE Alliance (Christians Organized for Relief Efforts) provided the arrangements for food, shelter and work schedule for their stay.

Brandon Bush sprays a bleach mixture to sanitize a house that has been mucked out. During the first round of sanitizing, one person sprays a bleach mixture on all exposed studs, exterior walls and floors. Another person follows with a scrub brush to make sure the bleach is spread. During the second round, all the materials are sprayed again with a stronger mixture and no scrubbing takes place.

taring up five layers of flooring from a kitchen. The layers were removed in order: sheet vinyl, plywood, vinyl tile, plywood, another layer of semi-ceramic tile, and finally a hardwood floor. The group also removed door trim, shiplap, and then sanitized the home.

Another group assisted an elderly man by cleaning up his yard -- with a word to be cautious of snakes. When putting the debris on the side of the road (as requested by CORE and authorized by the City of Galveston), they were accosted by not just one, but two different people complaining about the location of their pile, one of which was a man in a Lexus who wanted the debris away from the sign for his new development. Another person was concerned about the debris pile because they wanted the waterlife in the ditch to be safe.

Despite the numerous difficulties of the trip, members of the group have no second thoughts.

“T'do it again next year in a heart-beat,” Kutrieb says. “I think this could be the beginning of having students do more of this type of volunteer work in our area, regionally and nationwide. The trick is finding funding to be able to do this on an annual basis.”