WITC sees significant increase in enrollment

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 noncredit 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.

Upcoming Events

September

Sept. 29 ............................ Counselor to Counselor, Rice Lake

October

Oct. 8 ................................. Preview Day, Rice Lake
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
WITC fire training program gets ‘Extreme’

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

On the evening of August 4, six fire fighters 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 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” records himself as WITC Fire Training personnel assist during demolition of the Huber home.

WITC’s fire truck awaits its call into action for a mock burn exercise during demolition of the Huber home.
Forward thinking

High school seniors need to complete admissions requirements now to ensure a place at WITC for 2010

While many high school seniors have just gotten into the flow of the school year, now is the time to consider future options. High demand has some programs filling quickly. High school seniors may apply after October 1.

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. This may be excused if the student has taken the ACT exam.

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 assessment 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.

Applying for a scholarship can help ease the cost of college

Scholarships are an excellent way to secure additional funding for college-related expenses. WITC-bound students can reduce education costs by applying for scholarships from the WITC Foundation or other organizations.

**WITC Foundation Scholarships**

The WITC Foundation awards more than $100,000 to students each year. Scholarships are awarded to students who have the initiative, desire and potential to succeed, and are not limited to students with financial need. Students can apply for all WITC Foundation scholarships using one application. Application deadlines are November 1 and April 1 of each year. Each WITC campus has scholarships that are open to students in any program.

For more information on how scholarships can help students achieve education and career goals, visit www.witc.edu/finance/scholarships.htm
Youth Options program available for high school students

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 October 1 for spring 2010 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.

Forms
A program plan and report form (PI-8700A) used to notify the school board of a student's intent to participate in the program may be obtained from your school district, DPI, or DPI's Web site:

Application forms for admission to a postsecondary institution may be obtained from your school district or the postsecondary institution.

WITC’s Admissions Advisors are your local contacts for any questions you may have about Youth Options.

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.
Personal Care Worker program can be the first step toward working in a health care setting

Upon successful completion of the Personal Care Worker (PCW) program individuals will be eligible to work in a health care setting as an entry-level care provider. Applicants must be at least 16 years old to enter the PCW program.

The PCW program is a one technical diploma credit course from which the graduate receives a certificate from WITC. Individuals will not be eligible for licensing or certification from external agencies through completion of this program. The PCW course is a combination of an independent study coupled with a final 8-hour lab session with the course instructor. The independent study portion of the course is directed through a series of eight learning plans (approximately seven hours/learning plan) that carefully details learning activities to help you learn the course content. Upon completion of the learning activities you will contact the campus contact to schedule an 8-hour lab session that concludes with skills competency testing and the final written exam.

The lab sessions are held on Saturdays and scheduled at the various WITC campuses throughout the district (Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake, Superior, Hayward, Ladysmith).

**Functional Abilities**

There are defined functional abilities that are necessary to be able to perform the job duties of a PCW. WITC will make accommodations as described on the “Functional Ability Criteria for the WITC Personal Care Worker Program” form for those students with identified disabilities by working with the campus Disabilities Specialist. If a student is in need of accommodations, please notify the campus Disabilities Specialist listed in the information provided in this packet of information.

**Wisconsin Caregiver Background Checks**

All health care agencies require background checks for their employees. Agencies may differ somewhat in what background check findings they will accept, but students should be advised that if they have any history of charges/convictions it may impact their potential to be hired. Regardless of a student’s background, the WITC PCW program is available to complete.

For questions or additional information regarding the WITC Personal Care Worker program, please contact the WITC Student Services Assistant at the campus you would like to attend at 800.243.9482

- Ashland: Denise Lindstrom, ext. 3182
- New Richmond: Jolene Peskar, ext. 4230
- Rice Lake; Hayward and Ladysmith Branch Campuses: Jennifer Ruid, ext. 5220
- Superior: Amanda Hellman, ext. 6271
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 www.witc.edu/ricelakecontent/pdfs/HousingProjectonWeb.pdf