

WITC Ranked Among the Top Two-Year Colleges in the Nation

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College stands with the top two-year colleges in America. In a recent study published in "Washington Monthly," WITC ranked seventh among two-year colleges nationwide.

Kevin Carey, a research and policy manager at Education Sector, an independent, nonpartisan think tank, compiled the results for Washington Monthly. Carey said the study was designed to identify community/technical colleges that excel in using teaching methods that researchers have linked to increased student achievement and identify colleges that are successful in helping students earn degrees.

Washington Monthly's community/technical college rankings are the first of their kind. Their ranking methodology relied on the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and graduation rate statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Education.

For WITC, 93 percent of last year's graduates were employed within six months of graduating. Based on results of the college's six-month Graduate Follow-Up Survey, 76 percent of all graduates are working in Wisconsin and 64 percent are working in the WITC district.

"That is one of our strengths," said Chuck Levine, WITC President. "Our graduates get jobs, and they stay and work in Wisconsin."

CCSSE data was compiled into five categories, which have been found to have a positive impact on student success, according to Carey. Those benchmarks are Active and Collaborative Learning, Student Effort, Academic Challenge, Student-Faculty Interaction, and Support for Learners. Carey's research based 85 percent of the college ratings on these CCSSE benchmarks. Federal graduation rates accounted for 15 percent.

WITC's highest CCSSE scores were reflected in the "Active and Collaborative Learning" category. The WITC benchmark for "Student-Faculty Interaction" was also high. This illustrated that the more interaction students have with their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively and achieve their goals.

"The high rating reflected in student-faculty interaction and active and collaborative learning shows the quality of instruction and the commitment that WITC's faculty have to their students," said Dr. Diane Vertin, Vice President, Academic Affairs, and Campus Administrator at WITC-Superior. "This is not a surprise — we have always known that faculty members are very student centered and committed to learning."

Jennifer Kunselman, Research and Planning Coordinator, said the study supports WITC's student satisfaction surveys regarding the learning environment. Ninety-seven percent of the graduates are satisfied with the training they received at WITC.

While many high school counselors and parents turn to "U.S. News & World Report" when it comes to choosing a four-year college, Carey is hopeful the "Washington Monthly" ratings will raise awareness of the quality of our nation's two-year colleges.

As the rankings and WITC's own graduates indicate, great teaching is happening in our communities at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.



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