Board Organization/History

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- Purposes and Strategic Directions
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- College Board Membership (1983-2007)
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MISSION, VISION, and VALUES STATEMENTS

Mission

Learning First
Learning is our passion. As Northwest Wisconsin’s leader in technical education, WITC creates dynamic opportunities for career preparation and personal effectiveness. We are committed to making each and every experience with us meaningful and professional.

Vision

An Innovative Journey
Education is a lifelong journey of learning and discovery. We embrace innovative theories, techniques, and technologies to ensure success in a changing world.

Values

Empowerment – We value an engaging and supportive environment that inspires learners to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Excellence – We value high quality training, professional development, and customer service in a dynamic learning environment.

Innovation – We value flexible delivery options and embrace the latest theories and technologies to meet individual learners’ needs.

Integrity – We value honesty, accountability, and diversity in an open and ethical environment.

Collaboration – We value partnerships that enhance learning, promote economic development, and improve quality of life.
PURPOSES

As an accredited public postsecondary educational institution serving Northwest Wisconsin, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College is committed to achieving our mission of “Learning First” by:

- Providing **comprehensive programming** to include certificates, diplomas and associate degrees in occupational fields.
- Providing supportive **general education** courses to empower learners to become active and productive members of society.
- Providing **support services** to assist learners in achieving occupational, educational, and personal enrichment goals.
- Providing **basic education** to prepare learners for successful transition into employment or postsecondary programs.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

To accomplish these purposes, the WITC Board of Trustees has adopted the following strategic directions for special emphasis.

**Assessment** – Assessment results and strategies are used to continuously improve learning, our processes and the effectiveness of all staff in meeting our goals.

**Technology** – WITC learners experience expanded access to services, learning resources and college information; and enhanced ability to conduct college business through the use of information technology.

**High School Relationships** – District learners experience a seamless transition from K-12 schools to pre- and post-secondary education.

**Partnerships with Business and Industry** – Training needs are met for employers and employees.

**Student Success** – Learners achieve success in meeting lifelong learning goals and developing core abilities as a result of the implementation of the tenets of the Learning College.

**Operational Effectiveness** – Operational effectiveness and responsiveness to changing customer needs are enhanced through implementation of continuous improvement strategies.

**Diversity** – All people feel respected, valued, and safe within the WITC learning and working environment.
WITC TENETS

WITC is on an innovative journey to enhance and promote our mission of “Learning First.” The college will apply these Learning College Tenets to continuously improve our programming and services.

Quality and continuous improvement are expected in all aspects of the college
Quality and continuous improvement in people, processes, services, initiatives, and projects are valued, encouraged, assessed, and expected throughout the college.

Learning environments are created and nurtured to maximize personal success
Learning environments, including atmosphere, modes of delivery, and physical spaces for students and staff, will be created and nurtured to support personal growth and success.

Decision-making is collaborative and research based
Research, dialogue, and formal and informal consultations will be the basis for major decisions at all levels of the college.

Leadership is based on talent and vision
Individuals will be sought out to provide leadership based on their individual talents, abilities, and understanding of WITC's future directions rather than their position in the organization.

All individuals are valued
All individuals (staff, students, and community members) are valuable to the vitality of WITC. The talents of each are considered necessary for the college to fulfill its mission and aspire towards its vision.

Students and staff are both teachers and learners
In WITC's collaborative learning environment, each individual is expected to be both a learner and a teacher. This belief enhances and expands the learning potential of everyone involved with the college.

Diversity is respected and embraced
Diversity implies being open to new and different ideas. It also implies respect for and appreciation of all staff, students and members of the community. Diversity is embraced at WITC as a means of enriching relationships and enhancing collaboration.

Dialogue takes place in a safe, open, and empathetic environment
Since dialogue is used in a Learning College to make critical decisions and create shared understanding, it is imperative that individuals feel the environment is non-threatening and their contributions are welcome.

Risk-taking is encouraged
As WITC’s Learning College evolves, individuals and groups are encouraged to think out-of-the-box. Mistakes are O.K. - even expected -when trying new ideas.
1983-1984
John Kmosena, Chairman
Ray Somerville, Vice-Chairman
Leah Rigler, Secretary
Ted Johnson, Treasurer
Donald Pearson
Doris Kuefler
Raymond Conley
Dianne Madison
Leonard Splitt

1984-1985
John Kmosena, Chairman
Ted Johnson, Vice-Chairman
Leah Rigler, Secretary
Doris Kuefler, Treasurer
Joyce Benson
Josephine McGowan
Ray Somerville
Leonard Splitt
Dianne Madison

1985-1986
Ted Johnson, Chairman
John Kmosena, Vice-Chairman
Dianne Madison, Secretary
Doris Kuefler, Treasurer
Deborah Streuli
Joyce Benson
Leonard Splitt
Wallace Lindholm

1986-1987
Ted Johnson, Chairman
John Kmosena, Vice-Chairman
Joyce Benson, Secretary
Doris Keufler, Treasurer
Myra Harvey
Lorraine Laberee
Richard Arnold
Wallace Lindholm
Deborah Streuli

1987-1988
John Kmosena, Chairman
Ted Johnson, Vice-Chairman
Deborah Streuli, Secretary
Wallace Lindholm, Treasurer
Myra Harvey
Lorraine Laberee
Richard Arnold
Craig Barness
Doris Keufler

1988-1989
John Kmosena, Chairperson
Deborah Streuli, Vice-Chairperson
Lorraine Laberee, Secretary
Craig J. Barness, Treasurer
Ted Johnson
Doris Kuefler
Therese Hooper
Robert Finsland
Fred Schlichting

1989-1990
Deborah Streuli, Chairperson
John Kmosena, Vice Chairperson
Lorraine Laberee, Secretary
Fred Schlichting, Treasurer
Wayne Brenholt
Ted Johnson
Doris Keufler
Therese Hooper
Robert Finsland

1990-1991
Deborah Streuli, Chairperson
John Kmosena, Vice Chairperson
Lorraine Laberee, Secretary
Fred Schlichting, Treasurer
Loren Olson
Doris Keufler
Therese Hooper
Robert Finsland
Wayne Brenholt

1991-1992
Therese M. Hooper, Chairperson
John Kmosena, Vice Chairperson
Robert P. Finsland, Secretary
Lorraine C. Laberee, Treasurer
Deborah L. Streuli
Loren B. Olson
Donald V. Swedberg
Stuart A. Nelson
Ray H. Smith

1992-1993
Therese M. Hooper, Chairperson
Deborah L. Streuli, Vice Chairperson
Robert P. Finsland, Secretary
Lorraine C. Laberee, Treasurer
John Kmosena
Ray H. Smith
Loren B. Olson
Stuart A. Nelson
Donald V. Swedberg
1993-1994
Deborah L. Streuli, Chairperson
Donald V. Swedberg, Vice Chairperson
Stuart A. Nelson, Secretary
Loren (Bud) Olson, Treasurer
Robert P. Finsland
Therese M. Hooper
Lorraine C. Laberee
John Kmoseena
Ray H. Smith

1994-1995
Deborah L. Streuli, Chairperson
Donald V. Swedberg, Vice Chairperson
Stuart A. Nelson, Secretary
Loren (Bud) Olson, Treasurer
William J. Norman
Therese M. Hooper
Lorraine C. Laberee
John Kmoseena
Bruce Anderson

1995-1996
Donald V. Swedberg, Chairperson
Deborah L. Streuli, Vice Chairperson
Lorraine C. Laberee, Secretary
Thomas Martell, Treasurer
Stuart A. Nelson
Loren (Bud) Olson
Nannette W. Sauter
James Schultz
Mike Williams

1996-1997
Donald V. Swedberg, Chairperson
Deborah L. Streuli, Vice Chairperson
Lorraine C. Laberee, Secretary
Michael Williams, Treasurer
James Schultz
Nannette W. Sauter
Stuart A. Nelson
Thomas W. Martell

1997-1998
Lorraine C. Laberee, Chairperson
Thomas W. Martell, Vice Chairperson
Deborah L. Streuli, Secretary
Patrick Finn, Treasurer
Donald V. Swedberg
Maurice Veilleux
James Schultz
Nannette Sauter
David Logghe

1998-1999
Lorraine C. Laberee, Chairperson
Thomas W. Martell, Vice Chairperson
Linda Culligan Bruce, Secretary
Patrick Finn, Treasurer
Donald V. Swedberg
Maurice Veilleux
James Schultz
Susan Wojtkiewicz
David Logghe

1999-2000
Maurice Veilleux, Chairperson
David Logghe, Vice Chairperson
Linda Culligan Bruce, Secretary
Susan Wojtkiewicz, Treasurer
James Beistle
Lorraine C. Laberee
Thomas Martell
Arlene Mizerka
James Schultz

2000-2001
David Logghe, Chairperson
Susan Wojtkiewicz, Vice Chairperson
Linda Culligan Bruce, Secretary
James Beistle, Treasurer
Ron Bernth
Lorraine C. Laberee
Harold Helwig
James Schultz
James Larson

2001-2002
David Logghe, Chairperson
Susan Wojtkiewicz, Vice Chairperson
Linda Culligan Bruce, Secretary
James Beistle, Treasurer
Ron Bernth
Lorraine C. Laberee
Harold Helwig
James Schultz
James Larson

2002-2003
Susan Wojtkiewicz, Chairperson
Linda Culligan Bruce, Vice Chairperson
James Beistle, Secretary
James Schultz, Treasurer
Ron Bernth
Harold Helwig
Lorraine C. Laberee
James Larson
David Logghe
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<td>Mr. Sam Lavine</td>
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<td>Acting President</td>
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<td>Mr. Charles Levine</td>
<td>Interim President</td>
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CHRONOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF WITC

1972 Districts 17 and 18 were merged. Wisconsin Indianhead VTAE District is formed with Dr. James Covey named as District Director.

1973 District Office facilities in Shell Lake were completed.

1974 District is granted candidacy for accreditation by North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

1975 Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at Ashland, New Richmond, and Rice Lake.

1976 Groundbreaking ceremony was held at Superior.

1978 Daniel Wagner was named District Director.

1979 Accreditation by North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools was received.

1980 Tourism Center at WITI-Ashland was dedicated.

1981 Rice Lake campus addition was completed.

1982 Shell Lake Administrative Offices addition was completed. New Richmond facility was remodeled.

1983 Ten-year accreditation from NCA was granted.

1984 David Hildebrand was named President.

1986 WITI Building Opportunities Campaign for New Richmond was initiated.

1987 Superior’s 75th Anniversary was celebrated. New Richmond’s Conference Center was constructed.

1988 Institution’s name changed to Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC). Ashland’s capital campaign was initiated. Commitment was made to establish a distance learning network.

1989 Rice Lake’s capital campaign was initiated.

1990 Additions to Shell Lake Administrative Office and Rice Lake were completed.
1991  Rice Lake's 50th anniversary was celebrated.

1992  Organization was restructured. ITFS began operation. Conference centers at Rice Lake and Superior were constructed.

1993  New Richmond's 25th Anniversary was celebrated. Fiber optic network was inaugurated. Addition and remodeling program at New Richmond was started. Major Tech Prep initiative with high school districts was inaugurated. Enrollment management was fully implemented at all four campuses.

1994  System name change - All vocational districts now called technical college districts and are part of the Wisconsin Technical College System. North Central Association reaccredits WITC for another ten years.

1995  Campus Administrators Marilyn McCarty, New Richmond and Mary Ellen Filkins, Rice Lake retire. Fred Baue, Executive Vice President-Instructional Services retires. John Kmosena, WITC's Senior Board member, retires after serving on the Board for 23 years. WITC undergoes the largest turnover in its history with four Board members retiring.

1996  Thomas Lemler replaces Mary Ellen Filkins as campus administrator at the Rice Lake Campus. Tim Schreiner replaces Marilyn McCarty as campus administrator at the New Richmond Campus. Ashland's 75th Anniversary was celebrated.

1997  Death of Thomas Lemler, Rice Lake Campus Administrator. Jann Brill is appointed campus administrator at the Superior Campus. Major addition to the shop wing at the New Richmond Campus completed. Total assets of the WITC Foundation exceed 1,000,000.


1999  Comprehensive Adult Learning Centers started at Hayward and Ladysmith. First on-line Internet course taught from the New Richmond Campus.

2000  Adult Learning Center started at Hudson. College makes a major commitment to convert all administrative data processing software over to Peoplesoft.
2001  New Technology Center constructed at the Ashland Campus. First web-based program, Computer Information Systems/Programmer Analyst, fully accredited by the North Central Association. Major upgrade of the Instructional Television Network completed. Planning initiated to develop a computer graphics program that will be jointly taught by UW-Barron County and WITC-Rice Lake faculties. WITC established a partnership with Franklin University. The two schools are partners in a bachelor’s degree completion program that combines on-campus courses at WITC with on-line courses from Franklin University.

2002  College undertakes a major initiative to implement a learning college philosophy in its mission, vision, values statements, its tenets, and its policies and procedures. Construction starts on a new technology center at the New Richmond campus. Web based courses are taught for the first time on the technical college system network known as E-Tech. Students in foreign countries now signing up for courses. For the first time the number of unduplicated headcount served exceeds 30,000.

2003  New Technology Center at Rice Lake Campus started. Moody’s Bond rating upgraded from Aa3 to Aa2. Enrollments in English as a Second Language double as immigrants fill jobs in the local economy. The College is fully converted over to PeopleSoft Administrative systems and has discontinued using the ‘in-house’ legacy system. Enrollments (FTE’s) in alternative delivery courses increase 55%. Diversity End Statement approved by the College Board.

2004  The Higher Learning Commission – North Central Association reaccredits WITC for another ten years. David Hildebrand retires after serving as WITC President for 20 years and is named President Emeritus Hildebrand by the Board. Dr. Hank Hurley is named the new WITC President effective June 2004. Diane Vertin assumes the position of campus administrator at WITC Superior upon the retirement of Jann Brill. The Adult Learning Center in Hudson closed. The Shell Lake Administrative Office construction/remodeling project is completed. The Rice Lake Technology Center is completed.

2005  A new position, Vice President for Learning, was established following the retirement of Vasant Kumar, Vice President of Operations, and Lois Eichman, Vice President of Instructional Services. The college upgrades to PeopleSoft 8 for Finance, Human Resources, and Student Administration suites with self-service/portal functions for Human Resources and Student Administration. WITC Rice Lake and the City of Rice Lake exchange land that allowed direct access to the campus off of Highway O. WITC Rice Lake and UW Barron County Campus jointly develop a shared student parking lot that is located between the two campuses.

2006  The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) – North Central Association (NCA) focus visit confirmed their original decision for the ten-year accreditation of the college. National League of Nursing (NLN) reaccredited WITC for an additional eight years. Moody’s Bond rating upgraded from Aa2 to Aa1. Charles Levine was appointed as Acting President with the resignation of President Dr. Hank Hurley at the end of
Charles Levine who was appointed by the Board of Trustees as Interim President until June 30, 2008. The College Board of Trustees approved new strategic goals and action plans for fiscal years 2007 through 2009. The college foundation topped $2,000,000 in total assets. Administration implemented a new organizational structure to promote management of the college utilizing the “One College Concept”. The four campus administrators became Vice Presidents; Mary Stenberg, Diane Vertin, Joe Huftel and Craig Fowler. John Will was hired as the new Vice President, Administrative Services. The college started a new Paramedic Program - Rice Lake, new Therapeutic Massage Program - New Richmond and expanded Criminal justice Corrections Program - New Richmond. The college implemented an integrated enrollment management plan in conjunction with the new college brand, “Real College, Real World, Real You”. College saved $217,000 in utilizing the WTCS Purchasing Consortium with most of the savings realized in the areas of technology procurement.
HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

The backbone for Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College was set years before the college came into formation. With a vision of providing a learning environment designed to maximize personal success, WITC has become one of the top ranked two year colleges in the nation. Through its rich history, WITC has not forgotten its desire to provide dynamic opportunities for career preparation to Northwestern Wisconsin.

In 1911, the Wisconsin Legislature required that vocational schools be established in cities with populations of 6,000 or more. A year later, Superior became the first city in Northwest Wisconsin and the second overall location in the state where a technical school was founded. Schools were also established in Ashland in 1921 and in Rice Lake in 1941.

The Wisconsin Area District Law, enacted by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1965, required a “master plan” be developed by the Wisconsin Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education to create districts in the state by July 1, 1970.

In 1967, District 18, consisting of Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties was approved for operation. The following year, District 17, made up of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties, was formed. These two districts were merged in 1972, creating the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical and Adult Education District. This area of 10,500 square miles included a population of 236,200; 286 towns, villages and cities; and 47 school districts.

The District Administrative Office was moved from Superior to Shell Lake in 1973. This location was selected due to its location in the center of the district.

To handle the growing population and the demand for the expansion of technical program offerings, groundbreaking began in 1975 for new campuses in Ashland, New Richmond and Rice Lake. Construction in Superior took place in 1976.

A name change occurred in 1987 when Wisconsin Indianhead Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District became Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

Today, WITC employs a staff of more than 1,700 and provides education to 6,000 credit students in more than 50 full-time programs, technical certificates, and apprenticeship programs; and over 20,000 residents enroll in continuing education courses at the college.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College is accredited through the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
The Indianhead District was created by order of the State Board on June 20, 1972. Since both Districts 17 and 18 operated district offices at Superior and New Richmond respectively, a consolidation plan had to be drawn for establishing a central office for the newly created district.

Using the "Checklist for District Headquarters Site" as designated by the State Office, a study was undertaken to aid in the selection of a site for the district's headquarters, the results of which were published in September 1972. The study examined distance from geographic centers, distance from population centers, transportation services, community services, facilities for headquarters, access to mass media, capability to provide comprehensive services, and nearness to other VTAE facilities. Using a weighted rating scale, seven locations were identified - Superior, New Richmond, Shell Lake, Cumberland, Rice Lake, Spooner and Hayward. The cities of Cumberland, Spooner, Shell Lake and Rice Lake received the highest rating.

After the decision was made to build the District Office in Shell Lake, all districtwide functions were housed first at the Indianhead Art Center, then in the city high school until permanent facilities could be built. In the summer of 1973 all district administrative offices were moved into a 5,760 square foot building, constructed on 3.2 acres of land that was deeded to the district, for a nominal sum, by the city of Shell Lake. This building, plus a relocatable unit, housed the Director, four administrators and seven specialists.

As the number of students and programs grew, additional staff and space were required. An addition (5,343 sq. ft.) to the District Office was completed in 1982. Staff previously with offices in the relocatable were moved into the main building.

In 1990 another addition of 5,808 square feet was completed to accommodate Data Processing and other functions.

In 2003 another addition of 6,740 sq. ft. was completed to accommodate restructuring of office space, conference rooms, and relocation of LRC staff.

In addition to the office of the President, other functions housed in this facility are: Administrative Services, Academic Affairs, Business Services, Foundation, Marketing, Research and Planning, Registrar, Learning Resource Center, Human Resources, and Information Services.
WITC-Ashland has been responding to the changing employment and training needs of individuals and business and industry since the early 1920s.

The first classes were offered in 1921 under Director H.O. Eiken. Evening classes—English, reading, mathematics, citizenship, drawing, typing, stenography, sewing, and shop—met in the main high school building twice a week for 22 weeks. Enrollments totaled 84.

Twenty years and five directors later, the old post office (now City Hall) was renovated for the school.

In 1947, Rinaldo Bonacci was appointed director. It was during that year that a referendum was passed to build a new school; however, no action was taken. Another building referendum was presented and this time passed in April 1967, which resulted in construction beginning in 1968 on the 40-acre Beaser Avenue site. In January 1970, 75 students were enrolled in five programs and attended classes in the new 25,000 square foot building.

The original campus saw a continued increase in student enrollment and program offerings. These increases resulted in building expansions in 1976 and 1980. A fourth building project to accommodate major campus renovations, the elimination of relocatable buildings, and the development of a conference center lounge, was dedicated in 1988. In August of 2000 construction began for the development of a 5,100 square foot Technology Center. This facility, which is added onto the Learning Resource Center, compliments all resources and services of technology to the students, staff, business/industry and the general public. With nearly 75,000 square feet of facilities, the campus offers 22 programs in business, engine and equipment repair, family and consumer services, health care, information technology, and manufacturing technologies. Along with these programs and continuing education courses, customized training for business, industry and governmental agencies, the campus serves approximately 4,600 students yearly.

Mary Stenberg was appointed Campus Administrator of the Ashland Campus in July, 2006 upon the retirement of Don Marcouiller, who served as Campus Administrator for 31 years. In 2007 the campus received a $10,000 donation from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and Department of Tourism Development Specialist Ruth Goetz to refurbish the Conference Center.

Back to Board Organization/History Menu
As a result of the redistricting law in 1965, District 18 (Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties) was approved for operation on July 1, 1967. The district was known locally as AdVoTech 18. Arthur H. Cothran was appointed director on August 14, 1967. The Civic Center in New Richmond served as the center of operations.

Part-time adult evening and continuing education classes were held in several locations in District 18 as the new organization developed programs. By 1970-71 the District grew to 23 centers with 5,500 students enrolled. In 1970, three full-time programs were approved for the school: Small Engine and Chassis Repair and Welding operated out of a newly constructed facility in New Richmond; and Machine Tool was offered in leased facilities in Grantsburg. Additional facilities were added in 1970-71 as programs and services expanded into the six relocatable buildings, which housed classrooms and the Learning Resource Center.

With Pierce County electing to join District 1 on July 1, 1971, the three-county district was left with 17 school districts and 93 municipalities. Despite this setback, the district continued to expand its projects and program offerings.

By 1972 the number of programs the district offered included five, one-year; one, two-year program and three, short-term programs.

When District 18 merged with District 17 on July 1, 1972, the many challenges that had to be overcome included:

a. Board representation,
b. District Office location,
c. Multi-campus development,
d. Suit by Polk County to withdraw from district,
e. Efforts by school districts in St. Croix County to withdraw from the district and,
f. Efforts to prevent Indianhead from engaging in extensive borrowing.

When these challenges were resolved, the campus and district began its building program. The campus faced a bright future; one that would build to 14 associate degree; nine technical diploma; and numerous short-term technical programs currently offered at New Richmond. Continuing education and outreach services are provided annually from the campus to over 10,000 individuals in St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett Counties.

Ideally located in St. Croix County, the fastest growing county in Wisconsin, WITC-New Richmond is now offering continually expanding services to the community and to business and industry. A new Business/Industry Training Services initiative will strengthen the linkages with Business and Industry by bringing WITC contracted services to Burnett, Polk, and St. Croix counties.

In July 1999 WITC-New Richmond opened a new branch campus in Hudson consisting of two classrooms, a computer lab, instructor offices, storage and general reception area. The WITC-Hudson location totaled 3,800 square feet and was located at 944 O’Keefe Road in the City of Hudson. The Hudson Campus was closed June 30, 2004.
Construction on the present 38.3-acre site began in 1976 with a $1.8 million, 50,700 square foot facility. Additional classroom and lab space is now provided in the Ag Center, Edwin J. Cashman Conference Center, a 7,200 square foot addition in 1992, and a 10,000 square foot addition to the trade and industry labs. In 2001 and 2002 additions totaling 10,700 sq. ft. were added to accommodate a new Technology Center and administrative offices. The additions bring the total New Richmond Campus square footage to 118,385 square feet.

In July, 2006 Joe Huftel was named Campus Administrator and under his direction, the campus enrolls nearly 2,000 students each year in 31 programs and over 6,000 students in non-credit courses.
Rice Lake has a proud history relating to the development and growth of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education. It began with the appointment of a vocational school board early in 1941 by the City Board of Education. By April of that year, classes began under the directorship of West Burdick with an educational emphasis in the homemaking and business areas.

The founding years witnessed the development of seven programs under the National Defense Act, and enrollments in excess of 175 students taught by a 13-member faculty. During the 1942-45 period, many part-time offerings in the trades, business and general education areas were implemented.

At the close of World War II (1945), the Rice Lake Vocational School geared up for the mission of retraining veterans. As growth continued, the vocational board received increased city support in financing the expanding curriculum. By 1949, the school outgrew its initial facilities. To meet the needs, the city purchased the cannery company building (the present Birchwood Manufacturing Company). The facility was completely remodeled by the school for educational purposes and growth continued. By 1951, the school was the second largest veterans’ training center in the state of Wisconsin. Veteran training under the G.I. Bill provided career education for more than 600 veterans in such areas as Retail Selling, Bank Employee Training, Drafting for Lumber Yards and Hardwood Grading.

By the close of 1959 a new building, Burdick Hall (named after the founding director), was in operation at 34 South Wilson.

The advent of the 1960s ushered in an era of new growth and specialized training with new full- time programs such as Architectural and Mechanical Drafting and expansion in related subject areas. The decade saw the growth from 37 full-time students to over 300; from a handful of occupational areas to 17 different full-time program offerings.

In 1965, James W. Covey was appointed as school director following the retirement of West Burdick.

The increasing demand for vocational and technical education during the 1960s resulted in further expansion in July 1968 when the school acquired the Red Cedar Hall building on West Ann Street, which formerly housed the Barron County Teachers College and later the Branch Campus of Stout State University.

After 1965, the institution conducted over 100 separate Manpower Training projects in about 20 different occupational areas. These projects provided career training for more than 4,000 people, and established Rice Lake as the second largest Manpower Training Center in the state - second only to Milwaukee.

Significantly, the Rice Lake campus received statewide recognition as a leader in the development of Adult Basic Education. Initiated in 1966, the ABE program provided basic skills education for thousands of people. In conjunction with those basic education efforts, the school received a national citation in 1971 for its programming in family living education, a program that is closely allied to the ABE mission.

Increasing enrollments and an expanding curriculum resulted in the need for leasing additional facilities to keep pace with the growth of the institution. The school operated out of nine separate buildings in the city prior to its move to new facilities in 1976.

The decade of the ’70s brought continued growth and change to the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical Institute. Intensive planning saw the start of a new facility construction in 1975 and occupancy of two new buildings (74,496 sq. ft.) in August 1976, located on a 30-acre site adjacent to the University of Wisconsin-Barron County Center. Another 11,500 square feet were added in 1982. The two institutions share a Student Center, Student Health Service facilities, and other areas of operation.

In 1990, an addition (8,604 sq. ft.), which joins Rigler Hall and Covey Hall, was completed and in 1992 a second floor was added. The new facility houses a Conference Center and Distance Learning Center. An additional 6,767 square feet was added to the second story of Covey Hall to accommodate Rice
Lake’s growing instructional staff. In 1998, the campus facilities increased another 3,996 square feet with the addition of the Bricklaying and Masonry Technology Center. Remodeling in the summer of 2000 created space for a bookstore on campus and a three-story fire-training tower was also completed. The total campus square footage was over 120,000 square feet.

Today, under the leadership of Craig Fowler, the Rice Lake campus serves over 10,000 people each year. The campus offers 34 programs in associate degree, one- and two-year technical diplomas, and short-term technical diplomas. Four programs, Architectural Commercial Design, Telecommunications Technician, Telecommunication Technologies, and Wood Technics are unique to WITC, as they are not offered at any other technical college in Wisconsin.

The Conference Center boasts over 24,000 visitors annually. During 1998-99, 41 businesses were served through customized training programs developed by WITC. Nearly 1,200 students participated in these programs.

Since its inception, WITC-Rice Lake has offered a wide variety of continuing education, retraining opportunities and evening programs. Several hundred different courses have been conducted annually, with courses taught in Rice Lake, at branch campuses in Hayward and Ladysmith, and a Learning Center in Spooner and many other communities.

In 2003, an addition of 17,000 square feet was completed to accommodate a new Telecommunication Center and relocation of Student Services. The total campus square footage is over 137,000 square feet.

In March 2005, WITC formally dedicated the David R. Obey Technology Center at the Rice Lake Campus in recognition of Congressman Obey’s continued support of WITC and commitment to higher education. The Center includes high-speed communications equipment and software that allows WITC classrooms to set up real-time links with other similarly-equipped facilities virtually anywhere in the world. A self-paced computerized electronics training lab is also in the Center and provides convenience and flexibility for students and incumbent workers.
Originally founded in 1912 as the “Industrial, Commercial, Continuing and Evening School,” the Superior Campus of WITC has been around longer than almost any other technical college in Wisconsin. From the first one-room structure, where John P. O’Connor was appointed principal, to the current modern facility, the story is one of constant growth and change.

In 1914, the college began to offer additional classes at Superior and Blaine schools to meet the growing education needs of the community. In 1922, under the directorship of Rudolph Hanson, the Webster Memorial addition was completed to house expanded programs and a larger number of students. When it was determined that additional shop space was required, the shop wing at 1411 Fisher was built and, seven years later (in 1938), the three-story front portion was added. Thus, in little over 25 years, the school had grown from rented classrooms in a converted downtown building to a three-story, 75,000 square foot classroom and shop building.

From 1912 to 1945, a combination of part-time evening and limited full-time day programs were offered. With returning veterans in 1946, day offerings increased in all disciplines. Following an evaluation in 1963 (under the leadership of Sam Lavine), associate degree programs were developed with Secretarial Science and Accounting being among the first. In 1965, the name was changed to Superior Technical Institute and, with the advent of the district in 1968, Superior and its adjoining seven counties became District 17. In 1972 (with Ron A. MacDonald as Campus Administrator) the merger between District 17 and Advotech 18 added three additional counties and adopted the Indianhead name.

In 1976, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for a new $3.6 million facility to be built on six acres of land located on the University of Wisconsin-Superior Campus. In December 1977 all programs were moved to the 99,360 square foot building.

In August of 1987, the name was again changed (to the current Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College) to more accurately reflect the mission of the school. Richard Parish was the Campus Administrator at that time until his retirement in 1990 when Reid Haglin replaced him. Reid Haglin served as Campus Administrator until 1997. From 1997 to 2004 Jann Brill served as Campus Administrator until her retirement in July of 2004. Diane Vertin became Campus Administrator in June of 2004.

In 1980 an addition of 3,500 square feet was completed to accommodate a new alternate energy lab. In the fall of 1992 an addition of 4,500 square feet was completed to accommodate a second story level for needed classroom space. In 1998, an addition of 5,400 was competed to accommodate a new conference center. In 1998, an addition of 2,600 square feet was competed to accommodate a cold storage addition. In the summer of 2006, a 6,633 square foot addition was added to house two flexible labs and a lobby which accommodates recreational items for students as well as study areas. With this addition, the campus square footage is over 120,000.

Once the new addition was underway, an extensive renovation of Student Services and Learning Resource Center was also completed encompassing over 51,000 square feet. The renovation included the creation of handicapped accessible restrooms as well as an upgrade of the current air handling system. The student lounge area was also updated and reconfigured to give the students well-defined areas for eating, studying and relaxing.

The campus currently offers 27 programs in business, construction, criminal justice, engine and equipment repair, family and consumer services, health care, information technology, and manufacturing technologies. The campus offers related instruction for apprenticeship programs and short-term certificates in a variety of specialties.

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