

Career Impact

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

VOLUME 13

HANNA NORMAN

A LIFELONG JOURNEY
INTO NURSING

50+

PROGRAMS AT WITC!

FIRST TRACKS

ADVENTURE ENTHUSIAST
MARK BRUNER ON
REINVENTING
HIMSELF



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*Resource: Collegeboard.org

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(Concentration on sciences and mathematics)

Potential university majors you can transfer to:

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- Math
- Medicine
- Natural Resources
- Science

Contact an Admissions Advisor:

800.243.9482 • witic.edu/explore

Offered in partnership with Nicolet College

WITC is an Equal Opportunity/Access/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disability Employer and Educator.



Career Impact

Career Impact is published for the community, alumni and friends of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

Direct correspondence to: Jena Vogtman, WITC, 600 North 21st Street, Superior, WI 54880.

WITC is part of the Wisconsin Technical College System, with four campus locations (Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake and Superior), two outreach centers (Hayward and Ladysmith), a learning center in Spooner, and an administrative office in Shell Lake.

Visit our website at witic.edu.

EDITOR

Sara Franc

GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

Kristi Ayers

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS/EDITORS

Deborah Anderson

Jessica Hehir

Melissa Kramolis

Carmel Suhr

Liz Whitchurch

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mark Bruner

Sara Franc

Melissa Kramolis

Carmel Suhr

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Jena Vogtman

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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Like Us. Follow Us. Watch Us.



Do you have news or information about an alumni, program or event at WITC? Contact Sara Franc at sara.franc@witic.edu

Career Pathways: An Innovative Journey

Education is no longer a route with one direct path; it's a lifelong journey of professional and personal growth. To meet the myriad needs of students who each have a unique situation, WITC offers Career Pathways.

The innovative Career Pathways model is available with select programs at WITC, and it's a model many programs will begin to offer. WITC partners with employers to design short-term certificates and technical diplomas that ladder into already established technical diplomas and associate degree programs. These short-term embedded programs allow a unique and manageable approach to education that serves a variety of needs.



Meet Jennifer.

Jennifer works full time as a social worker. She has a bachelor's degree, but she wants to increase her knowledge in the specialized field of working with the growing population of older adults she encounters in her profession. Jennifer looks at WITC's gerontology – aging services professional associate degree, and she decides to complete the healthcare and service provider technical certificate to enhance her professional knowledge in working with older adults.

Jennifer mentions the courses she's taking to her neighbor, Ella.



Meet Ella.

Ella is working as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a local hospice program. Ella loves working with older adults and wants to further her career. Jennifer suggests that Ella should learn more about the full gerontology – aging services professional program at WITC. With the flexible class options, Ella can work in the field while she progressively earns credentials. Ella receives a technical diploma in the community-based residential facility (CBRF) caregiver and certificates in dementia care, and healthcare and service provider that are built into the gerontology – aging services professional associate degree program. Ella can immediately put her newly acquired credentials to use as she works in the field and continues her education.

Ella overhears her friend, Sean, discussing his experience with older adults in a retail setting.



Meet Sean.

Sean is the store manager of a large department store. In this field, Sean communicates regularly with older adults as both customers and employees. As the economy changes, Sean finds that many employees aren't retiring upon retirement eligibility; he also hires retirees who seek part-time work. Sean hopes to develop a better understanding of the employees and customers. Ella mentions the option to take classes relevant to his unique interests within the gerontology – aging services professional program. She adds that the state-of-the-art aging simulation equipment has helped her develop a new understanding of older adults and their daily struggles. Sean decides to enroll in the courses Legal and Financial Issues of Aging, Physical Aspects of Aging, and Communication of Aging.

The different audiences that ONE PROGRAM can serve through Career Pathways:

To learn more about WITC and Career Pathway programs, call 800.243.9482 or visit witic.edu.

THE MAGIC OF SUCCESS

By Carmel Suhr

Magic comes in many forms. It can be the sleight of a magician's hand as he pulls a coin from behind your ear or the remarkable awe of a Las Vegas headline show as an illusionist levitates without any visible wires.

A casual glance through the windows of the Learning Commons at any WITC campus will bring into view a few tables and chairs, computer stations and students working diligently. Upon further investigation, you will witness true magic taking place. In the Learning Commons, magic transforms itself throughout the year when proud students make their way across the stage to receive their general education (GED) and high school equivalency (HSED) diplomas.



To a student working towards a GED or HSED, earning a diploma is the first step to making a better life for him or herself. This first step opens up opportunities that were otherwise impossible, and that's where the guidance of Academic Support Services staff comes in.

The Academic Support Services at WITC-Rice Lake is run by Ann Hanson, adult basic education/study skills instructor; Karen Lutz, general studies – adult and basic education instructor; and Tammy Will, student success teaching assistant.

Academic Support Services offers an abundance of flexible options for successful completion of the GED/HSED and program courses. All available free of charge, support options include course and program support, tutoring, study skill strategies, program/course readiness, and personal growth through reading, writing, math and basic computer skills. Structured courses in reading, writing and math are available for a small charge of \$4.50 per class, which covers materials.

Hanson, Lutz and Will agreed that the structured learning classes develop a stronger commitment from students, and structured learning increases persistence and builds a learning community within.

This peer learning community adds to the magic of Academic Support Services. The connections and relationships to staff and students help keep students focused on their coursework.

According to Hanson, Lutz and Will, the greatest asset Academic Support Services offers to students is the ability to meet with each student at his or her individual learning level and develop a plan that meets each student's individual goals.

After meeting with Hanson, Lutz and Will, it becomes evident that they are genuinely passionate about their commitment to each student. Not only do the three staff members motivate each other to develop better learning strategies, but they also are driven to help each student succeed beyond their dreams. Another wave of the magic wand that has kept Academic Support Services going for over 30 years.

Magic can start with the smallest glimpse of kindness and a willingness to help others learn and grow. It is as simple as passing a window, opening a door and walking in.

Do you believe in magic?

If you are interested in the GED or HSED programs, please call 800.243.9482 or visit witic.edu/adult/ged for more information.

Community members can also help by volunteering to tutor or by giving to the WITC Foundation for scholarships earmarked for GED/HSED testing.

witic.edu

Dual Enrollment Academy

A Two-for-One in Education

By Liz Whitchurch

A remarkable group of students graduated this spring from area high schools with a lot more than the quintessential sheepskin. They also walked across the stage to acquire 10 college credits and two technical diplomas, which they earned simultaneously with their high school credits during their senior year.

These 14 high school seniors were part of the welding Dual Enrollment Academy pilot program partnered among WITC-New Richmond, New Richmond High School and Workforce Resource. Initial funding for the Academy was through a grant Workforce Resource received from the state.

The brainchild of area superintendents, Workforce Resource and now retired WITC Campus Administrator Joe Huftel, the Dual Enrollment Academy took applications from area high school students who wanted to participate in the flagship Academy for the 2015-16 school year. Because the students earn credits at their respective high schools and WITC, the term “Dual Enrollment Academy” was coined.

“The Dual Enrollment Academy was a great opportunity for students in our districts to enhance their skills,” said Liz Pizzi of Workforce Resource. “It allowed students to meet students from other school districts and take on leadership roles in the classroom. We’re pleased to say their teachers were very impressed on how well the students did in the Academy.”

To participate in this cutting-edge style



of education, students must meet specific requirements such as a minimum 2.0 GPA, approvals from the district and parents, and WITC entrance requirements.

Besides gaining college credit, participation in WITC’s Dual Enrollment Academy helps ease the transition from high school to post-secondary education by providing insight into college academics. This initiative also benefits business and industry by having skilled talent readily available.

As for instruction, WITC and NRHS instructors collaborated to deliver welding and related courses to the Dual Enrollment Academy students for about three hours a day. The students returned to their respective high schools for the remainder of the day.

“Together we’re producing quality workers for Western Wisconsin to help fill a demand for the workforce,” said Leque. “We look forward to many more years of this type of collaboration.”

“The goal of Workforce’s grant was to graduate students who were immediately employable, especially in the trades,” said Tom Leque, NRHS technical education instructor.

The majority of the students chose to continue their education, with nine of

the 14 graduates applying their hard-earned credits to WITC for a technical diploma in welding.

The success of the Dual Enrollment Academy initiative is evident in its continuation for the 2016-17 school year.

WITC Academic Dean Karen Hoglund said, “The success of the 2015-16 Academy allowed WITC to refine the program for the following year’s students. One important change is that the 2016-2017 students will experience college life by attending classes on the WITC campus, as well as at the high school.”

Students in the welding Academy will take their welding-related academic courses three days a week at WITC-New Richmond and the welding classes at NRHS.

Additional success is also noted in that WITC expanded the concept to more than just welding students. This year inaugurates a Dual Enrollment Academy effort with a construction emphasis at Clayton High School and another similar effort developing for the near future with a health industry emphasis.



A group of the Welding Academy students traveled to Madison for a statewide event that features work by two-year college students. They talked with legislators and the lieutenant governor about their education and unique opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school.



Before visiting the state capitol, the Welding Academy students designed and crafted metal pen/pencil holders to give legislators as a gift.

Explore the WITC Region



ASHLAND

The Apostle Islands Mainland Sea Caves in Northern Bayfield County are quite the sight to see as pillars of ice extend to the cliff tops where waterfalls have hardened in place. Inside the caves awaits a fairyland of needlelike icicles to gaze upon. No day at the caves is alike as the ice formations change from day to day. The caves are not accessible every winter, however. Ice condition information can be found by calling the Ice Line at (715) 779-3397, ext.3.

SUPERIOR

Just around the river bend is **Amnicon Falls State Park**, a short jaunt out of the city of Superior. Discover the wooded trails and all that nature has to offer as you hike through the 828-acre park. The spray of the roaring waterfalls can be felt as you hike along the winding river. Depending on conditions, hikers can take a dip in the refreshing waters on a hot summer day.

RICE LAKE

Found directly in WITC-Rice Lake's backyard is the **Cedar Side Walking Trail**. The paved path follows the Red Cedar River for 3.5 miles. In the winter months, the trail's canopied trees line the path with crisp, blue waters and glimmering, frosted branches for a stunning winter wonderland. Extra points if you can spot the camouflaged art installations along the trail.

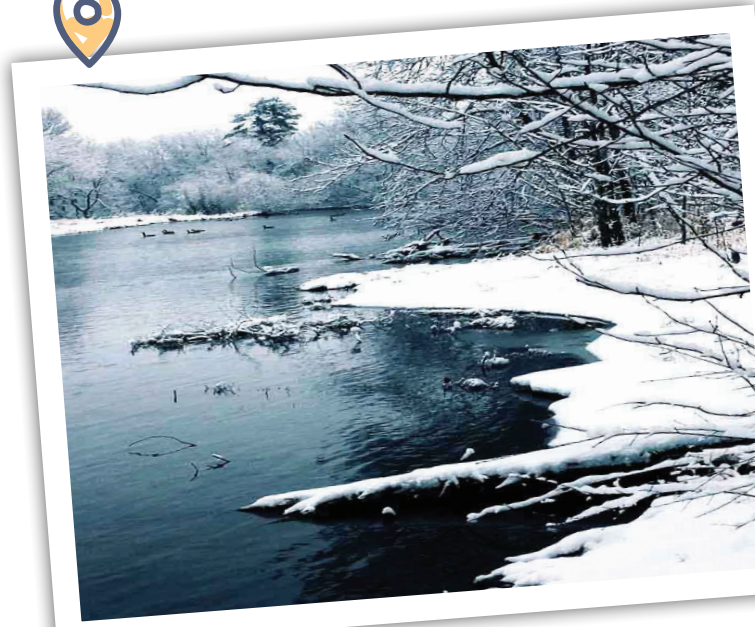
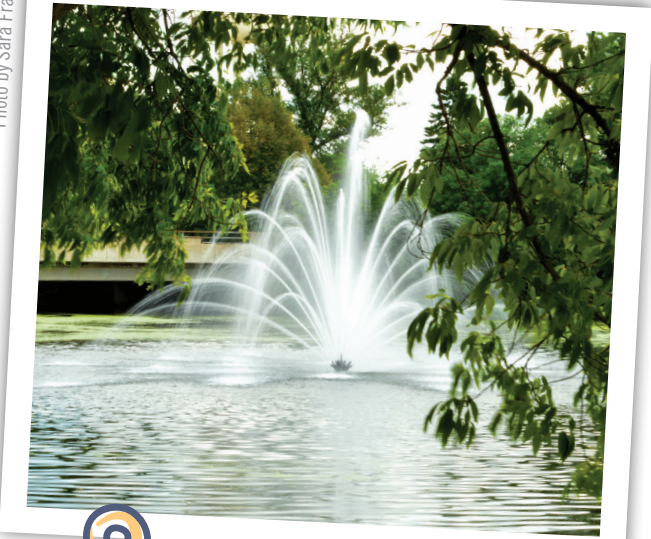


Photo by Sara Franc



NEW RICHMOND

Sprinkled with parks and nature retreats throughout the city, New Richmond lives up to its slogan "The City Beautiful." **The New Richmond Flowage** is located amidst the hustle and bustle of the busy city connected by walking trails. Picnic tables and benches line the Flowage for a relaxing break that's just enough removed from the city to clear your mind.

Photo by Sara Franc

Photo by Melissa Kramolis



Hanna Norman: RN

By Jessica Hehir

Some say it's a calling; others might call it a passion. For Hanna Norman, a career in healthcare is simply what she wanted to do. Her career began while most of her friends were just learning how to drive.

Norman became a Certified Nursing Assistant when she was 16 years old. After high school, Norman attended the University of Minnesota and earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology, but she missed the hands-on interaction with her patients as a CNA. After working full time in the psychology field, Norman decided to return to the classroom. In 2015, she graduated from WITC-Superior with an associate degree in nursing.

The change of career focus paid off for Norman. When it came to finding a job after her WITC graduation, Norman found plenty of options. She stepped right into a rewarding position at Ecumen Lakeshore in Duluth, Minn.

"Nothing compared to Ecumen Lakeshore," said Norman. "I chatted with the nurse manager, and they have a great support system. It is a fabulous place for me to start out as a new nurse."

Norman, in turn, was a great fit for Ecumen Lakeshore.

"Not only is Hanna a caring and compassionate nurse, but her clinical skills are also outstanding," said Veronica Olsen, director of nursing. "Hanna is an exceptional team player; she's always willing to help. Our patients adore her as well as our staff. We feel very fortunate that Hanna is on our team at Ecumen Lakeshore."

WITC provided a wide variety of clinical settings ranging

"I can't say enough good things about WITC. The program was hard and intensive, but it prepared me for real-world healthcare," said Norman. "We received a lot of face-to-face time with patients, and our instructors pushed us to dig into patient history."

from cardiac and burn units to memory and hospice care and correctional healthcare. That training helped Norman advance in her current position as an on-call nurse.

Despite multiple degrees and certifications, Norman's education didn't end when the job started.

Ecumen Lakeshore is a great training ground for professional development with both classes and hands-on-training.

"I just trained as a bridge nurse; I now handle admissions and discharges," said Norman. "Going home or having home care is a big group effort and bridge nurses oversee the details. I see the whole spectrum of care."

Ecumen Lakeshore Human Resources Director Kristin Spencer believes their facility is fortunate to employ several nurses who have graduated from WITC.

"You can instantly see the comfort, care and compassion that they deliver to our patients," said Spencer. "They put their heart, mind and soul into all that they do. We are so proud to hire WITC nurses."

Norman has pride in her work and accomplishments too.

"Two years and so much work seemed like a huge mountain to climb. Now that it is done, I just feel so proud. I am really happy where I am."





WITC Marketing and Business graduate, Mark Bruner, combines his passion for photography by capturing exciting, emotional and social moments.

First Tracks

Story by Sara Franc, Photography by Mark Bruner

The term “troll” originated from Norse mythology and Scandinavian folklore as supernatural beings who were known for dwelling in isolated rocks, mountains or caves. While trolls are widely believed to be mythical creatures, an outdoor recreation center in Dresser, Wis. seems to be a hotbed for the creatures.

The Trollhaugen Trolls make up a community of adventure enthusiasts and outdoor lovers, and Mark Bruner has the footage to prove their existence.

Bruner is a recent graduate of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College with skills in marketing and business. For his last semester at WITC, Bruner received the opportunity to put his skills to practice

with a field study at Trollhaugen. In his marketing field study, Bruner combined his passion for photography and large events by capturing exciting, emotional and social moments.

Although he has always been fascinated with outdoor event planning (Bruner coordinates a small music festival), he wasn’t always in the industry of marketing and photography. After what he described as “a long and rewarding career in maintenance,” Bruner decided to reinvent himself. Now he is on his way to fulfilling a lifelong dream of building a business of his own and being self-employed.

“My experience in the pursuit of this associate degree has not only provided routine and sense of responsibility, but

it has re-energized me and made me aware of the knowledge and energy I still very much have,” said Bruner.

With the newfound energy to explore and expand his entrepreneurial side, Bruner now has the skills to grow his own business. While the right education and experience are key to a successful entrepreneur, what Bruner took away from his educational experience is validation and confidence.

“I am not afraid to get in ‘the race’ anymore,” said Bruner. “Not because I will surely win, but because I have the courage. Courage is what separates us from those who have no chance to win.”

And Bruner hit the ground running with the courage needed to succeed.

“This experience allowed me to showcase a skill I have been building for many years. I already use many of my newfound marketing and photography skills,” said Bruner.

Bruner described his style of photography as an attempt to recreate and share the exact feeling of the moment.

“The emotion and excitement should be as evident in the picture as it was in real life,” said Bruner.

Bruner aims to utilize his photography style while still capturing the Trollhaugen brand.

“I incorporate the unique aesthetics of the venue with the unpredictable actions and emotions of the customers enjoying their experience to make a picture that says ‘this is what you missed today.’ This is not only what the business wants but also what customers deserve, to see themselves at their best,” said Bruner.

Although the photography industry is saturated with many photographers striving to ‘make it,’ Bruner advises not to let photography be a competition.

“Shoot what you love, and do it so that it achieves what you wanted it to achieve. I take pictures to entertain myself, and if I am any good it will catch on, but if not, I still made myself happy.”

WITC’s new business management class now offers two areas of emphasis in general business or marketing. Classes such as social media marketing, multi-media marketing and sales management are a few courses that make up the marketing emphasis. To fit busy lifestyles, select WITC Flex courses are available within this program. Learn more at www.witc.edu/explore/programs/business-management.

“My field study at Trollhaugen was more of a fantasy than a job,” said Bruner. “To someone who enjoys using creative tools such as a camera, it was a delight to have such awesome subjects to capture.”



Celebrating A Legacy of Success!

By Deborah Anderson

It all started as Rice Lake Vocational School in 1941. The original directive of the school was to: first, train civilians for jobs in support of the war effort, and second, to provide free post-high school education for those in need. Today, WITC’s vision is to prepare students for the future using the most innovative techniques and technologies – a 75-year legacy of creating success for WITC graduates.

Over the years, WITC has received countless awards, even national recognition for the students’ success. And the source of that success has to be the devoted staff. To them, WITC is not just a job; it’s dedication to guiding and supporting their students as they develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful.



A Day in the Life with Mark Bruner

My week begins with a briefing of the upcoming events, a discussion of where the most interesting action is and what time the event(s) run. After that, I am left to plan and prepare my equipment and time allotment. I plan the lenses I will need and other equipment such as tripod, filters, snacks (for days when there will be a lot of climbing and repositioning), etc. The weather has a large impact on the items that come with on a shoot as well.

During the event, I work the spots that have been identified to get the best shots of all competitors, and I also get a chance to chat and mingle with the fans. This gives me an opportunity to make sure I am not intruding on anyone’s experience and also let them know what my purpose is. I see myself as an ambassador of the business when I am doing this job.

Depending on the event size, I typically will take between 500 to 750 photos. After the event, I begin the real work of sorting the best shots, cropping and fine tuning. Once the photos are narrowed down and prepared, I turn them in via Dropbox for my supervisor to approve and apply. After submitting the pictures, we discuss the successes and failures of each shoot as we plan for the upcoming events.



Experience. Success.

For the Love of Water

Marine repair technician graduate Cory Kontry of Ashland shares his journey from WITC-Ashland to his current position as a marine technician at Shipyard Marine in Green Bay, Wis.

Story and photos by Melissa Kramolis

Why did you enroll in WITC-Ashland's marine repair technician program?

I spent a year at UW-Madison for mechanical engineering. After I realized how much time was spent designing components on computers, I decided it wasn't a good fit for me. I chose WITC as a different route, and it led me to a great program. I got to be on the water, work with my hands and spend a lot of time outdoors.

What did you enjoy the most about the program?

Not many people can say they got to go for a boat ride for class (laughs). We had the opportunity to rig a couple of boats, which entailed mounting motors, control cables and gauges. Upon

finishing, we were able to run the boats on Lake Superior and fully appreciate the work we accomplished.

How did your experience at WITC prepare you for employment as a marine technician?

The hands-on part was a huge factor. I can read about motors all day, but actually seeing the parts, working with my hands, physically taking off parts from the motors and working on them makes a huge difference in how I learn and retain the information.

WITC has a broad spectrum of different types of motors, and the marine lab is set up like a real shop. The curriculum starts with the basics of rebuilding outboards to more advanced skills using diagnostic software to monitor more advanced motors. In my current position, I use a lot of computer-based programs to diagnose motors; the background of doing it in class has been helpful.

Where are you employed now?

I work at Shipyard Marine in Green Bay, Wis. as a full-time marine technician. I work on everything from prepping new boats, general maintenance, rebuilding motors and water-testing boats.

I had a couple of other offers from marine dealerships and marine businesses looking for technicians. I didn't even apply to those places; they were coming to me and asking if I was interested in a job. It's a high-demand field. There are definitely jobs available out there for marine technicians that have a solid knowledge base.

What do you enjoy the most about working in the marine repair field?

It's always something different here, and I never know what the day is going to bring. Not every day is spent wrenching on a motor. Some days I'm adding new components to a boat whether it be underwater lights, a new GPS system, trim tabs or mounting a trolling motor onto a boat.

It's satisfying to diagnose and fix a problem and get a customer back on the water by the weekend so they can enjoy their time off. I feel productive and accomplished at the end of the day.

What's a unique discovery you've found since working in the industry?

It's always a surprise when you open the engine hatch because you never know what you are going to see in there. One cool thing about the Malibu tow boat is the different motors they come with. We have some boats that come with supercharged 6.2 Ford blocks; this is the same block in Ford's famous Raptor truck. I've also worked on a boat that had a Corvette LS3 motor in it.

What advice would you give someone who is interested in becoming a marine technician?

My advice is to get a good knowledge base, and for me, that was WITC-Ashland's marine repair technician program. A lot of the work I did in class I'm repeating at my job; it made the transition from school to a job seamless. What I learned at WITC has helped me every day at Shipyard Marine.



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Visit Us!



Associate Degree Nursing students at WITC-Ashland getting hands-on practice in the new High Fidelity Simulation Lab. Students use computerized mannequins to simulate real-life scenarios.

The times they are a-changin', and so is WITC.

WITC-New Richmond's new addition is designed to meet a variety of student needs, from studying to relaxing.

Contact your local admissions advisor to schedule a campus tour or classroom shadow to check out our new, state-of-the-art facilities and classrooms.



Electrical circuit boards in the improved Industrial Maintenance lab in Superior.



Rice Lake's "The Hub" features a full-service kitchen, casual seating, a fireside room for relaxing and a new Student Life Center.

ASHLAND

Beth Hazelton
800.243.9482 ext. 3195

NEW RICHMOND

Jodi Saliny
800.243.9482 ext. 4339

RICE LAKE

Jennifer Ruid
800.243.9482 ext. 5220

SUPERIOR

Cindy Miller
800.243.9482 ext. 6243

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College Goal Wisconsin is a statewide and national event that provides free information and assistance to families who need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), the federally required form for students seeking financial aid, such as grants and loans. Completing the FAFSA is the first and most important step in qualifying for aid.

WHERE TO ATTEND:

WITC-NEW RICHMOND
College Goal Wisconsin
Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 6:00 p.m.
Conference Center

WITC-RICE LAKE
College Goal Wisconsin
Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 6:00 p.m.
Conference Center

WHAT TO BRING:

You will need the following items in order to complete your 2017-18 FAFSA. If you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes, you will also need these items for your parent(s):

- 2015 Federal Tax Return and W2s
- 2015 Untaxed Income Records, such as child support or veteran's non education benefits
- Information on savings, investments, business assets and farm assets (if applicable)
- Driver's License (if you have one)
- Social Security Number
- Alien Registration Card or Permanent Resident Card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Date of birth for parents, and month and year of parents' marriage, divorce or separation

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Agricultural Power and Equipment Technician
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Automated Packaging Systems Technician
Automotive Maintenance Technician
Broadband Technologies
Business Management
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Cosmetology
NEW! Criminal Justice Studies
Dairy Herd Management
Dental Assistant
Dietary Manager
Early Childhood Education
E-CHILD
NEW! E-Connect – Child Care Services
Emergency Medical Technician

Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic
NEW! Entry Level Machining
Farm Business and Production Management
Financial Services
NEW! Gerontology – Aging Services Professional
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Health Office Professional
Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning/
Refrigeration
Human Resource Management
Human Services Associate
Individualized Technical Studies
Industrial Automation, Controls, and Networking
Industrial Maintenance Technician
Information Technology – Network Specialist
Information Technology – Systems Administration Specialist
Information Technology – Web and Software Developer
NEW! Liberal Arts – Associate of Arts

NEW! Liberal Arts – Associate of Science
Machine Tool Operation
Machine Tool Operation – CNC
Machine Tool Technician
Machine Tooling Technics
Management and Leadership
Marine Repair Technician
Medical Administrative Professional
Medical Assistant
Medical Coding Specialist
Motorcycle, Marine and Outdoor Power
Products Technician
Nursing Assistant
Nursing – Associate Degree
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Office Support Specialist
Paramedic Technician
Residential Construction and Cabinetmaking
Technical Studies – Journeyworker
Welding



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95% of graduates were hired within just six months of graduating. **98%** of graduates were satisfied with their WITC education. Graduates earn an average yearly starting salary of **\$37,938**

Visit our website at witc.edu