

## Support for Higher Education in Northwest Wisconsin

### The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin Request

That the legislature continues their support for post-secondary institutions in Northwestern Wisconsin. UW-Superior and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College support citizens and industry throughout Northwestern Wisconsin, and the State of Wisconsin. Further, UW-Superior extends its reach throughout the United States and abroad.



Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) is a top-ranked, two-year college, offering affordable hands-on training in more than 50 career programs ranging from Gerontology-Aging Services Professional to Broadband Technologies. WITC's cumulative economic impact on the 11-county district totals \$152.6 million annually.

- Recent WITC graduates report a 95 percent job placement rate within six months of graduation.
- Further follow-up surveys show those wages increase by 50 percent five years after graduation.
- WITC students receive a 5:1 ratio of return on their education investment.

WITC received multiple national and state recognitions within the past three years. Those include:

- Ranked in the top 150 community colleges by The Aspen Institute.
- Exceeded the required score in every category for a straight "A" on the Perkins Report Card.
- WITC is designated a 2017 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media.

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#### **Issue Summary:**

Support for biennial budget requests for 2017-19.

**Wisconsin Technical College System:** request to invest an additional \$5 million annual to address Wisconsin's skills shortage, and continue to distribute 30% of General Aid based on college outcomes.

**University of Wisconsin System:** requests \$42.5 million in new funding over the next two years, in addition to the restoration of \$50 million which the UW-System was required to lapse back in the current biennium.

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WITC is expanding fast-track opportunities for high school students to gain college credit or advanced standing for in-demand career programs. Dual enrollment allows students to earn high school and college credit at the same time. Courses include training in machine tool, nursing assistant, welding, construction, personal care worker and more.

- WITC currently holds more than 325 advanced standing and dual enrollment agreements with more than 40 high schools.
- WITC's work is transforming dual enrollment, supporting high school students earning technical college credit.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, 103 high school students also took part in Youth Options.



*Information Technology Lab. Photo: WITC*

WTCS Wisconsin Grants help WITC students earn credentials to provide the skilled workforce Wisconsin employers need to continue enhancing the state's economy. Increased state funding would allow up to an additional 250 eligible WITC students access to a Wisconsin Grant.

In 2016, WITC conducted over 80 customized business training and assessment contracts in the Superior and Ashland regions. WITC collaborates with manufacturers, nonprofit agencies, and government entities to increase their competitive edge and to be successful in a changing employment landscape. Ninety-five percent of our local businesses state, "WITC is important to the overall success of their business."



The University of Wisconsin-Superior offers a high quality education with nationally ranked programs at one of the most affordable prices in the upper Midwest.

UW-Superior has received increased state and national recognition in recent months including:

- Named Best Online Education Program in the State of Wisconsin by [AffordableColleges.com](http://AffordableColleges.com)
- Named among the 25 Safest College Campuses in America by [HomeInsurance.com](http://HomeInsurance.com)
- Named a Military Friendly® School by G.I. Jobs® for the seventh straight year
- Named among the Top 25 Military Friendly® Schools in the Nation in 2016

In addition, UW-Superior remains among U.S. News & World Report's Top 25 Best Online Bachelor's Programs in the country and the top school within the UW System, and once again named among the Top 200 Schools in America for Native American Students by Winds of Change Magazine.



*Old Main, UW-Superior. Photo: UW-Superior*

UW-Superior is growing. We're serving more students and making an even larger economic impact in Superior and northwest Wisconsin. Freshmen enrollment is up 20% in the last two years, and this year international enrollment includes nearly 200 students from almost 50 different countries. In fact, UW-Superior's percentage of international students is the second largest in the UW System to only Madison. UW-Superior is home to four world-class research centers, which bring in nearly \$5 million in federal grants annually. New programs are being offered at UW-Superior, while world-class programs such as the Transportation and Logistics Management program continue to grow. UW-Superior now has more than 70 program offerings, with more to come in 2017.



*Campus celebration in the Yellow Jacket Union. Photo: UW-Superior*