

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2023–2026



For seven years in a row, Southwest Tech ranks
among the best two-year colleges in the nation!

THIS IS WHERE
Everyone Belongs

Who We Are

Mission

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College provides education and training opportunities responsive to students, employers, and communities.

Vision

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College will be a preferred provider of education, source of talent, and place of employment in the region. We at the College change lives by providing opportunities for success.

Values

Integrity

We promote a cohesive culture that is based on honesty, professionalism, trust, kindness, and respect. We work collaboratively to maintain a healthy environment of clear communication, transparency, and dedication to the mission of Southwest Tech.



Lori Needham, executive assistant, is known around campus for her unwavering kindness and infectious positivity. She extends trust generously and helps the entire campus community to feel like they belong here.

Learning

We work together to make high-quality, affordable education accessible to our diverse population. We help students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to an inclusive workforce and community success. Through partnerships, we seek opportunities to improve lives.

Kelly Kelly, Director of Fiscal Services, regularly seeks opportunities to provide work-based learning opportunities for students in the accounting program. She considers them an essential part of her team and holds them accountable for demonstrating professional behavior, communication, and the technical skills needed for today's workforce.



Continuous Improvement

We leverage our rural perspective and progressive entrepreneurial spirit to attract people who strive for excellence in student success through innovation in technology, services, and strategies. We support and promote personal and professional development to exceed industry standards and produce competent and



skilled graduates in high-quality, relevant programs essential to our sustainability as a college.

Stacey Place, Physical Therapist Assistant program instructor, recently took on the role of academic lead for several health science

programs. The primary role of academic leads is to serve as coaches, mentors, and guides on a peer-to-peer basis, with the overarching goal of enhancing student learning outcomes.

Accountability

We hold ourselves and our teams responsible for achieving academic and fiscal College goals as established by the District Board. We practice self-awareness and hold each other accountable to recognize and confront biases that impact our thinking, behavior, and performance to realize positive and equitable results.

Holly Straka, Workforce Innovation Grant coordinator, is working on her masters degree while also leading the \$2.9 million Workforce Innovation Grant which funds Southwest Tech's Advance Southwest Wisconsin project. The project helps the Southwest Wisconsin workforce excel and increase their career potential in the post-pandemic manufacturing sector by providing job site training, educational pathways, and advanced support.



Inclusivity

We provide a welcoming environment that promotes respect for all members of the college community. We commit to learning about our differences and commonalities to better appreciate the value of each person. We empower the college community to cultivate connections and defend the dignity and humanity of all. We expect all members of our college community to live our Charger Respect Pledge.



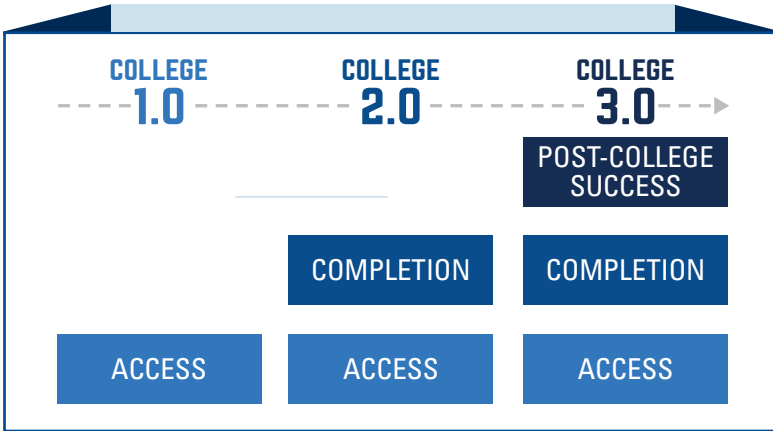
Matt Nation, evening custodian, regularly seeks opportunities to support students who need it the most by hiring them for the evening custodian crew. Matt makes adjustments to job duties to make sure students feel confident and supported. Matt answers many after-hours calls and is the first to extend a helping hand.



Building relationships with prospective students, current students, and employers is what we do best. At Southwest Tech, we care.

The front cover shows a recruiter meeting with students from Darlington High School, a non-traditional occupation student in the Building Trades-Carpentry program, and the first cohort of students in the high wage Surgical Technology program.

College Health Indicators



The District Board of Directors reviews College Health Indicators (CHI) semi-annually. The CHI are metrics that provide a trend of performance year-over-year with benchmarks that compare Southwest Tech to other Wisconsin Technical College System colleges or national performance standards.

Each year, the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association recognizes individuals and business leaders in the state who exemplify the very best of Wisconsin's technical education system and colleges. The Association also recognizes partners in our communities who promote the value of a technical college education. For the last two years in a row, Southwest Tech District Board

COLLEGE HEALTH INDICATORS (CHI)		2023 ACTUAL	2024 GOAL
CHI 1A.	Promoting Equity in Student Learning-Graduation Rate Comparison:		
	For Special Population* Students	42%	70%
	For Non-Special Population Students	60%	
CHI 2A.	Course Completion Rate	91%	95%
CHI 3A.	Year-to-Year Graduate Wage Growth	8%	10%
CHI 4A.	5-Year Graduate Wage Growth	67%	75%

*The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) defines special populations as students of color, Pell Grant recipients, military veterans, incarcerated individuals, dislocated workers, and persons with disabilities.



▲ Charles Bolstad
Donald Tuescher ▶

Chairs Donald Tuescher and Charles Bolstad were honored as the Wisconsin Technical College System Board Member of the Year.



College Governance



Executive Team

Leads the college to achieve excellence with integrity through learning and service.

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program selected Holly Clendenen as one of 35 leaders for the 2023-24 class of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship.



College Council

Cultivates College Values as core behaviors of a positive, caring culture of wellness and trust.

Josh Bedward, facilities manager and master electrician, co-leads the College Council and took a lead role in developing and implementing the performance management evaluations.



Academic Council

Leads efforts to ensure all students learn, progress, and achieve their goals, especially our Special Populations*.

Cynde Larsen, Ph.D., chief academic officer and executive dean, leads the Academic Council.



Operations Council

Leads the achievement of sustainable college operations.

Heath Ahnen, executive director of information technology services, is co-leading the implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning system.

COLLEGE 1.0-ACCESS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Create transformational student success plans to improve access for all students.

PERFORMANCE

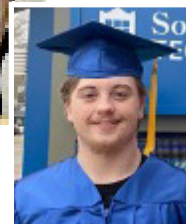
We know we will be successful when more people chose to be students at Southwest Tech, especially if they live in the college's five-county district.

GOALS

- 50 Adult Basic Education and English Language Learners students will have a student success plan by the end of the spring 2024 semester.
- 150 dual enrollment high school students will have a student success plan by the end of the spring 2024 semester.
- 300 special population* degree-seeking students will have a student success plan by the end of the spring 2024 semester.
- 50 university transfer students have a student success plan by the end of the spring 2024 semester.
- All program students will have a success plan before their first course begins in the 2024 fall term.



An eager group of adults in Darlington is on their way to learning English. A partnership between Southwest Wisconsin Technical College and the Darlington Community School District, has drawn approximately 60 adult learners to weekly classes since September.



Cody M. Burke completed the HSED program at our Richland Center Outreach Center. He is from Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, and was a student at North Crawford High School. Cody will attend Southwest Tech in Fennimore this fall as a part of the Agricultural Power and Equipment Technology program. Good luck with your future, Cody!

COLLEGE 2.0-COMPLETION

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Enhance high-quality work-based learning to improve course completion and graduation for all students.

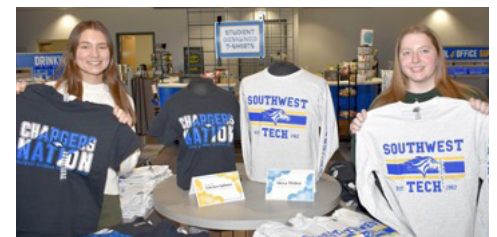
PERFORMANCE

We know we will be successful when more students graduate and we make improvements to decrease achievement gaps for special population students. Southwest Tech emphasizes work-based learning so students learn first-hand from industry experts how to excel in the workforce or successfully transfer to a four-year university.*

GOALS

- All academic programs will incorporate or enhance at least one formal work-based learning initiative into the curriculum before the fall 2024 semester.
- During the 2023-24 academic year, all academic program advisory committees will consider student success rates and outcomes and identify curriculum or industry innovations that will increase wages.
- The Boards of Directors for the College, Foundation, and Real Estate Foundation will adopt fundraising priorities aligned with supporting needs-based scholarships and work-based learning by November of 2023 and establish fundraising goals for each of the next three years.
- Universal Design initiatives will be assessed for impact on student success with investments in the opportunities that will have the most impact on students during the 2024-25 budget development cycle.

All students are better off when they have authentic work-based learning opportunities similar to what they will experience in the workplace. The internal partnerships between marketing and the Graphic & Web Design program create meaningful experiences that align with program outcomes. Pictured are Graphic & Web Design students Sabrina Splinter and Alexa Weber whose t-shirt designs were selected to be sold in the Chargers Bookstore.



*Work-based learning is a course-based opportunity to engage and interact with industry experts while learning to demonstrate essential employability and technical skills necessary for today's workforce. Work-based learning can take various forms, such as practicum, clinical, and internship courses; apprenticeships, and other course-based learning experiences in which students interact directly with potential employers.

COLLEGE 3.0-POST-COLLEGE SUCCESS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Innovate the curriculum and workforce to improve wage and transfer success for all graduates.

This is Where You Excel. Southwest Tech graduates experience high levels of job placement. We seek to improve the wages they earn as our alumni increase their value to employers.

PERFORMANCE

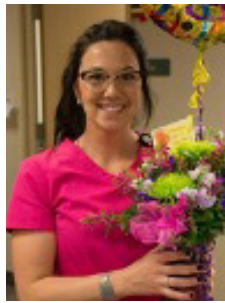
We know we will be successful when local employers report graduates have increased knowledge, skills, and abilities and recognize the higher value by increasing wages.

GOALS

- Add five new high-wage programs by 2026. We will pursue radiology technician, respiratory therapist, software developer, paramedic, and one still to-be-determined.
- Through the Team Action Plan process of Instructional Vitality, we will plan and implement curriculum modifications for at least one element of each low-wage program during the 2023-24 academic year.
- Strengthen the college's relationship with the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to help more Southwest Tech students complete their bachelor's degree.



*As a Nursing student **Kylie Meier** participated in the Southwest Tech sponsored trip to Haiti.*



While working as an LPN and working her way through the Nursing-Associate Degree program, Kylie was selected as the DRIVEN Award recipient at Southwest Health in Platteville, Wisconsin. Kylie is described as "A nurse who shows compassion for people every day." Kylie is known for her energy, empathy, flexibility in meeting others' needs, dedication, and caring nature.



After working for seven years as an LPN, ADN, and BSN, Kylie has started seeing her own patients as an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber in 2023.

Kylie Meier

- 2018 Nursing-Associate Degree
- 2020 Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- 2022 Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber

COLLEGE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

 aspen institute

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) and its partners at the Community College Research Center (CCRC) have launched a first-of-its-kind initiative that reflects the next wave of the two-year college student success movement: a bold focus on excellence and equity in post-completion outcomes. In the spring of 2023, Southwest Tech was selected to join a ten-college network to work closely with Aspen, CCRC, expert

coaches, and field practitioners over three years on comprehensive reforms and then three additional years of evaluation, all with one overarching goal: thousands more community college students, including students of color and those from lower-income backgrounds, entering and completing programs that lead directly to jobs that pay a family-sustaining wage or to efficient and effective completion of a bachelor's degree.