



2017 CALENDAR

Featuring Alumni, Partners, and Friends of Southwest Tech



Best 2-Year College

**Southwest Tech and Southwest Tech Foundation
2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

Southwest Tech 2015-2016 Annual Report



Jason Wood, Ph.D.
College President

Happy 50th Anniversary Southwest Tech!

This year will be dedicated to celebrating past achievements, expressing gratitude for present support, and establishing a foundation for future success.

The best part of my job is when I get to spend time learning from our faculty and staff. I have learned how to paint the hood of a car from our Auto Collision Repair & Refinish students, made dental impressions of a student after being a patient in our Dental Assistant program, and converted a photograph

into a painting with the assistance of our Graphic & Web Design students. At Southwest Tech, we value hands-on learning that simulates what our graduates see on the job. We take pride knowing our faculty are experts in their fields who design powerful learning opportunities for their students.

Outside of the classroom, you will find friendly staff who are committed to helping students be successful regardless of what life throws at them. Our employees mentor students through on-campus employment or through volunteer service. At graduation, many students attribute their success to various employees on campus who went out of their way to be friendly and supportive.

Southwest Tech is one of only a few two-year colleges in the country to provide students with access to a full-time mental health counselor, an on-campus food bank, emergency housing options, child care facilities and programming, gas money assistance, and free professional clothing for job interviews. We strive to improve the lives of our students through excellence in learning inside and outside of the classroom. It would be my pleasure to provide you a tour of campus – we have much to show off!

At Southwest Tech, it is always about people. Our students are at the very heart of all we do. It is no wonder we are ranked as the #1 two-year college in the state and the 11th best two-year college in the country! We could not accomplish our goals without the support of our local communities. Thank you for being a part of our success!

Southwest Tech President

Southwest Tech District Board



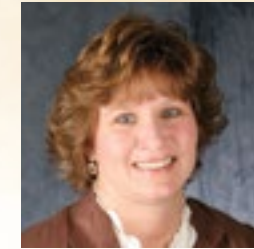
Jim Kohlenberg
Chairperson
Employer Member
Appointed 2001



Chris Prange
Vice Chairperson
Additional Member
Appointed 2011



Darlene Mickelson
Secretary
Employee Member
Appointed 2012



Missy Fitzsimons
Treasurer
Employee Member
Appointed 2006



Charles Bolstad
Additional Member
Appointed 2016



Russ Moyer
Additional Member
Appointed 1981



Eileen Nickels
Elected Official Member
Appointed 2006



Don Tuescher
Employer Member
Appointed 1994



Linda Erickson
School Administrator Member
Appointed 2015

Bolstad Joins College Board

Charles J. Bolstad joined the Southwest Wisconsin Technical College District Board beginning the 2016-2017 school year. He brings more than 30 years of experience as a professional educator to the Board, including work with K-12 students, post-secondary students as an instructor at Viterbo University, and in the Wisconsin Technical College School system at Western Technical College. Throughout his time working in the field of education, he was a member of the Wisconsin National Guard for 38 years. Bolstad resides with his wife in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Together they operate the same farm that has been in his family for 100 years, as he thinks it helps keep him grounded and connected to agriculture.

College Mission

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

College 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.

On the Cover



Featured on the front cover are images of students who enrolled in three of the earliest programs offered at Southwest Tech.

Area Women in Clerk-Typist Class: Fennimore Times, September 5, 1968.

Pictured are Mrs. Edna Truitt, Mrs. Donna Steen, Mrs. Doris Schneider, and their instructor, Miss Jody Newcomer.

Top Left Photo: Prairie News, November 7, 1968. One of the first projects of the diesel class in the Auto-Tractor program is to analyze the overall condition and make repairs where necessary. The six students shown on a diesel road grader, loaned by a local contractor are (left to right) Jim Gobrecht, Belmont; Bob Cohen, Bagley; Tom Fleege, Kieler; Dan McWilliams, Cuba City; Douglas Schauff, Cassville; and Jim Rounds, Boscobel.

Bottom Left Photo: Fennimore Times, October 9, 1969. Agri Mechanics students at Southwest Wisconsin Vocational-Technical School have just completed a two-week unit on grain drying and handling equipment. During their classroom work they studied principles of grain drying, heat requirements for various capacity drying units, and types of commercial dryers on the market. As their laboratory portion of the unit, they erected a grain drying bin including perforated drying floor, transition, fans, and heaters on the Dan Riley farm, Fennimore. Pictured as they are about to complete the project are: standing (left to right) Gary Kramer, Montfort; Eugene Leuthold, Highland; Kim Pickett, Steuben; Steve Gruenwald, Livingston; Steve Riley, Fennimore; and Art Hoffman, Potosi. Kneeling is John Salesmen, Argyle.

A Special Thank You to Our Foundation Sponsors



Boardman & Clark attorneys provide legal services to individuals, a wide range of business and corporate

clients, school districts and local governments. While we have strong Madison roots, our practice has broader regional, national and global reach, including an office in Fennimore. **Learn more at boardmanclark.com.**



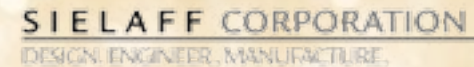
For all your residential, agriculture, and commercial construction needs, **Jim's Building Center, Inc.**, in Fennimore can do it all! Located on Hwy. 18 East between Dodgeville

and Prairie du Chien, Jim's Building Center, Inc., has been serving the Grant County area for over 30 years. At Jim's Building Center, Inc., no job is too big or too small. **Visit www.jimsbuildingcenter.com or call (608) 822-3741.**



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Both banks have served Southwest Wisconsin for 145 and 113 years and are committed to being "First for You." For all of your agricultural, commercial, residential and personal lending needs, contact Community First Bank. Now serving you at eight convenient locations and online. **Visit us at www.cfbank.com. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.**



Sielaff Corporation partners with its customers to design, engineer, and manufacture flawless steel furniture and furniture components. Their factory in Mineral Point produces exclusive private-label products for retailers throughout the U.S. The company's hallmark is to work with every customer with a spirit of openness and cooperation. Sielaff strives to manufacture all of its products to the highest quality standards. **Visit www.sielaffcorp.com.**



At **Wisconsin Bank & Trust**, we pride ourselves in developing strong relationships with our customers to truly understand their banking and lending needs. Our experienced

professionals possess extensive expertise and specialize in personal, business, commercial and agricultural banking and lending. By getting to know our customers, we can provide the products and solutions to meet each individual's specific banking needs.

Wisconsin Bank & Trust is a community bank serving the Southwest, South Central, Eastern and Northern regions of Wisconsin. We are dedicated to the community in which we all live and work by serving our customers and providing opportunities to our neighbors. *Member FDIC/Equal Housing Lender.*

Southwest Tech does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: The Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Officer, 800.362.3322 Ext. 2315 or TDD at 608.822.2072, Southwest Tech, 1800 Bronson Blvd., Fennimore, WI 53809.

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↳ Southwest Tech President Jason Wood Announces 50th Anniversary Gift ↻

Southwest Tech President Jason Wood and his wife, Kathryn, pledged \$50,000 to the Southwest Tech Foundation to show their support for students, faculty, and staff. The gift also serves to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the college.

Wood announced the gift at the all faculty and staff in-service on August 17, 2016. The gift demonstrates their strong commitment to Southwest Wisconsin Technical College and surrounding communities. The gift will support student diversity scholarships and a new fund recognizing employee excellence. Wood followed the announcement by asking faculty and staff to support the 50th anniversary goal of setting the stage for fundraising and growth for the College. All College employees were challenged to consider a new or increased payroll deduction gift, which the Wood's gift will match.

“Kathryn and I have tremendous respect for the rich history of Southwest Tech. With the support of faculty, staff, students, and our communities, we can build on the excellence for which Southwest Tech is known as demonstrated by being ranked the 11th best two-year college in the nation,” said Wood.

Wood encouraged all employees to support a cause that means the most to them, stating that a \$10 donation per payroll could establish an annual scholarship. “Every contribution means more to students than you might think,” stated Wood.



Jason and Kathryn Wood family (back, l. to r.) Melanie, Heidi, Sadie, Kathryn, and Jason. (front, l. to r.) Brynlee, Amy, and Natalie. Photo by Stanley C. Wood.

Wood joined Southwest Tech as its sixth President on July 1, 2015. He came to Southwest Tech after serving as the Executive Vice President for Student and Academic Services at Central Wyoming College. Dr. Wood and Kathryn have six beautiful and talented daughters who are frequent guests on campus.



↳ Southwest Tech Ranked Wisconsin's #1 Two-Year College and #11 in the Nation ↻

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College was named the best two-year college in Wisconsin according to the most recent report conducted by bestcolleges.com. With over 88 higher education institutions in Wisconsin, Best Colleges' 2016 findings rank Southwest Tech first in academic quality, affordability, and student experience.

In addition to the number one ranking received from Best Colleges, Southwest Tech was ranked the number 11 two-year college in the nation by WalletHub.com. The survey compared 821 community and technical colleges on three key components: cost and financing, education outcomes, and career outcomes. That puts Southwest Tech in the top 1.5% of colleges in the nation.

“The faculty and staff at Southwest Tech should be proud of this tremendous accomplishment. Our employees, both past and present, highly value learning and continuous improvement as we strive to make a positive impact on our students. We gratefully celebrate this recognition of our excellence,” said Southwest Tech President, Dr. Jason Wood.

Southwest Tech encourages opportunities and experiences outside of the classroom. On-campus housing is available for 112 students.

Even more unique to Southwest Tech, new housing complexes are built by the Building Trades-Carpentry program students. Students have the option of joining over 20 student organizations. In addition, there are two intercollegiate co-ed sports teams: a trapshooting team and a golf team.



Southwest Tech offers more than 50 programs to serve its five-county district of Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Crawford in Southwest Wisconsin. Ninety-five percent of graduates are employed within one year of graduation. Sixty percent of graduates find employment within the five-county district, 26% outside of the five-county district but still within Wisconsin, and 14% find employment outside of Wisconsin. Southwest Tech's vision is to be a preferred provider of education, source of talent, and place of employment in the region. We change lives by providing opportunities for success.

Southwest Tech Agriculture Department Offers New Programs

As the demand for skilled workers trained in modern agriculture practices and technology continues to grow, Southwest Tech has responded with a suite of new and enhanced educational offerings designed to meet the needs of the industry.

Over the last three years, Southwest Tech agriculture instructors and staff have worked with industry experts to develop educational career pathways that align with the skills and knowledge that a graduate would need to either run their own farming operation or work for a variety of exciting agriculture-based companies. “Decisions were made with careful consideration given to the workforce demand from the agriculture community in our five-county district and beyond,” explains Derek Dachelet, Dean of Industry, Trades, & Agriculture at Southwest Tech. Southwest Tech made it a strategic priority and invested resources to expand the Ag Department from 4 to 16 programs. Those 16 programs include two-year associate degrees, two-year technical diplomas, one-year technical diplomas, pathway certificates, and adult farm management continuing education classes. The expanded programs allow for students to select career pathways in animal science, agronomy, dairy management, agriculture equipment, and agri-business management. “Our biggest area of growth is that we now offer production agriculture-focused degrees and diplomas,” outlined Ag Coordinator Deb Ihm. “When a student comes to Southwest Tech, the first thing we ask is if they want to work for a company in the ag industry or on a farm



Ag Day introduces high school students and the community to agriculture education at Southwest Tech. This year the College hosted over 300 people.

operation. We now have specific education tracks for both career goals, and that is very exciting.” There was a strategic initiative to expand livestock programs beyond dairy, to include beef, swine, and small ruminants. Southwest Tech is not stopping there. Within the next year, online education with hands-on enhancement will



Corn Silage Chipper Day in Stitzer, Wisconsin, was a great service-partnership activity with local feed and agronomy centers.

be offered for current dairy goat producers and those interested in starting a dairy goat business. Southwest Tech also improved Dairy Herd Management education by adding a second year to the program, which includes enhanced training that a student would need if they wanted to own and operate their own dairy operation. “We went from teaching students to be a herdsman to managing the entire dairy operation,” said Deb Ihm, Ag Coordinator at Southwest Tech. “The first year of training is focused on developing a student’s technical skills and the second year of training is focused on the management of the farm business, which is important in today’s volatile economy and tight profit margins” added Ihm.

In addition to expanding agriculture programs, Southwest Tech has invested in bringing the latest technology into the classroom. In September of 2016, Southwest Miss Golden Jubilee, one of three cow birthing simulators in the state of Wisconsin, arrived on campus. Funds were also used to purchase a Near-infrared Scanner (cutting edge technology to test feed samples for nutritional quality), a rainfall simulator, and multiple unmanned



Southwest Miss Golden Jubilee, Southwest Tech’s Cow Birthing Simulator, is one of only three in the entire state of Wisconsin.

aerial vehicles (UAV), or “drones”, which are being increasingly utilized in agriculture to scout fields and gather important scientific data that producers are using to make critical farm management decisions.

The continued success and expansion of Southwest Tech agriculture programs has not gone unnoticed. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection selected Southwest Tech as a site to host the Ethiopian delegation, including the first lady of Ethiopia, to learn more about Wisconsin’s Dairy Industry.

Southwest Tech students are also leading the charge. Agri-business students Kodiak Shelton, from Reedsburg, Wisconsin, and Sylvia Deitelhoff from Cazenovia, Wisconsin, were recently elected as the President and Vice President Wisconsin State Officers of the National Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization (PAS). PAS is one of the 11 career and technical student organizations that has been approved by the U. S. Department of Education as an integral part of career and technical education. Dachelet summed up the campus instructors and staff vision for agriculture programs at the College, “When people think about where they should go to receive Ag education, we want to be known as ‘that place’ in their minds.”

🔗 Southwest Tech Is Home to First Trapshooting Team in the Wisconsin Technical College System 🔗

“Trapshooting gives students a new way to identify and connect with Southwest Tech during their time here,” said Dr. Jason Wood, College President.

Trapshooting will be the Chargers’ second intercollegiate offering, and co-ed sport, building on the growing popularity of the sport among Wisconsin high school students. In 2016 over a thousand students participated in Wisconsin High School Trapshooting competitions, including 12 local high schools within Southwest Tech’s district. At the college level, over 300 colleges have formal trapshooting.

“It’s a great opportunity for students to learn a new sport, or continue participating in organized trapshooting competitions, at the college level,” said Matt Schneider, Southwest Tech Trapshooting co-coach. “The Trapshooting Team is a way to bring students of diverse backgrounds and experiences together on our campus” added Dan

Imhoff, co-coach of the Southwest Tech Trapshooting Team.

Practices and home competitions are held at the Muscoda Sportsman’s Club. Student athletes will compete as the Southwest Tech Chargers. Currently the team has an active roster of 10 students. However, if there continues to be strong student interest and participation, Imhoff believes the college might consider building a dedicated trap facility on campus. “We already have a pistol range for our Criminal Justice program,” Imhoff said. “We would definitely evaluate our options.”

Southwest Tech is part of the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP), a national organization that provides kids from elementary grades through high school and college with the opportunity to participate in the fun and challenging sports of Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays, as well as the Olympic disciplines of Bunker Trap, Trap Doubles and International Skeet.



Members of Southwest Tech’s first trapshooting team are (front, l. to r.) Gabe Ottoway, Mineral Point; Cody Hora, Hillsboro; Kyle McMannes, Lancaster; Darrien Lettman, Avoca (back, l. to r.) Matt Schneider, Trapshooting Team Coach, Muscoda; Dylan Michek, Dodgeville; Brian Walker, Lancaster; Matthew Leesser, Fennimore; Matt Gorgen, Dodgeville; Matt Peckham, Platteville; Carson Gilbert, Dodgeville; and Dan Imhoff, Trapshooting Team Coach, Muscoda.

🔗 Dave Birkelo: From Student to Faculty Member 🔗



Dave Birkelo joined the teaching staff in 1998.

As Southwest Tech gears up to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, Dave Birkelo is celebrating his 30th anniversary at Southwest Tech. Dave has filled many roles on campus: student, alumnus, staff member, and instructor.

It’s hard to imagine a time when Information Technology wasn’t a program at Southwest Tech. But when Birkelo graduated from high school in 1982, classes were not available. “My buddy took computer programming classes at La Crosse, and after a year of working I decided to join him. I was accepted and had my room up there. All I had to do was show up in August. Then I got the letter.”

In 1983 Southwest Tech, still under the name Southwest Wisconsin Vocational-Technical Institute, started offering the Data Processing program. The letter stated that unless he wanted to be charged out-of-district fees, he had to enroll at Southwest Tech. That made the decision pretty easy and life changing.



Dave’s earliest days at Southwest Tech are as a student in the Data Processing program.

Birkelo had many great memories as a student, and after three short years, he became an alumnus. He moved to Janesville to look for a job thinking that his time at Southwest Tech was over. “Charles Knipp, one of my instructors called me that September. He asked if I would be interested in a position as a lab assistant/programmer at Southwest Tech. At that time I still didn’t have a job as a programmer. It sounded like a good option to me. I liked my instructors and I was happy to come back as an employee. My first job was at Southwest Tech. I started in 1986, became an instructor in 1998, and I’ve been here ever since.”



Dave was employed as a computer lab assistant at the beginning of his career at Southwest Tech.

From 1986 to 1998 Birkelo worked alongside Joy Kite and Dave Hardyman. He does not refer to them as co-workers, or friends, but as family. His family expanded in 1998 when he married Amy (Gearing) Birkelo, and children followed. In 2006 they welcomed Cody and in 2009 Collin came along.

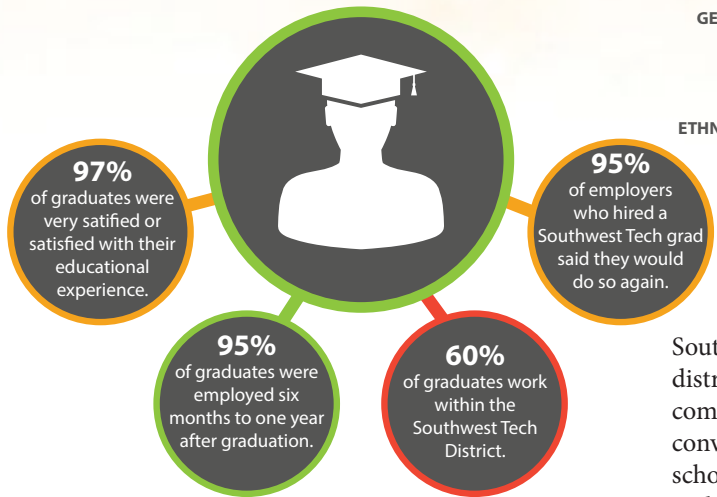
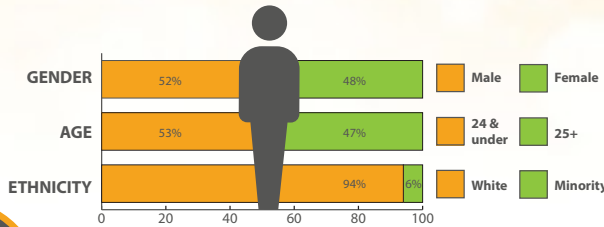
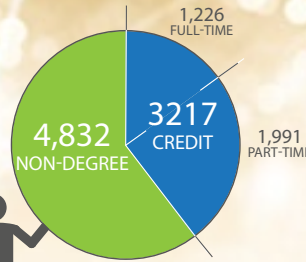
When asked about being employed at Southwest Tech for 30 years, Birkelo said, “There have been so many people here that I’ve met. If it hadn’t been for that one letter introducing me to the College, I would have never met them. They are lifelong friends. They’ve made a huge impact in my life. What if I’d never gotten that letter? It was a fork in the road, and I’m so happy I chose this path. I still have that letter.”

Congratulations on 30 years at Southwest Tech!

About Southwest Tech

Southwest Tech opened its doors in 1967 as one of the 16 two-year, non-profit, open access institutions within the Wisconsin Technical College System. The College serves 3,800 square miles including 30 school districts in and near Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Dane, Green, Sauk, and Vernon Counties. The Higher Learning Commission accredits us and we are a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Southwest Tech offers Career & Technical Education/Training with 40+ Associate of Applied Science Degree and Technical Diploma programs, numerous certificates, customized training for incumbent workers, continuing education, Adult Basic Education, and GED/HSED boot camps and testing.

8,049
TOTAL STUDENTS



K-12 Partnerships

Southwest Tech believes that partnerships with our district's high schools is the key to strengthening communities by providing opportunities that offer convenience and savings. At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, the College had 169 articulation agreements with area high schools, which included 93 transcribed credit agreements and 76 advanced standing agreements. Through these agreements, 1,133 high school students enrolled in transcribed credit courses earning 3,942 credits, and 293 students earned advanced standing credit. Of the total number of 2015 district high schools graduates, 23% chose to attend Southwest Tech.

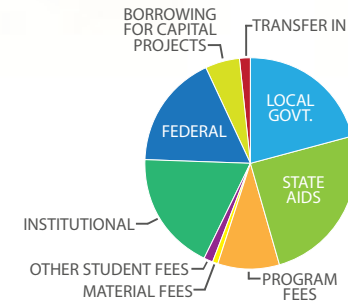


2015-2016 GRANT FUNDING		
Type of Grant	Annual Value	Number Awarded
WTCS Grants		
GPR	\$597,847	7
AEFL	\$93,509	2
Perkins	\$178,719	5
WAT	\$195,355	13
Other State Grants	\$623,944	14
Federal/Private	\$1,357,628	12
Total Grants and Value	\$3,047,002	53

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College 2016-2017 Budget Summary

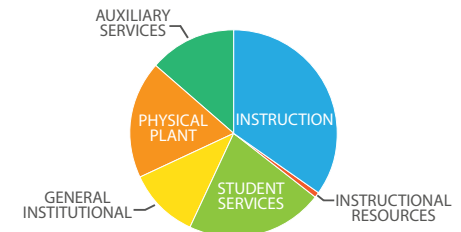
REVENUES

Local Government	\$9,725,000
State Aids	11,352,000
Program Fees	4,390,000
Material Fees	333,000
Other Student Fees	673,000
Institutional	8,543,000
Federal	7,980,000
Borrowing for Capital Projects	2,500,000
Transfer In	681,000
Total Revenues	\$46,177,000



EXPENDITURES

Instruction	\$16,091,208
Instructional Resources	374,000
Student Services	9,850,000
General Institutional	5,153,191
Physical Plant	8,508,601
Auxiliary Services	6,200,000
Total Expenditures	\$46,177,000





Reg Gill

FUTUREMAKER

AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS
CLASS OF 1986

CRIMINAL JUSTICE-LAW
ACADEMY, CLASS OF 2000

Sheriff Gill didn't take a traditional path to becoming Lafayette County's Sheriff. He graduated from Southwest Tech with an Auto Mechanics degree. He worked on the family farm, then started his own business with Mac Tools. While living in Cuba City he met the police chief and started working some part-time shifts to help out. Eventually a position opened up for him to work full-time with the Lafayette County Sheriff's department and then he was able to move up the ranks to become Sheriff.

When asked about the impact of Southwest Tech Sheriff Gill said, "We are extremely fortunate to have Southwest Tech, and I'm grateful to have had two separate careers because of my education there. I am fortunate in that I have been able to interact with a lot of the same people from those two careers and am able to use the skills I learned. I find myself using the knowledge from my Auto Mechanics degree in my current position, whether it's helping someone stranded on the side of the road with their cars or making repairs on the fleet here at the Sheriff's department."

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2 Southwest Tech Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Southwest Tech Closed	17 Southwest Tech Spring Term Begins	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	DECEMBER 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	 <p>JIM'S BUILDING CENTER <small>JIM'S BUILDING CENTER, INC.</small></p>	 <p>Southwest Tech 50 1967 2017 YEARS</p>

Built in 1968, the auto mechanics and welding shop was the first building to appear on the Southwest Tech campus footprint.



Cindy Frohne

FUTUREMAKER

BARBER/COSMETOLOGY
CLASS OF 1995

Barb McCormick

FUTUREMAKER

BARBER/COSMETOLOGY
CLASS OF 1979 AND 1999

Cindy and Barb are passionate about what they do for a living. Both Cindy and Barb are graduates of Southwest Tech's Cosmetology program, they both own salons in their hometown, and they instruct together in the Cosmetology program. "You never work a day in your life if you love what you're doing," said Barb. She and Cindy are equally grateful for the opportunity to work at Southwest Tech. The Barber/Cosmetology program was started in 1976 by Dorothy Shaw, when the campus was just 9 years old. Dorothy taught Barb and Cindy and even managed Cindy's shop for a year before she could get her manager's license. "She was definitely the most impactful on our careers," Barb stated and they both agreed that they often ask each other, "What would Dorothy have done?" With Southwest Tech being named the #1 two-year college in Wisconsin, they are confident she would be very proud of how the program has grown.

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 		JANUARY 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4
				Groundhog Day		Outdoor Skills Day Ag/Auto Center, Southwest Tech
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Valentine's Day				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Presidents' Day					
26	27	28	MARCH 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 		

A utility worker prepares water pipes for installation at the start of the first large-scale building project that began in 1969.



Chris Prange

FUTUREMAKER

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER
2011–CURRENT

REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION
BOARD MEMBER
2016–CURRENT

Chris has served on the Southwest Tech District Board since 2011. He was encouraged to join when he served with Dr. Karen Knox on the Grant Regional Hospital board in Lancaster. Chris joined just as Dr. Duane Ford was starting his presidency. "I've learned so much from serving on this board. As a banker, I pay a lot of attention to how dollars are being spent, and I'm getting a first-hand understanding of how public funding enterprises differ from private for-profit companies." Prange knows the importance of Southwest Tech to the district. "There has to be a school like this here. Students are seeking out job opportunities that we train for here at Southwest Tech. We try not to ignore anything that's needed, and we understand the importance of keeping people here in Southwest Wisconsin. It's important that we maintain a focus on what we can provide to industry, because that's what is going to keep them coming to Southwest Tech and will keep the college a viable asset to the region."

PHOTO BY SARAH PRANGE

MARCH 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <small>Member FDIC</small>	FEBRUARY 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	APRIL 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SOUTHWEST TECH SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES						
Daylight Savings Time Begins					St. Patrick's Day	
19	20 Spring Begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Job Fair Lenz Center, Southwest Tech Open to the Public	30	31	

The landscape quickly changed as crews worked diligently to complete the construction of four buildings that took place between 1969 and 1971.



Keith and Mary U'Ren

FUTUREMAKERS

AUTO-TRACTOR
CLASS OF 1969

ACCOUNT CLERK
CLASS OF 1971

When Keith and Mary reflect back to when they first started at Southwest Tech, there's a lot of memories that come back, including when they first met at the rollerskating rink in Fennimore.

Keith graduated in 1969 with an Auto-Tractor degree. The majority of his classes were held in Building 600, one of the first buildings on campus. After graduating, he worked for the Fennimore Co-Op and spent most of his career as a truck driver.

Mary went to Southwest Tech in 1971 for the Account Clerk program, "I remember picking up a keypunch card to register. If the card was gone, the class was full," said Mary. Mary also fondly recalls her work-study job working with the mimeograph machine. Work-study experience, coupled with her education, led her to a position at Rayovac and then Southwest Tech. Mary worked in Accounts Payable and was promoted to Payroll Supervisor, retiring after 41 and a half years. "Southwest Tech was my career," stated Mary. "I met lasting friends; it was like one big family, a truly wonderful place."

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
				<p>MARCH 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p>MAY 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<p>1</p> <p>April Fools' Day</p>
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																				
				<p>Staff In-service Southwest Tech Closed to Public</p>	<p>Spring Holiday Southwest Tech Closed</p>	<p>Tax Day</p>																																																																																				
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<p>Easter</p>						<p>Earth Day</p>																																																																																				
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<p>30</p>			<p>Administrative Professionals Day</p>		<p>Arbor Day</p>																																																																																					

This newly completed business, marketing, health, and home economics building greeted thousands of curious visitors at the first Open House held on September 19, 1971.



Terri Slapek-Fugate

FUTUREMAKER

NURSING-ASSOCIATE
DEGREE, CLASS OF 1997

When Terri and her husband were deciding where to call home, they purposely chose Southwest Wisconsin. Terri knew the reputation of Southwest Tech and wanted to work in healthcare. She started working at Southwest Health in Platteville and knew the options were endless in nursing. "I had really great role models that wanted me to succeed," stated Terri. She credits former instructor Donna Mullen as the most brilliant woman she had ever met. "She taught me to be humble. I learned that nursing is both an art and a science; we have to be in tune with our patients on an emotional level and also know how to educate them about their health." Terri is the Director of the Emergency Department/ Urgent Care at Southwest Health and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). She was recognized twice in 2015 for her work with the SANE program, receiving the Voices of Courage Award for Health and Human Services from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault as well the Rural Health Ambassador from the Rural Wisconsin Health Coop.

PHOTO BY MARK HIRSCH

MAY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1	2 National Teacher Day	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 Auto Show Ag/Auto Center, Southwest Tech National Nurses Day	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19 Donor Appreciation and Alumni and Retiree Awards Program	20 Southwest Tech Spring Graduation Armed Forces Day	
21 National EMS Week	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29 Memorial Day Southwest Tech Closed	30	31	APRIL 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		JUNE 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
							

The Library-Administration building nears completion in 1973.

Bublitz Is S

Platteville Journal
An active student council under the guidance of Tom Bublitz, Lancaster, who is president, is attending to the affairs of the Southwest Wisconsin Vocational Technical School.

Assisting Bublitz in the council activities are Greg Wehrle, West Grant, vice-president; Connie Gander, Soldiers Grove, secretary; Julie Wunnicke, Richland Center, treasurer; and Ruth McGill, Prairie du Chien, Gary Klein, Cuba City, Randy Busson, Livingston, Paul Loy, Fennimore, and Karen Varcoe, Linden.

The first activity sponsored by this group was the homecoming float prepared by the student body. The drafting club, newspaper staff, and advisorship of Miss [Name], is the present organization.

A social Halloween party followed by a Christmas party on Wednesday of this week. During the student holiday season, the school is operating with maximum efficiency to utilize the Legislature. All of the organizations are able to enjoy the benefits of the working group.

The Student Council plans for an all-school Christmas party on Dec.



Tom Bublitz

FUTUREMAKER

AUTO-TRACTOR
CLASS OF 1969

Tom Bublitz had just come back to Lancaster after completing basic training in the Army Reserves and heard that an automotive program was going to be established at what was known then as the Southwest Wisconsin Vocational-Technical School. Tom knew he needed to learn the basics of the trade in order to pursue a career so he enrolled in the program and quickly got involved. Tom became President of the Student Council, participated in program meetings and was able to give input on classes to offer. "As students, we were laying the groundwork for the future of the programs. The opportunity allowed me to grow my management skills, and it gave me the chance to work with a lot of people across campus." In addition to giving input on program offerings, Tom also made the recommendation on what the school colors would be. "I felt we needed gold. We were setting the golden standard and blue was a nice accent to gold." The school colors have stayed true, and with Southwest Tech being ranked #1 in the state and #11 in the nation in 2016, Tom's vision was true, Southwest Tech was and continues to set the golden standard.

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

JUNE 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>SIELAFF CORPORATION DESIGN. ENGINEER. MANUFACTURE.</p>		MAY 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Southwest Tech Summer Term Begins				Southwest Tech Summer Hours Campus Closed	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Flag Day		Southwest Tech Summer Hours Campus Closed	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day			Summer Begins		Southwest Tech Summer Hours Campus Closed	
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The front entrance of the campus remained unchanged for 30 years.



Pete Hoffman

FUTUREMAKER

SOUTHWEST TECH
INSTRUCTOR

FOUNDATION BOARD
MEMBER, 2015–CURRENT

AG MECHANICS
CLASS OF 1974




Originally from Verona, Pete learned about Southwest Tech from his guidance counselor who pulled him aside and told him about a new Ag Mechanics program at the vocational school in Fennimore that he thought he would do well in. Pete recalled finding Fennimore on the map and making the visit. He still remembers all of the College staff he met, including Ron McNett, the Ag Mechanics instructor. Pete signed up for the program that day.

After a successful career in the Ag Mechanics field working for several dealerships and himself, Pete found his way back on campus to be an instructor with the encouragement of Ron McNett in 1992, who was then retired from the program.

"I really enjoy sharing my love and passion for the agriculture world with my students," stated Pete. "I enjoy seeing the lightbulb come on and watching where their careers take them. I've worked with students who weren't given a chance or who had been given up on. Helping them pull up their bootstraps and succeed is amazing to witness. It's a great place to work. It's always been a family."

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

JULY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
				<p>JUNE 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		<p>AUGUST 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<p>1 Southwest Tech</p> 
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2	3 Southwest Tech Closed	4 Independence Day Southwest Tech Closed	5	6	7 Southwest Tech Summer Hours Campus Closed	8																																																																																				
9	10	11 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Kewaunee County, July 11-13	12	13	14 Southwest Tech Summer Hours Campus Closed	15																																																																																				
16	17	18	19	20	21 Southwest Tech Summer Hours Campus Closed	22																																																																																				
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30	31																																																																																									

The main entrance receives a face lift and a revitalized student services and reception area in 2003.

Greg and Deb Wehrle

AG MECHANICS
CLASS OF 1969

STENOGRAPHY
CLASS OF 1970

Greg and Deb were at Southwest Tech when it all began. Greg remembers local officials planning the location and original programs the school would offer, and Deb can recall being present when the official seal was created. Greg was drafted into the National Guard before he could finish his second year in the Ag Mechanics program, but Deb pursued her degree and graduated in 1970 from Stenography. In 1972 Greg and Deb bought a hog and beef farm and started their family, not knowing then that they were the first of many in their family to attend Southwest Tech. All three of the Wehrle sons have degrees from Southwest Tech. Chad is a 1993 Ag Power & Equipment Technician graduate, Ryan is a 1996 Agri-Business/Science Technology graduate and his wife, Melissa (Wilker) is a 1996 Accounting alumna. Kurt and his wife Jenny (Doll) both graduated in 1998, Kurt with a Mechanical Design Technology degree and Jenny a Marketing degree. Greg and Deb didn't push any of their children to go, but it was definitely the right fit.

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET



AUGUST 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	JULY 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	SEPTEMBER 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	

Aerial view of the Ag/Auto Center under construction in September 2009.



**Rockwell
Automation**



Terry Scott

ELECTRO-MECHANICAL
TECHNOLOGY
CLASS OF 2009

Terry Scott came to Southwest Tech after having worked in the field. The Electro-Mechanical Technology program at Southwest Tech allowed him to advance in his career. "The program at Southwest Tech closed the gap between knowing how to do my job and the theory behind why it's done that way," said Terry. He credits his instructors for ensuring his success, stating that if he and his fellow students were willing to put in the hard work and stay late, the instructors were always willing to give them the extra support they needed. Terry started at Rockwell Automation in 2006; and with his experience at Rockwell coupled with his degree from Southwest Tech, he was able to work his way up to the Maintenance Coordinator position. Terry said, "The education I received enabled us at Rockwell Automation to make a lot of advancements in the way we are doing things."

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 			AUGUST 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2
3	4 Labor Day Southwest Tech Closed	5	6	7	8	9
10 Grandparents Day	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 Citizenship Day	16
17 Constitution Day	18	19	20	21	22 Fall Begins	23  Southwest Tech Homecoming Reunion
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Workers guide the final beam for the Health Science Center into place in November 2009. This beam was autographed by Southwest Tech employees.



Joe Martin

FUTUREMAKER

WELDING, CLASS OF 1996

Joe started at Southwest Tech after hearing an ad on the radio while he was out driving his tractor in a field. Joe knew he needed to find a career that would support his family and decided that he wanted to attend Southwest Tech for a welding certificate. "I didn't know if I should go back; I had a family to support, and I wasn't sure if taking the time off to go to school was the right decision." He couldn't be happier that he did now as he reflects back on that time. "The instructors were so helpful. If we as students put forth the effort, they helped us succeed. They also appreciated that I was a bit older than most of my fellow students and could help them keep the others in line." Joe's most memorable moment from Southwest Tech was the night before graduation when he was treated to a steak dinner at the supper club in town by his instructor. "He didn't take any other student, it was just me. I was in school to learn, and he appreciated that and wanted to congratulate me on my accomplishment as well as thank me for my help in the classroom." Joe is a welder for Industrial Combustion in Monroe, Wisconsin.

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 World Dairy Expo Alliant Energy Center, Madison October 3-7	4	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11 Southwest Tech Open House	12	13	14
15	16 Boss's Day	17	18	19	20	21 Sweetest Day
22	23	24	25	26 24th Annual Scholarship Reception Lenz Center, Southwest Tech	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	SEPTEMBER 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	 <p>JIM'S BUILDING CENTER JIM'S BUILDING CENTER, INC.</p>	 <p>Southwest Tech 50 1967 2017 YEARS</p>

The Childcare Center takes shape in November 2009.





Meg Miller

HEALTH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY, CLASS OF 2016

Meg Miller loved working in the medical field. She worked at Vernon Memorial Hospital in Viroqua as a secretary and then as a surgery secretary. "I was a trauma junkie," she stated. "I like knowing what's going on but not actually doing it!" When she decided she wanted to get her degree she came to Southwest Tech and spoke with an advisor, initially thinking she would go into medical coding but then was told about the Health Information Technology program. The program was a natural fit. Meg had worked in the field and knew the terminology so she easily picked up on the program, and because the program was offered online it worked with her lifestyle of balancing her job, family and school. As the semester was finishing up Meg and her family were moving to Iowa, and she needed to find an internship. She was able to get her foot in the door at the University of Iowa as an intern and was then offered a full-time position as an Inpatient Coding Representative for the Health Information Management Department. "Obtaining my degree was hands down the best experience I've had. I attribute my success to Southwest Tech. I'm proud of what I've worked toward, and I love this college."

PHOTO BY LISA LEWIS

NOVEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>OCTOBER 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Savings Time Ends		Election Day				Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Thanksgiving Southwest Tech Closed	Southwest Tech Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	 	

The 2011 construction of the Public Safety Complex features impressive additions to training opportunities offered by Southwest Tech.



Kate Barth

FINANCE, CLASS OF 1999

Kate Tranel Barth started taking classes at Southwest Tech when she was a junior in high school. She worked at a bank in the summer and could immediately see the connection between the real world and the classroom. "That by far, was the greatest stepping stone for me," said Kate. Kate is the Loan Operations Manager at Heartland Financial in Dubuque, Iowa. The experience and skills she gained while going to school carry with her throughout her career and during day to day operations. She often reflects back on Karyl Nicholson's banking stories and how they relate to her position now. She credits Mark Randall for what he taught her about writing and how important that skill is in her position when she's coaching staff. "It never occurred to me then how much I would need writing skills in the finance field, but I use them every day," said Kate. "My experience at Southwest Tech helped lead me to the place I am today. The teachers are very personable and take a true interest in each student's success!"

PHOTO BY MJ DACHELET

DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Member FDIC</p>			NOVEMBER 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY 2018 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve 31 New Year's Eve	Christmas Day	SOUTHWEST TECH WINTER BREAK—CAMPUS CLOSED				

Southwest Tech Foundation 2015-2016 Annual Report

↳ Foundation Volunteer Board of Directors ↳

In 2015-16 the Southwest Tech Foundation welcomed new board members Pete Hoffman, Montfort, and Sheila Ruchti, Fennimore. Hoffman, currently in his 26th year as an Ag Power and Equipment Technician Instructor, serves as the faculty/staff board representative and will serve a three-year term. Ruchti, Senior Vice President and Market Manager at Community First Bank, serves as an at-large director and will serve up to two three-year terms. Prior to Community First Bank, Ruchti was with Livingston State Bank for 25 years as Vice President. “The Southwest Tech Foundation is fortunate to have a dedicated group of individuals serving on our board and working to

support the College, our students, our faculty and staff, and our community,” said Holly Clendenen, Executive Director of the Southwest Tech Foundation and SWTC Real Estate Foundation. “Pete and Sheila are very involved in their communities and will bring new perspectives to the board as an instructor and local business partner. I look forward to working with both of them as we move Southwest Tech forward into our next 50 years.” Tammie Engelke, former Southwest Tech staff member, completed her board term in June 2015 creating the faculty/staff board representative opening. The Foundation board also lost director J. Bruce Bradley in December 2015 upon

his death. “Tammy and Bruce were strong contributing members of the board, and their service helped move the Foundation forward,” commented Clendenen.

The new student representative on the Foundation board starting in 2016-17 was April Brandt, Darlington. April, a Business Management student and Graphic and Web Design alumna, is the Student Senate President and serves on the Foundation board to provide student input and perspective. Brandt replaces former student representative Melissa Gile who graduated in May 2016.



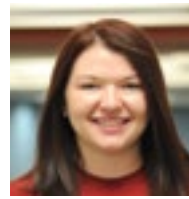
*Jerry Brunner
President*



*Tom Sheehan
Vice President*



*Lori Barry
Director*



*April Brandt
Student Director*



*Holly Clendenen
Ex Officio*



*Dr. Joyce Czajkowski
Director*



*Becky Fernette
Director*



*Carol Rogers
Secretary*



*Josh Wiederholt
Treasurer*



*Pete Hoffman
Director*



*Jim Kohlenberg
Director*



*Connie Larson
Director*



*Nick Nice
Emeritus Director*



*Kevin Raisbeck
Director*

↳ Foundation Mission ↳

Promote learning through funding and activities that enable Southwest Tech to provide opportunities for success.



*Sheila Ruchti
Director*



*Ben Wood
Director*



*Jason Wood, Ph.D.
Ex Officio*

↳ Foundation Vision ↳

To be the Foundation sought out for investment to allow Southwest Tech to deliver the highest quality technical education.

The Southwest Tech Foundation was incorporated in 1980 to identify, solicit, and manage alternative sources of funding to support the commitment to excellence of the College. The Foundation was established as a non-profit organization dedicated to providing alternative financial support for Southwest Tech's programs, students and staff.

Real Estate Foundation Volunteer Board of Directors

The SWTC Real Estate Foundation (REF) had one new board member join in 2015-16, Dennis Cooley, Mount Horeb, and three new members join in 2016-17, Brad Biddick, Livingston, Mindy Johnson, Fennimore, and Chris Prange, Lancaster. Dennis, Director of Market Research and Strategies at Strand Associates, helped establish the SWTC REF while working at Southwest Tech and will serve as an at-large director. Brad, Biddick, Inc/Rural Route 1 Popcorn, and Mindy, Recruiting and Admission Advisor for Franklin University, also will serve as at-large directors of the SWTC REF. Chris is the district board representative on the SWTC REF board. Duane Ford, retired Southwest Tech President, served on the SWTC REF board until June 2016. The SWTC REF was established in 2015 to accept, acquire, lease, hold, develop, operate, manage, sell, transfer and otherwise deal in real estate for use and enjoyment by the Southwest Tech Foundation and Southwest Tech. "The new members of the SWTC REF bring experience planning, financing, building, owning, and operating properties large and small. This will be valuable experience as the SWTC REF works to provide increased revenue to the Southwest Tech Foundation and on to the College," said Clendenen, Executive Director.



Ben Wood
President



Dennis Cooley
Vice President



Kevin Raisbeck
Secretary/
Treasurer



Brad Biddick
Director



Holly Clendenen
Ex Officio



Mindy Johnson
Director



Chris Prange
Director



Jason Wood
Ex Officio

Donor Bill of Rights

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

1. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
3. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
4. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
6. To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
9. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

The text of this statement in its entirety was developed by the American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel (AAFRC), Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and adopted in November 1993.



The Southwest Tech Foundation constitution and by-laws were accepted on March 25, 1981; in 1983, Edward Gorman was appointed Executive Director of the Foundation, a part-time position he maintained until his retirement. In 1986, the Foundation's total assets reached \$75,000.

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation, Inc. Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited) June 30, 2016 and 2015

ASSETS	2016	2015
Cash	\$282,119	\$65,366
Unconditional promises to give	16,760	77,500
Emergency loans receivable	2,028	4,225
Rent receivable	216,886	189,534
Investments	3,030,170	3,260,163
Property and equipment-net	<u>2,110,618</u>	<u>2,006,452</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$5,658,581</u>	<u>\$5,603,240</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable/accrued expenses	\$600,546	\$154,686
Construction payable	-	191,573
Security deposits	10,913	11,013
Funds held for others	14,000	14,000
Mortgage payable	<u>1,463,811</u>	<u>1,528,626</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$2,089,270</u>	<u>1,899,898</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	357,737	721,183
Temporarily restricted	1,865,802	1,713,681
Permanently restricted	<u>1,345,772</u>	<u>1,268,478</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>3,569,311</u>	<u>3,703,342</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$5,658,581</u>	<u>\$5,603,240</u>

🔗 New Giving Records 🔗

New levels were reached in the Southwest Tech Foundation in 2015-16. These new records of giving support the 50th anniversary goal of establishing a foundation of future success.

- A record number of donors, 522, gave more than \$302,000 in gifts to the Foundation.
- A record amount of scholarships were awarded to students - \$144,500.
- 290 scholarships were awarded.
- 91 Southwest Tech employees gave nearly \$29,000 in gifts, a new high for number of staff donors and amount given.
- Southwest Tech retirees contributed nearly \$20,000, the highest amount since 2011-12.
- 179 new donors made their first gift to the Southwest Tech Foundation.

🔗 Fundraising Priorities 🔗

As the College approaches its 50th anniversary, the District Board, Foundation Board, and Real Estate Foundation Board worked towards closer alignment in order to make a larger impact on the College and community. This alignment started with the prioritization of fundraising activities to guide the work of the Foundation. Scholarships and student emergency grants are the top fundraising priorities because of the direct impact these funds have on recruiting, retaining, and graduating students. Support for mobile learning units and academic programs follow direct student support as these enhance and elevate the learning experience. A student success/economic development project rounds out the top five priorities as the feasibility of a project is studied.

“The Foundation and College have always worked closely together but this prioritization was another step to strengthen our collaboration even more,” according to Holly Clendenen, Executive Director of the Foundation and Real Estate Foundation. “Prioritizing our work will allow gifts of today to make the biggest impact.”

🔗 Southwest Tech Community Scholarship Established 🔗

In spring 2016 the Southwest Tech Community Scholarship Program was created to better serve the growing financial needs of our student population.

The premise behind the program is a simple one: Alumni and friends from district communities with ties to Southwest Tech can contribute to a scholarship to support Southwest Tech students from their community. The program originates in the 30 school communities that Southwest Tech serves with an individual scholarship created for each community: Argyle, Barneveld, Belmont, Benton, Black Hawk, Boscobel, Cassville, Cuba City, Darlington, Dodgeville, Fennimore, Highland, Iowa-Grant, Ithaca, Kickapoo, Lancaster, Mineral Point, North Crawford, Pecatonica, Platteville, Potosi, Prairie du Chien, Richland Center, River Ridge, Riverdale, Seneca, Shullsburg, Southwestern, Wauzeka-Steuben and Weston.

The goal of the Southwest Tech Community Scholarship Program is to offer scholarships to students from each of the 30 district communities. Students do not need to be

enrolling at Southwest Tech directly after high school to be eligible for these scholarships.

“We look forward to working with our philanthropic supporters to make this new scholarship program a success. One of the Foundation’s priorities is to increase scholarship support available to our students, and this program will be a key factor,” stated Southwest Tech Foundation Executive Director Holly Clendenen. “The Southwest Tech Community Scholarship Program is designed to create and enhance pathways for students to attend, succeed and graduate from Southwest Tech.”

Southwest Tech President Dr. Jason Wood believes the new scholarship program will make a difference for local students considering their educational options. “The Southwest Tech Community Scholarship Program will pool together donations from alumni, friends and businesses across the district to encourage students to choose Southwest Tech. This will help fulfill the College’s vision of changing lives by providing opportunities for success,” said Wood.

🔗 Southwest Tech Foundation Phonathon 🔗

In spring 2016 the Southwest Tech Foundation phonathon raised nearly \$11,000. The focus of the spring 2016 phonathon was the newly created Southwest Tech Community Scholarship program. Alumni and



Fall 2016 Phonathon Team (l. to r.) Donielle Czerniejewski, Megan Campbell, Tyler Horton, Kabrianna Stephenson, Hunter Paradis, Abby Baker, Jordon Grabianowski & Brian Marcure. Missing are Caitlin Chapman, Hayden Douglas, Karissa Figi, Grace Glover, Michael Hartman, Taylor Manders and Marianne Monahan.

friends’ support of this new program created 23 new scholarships to be awarded in 2016-17.

“When we reach out to our alumni it’s not just about donations; it’s also a chance for them to stay connected with us and talk with a current student,” said Gina Udelhofen, Coordinator of Annual Giving and Donor Relations. “With our 50th anniversary, we hope to share information about upcoming events and new projects. We want our alumni to be involved even if they don’t get a chance to come back and visit.”

Moving forward, alumni and friends will be called in the fall and in the spring. In the fall, donations will be requested for student support funds including the Charger Dream Fund (student emergency grants) and Support a Charger Fund, the Charger Annual Fund, or for specific academic program support. In the spring, scholarships will be the primary focus.

The phonathon is also a student employment opportunity as Udelhofen hires 12-15 students each semester. Student callers work Monday through Thursday evenings for 8 to 10 weeks throughout the semester.

↳ Paula vW. Dáil Establishes Midwifery Scholarship ↳

In 2016, the Southwest Tech Foundation announced the establishment of the Paula vW. Dáil Midwifery Scholarship. Paula vW. Dáil served as a member of the Southwest Tech Board of Directors for five years (1999-2004). She wanted to support students who will make a career of caring for the poor and underserved populations by establishing this annual scholarship.

This scholarship recognizes the commitment to nursing Violet Wende Dáil expressed throughout her life. Violet, Paula's mother, died in 2016 at the age of 105. Violet received her RN degree from Providence Hospital School of Nursing (University of Washington) in Seattle, WA, where she did her clinical training at the Seattle Poor House, under the instruction of the Nursing Sisters of Charity of Providence. In 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Violet answered a call for volunteer civilian nurses to staff the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, California, because the Navy nurses were shipping out to the South Pacific field hospitals. She continued caring for war casualties until 1945, when WWII finally ended. For the remainder of her career she worked in various hospital settings, generally focusing on indigent health care and women's health concerns. She retired from nursing at age 75, but maintained her nursing license until her death.

Paula vW. Dáil received an undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder and earned both MS and PhD degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Dáil's post-graduate academic career was spent primarily at Virginia Tech, where she achieved early tenure and became founding director of the Center for the Study of Poverty. Later, while at Iowa State University as a research professor, she directed the Child Welfare Research Project. The focus of her research career has been on poverty, particularly among women, and during her years as a professor she became widely published in the social sciences.

After leaving academia Dáil continued to do research on poverty in the Midwest and women living in poverty, authoring books on both topics. She's also written fiction and self-help books.

"We appreciate the gift from Dr. Dáil in memory of her mother. Their passion for caring for the poor and less fortunate means a great deal and will allow for many students to be impacted while obtaining their degree," said Kim Schmelz, Director of External Relations and Alumni Development.

↳ \$144,500 in Scholarships Awarded at Southwest Tech ↳

The Southwest Tech Foundation held its 22nd Annual Scholarship Ceremony on March 2 with more than 300 students, parents, donors and staff in attendance. The Southwest Tech Foundation was grateful to award more than 175 students scholarships for their hard work and dedication due to the generous contributions made to the annual scholarship program. In 2014-15, 238 scholarships valuing \$133,600 were awarded. In 2015-16, the Foundation awarded 290 scholarships valuing \$144,500 to deserving students.

In her opening remarks, Holly Clendenen, Executive Director of the Southwest Tech Foundation, stated, "The students here tonight are representative of the student body – hard-working, multi-tasking, and appreciative of the support they receive. Most of our students work full or part time while enrolled. Many are parents balancing work, school, and

children. Many are non-traditional students coming to school to earn a degree to change their life and their family's life. We know that scholarship dollars help students achieve their dreams, and we believe we can do more to help."

For more information on how to contribute to the Southwest Tech Foundation scholarship program, please contact the Foundation at 608-822-2348 or online at www.swtc.edu/foundation.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS			
School Year	No. of Scholarships	Range of Awards	Total Scholarships
2007-08	203	\$250 — \$3,000	\$115,400
2008-09	161	\$250 — \$1,500	\$89,200
2009-10	150	\$250 — \$2,250	\$80,625
2010-11	173	\$250 — \$1,000	\$85,050
2011-12	188	\$250 — \$2,000	\$96,000
2012-13	189	\$250 — \$2,000	\$102,250
2013-14	214	\$250 — \$2,000	\$133,000
2014-15	238	\$125 — \$1,500	\$133,600
2015-16	290	\$100 — \$2,500	\$144,500

↳ Alumni, Share Your Story With Us ↳

Southwest Tech wants to promote our alumni success stories! Share your current information with us at www.swtc.edu/alumni. You will also receive updated information about the College's 50th Anniversary activities!



In 1997 the Foundation purchased on-campus housing to provide residency for 30 students.

↔ Seven Giving Trees Dedicated on the Southwest Tech Campus ↔

There are now seven more reasons to visit the Southwest Tech campus and visit the Giving Trees dedicated throughout the year.



In May two trees were dedicated, one for Dan Jacobson and one for all fallen officers. The tree dedicated in memoriam of Dan Jacobson was donated by the Lancaster Police Department and can be found near the Fire Arms Range. The inscription reads “There are three kinds of

people in the world. There are wolves and there are sheep, and then there are those who protect the sheep from the wolves.” Thank you Dan Jacobson for 11 years of service with Lancaster Police Department.” The second tree, located near the Public Safety Complex, is a Fallen Officer Memorial in honor of all who have given dedicated service to our communities in Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement Services.

In September the Southwest Tech Foundation dedicated four trees for Julie Antonson, Kathy Borowski, LaVerne “Shot” Doll and Maurie Thole, and Michael P. Smith.



Julie Antonson, lovingly remembered for her kind and generous spirit and as a teacher who touched the lives of many, was remembered by her students and colleagues.

Julie passed away in 2015 but students will never forget the impact Julie had on their lives. The Human Services Associates Club sponsored the tree and the plaque reads, “Taken from our lives, but never from our hearts.”



Kathy Borowski worked at Southwest Tech through the 1970’s and 1980’s in Financial Aid and

with Veteran’s Affairs. She passed away after a short battle with cancer but will long be remembered as someone who had a gift to make friends, and even in the most difficult times she was able to laugh and find humor when others couldn’t. These characteristics led to the saying on Kathy’s plaque, “Once Met, Never Forgotten.” Kathy’s tree was sponsored by retiree Julia Zimpel and other former colleagues and family members.



John Schindler, retired Auto Body Instructor, sponsored the Giving Tree for LaVerne “Shot” Doll and Maurie Thole as a way to honor the two visionaries who were instrumental in the development of the Auto Body Repair program and also influential in Schindler’s career.



Michael P. Smith was a Welding Instructor at Southwest Tech for 19 years. He passed away in August 2012 and was fondly remembered by his family, friends and former students.

His wife Mary spoke about his love for the campus and his former students spoke of his amazing talent for welding. His tree was given by his wife Mary. Michael’s plaque reads “The best way to predict your future is to create it.” A quote from Abraham Lincoln.

The final 2016 Giving Tree was dedicated in October for Maria O’Connor Miles. Maria will long be remembered for her service to the Cosmetology program. Her tree, sponsored by Barb McCormick, Lori Pustina and the Cosmo Club, stands near building 500



and the plaque reads, “The Future belongs to those who Believe in the BEAUTY of their Dreams.”

In total, the Southwest Tech campus has 18 dedicated Giving Trees. Giving Trees can be dedicated by giving a monetary donation to the Foundation. This living tribute contributes to the ongoing beautification of campus while honoring a loved one or special event.

Donor Wall

Located at the main entrance of the College, the Donor Wall is a tribute to those whose gifts to the Foundation and the students it serves reaches a milestone in their giving. Each year the Foundation has the honor of updating the Donor Wall and is proud to announce the following additions:

\$50,000+

Meister Cheese Company
Professional Staff Association-Southwest Tech

\$25,000+

Microsoft Azure Education Team
Shyrlle A. Sedgwick

\$10,000+

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Advance Auto Parts
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Peoples State Bank

Thank you to all who have donated, whether monetarily or in-kind, to the success of our students!

Southwest Tech Foundation Celebrates Donors



February 15-19, the Southwest Tech Foundation celebrated #IHeartDonors Week on campus. The goal of the week was to increase student understanding of philanthropy and celebrate donors of Southwest Tech. Faculty and staff who had donated to the Foundation were given red balloons on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday the Student Nursing Association hosted a Blood Drive while Stephanie Brown, Resident Life and Student Resources Coordinator, and Shelby Merwin, a current nursing student, held a Be The Match and Dottie Dot campaign to raise awareness of bone marrow and organ donations. Throughout the week over 150 students and staff stopped by to sign a giant Thank You card to show their appreciation to Southwest Tech donors. The week ended with a Pay It Forward food drive for the Charger Cupboard, the campus food pantry. Nearly 400 items were collected by the students and their instructors to be donated.

“I’m really happy with the outcome of the week,” said Kim Schmelz, Director of External Relations and Alumni Development for Southwest Tech. “Students were engaged and really showed their appreciation for donors and support for others through their contributions to the Charger Cupboard.”

Thank you to everyone who supported the 50th Anniversary Charger Golf Classic

Southwest Tech hosted the 50th Anniversary Charger Golf Classic on September 9 at Deer Valley Golf Course in Barneveld, Wisconsin. The Classic was host to 136 golfers who played either 18 or 9 holes of golf.

The event was sponsored by: FirstMerit Bank, Franklin University, Peoples State Bank, Wisconsin Bank & Trust, Badgerland Financial, Community First Bank, Express Employment Services, H&N Plumbing and Heating, Hartung Brothers, Heartland Credit Union, Lands’ End, Livingston State Bank, Mound City Bank, MPC, Inc, Reddy Ag, The Southwest Tech Professional Staff Association, Serenity Bluff Cabin, TRICOR Insurance, Tri-State Handyman Services and Wood Law Firm.

Design Homes sponsored the Hole-in-One Challenge and donated 50th Anniversary commemorative corn hole boards. Plans are underway for the 2017 Charger Golf Classic.



President Jason Wood poses with event sponsors Hartung Brothers Inc.



Community First Bank sponsored the event and sent a great team.



Barb Tucker and Amy Loy of College Effectiveness enjoying the links.



Alumnus Kevin Raisbeck teamed up with Instructor Paul Cutting and Chief Financial Officer Caleb White for the Charger Golf Classic shown here with President Wood.



Retired President Dr. Karen Knox and her teammates, alumnae Sally Rosemeyer, Mary Bass, and Karen Thoftne, pose with President Jason Wood.

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