



Southwest Tech and
Southwest Tech Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

2016–2017

RANKED

#1 in WISCONSIN | #3 in the NATION!

PAGE 3

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A Message from the College President

We at Southwest Tech enjoyed celebrating our 50th Anniversary during 2017. We thank the many people who participated in any of the numerous activities we hosted—open houses, parades, dairy breakfasts, fundraisers, recognition events, and golf outings. We were pleased that over 2,000 people attended the 50th Anniversary Homecoming and Celebration concert.

I personally want to thank the faculty and staff for their efforts to serve students, reconnect with alumni, and strengthen partnerships with employers. During 2017, Southwest Tech employees donated over 1,700 hours of service to local communities. The faculty, staff, and I appreciate the efforts of the Southwest Tech Board of Directors, as well as the people who serve on the Southwest Tech Foundation and Real Estate Foundation. Their leadership has positioned us for continual success.

We have reason for optimism as we look to the future. Faculty and staff at Southwest Tech care about student success as evidenced by our impressive accomplishments. Over 95% of our graduates are employed within six months of graduation, and 98% of businesses are satisfied or highly satisfied with hiring our alumni. For two years in a row, well over 90% of our employees donated to the College Foundation in support of students. We take pride in living our values of integrity, learning, accountability, continuous improvement, partnerships, and innovation.

Finally, we have been ranked the #1 two-year college in Wisconsin for two years in a row and the #3 two-year college in the country, out of more than 700 colleges. At Southwest Tech, we improve lives through excellence in teaching and learning. We thank you for being part of our success today and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason S. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jason S. Wood, Ph.D.

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
1800 Bronson Boulevard
Fennimore, WI 53809

608.822.3262
800.362.3322
TDD: 608.822.2072

www.swtc.edu
info@swtc.edu

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Southwest Tech Ranked #1 Best Two-Year College in Wisconsin and #3 in the Nation!

For the second year in a row, Southwest Tech reached the number one spot as 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, BestColleges.com's 2017 findings rank Southwest Tech first in academic quality, affordability, and student experience.

In addition to the number one ranking Southwest Tech received from BestColleges.com, Southwest Tech was ranked the number three two-year college in the nation by WalletHub.com, rising eight spots from last year's number eleven ranking. The survey compared 728 community and technical colleges on three key components: cost and financing, education outcomes, and career outcomes. Southwest Tech is in the top 1% of colleges in the nation.

Southwest Tech scored high in tuition affordability. The current tuition rate is only \$132.20 per credit, which is almost 45% less than in-state tuition at a Wisconsin public four-year university.

Southwest Tech scored high in career outcomes as well. Within one year, 95% of graduates are employed, quickly seeing a return on their investment. Southwest Tech also scored high in education outcomes, with a low student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1 that results in higher student retention and graduation rates.

"The faculty and staff at Southwest Tech are proud of these accomplishments. 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 Gives Back to Communities

During the last year, Southwest Tech celebrated its 50th Anniversary and focused on giving back to the communities across its five-county district by providing training and education for community members, volunteering, and participating in community events.

Southwest Tech’s Public Safety Complex, a hands-on training facility, provides year-round safety and emergency response training for police officers, emergency medical technicians, and fire fighters. In 2017, flood emergencies, home fires, a bus accident, and police shootings made national news. “Because of the training that we offer our communities, local public safety agencies are better prepared to handle a wide variety of emergency response situations. Every day these local heroes rise to the occasion, and Southwest Tech is proud to be part of their success,” said Karl Sandry, lead fire instructor/coordinator of fire service training. Over the last year, 3,192 individuals participated in public safety training opportunities. Nearly all EMTs and firefighters in southwest Wisconsin are volunteers, and many communities are in need of new members. **Community contact information is available at www.swtc.edu/joinems.**



Amy Loy, Southwest Tech employee and chair of the Little Free Library Committee, and Todd Bol, founder of the Little Free Library movement, dedicated the 50th library when it was installed on campus.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY IMPACT		
Course/Program	# Served	
	2016	2017
Law Enforcement Academy	18	19
EMT and Advanced EMT	73	64
Driver Education Instructor Certification	n/a	9
Friends and Family (CPR for Kids)	102	80
Driver Education	1,116	999
Motorcycle Education	125	110
Group Dynamics/ Multiple Offender	252	170
Responsible Beverage Server	35	37
Fire Training	273	267
Criminal Justice In-service	314	293
CPR/EMS Training	1,512	1,084
Community Service (Concealed Carry, etc.)	83	60
TOTAL	3,903	3,192

In an effort to combine education, lifelong learning, and giving back to the community, a total of 50 Little Free Libraries were placed throughout Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Crawford, and Richland counties. The design, produced by Southwest Tech Director of Facilities Dan Imhoff, resembles the main entrance to campus. A committee of 14 employees led by Southwest Tech Evaluation Coordinator Amy Loy organized the construction and placement of the Little Free Libraries. Scot Industries of Muscoda, Wisconsin, donated 50 steel posts, and Southwest Tech welding students secured them to steel plates used to mount the Little Free Libraries. Construction began in the summer of 2016, and on July 19th of that year, the first Southwest Tech Little Free Library was installed at the Stitzer Post Office. Over the course of the last two years, 49 more libraries found homes in southwest Wisconsin. Todd Bol, co-founder and CEO of LittleFreeLibrary.org, visited Southwest Tech on September 8, 2017, for the dedication of the College’s 50th Little Free Library, which was installed on campus.

Staff and family members volunteered at the St. Patrick’s



EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEERED MORE THAN 1700 HOURS DURING 2016–17

Day parade in Prairie du Chien, a fundraiser bowling tournament in Montfort, the Babies Gone Too Soon Walk in Dodgeville, and five dairy breakfasts. Staff involvement was the linchpin of the College’s culminating 50th Anniversary event, the Homecoming Reunion and Celebration concert on September 23.



Southwest Tech Faculty and Staff Give Back During June Dairy Month

In June Southwest Wisconsin Technical College faculty and staff took part in a Wisconsin tradition that has spanned the last 47 years, nearly the same number of years the College has been awarding degrees.

Wisconsin Dairy Breakfasts attract thousands of friends and neighbors to one farm or facility per county to celebrate June Dairy Month. By volunteering at each of the five breakfasts in the Southwest Tech district, faculty and staff were able to show appreciation to alumni and friends. It is fitting that Southwest Tech took part in this opportunity during the 50th Anniversary to celebrate by handing out cake and promotional items as gifts.

When the planning started for Southwest Tech's 50th Anniversary, goals were set to reconnect with alumni, show appreciation to those in the district, and set the stage for success as the College moves into the next 50 years. "When the idea of volunteering at each of the breakfasts came up, we knew it would be a great opportunity to meet all of our goals," said Holly Clendenen, executive director of the Southwest Tech Foundation and Real Estate Foundation.

The Southwest Tech district includes Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties. Representatives of the College volunteered at each of the breakfasts held during the first two weekends in June. "We thoroughly enjoyed serving everyone, especially those who attended or supported Southwest Tech," said Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president. "With a strong history in agriculture at the College, we appreciate our partners in the ag industry."

Pictured are some of the college volunteers who served cake to thousands of dairy breakfast attendees. (Below) Iowa and Richland counties; (Right) Grant, Crawford, and Lafayette counties.



5760
PIECES OF CAKE



SERVED BY
73
VOLUNTEERS





Southwest Tech Rolls Out Mobile Welding Lab

In the spring of 2017, the College rolled out the new Mobile Welding Lab, a 53-foot semi-trailer equipped with eight welding stations that allow four different types of welding techniques.

The Wisconsin Technical College System awarded a \$150,000 grant to each of the 16 colleges to invest in mobile outreach. “We wanted to be able to offer a mobile program that made sense to our local industry needs,” said Derek Dachelet, executive dean of Industry, Trades, and Agriculture. “The goal of the mobile lab is to increase interest in skilled trades to high school students and bridge the gap between the lack of career and technical offerings and the need for skilled laborers. Our industry partners were excited to support the lab and help us with a project that was new and innovative.”



The Cummins Foundation awarded the Southwest Tech Foundation a grant of \$90,699 to support the Mobile Welding Lab, specifically to purchase a generator and support ProAm competitions with area high schools and businesses. “The trailer draws a lot of power, and having an external power source is a huge benefit in allowing us to truly take the unit anywhere with minimal setup,” said Dachelet.

Cummins Off-Highway Quality Programmer and Community Involvement Team Leader Bobby Lee, who worked with Southwest Tech on the grant, stated, “The Mobile Welding Lab is a very innovative idea that will help bring industry professionals and standards to area students. The lab will certainly help to spark area students’ interest in the welding trade while giving them hands-on experience. Cummins Mineral Point is very excited to be associated with this project.”



The first Welding ProAm was held in Mineral Point in June. The four-day camp partnered nine high school students with Cummins and Sielaff Corporation, both of Mineral Point and sponsors of the Mobile Welding Lab. "Sielaff Corporation was proud to participate in the ProAm challenge and to play a small role in helping Southwest Tech bring the Mobile Welding Lab to the public. One of the manufacturing industry's great challenges is to find creative ways to inspire young people to have an interest in our sector of the economy as a career choice. This mobile concept certainly has the potential to help with that effort. It was great to see the level of engagement and excitement that all the young men and women demonstrated... Truly refreshing!" — Harold McConnell, production manager at Sielaff Corporation.

The lab was also supported by Mobile Track Solutions, Elkader, Iowa; Universal Silencer, Muscoda; Dillman Equipment, Prairie du Chien; and Caterpillar.

The Mobile Welding Lab is being contracted through the Business and Industry Services office on the Southwest Tech campus. **Individuals who are interested in using the lab for training purposes should contact Business and Industry Services at 608-822-2360.**



Derek Dachelet, executive dean of Industry, Trades, & Agriculture, shares a photo of the first mobile welding unit that was used in the early 1970s.

The mobile welding lab was made possible because of the generosity of the following business partners:

SIELAFF CORPORATION
DESIGN. ENGINEER. MANUFACTURE.



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Bast and Dombeck Receive Inaugural Wood Family Employee Excellence Award



Jeff Dombeck (left) and Karen Bast (right) have a combined 35 years of service to Southwest Tech.

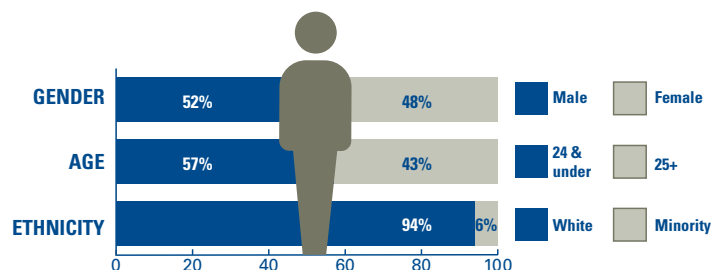
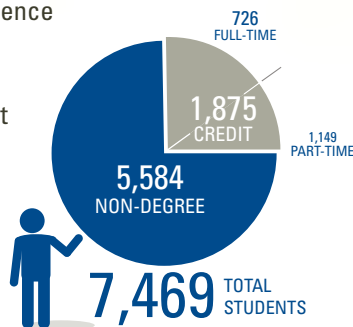
Forty-four Southwest Wisconsin Technical College employees were recognized as nominees for the Wood Family Employee Excellence Award. Karen Bast and Jeff Dombeck, culinary instructors, were chosen as the 2017 recipients of the \$500 award.

The nomination for the award detailed how Bast and Dombeck led the culinary preparations for Platteville's first Fall Harvest Dinner in 2016. Their nominator stated, "Karen and Jeff took on the project of partnering with the Platteville Regional Chamber to provide an amazing meal and décor. It took a tremendous amount of time to pull off this great event, and it truly was a remarkable way for the College to be involved in the community and represented in such a professional and innovative way."

President Jason Wood and his wife Kathryn established the endowed fund to recognize current faculty and staff who demonstrate Southwest Tech values and provide service to the College that goes above and beyond expectations.

About Southwest Tech

Southwest Tech opened its doors in 1967 as one of the 16 two-year open-access institutions within the Wisconsin Technical College System. The College serves 3,800 square miles that includes 30 school districts in and near Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Dane, Green, Sauk, and Vernon counties. The Higher Learning Commission accredits the College, and it is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Southwest Tech offers career and 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.



98% of graduates are **satisfied/very satisfied** with their training.



67% report the main reason for attending Southwest Tech is directly tied to **employability**.

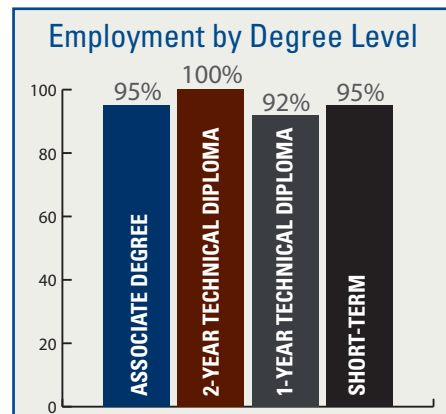


95% were employed within the first year of graduation.



93% of graduates are employed within Wisconsin.

64% are within the 5-county district.
29% are in Wisconsin but outside the district.
7% are employed outside of the state.





Kretschman Receives Innovation of the Year Award

Tom Kretschman, Criminal Justice instructor, is the 2017 recipient of the Innovation of the Year award for the development and implementation of a recruitment plan that significantly increased Criminal Justice program enrollment.

The Innovation of the Year Award is designed to recognize staff members who have designed and implemented a significant innovation. A committee of campus representatives selects the recipient from a pool of nominees.

Dr. Joan Senn, retired vice president of academics at Southwest Tech, established the Innovation of the Year endowment. According to Dr. Senn, "Southwest Tech is fortunate to have fantastic faculty and staff members who consistently look toward the betterment of the College and the success of its students. This award gives them a chance to share their implemented ideas with colleagues and the public and encourages the continuance of innovation at Southwest Tech."



Kretschman gives instruction to student Edgar Mendez-Aguilar during the firearms demonstration at Homecoming.



Top 10 Programs of 2016

Based on Median Hourly Wage

Electrical Power Distribution	\$27.07
Nursing - Associate Degree	\$26.30
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$22.00
Electromechanical Technology	\$20.00
Practical Nursing	\$19.22
Medical Coding Specialist	\$18.90
Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement	\$18.40
Health Information Technology (HIT)	\$17.25
IT- Network Communication Specialist	\$17.00
Welding	\$16.42

2016-2017 GRANT FUNDING		
Type of Grant	Number Awarded	Award Amount (\$)
State Grants	8	985,780.00
AEFL	2	198,228.00
Perkins	5	275,651.00
WAT	9	329,609.00
Other State Grants	11	244,988.70
Federal	7	1,196,953.63
Private	4	89,749.00
Total Grants and Value	46	3,320,959.33

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College

Combined Budget Summary

2016-17 Budgetary Statement of Resources, Uses, and Changes in Fund Balance

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	8,871,000
Federal	7,652,000
Total Revenues	\$42,996,000

EXPENDITURES

Instruction	16,367,200
Instructional Resources	374,000
Student Services	9,850,000
General Institutional	4,885,800
Physical Plant	8,500,000
Auxiliary Services	6,200,000
Total Expenditures	\$46,177,000



Southwest Tech Real Estate Foundation Dedicates New Student Housing Duplex

A ceremonial ribbon cutting was held on May 11, 2017, to celebrate the completion of a new student housing duplex on the Southwest Tech campus built by students in the Building Trades-Carpentry program and financed by the SWTC Real Estate Foundation. Connor Wittrig, a student in the Building Trades-Carpentry program, was given the honor of cutting the ribbon as his classmates, Instructor Jim Broihahn, and members of the SWTC REF board look on. Holly Clendenen, executive director of the REF, expressed her pride in the partnership to create a unique hands-on learning opportunity to build student housing. This is the third student housing duplex built by the carpentry program in three years to increase student housing capacity.

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation, Inc. Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2017

ASSETS	
Cash	456,413
Unconditional promised to give	150,928
Emergency loans receivable	2,128
Rent receivable	2,464
Investments	3,356,268
Property and equipment-net	-
Total assets	\$ 3,968,201
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	144,490
Security deposits	-
Funds held for others	-
Mortgage payable	-
Total Liabilities	\$ 144,490
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	516,525
Temporarily restricted	837,841
Permanently restricted	2,469,345
Total net assets	3,823,711
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 3,968,201

SWTC Real Estate Foundation, Inc. Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2017

ASSETS	
Cash	66,607
Accounts receivable	33,860
Rent receivable	38,184
Other assets	1,007
Property and equipment-net	2,221,106
Total Assets	\$ 2,360,764
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	9,360
Security deposits	2,100
Funds held for others	31,033
Mortgage payable	1,850,173
Total liabilities	\$ 1,892,666
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	468,098
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 2,360,764

Because of You

Southwest Tech faculty and staff can respond to student needs and help students stay committed to their education because of the generosity of our donors. This support gives students a place to turn for help along their educational journey.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2016-17 more than \$165,000 was awarded to Southwest Tech students (\$20,000 more in scholarship awards than the prior year.) Scholarships help make college more affordable, especially for students balancing school, family, and work. Recipients tell us that scholarships allow them to work less, focus on school more, and breathe a little easier.

STUDENT SUPPORT

- 41 new Chargers had application and testing fees waived.
- 25 student families, including 61 children, received extra cheer from holiday meal boxes and gifts.
- 601 students used the Charger Cupboard food pantry on campus.
- 114 meal cards were given to students so that they could enjoy a hot meal while on campus.

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	\$96,100
2012-13	189	\$250 — \$2,000	\$102,750
2013-14	214	\$250 — \$2,000	\$133,000
2014-15	238	\$125 — \$1,500	\$133,600
2015-16	290	\$100 — \$2,500	\$144,500
2016-17	289	\$100 — \$2,500	\$164,395
TOTAL	2,091		\$1,144,670



Southwest Tech employees annually provide students in need with everything on their holiday wish list and more!

ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUPPORT

- IT Network Specialist students went to CypherCon to learn about computer hacking.
- Graphic and Web Design students attended Photoshop World, a great professional development opportunity with workshops and seminars.
- Agriculture students traveled to the Postsecondary Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization national conference to network and compete.
- A new Mobile Welding Lab was purchased to allow welding training to happen away from the College at high schools, businesses, and other facilities.

Southwest Tech Foundation Successes

94%



FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE GIVING
The highest percentage in the Wisconsin Technical College System!

220%



INCREASED DONOR SUPPORT
1000 donors supported the Foundation during 2016-17.

\$595,819



TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED
The largest amount received in at least 10 years!

\$224,182



GIFTS-IN-KIND VALUE
Donations included vehicles, aluminum, farm machinery, and food pantry items.



50th Anniversary Homecoming and Celebration Concert





Southwest Tech Foundation Donor Honor Roll

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations made contributions to the Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017. The support of these individuals, businesses, and organizations is helping to shape the future of Southwest Tech and technical education in southwest Wisconsin!

* Denotes first-time donor

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Dr. Joyce M. Czajkowski

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Jeffrey A. Dornink

Kyle A. Ebel '13

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*Heather Pelock Hjelle

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Design Homes, Inc.

*Dupaco R.W. Hoefer Foundation

*Exelon Generation Company, LLC

Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin (GCOW)

Grant & Iowa County Tavern League

Grant County Economic Development Corp.

GROWMARK, Inc.

*Hach Farms

Heartland Credit Union

*Iowa County Law Enforcement Association

Majestic View Dairy LLC

MPC-Prairie du Chien

Prairie Industries Inc.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative

Schmitt Woodland Hills

Serenity Bluff LLC
*Southwest Tech Cosmo Club
Southwest Tech Professional Staff Association (PSA)
Southwest Wisconsin Auto Club, Ltd.
SWAT Accounting Club
*Tri County Human Resource Association
*Tri-State Auto Body Association
Unison Solutions
*We Energies
Wood Law Firm LLC

STAKEHOLDER [\$100-\$499]

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If your name is not listed and you made a contribution between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 or is listed incorrectly, we apologize for the error. Please notify the Foundation so that we can update our records. Call 608-822-2348 or email foundation@swtc.edu.

American Bank Endows Charger Dream Fund to Help Students in Financial Crises

The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation received a \$10,000 donation from American Bank to endow the Charger Dream Fund. The Charger Dream Fund is a grant program to help low-income students survive financial emergencies. Students can apply for small grants to help cover expenses that exceed their resources so that they can quickly return focus to their academic pursuits.

The Charger Dream Fund was established by a grant from Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation and provides small emergency grants up to \$500 to help low-income students. "In order to help our students succeed, we provide emergency grants to students who are faced with unexpected financial emergencies that may cause them to drop out of school due to financial constraints," said Holly Clendenen, executive director of the Southwest Tech Foundation and Real Estate Foundation. "After receiving the initial grant from Great Lakes Higher Education, we started talking about the sustainability of the program and how an endowment was necessary. American Bank is our first partner helping us towards this goal, and we are very appreciative of the lead gift."

In honor of the College's 50th Anniversary, American Bank decided to establish an endowment to support the Charger Annual Fund so that the gift can continue to help students year after year. According to Kevin Raisbeck, Southwest Tech alumnus and American Bank president and CEO "American Bank is proud to invest in Southwest Tech and its efforts to provide emergency assistance to students who need it the most. We value the education Southwest Tech provides and understand the importance of building an endowment to perpetually support the Charger Dream Fund."

American Bank has five Wisconsin locations—Cuba City, Hazel Green, Lancaster, Fennimore and Platteville—and more than \$150 million in footings. American Bank first opened its doors in Cuba City in 1896 under the name of The Farmers Bank. It continued to operate and grow, expanding with an office in Hazel Green, until 1998 when ATBankcorp, a family-owned bank holding company located in Dubuque, Iowa, purchased 100% of the bank stock. In 2001 the bank added a Lancaster location, and all three Wisconsin offices were united under the new name American Bank and Trust-Wisconsin. In 2002 an office in Fennimore was built, and the fifth location was added in Platteville in 2006.



Southwest Tech President Jason Wood and Foundation Executive Director Holly Clendenen are pictured with American Bank Executive Vice President Pam Kreul, President & CEO Kevin Raisbeck, and Vice President Brad Bodenbender.



Since March 2016, the Charger Dream Fund has assisted 102 students with nearly \$40,000 of

emergency grants. Most emergency grants help students with housing and transportation needs. Of the 2012-2015 students assisted by emergency grants, 90% were successful in their educational endeavors, either graduating or staying on track to graduate.

For more information on how to support the Charger Dream Fund or other support funds and scholarships, contact the Southwest Tech Foundation at 608.822.2362.

The RAYOVAC® Fennimore Plant Provides Endowment for Southwest Tech Students

RAYOVAC®, a division of Spectrum Brands, Inc., has pledged to endow annual scholarships for Southwest Tech students in order to provide support for many years to come.

The RAYOVAC® Alkaline Battery Plant, which opened in Fennimore in 1970, is the third leading U.S. manufacturer of alkaline batteries. The company has played a key role in the U.S. battery industry since the early 1900s and employs 280 people locally. RAYOVAC® has been awarding scholarships to SWTC students in the Electro-Mechanical Technology and the Industrial Mechanic programs since 2000. This new endowment will perpetually provide annual scholarships.



Division Vice-President of RAYOVAC® Mike Dragoo, Southwest Tech graduates Jaren Knight and Benjamin Graves, and Southwest Tech President Jason Wood

“The partnership between RAYOVAC® and Southwest Tech began in 1969 when the first plant manager, Harry Monroe, visited the school and spoke about the need to have a skilled workforce for the new plant opening in Fennimore in 1970. It has been a strong and successful partnership that we are proud to support for many years to come,” stated Jim Stoeffler, retired director of Human Resources at RAYOVAC® and a 1971 graduate of Southwest Tech. “As we celebrate the College’s 50th Anniversary, I am grateful our longtime partner RAYOVAC® chose to endow scholarships so that our students are supported for the next 50 years and beyond,” said Southwest Tech President Jason Wood.

Ways to Give

Any gift, regardless of size, enhances our mission to provide education and training at Southwest Tech. However, with each gift our hope is that donors also receive the benefits associated with charitable giving and the reward of knowing they are important partners in everything we do.

Call today to discuss the many ways you can support Southwest Tech at **608.822.2362**



\$100,000 Montchevré Gift Kicks off Southwest Tech Dairy Goat Certificate Program

The Foundation received a \$100,000 lead gift in March 2017 from Montchevré to support the College's new Dairy Goat Herd Management program. This certificate program was established to ensure that dairy goat producers are educated so that they can provide high-quality milk for the goat cheese industry as well as maintain farm sustainability.

"Having Montchevré, as a leadership partner on this project, allowed us to accelerate our program and be able to begin offering courses," said Derek Dachelet, executive dean of Industry, Trades and Agriculture at Southwest Tech. "We are very thankful for Montchevré's generous gift to kick off the program."

"Montchevré is thrilled to support the Dairy Goat Herd Management Program at SWTC," said Arnaud Solandt, president of Montchevré. "In recent years, the goat cheese industry has evolved from its infancy, and we've seen a great increase of goat milk products in the United States marketplace. As the leading goat cheese manufacturer in the U.S., we are more than happy to sponsor a program with values that coincide with ours and that provides farmers with tools to produce the highest quality milk while maintaining their sustainability. This is an exciting time in our industry, and we truly believe that this program will benefit goat milk production as a whole."

Montchevré was founded in 1989 by French cheesemakers Jean Rossard and Arnaud Solandt in Preston, Wisconsin, then moved to Belmont in 1995. On November 1, 2017, Montchevré entered into a sale and purchase agreement with Saputo, Inc. Rossard and Solandt have grown Montchevré into the largest goat cheese factory in America. The company combines traditional French cheese-making techniques with daily shipments of locally sourced, premium fresh goat milk to produce its highly popular cheeses and most versatile product line available today, with several of its innovations becoming today's industry standards.

Clare Heberlein, instructor/coordinator of the program said, "Montchevré has been involved with the development of the dairy goat curriculum since the beginning of the project. They continue to be a driving force for this industry initiative, and we are grateful that the company has decided to invest in our program."

Montchevré's gift supports the instructional costs for the 11 online courses, 5 mentorship courses, and the 2-day hands-on Dairy Goat Academy, as well as marketing and coordination costs.



Pictured left to right: Executive Director of the Southwest Tech Foundation Holly Clendenen; Milk Supply Manager Cody Taft; Vice-President of Montchevré Jean Rossard; Southwest Tech Ag Director Deb Ihm; and Executive Dean of Industry, Trades, and Agriculture Derek Dachelet.

The Dairy Goat Herd Management certificate focuses on the production, financial, and management skills of a dairy goat operation. The academies will provide hands-on training and a mentorship program that will focus on kidding, breeding, milking, and managing general chores. The first set of classes opened to the public on May 10, 2017, and includes Introduction to the Dairy Goat Industry, Writing a Business Plan for Your Dairy Goat Operation, and Farm Records and Financial Management.

For more information about the program and how to register, contact SWTC at 608.822.2741 or www.swtc.edu/dairygoat.

Philanthropists, Alumni, and Retirees Recognized

At the Donor Appreciation and Alumni and Retiree Awards Dinner, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation recognized seven individuals and one organization for their significant impact in the College's 50-year history.

The Foundation has recognized 30 individuals and businesses as outstanding philanthropists to the organization since 1995, but 2017 marked the inaugural year for Distinguished Alumni and Retiree Achievement Awards.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Huntington National Bank and its preceding banks, First Merit Bank and Citizens Bancorp, have supported the Southwest Tech Foundation annually since 2001. The bank's generous donations, totaling more than \$70,000, have supported the Charger Annual Fund, A Day for Southwest Tech, two student emergency grant funds—Dreamkeepers and the Charger Dream Fund—as well as the newly created Southwest Tech Community Scholarship program. Richard Cushman received the award on behalf of Huntington National Bank.



Jason Wood, Steve Manuell, Shyrle Sedgwick, Richard Cushman, and Holly Clendenen

Shyrle Sedgwick of Platteville, founded the Rick Manuell Memorial Lineman Award for Southwest Tech students in the Electrical Power Distribution program. The Rick Manuell Memorial Lineman Award is in memory of Shyrle's son Rick. Rick was a 1965 graduate of Platteville High School and was employed as a lineman supervisor for Commonwealth Edison Electric Power Company of Illinois at the time of his death. An endowment was established to support the Rick Manuell Memorial Lineman Award in perpetuity.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

This award was established to recognize alumni who have demonstrated the value of their Southwest Tech certificate or degree through career advancement, participation in community service activities, continued personal and educational growth, and support of Southwest Tech and the technical college system.

Kevin Raisbeck, a Cassville native and current Lancaster resident, is a 1996 graduate of Southwest Tech with his associate's degree in Agri-Business/Science Technology. Raisbeck was named the president and CEO of American Bank and Trust in 2016 and manages all aspects of banking for the bank, located in Grant County. Raisbeck's involvement in the community is extensive and includes serving on the Lancaster Community Fund board and the PAIDC Board of Directors. On campus, Raisbeck serves on the Agri-Business program advisory committee, the Southwest Tech Foundation Board, and the Southwest Tech Real Estate Foundation. In his acceptance speech, Raisbeck stated, "I am a proud graduate of Southwest Tech and owe a great deal of my success to the college and especially the instructors."



Jenna, Cheryl, Connor, Kevin, and Cole Raisbeck



Terri Slapak-Fugate resides in Platteville and is a 1997 graduate of the Nursing-Associate Degree program. She is the director of Emergency and Urgent Care Services, the trauma coordinator, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) for Southwest Health in Platteville. Slapak-Fugate

is responsible for the oversight and leadership of all activities and services related to care in the emergency and urgent care area. Slapak-Fugate's work with SANE training has made a large impact, earning her the 2015 Voices of Courage Award from Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) as well as the 2015 Rural Health Ambassador from the Rural Wisconsin Health Coop.

Jerry Ward, a Steuben native and resident of Reedsburg, is a 1974 graduate of the Accounting Associate Degree program and is the vice president of operations for Seats Incorporated in Reedsburg. Ward's involvement in the community includes serving as a founding member of the group that formed Southwest Partners in Richland Center and working closely with the College to integrate Southwest Tech classes within the Youth Apprenticeship program. He also currently serves as a member of the Supply Chain Management program advisory committee.



RETIREE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Retiree Achievement Award was established to recognize retired faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to the College through exemplary service in any capacity—a teaching, administrative, or support staff role—and exemplified the values of the College in their time on campus and as a retiree.



Lowell Ahrens, a native and current resident of Prairie du Chien, started at Southwest Tech as a Young and Adult Farmer instructor in 1968, just as the college was getting started. He served in that role until 1980 when he transitioned to ag coordinator. In 1987 he started teaching Dairy

Herd Management, the position he retired from in June of 2000. In addition, Ahrens belonged to the Wisconsin Army National Guard for 32 years. He trained in Germany and in Panama twice and achieved rank of first sergeant. He was also a member of the State High Power-Rifle and Pistol Team for many years. Lowell is still active in the United Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, the Shriners, and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. Lowell is a two-time graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees.



Mary Davis, a resident of Fennimore, started her career at Southwest Tech in February 1972. She was recruited by Borgne McClelland to split a new full-time position as a teacher at the College. In 1977 Mary became a full-time employee as the academic support area continued to expand. She fondly remembers

all the fun the staff had during her years at the College and how much the opportunity to help students learn meant to her. Davis's husband Gary was hired part-time as an Adult Basic Education teacher, which later led to his being in charge of the Testing Center, and he finally became the program counselor for Health Services. Davis established an endowed scholarship, the Gary and Mary Davis Scholarship, to provide support for Southwest Tech students.

Carol Needham, a native and current resident of Fennimore, started her career in teaching at Southwest Tech in the fall of 1978, but her strong ties go back to the beginning of the College. Needham's mother, Dorothy Hofstetter, was the first Nursing Assistant program instructor for Southwest Tech. Needham was hired by Maud Gilbert to teach Practical Nursing. She then worked with Rita Lease and Sharon Selleck-Lehman to develop the curriculum for the Nursing-Associate Degree program. After finishing her teaching career, Needham continued to share her passion for education by establishing a scholarship in her mother's name as well as tutoring nursing students until 2013.



Carol Needham, on right, reunited with former colleagues Harriet Copus and Sharon Selleck-Lehman at the 50th Homecoming celebration.

Southwest Tech
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This report on stewardship contains stories that illustrate the impact of gifts from individuals, as well as the investment of time and energy from communities across the Southwest Tech five-county district.

Southwest Tech

COLLEGE MISSION

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

Southwest Tech Foundation

FOUNDATION MISSION

The Southwest Tech Foundation promotes learning through funding and activities that enable Southwest Tech to provide opportunities for success.