



# **Southwest** Wisconsin **TECH**NICAL COLLEGE

ANDLAL REPORT

# CAREER A ACADEMIES











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- Nail Technician
- Welding

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Honesti Runde, a Human Services Associate program student, stands in front of the #RiseAbove wings in Charley's Student Center. Honesti is a student programmer in student life, a resident assistant in housing, and also interns in the Knox Learning Center to help eliminate any barriers for students and provide resources! Honesti graduated from Lancaster High School and plans to further her education at Franklin University for a bachelor's degree in psychology and, eventually, a master's degree in social work.

# On the Cover

We at Southwest Tech are proud to have a strong economic impact on the healthcare industry in our district, where a large percentage of healthcare workers are Southwest Tech graduates. Our cover photo features five Southwest Tech alumni who currently work for Gundersen Boscobel Area Hospital and Clinics (I-r): Meagan Fry, CMA; Teri Miles, RN, Wound Care Certified; Theresa Braudt, MSN, RN, Administrator; Katie Glanville, RN; and Carmin Wanless, MLT.

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Southwest Wisconsin Technical College | 1800 Bronson Blvd., Fennimore, WI 53809 | 608.822.3262 or 800.362.3322 | www.swtc.edu

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"This college continues to invest in student learning with enhanced safety protocol as our priority."

We are so proud of our accomplishments in 2019! Our faculty and staff do amazing work to serve students and our communities, and we have the results to prove it. In 2018 Forbes ranked Southwest Tech the 13th best 2-year college in the United States. In 2019 we earned the distinction as an Aspen Institute of Excellence, which is the most prestigious ranking possible. These accolades are simply one measure of the fantastic work our faculty and staff do to help our students be successful.

Among our distinguished accomplishments, especially during the challenging time of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, we at Southwest Tech continue to boast high retention, graduation, and job placement rates. We work closely with business and industry partners to ensure our curriculum is relevant, and many of our students are hired before graduation. Our alumni are earning living-wage salaries, and many give back to the college and their communities.

While there are many, many unknowns about the economic landscape moving forward, we are focusing on what we can control. This college continues to invest in student learning with enhanced safety protocol as the priority. During this pandemic, our faculty and staff successfully converted all the possible learning experiences to an online format. We provided hands-on learning with additional health and safety provisions. Similarly, we were also able to convert many of our services for students to alternative formats and continue meeting their needs.

As we venture into the continually shifting unknowns that are sure to affect our operations, we will do so with an emphasis on caring for our faculty, staff, and students. Many of our graduates work on the front lines of the economy, providing necessary and essential services to the public or their professions. We salute their courage and applaud their expertise. Our communities are stronger because of the nearly \$160 million economic impact of Southwest Tech on the region.

We would love to learn more about how we can help you achieve your goals for a better-trained workforce. Please send me an email (jwood@swtc.edu) to schedule a time to discuss the possibilities. Hopefully, we can have lunch together soon. Please join us on our shared journey of excellence for the people we serve.

Weer

Jason S. Wood, Ph.D., College President

# **Pistons to Pathways Ignites Interest In Automotive Technician Careers**

At Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, industry collaboration is one key to helping students become successful on campus and in their chosen careers. Starting with the 2018–2019 academic year, Pistons to Pathways emerged as a popular program for high school students interested in learning about becoming an automotive technician.

Mark Fillback, owner of Fillback Family of Dealerships, was the catalyst for the program in this area. As a result of the collaborative efforts of Southwest Tech, CESA 3, the Wisconsin Auto and Truck Dealers Association, and Snap-On Tools, Pistons to Pathways was born.

In most cases, area high schools do not have the resources to fund their own auto tech programs, so Fillback searched for a way to train younger technicians and bring them into the industry. The original idea was to work with Southwest Tech to have high school students take a class during the day once a week. For logistical reasons, that option was not feasible, but an alternative plan developed. The program now runs for the full academic year, beginning in September, and the students meet every Wednesday from 6–9 p.m.

Students learn the nuts and bolts in the Automotive Maintenance class from dealership employees who are certified by Southwest Tech instructors. "There is enough information where it's exploratory for the students, but it also gets in-depth enough so they can learn a lot about an automobile," said Tyson Larson, automotive technician instructor at Southwest Tech.

Larson, along with Brian Waldner, automotive technician instructor at Southwest Tech, developed the curriculum and are available for oversight.

Upon completion, students earn three college credits in the Automotive Technician program and are one step closer to a technical diploma at Southwest Tech. "This is a prestigious thing to get selected to be a part of," said Fillback. "Fortunately, no one has been turned down yet."

With Pistons to Pathways now entering its second year, Fillback says they are beyond the learning curve and the program is beginning to hit its stride. He is happy with the students who have enrolled, as well. "The students have been phenomenal," he said. "They are there and they are focused. It has been great."

The program is beneficial to not only the students, who gain important technical skills at a dealership, but also Fillback, who gets to see which students have the potential to be brought on as part-time employees. In addition, scholarships are awarded by the Wisconsin Auto and Truck Dealers Association. Two students earned scholarships last year. "The classroom setting in the dealership and having them learn hands-on skills has been tenfold," said Fillback.

The program expanded for the 2019–2020 academic year. In addition to the Fillback locations in Richland Center and Boscobel, Hallada Motors in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, and Pioneer Ford in Platteville, Wisconsin, are also offering the program. There are nine students enrolled in Platteville and Boscobel, with eight in Richland Center and seven in Dodgeville.



As for the future, there is growth to be had within Southwest Tech's five-county district for Pistons to Pathways. "We'd like to see this expand to five to six locations, if possible," said Larson.

"This has been a tremendous collaboration among all our partners," said Derek Dachelet, executive dean of industry, trades, and agriculture at Southwest Tech. "Most importantly, it allows area high school students a hands-on opportunity in an expanding industry, and an opportunity that isn't available to them in their high schools."

# Emsi: Southwest Tech's Economic Impact in Region Tops \$159.3 Million

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College's economic impact to the region it serves tops \$153.9 million annually, says a report from Emsi, an Idaho-based analytics firm. That economic impact total may seem significant, but Southwest Tech President Jason Wood and the College Leadership Team is looking for ways to increase it in future years with input from district residents.

Southwest Tech added \$159.3 million in income to the southwest Wisconsin economy during fiscal year 2017–2018; this figure represents the sum of the operations spending impact, the student spending impact, and the alumni impact. For context, the \$159.3 million impact was equal to approximately 3 percent of the total gross regional product (GRP) of southwest Wisconsin. This contribution that the college provided on its own is larger than the entire real estate and rental/leasing industry in the region, the Emsi report said.



1 out of every 24 jobs in southwest Wisconsin is supported by the activities of Southwest Tech and its students.

# Top Industries Impacted by SouthwestTech (Jobs Supported)



Healthcare & Social Assistance Government, Non-Education Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting Other Services (Except Public Administration) Manufacturing



Over a working lifetime, the benefits of an associate degree over a high school diploma will amount to an undiscounted value of **\$327,600** in higher earnings per graduate.



Southwest Tech generates more in tax revenue than it receives.

"We've made it a strategic priority as a campus to reach out proactively to our constituents in an attempt to find new and innovative ways to increase our economic impact in our five-county district. We are heartened by the results of this study, but it has also challenged us to strengthen our partnerships with the many businesses, school districts, organizations, alumni, and friends we work with in order to grow our impact strategically. By working together, we can create win-win scenarios in each of the communities we serve because increasing Southwest Tech's economic impact has a direct, positive effect on our district." ~Jason S. Wood, Ph.D., College President



Southwest Tech promotes economic growth in Southwest Wisconsin through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of students and regional businesses. The college serves as an employer and buyer of goods and services for its day-to-day operations. The college's activities attract students from outside Southwest Wisconsin, whose expenditures benefit regional vendors. In addition, Southwest Tech is a primary source of higher education to Southwest Wisconsin residents and a supplier of trained workers to regional industries, enhancing overall productivity in the regional workforce.

# **Operations Spending Impact**

Southwest Tech adds economic value to Southwest Wisconsin as an employer of regional residents and a large-scale buyer of goods and services. In FY 2017-18, the college employed 488 full-time and parttime faculty and staff, 86% of whom lived in Southwest Wisconsin. Total payroll at Southwest Tech was \$18.8 million, much of which was spent in the region for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. In addition, the college spent \$9.7 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.

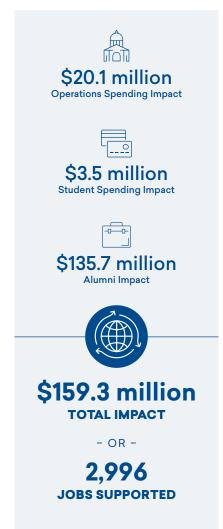
Southwest Tech's day-to-day operations spending added \$20.1 million in income to the region during the analysis year. This figure represents the college's payroll, the multiplier effects generated by the in-region spending of the college and its employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that the college received from regional sources. The \$20.1 million in added income is equivalent to supporting 516 jobs in the region.

# **Student Spending Impact**



Around 11% of students attending Southwest Tech originated from outside the region in FY 2017-18, and some of these students relocated to Southwest Wisconsin to attend Southwest Tech. These

students may not have come to the region if the college did not exist. In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left Southwest Wisconsin if not for the existence of Southwest Tech. While attending the college, these relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and other household expenses. This spending generated \$3.5 million in added income for the regional economy in FY 2017-18, which supported 58 jobs in Southwest Wisconsin. IMPACTS CREATED BY SOUTHWEST TECH IN FY 2017-18



# THIS IS WHERE PEOPLE CARE



JPEN

# **College Values**

Learning

Integrity

Accountability

Partnerships

Innovation

Continuous Improvement



# Christina Hill Culinary Arts State Student Ambassador

"It didn't matter what program I was in, the staff here at SWTC was invested in my success."

# WHERE

# Peter Humphreys Graphic and Web Design

"The small class sizes really facilitated relationship building and allowed us to develop an almost familylike comradery. I was also very lucky to have two very talented, incredible instructors, Katie Anderson and Krystal Forde, as well as a great boss, Mike Steffel, during my time as a student worker."



### Maria Ardestani Nursing-Associate Degree

"Southwest Tech was affordable and came recommended by my sister-in-law who also graduated from Southwest Tech. She told me about how hard it was going to be, but how wonderful all the instructors are who taught her in the nursing program."

### **Reilly Klippel** Agribusiness Science and Technology

"Every person in this building has shown me nothing but support and I have never seen more people dedicated to the success of others than this college. I can say with complete confidence that at least one person from every department of this college, anywhere from nursing to automotive to custodial and food services, have shaped me into who I am today."



### Katie Hughes Medical Laboratory Technician

"Southwest Tech is efficient, supportive, resourceful, and will go to great lengths to make sure that students' needs are met."

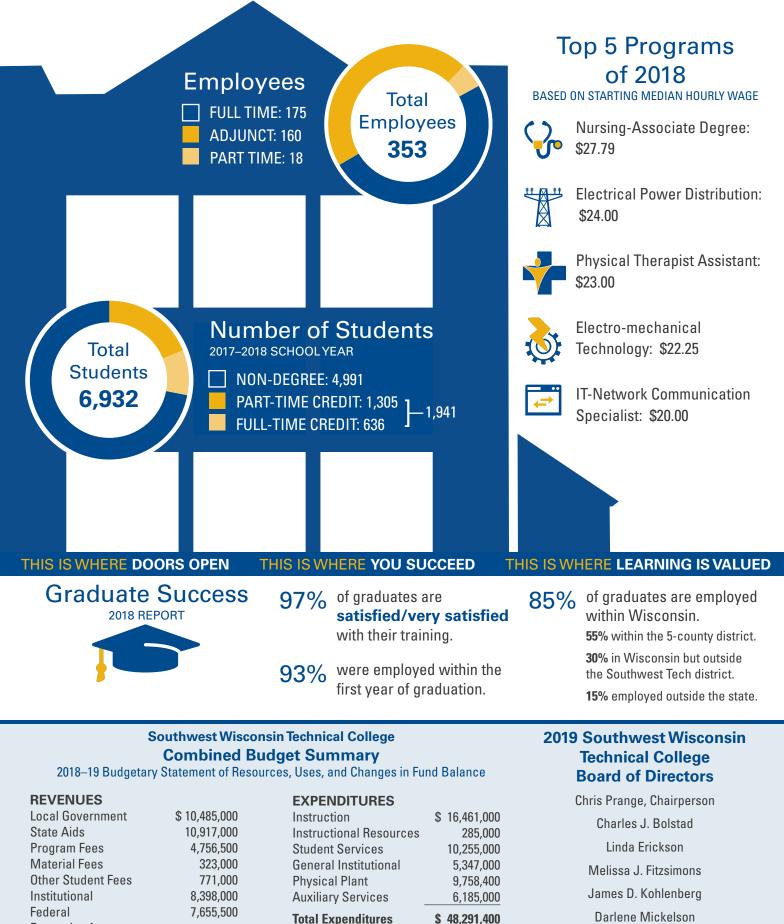


# **Southwest Tech Mission**

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

# **Southwest Tech 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.



Borrowing for

Transfer In

**Capital Projects** 

**Total Revenues** 

4,000,000

\$ 48,291,400

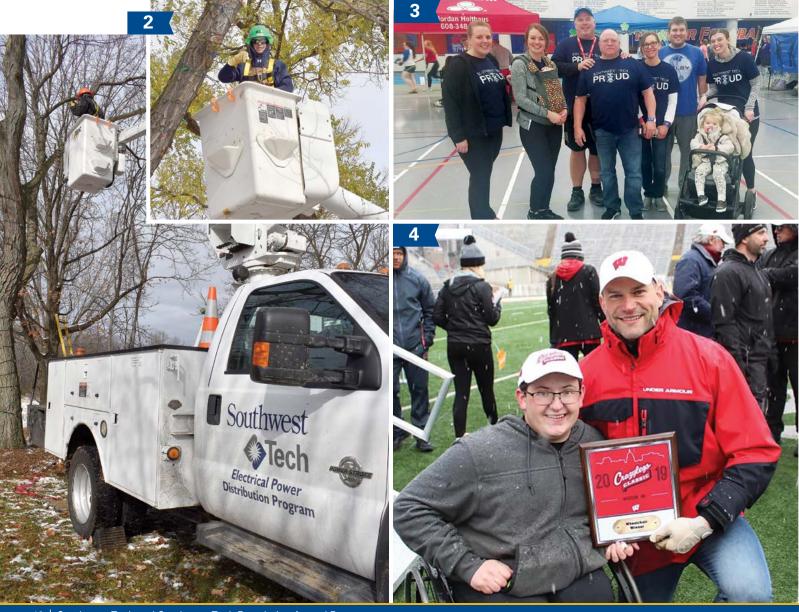
985,400

- **Darlene Mickelson**
- Russell R. Moyer
- **Eileen Nickels**
- Donald L. Tuescher

# Seen&Heard

- 1 Southwest Tech agriculture students competed in the North American International Livestock Exposition's Junior College Livestock Judging Contest. They were the first Southwest Tech team to ever compete in a national livestock judging contest.
- 2 Billed as "the region's most spectacular light display," the Rotary Lights in the Park event in Richland Center, Wisconsin, is made possible thanks to the efforts of students in the Electrical Power Distribution (EPD) program.
- 3 Southwest Tech supported Grant County's Relay for Life fundraising event.
- 4 Brenden Ojibway, IT-Computer Support Technician student, won in the Wheelchair division of the 2019 Crazylegs Classic.
- 5 Platteville High School students were able to explore auto collision refinishing because of a collaboration between Southwest Tech, Platteville High School, and Averkamp Auto Body.
- 6 A group of employees helped pack 16,416 meals to feed 44 children for a full year in support of Feed My Starving Children.





10 | Southwest Tech and Southwest Tech Foundation Annual Report

- 7 Southwest Tech welcomed a delegation from Algeria traveling to Wisconsin to learn about vocational training in agriculture. We're grateful for the opportunity to share our passion for serving students through education to those across the globe.
- 8 The United States Army Golden Knights parachuted into Southwest Tech on July 2, 2019. At the event, the Golden Knights presented a lithograph to an organization that heroically serves the community of Fennimore. This year they presented the Fennimore Fire Department with this distinguished honor.
- **9** Southwest Tech staffed a table at each of the five June Dairy breakfasts to hand out locally made cheese curds and meet with alumni and current and future students.
- **10** Criminal Justice students and instructor Karl Sandry represented Southwest Tech at the WTCS Student Showcase.
- 11 In support of the hard work and dedication of students, the college bid on and won Lance Vosberg's pig at the Grant County Fair. The meat was used by Southwest Tech Dining Services and the Culinary Arts program who served more than 300 K-12 students at Southwest Tech's Ag Day.





# **Southwest Tech Staff Receive Awards**

Employee awards are based on the fact that our faculty and staff live the college values and go above and beyond to provide exceptional service.

# Wood Family Employee Excellence Award

President Jason Wood and his wife Kathryn established this award to recognize current faculty and staff for exceptional service that demonstrates the values of the College. Nominations are taken from campus "Shout-Outs" in which the employee was recognized by their colleagues for displaying the value of Integrity or Continuous Improvement.



Margie Billings, Southwest Tech Facilities staff member, was recognized for providing a valuable work experience for our students and summer employees in preparing them to be better prepared for future employment opportunities.



**Connie Haberkorn**, human resources benefit coordinator, was recognized in several nominations for her extraordinarily efficient work when serving employees. One employee stated, "During the past three years, I've routinely needed to access my health insurance benefits for the first time in my career; anytime questions or issues came up, Connie put on a quiet cape and helped resolve them."

**Rex Smith**, Dining Services manager, was recognized for his strong integrity, selflessness, and the example he sets for students.

# Innovation of the Year Award

The Innovation of the Year Award is designed to recognize college staff members who have designed and implemented a significant innovation that meets the criteria of the award, including an increase in the quality of a course, program, office or the institution; contributes to a more efficient process; adds value to the institution while reducing costs; can be replicated in other departments or institutions; is original and creative; and was not developed more than five years ago. A committee of campus representatives makes the selection of the award. Eighteen employee nominees were recognized at the April 2019 all-campus in-service.



**Mike Steffel** 

was awarded the 2019 Innovation of the Year Award for his work creating an online event registration system and an online scholarship application, which saved the Southwest Tech

Foundation time and money. Steffel's work with the event registration system was used for the first time for the Charger Golf Classic in the fall of 2018. It has already been duplicated for the fall and spring career fairs. Steffel's nominator, Gina Udelhofen, stated in relation to the scholarship process, "Mike's creativity with the application saves so much time and provides efficiency while collaborating with me on what is needed most. He instantly dives into any issue that may come up throughout the application timeline. I'm amazed at how far along the application has come since I started in Fall 2015."

Dr. Joan Senn, retired Southwest Tech vice president of academics, established the Innovation of the Year endowment through the Southwest Tech Foundation to ensure a monetary award for the Innovation of the Year winner and/or other nominees. According to 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."

# Nicholas' Servant Leadership Award

Karen Campbell, who has worked at Southwest Tech for more than 30 years, established the Nicholas' Servant-Leadership Award in 2017 as a way to help others in the pursuit of their professional development. Campbell stated that she has benefited professionally and personally in her long tenure at the College and wishes to pay it forward by awarding a \$500 tuition reimbursement award to a faculty or staff member working toward completing a college degree or diploma. "College staff with continued education are better educators, administrators, support staff, and employees. Establishing the Nicholas' Servant-Leadership Award is my small way to help others and honor Nicholas," said Campbell.

**Stephanie Brown**, Resident Life Manager, was recognized as the 2019 Nicholas' Servant-Leadership Award recipient at

the Southwest Tech all-college in-service. Brown is pursuing her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Franklin University. When asked what characteristics she uses to exemplify a servant leader,



Brown responded, "Servant-leadership is a must when working with students in housing. I will do whatever it takes to help a student feel safe and welcome at Southwest Tech. I do everything I can to make sure our students are successful here."

# WTCS Eagle Award

Congratulations **Caleb White**, Southwest Tech vice president for administrative services, on being named the 2018 Wisconsin Technical College System Eagle Award Winner. WTCS President



Morna K. Foy presented White with this prestigious honor and shared the many ways White has cultivated wisdom and nurtured the college. The common thread in all of his accomplishments is service—service to our staff and service to our students.

# Campbell Earns National Award

**Karen Campbell**, executive services director at Southwest Tech, was awarded the national 2019 ACCT (Association of Community College Trustees) Professional Staff Member Award. The honor



was presented during the annual ACCT Awards Gala in conjunction with the 50th annual ACCT Leadership Congress. Campbell was previously presented with the 2019 Professional Board Staff Member Award for the Midwest Region by the ACCT.

This honor is indicative of the strong work ethic and professionalism that Campbell brings to campus every day. In addition to her passion for Southwest Tech students, she was a student herself recently. She earned a master's degree in servant leadership from Gonzaga University.

'I am grateful to have been able to devote my entire career to Southwest Tech and serving the students, employers, and constituents in the Southwest district," said Campbell. "Every day brings a new challenge and learning opportunity for me. I can honestly say I am eager and energized to come to work every day."

"We are grateful for and proud of Karen's 36-plus years of experience at Southwest Tech and the positive impact she has made on many, many people," said Dr. Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president. "I am grateful for Karen's generosity in donating significant funding to support professional development of other faculty and staff as well as her commitment to continued learning. She has established an endowment, which helps faculty and staff pursue further education."

Campbell is the first person associated with Southwest Tech to earn a distinction at this level. "I am extremely humbled and honored to be the recipient of this award," she said. "I did not win this award by myself; I have had wonderful and inspirational district board members, college presidents, and colleagues who have helped me develop my leadership skills that are allowing me to be honored with this award. I am excited to have Southwest Tech receive national recognition as well."

The ACCT represents more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States as well as other countries.



The Southwest Tech Trapshooting Team's season came to an amazing end in the fall of 2018 as the team placed second in the Minnesota Colleges Athletic Conference championship, narrowly missing the conference title by only two targets. Quintin Peasall was a standout as the high individual with a 24.3 out of 25 average. Garret Kruel came in right behind him and tied for second with a 24.2 out of 25 average. **Congratulations to head coaches Matt Schneider and Dan Imhoff and the entire Southwest Tech Trapshooting Team!** 





# **Every Gift Matters**

Thanks to the generous donations to the Southwest Tech Foundation, the impact giving has on our students can be observed each and every day at Southwest Tech. More than 1,170 donors in 2018–2019 pushed the Foundation's fundraising total to over \$1 million in gifts received!

Walking down the halls of campus, a visitor could meet one of the 325 students who received a scholarship—perhaps Christina Hill, one of the first recipients of the new James and Grace Thiele Scholarship, or Bradley Emler, a Vortex Scholarship recipient. Scholarships allow students to reduce their college debt or even possibly cut back on the number of hours they need to work in order to make ends meet. Donors to the Charger Dream Fund provided grants for 94 students totaling \$39,272.16.



Billy, a full-time student caring for his wife with MS, had to cut back hours at work and reduce his income or leave college to care for his wife and pay the mortgage. A Charger Dream grant allowed Billy to earn his degree, get hired into a well-paying job, and support his wife.

## Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation, Inc. Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2019

ASSETS Cash Unconditional Promised to Give Emergency Loans Receivable Investments Prepaid Expenses	\$ 422,139 110,751 1,400 4,215,548 <u>611</u>
Total Assets	\$ 4,750,449
<b>LIABILITIES</b> Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Total Liabilities	\$ 10,517
<b>NET ASSETS</b> Without Donor Restrictions With Donor Restrictions Total Net Assets	\$ 203,402 4,536,530 4,739,932
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 4,750,449



The impact of Chargers Cupboard, the student food pantry, can be learned by talking to students who use the resource. One student, who is also mom to a 3-year-old child, commented she is able to use other food-assistance programs, such as Feed a Charger, to eat meals on campus, while the Chargers Cupboard provides the food she needs to prepare meals at home.

As Southwest Tech expands its support so that all students feel they belong and that this is where people care, generous donors will be critical in meeting the increased demand for scholarships, emergency grants, gas cards, food pantry, and application waivers. Based on the demonstrated generosity of donors in the past few years, we are confident that more alumni, business partners, and friends will consider raising the bar on their giving to help provide more opportunities for success for our students now and into the future.

# SWTC Real Estate Foundation Statement of Activities June 30, 2019

<b>ASSETS</b> Cash Rent Receivable Property and Equipment	\$ 28,717 71,584 3,012,645
Total Assets	\$ 3,112,946
<b>LIABILITIES</b> Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Mortgage Payable	\$ 103,483 2,194,194
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,297,677
NET ASSETS	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 815,269
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,112,946

# 2018–2019 Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation Board of Directors

Lori Barry Theresa Braudt Holly Clendenen Dr. Joyce Czajkowski Missy Fitzsimons Connie Haberkorn Karla Fischnick Connie Larson Greg Novinska Linda Parrish Sheila Ruchti Tom Sheehan Ben Wood Dr. Jason Wood

# 2018–2019 SWTC Real Estate Foundation Board of Directors

Brad Biddick Mindy Johnson Chris Prange Kevin Raisbeck Justin Smith Ben Wood Holly Clendenen Dr. Jason Wood

# For information about how you can help, go to www.swtc.edu/donate

# Thiele Scholarship Helps Many Boscobel Students

In 2019, the Patrick Thiele family generously established the James and Grace Thiele Scholarship to start Southwest Tech's first STEP scholarship.

The STEP scholarship program is Southwest Tech's Educational Pledge—the next STEP to your education. The James and Grace Thiele Scholarship provides up to \$3,000 in scholarships to every Boscobel High School graduate attending Southwest Tech. Scholarships are awarded to students the semester after completing each of three levels, or steps, of program credits: \$500 scholarship after 15 credits, \$1,000 after 30 credits, and \$1,500 after 45 credits.

In Fall 2019, the first James and Grace Thiele Scholarships, totaling \$24,000, were awarded to 23 students. Twenty additional scholarships were awarded in Spring 2020, including 13 to first-time Thiele recipients. In total 36 students received \$40,500 in the inaugural year of the STEP program. Nine more Boscobel High School graduates were enrolled at Southwest Tech in the Spring 2020 semester and are qualified for Thiele scholarships in the fall semester.

Retention and graduation rates of STEP scholarship recipients will be closely monitored to track the impact these multi-semester, renewable scholarships have on the students. Recruitment efforts are also bolstered so that more Boscobel High School graduates become aware of the generous financial support available to them to take the next STEP in their education.

One STEP Scholarship recipient Koltin Swenik noted his connection to the Thiele family along with his gratitude for the scholarship. Swenik said, "By awarding me this scholarship, you have reduced my financial burden, which allows me to focus on my schoolwork, not on how I am going to pay for school. I hope one day I will be able to help struggling students reach their goals in higher education by assisting them in the way you are helping me. Also, I wanted to add that I recently learned that James (Theile) was in the same grade and wrestled with my grandfather, Jim Trumm."

Seated (I-r): Michael Clift, Morgan Harris, Lydia Kulp, Shanda Trumm, Kaci Wallace. Standing (I-r): Alex Russell, Wyatt Rounds, Christina Hill, Hazen Newton, Aimee Salzgeber, and Marcus Stalsberg



# Cummins Emission Solutions Recognized as a Technical Education Champion

Partnerships of all kinds are very important to the success of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. However, few of the college's partnerships with area employers rise to the level of the one with Cummins Emission Solutions, Inc.

That partnership, which spans decades and spotlights immense positive impact on Southwest Tech students and programs, was front and center at the College's District Board meeting last August. Cummins Emission Solutions was awarded the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association's 2019 Technical Education Champion (TECh) honor.

"The development of strong partnerships is a core college value of Southwest Tech," said College President Jason Wood. "We are honored and humbled by the support of Cummins Emission Solutions that has grown over time. Our students benefit directly from Cummins' generosity, and our district benefits from Cummins' commitment to help our educational programs get better. In turn, our employees at Southwest Tech work hard to train our students to Cummins' high standards. This relationship with Cummins has grown stronger over time, and we honor Cummins for its diverse support, but we are even more excited about the next levels of this partnership and how we can grow the positive impact in the future. The best is still to come," Wood added.

Michael Schumacher, Cummins plant controller and community involvement team sponsor, agreed. "Our partnership with Southwest Wisconsin Technical College focuses on support for education. We understand the importance of having a technical school in our area. We also know that Southwest Tech is regarded as one of the top technical colleges in the nation. This partnership works for the benefit of both organizations."

The WTCDBA's recognition of Cummins Emission Solutions highlighted the exemplary level of partnership with Southwest Tech as the company provides financial support, utilizes the college for employee training, and enhances the community as well as the district. Cummins is also modeling the relationship between its Mineral Point operations and Southwest Tech in other countries to create local educational systems.

In 2015 Cummins Emission Solutions started the Cummins Emission Solutions Scholarship, specifically to help fund the education of students in the programs of CNC, Electro-mechanical Technology, Industrial Mechanic, Instrumentation and Controls Technology, Precision Machining, and Welding. In 2018, Cummins sent additional funding to increase the amount of this scholarship because company leadership felt it was important to show greater support to Southwest Tech students and their respective education plans.

Perhaps the most impactful partnership among Southwest Tech, Cummins Emission Solutions, and Cummins Corporate is the company's support of the Southwest Tech Mobile Welding Lab,



Cummins Emission Solutions of Mineral Point received the Wisconsin Technical College Boards Association Technical Education Champion (TECh) award. Pictured are (I-r) Kim Schmelz and Holly Clendenen, Southwest Tech Foundation; Michael Schumacher, Cummins plant controller and community involvement team sponsor; Bobby Lee, Cummins senior VPI quality associate and community involvement team co-lead; Layla Merrifield, executive director of the WTCDBA; and Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president.

which is used to bridge the gap between the lack of career and technical offerings and the need for skilled trades in high schools. "Our goals at Southwest Tech were to increase interest in skilled trades such as welding for high school and adult learners, gain student interest in earning college credits that would count toward their education at Southwest Tech, and be entrepreneurial in how the college delivers educational opportunities to students and employers across the district" said Kim Schmelz, Southwest Tech Foundation. In 2017 the Southwest Tech Foundation was awarded a grant from the Cummins Foundation for \$90,699 to cover the entire request of the proposal. Lee stated, "The Mobile Welding Lab is a very innovative idea that will help bring professionals and standards to area students. The lab will certainly help to spark area students' interest in the welding trade while giving them a hands-on experience. Cummins Mineral Point is very excited to be associated with this project."

To date, the Mobile Welding Lab has worked with 43 high school students in Mineral Point and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and Elkader, Iowa, along with 16 others who participated in a twoday course in Muscoda. In addition, 34 employees have received training in American Welding Society (AWS) certification and 32 inmates have gone through welding certification training in the lab. Southwest Tech AWS-certified welding instructors led all of these trainings and competitions.

In addition to the grant award for the mobile welding lab, Cummins Foundation awarded an additional \$5,000 for scholarships to students in the Southwest Tech Welding program. To date, the Southwest Tech Foundation has received nearly \$100,000 from Cummins and the Cummins Foundation in order to better train and support students. "We are proud of this partnership and feel that Cummins Emission Solutions is very deserving of the Technical Education Champion Award," Wood said.

# Southwest Tech Foundation Recognizes Philanthropists, Alumni, and Retirees

The Southwest Tech Foundation honors those who make an impact on the lives of students and their families at the annual Donor Appreciation and Alumni and Retiree Awards program held each May.

# **Distinguished Alumni Awards**

This award recognizes alumni who demonstrate the value of their Southwest Tech degree or certificate through advancement, participation in community service activities, and continuous personal and educational growth and support of Southwest Tech.

**Deborah Johnson** served 30 years in the nursing field and started a volunteer role at Good Neighbor Clinic, a free clinic in Sauk Prairie. In 2014 she was instrumental in the development of the Sauk Prairie Community Activated Recovery Enhancement (CARE) program and was hired by Good Neighbor Clinic as the clinic coordinator/recovery coach of the CARE program. CARE is an integrated system that puts each individual at the center of their treatment, which empowers the individual to make better life choices. Johnson and her colleague Joan Mack helped over 400 people get into a recovery program and have been able to obtain \$3 million in grants because of the success of the program. In addition, Johnson also runs the Sauk City Al-Anon program. Johnson said she continuously tells her clients what she was told as a student at Southwest Tech. "I was told I could achieve my dreams, that I was worth it and that I was not alone."





**Scott Pauls** serves as the director of service delivery for the Wisconsin

Independent Network (WIN). Pauls became the director of IT for Boscobel Hospitals at the very young age of 23 and now, at the age of 30, has achieved the status of systems engineer. Aaron Halverson, Scott's instructor at Southwest Tech stated, "This is impressive given the fact that someone with a systems engineer position typically has a bachelor's degree or over 10 years of industry experience." Pauls serves on the Network Communications Advisory Board, frequently visits with IT students on campus, spoke at the first IT Summit that was hosted on campus last spring and also gave opening remarks at the Data Center Ribbon cutting last fall.

**Ritch Stevenson** is the president and owner of Building Automation Products, a premier sensor

manufacturer for HVAC/R. After working in the Madison area following graduation from Southwest Tech, he started Building Automations Products in1993 in a two-stall garage and a couple of office spaces. After moving to his hometown of Gays Mills, Wisconsin, he built a 50,000-square-foot manufacturing/office facility. Building Automation Products has doubled in size over the past few years, and is now an international business after opening an office in the United Kingdom in 2017. "BAPI hosted the Southwest Tech District Board in November 2017, and the board members were impressed with the international manufacturing business Ritch and his wife have built," stated Kim Schmelz, director of external relations and alumni development, during the program. Stevenson is involved with local and regional economic development, helped with the Gays Mills Flood Recovery, and coaches youth sports.



# **Philanthropy Awards**

Philanthropy awards recognize businesses and individuals who have provided financial support to help students learn and overcome hardships that may prevent them from realizing their goals.

Cummins Emission Solutions has

been supporting the Foundation since 2005 and has awarded scholarships to Southwest Tech students since 2011. Cummins' largest investment in Southwest Tech came in 2017 with a \$90,000 commitment to the college's Mobile Welding Lab. This gift helped the college purchase and equip a mobile welding lab in order to expand welding offerings to high schools students, local employers, and local incarcerated populations. Since May 2017, more than 100 individuals have received training in the mobile welding lab. In the summer of 2018, Cummins



awarded the Southwest Tech Foundation an additional grant for scholarships for welding students, increasing their scholarship awards for 2019-2020 to \$5,500. Sam Fugate and Bobby Lee accepted the award on behalf of Cummins Emission Solutions.

**Donald and Susan Tuescher** have been supporters of Southwest Tech for many years. Don was appointed to the Southwest Tech District Board in 1994 and is the second longestserving member on the board. Tuescher Electric and Refrigeration has been a long-time employer of Southwest Tech graduates, and Don represents the company on the advisory committee for the Electro-mechanical Technology and Instrumentation and Controls programs. In 2016, the Tueschers established the Brian J. Tuescher Scholarship in memory of their son. This endowed scholarship provides an annual scholarship to a student enrolled



in the Electro-mechanical Technology or Instrumentation and Controls programs. Don also serves as a member of the board at Southwest Health in Platteville, Darlington Mutual Insurance, and the Southwest Wisconsin Electrical Contractors Association.

# **Retiree Awards**

**Tom Sheehan** and **John Schindler** received the 2019 Retiree Achievement award. This award was developed to recognize retired faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to Southwest Tech through exemplary service in any capacity, whether in a teaching, administration, or support staff role, and have exemplified the values of the college in their time on campus and as a retiree. Sheehan and Schindler were recognized at the Donor Appreciation and Alumni and Retiree Awards reception on May 17, 2019. Sheehan and Schindler recalled favorite memories of their time on campus and the students, faculty, and staff they had the honor to work with.



# **Southwest Tech Foundation Donor Honor Roll**

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations made contributions to the Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. 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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