



I GRADUATED WITH
ZERO DEBT!



2019 | 2020 SOUTHWEST TECH AND SOUTHWEST TECH FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SERVICES

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SERVICES PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF ASSISTANCE IN THESE AREAS:



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EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING



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Charger Leadership Program Director



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NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

Nonprofit Leadership provides skills and experiences to equip you for a career with social service organizations, hospitals and clinics, foundations, government agencies, and other organizations providing direct services to residents and communities. This “learn by doing” program ensures that you graduate with practical and marketable skills for a rewarding career.

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Alexa Weber, Accounting Assistant program student, works in the newly renovated Southwest Tech Bookstore and for the Southwest Tech Foundation as a phonathon caller and supervisor.

Our cover story features two students who have graduated without debt from Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. There are several forms of financial aid, and one way we encourage students to help pay for their education is to work on campus while attending college. The average student loan debt for our 2020 graduates was \$3,059*.

*The graduates include students who enrolled in either financial-aid-eligible or non-financial-aid-eligible programs. These numbers only include loans the student borrowed at Southwest Tech and could include loans borrowed from multiple programs.

Campus News

- 4 Message from the President
- 9 About Southwest Tech
- 10 Seen and Heard
- 12 Southwest Tech Employee Awards
- 13 Staff Celebrate 30 Years of Service
- 15 Earn College Credit in High School

Foundation News

- 17 Phonathon/Every Gift Matters
- 20 Philanthropists, Alumni, & Retirees Recognized

Features

- 5 College Response to COVID-19
- 6 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- 8 Virtual Graduation Celebration
- 14 Students Graduate with Zero Debt
- 16 Thiele Scholarship Expanded
- 18 Charge Forward Scholars Program
- 19 Compeer Awards Ag Grant
- 22 Donor Honor Roll

This issue covers Southwest Tech news from July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020 and includes activities both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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



Daunting challenges from a global pandemic, national social unrest, and state fiscal uncertainty—2020 was a year unlike any other in the history of our college. Despite these substantial threats, Southwest Tech thrived. We did our best work when things were at their worst. As I reflect on our many triumphs, I believe the positive results we achieved are due primarily to our culture of trust, commitment to caring for others, and positive approach to difficult situations.

Please take the time to read through this annual report. Our faculty and staff are highlighted on nearly every page because they are the heroes who helped us be successful this past year. We were among the very first to reopen and offer in-person learning after everything shutdown. We continue our efforts to find ways to train people for front-line jobs with the majority of our graduates finding employment in our college district. Our faculty and staff demonstrate compassion and integrity while going above and beyond to help students be successful. The people who work at our college are your friends, neighbors, and family. At Southwest Tech, we do our best to take care of each other.

Finally, I invite you to help contribute to our success by referring a potential student to one of our programs. If you know someone who would like to study here, please let me know and I will personally reach out to help them get started. In the meantime, enjoy learning more about our faculty and staff who do so much to help our many students achieve their goals. We're making 2021 the best year ever!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason S. Wood".

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



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.

COLLEGE VALUES

Learning
Integrity
Accountability
Partnerships
Innovation
Continuous Improvement

College Community Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Southwest Tech campus community shifted its operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “Through all of this, we have been able to remain flexible and dedicated to our mission of educating our students and helping them achieve their goals and improving their lives,” said Dr. Jason Wood, president of Southwest Tech.

Southwest Tech was one of the first colleges to offer face-to-face instruction, with stringent safety protocols for programs deemed essential, following an initial closure. Classrooms were reconfigured to adjust for social distancing. Charley’s Student Center was repurposed as a classroom. Most faculty and staff transitioned to working remotely.

“The workforce has always required our skilled graduates, and that proved to be even more true during the pandemic,” said Wood. Additionally, COVID-19 communications were deemed a priority. A dedicated website landing page, along with timely updates from Wood and other college officials, were established as part of that plan. The website offers a dashboard, which includes daily COVID-19 numbers, status of affected programs, as well as a summary of actions that were taken. A new email address directed to the Emergency Response Team for COVID-19 questions and concerns was established. Increased signage was installed on campus, reminding everyone of safety protocols. Sanitation processes were increased, including the purchase of a fogging machine, the air duct system was altered, hand sanitizing stations were added throughout campus, and temperature checks were required upon entrance. “I am proud of our team for making the necessary changes to keep the college operations moving, while at the same time making safety and security a top priority,” said Dan Imhoff, director of facilities.

Caleb White, vice president for administrative services, characterized the events of 2020 as “unprecedented” at Southwest Tech. “This health crisis took an immense number of resources in response to keeping our campus community safe, while still delivering on our mission,” he said. “Reverberations from 2020 will be felt for decades—some good, some bad. I’m

proud of how our college weathered 2020, while still providing opportunities for success for our students.”

“The Southwest Tech team has been committed to developing innovative and collaborative

solutions to meet the ‘new’ business requirements for instruction and remote work,” said Heath Ahnen, director of information technology services. Technology has played a key role in the support of the campus mission and includes ‘zero contact’ laptops shipped to students’ homes (Charger Tech 360), virtualization technology to access instructional software, secure remote access to support student/staff employment, and providing outdoor wireless in partnership with the Public Service Commission’s Internet Resources for Wisconsin Residents during Public Health Emergency. The technology needs for staff and students remain a significant focus as SWTC continues to transition between campus and remote options.”



Auto Technician students held a Winterize Your Vehicle event on campus for their fellow students.

The Charger Cooperative Network was established to assist faculty, staff, and students as they navigate the pandemic. The Network started an employee support fund, which helped faculty and staff who had spouses lose employment, got sick, etc. During the initial lockdown, the Network also created the Home School, Charger Style program, which featured faculty tutoring children of college faculty and staff via Zoom.

In addition, a calling campaign was initiated. Staff members called every student to check on their well-being. Care packages were sent to employees, and the Chargers Cupboard food pantry transitioned to a mobile operation. Nearly \$400,000 was distributed directly to students as part of the federal CARES Act. “This pandemic has not only affected our employees and students related to college business, it has also affected every aspect of their personal lives,” said Krista Weber, chief human resources officer. “We care about all of our employees and students, and we want to make sure they have the necessary resources to navigate this situation.” Even with the alterations, all programs were able to finish the Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters, as well as the Spring 2021 semester.



Nursing Assistant students practice their skills in the campus lab.

Creating Space for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

On June 2, 2020, Southwest Tech President Jason Wood sent an email to the campus community stating, “We will create a better place at Southwest Tech for all people regardless of race, color, nationality, citizenship, age, religion, belief, disability, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetics, or medical history.”

Wood, along with members of the campus executive team, committed to connect with students of color to offer support, encouragement, and resources and seek feedback on ways that meaningful improvements can be made. The following ideas were generated from that feedback:

- Reach out to students in Public Safety programming to assist with processing their current situations and provide support for those who seek to better serve the public by upholding the noblest ideals.
- Invite people from the Diversity Work Group to develop a position description for a diversity coordinator to bring expertise to the college for further training and to provide additional resources to diverse student and faculty/staff populations.
- Analyze the data from the Student and Employee Campus Climate Diversity and Inclusivity Survey to determine specific opportunities for improvement in conjunction with the college’s Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity plan as ways to deconstruct built-in biases and create a more welcoming and accepting culture of respect and inclusivity.

- Strengthen a commitment to the Chargers Respect Pledge, along with meaningful programming and professional expectations for the 2020–21 academic year and beyond.

Progress has occurred since this commitment was made, including the creation of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) road map to strengthen DEI awareness, action, and accountability. A new value of inclusivity was developed, using input and feedback from college employees, students, and board members. A multicultural success coach position was created and hired Giulio Reyes to increase student access to and success at the college. A dashboard is also being developed to share our progress with stakeholders.



Multicultural Success Coach
Giulio Reyes

- ▼ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion week included *The Newest Americans*, an exhibit of online photos and first-person accounts from immigrants that were compiled following two naturalization ceremonies in February and March 2017 in Los Angeles, California.

“I found the presentation informative and interesting. People born and raised in the US need to know that things like this take place and to not judge a book by its cover. You never know what people are going through and how they end up where they are. It is important to be kind and treat others the way you want to be treated.”
Matilyn Terpstra, Intro to Diversity Studies Student



“I think it’s very important to be aware of people’s backgrounds and struggles because those are what shapes their values, beliefs, and opinions and influences how they respond to others, how they view family life, and how they perform on the job site. When I become a nurse, it will be vital that I can communicate clearly with patients and understand that their past experiences, especially something like moving to a new country, leave lasting effects on them.” *Andrea Fish, Intro to Diversity Studies Student*

Chargers Respect Pledge

By signing the Chargers Respect Pledge, either electronically or in person, students, faculty, and staff commit to upholding the diversity, equity, and inclusivity values set by the college. The background images shown here are just a few of the Southwest Tech employees who have taken this vow.

#CHARGERS **RESPECT**

THIS IS WHERE
**PEOPLE
CARE**

**SOUTHWEST TECH PROMOTES A
COHESIVE CULTURE THAT IS BASED
UPON PROFESSIONALISM, FAIRNESS,
TRUST AND RESPECT.**



As a member of the Charger community, I pledge to...

CREATE

a respectful and welcoming environment for all at Southwest Tech.

RESPECT

others' values and ideas even if they are different from my own.

RECOGNIZE

commonalities and shared experiences.

DEFEND

the dignity and humanity of all members of our college community.

I will honor this commitment in my classes, workplace, personal life, and all other pursuits on and off campus. I pledge to make everyone feel respected, valued, and part of our Charger community.



SIGNATURE

DATE

Winter 2020 Graduation Celebration Again Virtual

Because of the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the concern for the health and safety of students, faculty and staff, Winter 2020 graduation was marked with a celebratory video, similar to the spring semester.

In partnership with Empire Photography in Madison, Wisconsin, all graduates were showcased in the video. It included messages from Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president; Chuck Bolstad, Southwest Tech District Board chairperson; Karlee Leatherberry, Southwest Tech state student ambassador; Taylor Thuli, student speaker; and Issac Salinas, Cosmetology alumnus. Faculty and staff also offered congratulations to the graduates.

“As 2020 has continued to unfold, it became clear that having our graduates together would not be feasible, unfortunately,” said Dr. Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president. “We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and this virtual option in no way takes away from their determination and dedication to make it to this milestone. We will be cheering them on, as we always have, and wish them well in their future endeavors.”

The graduation date was Friday, December 11. The video was posted on Southwest Tech’s social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, as well as its website. All graduates received a gift box in the mail, which included their diploma, honor cords, tassels, and a Class of 2020 t-shirt. The names of all winter graduates can be found at www.swtc.edu/classof2020winter.

2020 Winter Graduation Speakers



Karlee Leatherberry
State Student Ambassador

PROGRAM
Agribusiness Science and
Technology-Agronomy

HOMETOWN
Viola, Wisconsin

“I came to Southwest Tech the fall following my high school graduation. I attended Kickapoo schools from kindergarten until graduating in May of 2019. I was raised on my family farm, where I worked as the farm secretary and farm hand until beginning classes at Southwest Tech. After graduation, I have an internship lined up at Premier Coop in Fennimore for the summer of 2021. From there, I will decide to either attend UW-Platteville to attain my bachelor’s degree in Crop and Soil Science, or I will dive directly into the workforce.”



Taylor Thuli
Student Speaker

PROGRAM
Business Management

HOMETOWN
Darlington, Wisconsin

“I work at the Darlington Community School District in student services and have done so throughout my schooling. I will start at Upper Iowa University in January of 2021 to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Business Marketing. Once finished, I hope to begin a career in social media marketing.”



Issac Salinas
Alumnus Speaker

PROGRAM/YEAR GRADUATED
Cosmetology, 2016

HOMETOWN
Anaheim, California

“My advice to graduates is to see the program all the way through. Sometimes it’s hard or you get discouraged, but see it all the way through. It’s so nice going to work and loving what you do. It makes work that much more enjoyable and a lot less stressful!”

Employees

- FULL-TIME: 170
- ADJUNCT: 150
- PART-TIME: 7



Top 5 Programs of 2019

BASED ON STARTING MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE



Electrical Power Distribution: \$30.00



Nursing (Associate Degree): \$27.74



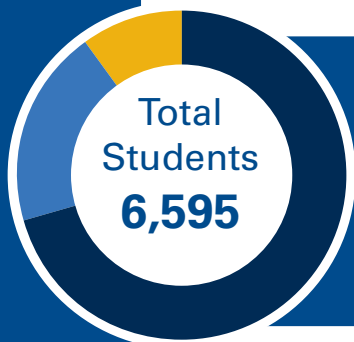
Cancer Information Management: \$23.25



Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement Academy: \$22.82



Physical Therapist Assistant: \$21.00



Number of Students

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

- NON-DEGREE: 4,661
- PART-TIME CREDIT: 1,289
- FULL-TIME CREDIT: 645

THIS IS WHERE DOORS OPEN

THIS IS WHERE YOU SUCCEED

THIS IS WHERE LEARNING IS VALUED

Graduate Success

2019 REPORT



97% of graduates are **satisfied/very satisfied** with their training.

93% were employed within the first year of graduation.

83% of graduates are employed within Wisconsin.
52% within the 5-county district
31% in Wisconsin but outside the Southwest Tech district
18% employed outside the state

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Combined Budget Summary

2019-20 Budgetary Statement of Resources, Uses, and Changes in Fund Balance

REVENUES

Local Government	\$ 10,650,000
State Aids	11,303,693
Program Fees	4,498,373
Material Fees	282,343
Other Student Fees	790,131
Institutional	7,140,966
Federal	6,091,745
Borrowing for Capital Projects	4,000,000
Transfer In	199,744
Total Revenues	\$ 44,956,995

EXPENDITURES

Instruction	\$ 14,558,914
Instructional Resources	183,427
Student Services	8,311,560
General Institutional	5,405,476
Physical Plant	8,931,026
Auxiliary Services	5,014,505
Total Expenditures	\$ 42,404,908

2019 Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Board of Directors

Chuck Bolstad
 Tracy Fillback
 Missy Fitzsimons
 Jeanne Jordie
 Russ Moyer
 Eileen Nickels
 Chris Prange
 Don Tuescher
 Jane Wonderling

Seen & Heard

▼ In celebration of National FFA week, Southwest Tech acknowledged our area chapter advisors, students, and alumni by delivering cheese and sausage trays, along with clipboards, to all high school FFA chapters in our district. Dr. Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president, and Brianna Williamson (left), assistant recruiter at Southwest Tech, presented the gifts to Shelby Mitchell, agriculture instructor and FFA advisor at Fennimore High School.

▼ Southwest Tech partnered with Southwest Tech alum and owner of Karla's Kitchen, Karla Fishnick, who baked and delivered dozens of her famous cinnamon rolls and pecan sticky rolls to Grant Regional Health Center to show those on the front line that we care. Grant Regional Health Center's Marketing Director Rochelle Williams, and Southwest Tech Nursing Instructor Maria Kindrai, delivered the treats.





- ▲ Southwest Tech held a virtual graduation for all 2020 graduates and acknowledged their achievements with a graduation celebration video. All graduates received special gift boxes to recognize their hard work and dedication to their education. These boxes included the diploma, graduation cap and tassel, Class of 2020 t-shirt, and other items. Kaye Woodke [left] was one of the many volunteer staff who hand delivered these gifts at a drive-thru event held on campus.



- ▲ Southwest Tech, in partnership with Reddy Ag Service, Inc. and Ross Soil Service, LLC, in Stitzer; Rock River Laboratory, Inc.; and the Grant County Cattlemen's Association, participated in the annual Chipper Day on August 25, 2020. The event was held at the Reddy Ag/Ross Soil Service facility. Farm Business and Production Management Instructors Kory Stalsberg and Jonna Schutte were on site, working with the farmers and samples.

- ▲ The COVID-19 pandemic may have closed campus, but it did not shut down the care we show for our students. Dining Services employees led the effort of taking the Chargers Cupboard mobile to get food into the homes of students in need. A team of faculty and staff met on campus every Friday to pack food pantry boxes for each family and deliver them throughout the district. Pictured above loading the week's groceries going out for delivery are Dining Services employees Sue Friederick [left] and Christina Hill.

- ◀ President Jason Wood, along with Dan Imhoff, Matt Schneider, and members of the Southwest Tech Trapshooting team, visited Vortex. Vortex is a sponsor of the team, funding jerseys and caps. As a token of appreciation for their partnership, Vortex was presented with a framed team photo and jersey.

Southwest Tech Staff Receive 2020 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 service to the college that goes above and beyond, while demonstrating the values of the college. Josh Bedward and Joe Randall were recognized as the 2020 recipients.



Josh Bedward, facilities manager and master electrician for Southwest Tech, was awarded the 2020 Wood Family Employee Excellence Award for exemplifying the college values of integrity and continuous improvement. One of his nominations stated that he exudes trust and confidence, especially in times of uncertainty. Another

nomination stated, “Josh is a true asset to this college in not only crisis management but day-to-day operations. Many issues do not rise to a level that impacts the greater college community due primarily to Josh’s ability to intervene, analyze, and implement an effective plan.”

Josh started his employment at Southwest Tech in 2014 and earned an associate degree in Leadership Development in 2019. When asked to comment on his award and recognition, Josh said, “I am just honored to be part of the Southwest Tech family where everyone encourages one another to continue to grow personally and professionally.”



Joe Randall, Electrical Power Distribution instructor for Southwest Tech since 2015, was awarded the 2020 Wood Family Employee Excellence Award for exemplifying the college values of integrity. After participating in the Happiness Advantage Orange Frog training, Joe created an assignment to have his students practice their “orange”

by doing daily acts of kindness over 10 days. The students also participated in a class discussion board where they shared their thoughts on the project. Joe reported that all students were very happy with their work over the 10-day period and talked about how they wanted to continue doing daily acts of kindness.

After learning about Joe’s assignment, his nominator recognized him for doing such a great job internalizing Orange Frog training by bringing it into the classroom. “Sometimes we forget that our students can be a role model for us as staff,” his nominator stated.

Innovation of the Year Award

The Innovation of the Year award was established by Joan Senn, retired vice president of learning at Southwest Tech. The award was designed to recognize college staff members who have designed and implemented a significant innovation and have met the criteria established.

The 2020 recipients were **Amy Campbell** and **Holly Crubel** as well as **Matt Schneider**, **Pauline Wetter**, **Jordyn Poad**, and **Kelsey Wagner**. Campbell and Crubel were recognized for their innovative approach to accounting and finance to accommodate the vast majority of employees working from home. Schneider, Wetter, Poad, and Wagner were recognized for their innovative approach to New Student Registration in the Spring of 2020 when they were able to facilitate the entire registration process virtually.



Amy Campbell [top], Holly Crubel [bottom], and Southwest Tech Advisors [group photo, l. to r.] Matt Schneider, Pauline Wetter, Jordyn Poad, and Kelsey Wagner



Nicholas' Servant Leadership Award

The Nicholas' Servant Leadership Award was established by Karen Campbell to support employees continuing their education. The 2020 recipient was **Anne Otto**. Otto has worked at the college since 2016 and is a communications course instructor. She is enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for her master's degree. Otto's application included examples of using servant leadership by adapting her teaching methods to meet her students' learning styles, listening to the students' concerns and connecting them with other campus resources, and providing alternative presentation options to build confidence.”

Instructors Dedicate Nearly 100 Years to Southwest Tech

John Pluemer, lead math/science instructor; Pete Esser, math instructor; and Paul Cutting, agribusiness instructor—each marked his 30-year anniversary at the college in 2020–21.



John Pluemer began at Southwest Tech in August 1990. “I had just completed my Master of Science in Education from UW-Platteville after working for a commercial lab in Madison for a couple of years,” he stated. Pluemer and Esser were hired under a Title III grant (federal grant for strengthening institutions). “Our part of the grant was to strengthen math and science instruction and curriculum utilizing new technology, alternative delivery methods, creation of a math/science tutorial center, and the establishment of

a math/science department as part of the larger general education department,” said Pluemer.

“The best part of the job has been the people with whom I have had the privilege to work,” added Pluemer. “The faculty and staff have always gone above and beyond for the students and each other. I never cease to be amazed by the breadth of knowledge and skill possessed by the faculty at Southwest Tech and their ability and willingness to share it with others.”



Pete Esser always had his sights set on Southwest Tech. “While still in college at UW-Platteville, I actually had a goal of becoming a math instructor at Southwest Tech,” he said. “Very specific and a bit naïve I suppose. My dad, Pete Esser Sr., was the supervisory management instructor at Southwest Tech in the mid 1980’s. It sounded like a good place to work.” Looking back, Esser has fond memories of his 30 years on campus. “I would have to say my favorite memories are the interactions with

students,” he said “There have been several memorable co-workers along the way too.”

Given the increase in knowledge needed in a variety of technologies associated with teaching, Esser finds it difficult to imagine new instructors staying with an institution for 30 years. “If a current teacher has made a positive impact on your life, be sure to thank them now,” he said. “It might give them enough ‘fuel’ to keep going and make a difference for a long time to come.”



Paul Cutting has enjoyed the evolution of agriculture over the years. “When I started 30 years ago, no one had heard the terms GPS, GMO, NAFTA, MPP, or a host of other technologies,” he said. “The challenge of staying current so our students can be served has certainly prevented boredom.”

Soon to enter his 31st year on campus, Cutting has remained committed, because each year brings new students. “It is often said that

20 percent of a job is what you do; 80 percent is who you do it with,” he said. “I reinforce those numbers. Our college has been blessed with an abundance of employees who care, not only about our students, but about each other. Also, I was raised to never quit a job before it is done, and each August for the past 30 years, a new job has begun with first-year students, while the current job has continued with second-year students.”

Students Graduate With Needed Skills for the Workforce and Zero Debt

For Hayley Bender and Jenna Harless, 2020 Cosmetology alumni, graduating with zero debt has allowed them great freedom. Bender re-enrolled at Southwest Tech in January 2021 to earn an Associate Degree in Business Management, while Harless is working at her hometown salon in Viroqua, Wisconsin.

Bender graduated from Fennimore High School, and Harless graduated from Viroqua High School, both in 2019. They each earned a technical diploma in Cosmetology from Southwest Tech in December 2020.

Hayley Bender [cover photo]

“Growing up in Fennimore, I always knew about Southwest Tech,” said Bender, noting the affordability of the college was a key factor in her decision to enroll.

While at Southwest Tech, they each were members of Skills USA (Cosmetologist Club). “I had a very good experience,” said Bender. “One of the things that made it great was the instructors. They take a good amount of time to get to know everyone and teach to everyone’s ability.”

Bender’s path of graduating with zero debt started in high school when she pushed herself to perform well academically. That resulted in college scholarships. She also received grants as part of her FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application. She was also able to work nights and weekends to pay for her tuition. Bender advises younger students do the same things she did, as well as take advantage of any dual credit opportunities while in high school.

Jenna Harless

During Harless’ senior year of high school, while she was deciding her future, a local stylist as well as a stylist friend in La Crosse recommended Southwest Tech. Harless took those recommendations and is happy she did.

“Everyone was very friendly,” said Harless. “The instructors very helpful and so nice. I felt like we were taught everything we needed to know. Now when I go to my job, we covered absolutely everything we needed to know. I am very versatile right now and I am keeping myself busier than others. We were super prepared for our state boards and it was awesome.”

Harless was able to graduate with zero debt because of grants and saving money from summer employment. She is now working at her hometown salon with no college debt and looking to the future.



Southwest Tech is expanding opportunities for high school students to gain a head start on their college education and save time and money in the process. Current options include the following:



swtc.edu/hscredit

Mary Johannesen
608.822.2367
mjohannesen@swtc.edu

ADVANCED STANDING

High school course that meets the competencies of a technical college course. Students earning a B or better are awarded the course credit upon enrollment in a program at the technical college.

TRANSCRIPTED CREDIT

College-level course taught by a Wisconsin Technical College System-certified high school instructor at the high school during the traditional school day. Student receives technical college credit upon completion of the course.

START COLLEGE NOW

Allows high school juniors and seniors to enroll in technical college courses that are not comparable to courses offered at the high school.

COLLEGE UP

Allows students to earn a technical diploma or portions of an associate degree program while still enrolled in high school.

38.14 CONTRACTED COURSES

Face-to-face Southwest Tech courses taught at the high school or virtually by Southwest Tech faculty at a time that will work within the high school schedule.

WAUZKA-STEUBEN HS



Thiele Scholarship Expands to Graduates of Wauzeka-Steuben High School

Boscobel High School (BHS) graduates and now Wauzeka-Steuben High School graduates can receive up to \$3,000 towards an education at Southwest Tech. In 2018, with a \$600,000 donation, Patrick Thiele, a 1968 Boscobel High School graduate, created the James and Grace Thiele Scholarship at Southwest Tech. The scholarship is named after his parents.

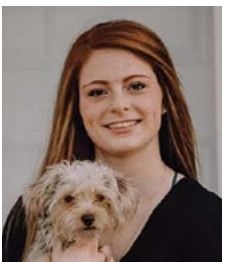
Initially, the gift was directed toward Boscobel graduates, which guaranteed scholarships up to \$3,000 per student who attended Southwest Tech. In Fall 2020 the scholarship expanded to include Wauzeka-Steuben High School graduates with an additional endowment gift from Thiele. Students can be fresh from high school, non-traditional, full-time, part-time or someone who hasn't completely finished a program. All BHS and Wauzeka-Steuben graduates are eligible for this support. Students must be enrolled with at least six program credits to be eligible.

"Southwest Tech is honored by Patrick's gift; and we can already see its enormous positive impact on our students," said Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president.



Kari Bird, a 2003 Wauzeka-Steuben graduate, received a \$500 scholarship. She enrolled in the nursing program in Fall 2020. "I plan to continue until I graduate with an associate degree in nursing," she said. "I am so thankful for this scholarship," said Bird. "I currently work full time as an administrative assistant, and I also work part-time as a waitress on

the weekends. This scholarship will allow me to cut back on all the hours I am working and focus more on my studies and academic goals. I am so thankful to receive this scholarship," added Bird. "Without the James and Grace Thiele scholarship, graduating in three years would not be possible for me."



Brooklynn Nagel graduated from Wauzeka-Steuben High School in 2018 and has earned \$1,500 through the Thiele Scholarship program. She is enrolled in the Accounting Associate Degree program after graduating in December 2019 with an associate degree in agribusiness management from Southwest Tech. "With receiving this generous

scholarship, it has made it easier for me to continue my education and career goals," she said. "I hope one day I will be able to give back and help other students achieve their goals. My goals after graduation are to work in the agriculture industry, helping farmers with their finances."



Dayne Krachey is a Wauzeka-Steuben graduate and is enrolled in the Nursing (Associate Degree) program at Southwest Tech. He has earned \$1,000 through the Thiele Scholarship. "This helped me not have to take out loans to pay for school, allowing me to work fewer hours so that I could focus on

my classes," said Krachey. "I appreciate this as it gives me more flexibility with my school schedule and opportunities to use campus resources such as tutoring sessions." If things go according to plan, Krachey will graduate in May 2022. He has his sights set on working at an area hospital.

Phonathon Celebrates Five Years

We launched our Student Phonathon in Spring 2016. Since then our student callers have continued to reach out to our alumni and friends in both the fall and spring semesters.

In the fall semester, we ask for support for our student support funds such as the Charger Dream Fund, Chargers Cupboard, or our Fuel a Charger project. In the spring semester, we ask for support for the Southwest Tech Community Scholarship Program.

DURING THE 2019–20 PHONATHON...

Callers attempted 26,232 dials and contacted 4,171 alumni and friends.

505 donors pledged gifts over the phone totaling \$22,023.75; but a total of 682 donors gave gifts for a grand total of \$56,056.99.

YEAR	PHONATHON \$ RECEIVED	# OF DONORS	# OF GIFTS
2015–2016	\$8,670.06	156	310
2016–2017	\$24,938.25	533	616
2017–2018	\$37,992.70	494	654
2018–2019	\$46,278.34	562	816
2019–2020	\$56,056.99	682	947

Thank you to all of our alumni and friends who support and love Southwest Tech. Check out our yearly comparison numbers with total dollars received, total gifts, and total donors and how much it has increased.

Every Gift Matters

Because of the generous support of our donors and business partners, the Southwest Tech Foundation has been able to live our mission of promoting learning through funding and activities that enable Southwest Tech to provide opportunities for success.

\$1,113,603
TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

IN ADDITION TO SCHOLARSHIPS, YOUR GIFTS ALSO HELP FUND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS:



\$687,377 CASH GIFTS



\$426,226 IN-KIND GIFTS



FEED A CHARGER

Provided \$763 for meals served in the college cafe.



FUEL A CHARGER

Purchased \$10,592 worth of gas cards so students can get to class.



CHARGERS CUPBOARD

Purchased \$16,592 in groceries for the student food pantry.



CHARGER DREAM FUND

Granted \$28,012 for financial emergencies.

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

June 30, 2020

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 297,363
Unconditional Promised to Give	\$ 68,140
Emergency Loans Receivable	1,400
Investments	4,336,967
Prepaid Expenses	—

Total Assets **\$ 4,703,870**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	
Total Liabilities	\$ —

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 143,633
With Donor Restrictions	4,560,237
Total Net Assets	4,703,870

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$ 4,703,870**

SWTC Real Estate Foundation Statement of Activities

June 30, 2020

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 124,544
Rent Receivable	55,386
Property and Equipment	3,179,589

Total Assets **\$ 3,359,519**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 13,152
Mortgage Payable	2,282,698
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,295,850

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions **\$ 1,063,669**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$ 3,359,519**

Charging Forward

Alyssa Scott, a Racine, Wisconsin native who attended Darlington High School, is in her second year at Southwest Tech and her first year of the Charge Forward Scholars Program.

Charge Forward Scholars, a holistic student-support program and learning community, is designed to assist participants so that they will achieve academic success and graduate. This is accomplished through supporting student engagement with the college, providing opportunities to develop leadership skills, and helping students reach their academic goals. Through this program, mentoring relationships, and a variety of campus resources, Charge Forward Scholars are part of a community of learners who thrive intellectually and personally.

While attending Darlington High School, Alyssa was involved in the drama club, where she helped paint stage sets and designed their t-shirts. She founded Darlington's first art club and held the role of the president before she graduated. Alyssa was encouraged to attend Southwest Tech by her brother and several teachers at her high school. She came to Southwest Tech with the intent of earning a liberal arts degree and initially had plans to become a teacher; however, she soon realized that the Graphic and Web Design program aligned more with her career goals. She changed programs during her second year. "I love designing and drawing; I just really love seeing what I can create," said Alyssa, with passion in her voice. "I love getting to know the programs we work with and what we can create."



Scott lives in Southwest Tech's student housing with two friends. She's engaged with campus activities and says she's enjoying the virtual events because she's a bit shy, so this allows her to be involved and participate in the campus experience without it being socially overwhelming. She also holds part-time employment off campus. Scott said her favorite part about Southwest Tech before COVID and even now is the environment. "Everyone is so friendly," she said. "I feel safe here."

Scholarship Benefits Charge Forward Program Participants



The Paul D. Dáil Opportunity Scholarship was established by Professor Paula Dáil, in memory of her father, Paul D. Dáil, who played for the Pacific Coast Professional Football League before becoming a civic-minded California businessman. He had a lifelong concern for underprivileged people and chaired the boards of several

nonprofit organizations focused on providing youth facing extraordinary challenges with opportunities to achieve their life goals. This scholarship was established to continue that legacy.

"My dad had a real soft spot for disadvantaged kids and strongly believed that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserved a fair chance in life. He knew the best way to level life's playing field was to provide struggling youth with an opportunity to experience successes they earned themselves, through their own efforts. This is what I hope the scholarship will provide," Dr. Dáil explains.

The recipient of the Paul D. Dáil Opportunity Scholarship must meet the following criteria: be a new student of color enrolled in a two-year program and be willing to participate in the Charge Forward Program or a similar student mentorship initiative. The scholarship automatically renews each semester the student succeeds in meeting their mentorship program requirements. Alyssa Scott is the scholarship's first recipient.

Southwest Tech Received First Compeer Financial MORE for Agriculture Grant to Support the Mobile Ag Lab

Compeer Financial's Fund for Rural America awarded \$50,000 to the Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation through its MORE for Agriculture Grant to support the creation of a mobile ag lab. This grant, offered for the first time in 2019, supports innovative programs that encompass four qualities: mission, opportunity, replication and evolution.

Southwest Tech agriculture faculty led the initiative to design and create a mobile ag lab as part of a comprehensive plan to expose high school students to important concepts and careers related to agriculture and encourage continued training and employment in the field of agriculture. The intent of the lab is to allow faculty to take projects and hands-on activities to our district's high schools, creating the opportunity for high school students to meet and interact with faculty, receive an in-depth look into topics taught within each agriculture program offered at Southwest Tech, and learn about career opportunities. The mobile ag lab will be taken to high schools in our district each year and will also be used at a series of events that include Open House, Homecoming, Ag Day, and Preview Day.

The technology that the mobile ag lab provides students will fill a known void across our district related to agriculture education. The mobile ag lab will provide expertise from our instructors on current topics in agriculture and provide career exploration to increase students' interest in career opportunities in the agriculture industry," said Derek Dachelet, executive dean of agriculture, industry and trades at Southwest Tech.

Even with all of the COVID restrictions and limited access to local high schools this year, the Southwest Tech agriculture team was excited to take the mobile lab out to a few events. The first event was held with five of our instructors, during which they met with agriculture teachers from nine local high schools, including Darlington, Black Hawk, Shullsburg, Cassville, River Ridge, Argyle, North Crawford, Wauzeka-Steuben, Riverdale and Boscobel, to introduce the mobile ag lab.

Another event was at Riverdale High School in Muscoda. Our faculty worked with the Agriculture instructor and prepared her to spend a week with the trailer to use with her students.

The Agriculture Department is actively planning how to best use the trailer for the remainder of this academic year with COVID precautions and then what it

could look like for the fall of 2021 and beyond. The plan includes designing the trailer to hold the components that a particular school needs. The department is working to develop a list of equipment that can be used by all of our local high schools. Our faculty would meet with the high school instructors, have them check off what they would like to use that best meets their program needs, and then find a week where the trailer can be dropped off at the school and used by the high school staff and students. In the future, we would like our faculty to be involved with face-to-face teaching in the high school, using the trailer to expose the high school students to programs and career fields in agriculture.

"The MORE for Agriculture grant recipients are leaders and innovators in the world of agriculture," said Karen Schieler, senior corporate giving specialist at Compeer. "It is an honor to partner with these organizations who are truly making a difference in their communities with these pioneering projects."

"We're grateful for the generous support of Compeer Financial and excited about the opportunity to create a mobile ag lab," said Jamie Horsfall, Agriculture Instructor at Southwest Tech.

The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America Trustees asked Compeer team members to identify programs and projects that they feel create MORE for agriculture. In all, more than \$228,000 was awarded to six projects.



Southwest Tech Foundation Recognizes Philanthropists, Alumni, and Retirees

The Southwest Tech Foundation celebrated the accomplishments of their alumni, the generosity of their donors and the contributions of their retirees at a distance in 2020 instead of at the annual Donor Appreciation and Alumni and Retiree Awards program that is normally held on campus.

Philanthropy Recognition

Several individuals and organizations were added to the Foundation's Giving Wall for their generosity in providing student scholarship gifts to offset tuition, equipment, and textbook expenses; fund emergency grants; furnish and upgrade labs with the latest tools, machines, or equipment; or support student professional development. The individuals and organizations include **The United Fund of Iowa County, Inc.; Midwest Builders, Inc.; H&N Plumbing, Heating & Electrical, Inc.; Dubuque Racing Association; Dennis and Stephanie Cooley; and Helen Anderson** all at the \$10,000+ level. **Alliant Energy and Jerry L. and Nell Carpenter Schell** were added to the Giving Wall at the \$25,000+ level along with **Compeer Financial** which was added at the \$50,000+ level.

Several donors moved up a level: **Duane and Sheri Ford** and **John and Peg Haskins** moved up the \$25,000+ level, and **Sloan Implement** and **Finney Implement** moved up to the \$250,000+ giving level. "The support from these generous donors has helped hundreds of students at Southwest Tech through scholarships, hands-on learning opportunities, and emergency grants. We are grateful for their philanthropy and honored to add and renew their recognition on our Giving Wall," commented Holly Clendenen, executive director of the Southwest Tech Foundation.

Distinguished Alumni

The three 2020 Distinguished Alumni are wonderful ambassadors of a Southwest Tech education, and each of them lives and works in our district. "We are proud to recognize Robin Gilbertson, Melody Loy, and Renee Edge as our 2020 Distinguished Alumni. Since they attended, each has continued to stay connected to Southwest Tech in a variety of ways—hiring graduates, attending job fairs, awarding scholarships, and working with current students. We look forward to their continued involvement and impact on campus," stated Clendenen.



Robin Gilbertson received a Butcher All-Round Certificate and is now the sales manager and owner of J&R Underground, a utility contractor in Blanchardville responsible for projects across the Midwest. Robin, his wife Kaye, and his business partner John Granberg, employ 85 people and regularly hire Southwest Tech graduates.

Robin also serves on the Government Affairs committee of the national board of Power and Communication Contractors Association (PCCA), which educates legislators on

Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, about topics that impact the industry. Robin is a member of the Barneveld Masonic Lodge (Past Master), New Hope Lutheran Church, and was a founding member of the Hollandale First Responders. He also serves on the PCCA Board of Directors in a national capacity.

"The lessons learned at Southwest Tech served as a foundation for the rest of my career, and have served me, and our communities, very well," said Gilbertson.



Melody Loy is a 2006 Finance Degree graduate. She is a senior real estate specialist and owns 1st Advantage Real Estate in Dodgeville. She has earned the designation from the Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI) and has been named the Reader's Choice for the Dodgeville Chronicle—Realtor of the Year 2014–2019.

Melody serves on the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army of Iowa County, is the Vice-President of the Dodge Food Locker, and served on the Dodgeville Kiwanis scholarship committee when it awarded its first scholarships to Southwest Tech students.

"I loved my time at Southwest Tech," said Melody. "My education changed my life in so many positive ways."

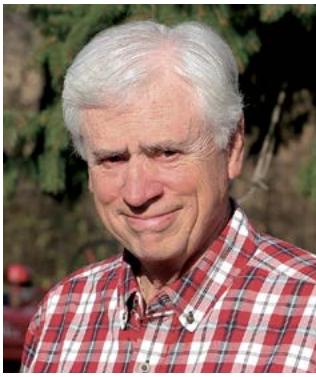


Renee Edge also received the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award. She is a 1997 Nursing (Associate Degree) graduate and now works as a nurse practitioner at Family Medical Center in Lancaster.

After graduating from Southwest Tech, Renee went on to receive her bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix in 2012 and then her master's from Clarke University in 2015. She is a member of the ANCC Family Nurse Practitioner organization and specializes in Family Practice and Women's Health.

Renee and her family are very active in the community. She is a member of St. Andrew Thomas parish in Potosi and a volunteer with the Potosi Sports Boosters.

"Southwest Tech was the building block to my career in healthcare," said Renee. "The hands-on approach made me a better nurse and the clinical peaked my interest in rural healthcare. I started out as a very young nurse and grew into my role as a nurse practitioner."



Retiree Achievement

John Gander was recognized as the 2020 Retiree Achievement Award recipient. John started at what was then known as Southwest Wisconsin Vocational Technical Institute in 1979. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and Pittsburg State University in Kansas, he began his career at Southwest Tech as the Ag Building program instructor. John was promoted to Trades and Industry Coordinator after five years; and three years later, his position was combined with the chair of Trades and Industry and the chair of Agriculture programs to become the Dean of Industrial and Agriculture Occupations, the first dean position at Southwest Tech. Later, the duties of overall academic supervision were added when he was promoted to Chief Academic Officer as well as Dean of Industrial Occupations, the role he held until he retired in 2007.

"Southwest Wisconsin was a great place to raise my family, and my career at Southwest Tech allowed me to do what I loved to do," said Gander. "The staff at SWTC was great to work with and the college is one of the most impactful assets southwest Wisconsin has! Because I had so many duties over the years...teaching, supervising, hiring, starting programs, working with industry and advisory committees, economic development, institutional accreditation, grant writing, community development...they allowed me to have a strong voice in the Wisconsin Technical College System, in the state-wide Instructional Services Administrators Association, the Apprenticeship Coordinators Association, and the Trades and Industry Deans Association. SWTC's impact on my life has been immeasurable; I loved it!"



To learn more about Southwest Tech, the Southwest Tech Foundation, or any of the employee awards, please contact Kim Schmelz, 608.822.2379, or Gina Udelhofen, 608.822.2348

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Southwest Tech Foundation Donor Honor Roll

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations made contributions to the Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. 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

\$500,000 +

\$250,000-\$499,999

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