2020SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE and the2021SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT







0



ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE



Dear Friends of Southwest Tech.

Relationships matter. In small, rural communities, relationships matter even more. Our college, Southwest Tech, owes our success to our faculty and staff, who understand what it takes to build strong and lasting relationships. They show this by extending trust to one another. They show this by listening to the needs of employers. They show this by volunteering in their communities. Last, and most importantly, they show this by caring about our students enough to help any of them succeed. Our relationships with each other, students, employers, and within our communities are extremely valuable.

There's a story about three people who rode horses through the wilderness on a dark night. They abruptly stopped when

they heard a voice commanding them to listen. The voice instructed them to pick up pebbles and put them in their pockets. They were promised they would be both happy and sad if they obeyed. They did as instructed and made camp for the night. When they arose the following morning, they discovered the pebbles had turned into diamonds. And, as promised, they were both happy and sad. Happy because the pebbles were now exceptionally valuable diamonds. Sad because they didn't pick up more pebbles.

At Southwest Tech, we strive to make every action with every student positive and meaningful. We want all of our students to find value in what they learn while at our college. So, as you read

"We strive to make every action with every student positive and meaningful."

Want to meet with the president to learn more about Southwest Tech? Contact: JASON S. WOOD, Ph.D. **Business & Industry Services** iwood@swtc.edu

> the annual report, please note the many efforts being made by faculty, staff, and businesses to help our students become the best versions of themselves. We also extend that invitation to all of you. Join us. Be part of our story. Together, because we care about our students, we look forward to a bright future!

> Again, we appreciate your friendship with the college. If there is something I can do for you, please let me know. 🔘

Thanks,

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

NEW! SURGICAL GET THE SKILLS TECHNOLOGY YOU NEED **STARTS FALL 2022** SWTC EDU

On the Cover

Together with family and friends, graduates celebrated their accomplishments during an unprecedented commencement ceremony. See more photos on pages 14-15.

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

Southwest Wisconsin 1800 Bronson Blvd., Fennimore, WI 53809 **TECH**NICAL COLLEGE 608.822.3262 or 800.362.3322 • www.swtc.edu

If you need an accommodation to visit campus, call 608.822.2632 (TDD: 608.822.2072) or email disabilityservices@swtc.edu

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Interested in the Surgical Technology program? Fill out a request for information card today! www.swtc.edu/icard



Inclusivity Added to College Values

Southwest Tech's Diversity Work Group and the Culture Committee joined forces to add inclusivity to the list of values and refresh the original set.

The campus community knows it is a priority by adding this new value. "It really has shown the Diversity Work Group that the work we're doing makes a difference in how people feel when they walk in our doors. We want everyone to feel like they belong," said Chantel Hampton, chairperson of the diversity work group and diversity, equity and inclusion coordinator/social science instructor. "We can look at programming for students, faculty, and staff and know this is the right thing to do."

With the addition and the revision of the College Values, the committee will continue to press forward. "We need to ask questions and seek opportunities to learn so we can educate our students on how to be more inclusive," said Kim Schmelz, former chairperson of the culture committee.

"The behavioral values drive us in how we do our work and how we treat each other," said Hampton. "They play a major role in the work we do at the college."

Not only are the values ingrained throughout the faculty and staff, but they are also part of the student experience. "We're teaching them accountability, integrity, and learning through the Charger Respect Pledge," said Hampton. "That's where we've said we want you to commit to valuing others, and the inclusivity value is a large part of that."

In addition, the renewed conversation allowed the joint committee to refresh the original values and their definitions. "The original list of values was wonderful when the college adopted them seven years ago, but we've grown, we've gotten better, and it was a great opportunity to take a look at the values and to make some modifications that really spoke to who we are," said Hampton.



Graphic & Web Design students recently completed a poster project for their Pre-Press Management course. The theme of the project was Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Students researched quotes and sayings that help promote DEI. The posters are on display on the Knox Learning Center windows. The students learned about proper margin and negative space when designing a typographic poster, how to set up files appropriately to print on a static cling material, and how to install large posters in a display.

Inclusivity

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

Learning

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

Integrity

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

Accountability

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

Continuous Improvement

We leverage our rural perspective and progressive entrepreneurial spirit to attract people who strive for excellence in student success through innovation in technology, services, and strategies. We support and promote personal and professional development to exceed industry standards and produce competent and skilled graduates in high-quality, relevant programs essential to our sustainability as a college.



COLLEGE VALUES

INCLUSIVITY LEARNING INTEGRITY ACCOUNTABILITY CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Partnership With Truvant Achieves Profitable Results

Operators palletize boxes at the central conveyor.



In the fall of 2021, Southwest Tech held Charger Vision listening sessions with more than 30 employers across Southwest Tech's five-county district. These employers were both small and large, a cross-section of industry, and located in Grant, Lafayette, Richland, Crawford, and lowa counties. The visioning sessions were born out of a need recognized by the Southwest Tech district board. "It's an excellent example of how we take feedback from our district board reps and act on it," said Katie Glass, executive director of marketing and a member of the Southwest Tech Visioning Session Team. "We were updating some of our college directions and initiatives, and board members asked how much input we received from businesses. How do we know if the college is serving their needs? We decided that rather than sharing how we can support business, first, we needed to connect with businesses and listen to their future needs." By meeting with businesses and listening to their needs, leaders can make better, more informed decisions. "We are grateful for the productive feedback we received from all our business partners throughout the district," said Glass.

The overriding goals of the sessions were to find the best ways the college and businesses can partner to keep economic health and growth viable, including employment, housing, retention, and all the issues Southwest Wisconsin is facing. "How can we work together to determine creative and innovative solutions that will set the stage for the next five to ten years?" said Glass. "We want to be proactive."

This effort resulted in a meeting with leaders at Truvant last year. "After listening to their current state and future needs, we developed a proposal for them and produced a unique contract specifically for them," said Craig Woodhouse, regional engagement coordinator at Southwest Tech. Because of technical and leadership training offered through Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Business and Industry Services, Truvant, formerly Prairie Industries, located in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and Lansing, lowa, will be realizing \$200,000 in annual operational savings. The collaboration began



To improve organization, pallet locations are now marked for correct placement, reducing lost time locating raw materials.

in Fall 2021. "As with all our clients and businesses in the district, we have ongoing conversations to understand their needs, and that was certainly the case with Truvant," said Woodhouse.

"This outcome is a great example of the speed and quality at which we can assist our business partners in the district," said Dr. Jason Wood, Southwest Tech president. "I appreciate the trust Truvant and other businesses have shown in us to assist with their needs. We value those partnerships and are excited about their future successes."

The LEAN Yellow Belt Certification training went beyond the classroom and onto the production floor, where employees execute the process and add value. "I do as much of the training as possible out on the shop floor so that we can be in the environment where

employees do the work," said Woodhouse. "It's technical assistance and leadership training. We were looking for specific improvements in key areas that are important to the organization's health – safety measurements, quality reports, productivity and efficiency, and employee engagement, among others. We used their data in training to formulate a very customized plan."

"Our goal was to get more people to understand LEAN manufacturing, eliminating waste, and creating the valueadded steps," said Brad Smock, director of operations for Truvant, noting that very few current employees in the facilities had the training before this collaboration. "I think they all loved it. I think they got a lot out of it."

"It was nice to see the team building and comradery within the group, especially with those who aren't at the manager level who stepped up to speak, led the group, and provided input. Their knowledge and genuine support was a valuable addition to the training," said Tina Stoeffler, vice president of operations for Truvant.

The successful training and subsequent process improvements will benefit not only Truvant in the long term but the community. "We see training like this as an important community workforce development opportunity for industries to develop their talent," said Woodhouse. "We want people who are in a good situation to stay in that situation for the long term."



"We have worked with Southwest Tech through all 28 years that we have been in business. It has been a great partnership for us."

The training process started with Truvant leadership, allowing Woodhouse to encourage employees to step back and look at the big picture. They were able to reset and chart a new course for success. "We walked through work areas together," he said. "We took ideas and brainstormed and developed team-based projects. We came up with technical-based solutions through an environment of teamwork."

The results realized by Truvant are not specific to manufacturing. This tailored processimprovement training is valuable to healthcare, finance, education, government, distribution centers, and organizations that rely on processes. "We identify and reduce processes that do not add value while highlighting activities that do," said Woodhouse.

"We have worked with Southwest Tech through all 28 years that we have been in business," said Stoeffler. "It has been a great partnership for us. Mentoring and training and developing our employees, which are our most valuable assets, is extremely important to us as a business, and we wouldn't be successful in that if we didn't have the help of Southwest Tech."

Regionally, Truvant includes 800 employees, while globally, they employ 5,600 people. Nu Pak in Boscobel, Wisconsin, is also included in the Truvant ownership group. Craig Woodhouse, regional engagement coordinator at Southwest Tech, is pictured with Tina Stoeffler, vice president of operations for the Truvant Prairie du Chien facility. Through a collaboration with Southwest Tech that includes technical and leadership training, Truvant is realizing \$200,000 in annual operational savings.

> Find out how a process improvement assessment can improve your business! Contact: HOLLY STRAKA Business & Industry Services 608.822.2371 bis@swtc.edu

High School Partnerships Proving Successful



Students enrolled in the CNC program at Platteville High School work in the lab under the instruction of Jason Robbins. To better serve students in Southwest Tech's five-county district, the College has shifted specific programs to area high schools, in addition to its traditional dual-credit programming. Starting in fall 2021, the College is now offering the CNC Machine Operator/ Programmer program at Platteville High School, under the direction of Jason Robbins. In addition, the Laboratory Science Technician program is also available for high school students in Platteville, taught by Rodney Marx. The same program is in its third year at Richland Center High School, led by Karen Bricco and Shannon Cathman. Students within the CESA #3 district can enroll in those programs.

"These programs offer our high school students an excellent opportunity to explore these career pathways while still in high school," said Mary Johannesen, career prep and dual enrollment coordinator at Southwest Tech. "Having the instructor and equipment in the high school for these students provides tremendous benefits to those who are interested."

In addition to these options, the College continues to partner with school districts to benefit students. One of those options is contract courses, which utilize Southwest Tech instructors. "When a district needs a course and they don't have a faculty member that can teach it, they contact Southwest Tech to offer that course," said Johannesen.



"Our small districts probably can't do it on their own, but with a partnership with us, we can provide some of the same opportunities students have in urban areas," said Johannesen.

In addition to the Southwest Tech programs offered in high schools and contracted courses, the College continues to provide opportunities to high school students through the CollEDGE Up program and Start College Now. High school students can earn college credit through those programs while still in high school.

Karen Bricco, SWTC adjunct instructor, brought her students to campus for a visit. The students are from Boscobel, Richland Center and Platteville high schools and are enrolled in Southwest Tech's Laboratory Science Technician program at either Platteville High School or Richland Center High School. The program is open to all high school seniors in CESA #3. Upon graduation from the program, the students will earn a technical diploma.

Learn more about courses SWTC offers at local high schools. Contact: MARY JOHANNESEN Career Prep & Dual Enrollment Coordinator 608.822.2367 mjohannesen@swtc.edu



Cooley Trains as Nursing Assistant to Support Students

When Megan Cooley graduated from Platteville High School, she was torn between a career in education or nursing. She chose the education path but then decided to enhance her career with healthcare training.

A life-long teacher and most recently a special education teacher at Lancaster High School, Cooley recognized a need in her classroom for additional medical training. Her solution was to return to college and earn her Nursing Assistant degree from Southwest Wisconsin Technical College.

There are more than 30 students in the transition department at Lancaster High School. Cooley and two others are responsible for their instruction. "We want people to know we are here to help them transition into the world," she said. "We help students find a good fitting job, community activities, and an authentic life outside high school."

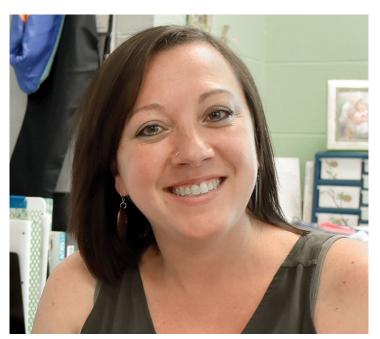
There are many students who have health concerns which weighed on Cooley. "I felt I didn't have the background to care for them," she said. "Our nurse is here every day and is wonderful. The nursing assistant certification has helped me so much in providing care for all students."

Cooley noted that every morning when she would enter her classroom, she would immediately utilize the knowledge she learned the night before in the nursing assistant class or lab. "It

was amazing to learn something in class about personal care, bedside manner, and how to provide adequate care plans and communicate to everybody on a team. I would arrive in the morning and immediately open up my computer and start on a project," she said.

In addition, Cooley made care plans for medically complex students, which are quickly and easily accessed. These plans are beneficial to substitute teachers or others who are new to the care of the students.

Cooley was not only teaching at the high school and earning her nursing assistant degree, but she somehow found time to earn her master's in education. "I knew this was something I wanted to do for my students," she said.



"I absolutely love my job. I love coming to school every day and helping students find their place in the world."

To find out how you can become a certified nursing assistant (CNA) contact: SHERRI SEITZ

Student Services Specialist 608.822.2416 sseitz@swtc.edu

Lau Responded to Tragedy by Serving Her Community



"My instructor, Deb Hoffman, was amazing and I couldn't have done it without her help."

> For more information about Southwest Tech EMT training, visit: www.swtc.edu/publicsafety

For Katie Lau, being an emergency medical technician (EMT) wasn't always the plan. After being a spectator at the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, she began thinking about serving her hometown rescue squad. At the time, she felt helpless and wished there was more she could have done to help those affected by the tragedy.

In 2017, Lau took the leap of faith and joined the Cassville Rescue Squad when the village had a shortage of volunteers. She didn't think twice about joining when she heard they needed members.

Choosing Southwest Tech to become certified was a no-brainer for Lau. She knew many instructors are from the area and are committed to serving their communities. Southwest Tech was also the closest and most flexible option. "I really appreciated having the lecture night be virtual—it saved me a lot of driving time," she said.

After committing to serve her community in 2017 as an emergency medical responder on the Cassville Rescue Squad, Lau continues to take courses at Southwest Tech to further her knowledge to better serve her community. In January 2021, she earned the EMT credentials. Becoming certified gave Lau the chance to become more involved in her community and work on a supportive team that makes a difference.

"If you are interested [in becoming an EMT], sign up for the class," encourages Lau. "If you have questions or concerns about time commitments or passing the courses, talk to people who are currently on the squad in your community. I think everyone in Southwest Wisconsin needs more volunteers, and those who are passionate about volunteering would love to help you get started."

Public Safety Training Opportunities

Emergency Medical Service Training

Are you calm under pressure, compassionate, good at problem solving, and interested in helping people? A career as an emergency medical technician (EMT) could be a great opportunity for you.

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
- Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic

To find out more about our public safety offerings, contact:

HAYLEE FREYMILLER Administrative Assistant 608.822.2700 hfreymiller@swtc.edu

Fire Services Training

Our team of professional firefighting instructors can assist you and your department in learning the latest firefighting techniques.

Law Enforcement

Our certified law enforcement instructors are committed to providing training which is valuable in maintaining the educational, tactical, and technical proficiency of law enforcement officers and other public safety personnel.

- Criminal Justice Studies (Associate Degree)
- Criminal Justice Law Enforcement 2 (Associate Degree)
- Law Enforcement Academy

Coll**EDGE UP** PUBLIC SAFETY COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Emergency Medical Technician/Firefighter

Take courses during your senior year to become certified as an EMT and/or firefighter and earn 14 credits towards Southwest Tech's Criminal Justice Studies program.

Criminal Justice Studies

Take online courses and visit correctional facilities during your junior and senior year. Courses are a part of the Criminal Justice Studies associate degree program.

Pritchett Gives Back by Serving on Advisory Committee

Jenny Pritchett is a 1996 graduate of the Nursing-Associate Degree program. Pritchett serves as the chief operating officer at Crossing Rivers Health in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and continues her close relationship with Southwest Tech by serving on the Nursing program advisory committee.

Pritchett was born and raised in Prairie du Chien and now resides in Bloomington, Wisconsin, with her husband Len and their four children. She knew as early as kindergarten that she wanted to be a nurse and always wanted to work in rural healthcare. She chose Southwest Tech because she wanted to go to a college close to home and start her career sooner than what a four-year degree would allow. She heard many great reviews about Southwest Tech and chose to enroll and begin her journey in the Nursing program.

"I started at Southwest Tech when I was 17 years old. It was quite intimidating being so young, but the instructors were very personal and encouraging. They really wanted me to succeed and never gave up on me. It was a great place to get the foundation I needed for getting a great education and getting started." Pritchett said that the hands-on clinicals were perfect as she could do her clinical at the hospital in Lancaster and Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital. Through Southwest Tech's deep and historical relationships with the seven critical access hospitals in Southwest Wisconsin, many students are hired before graduation. After graduation, Pritchett got her first nursing job at Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital. Southwest Tech had set the path for success in my career.

Southwest Tech has program-specific transfer agreements with four-year private colleges and universities, the University of Wisconsin System, and some colleges and universities in other states. In addition, the faculty and staff at Southwest Tech promote and encourage life-long learning. "Our region is so very fortunate to have SWTC program opportunities available to us."

Pritchett feels honored to be a member of the Southwest Tech Nursing-Associate Degree advisory committee since 2017. Advisory board members provide insight into the changing needs of their industry, review program requirements, and support improving all aspects of programs they serve. Their guidance helps the college shape future generations of graduates and ensure that Southwest Tech is meeting the needs of our communities. "As a SWTC Nursing program alumna and a nurse executive, I have this avenue to advocate for nursing education and bring my expertise and experiences to program development and future program success," said Pritchett.

In addition to her professional career, Pritchett knew Southwest Tech could provide her the opportunity to learn and live locally. One of the college's health indicators is how many graduates begin their careers within the five-county district the college serves knowing that community members not only keep the economic health of the region strong but social aspects as well. After graduating and staying in the community, Pritchett has volunteered hundreds of hours to various non-profit organizations. "Organizations I volunteer for include West Grant Lions Club, Live Out Loud Charity (anti-bullying and suicide prevention), Marleighs Ministry and Marleighs Angel Gowns (support preemie/ NICU families and donate angel gowns for babies gone too soon), and Ronald McDonald House Charities, which has taught my children the value of giving back to others."



"Southwest Tech was the foundation of my education that led me to my executive career success."

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Nursing-Associate Degree

• Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital

Viterbo University, RN to BSN Program

• Public Health Nurse, Grant County Health Department

Benedictine University, Master's Degree in Public Health

- Quality and Risk Manager/Safety Officer, Grant Regional Health Center, Lancaster, WI
- Director and Health Officer, Iowa County Health Department, Dodgeville, WI

Benedictine University, Master's Degree in Business Administration

- Quality Director, Southwest Health, Platteville, WI
- Quality Improvement Coordinator, Crossing Rivers Health, Prairie du Chien, WI
- Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Clinical Officer, Crossing Rivers Health
- Chief Operating Officer, Crossing Rivers Health

Interested in serving on an advisory committee? Contact:

LORI NEEDHAM Administrative Assistant 608.822.2420 Ineedham@swtc.edu

Southwest Tech Staff Receive Awards

GINA TROLLOP EMILY MCBEE

WOOD FAMILY EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Southwest Tech President Jason Wood and his wife Kathryn established the Wood Family Employee Excellence Award to recognize current faculty and staff for service to the college that goes above and beyond while demonstrating the values of the college. Gina Trollop and Emily McBee were recognized with this year's award.

BETH CUMMINS

NICHOLAS' SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Nicholas' Servant Leadership Award was established by Karen Campbell, executive services director, to support employees continuing their education.

JULIE PLUEMER DENISE JANSSEN LISA RILEY TOM KRETSCHMAN DAN IMHOFF BRIAN KITELINGER

INNOVATION 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 recent innovation. There were three innovative projects developed and implemented by six employees this year who were recognized as the award recipients.









GINA TROLLOP, mental health counselor, was recognized for the work she's done to help students get through a very difficult year. One of her nominations said, "Thank you for connecting with our students, helping them through challenges, referring them to appropriate resources, and just being there for them. Your efforts are making a difference!"

EMILY MCBEE, Child Care Center manager/instructor, was recognized for maintaining a healthy environment of open communication, transparency, and dedication with parents while showing compassion and understanding for each family's situation throughout the past year. She was also recognized for the work she did to secure a \$20,000 grant through the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families for the center.

BETH CUMMINS, flexible learning coordinator at Southwest Tech received the 2021 Nicholas' Servant Leadership Award. Cummins recently finished her degree in business administration from Franklin University. "With the knowledge I have obtained in my degree, I plan to encourage others to lead with their strengths," Cummins said in her application.

JULIE PLUEMER, director of precollege programs and service occupations, developed "Homeschool, Charger Style," a program that was a part of the Charger Cooperative Network. Pluemer worked with basic education instructors and Child Care Center staff to coordinate staff who could assist the children of college employees with their school work and with summer projects in a virtual homeschool-style environment.



DENISE JANSSEN, administrative assistant, and **LISA RILEY**, state reporting and curriculum coordinator, developed a curriculum project smartsheet for the submission of annual curriculum projects. "The smartsheet is innovative and captures all the data needed for submitting and

reviewing projects" said Jen Lamé, Medical Coding instructor/Health Information Technology program director.



TOM KRETSCHMAN, criminal justice instructor; DAN IMHOFF, director of facilities, safety and security; and BRIAN KITELINGER, safety coordinator, developed the Student Security program, created to provide learning and leadership opportunities for Southwest Tech's criminal

justice students with the added benefit of providing safety, security, and assistance to the campus community. The group built the program from the ground up to specifically meet the needs of Southwest Tech.

Employees Top 30-year Milestone

For Dave Birkelo, and Sherry Kane Johnsrud, 2021 marks more than 30 years as employees. They were each asked to reflect on their time on campus.

What led you to Southwest Tech? I kind of got here by accident. When I graduated from high school, the Wisconsin technical colleges, named 'vocational-technical institutes' at the time, had out-of-district tuition rates for any program that was offered in the district which you resided in. I had applied and was accepted into the Programmer/Analyst program at Western in La Crosse. I had a place to live all set up and just had to show up in August. Then that July, I received a letter from Southwest Tech stating that they were now offering the same program— I just had to enroll in the program in Fennimore. After graduating, I was working in Janesville when



DAVE BIRKELO IT INSTRUCTOR

Original Position: Lab Assistant/ Programmer Hire Date: October 1986

a former instructor told me about a lab assistant position opening at the college. The rest is history.

What do you enjoy most about your current role? I get satisfaction from watching students learn; when they have an 'AHA!' moment and they understand something and can now apply it.

What are some of your favorite memories at Southwest Tech? All the people that I've met because of working here would have to be the main one. Fellow co-workers and students that I've had the pleasure of getting to know and the lasting connections to some of them. Seeing our graduates be successful is another one. I've seen a lot of changes to the campus over the years.

Why have you remained here? Because I like what I do and the people that I work closely with. I've had opportunities to relocate but I grew up in Soldiers Grove and still have a connection to the area. In some ways, it will always be home to me.

Why is (working in) higher education important to you? Because I believe that technical education is more important than ever. With so many people retiring, employers need individuals that have specialized training and that is what we excel at here.

What does the next 30/35 years look like for you? My youngest son wants me to be his instructor, so apparently, I'm not allowed to retire before then. (Let's just say that he might end up being disappointed.) I intend to teach for a while, so I don't have anything specific planned after I retire. I just want to see our two boys become successful in whatever they choose to do. I can envision myself learning something new though. With all of the change that has happened over the years in my field, that has instilled a desire to learn new things.

What led you to Southwest Tech? I took a beginning computer course over the summer of 1989 and, crazy enough, quit my job at Advance Transformer-Boscobel and started the Word Processor Specialist program that Fall. I was in the work-study program during that year, working for Linda Stephenson, the recruiter at that time. Linda's guidance and encouragement and the experience I received gave me a peek at the inner workings of the college, and I knew then that this is where I wanted to work someday.

What do you enjoy most about your current role? Every day I learn something new, whether it is a software shortcut, researching design specifications for a new promotional piece, or learning more about one of our programs through marketing efforts. I can honestly say that I have never grown tired of my job and don't foresee that ever happening.

What are some of your favorite memories at Southwest Tech? My favorite memories center around graduation. The pride of our students and their families is inspiring and rejuvenating. Sharing that energy with our incredible faculty and staff is a bonus.

Why have you remained here? The support system here is exceptional, and the work is so meaningful. It is hard to imagine working anywhere else!



SHERRY KANE JOHNSRUD, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Original Position: Alternative Delivery Secretary

Hire Date: Aug. 1991 (part-time); Sept. 1992 (full-time)

Why is (working in) higher education important to you? The advantage of working in marketing is that you get to hear the success stories first, and as an alumna, I can personally relate to those stories. The education you receive here propels you into a happier life, and it is so rewarding to be a part of that.

What does the next 30/35 years look like for you? I look to my 'closing act' as an opportunity to engage in new experiences that will keep me growing personally and professionally. I have a few years to decide what life after Southwest Tech looks like, but I know it will be fun figuring that out!



behind the Knox Learning Center where their name was read and they received their diploma while faculty and staff cheered them on. A highlight video of the day is available at www.youtube.com/southwesttech.

SOUTHWEST



Trelay Group Recognized by WTCS

TRELAY Group, located in Livingston, Wisconsin, employs approximately 45 people and is an ISO 9001 registered seed producer with over 100 years of farming experience. Their production includes receiving, growing, conditioning, treating, blending (RIB), packaging, shipping, and warehousing corn, soybeans, popcorn, and small grains. TRELAY Group also operates a purebred Angus and commercial cow-calf herd and a cattle feedlot which utilizes their feed by-products. The Futuremaker Partner Award is presented four times a year by the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board to recognize the unique, long-standing connections between the state's employers and technical colleges. "We are appreciative of it (the award)," said Brad Biddick, chairman of the TRELAY Group board of directors. "You don't strive for these things. They just happen. It does tell us that we are on the right track and that what we are doing is valuable to other people and that is fun to see. It reinforces what we want to emphasize. It's a point in time that gives us reason to keep it going."

TRELAY Group is a valuable partner to Southwest Tech and has been since the beginning of the college. Roger Biddick, Brad's father, was a charter board member for the college and served on the very first Southwest Tech district board as the treasurer. Brad currently serves on the Real Estate Foundation Board and has served on the Supply Chain

"Their strong impact on this campus goes back decades and it continues to be a source of inspiration for us today."

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

Pictured, front row (L-R), Dr. Morna K. Foy, president, WTCS; Brad Biddick, chairman, TRELAY Group board of directors, Jason Biddick, president, TRELAY Group; and Dr. Rodney Pasch, president, WTCS System Board. Back row: Kim Schmelz, director, SWTC Foundation; Deb Ihm, director of agriculture, SWTC; Derek Dachelet, executive dean of industry, trades and agriculture, SWTC; Kent Enright, SWTC Board of Directors; Chuck Bolstad, SWTC Board of D irectors; Dr. Jason Wood, president, SWTC; and Holly Clendenen, chief student services officer, SWTC. Management and Entrepreneurship advisory committees. His spouse, Peggy Biddick, served on the Business Management program advisory board. Previously, Jack Carlson, retired HR manager, was a member of the Agribusiness advisory committee for several years. Currently, Terry Arndt, livestock manager, sits on the Agriculture advisory committee and participated in the Animal Science DACUM meeting in the summer of 2021. "Our partnership with Brad, his family and the employees at TRELAY has resulted in significant successes in several of our programs," said Dr. Jason Wood. "This award is well deserved."

The TRELAY Group is an employer who hires Southwest Tech graduates; they currently have four employees who are alumni. They also provide many opportunities for internships for the Agribusiness, Agronomy, and Animal Science program students and give student tours of the seed manufacturing process, livestock operations, and the agronomy process to grow seed and popcorn. To date, TRELAY Group has supported the Southwest Tech Foundation and Real Estate Foundation with gifts and grants totaling nearly \$50,000, which include donations for agriculture scholarships, A Day for Southwest Tech, sponsorship for farm succession training in the Farm Businesses and Production Management department, and grants from the Elmer Biddick Foundation (Brad's grandfather) for student emergency grants, food pantry, and livestock equipment.

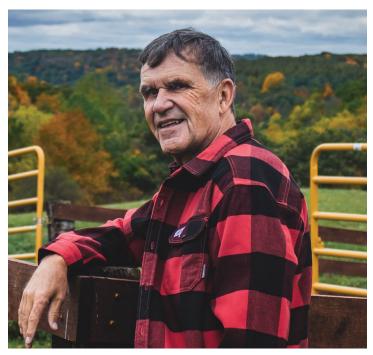


Bolstad Awarded Board Member of the Year

Southwest Tech faculty and staff are proud to join the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association in honoring Chuck Bolstad as the 2022 Board Member of the Year. Chuck is a strong advocate for technical education being accessible for all, and his leadership has been instrumental in the college's effort to reach its goals. He gives of himself freely, tirelessly, and with contagious enthusiasm, humbleness, and dedication.

Chuck has proven to be an exceptional board member making his attendance at Southwest Tech's district board meetings and college events a high priority, not missing one meeting in the last six years. However, his attendance record pales in comparison to the impact he makes while on campus. At board meetings, you can find Chuck talking to an evening custodian, a student at the front desk, and the people clearing dishes at dinner. He asks them about their goals and dreams—he does that out of a pure intention to develop relationships and learn how to help.

"We are excited to celebrate Chuck," said President Wood. "However, we know that Chuck is honored by this award more for Southwest Tech than himself. When the college is recognized, Southwest Tech can share its accomplishments more broadly and provide students more opportunities for success—that's what is most important to Chuck."



"He is always the first in line to offer service to help others reach their goals."

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.

2020-2021

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Combined Budget Summary BUDGETARY STATEMENT OF RESOURCES, USES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

REVENUES

REVENUES	
Local Government	\$ 11,118,541
State Aids	10,812,944
Program Fees	4,485,321
Material Fees	270,491
Other Student Fees	904,178
Institutional	7,304,787
Federal	6,931,989
Borrowing for Capital Projects	4,000,000
Transfer In	159,880
Total Revenues	\$ 45,988,131
EXPENDITURES	
Instruction	\$ 15,012,876
Instructional Resources	166,313
Student Services	7,821,726
General Institutional	7,630,782
Physical Plant	9,818,803
Auxiliary Services	6,313,775
Total Expenditures	\$ 46,764,275

2020-2021

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Board of Directors

Chuck Bolstad David Blume Kent Enright Tracy Fillback Jeanne Jordie Chris Prange Don Tuescher Crystal Wallin Jane Wonderling

Huff Leaves Legacy With Major Gift

"This scholarship is going to help me tremendously."

Hailey Doyle, Recipient

Pictured, Bill Huff (third from left) was joined by family, friends, and Southwest Tech staff to celebrate his newly funded endowment, the Bill Huff Family Scholarship. Pictured with Bill are Steve Huff; scholarship recipients Hailey Doyle and Dylan Tydrich; and Bill Huff, Jr.

For William "Bill" Huff, the idea of paying it forward means helping those better themselves through education.

Huff recently gifted Southwest Wisconsin Technical College nearly \$300,000 to start the Bill Huff Family Endowment Scholarship. This scholarship will allow for ten \$1,000 scholarships to Southwest Tech students. "A lot of it comes from the fact that I didn't have a lot to start with myself," he said. "I was fortunate to have the G.I. Bill available when I got out of the service. I used that to get an education I knew I needed to be successful."

Huff grew up in Dubugue, Iowa, and Lancaster, Wisconsin. He served in the military and after his service, graduated from the Wisconsin Institute of Technology (WIT), now UW-Platteville, with a degree in mining engineering. After moving to California to pursue a career in mining, Huff eventually transitioned to owning and operating Huff Properties, a property development and management business, in Upland, California.



Huff and his family are strong supporters of higher education—they sponsor scholarships at several universities and colleges and support the Upland YMCA, which hosts the Huff Family Aquatic Center.

During a visit to campus in October, Huff had the opportunity to meet two scholarship recipients. "I loved that (meeting them) because I know what

support, and they need help, it is really nice to be in a position to help those less fortunate. I certainly understand that position. I feel blessed in all of this and I'm proud to be a part of it."

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must show financial need with preference given to graduates from Lancaster High School and Dubuque Senior High School.

Hailey Doyle, a Lancaster native, and student in the Dental Assistant program, was one of the scholarship recipients who visited with Huff. "I'm so glad I'm able to put a face to the name and meet his family as well," she said. The financial assistance from this scholarship will go a long way in helping Doyle achieve her educational goals. "The scholarship been a great help to me. I am able to live at home, but it is still a challenge to work and go to school at the same time. I am so grateful for it. I'm definitely going to remember this."

If you would like to learn more about endowed scholarships, contact: **KIM SCHMELZ Foundation Director** 608.822.2379 kschmelz@swtc.edu

Couple Sees Value in Planned Giving

Making a donation is a very personal decision and one that can impact many lives for years. Joe and Kathy Kopp, from Platteville, Wisconsin, see the value in planned giving. They recognize the impact of the college in the region and the role it plays in educating the workforce, as well as keeping graduates in the area. They have worked with the Southwest Tech Foundation on their planned gift. "We are excited," said Kathy. "Joe and I are deeply thankful that we'll be able to help some students reach their dreams and continue living in Southwest Wisconsin."

Kathy recently retired from the Platteville Regional Chamber after 27 years of service, while Joe is retired from Eastman Cartwright Lumber Company, where he worked as a carpenter and master craftsman for more than 40 years. The couple has owned several small businesses throughout the years, as well.

Through her work with the Chamber and the connections she made, Kathy saw first-hand the positive force that the college makes for those who choose to attend. "It's an incredible institution," she said. "I couldn't be more proud. I really hope that people understand the importance and the value that Southwest Wisconsin Technical College has on our area."

Now that Joe and Kathy have retired, it came time to evaluate their estate planning. Given the connections to campus—Kathy's

chamber connections, a granddaughter who will be attending the college next year, relatives who graduated from the college, and her father, who was a master mechanic and had a tie to the college—the Kopps felt Southwest Tech was a perfect choice to be included in their plan. "We worked really hard our entire lives and have been very fortunate with some investments so we feel that one of the most important places that we can make a contribution and make an impression is by leaving money to Southwest Wisconsin Technical College," said Kathy. "We're very proud to even be thinking about it and we're very fortunate that we can even do it, and it's basically number one on our list."

Kathy noted many of her relatives graduated from Southwest Tech in the agricultural programs. She grew up on a farm outside of Platteville. "The ag community is the heart and soul of our community," she said. "I love seeing these young people going into farming."

As for advice for others who may be interested in giving, Kathy says, "Do it. The Foundation staff at Southwest Tech are awesome people," she said. "They make the process so easy. They are so appreciative of having people step forward to make a difference. Joe and I are really proud of the fact that when we are gone, Southwest Tech, through our gift, will be able to continue its excellent work."



"Joe and I are deeply thankful that we will be able to help students reach their dreams."

To support Southwest Tech with a planned gift, visit www.swtc.edu/GiftOfTomorrow and complete the commitment form or contact KIM SCHMELZ Foundation Director 608.822.2379 kschmelz@swtc.edu

Janssen's Passion for Finance Memorialized Through Scholarship



"I am so honored to be able to help students achieve their goals." Denise Janssen established the Brian T. Janssen Memorial Scholarship as a way to celebrate her late husband Brian's life while helping students find their careers.

Brian graduated from Lancaster High School in 1993 and furthered his education at UW-Stout. Brian had a passion for finance and pursued a career in the finance and banking industry, most recently as the branch manager at Peoples State Bank in Lancaster.

Denise is a graduate of Southwest Tech's Administrative Assistant program and has been employed at Southwest Tech since 2013, currently serving as the administrative assistant for the health occupations department.

The Brian T. Janssen Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Lancaster High School graduate with preference to a student enrolled in an accounting or business-related program. "Brian would want others to pursue their passion as he did and find their forever career," said Denise. The scholarship was established with generous donations from friends and family members of the Janssen family.

Because the Brian T. Janssen Memorial Scholarship is endowed, the Southwest Tech Foundation will be able to invest the scholarship funds for perpetuity while using the investment earnings to award a scholarship each year. The investments of the Southwest Tech Foundation are managed by an investment company and monitored by a committee of the Board of Directors.

"We are so grateful to Denise for choosing to remember and honor Brian's life by establishing this scholarship for students in business and accounting programs," said Kim Schmelz, director of external relations and alumni development.

Employees Give From the Heart



90.31% OF ALL EMPLOYEES CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2020 CAMPAIGN

To set up a scholarship in memory

SOUTHWEST TECH FOUNDATION

of a loved one, contact:

foundation@swtc.edu

608.822.2379



73% OF ALL EMPLOYEES NOW GIVE THROUGH PAYROLL DEDUCTION (\$3,420 BI-WEEKLY)



17 NEW SCHOLARSHIPS WERE CREATED (12 ENDOWMENTS AND 5 ANNUAL) Each year, the Southwest Tech Foundation holds the iHeartSWTC employee giving campaign that focuses on priority endowment funds that help present and future Chargers. The priority funds for the 2020 campaign were:

- Charge Forward Scholarship: To improve retention and completion rates for students who identify as a Special Population.
- Charger Dream Fund: Emergency grants for students in a financial crisis that may cause them to drop out.
- Chargers Cupboard: On-campus food pantry for students in need.

The Foundation offered matching gifts for employees who support an existing endowment fund or decided to create their own endowed scholarship during the campaign. Many employees documented a 5-year pledge to endow their own \$12,500 endowed scholarship with the matching gift component.

Scholarship Distribution Shows Steady Increase

The number of scholarship recipients has doubled in the past five years because of generous donors who want to support the future workforce of Southwest Wisconsin.

SCHOOL YEAR	NO. OF SCHOLARSHIPS	RANGE OF AWARDS	TOTAL DISTRIBUTED
2011–2012	188	\$250 — \$2,000	\$96,000
2012-2013	189	\$250 — \$2,000	\$102,250
2013–2014	214	\$250 — \$2,000	\$133,000
2014–2015	238	\$125 — \$1,500	\$133,600
2015-2016	290	\$100 — \$2,500	\$144,500
2016–2017	285	\$100 — \$2,500	\$165,700
2017–2018	289	\$100 — \$2,500	\$165,839
2018–2019	384	\$100 — \$2,500	\$200,245
2019–2020	487	\$100 — \$2,500	\$303,939
2020–2021	612	\$100 — \$3,000	\$369,310
2021–2022	603	\$100 — \$3,000	\$374,529

JUNE 30, 2021

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

ASSETS

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 6,713,666	
With Donor Restrictions Total Net Assets	6,500,730 6,706,928	
NET ASSETS Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 206,198	
LIABILITIES Accounts Payable	\$ 6,738	
Total Assets	\$ 6,713,666	
Promises to Give Other Receivable Investments	\$ 176,060 1,000 <u>6,109,234</u>	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 427,372	

2020–2021

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation Board of Directors

Chuck Bolstad
Theresa Braudt
Jerry Brunner
Holly Clendenen
Lisa Gotzinger
Connie Haberkorn
Debbie Johnson

Rose Kelley Aaron Kleeman Courtney McGlynn Beth Mikrut-Gilles Linda Parrish Sheila Ruchti Dr. Jason Wood

2020-2021

SWTC Real Estate Foundation Board of Directors

Brad Biddick
Mindy Johnson
Chris Prange
Kevin Raisbeck

Justin Smith Ben Wood Holly Clendenen Dr. Jason Wood



JUNE 30, 2021

SWTC Real Estate Foundation Statement of Activities

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents Rent Receivable, Net Property and Equipment	\$	290,827 72,890 3,153,276	
Total Assets	\$	3,516,993	
LIABILITIES Accounts Payable Mortgage Payable Total Liabilities	\$ \$	8,777 <u>2,189,224</u> 2,198,001	
NET ASSETS Without Donor Restrictions Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ \$	<u>1,318,992</u> 3,516,993	

FOUNDATION STAFF

(L-R) Gina Udelhofen, coordinator of annual giving, donor relations, and scholarships; Kim Schmelz, director; and Brianna Williamson, recruiter/alumni & development specialist

For more information about the Southwest Tech Foundation or the SWTC Real Estate Foundation, call **608.822.2379** or email **foundation@swtc.edu**

Southwest Tech Foundation Donor Honor Roll

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations made contributions to the Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. 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

Patrick A. and Jane M. Thiele Sloan Implement

\$100,000-\$249,999

\$75,000-\$99,999

Elise M. Lindeman

\$50,000-\$74,999

*Daryl E. Tresner '72

\$25,000-\$49,999

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous Bradley and Peggy Biddick Diane Holmes '14 William E. Huff Denise A. Janssen '93 John N. and Linda C. Kramer, Jr. Sue M. Lewison Jason S. and Kathryn Y. Wood Community First Bank Compeer Financial *Gene Haas Foundation Madison Community Foundation *Richland Center Fire Department Ritchie Implement Inc.

\$5,000-\$9,999

Karen M. Campbell Dr. Joyce M. Czajkowski John and Peg Haskins Karen R. and Doug C. Knox Jean A. Rossard 3M Alliant Energy Alliant Energy Foundation Districts Mutual Insurance Hartung Brothers, Inc. McFarlane Manufacturing Co., Inc. QueenB Radio of Wisconsin

\$1,000-\$4,999

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*DFA Cares Foundation Dillman, a Division of Astec, Inc. Dupaco R.W. Hoefer Foundation Fuller's Milker Center, Inc. Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin (GCOW) **Grant Regional Health Center** Gundersen Boscobel Area Hospital and Clinics H & N Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Inc. Heartland Charitable Trust Kiwanis Club of Dodgeville *Lancaster Dental Associates/ Fennimore Smiles of LDA Lands' End Larry's Welding & Manufacturing, Inc. Midwest Builders, Inc. MidWestOne Bank Mound City Bank Network for Good Organic Valley / CROPP Cooperative Peoples State Bank *Purina Reddy Ag Service, Inc. **Rockwell Automation** Sielaff Corporation Sorrento Lactalis Inc. Southwest Health Southwest Tech Cosmetology Club *Southwest Tech Student Senate United Fund of Iowa County, Inc. Wisconsin Agri-Business Association Commission

\$500-\$999

*Anonymous Helen Mar M. and Terry L. '85 Adams *Patricia A. Adams '04 Jill A. Bark '80 Michael P. '04 and Pamela K. '96 Bartels Matthew A. Baute Janice K. Bierman Margaret A. Billings Renae L. Blaschke Jamie P. '89 and Theresa L. '04 Braudt Colleen M. Carl '73 Michael J. and Norma K. Cornell Derek and MJ Dachelet Melissa J. Engel Becky J. Fernette Terry K. and Jerilyn M. Gorman Robin R. Hamel Tracy E. and Mandy K. Henkel

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\$100-\$499

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