

1997-98 SESSION  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on  
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ \*\*

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ \*\*

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ \*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ \*\*

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi\_Misc\_pt145\_LFB

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ \*\*

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Allen Brown  
- The Title Company  
715-838-2800

RE: Budget Sections 4950 and 4951 Should Be Deleted  
(Removes "Cap" on Fees for the Sale of Court Documents)

DATE: April 22, 1997

Wisconsin's Open Records Law establishes the amount which can be charged for copies of public records. The Budget contains a provision, however, which will remove the current "cap" on what can be charged for certain court records. This provision of the bill, which appears in Sections 4950 and 4951 (on page 1832), should be deleted from the bill.

The current law balances the interests of record custodians with the interests of those dependent upon access to the records: real property buyers and sellers, Realtors, lenders, and title insurers. The Budget provision would likely result in much higher costs, which will only be passed along to others.

For your convenience, the Budget language and the statutory sections which would be affected appear below, along with the LFB analysis.

1997 - 1998 Legislature -1832-

ALL:all:all  
SECTION 4950

**IDENTICAL TO 1997 AB-100 (LRB-2310/1) AND 1997 SB-77 (LRB-2505/1)**

- 1 SECTION 4950. 758.19 (2) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 758.19 (2).
- 2 SECTION 4951. 758.19 (2) (b) of the statutes is repealed.
- 3 SECTION 4952. 758.19 (3) of the statutes is repealed.

**758.19 JUDICIAL BRANCH AGENCIES**

and ch. 40 applies to the director as it applies to justices of the supreme court.

(2) (a) The director may establish and charge fees for the provision of services or sale of documents concerning any of the following:

1. Uniform court forms.
2. Computer generated special reports of court information data.
3. Photocopies.
4. Pamphlets.

(b) The fees are subject to the cost limitations under ss. 19.35 (3) and 20.908.

**7. FEES FOR THE SALE OF COURT DOCUMENTS**

**Governor:** Eliminate the current restrictions which limit the amount the Director of State Courts Office can charge for court forms, computer-generated special reports, photocopies and pamphlets, to the actual costs associated with the compilation and distribution of the documents. Under the bill, there would be no maximum amount that could be charged.

[Bill Sections: 4950 and 4951]

Memorandum

---

April 22, 1997

**To:** Members of the Joint Committee on Finance  
**From:** Mike Grotefend, for Corrections Corporation of America  
**Re:** Budget Provision on Private Contracting Merits Support

The proposed 1997-1999 state Budget contains a provision which would permit the Department of Corrections to contract with a private entity to house up to 500 inmates at a facility in another state. During his Budget message to the legislature on February 12, the Governor identified the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minnesota, as the appropriate facility to utilize under this provision. The Prairie Correctional Facility is a modern, state-of-the-art prison owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America ("CCA").

CCA was founded in 1983. It is the largest and most experienced developer and manager of privatized correctional and detention facilities in the world. Providing a safe and secure environment for the community, the employees, and other inmates is the top priority of CCA.

CCA saves government money by building efficiently designed facilities, hiring an adequate number of staff, efficiently managing personnel, and streamlining purchasing procedures.

The Prairie Correctional Facility was constructed by the Appleton Prison Corporation, at the behest of the local community development authority in Appleton, Minnesota. CCA assumed management of the facility on October 1, 1996. Currently the facility holds space for 564 medium security inmates, but an expansion project which will add 512 beds in 1997 is underway. Inmates from the states of Minnesota and Colorado are currently housed at this facility.

The Prairie Correctional Facility contains state-of-the-art safety and security equipment and the most modern correctional technology. The facility's comprehensive programs include adult basic education, GED preparation and vocational training, as well as counseling, substance abuse treatment, religion, and recreation.

Your support for this important Budget provision would be appreciated.

Joint Committee on Finance Public Hearing  
Testimony by Deborah Gomer, Administrator  
Chippewa Valley Homecare  
April 22, 1997

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Deborah Gomer. I have been involved in homecare for 7 years. I was the Administrator of a County owned homecare program for 5 years and in September of 1996, I accepted the position of homecare Administrator for a newly established private homecare program, Chippewa Valley Homecare. Chippewa Valley Homecare does not offer personal care worker services. As Administrator, I was involved in the decision not to offer personal care worker services. The decision was made due to financial reasons. At a reimbursement of \$11.05 per hour, offering personal care worker services would mean starting an agency knowing you would lose several dollars per hour for every hour of personal care worker services provided. I know from experience as administrator of a county program that personal care worker services are extremely difficult to provide.

Industry-wide and state-wide, homecare agencies compete in a job market where individuals can and do earn a higher wage in the fast food industry and as retail clerks.

With a projected 1% increase in reimbursement rates, personal care worker services will be reimbursed an additional \$0.11 per hour. This is rather insulting considering the actual costs to provide personal care worker services. A 1% increase certainly does not provide any incentive for me to begin offering personal care worker services.

Medical assistance reimbursement for skilled nursing are significantly less than the actual costs for providing services. Agencies are currently losing \$5.55 per visit for skilled nursing and \$3.43 per visit for home health aides.

Medical Assistance does not reimburse for Social Worker services. Agencies provide Social Worker services because there is a need but are not able to be reimbursed.

The current Medical Assistance reimbursement rates are inadequate. Agencies will not be able to provide services to Medical Assistant patients at the current or proposed reimbursement rates. Without homecare, patients will be forced into institutions. Institutional care is for more costly than homecare.

## **Joint Finance Committee Testimony**

### **1997-99 Biennial Budget (SB77/AB100)**

**by**

**Deb Ausman, Vice President, Wisconsin Federation of Teachers  
Tuesday, April 22, 1997**

#### **Introduction**

My name is Deb Ausman. I am a Vice President of the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers (WFT) and a member of the WFT WTCS Council. The WFT represent 15,000 professional employees in Wisconsin K-12, Technical College and UW faculty and staff, UW teaching and graduate assistants, and the vast majority of professional state employees from crime lab analysts to researchers to DNR staffers who protect our clean air and water. Thank you for this opportunity to speak today on the Wisconsin Technical College System provision of the 1997-99 Biennial Budget.

**PROPOSAL: Increase the General Aid Appropriation to the Technical College System from 1% annual increase to 2.5% annual increase. Additional cost above the amount in SB 77/AB 100 is \$5.1 million.**

#### **Budget Bill**

The Budget Bill (SB 77/AB 100) increases WTCS general aid 1% annually. Over the biennium, this proposal cost \$3.3 million GPR. The System appreciates the Governor's efforts to provide a positive increase given the difficult task to submit a balanced budget.

The WTCS Board requested 4.5% annual increases in general aid (total biennial cost of \$15.1 million GPR) which would allow the system to continue to operate at its current level and keep property tax levies stable.

While the 4.5% request may be difficult for the Legislature to meet, the System request an improvement over the proposed 1% level.

## **Justification**

General aid, which supports about 25% of WTCS districts aidable cost, has remained at \$110.2 million GPR per year for the last three fiscal years (1994-95 through 1996-97).

Frozen state aids have placed extra pressure on the property tax. Statewide, the WTCS levy increased by approximately \$20 million (or 6%) per year in the 1995-97 biennium. However, the annual increase in WTCS operation budgets has been below 5%.

The state relies upon the WTCS to meet the increasing demand for skilled, well-educated workers whose employment helps fuel the state's economy. The WTCS also responds to specific requests from business and industry for retraining, upgrading technical assistance and initial job training.

The WTCS has become the primary public education system responding to the needs of the academically disadvantaged, the economically disadvantaged, the disabled, displaced homemakers and other special populations. Moreover, there will be pressure to expand basic education/literacy training and employability skills for W-2 clients.

While WTCS districts have implemented numerous economizing measures (such as shared instructional programs and cooperative purchasing), the cost of providing needed programs and services will continue to increase systemwide by approximately 4.5% annually. Therefore, no growth in general aids in 1995-97 followed by 1% increases for 1997-99 will cause the state's support level to diminish significantly. Such a decline leads to concerns regarding the state's long-term role in supporting the System.

A general aid increase beyond the 1% would reduce the System's need to offset part of their revenue requirements through property tax.

Increase state aid would allow WTCS districts to undertake new initiatives in areas such as instructional technology, staff training, curriculum development, and school-to-work expansion. At the proposed 1% level, it is much likely that such initiatives would either not occur or they would be funded at the expense of other services or training opportunities.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the Wisconsin Technical College System provision in the Biennial Budget.

**PUBLIC HEARING - 4/22/97**  
**CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**MY NAME IS VIRGINIA NUSKE, I AM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR FOR THE MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN.**

**IN 1995 THE WISCONSIN INDIAN ASSISTANCE GRANT WAS REDUCED BY 50%. I AM REQUESTING THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO RESTORING THIS CUT TO THE 1995 LEVEL OF FUNDING.**

**A REDUCTION WAS NOT IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET WHEN IT WENT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AT THAT TIME. THE DECISION TO REDUCE THE W.I.A.G. WAS BASED ON MISCONCEPTIONS AND MISINFORMATION.**

**THESE ARE THE FOLLOWING MISCONCEPTIONS AND MISINFORMATION:**

**1. INDIAN PEOPLE ARE MUCH WEALTHIER BECAUSE OF GAMING! NO CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE FACT THAT AFTER DECADES OF DEPRIVATION, TRIBES ARE INVESTING IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES FOR SUCH CRITICAL SERVICES AS HEALTH, LAW ENFORCEMENT, ELDER CARE, HOUSING AND EDUCATION.**

**2 TRIBES DO NOT SUPPORT THEIR STUDENTS! ALL WISCONSIN TRIBES HAVE PROVIDED SOME TYPE OF MATCH FOR THE W.I.A.G. WITH B.I.A. AND/OR TRIBAL FUNDS. MORE IMPORTANTLY - THE W.I.A.G. IS BASED ON FINANCIAL NEED THE SAME AS THE PELL GRANT!**

**3. TRIBES DO NOT PAY TAXES! WISCONSIN INDIAN TRIBES GENERATE MORE THAN \$98 MILLION IN TAXES EACH YEAR; TAX DOLLARS DERIVED FROM PROPERTY, INCOME, SALES, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND ROOM TAXES.**

**FACT: TUITION HAS JUMPED 234% FROM 1980 - 1995  
STATE SUPPORT HAS DROPPED 14%**

**FACT: 90% OF THE STUDENTS WE DEAL WITH ARE PELL ELIGIBLE - THIS MEANS THEY ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED.**

**FACT: FOR THE 1996-97 ACADEMIC YEAR, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED A 17% DECREASE IN STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES. WE HAVE ALSO EXPERIENCED A 20% DECREASE IN STUDENTS ATTENDING VOC/TECH COLLEGES.**

**SINCE 1995 WITH THE REDUCTION OF THE  
W.I.A.G. WE HAVE EXPERIENCED AN OVERALL  
DECREASE OF 23% FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING  
COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES AND 21% DECREASE FOR  
STUDENTS ATTENDING VOC/TECH COLLEGES.**

**FACT: STUDENT LOANS FOR OUR STUDENTS FOR  
1996-97 ACADEMIC YEAR IS \$165,743. STATISTICS  
SHOW THAT ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTGED  
STUDENTS HAVE THE HIGHEST LOAN DEFAULT  
RATE.**

**IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS, THE QUESTION NEEDS TO BE  
ANSWERED AS TO WHY ONLY THE W.I.A.G. WAS TARGETED  
FOR A REDUCTION AND NOT *ALL* MULTICULTURAL  
PROGRAMS?**

**VIRGINIA NUSKE, DIRECTOR  
MENOMINEE TRIBAL EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 910, KESHENA, WI 54135  
(715)799-5110**

Testimony for the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature

4/22/97

by

Dr. William A. Ihlenfeldt, President  
Chippewa Valley Technical College

Members of the Joint Finance Committee: As President of Chippewa Valley Technical College, I would like to welcome you to Chippewa Valley Technical College. We're very excited that you selected our site for the purpose of conducting these hearings. You are interested in doing the best for the State of Wisconsin, and those of us in Western Wisconsin are here to help you! I want to thank you for coming to listen. These are exciting times in Western Wisconsin and the Chippewa Valley. Employment is high, and we are optimistic about our future. Thank you to those of you in state government for helping with that. The Chippewa Valley is fast becoming Wisconsin's Silicon Valley, and that provides exciting challenges for all of us. I wish you could hear all of the creativity that is at work in this region even as we speak. I encourage you to continue your efforts to grow the State of Wisconsin! The Wisconsin Technical College System is an integral partner ready to make that happen. If the Chippewa Valley is to become the Silicon Valley, then CVTC and the Wisconsin Technical College System will be there to provide the skilled, trained workers of the future. I would also like to take this opportunity to tell you about Chippewa Valley Technical College and our role in the economic development of the region.

First of all, Chippewa Valley Technical College's vision drives us to become increasingly more flexible to meet the diverse needs of the working adult and a variety of other student populations. That flexibility includes when we offer courses, where we

offer them, and the style in which we offer them. Further, our vision is to ensure the success of our customers, that is, to find pathways through programs for all students. The final aspect of our vision, and we take this very seriously, is to match curriculum with the employment needs of the region. As you know, we're in a high-employment area due to the economic development that's been perpetuated at the state and the local level. We're excited about that, and Chippewa Valley Technical College and the Wisconsin Technical College System are partners in making that happen. We all know that 85 percent of the workforce will come from technical colleges like CVTC. In the past five years, over 7,000 manufacturing jobs have been created in this region. That's a net of 7,000--taking into account the loss of the Uniroyal jobs in the early 90s. CVTC works with about 350 of those employers on an annual basis through customized training, apprenticeships, and its degree programs.

CVTC has been fiscally responsible in delivery of these particular services. Forty-two percent of our revenue comes from the local tax base, 30 percent from state aids, 18 percent from student tuition, 5 percent from federal government, and 5 percent from local contracts and other sources. In an attempt to make the most adequate use of resources, we have developed a fiscal plan to: (1) increase our production, (2) decrease the cost of production, (3) eliminate borrowing for operations, and (4) provide future capacity for growth. This is a necessity if we're to survive as a technical college and keep up with change. We have, ahead of schedule, eliminated operational borrowing and reduced our mill rate from the statutory 1.5 to 1.44, with a target of 1.39 next year to allow that room for growth. We've also limited our property tax levy increases from 7.7 percent to 5.7 percent this year with a target of 5 percent next year.

These are not criteria that are imposed upon us, but our customer-based planning process indicates that this is a necessary direction.

We've just completed a successful \$10.7 million referendum, and I had a chance in about 100 meetings to talk with several thousand people. I know they're interested in property tax reduction. Even though we have capacity, increasing the tax levy beyond the 5 percent range will not be acceptable. We've also worked cooperatively with our unions to achieve wage settlements at Chippewa Valley Technical College at 3.8 percent package levels, and reallocation of resources has become a way of life at CVTC. To accomplish that, CVTC has eliminated over 20 positions from the leadership structure, and has strived for the most cost-effective methods of staffing in all areas. In a recent example, we had to double the capacity of our Machine Tool program to provide an additional 655 machine tool workers for the year 2005. That required hiring four additional instructors and purchasing over \$600,000 worth of machine tool equipment. The reality is that we eliminated three other programs to do that and still will meet only half of the required need. We need to increase capacity of other programs, including Civil Engineering Technology, Wood Technics, Associate Degree Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Radiography, to name a few. There will not be new resources to do this, and it will mean that our College will, by necessity, have to become even more focused. We obviously had some programs that were not what I would classify as healthy, but we have long ago eliminated them and are now deleting programs that are healthy but not as vital to the employment needs of this region.

CVTC's goals resulting from our vision include enrolling students in programs every day of the week, increasing penetration of the high school market from 14 to 25 percent to meet the workforce needs of this region, and operating all programs on a year-round basis. Chippewa Valley Technical College serves 11 counties and 37 high school districts. If we're to reach our goals in this region cost effectively, it is necessary that we continue to develop our technology infrastructure. We currently operate a microwave system and are a partner of the Wonder Network, a fiber optic wide-area network. As a result of a recent referendum, we are able to replace our microwave system with a fiber optic network which will double the capacity of our system and allow us to integrate with the high school systems within this region. If Youth Options is to become a success in this area of the state, technology is going to be the means of doing it. CVTC is also developing centers for teaching and learning to help instructors learn to work smarter by utilizing technology in their teaching situation and in the new state-of-the-art technology center being designed for our campus.

The future indicates that we need to grow. Our new manufacturing and technology center is coming on-line to meet the needs of those 7,000 plus jobs; the new River Falls Campus will meet the emerging needs in that area; an expanded instructional television system will provide new opportunities for partnerships; and a new police, fire, and emergency medical services building will for the first time provide certification testing for police, fire, and EMS workers in the northwest and western regions of Wisconsin. As we evaluate our needs, then, in relation to very tight property tax parameters, it becomes imperative that GPR funding be increased. The needs of the Wisconsin Technical College System are about 4.5 percent for each year of the

biennium. The governor has proposed 1 percent for each year. We understand that money is tight, but can we afford not to increase state aid by 2.5 percent to provide adequate funding for a system that works daily with industry and will help to grow that tax base in the future? We ask you to support the Youth Options initiative to increase the number of students coming out of high school into technical colleges to help fuel the economic development of this region and the state. We need support for technology development, not only for the technical college systems, but for the K-12 system as well. That linkage between technical colleges and the K-12 system is extremely critical. Along with technology goes staff development--the opportunity for staff who grew up before the computer to learn how to use the computer and television to their advantage.

Finally, access is a critical need. We need to look at everything we do to ensure that no student is denied access to the Wisconsin Technical College System. Many times assistance programs are based on a traditional university model--one that says you're going to school full-time from September to August. I'm here to tell you that that's not the future of education in Wisconsin. We're seeing shorter programs; programs that will be taken at night by working adults, by W2 participants, on weekends, by television, by computer, and so on. As you design and fund programs to serve diverse populations, make certain that you take that into consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity. I look forward to working with you through the biennial budget process as President of the Wisconsin Technical College Administrator's Association and stand ready to provide you with any information that you might need.

## Technical Education Youth Options Program

by

Carole M. Johnson, Ph.D.  
President  
Gateway Technical College

and

Michael Johnson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Kenosha Unified School District

We support Governor Tommy Thompson's Technical Education Youth Options program presented in his budget proposal. In essence, the Technical Education Youth Options will allow high school students in the 11th or 12th grade to enroll in technical colleges. Students to be considered for the program must be in good standing and meet the admission standards of the technical college in their district. Students who select this option are still covered by the state compulsory education laws.

It is the responsibility of the technical college to admit any high school student who applies, meets the entrance requirements, is in good standing, and has the prerequisites for any course in which the student chooses to enroll. Once enrolled, the technical college is responsible for ensuring that the student's education program meets the state's minimum requirements for high school as established by the state department of public instruction. Students enrolled in a technical college understand that they will be treated as adult learners in the technical college system.

High school students may enroll in regular occupational and technical courses that satisfy the requirements for associate degree or technical diploma programs. Courses taken and satisfactorily completed will count as post secondary credit and high school credit. Technical college remedial programs and courses are not eligible course options in this program. Local school boards will issue diplomas to those who successfully complete the program. Students will have to meet the credit requirements of the school district in which they were previously enrolled. Students may return to their school district after enrolling at the technical college if they so desire, but local school board approval is required.

We in the educational community support this as a viable option for many students in the Wisconsin educational system.

## Technical Education Youth Options Program

by

Carole M. Johnson, Ph.D.  
President  
Gateway Technical College

and

Major Armstead, Jr., Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Racine Unified School District

We support Governor Tommy Thompson's Technical Education Youth Options program presented in his budget proposal. In essence, the Technical Education Youth Options will allow high school students in the 11th or 12th grade to enroll in technical colleges. Students to be considered for the program must be in good standing and meet the admission standards of the technical college in their district. Students who select this option are still covered by the state compulsory education laws.

It is the responsibility of the technical college to admit any high school student who applies, meets the entrance requirements, is in good standing, and has the prerequisites for any course in which the student chooses to enroll. Once enrolled, the technical college is responsible for ensuring that the student's education program meets the state's minimum requirements for high school as established by the state department of public instruction. Students enrolled in a technical college understand that they will be treated as adult learners in the technical college system.

High school students may enroll in regular occupational and technical courses that satisfy the requirements for associate degree or technical diploma programs. Courses taken and satisfactorily completed will count as post secondary credit and high school credit. Technical college remedial programs and courses are not eligible course options in this program. Local school boards will issue diplomas to those who successfully complete the program. Students will have to meet the credit requirements of the school district in which they were previously enrolled. Students may return to their school district after enrolling at the technical college if they so desire, but local school board approval is required.

We in the educational community support this as a viable option for many students in the Wisconsin educational system.

MAUSAU DAILY HERALD  
March 18, 1997

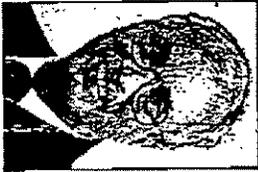
# Let's send high school students to technical college

CHIPPEWA VALLEY  
DIST. BRDS. → →

In his recent budget message, Gov. Tommy Thompson proposed an exciting option for high school students who are in their junior or senior year. Under the proposal, those students could work toward their high school diploma at a Wisconsin technical college.

As bold as this sounds, the initiative actually complements what is already happening in high schools around the state. There, the curriculum is being improved to provide a more hands-on approach to education. School-to-work programs are integrating practical applications into the curriculum. Career education has allowed students to focus on their future. And work-based programs like youth apprenticeships are giving students real-world experience in the workplace.

The governor's proposal stands to give Wisconsin youth a broad array of educational options not available anywhere in the U.S. Under the plan, high school juniors and seniors who are academically qualified to perform at the technical college level could complete their diploma at a nearby technical college. Students would take the same courses and programs available to other technical college students. The local high school district would continue to grant the diploma. Courses



Be Our Guest

Robert Ernst

taken would apply toward high school graduation and college credit.

It's important to point out that the decision to enter the technical college would be entirely up to the students and their parents. The student need only meet the academic criteria set by the technical college.

High school graduation standards for these students, meanwhile, will be developed jointly by the state Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Technical College System Board. It is likely that current academic standards will continue to be required in the areas of math, science, language arts, social studies, and other core areas. The two state agencies would decide which technical college courses would satisfy the high school graduation

requirements.

This new initiative from the governor should have a positive impact on students' career planning. It will expose them to rigorous technical career programs — NTC has 37 such programs — one of which might be right for them. But it will also lay a solid foundation for a four-year college path if that is the direction the student chooses to follow.

There is, of course, a strong attraction for students to stay with their own peer group at their high school. However, there are some students who are ready for a new challenge in high school and this program will suit them well. NTC's highly successful Alternative High School for 16- to 18-year-old at-risk youth has proven that high school students can coexist in a technical college environment. The same option should be extended to other interested students.

Society has come to appreciate the importance technical careers play in this technological age. Such careers can be personally fulfilling and financially rewarding. NTC's 98 percent placement rate reflects the high demand for people with technical skills. And that trend is likely to continue since 80 percent of all new jobs created in the near future will require some kind of technical education

beyond high school but not necessarily a bachelor's degree.

In Wausau, as in other communities, there is a desperate need for people trained in technical skills. Wisconsin Job Service reports that the need for skilled workers outstrips the current supply, according to Jim Alf, the agency's supervisor.

To remain economically viable and competitive on a global scale, area business and industry needs a trained workforce. The governor's proposal is a step in the right direction because it has the potential of exposing greater numbers to technical careers.

One area business leader, Bob Dunn, CEO of M & I Bank, Wausau, says he relies heavily on employees with technical skills, and thus is supporting youth apprenticeships in finance at the bank. If more high school youth can be actively involved, he says, students and business will benefit.

In summary, the governor's proposal will enhance the educational options available to high school students in the state, and can help us meet the training needs of industry. It deserves our support as it moves through the Legislature. Robert C. Ernst is president of Northcentral Technical College, Wausau.

# Youth should be able to attend technical college

Governor Thompson has proposed a youth options program whereby any high school student age 16 or older, in the 11th or 12th grade, considered in good academic standing by the local school board, and who can meet the admission standards of a technical college may apply for technical college enrollment. Here is why we think this proposal is of benefit to the community.

• This is one more learning opportunity for our young people, an option with different challenges and different educational experiences.

• Courses taken by a student as part of an associate degree or diploma program will count as postsecondary credits as well as high school credit and could shorten the length of time needed to earn an associate degree or vocational diploma.

• Students would be exposed to rigorous technical training which can be applied in the workplace; this would be a benefit to area communities.

• The technical college courses would provide a firm foundation for a college/university path, if that is the direction chosen by the student.

We realize that obstacles currently stand in the way of this option being a reality. As high schools and technical colleges already cooperate on a variety of educational activities, barriers such as curriculum, transporta-

## Letters to the Editor

*Herald Times 3/5/97*  
tion, and funding could certainly be eliminated. This youth options program would become even more acceptable to students if, while attending a technical college, they could retain their ties with their high schools by continuing to participate in high school activities such as curriculums, graduation ceremonies, etc.

We support the governor's proposal of technical college as a youth education option as good for our students and good for our community.

— Stewart Waller, Superintendent, Kiel Public Schools  
— Dennis J. Ladwig, Ed.D., President, LTC

*Manitowoc  
Herald-Times  
3/5/97*



P.O. BOX 23387 - GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: 200 S. BROADWAY  
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54303THOMAS M. JOYNT, PH.D., SUPERINTENDENT  
PHONE: (414) 448-2101

March 10, 1997

William Nusbaum, President/Publisher  
Green Bay Press Gazette  
P. O. Box 19430  
Green Bay, WI 54307-9430

Dear Mr. Nusbaum:

A Technical College Youth Education Option was among the educational initiatives proposed by Governor Thompson as part of his budget for the upcoming biennium. Under this proposal, high school students with good academic standing, will have the option of enrolling at a technical college while in 11th or 12th grade. This initiative has a great deal of merit in that it provides the potential to earn credits that count toward high school graduation while it satisfies some Associate Degree or Technical Diploma credit requirements.

Although there are some details that need to be clarified, this proposal provides another seamless learning opportunity for a student to acquire technical skills needed for entry level employment. These are not by any means considered remedial programs. The rigor of these courses will require a commitment from the student in order to be successful. In this context, the Green Bay School District specifically feels that the role of the District of residence in confirming student participation needs to be clarified to assure that the details of the placement are clearly understood by the students and parents prior to enrollment.

The Green Bay Board of Education and the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Trustees support this proposal as an educational alternative. We believe it presents some exciting possibilities for high school students to discover technical college career training which may help them to make informed career decisions. We look forward to its approval in the Wisconsin Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas M. Joynt".

DR. THOMAS M. JOYNT  
Superintendent  
Green Bay Area Public Schools

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald Prindiville".

DR. GERALD PRINDIVILLE  
President  
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

La Crosse Tribune, Sunday, March 2, 1997 E-3

# New partnership for tech education

By RICHARD SWANTZ and  
LEE RASCH  
La Crosse

For the second year in a row, Gov. Tommy Thompson's State of the State message calls for high school juniors and seniors to be given a new educational option, completing their high school diplomas at a Wisconsin technical college. This option is already in place for at-risk 16 to 18-year-olds through the alternative high school program, but the Youth Education Option proposal would provide a comparable option for students who are ready to do college-level work and seek a challenging educational alternative.

Although there will be specific implementation issues to resolve in bringing this proposal to life, we think the benefits to students make it worth overcoming the challenges. For that reason, we have informed Gov. Thompson that La Crosse is willing to step forward and serve as a pilot site for this new initiative. If we are authorized to be among the first in the state to implement the Youth Education Option, we will have a head start in identifying problems and finding effective ways to overcome them. The result will be a better integrated system of educational options designed to provide a seamless transition for students as they progress through high school and into college and the work force.

The Youth Education Option proposal would allow high school juniors and seniors in good standing at their high schools to apply for admission to the technical college. Consent by parents would be required, but not the consent of the school district. If students meet the admission requirements and appropriate course prerequisites, the technical college must admit them, assuming there is no record of disciplinary problems. In general, the state aid which the high school would have

received for a student would follow him/her to the technical college. Courses taken by a student as part of an associate degree or diploma program will count for high school credit AND technical college credit. Academic standards at the college would not be lowered to accommodate these younger students. Clearly, it will be an option best suited for motivated students who seek a learning environment that high schools can't provide.

Together, our systems will need to grapple with issues that include course scheduling, financing and course articulation. At the high school level there will be fears that this program will draw off necessary state dollars and the most gifted students. At the college level there will be concerns from adult students that faculty will water down their curriculum to a high school level and concerns from faculty about possible discipline problems. We have made a commitment to work together to overcome these problems and, in the process, structure an exciting new learning option for students. Cooperative local planning is needed to ensure the success of this program.

U.S. Department of Labor statistics indicate that 85 percent of new jobs created by the year 2000 will require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year college degree. Increased early exposure by students to technical fields will better prepare them for the jobs of the future and result in a stronger, more capable work force in western Wisconsin. This is a goal that deserves the extra effort it will take to accomplish it.

Richard Swantz is superintendent of the School District of La Crosse, and Lee Rasch is president/district director for Western Wisconsin Technical College.

# OPINION

Wisconsin State Journal, Sunday, April 13, 1997

## Tech school proposal is bold step forward

By Edward Chin

In his 1997-99 biennial budget, Gov. Tommy Thompson advances an exciting statewide initiative to permit high school students unprecedented access to Wisconsin's technical colleges. The governor's proposal provides qualified high school students the option to attend technical college full-time in their junior and/or senior years of high school to earn their high school diplomas.

The proposal addresses the need to make technical education a significant

option for our youth, as well as reflecting a public school choice philosophy. Parents should be empowered to choose among educational programs that best meet the needs of their children. Those options must include more opportunities for qualified young people to consider technical careers. The governor's proposal comes at a time when there is increasing public recognition of the importance of linking education with work and growing support for technical education for youth.

Once high school students complete their high school graduation requirements at a technical college, they may go on to complete a technical college occupational training program, continue in a four-year baccalaureate degree program or enter the work force with a solid foundation.

The governor's initiative complements Wisconsin's nationally acclaimed efforts to connect learning to work. Our systematic approach to transforming the high school experience through the curriculum alignment of Tech Prep and increased opportunities for work-based learning through the Youth Apprenticeship Program provides our children with clear pathways to success, first in the classroom and then in the workplace. The opportunity to complete a high school diploma by attending a technical college instead of high school will provide young adults with yet another challenging option.

Under the new proposal, high school juniors and seniors academically qualified to perform at the technical college course level with parental consent would have the right to select a most appealing means to a high school diploma. Technical colleges would not offer high school level courses, but rather, they would offer space in their regular pro-

### GUEST COLUMN

grams and courses to these new students. These high school students would have the same access to technical studies as adults.

Technical college programs are designed to prepare students for today's high-skilled world of work. These demanding courses require high levels of disciplined study and a commitment to learn. I have no doubt that a number of high school students will eagerly commit to the task.

The local school board and Department of Public Instruction would need to determine whether the technical college courses meet graduation standards. Given the rigor and range of technical college courses, I envision students readily meeting graduation standards through these new choices for study. Upon completion of their course work, students would receive their high school diplomas from their originating high schools.

Wisconsin's technical colleges have considerable experience in serving high school age students. Under current compulsory education statutes, at-risk youths between 16 and 18 already have the option to attend technical colleges under an alternative high school program. Other options include high schools contracting with technical colleges to provide instruction for a full class of students and individual students taking single technical college courses to enhance their studies.

Now the governor's proposal takes these options a major step further, giving parents and the students the choice to have one or two full high school years at a technical college.

As with any school choice program, funding must follow the student. Technical colleges would be paid the instructional cost by the originating high school district for enrolling these students. It is only fair that those providing the desired services be compensated. There should be no cost to the students who are guaranteed a free high school education. High school districts would still be able to count these students for state aid and revenue cap purposes since they would be making the payments to technical colleges.

Our high school youths deserve a full range of educational options that are not always available in many of our state's high schools. Doesn't it make sense to extend a technical education experience to all qualified, interested students? I commend the governor for this bold advance into the future.



(Chin)

Chin is director of the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Chippewa Falls Area School District



*"Together we can make a difference!"*

April 22, 1997

To the Joint Finance Committee:

I am opposed to the proposed transfer of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse funds from the DPI to the DHFS (Assembly Bill 100/Senate Bill 77). Drug use among our youth is rising at an alarming rate, and I believe that this transfer will not result in better programming for our students and communities. I believe that this transfer of funds would adversely affect the Chippewa Falls School District and those statewide for the following reasons:

- Nothing about this proposed change addresses improving services to children. State school districts have worked hard over the past 10 years developing solid AODA programming, and now is not the time to compromise prevention efforts.
- This would hamper coordination of AODA programming with other student services programs. DPI, not DHFS administers school health, guidance and counseling, school-based AIDS prevention and other children at-risk programs.
- This funding will continue to count toward the state's 2/3 commitment to statewide school costs; therefore it should remain in the education agency.
- DPI has worked hard to develop a coordinated and efficient system of administering these programs. This proposal would prove administratively burdensome and confusing--with school districts faced with competing or duplicative directives from two state agencies.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Tafel".

Jane Tafel  
AODA Specialist, Chippewa Falls Public Schools

---

***Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Program***

~~Joe Plouff would like copy also.~~

Response to the Joint Finance Committee on the 1997-99 Biennial Budget  
April 22, 1997  
Chippewa Valley Technical College  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the committee. I speak in opposition to the proposed Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin initiative as written.

My name is Karen Gleason, and I am the Chair, Extended and Distance Education at Western Wisconsin Technical College, LaCrosse, Wisconsin and the current president of the WONDER, Wisconsin Overlay Network for Distance Education Resources operations board.

On behalf of the organizations that I represent let me say that we appreciate the effort being directed to continue the development and deployment of distance technology. We greatly support any plan that recognizes that leadership, funding and a system integration plan is needed to maximize the use of distance networks in order to realize the benefits of technology to support the learning needs of students, residents and industry in Wisconsin.

Let me begin by stating the obvious, Distance Learning Works!! It provides access to educational options to people in our smaller and more rural communities. It adds richness to students in larger communities who could access the class but would not have the diverse population of students with whom to share learning experiences. These educational opportunities enable individuals to increase their skill levels and remain in their home areas without disengaging from their jobs, families and communities. Distance learning works...and it can work even better..if it grows in a way that assures all members the opportunity to participate in a fair and equitable manner

About four years ago Western Wisconsin Technical College, in an effort to increase classes and services to the Extended campus areas decided to step up the investment in distance technology. We wanted to have a full motion interactive television system to connect our six extended campuses. Unfortunately what we learned was although that was something others in the state were doing it was not at all an affordable option for WWTC. Each telephone company in the state of Wisconsin prices its services differently and independently. Our telephone company based in Monroe Louisiana priced the system so that WWTC, as the first customer requesting video service would pay the total cost of a local video switch a very very expensive piece of equipment, which by the way would have remained the property of the telephone company.

We moved to a T1 compressed video system. The T1's offer some price advantage but yet are also very expensive and cause a real on-going drain to the college's capital resources. The LaCrosse area is one of the "unique" areas in the state in that all the current users of video technology use the T1 compressed system for regional access. Full motion is just too expensive to be a realistic option.. Although, our WONDER connection is full motion system it is not switched in LaCrosse. The University of

Wisconsin LaCrosse and Western Wisconsin Technical College have very expensive individual connections to the switch in Eau Claire.

Almost four years after we began our distance system we now see some real changes occurring. For example, we are excited and supportive of our K-12 neighbors in CESA Four who are actively forming the WWLEARN network. We anticipate that they will be in a full motion medium and that we will face a real technical challenge to integrate our systems. Not to mention what the line lease and membership costs will be to connect to that network.. Those costs can be staggering. WWTC currently is member of WONDER where our costs include \$39,000 for line lease, and \$10,000 in management fees and the Project Circuit network where the fees include membership \$10,000 and line leases increasing to \$13,000. To be an active member of WONDER and Project circuit we will pay a total of \$72,000 next year. Please remember that number does not include any funding for WWLEARN.

And there is more... Two of our campuses are in K-12 districts that are served by CESA Five and the SCING network. We would like to connect them to the SCING Network...however that means additional line lease, membership and management costs.

We need help. With out some kind of recognition of the position we are in...held to expensive network contracts that were made in good faith prior to this initiative, wanting to provide good technical educational opportunities to the students of our K-12 partners and link with the Universities and other agencies that can serve our communities, we will be making very hard choices where essentially no one wins. I am sure is not the intent of the governor or the legislature.

There must be a way that theses systems are fairly and equitably priced. We need technical gateways to systems using different technology, we need a coordinated system of management and scheduling. We need the four positions slated to be moved from the ECB to remain in place. We need the leadership, coordination and help that they provided.

In conclusion, I wish I could have brought with me today the nursing students from our Tomah campus who were able to complete the first full year in the nursing program because the distance learning system was in place or the 110 students in Independence (town of 1100) who were able to take credit classes where prior to Distance learning credit classes were not available to them or the four part time teachers from the Corrections Center in Black River Falls, who are currently enrolled in the Ed Psych class I teach..because it is their faces that I see as I speak before you..it is their faces I want you to know and see..because they are the ones who have benefited from the distance learning and in turn we will all benefit from what they have gained.. We can make a difference...help us do it fairly.

I speak in opposition to the TEACH Wisconsin initiative as written but urge you to help us all find an equitable way to collaborate and participate, find a way to keep the ECB

staff in place to support this initiative and help us make the transition to a fully interactive accessible state system.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

## KIDS ARE DRINKING LESS MILK, CONSUMING MORE CALORIES

THE information was not welcome. Our state newspaper front-page headline read, "Americans eating less fat but lots more snacks." Another said, "We're eating less fat but putting on pounds."

The 1994 USDA survey was of 5,500 Americans. You've probably seen the information on the television news or in your own daily newspaper. Despite food groups, food pyramids and Dairy Council efforts, the survey found that half of those surveyed ate no fruit on a given day. They also passed up dark green and deep yellow vegetables. One in three adults was overweight.

What many will consider the only good news from the survey is the finding that Americans must be listening to the antifat information because they received a third of their calories from fat in 1994, down from 40 percent in 1977 and 1978. However, those same people ate 6 percent more calories. Is that progress?

Most disturbing? USDA found that children were getting off to a "sweet" start, switching from milk to soft drinks or apple-based juices. As a matter of fact, milk consumption by children under 5 years of age was down 16 percent between 1970 and 1994. Soft drink consumption by kids in the same age group over the same time period was up 23 percent.

There are from 18 to 20 million kids under 5. Obviously, the sugar-water folks have done a tremendous job of selling their products. We'd

guess those under 5 are mimicking what their older siblings and Moms and Dads are drinking. At that age, they're not making a conscious effort to drink soft drinks instead of milk.

We wonder what would have happened to milk consumption by toddlers if the dairy industry had no promotion or education programs. All should realize that promotion is a constant battle. The competition has big bucks and makes tremendous efforts to sell their products at the expense of other drinks, including milk and dairy products.



111 years ago...

I tell you, the farmer of today has to meet many serious problems, and he cannot meet them without more intelligence; there are many difficulties coming up in modern farming — all these droughts, all these diseases, all these many questions that come up necessitate more and more thought and better and better judgment.

*W.A. Hoard*  
Founder, 1885



**Andrew Huppert**  
DAIRY FARMER

W 10430 STATE ROAD 29  
RIVER FALLS, WI 54022  
HOUSE (715) 425-6097  
BARN (715) 425-0003

Section 115.343  
Law Effective July 1, 1987

| APPROPRIATION | 1987-88 Program | 1988-89 Program | 1989-90 Program | 1990-91 Program | 1991-92 Program | 1992-93 Program | 1993-94 Program | 1994-95 Program | 1995-96 Program | 1996-97 Program | PAYMENTS          | SPONSORS          | 1/2 PINTS SERVED | ADP    |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------|
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 197,974.73 | Public 150 claims | 1,699,816 milk   | 9,556  |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 5,203.68  | Private 24 claims | 1,216 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 203,178.41        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 260,257.60 | Public 142 claims | 2,287,970 milk   | 12,858 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 9,551.01  | Private 34 claims | 801 juice        |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 269,808.61        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 281,073.45 | Public 161 claims | 2,306,128 milk   | 13,072 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 8,827.91  | Private 30 claims | 4,579 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 289,901.36        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 271,447.83 | Public 161 claims | 2,348,746 milk   | 13,196 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 6,727.21  | Private 26 claims | 1,204 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 278,175.04        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 315,972.81 | Public 168 claims | 2,649,561 milk   | 14,892 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 9,027.19  | Private 32 claims | 1,288 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 325,000.00        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 315,791.39 | Public 177 claims | 3,227,106 milk   | 18,135 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 9,208.61  | Private 37 claims | 1,003 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 325,000.00        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 317,532.43 | Public 197 claims | 3,824,337 milk   | 21,642 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 7,467.57  | Private 34 claims | 1,339 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 325,000.00        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 317,876.72 | Public 193 claims | 3,827,737 milk   | 21,644 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 7,123.28  | Private 33 claims | 3,252 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 325,000.00        |                   |                  |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Public 319,372.49 | Public 197 claims | 3,801,070 milk   | 21,175 |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | Private 5,627.51  | Private 34 claims | 7,297 juice      |        |
|               |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 | 325,000.00        |                   |                  |        |

\* In 1992-93 \$332,875.33 was claimed (97.63% proration)  
 \*\* In 1993-94 \$422,519.88 was claimed (76.92% proration)  
 \*\*\* In 1994-95 \$505,440.45 was claimed (64.30% proration)  
 \*\*\*\* In 1995-96 \$488,565.63 was claimed (66.52% proration)  
 \*\*\*\*\* In 1996-97 \$504,527.65 was claimed (64.42% proration)

I want to speak to two issues at this hearing:

1. Wisconsin Public Radio-University Extension and "About Cars."
2. The language in the budget concerning the "proven technology" to obtain a mining permit.

WPR: On March 6, 1997 in Madison, I attended the legislative Audit Bureau hearing concerning WPR and the Matt Joseph program, "About Cars". In 3 minutes, I cannot review the entire history of that issue. I'm sure you are all aware of it.

I enjoy a lot of public radio--save for the Badger hockey games on another station, it was the only radio station on at our house. Matt Joseph's Saturday AM 9-10 slot was my favorite. So, I objected and investigated when, one Saturday, he wasn't there any more. For that matter, we drove to near Madison to sit in a parking lot to hear his debut on a commercial station some months later. But, this is no longer an issue of my favorite program--- it is about what I've learned about Public Radio, the way it treats employees and its public, and uses taxpayers dollars.

At the LAB hearing, UW Extension Beaver stated: "The LAB fully acknowledges that WPR staff did follow an established procedure, exercising their professional judgment in making a program scheduling decision. While there may be questions about the final decision, we need to recognize that a talented and experienced staff, working together, can provide progressive and innovative leadership for a public radio system in which we can all take pride." However, I do question this process. When a valuable employee, Matt Joseph, is given an ultimatum--"move your program to the 3:00 slot or---", then the process needs to be changed. I would not allow myself to be treated that way in the work place and I am appalled that an organization that I have supported has done so. Declining to renew my \$120 per year to public radio is the same as moving my investment to protest the exploitation of native peoples or the cutting of rainforest to grow crops for export, thus starving the local populations.

WPR has over a \$9 million budget--it's a huge budget in a labyrinth system--a system that is obviously not working--we cannot set the example of treating employees this way, of squandering taxpayer money this way. You must require some changes in financing and accountability.

THE LANGUAGE REGARDING MINING. The mining moratorium bill which passed the Senate by a large margin was carefully designed to protect the waters of Wisconsin by requiring that , before a permit for a mine be given, there must be this history of a metallic sulfide mine being operated somewhere for 10 years without pollution of the environment and that mine has been reclaimed for 10 years without pollution. The language of the budget which would allow use of "proven technology" to obtain a permit is vague and unproven. This "technology" could be theoretical only, it could be technology used in factories or other non-mining situations. There would be no proof of long-term protection of our water. Our waters are much more important--they deserve the language of the moratorium, not the language of this budget.

April 20, 1997

Beckia Thomas  
E 5190 650 Avenue  
Menomonie, WI 54757

Dear Joint Finance Committee,

I am here to address the proposed freezing of SAGE funds for next year. I am the parent of a kindergarten child attending River Height school in Menomonie. I remember a year ago at this time the staff at River Heights school was asked to consider becoming a member of the SAGE initiative. We are a large elementary school approximated 600 students of which 57% of the students qualify for free and reduced lunches. The present kindergarten and first grade students make up an even higher percentage of free and reduced lunches. After much thought, studying the issue and visiting Madison to learn the specifics first hand, the entire school staff agreed to enter the program and give 100% of their energies to make this program work. As a parent I have been overwhelmed with the time and energy the teachers have put into this project to determine if these changes from the typical classroom setting really would be beneficial for the students.

Another aspect of the SAGE program was to keep our school buildings open longer hours. We have had the Literacy Volunteers of America using our school to help our Hmong neighbors work towards getting their citizenship. The 4-H and Boy Scouts have utilized the school after hours.

The entire school has benefited from the SAGE initiative by increasing the funding for professional development. We can not expect our teachers to keep getting better without supporting time to do it.

I am saddened by the thought that the funding may be frozen ~~of students~~. Would **you** be eager to take part in another government program that is offered down the road knowing darn well that they did not stand behind their last promise to fund the program. How will we ever know if the SAGE program works unless we have the time and funding to measure our success. **Please** invest in our children now so we don't have to continue to invest in prisons.

*Syren Klatt  
N5090 Cty Rd K  
Menomonie, WI  
54751*

TO: Joint Finance Committee Wisconsin State Legislature

FROM: Don A. Trettin/Thomas W. Harnisch, Wisconsin Towns Association

RE: State Budget Review--Eau Claire, WI

DATE: April 22, 1997

We have, today, submitted for the Wisconsin Towns Association to you a very brief outline of our major concerns related to the Governor's 1997-1999 State Budget. These concerns are NOT provided in any priority. These concerns are provided to your with the hopes that you will positively address each of these items of concern in your deliberations.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. WTA supports the Brownfield's Initiative and supports the transfer of money to Department of Commerce for this purpose.
  - a. We strongly suggest that certain number of Brownfield grants be provided each year to municipalities under 3,000 in population.
2. WTA supports providing funding for municipalities that are or will be negatively impacted by mining in this state. WTA believes the money should be first targeted to the municipalities directly impacted by the mining construction and operation. Does the budget bill in establishing the Mining Economic Development Grant and Loan Program first directly target these municipalities? The summary of the governor's Budget Revocations leaves this question unanswered.
3. WTA supports funding for municipalities for rural economic development. WTA believes the money should be first targeted to rural municipalities under 3000 population. The governor's Budget Recommendation raises the population eligibility from 4000 or less to now up to 6000 population.

## EDUCATION

1. The WTA supports equalization of tax base as a revenue concept for municipal and school tax bases. To this end, the WTA advocates amendments in the Governors Budget to move to fully equalized school funding and to limit categorical funding and other funding programs that serve to deequilize school funding.
2. The WTA supports fully funding to 2/3's of school costs and advocates an amendment to the Governor's Budget to delete 2/3 commitment to a sum certain and return to a sum sufficient.

## ENVIRONMENT

1. The WTA supports the new safe drinking water loan program as proposed in the Governor's Budget.
2. The WTA supports the Municipal and County Recycling Grant Program as proposed in the Governor's Budget. The WTA, however, believes the Legislative Council recommendation is a better approach.
3. The WTA supports the amendments to the non-metallic mining reclamation requirements proposed in the Governor's Budget.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. The WTA supports the Environmental Tax Incremental Financing Program as proposed in the Governors Budget. The WTA, however, would not favor any tax environmental tax incremental financing district to be established on lands annexed into a city or village within the last ten (10) years without Town Board approval. Finally, the WTA does NOT support and respectfully requests that NO other types of tax incremental financing districts be approved on lands that have been annexed into a city or village within the last ten (10) years without Town Board approval.
2. The WTA supports the DNR grants to cities, villages, towns, counties and fire organizations that agree to assist DNR in fighting fire fires as proposed in the Governor's budget.
3. The WTA supports the state highway landscaping initiative from the forestry account as proposed in the Governor's Budget. The WTA, however, would desire this program to include also landscaping and tree removal, where necessary on county, town, city and village roads.

## TAXATION ADMINISTRATION/REVENUE ALLOCATION

1. The WTA supports the right of municipalities and counties to apply to the Department of Revenue to certify delinquent municipal and county property taxes be set off against state income taxes and credit.
2. The WTA opposes that the lottery credit will to be allocated to municipalities on the basis of total levies rather than school levies.

## TRANSPORTATION

The WTA supports sufficient state transportation revenue that will adequately assist in financing local transportation costs to the following for towns:

\$1500/per mile 1997  
\$1550/ per mile 1998

The proposed amount of \$1432 in the Governor's Budget is totally inadequate.

The WTA supports the Transportation Infrastructure loan program if the program is created and operated by the State of Wisconsin and the State Department of Transportation to provide set aside equitable infrastructure financing for low population communities (under 3000 population).

The WTA supports the limits on municipal liability for negligent operation of a snowplow.

The WTA supports the proposed restriction for allowable distance behind a snowplow.

The WTA specifically supports over ten (10) year period on allocation of total federal and state funding for transportation that provides 50% total funding for local municipal aids and 50% total funding for State Department of Transportation programs, including funding for state highway construction, maintenance and repair.

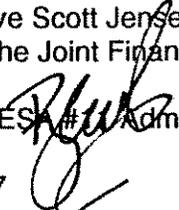
If the equitable above allocations approved, WTA supports up to \$.02 gas tax increase, \$10.00 vehicle registration increase and an increase in heavy truck registration fees.



# Cooperative Educational Service Agency #11

225 Ostermann Drive, Turtle Lake, WI 54889 Phone (715) 986-2020 Fax (715) 986-2040

TO: Senator Brian Burke - Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee  
Representative Scott Jensen, Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee  
Members of the Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Bob Rykal, CESA #11 Administrator 

DATE: April 21, 1997

SUBJ: **GOVERNOR'S BUDGET BILL**

I am writing to you as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance to share a point of view on some pending educational legislation.

As a long-time member of the Northwest Consortium of Tech Prep and School To Work, I have had the first-hand opportunity of seeing our young people experience both a school based and a work based learning component of Tech Prep/School To Work. These positive and valued experiences came about through a concerted effort on the part of various institutions to partner their resources and deal holistically with the education of our young people.

With the exception of the two Private Industry Council members, our consortium is requesting that you oppose the consolidation of School To Work with the Department of Workforce Development (D.W.D.) because it diminishes the "school based" component and has the potential to be overshadowed by the "work based" priority of the D.W.D. Proposals to direct grants to individual school districts will detract from district-wide cooperative efforts to partner that are so essential for an effective School To Work Program. The transition will probably end all vocational student organizations and their associated opportunities as there will be no one to direct their activities from the State level. This proposal simply makes no common sense!

Also, in Thompson vs. Craney, the Supreme Court firmly established that the State Superintendent is the officer responsible for supervising public instruction in the State of Wisconsin. This proposal clearly shifts constitutional responsibility from the Department of Public Instruction and on its face appears to be an overt attempt to dismantle the DPI.

I believe that you are, and have been, advocates for children. I ask that you do whatever it takes to oppose the transfer of School To Work Programs and funding from the DPI to the D.W.D. The bottom line is that this will hurt our kids.

Thank you for your consideration.

lw

TESTIMONY BEFORE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
EAU CLAIRE - APRIL 22, 1997

My name is John Kammerud. I am District Administrator of the Greenwood School District, a position I have held for the last 12 years. I have been an administrator for over 20 years, and I have been a Wisconsin public educator for over 25 years. I started my career as a teacher at Elroy, Wisconsin in 1971.

I have seen a lot of changes in the financing of Wisconsin Schools. I am not going to call our current situation a crisis because that word has been used too often to the point it has lost its impact.

Having said that, I will just tell you straight forwardly that our projected general fund expenses exceed our expected general fund revenues by about \$90,000 for next year. That means we will have to lay off more personnel or cut back on programs. If this were our first encounter with program cuts it would not seem so extreme, but it isn't.

This is the second time in the last two years we have cut back. We have eliminated some aid positions, and those we continue are there by necessity to cover EEN needs.

We have held the line on purchasing of new equipment and tried only to fix what we have.

We have eliminated potential maintenance and gotten by with what we have. Next year, we will get new high school facilities after we passed a referendum with an 82% positive vote. This will ease our maintenance needs for about 5-10 years.

We have been losing about 5-10 students per year in enrollment for about the last four years, but those are across grade levels so we have not been able to significantly reduce staff; although, we have laid off an art teacher, part of a phy-ed position, an audio-visual support position, left a technical ed. position unfilled, and an English department position unfilled over the years I have been administrator.

We cannot cut at the elementary school as parents have said in a determined fashion that they want class sizes around 20 not 30. I consolidated two sections of third grade a year ago, and parents would not accept it. We have since added back that position.

In 12 years of Annual Meetings, I have had only one person vote "No" on a district levy. That was my first year as administrator. It is difficult for our district to understand why it cannot levy a tax against itself in the manner it has done so historically without having to run a special ballot box referendum.

In a small district like ours with 600 students, we have a family like atmosphere. Things get done because everyone cares. Allow us to continue to care by altering the revenue caps to allow an Annual Meeting to vote an exclusion to the caps as an alternative to the paper ballot, or better yet, give that authority to the local board of education which should have that responsibility as the elected representatives of the people.

John Kammerud, District Administrator  
School District of Greenwood

## Children First

The March 18th, March On Madison, was about support and priorities. Foster care is not for everyone but it's a job that needs doing. If you wouldn't do it, then support those willing to. We show our support for our sports in many ways, let's not forget our priorities, Children and Families First.

We ( in Eau Claire County Foster Care) are fortunate to get training, respite and support within the program here. It's not the same across the state and reimbursement for it differs from state to state. The value of a family is the same across the nation --love of children is why we choose to do this but we can't buy groceries with love.

Children don't belong in institutions, they belong in homes, but will anyone be there to care for them.

Karen Garnett and Sheri Rodriguez attended the March 18th Rally in Madison organized by Wisconsin Federation of Foster Parents.

### Pay now or later

As a foster parent for Eau Claire County, I want to let the people of the county know what the rally in Madison was all about and how we personally feel here in Eau Claire County.

The rally was attended by two homes from Eau Claire County to show our support as foster parents for other foster homes in the state. The next day, three foster moms were interviewed by TV 13 with the understanding that we not be portrayed as a bunch of whiners and complainers.

We in Eau Claire County are not complaining. The staff and judges do try to listen to us in the courtroom and do provide us with some benefits I find that other counties don't get. In fact, there are several.

As I told TV 13, and I guess it wasn't newsworthy, I thought the other counties and the state could follow Eau Claire County's lead in providing benefits to foster parents.

I don't think our state legislators realize this, but if we lose our foster homes because of a few dollars, they will only have to increase money spent on chain gangs because there will be no one trying to save our youth. If they did family background checks, on prison inmates, they would find a lot of them come from unstable, abusive homes.

This whole issue really isn't about money or personal benefits, it's about the kids. I think the media forgets that every child needs someone to love them, care for them and shelter them.

If we don't pay for that now, we will pay for it in the very near future.

**KARI MISSELT**

President, Chippewa Valley Foster Family Association, Fall Creek

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Herbert H. Mehne  
Director of Vocational Education  
School District of the Menomonie Area

RE: School to Work Issues in the Governor's Budget

I am asking that you retain the 13.00 FTE GPR federally funded School to Work positions at the Department of Public Instruction. It is essential that the positions remain at DPI because the three partner agency effort has been a strength not a deterrent. School to Work needs to be and integral part of the restructuring effort of all schools. Moving it to the Department of Work Force Development will move it to an outside agency. It is a difficult enough task to get the people in the educational enterprise to address the importance of School to Work as an essential part of a K-12 system let alone have it come from an out side agency. School to Work is to much of an important issue to have its leadership function removed from the central state agency. School to Work has three major threads that are designed to help all students. The three threads are Work Based, School Based and Connecting Activities. We need to keep the emphasis on all three if we are going to produce the well-trained individuals that Wisconsin's economy needs to be successful in the 21st century. An example of what has been happening in Menomonie's Work Based component is that over the last five years 40% of the graduating seniors have a cooperative vocational experience. Additional statistics of Menomonie's co-op graduates are that 62% enrolled in post secondary education related to their high school co-op and 59% are working in a job related to their co-op experience. Menomonie has two youth apprenticeships, one in auto service and one in financial services. The cooperative program would not be that successful without the school base component that is a coherent sequence of courses that assist the student in meet a career objective. An example of this sequence would be a student who is interested in child care, enrolls in the Introduction to Child Care class and then enrolls in the Senior Co-op. The sequence of those two courses will provide the student with licenser as a head day care teacher up on graduation from high school. The Connecting Activities component provides the necessary career guidance through the Development Guidance Model to make the choice of a career objective.

Page 2 Joint Finance Committee

I would also recommend that the Youth Options program which would change the current postsecondary enrollment options program include a statement the student choosing the program have an identified career pathway, This pathway needs to have been demonstrated by specific course selections during their freshman and sophomore years that are related to a career objective, Also, the program can cause no hardship to the students remaining in the high school. I can envision a situation where by that could happen. The Menomonie district requires 18 students to run a class. The youth options is for junior and senior students. It is at this level where our advanced classes are offered. Advanced classes generally draw fewer students because of the specific nature of the course offering. What happens to the fifteen students remaining in an advanced class of eighteen if three students choose the youth options program?

Thank you for considering my recommendations

Presented by - Frank Buckler, School to  
Work Committee, Menomonie Area Schools,  
and School Guidance Counselor Menomonie  
High School. Frank Buckler

Menomonie High School  
(715) 232-2606

Ladies and gentlemen: thank you for this opportunity to speak on public radio's behalf. I'm Jessi Holcomb, a local horticulturalist transplanted from Madison. It being the off-season, I have time to represent Wisconsin Public Radio listeners.

It has come to my attention that the proposed budget includes a 5% cut for the 3 branches of the UW Extension, but then exempts the largest branch from that cut. That branch's cut is then pawned off on the other two branches, of which public radio is a part. This results in a 12% cut for Wisconsin Public Radio, the second biennium that public radio's funding is significantly decreased. I'm not asking for more money, I'm requesting that not so much be taken away.

Personally, my first exposure to public radio was in 1980, when a tender young work-study student entered Professor Hugh Iltis' hallowed Herbarium. It was in this domain that there was a transformation from a brash headbanger to a semi-cultured appreciator of classical **and** big band music. This change was made possible by Wisconsin Public Radio.

Way back then, I set aside a week's "income" from plasma donations for a pledge to public radio. Whereas my present pledges are not "blood money", they are dollars earned with sweaty toil. My husband and I give during each drive to WXPB and the two stations that are housed by this building [UW Marathon Center], **and** I volunteer during the drives, taking pledges from listeners. We are proud to be a part of this quality institution, a doubly proud that a portion of our tax dollars goes to this, also.

Public radio, like public transportation and public schools, derive funding from tax dollars for the common good of the people. Not all people benefit DIRECTLY... for instance, my husband and I are childless by choice, and therefore will not directly benefit from our taxes allocated for that institution. But, from the supermarket staff that stocks the shelves, tallies your total and bags your groceries...to the health professionals who keep you healthy by keeping your cholesterol down from eating junk food - everyday we interact with people who have directly benefitted from public services. And those public services include public radio.

Public radio is an important part of my day. From the morning news and current weather, to the insights of Daniel Pinkwater and the humor of Baxter Black, "former large animal veterinarian" {smiles}, to Tim Greene's soliloquies on sports; public radio gets my day off to a great start as I do my morning chores. Classical and jazz music soothe and invigorate me throughout the day. And on weekends, Dr. Zorba On Your Health, Click & Clack the Tappatt Brothers on Car Talk, and Patricia McConnell on Calling All Pets keep me healthy, relatively wealthy, and wise. Michael Feldman keeps me company from Green Bay to Madison to Eau Claire, and beyond. Saturday eves are reserved for Garrison Keillor. I even learn about the goings-on of you, the state legislature, in the evening local roundup. {laughter} When I cross over Wisconsin's borders, I attempt to keep Wisconsin Public Radio's signal as long as possible. **No other state has such a consistent, high-quality system of information and entertainment.\*** It is a rich heritage that is every Wisconsin citizen's legacy. We in the dog show business have a saying about our chosen breed, and it applies to public radio. We say that our chosen breed is a legacy left to us and we can do three things to it: we can improve upon it, ~~keep it the same~~ or destroy it. Let us not destroy Wisconsin Public Radio. I appeal to you, please recommend reductions for the Extension cuts, or, at the very least, spare public radio from the extreme cuts. One cannot single out an institution repeatedly and expect to retain its quality. Thank you.

\*ad lib. "I show dogs across the United States, and no one has such a fine radio system as Wisconsin Public Radio."

Charlotte B. Hubert  
1000 1/2 N. 12th St.  
Madison, WI 53706  
April 14, 1997

To the Wisconsin State Legislative Joint Finance Committee:

I am writing as a long-time listener and supporter of Wisconsin Public Radio. WHWC Menomonie/Eau Claire is my chief access to what is going on in the world, and Wuec Eau Claire is one of my main sources of music, which is an important part of my life.

In travels through various other states I have often searched out their public radio stations to see what they have to offer. These comparisons have given me great satisfaction and pride in what my state radio provides for us in Wisconsin.

Along with thousands of other citizens, I have been happy to lend some financial support to WPR as government support dwindles. But private funds are not the whole answer. WPR is one of our state's real treasures. It is available to everyone, and the state should continue to support it.

Governor Thompson's proposed reduction of tax dollars for UWEX must surely result in less service or lowered standards for public radio. We should have too much pride to permit this. I hope the committee will not approve a budget which will diminish our treasure.

Sincerely yours,



Charlotte B. Hubert



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA

Administrative Service Center

718 North Broadway • Menomonee, Wisconsin 54751 • (715) 232-1642 • FAX (715) 232-1317

DAVID SMETTE  
*District Administrator*

STEVEN ASHMORE  
*Director of Human Resources*

LEROY MCGARY  
*Director of Instruction*

WAYNE DEVERY  
*Business Manager*

**April 22, 1997**

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

I appreciate being able to provide input into the Budget Bill which is before you. I have several concerns with the contents of this bill which I would like to address, including Sum Sufficient, SAGE, TEACH, and Equity.

**SUM SUFFICIENT VERSUS SUM CERTAIN:** There is a proposed change in the wording which would place the funding for schools under SUM CERTAIN. I would strongly urge the committee to remain with the SUM SUFFICIENT budgeting process. I spent several years in the state of North Dakota, which had provisions for sum certain. Inevitably, the second year of the budget cycle was disastrous for school budgets, as the amounts which had been counted on to arrive from the state did not. Programs and materials for students were dismantled, often in the middle of the school year, thus causing a great deal of harm to the overall learning process for young people.

**SAGE (Student Achievement Guaranteed Education)** is, I believe, funded in the Budget Bill at the same level as this past year. However, the expectation is for the program to expand at the local level as originally proposed. It will be virtually impossible to expand without the required resources.

SAGE does address some serious issues about educating young people. It is based on good research that assistance for children in poverty is needed to ensure that they learn to the same capacity as other students. There is also good evidence that students who do not learn to read by grade three have a high potential for being high-risk students. Such students often do not graduate. Further, there is a high correlation between the prison population and students who have dropped out or were high-risk students in school. It would be much better to spend our state's resources on preventing high-risk students than spending those resources on prisons.

**TEACH WISCONSIN:** There has been a great deal of rhetoric about the need for school to provide access to the Internet and to teach computer literacy. With our limited resources and controls on revenue, schools will be very hard pressed to provide for the hardware, much less the more important human skills and competencies necessary. Schools that are "blessed" with fewer local resources will have an even more difficult time keeping up. I would urge your full support for dollars in this area.

*"...preparing young people to be life-long learners, caring individuals and responsible citizens."*

To the Members of the Joint Finance Committee

Page Two

April 22, 1997

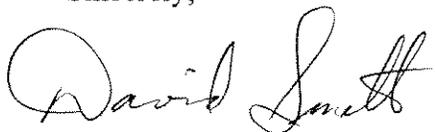
**EQUITY IN THE DISBURSEMENT OF STATE RESOURCES:** I remain deeply concerned that the state is not sufficiently taking into account the vast differences in local wealth as it distributes state funds to school districts. An example of this inequity is the SCHOOL LEVY CREDIT. It should **not** be increased, but reduced. Instead, those dollars, along with other categorical funds, should be placed into the equalization formula and distributed in an equalized manner.

**YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM:** I would recommend that the youth options program remain as it presently is and not be expanded as proposed. There are several areas of difficulty with the proposal, including the fact that the funding for such options is taken from regular student resources/budgets and is not covered under the revenue controls. Providing for such options when the high school does provide a similar course reduces the chances that the course will be offered through the high school because of low student numbers left. Such courses often do have low numbers of students, and thus to split the class, with many students selecting a postsecondary offering, places such a course in jeopardy. We could not afford economically to offer it to the remaining students.

**SCHOOL-TO-WORK:** I would recommend that the funds for School-To-Work remain with the Department of Public Instruction. The DPI has been charged with the responsibility of administrating and guiding the instruction of students in K-12 schools. I do not feel that it would be good management to split out those responsibilities.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this input. Good luck in this difficult process of providing funds for the young people of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Smette". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Dr. Dave Smette  
District Administrator

*"...preparing young people to be life-long learners, caring individuals and responsible citizens."*



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE**

EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702-4004

**College of Professional Studies  
and Office of University Research**

*Ronald N. Satz, Dean*

*HSS 158, (715) 836-2722 or 3400; Fax: (715) 836-4892*

**School of Education**

*Stephen J. Kurth, Assoc. Dean and Certification Admin.*

*Brewer 153, (715) 836-3671; Fax: (715) 836-3245*

**School of Human Sciences & Services**

*Carol L. Klun, Assoc. Dean & College Outreach Admin.*

*HSS 156, (715) 836-5038; Fax: (715) 836-4892*

**School of Nursing**

*Marjorie S. Bottoms, Assoc. Dean & Educational Admin.*

*NUR 101, (715) 836-5287; Fax: (715) 836-5971*

**Office of University Research**

*Christopher T. Lind, Assistant Dean for Research*

*HSS 161, (715) 836-3405; Fax (715) 836-4892*

Suzanne Matthew  
Executive Director  
Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center  
Wausau, WI 54401

Dr. Matthew,

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Office of University Research, it is my pleasure to provide this letter in support of the Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center. The University has received several grants over the past four years from your agency to develop programs that have been very beneficial to Wisconsin Native American children as well as establishing partnerships with local health care agencies in underserved communities.

We have, at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, a distinguished history of undergraduate education. Grants from the NAHEC has provided students the opportunities that will prepare them for graduate school, the workplace and other professional endeavors. As we view our mission to face the 21 Century, it becomes imperative that they not only acquire a solid content base but also acquire the necessary skills and proficiencies which permit them to continually adapt to changing conditions.

Furthermore, without support from extramural grants from agencies like NAHEC, students at the University would not have the practical experiences needed to complete a well rounded undergraduate education.

Sincerely,

Donald Zeutschel  
Research Coordinator  
Office of University Research