



State Senator
Rick Gudex

District 18

October 10, 2012

To: The Assembly Committee on Children and Families
From: Sen. Rick Gudex
Re: **Senate Bill 334**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for hearing this joint resolution today.

We all know that education beyond high school is important. Young people who finish high school and go on to higher education do better statistically in almost every way – economically, socially, and physically.

But we also know that the four-year college degree isn't for everyone. Not every high school graduate is ready for it, or knows what he or she wants to study. Even so, many young people are wasting both time and money starting out at a four-year university because that's what they're "supposed to do."

None of this is meant to disparage the value of our universities, or of a college degree. But we also know that there are other options, like technical education, which can be just as valuable. Senate Bill 334 will provide help to those students who excel in technical subjects, and will help make technical education more visible and hopefully more attractive to high school students.

Currently, the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) offers scholarships of up to \$2,250 a year for students at the top of their graduating classes. This bill creates a similar program for use at technical colleges.

Under the bill, school districts will create a system for determining which students are at the top of their classes in technical education subjects. Those students will be awarded scholarships of up to \$2,250/year for attendance at a Wisconsin school that specializes in technical education.

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and make progress toward a degree to remain eligible for the scholarship.

This is a bipartisan bill that will help Wisconsin's youth and economy. I urge your support.