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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Colleges and Universities...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (November 2012)

September 30, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53078

Dear Representative Kreibich,

On behalf of Waukesha County Technical College I strongly urge your support *in opposing AB 603*, a bill to eliminate appointed district boards and replace them with elected boards. Locally appointed boards are an integral part of the original legislation designed to ensure that the course of vocational education would be guided by lay people who are knowledgeable about the world of work. The boards are appointed by existing local governing bodies to maintain representation of management and labor and to ensure that board positions are filled with people genuinely interested in nurturing quality vocational and technical educational programs.

As non-political /non-partisan volunteers as well as selected by geography within each district, profession, background, gender and minority status, technical college boards are as representative as elected boards. Local boards are part of an effective shared state and local governance and are an important part of the technical colleges community input. Not only is board appointment a democratic process, but boards operate openly and publicly under the same laws as all local governments and board members follow the same ethics laws as elected officials.

Even more importantly, the technical college's return on investment and responsiveness is directly related to local board governance. Wisconsin technical colleges are a key economic engine and return more to the economy than any other publicly funded activity. Local volunteer board members are well-known nationally for commitment and leadership especially in quality improvement and in promoting partnerships and collaboration.



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In addition, a thorough legislative review by the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce (comprised of legislators and citizens from around the state) focusing on college governance, funding, mission, service and accountability to taxpayers was recently completed. The Taskforce's final recommendations included: "Maintain the current method of appointing members of the technical college district boards". Wisconsin's technical college board model is designed for excellence in local representation and college governance and I respectfully request you *oppose AB 603* and allow it to remain community-governed by non-political boards.

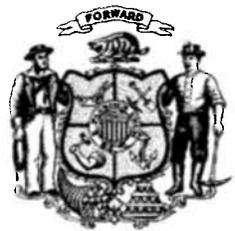
Sincerely,

Carol Brown

Carol Brown
President



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





22 North Carroll Street, Suite 103
Madison, WI 53703

608.266.9430
Fax 608.266.0122
www.districtboards.org

Paul Gabriel
Executive Director
pgabriel@districtboards.org

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Rep Rob Kriebick

FROM: Paul Gabriel
Executive Director

DATE: 9/30

PAGES: 2 (including cover page)

SUBJECT: Please accept the attached
correspondence sent to our office from
Bettye Hall, an NTC board member
from Spencer, WI.
Thank you.

Please advise the Association office if this transmission is not
readable or was received incomplete. Thank you.

9/30/2005

**REPRESENTATIVE ROB KREIBICH—CHAIR
ASSEMBLY COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES COMMITTEE
P.O.BOX 8952
MADISON, WI 53708**

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KREIBICH,

AS A MEMBER OF THE NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE APPOINTED VS ELECTED BOARDS IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. I HAVE SERVED IN THIS POSITION FOR 11 YEARS AS AN EMPLOYER MEMBER OF THE BOARD. WE ARE A DIVERSE BOARD SERVING WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND WILLINGLY ACCEPTING ONLY REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED.

THE PROCESS FOR AN APPOINTMENT IS SIMPLE; AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE ALONG WITH TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM BUSINESS/INDUSTRY PERSONS. THE COMMITTEE THEN REVIEWS THE APPLICATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS ULTIMATELY APPOINTING THE CANDIDATE WHO BEST FITS THE CRITERIA.. THE COMMITTEE IS COMPRISED OF COUNTY BOARD CHAIRS OF THE DISTRICT WHICH IS NINE COUNTIES IN OUR CASE. THE GROUP FOLLOWS A PLAN OF STATUTORILY REQUIRED REPRESENTATION. THE DISTRICT PLAN INCLUDES EMPLOYEES, EMPLOYERS, ELECTED OFFICIAL, AND A SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR. ALSO MUST INCLUDE FEMALE AND MINORITIES AS MEMBERS. OUR BOARD IS REPRESENTED BY A HMONG, THREE FEMALES AND 4 OTHER MALES FROM OUR EASTERN, WESTERN AND CENTRAL AREAS.

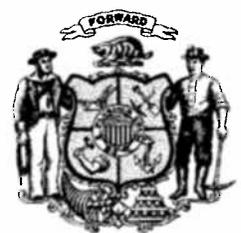
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I FEEL THE PROCCES IS TOTALLY FAIR AND BRINGS TO THE TABLE A DIVERSE BOARD WHICH IS QUALIFIED AND CAPABLE OF GOVERNING THE SYSTEM IN AN EQUITABLE MANNER. OUR DECISIONS ARE BASED ON SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT'S STAKEHOLDERS AND STUDENT TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN AN AFFORDABLE SYSTEM.

AS YOU KNOW, ELECTIONS CAN BE COSTLY AND CAN BE FAVORED BY FOLKS WHO HAVE A PERSONAL/POLITICAL AGENDA. WHY CONSIDER CHANGING A SYSTEM THAT WORKS WELL TO CREATE PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS FOR GUIDING THE EDUCATION/TRAING PROCESS? PLEASE FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TASKFORCE OF 2003 AND SAY NO TO THIS CHANGE.

*Best Regards,
Pete J. Bell
NTC Board of Trustees*



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



30 September 2005

Dear Representative Kreibich and Members of the Assembly Colleges & Universities Committee Members,

I am writing you today to express my heartfelt belief regarding the composition of how college boards are created. I am a past appointed board of trustee. I sadly resigned my position on the board, after nine years of service, when I relocated out of the state of Wisconsin. I currently reside in the Washington DC area, the heart of politics and multitude election issues.

As an alumnus of MSTC, I had a desire to give something back to the college which allowed me the opportunity to receive a quality education. This provided the solid foundation necessary for me to further my education of which I continue to do to this day. The importance of what Wisconsin Community Colleges has to offer as well as the quality is still highly significant to me. Being an appointed trustee allowed me the opportunity to be a part of the governance of the college which is an imperative part to providing quality education.

Community colleges are unique in Wisconsin and I would hope this continues in this manner. Wisconsin education is highly valued throughout the country and in order to continue the quality that it is, my strong belief of appointed boards makes it what it is today. The motives and mind set of being appointed verses elected to a board are very different. As a Wisconsin Trustee, I was involved in the national community college board. This experience clearly proved to me the major differences between elected and appointed boards through out the country. I was always well aware of who and what I represented but I felt my knowledge and experience as a local citizen and alumnus was truly my basis for becoming involved. I would not have been interested in being a trustee had I needed to be elected. What drove my desire to serve was my passion and belief of what I had to offer as an appointed trustee. My decisions and contributions where sincerely heartfelt and not driven by politics and policies were supported for the good of the cause entirely with the knowledge and expertise I had to offer.

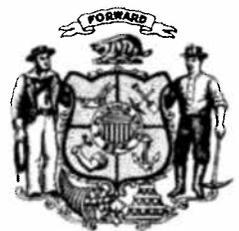
I would be pleased to share further information to you regarding my belief, knowledge and experience as a former trustee. I am currently in the position to clearly see the big picture of the process as well as impacts it can and does make regarding how Wisconsin Community Colleges are governed. Appointed Wisconsin Community College Boards are an integral part of the quality education it has to offer.

Best Regards

Sandra A. Haasl, Former MSTC Board Trustee
202-258-4713 (cell)
sahaasl@us.med.navy.mil



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Carol Holmes
W4988 Airport Road
New Glarus, WI 53574
October 3, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Honorable Representative Kreibich:

I am writing to express my opposition to AB 603, the current bill intended to replace appointed Technical College boards with elected boards. As one who worked at Madison Area Technical College for twenty-five years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with many boards over the years, and I have watched this issue arise on numerous other occasions.

My career at MATC began as an instructor and as a member of the local AFT union. While in attendance at a national educational program I had the opportunity to mix with colleagues from around the country. Most of them were in disbelief that our faculty unions in the state had not fought hard for elected boards. The general view was that the average person poorly understands technical/community college boards. Therefore, at the time of elections, special interest groups (college faculty in particular) gained great leverage as they invested in the campaigns of candidates and had them with an ongoing loyalty to the faculty. Those faculty members saw the Wisconsin model as unfriendly to faculty unions as it lacked the political clout that goes with an elected system.

That was my introduction to the pros and cons of an elected system versus the current appointment system. Though I strongly believe that there are improvements that could be made in the current system, replacing it with a system whereby people are elected would be irresponsible in my opinion. The current system provides representation from a variety of key stakeholder groups, it is inexpensive in that board members serve in a volunteer capacity, it has a track record of overseeing a system with some of the best return per tax dollar spent of any system of government, and it has the usual safeguards for public meetings and public disclosure that apply to other governmental bodies in the state. The fact that this issue has arisen on numerous occasions in the past, has

been studied by prior Assembly Task Forces, and has remained in tact, speaks for itself.

I have recently read Thomas Friedman's book The World is Flat. I believe that this book should be required reading for all public officials today as we look at the role of the United States in the world marketplace. If ever there was a time for emphasis on quality improvement and evolution, it is now. How we care for our educational institutions and what we demand of them is critical to our future. This is a time for evolution not revolution if the needed transformations are going to take place throughout higher education. I view the loss of 144 experienced board members as a kind of disruption that would be intolerable in these critical times. These people have collectively built a knowledge base that would be hard to replace. They have to be helped to focus on the issues needing addressed so that we have adequate numbers of citizens adequately prepared to compete in today's global workforce. This is not a time for distraction about things like the appointment/election process.

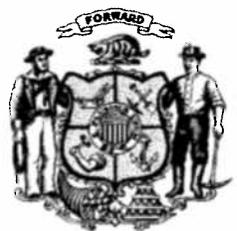
Politicizing this system, in my opinion, would be a huge step backward. Though I am unable to be present to testify at the hearing, I would welcome the opportunity to provide further feedback related to the bill. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Carol Holmes



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Paul Gabriel

From: Hank Hurley [hhurley@witc.edu]
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2005 8:02 AM
To: rep.lamb@legis.state.wi.us
Cc: pgabriel@districtboards.org; Hymans, Daniel
Subject: AB 603

also sent to Rep. Boyle

Dear Rep. Lamb,
Hope you are doing well and enjoying this beautiful Fall weather.

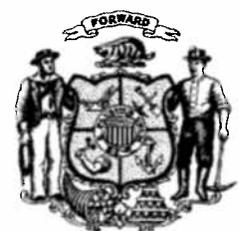
Regarding *AB 603 (Change from Appointed to Elected WTCS Boards)*, I truly believe the current process of appointed Boards is very effective. I have visited all eleven County Boards in my district and I know they are highly supportive of the college. At last year's Board appointment Hearing, all eleven were represented. I have gotten a few questions on this issue and once I explain to our constituents that our Board members are appointed by elected County Board Chairs, the issue evaporates. So, I think it is primarily a matter of education and communication. I would certainly appreciate your support in keeping our very effective system intact.

Best wishes,
Hank

Hank Hurley, President
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
505 Pine Ridge Drive
Shell Lake WI 54871
Tel: (715) 468-2815, ext. 2218
Toll Free: 1-800-243-WITC (9482)
Fax: (715) 468-2599
hhurley@witc.edu



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Mr. Vernon Jung, Jr.
2479 State Highway 28
Kewaskum, WI 53040

September 30, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich,

I am a Moraine Park Technical College graduate now proudly serving on the Moraine Park District Board. I was appointed to the board in 1995, shortly after founding my own Tool and Design Company. Quad Tool and Design employed over 60 employees with locations in Kewaskum, Wisconsin and Fayetteville, North Carolina. I am very proud of the many skilled workers that made it possible for our company to win four International Diecast Awards. Almost 100% of my Wisconsin employees received their training from our Technical Colleges. I sold the company about two years ago and I now work in the sales and project engineering area for another manufacturing firm, Pattern Technologies of Hartland. Almost 100% of Pattern Technologies employees received their training from our Technical Colleges.

Moraine Park Technical College and all of the WTCS colleges are what they are to manufacturers because of longstanding practices that connect our programs and resources to exactly what businesses and industry need. We do that while carefully utilizing public resources entrusted to us, and while prioritizing among the most pressing needs for our districts.

As a business leader, I see technical colleges operate more like private enterprises than any other type of public entity. They do this by constantly reallocating resources, improving processes, listening very closely to their customers (taxpayers, as well as students and the business community), and delivering a quality product that is constantly being improved, measured, updated, tested, and redesigned.

We keep up with the technology so that our graduates are ready to operate the sophisticated machinery and tools the workplace uses, not yesterday's machines and processes. We guarantee our product - well-trained students - and rarely or never have a company send someone back for retraining. Instead, they send them back as their own technology and processes change.

Wisconsin Technical Colleges have won more Wisconsin Forward Awards (the state-level Malcolm Baldrige award) than any other private industry or public entity. I believe that one important reason for this is that our board members are largely from business and industry – both management and workers – rather than being politicians.

Eliminate our boards and elect board members as proposed by AB 603 and technical colleges will inevitably become less connected to manufacturing, to health care, to food processing industries, to paper manufacturing and printing, to information technology and computer industries, and to emerging biotech industries. You can make these boards be elected, but no elected board will match what we have now.

I don't like to assess a tax levy to train Wisconsinites and to provide workers for my district's plants, shops and hospitals. I would prefer to have a great technical college system that was better supported by its state. The Legislature does not need to change its technical college boards. The Legislature does need to help us reduce property taxes by making economic development and technical training the top state-level priority it should be for a healthy economic future and excellent quality of life.

Respectfully,

Vernon Jung, Jr.

cc: Representative Joan Ballweg



David Logghe
403 Misty Lane
Glenwood City, WI 54013

September 30, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich,

I am honored to serve as President of the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association representing the 144 district board members governing our technical college districts. I am writing in that capacity and as a member of the Wisconsin Indianhead District Board, on which I've served since 1997. I am an employer member on the WITC Board and am also President of our family businesses, Logghe Trucking and Misty Meadows Wood Products in Glenwood City. Prior to that time, I dairy farmed in the area for more than 30 years.

If you were to seek out the opinion of other technical or community college board members and presidents nationwide, I know you would hear that Wisconsin board members are among the most dedicated, the best trained, the most well-informed, and the most active. I am enormously proud of the work my colleagues do in very different college districts facing different needs and circumstances; from my own board serving eleven Northwestern counties, to those serving on boards in Janesville, Green Bay or Eau Claire.

We are business executives and managers, from family businesses like mine to Wisconsin's largest manufacturers. We are dedicated tradesmen and women, nurses, contractors, engineers, school district administrators, and public officials ranging from town and county board members, to a mayor and a county sheriff. We are balanced geographically and by gender and race/ethnicity in ways that matches our workforce in each district. We are non-political and proud of that. We are volunteers spending an enormous amount of time making Wisconsin Technical Colleges the premier system in the nation.

All of this is by design. That design is almost a century in the making and continues to serve the state very well. AB 603 casts that design aside. Do not assume that changing the entire governance process of technical colleges will not affect the quality results and responsiveness that the Legislature and the entire state respect so highly in their technical colleges.

We are not just appointed. We meet very specific criteria under plans of representation and Wisconsin statutes. Following public legal notice, we must make a written application to apply for appointment or reappointment. Our names and application status must then be published in newspapers across the district and two public hearings are held; one to approve the plan of representation and one to interview and appoint board members. No person can be appointed unless he or she appears at the public hearing and is extensively interviewed by the appointing body comprised of the county board chairs or school board presidents of every area county/school district.

After appointment, the WTCS Board reviews and approves the process and appointments as meeting the plan and statutes. We then file the same Ethics Board forms and follow the same rules of conduct as other public officials. We invite the public to be at every meeting we hold and seek as much input as possible. We not only do this through open meetings and hearings, but by going out to meet with county boards, with school boards, with citizen groups, and with business leaders, chamber boards, and economic development groups, to name a few.

If the increasing reliance on property tax levies to train a highly skilled workforce is the real issue, the Legislature should consider ways to stop the erosion of state support for our system and restore the state partnership and investment in what we do. Given the choice of changing our revenue sources or governance, you could do the former and preserve everything great about Wisconsin Technical Colleges. Or, you could do the latter and threaten most or all of what Wisconsin very rightly values in our colleges. Once that is lost, you still will not have done anything to fix a system that has moved steadily toward local funding of the colleges as state and federal funding erodes away.

I talk with board members from across the country. They are pretty quick to say that they wish their boards and colleges were more like ours: focused on job training to meet citizen and employer needs. They often lament being so highly political and focused on election and reelection. About the only thing they find surprising is that we are not compensated and that we spend so much time dedicated to the cause. This may not sound very modest, but it is truthful.

Thanks you for considering how our boards and governance model are at the heart of what our colleges deliver. Please oppose AB 603.

Sincerely,

David Logghe

cc: Representative Andy Lamb



OFFICE OF CLERK-TREASURER
CITY OF WAUKESHA

CITY HALL - 201 DELAFIELD ST.
WAUKESHA, WI. 53188-3692
CLERK - 262-524-3550
TREASURER - 262-524-3850
FAX - 262-524-3888



THOMAS E. NEILL
CLERK-TREASURER

September 30, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibeck
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison WI 53078

Dear Representative Kreibich,

I am writing in opposition to AB603. I have served in the elected official capacity of the Waukesha County Technical College Board for the last 15 years, and I can attest to the high quality of the trustees who volunteer on the boards of the state's 16 technical colleges.

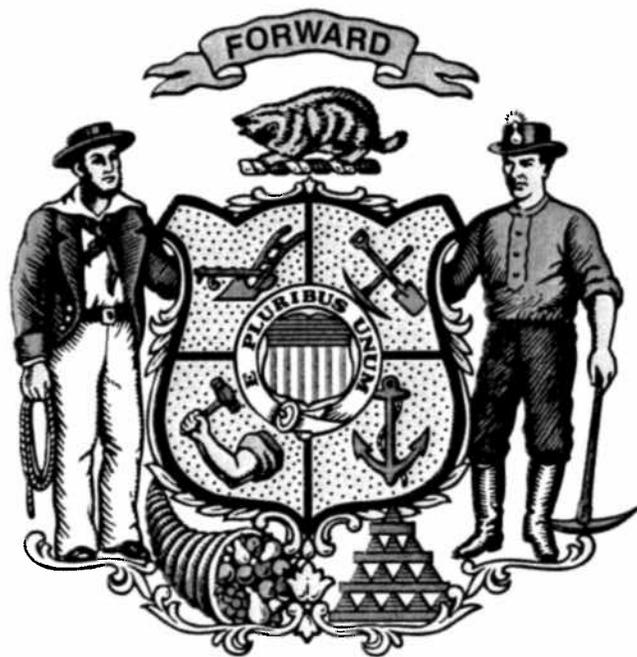
The representation plan that is currently in place enables each district board to embody a cross section of the communities they represent. It ensures that there will be a viewpoint from business, labor, K-12, an elected official as well as fair distribution of gender and minority status. These varied viewpoints are one of our greatest strengths and allows us to look objectively at the issues and needs of our communities. By replacing appointed boards with elected boards, it is unlikely the boards would retain such diversity. For example, it would be very difficult to recruit employers to run for these positions.

Board of trustee members serve for many hours in unpaid positions, and we are prudent stewards of the tax dollars we levy. We perform these duties without any "political agendas," but with the community's best interests in mind.

The current plan of representation was first created in 1911, and it has served very well for the last 94 years. In dealing with other colleges as a member of the American Association of Community Colleges, I would certainly rank our system as one of the best in the nation. Let us continue building on that tradition by being able to rapidly adapt to the changes and needs of our communities.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Neill
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Waukesha



September 30, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich:

As an "Employee Representative" Board Member of the Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC) District Board, I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to bill AB 603. This bill would eliminate the current technical school system governance of appointed District Boards.

I am having a hard time understanding the logic behind this bill. In 2003 a Taskforce studied this issue in detail, and they recommended not changing the system. I also have not seen any concrete evidence as to how the technical system would be improved by this change. The current governance system has worked well, and I am confident it will continue to do so long into the future. Currently, mandated criteria is in place to ensure there is a diverse Board, that the Board members are selected through a public board appointment process and the Board members follow the same ethic and open meeting laws as elected officials.

Transitioning to an elected Board opens the door for problems that do not currently exist. Current Board members are volunteering their time because they believe in education, not to pursue future political office or personal agendas. In addition, there are budget costs to running an annual election and stipends paid to elected officials. I would much rather see these dollars being used to educate our future work force.

On behalf of WWTC, a consultant conducted a recent "image survey". The survey results indicated exceptionally high approval from the region's seniors (which tend to be more critical of their tax payer dollars) and there was not any concern expressed about the District Board. I feel this speaks volumes that the current system is doing the job it was delegated to do.

Thank you for taking the time to review my letter. Please share a copy of my letter with all committee members.

Sincerely,



Joanne Sandvick
Western Wisconsin Technical College
District Board Member

cc: Lee Rasch, President of WWTC
Paul Gabriel, Executive Director of WTC District Boards Association
Jen Shilling, 95th Assembly Representative



2305 N 36th Place
Sheboygan WI 53083
rharker@charter.net
ruth.harker@gotoltc.edu
October 3, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson of Assembly Colleges & Universities Committee
(please share this with the committee)

Re: Testimony against AB 603, a bill to eliminate Wisconsin Technical College System District Boards and replace them with elected boards.

Dear Representative Kreibich:

If all current district boards would be eliminated and 144 board members would be unseated, for Lakeshore Technical College, this would mean loss of continuity, shared vision and mission, and connections with the community. Collective experience and wisdom of veteran board members, as well as expertise in the work world and leadership in their respective fields, would be gone. LTC's mission, to enrich lives and strengthen the economy by preparing a work force that is skilled, diverse, and flexible, may take a back seat to political jockeying and hidden agendas. To best meet the needs of the future with innovation and excellence, it takes leadership from a non-political board, made up of volunteers, an appointed board that is knowledgeable, experienced, and dedicated.

Elimination of all categories of board service, e.g. employer/employee, local elected official, school administrator, the balance of male and female, would be a mistake. At LTC, the board celebrates strength in the diversity of the board representation, equally represented by management and labor. Members mirror many trades and professions that represent LTC's programs. Often the local official and school administrator positions on LTC's board have helped the college understand and take the lead in inter-governmental cooperation and effectiveness. Statutory plans of representation are reviewed and approved at the state level to ensure broad representation by gender and racial/ethnic background.

By creating nine sub-district areas within each college district, a "non-partisan" board member elected by popular election from each area to serve a four-year term, representation would be by geographical area. LTC's district certainly is divided between cities, villages, towns and rural areas. However, more important distinctions would be among business, small business, and industry needs, apprenticeships, agriculture, and diverse needs of many categories of students. Wisconsin Technical Colleges have worked extremely hard to create partnerships, alliances within the communities, and shared programs, courses and services with other districts. These differences cross geographical boundaries, ignoring artificial lines drawn on a map, to benefit multiple communities, customers, and students. In an election, "non-partisan" may not apply, when campaign

contributions can't help but play a role in setting individual agendas. Also, in some elections with low voter turnout, persons may be elected that are neither qualified nor really interested.

In my opinion, Wisconsin benefits from the best technical college system in the United States. Other states study and adopt the Wisconsin model. The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), is made up of 16 locally-governed districts, under the guidance of the WTCS Board, providing state-level strategic direction, accountability, coordination, and leadership. This allows WTCS to be responsive, yet meet state-wide and cross-district needs and priorities. Besides the state and district boards, every program has a community-based advisory committee that reviews and makes recommendations to the district board. I participated on LTC's Materials Management Advisory Board for eight years prior to my being appointed to the District Board.

The current detailed appointment process for Technical College boards includes public notice, public hearing with public access to written candidate background materials, and interviews with opportunity for public input. The Lakeshore District encompasses parts of five counties, so five county board chairs review candidate applications. Thorough interviews are conducted and trustees are selected to balance board categories.

It has been proposed that with elected boards, initial board terms would be staggered so that two or three seats would be on the ballot each spring. At Lakeshore Technical College, terms are staggered, and although there is no term limit, there is a real mix of new members and experienced members. It takes at least a year for a new board member to be a contributing member, understanding needs of community, students, and business and industry. In times of economic downturn and layoffs, technical colleges step up quickly to provide quality and accessible learning. In recent years, Manitowoc and Sheboygan County businesses laid off hundreds of people. LTC revised priorities to meet needs of displaced workers for assessment and training. Also, changing technology requires flexibility and timely response. LTC regularly reviews, starts, changes, or stops classes and programs. LTC needs continuity on the board to best serve and respond to the changing marketplace.

Campaign finance and election rules would follow State Assembly procedures. LTC's board is already bound by state laws and rules, ethics and disclosure practices. The board follows Wisconsin open meeting and records rules. There is ample opportunity for public comment and input. In linking with the community, public input is requested on budgeting, programming and priorities. The trustees on the board at LTC are not politicians with personal agendas; they do however, share a passion for education, are advocates for students needs for technical training and lifelong learning. They are committed to developing a competitive workforce.

I am a volunteer; an appointed board member. I am not a politician. I have been on the board at Lakeshore Technical College for 16 years. Policy governance demands LTC's board look to the future, create the vision and mission and be liason to customers and community, facilitating listening My responsibilities lay with the community, the taxpayers, the needs of business and industry and our students.

In 2003, the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce to Review the WTCS recommended that the current board model be preserved. Technical colleges are responsive, flexible, and accessible to students and business and industry and should not be separated from the board governance model in place and working well since 1911.

Everything needed for a balanced, effective, efficient technical college system, from the state to local districts, is in place and working well, providing great technical training for students and economic development for communities of Wisconsin. Please do not dismantle a system that works so well.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Harker



Hub, Brad

From: Arnie Rongstad [asrongstad@netzero.net]
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 10:39 PM
To: Rep.Ballweg; Rep.Black; Rep.Boyle; Rep.Jeskewitz; Rep.Kreibich; Rep.Lamb; Rep.Molepske; Rep.Nass; Rep.Schneider; Rep.Shilling; Rep.Towns; Rep.Underheim
Cc: Rep.Musser
Subject: AB-603 Hearing
Attachments: CA-Rev.pdf

Chairperson Kreibich, Vice-Chairperson Ballweg and members of the Committee on Colleges and Universities,

I would have liked to have been in Madison on Tuesday to testify before your committee in support of AB-603, but I have ended up with the stomach flu so won't be traveling.

I am presenting my comments from the perspective of a retired Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of the Chippewa Valley Technical College. I had the opportunity to work closely with District Board members for close to 25 years, and during that time I never had the sense that the appointed board members came with the same kinds of concerns as those of the elected boards. During those years I served as the elected president of the Village of Fall Creek, and as a member of the Fall Creek School Board, and there was definitely a more concerned attitude from the elected board members.

Based on a 2003-2004 revenue summary provided by the Wisconsin Technical College System, a copy is attached, you can see that in total the 16 technical colleges levied property taxes in the amount of nearly \$450 million for their operational budget. CVTC levied nearly \$21 million. That is a lot of money levied by a group of people who are not elected. I would contend that is taxation without representation, and AB-603 would correct that flaw in the system.

The other point I would make based on my experience is that the appointed board members do not think of themselves as having a constituency to whom they are responsible. They feel no obligation to respond to public concerns, because they know they don't have to face the public in an election. The most recent example I can give is when the board president of CVTC choose not to answer my inquiry about what action the CVTC board had taken on AB-595 that your Committee has had a hearing. I have told board members that they have more loyalty to the College President than they do to the citizens of the district. AB-603 would change that attitude.

Hopefully you will consider these points when AB-603 is evaluated.

Arnie Rongstad, Retired CVTC Vice-President of Administrative Services
E19595 Dolotta Road
Augusta, WI 54722
715.286.4155

10/04/2005



Jean Trempe

315 Broadway Avenue
Wausau, WI 54403
715-845-4611

October 3, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich-Chairperson
Assembly Colleges & University Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Subject: Opposition to Bill AB 603

Dear Representative Kreibich:

I write to you today as a Technical College Graduate, a property owner and taxpayer as well a member of a Technical College Board of Trustees. Please share this letter with the rest of your committee members.

I share with you the elements of today's Board of Trustee structure that makes Wisconsin Technical Colleges the envy of our counterparts across the nation.

- **Board Member Geographic Diversity**
The current process ensures that the entire district, including smaller, more rural communities are represented. Major metropolitan areas or counties could dominate voting and be over-represented at the expense of those smaller, rural communities. In Northcentral's district, Marathon County and the greater Wausau area has the greatest population base of the 10 counties we represent. Today's plan of representation guards against having all the board members coming from this area. Smaller communities are in danger of losing their voice if this bill should pass.
- **Board Member Professional Diversity**
As you are aware, Wisconsin's Technical Colleges are important to Wisconsin's economic viability. We are in the business of workforce development. The current appointment process includes a statutory dictate for the make-up of our boards. Representatives include employer members, employee members, an elected local official, and a school district administrator. Our boards consist of some of the best minds in the Wisconsin Business environment. Our board membership includes representatives from the leaders in the healthcare field, leaders in manufacturing, union members, members of county boards, county clerks, professionals in human resources, financial experts, K12 district administrators. How will the quality of these boards be ensured without this kind of representation? How better to serve our communities than by working with the businesses and industries that are driving our economy and the livelihood of you constituents? What better way is there to ensure collaboration with K12 districts than by seating someone intimately familiar with the K12 districts and the opportunities available? This cornerstone of success for the colleges will be lost under this bill.
- **Board Member Gender and Ethnic Diversity**
Local plans of representation take diversity a step further and ensure a mix of gender and racial/ethnic backgrounds. These plans of representation are statutorily required plans that are reviewed and approved at the State level. Specific appointments are reviewed to assure appointments are consistent with local plans. What kinds of checks and balances will be in place if these boards are elected? This balance will be lost.

- **Board Make-up Keeps Politics and Special Interests Out**
Our boards are made up of community volunteers. These non-paid positions are community based. Our advocacy lies with improving the quality of life for our stakeholders and communities at a reasonable cost to taxpayers. The current board appointment model is designed to assure that board members are not representing individual political agendas or agendas of those who fund political races or campaigns. In my view, you will lose a number of excellent business leaders, financial experts and alike if they are forced to become professional politicians. I personally would see no reason to run for a board position, if political agendas verse the good of the community and students we serve enters into the picture. Frankly, I would not want the job if it will cost me to volunteer.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of college trustees from across the county. You need to research some of the recent examples of how well elected college boards are functioning. California would be an interesting case study for you. In that state, these boards are used to raise political agendas and personal interests. Often times these roles are used as a stepping-stone to the next political position, leaving board turn over at staggering rates. These schools are left in continuous turmoil with little consistent direction from their boards. I had the opportunity to discuss this with a frustrated California College Board member who inquired about our successful appointment processes. By the way, Presidents of California community colleges are leaving their positions in record numbers. Wisconsin has a long history of excellence in our Technical College System. We are recognized nationwide as a leader. Why are you willing to take a gamble with such a successful key to Wisconsin's workforce development needs?

- **Assembly Speaker's Task Force Recommendations**
I am not sure how many taxpayer dollars were involved with this yearlong study, but it seems as if it was wasted. This task force was comprised of legislators and citizens from around the state. A thorough study of the Wisconsin Technical College System included college governance, funding, mission, service and accountability to taxpayers. This task force's final recommendations included: "Maintain the current method of appointing members of the technical college district board." Why is this bill being brought forth despite this recommendation after a thorough review was conducted at taxpayer expense?
- **Appointed Board Accountable to Taxpayers**
On this topic, I can only speak to my experience with NTC's Board, however I am confident that other trustees currently serving on Wisconsin Technical College Board would convey the same information. I have served on our local board for over 9 years. I am one of the longest serving members. I am honored by the trust the County Board Chairs that make up our appointment committee have placed in me. I do not have a personal relationship with any of them. I did not come into the role with any personal or political agenda. I have continued to serve based on the merits of my professional background and the quality of the work I do on the board. I am a former student as is my husband. I have a vested interest in serving my community.

As a board, we have been very contentious related to the school's financial matters. As you know, the Technical Colleges have operated under a 1.50 operational mill rate for a number of years. Northcentral Technical College has run far under this cap for a number of years as most of the colleges have. With leaders in business and industry and financial people on our boards, we understand the need to manage our funds and balance budgets. Each year as we review our budget, we make difficult decisions to cut costs, programs and staff to balance our budgets. We have held our college leadership to improving effectiveness in all operational matters. As a result they have been creative, forming consortias to control everything from insurance costs to computer maintenance cost to utility costs. They have looked to business and industry to form collaborate efforts yielding agreements for low or no cost state of the art equipment for our students. Our agreement with Phillips Medical Equipment is one of many examples. Most of our schools enjoy very favorable bond ratings with Moody's allowing us to

gain an advantage in the cost of borrowing funds due to our very prudent fiscal practices. This saves taxpayers money. These are just a few examples of the impact our appointed boards have on cost containment. At the risk of sounding critical, elected officials could learn a few things from these appointed boards when it comes to balancing budgets and keeping tax increases at a minimum.

I will close by providing you with some statistics. The heart of community and technical colleges nationally is that non-political boards locally govern them. Nineteen of the thirty-six states (53%) appoint all board members. Another four states appoint a portion of their board members. Only thirteen states elect all board members and three of these are state-level only boards. States with elected boards tend to organize college districts by counties or municipalities and not by geographic regional districts across multiple communities and counties. Having been involved with the Technical Colleges both as a student and as a board member, elected board will not enhance the effectiveness of these institutions, it will deter from it.

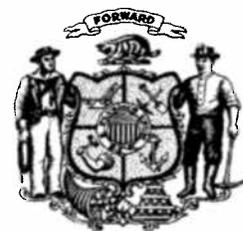
Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Jean Trempe
Northcentral Technical College Board Member
315 Broadway Avenue
Wausau, WI 54403



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



ALVERNO COLLEGE
BELOIT COLLEGE
CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY
CARROLL COLLEGE
CARTHAGE COLLEGE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE
LAKE LAND COLLEGE
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
MARIAN COLLEGE

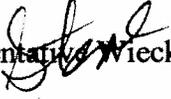


WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
MOUNT MARY COLLEGE
NORTHLAND COLLEGE
RIPON COLLEGE
ST. NORBERT COLLEGE
SILVER LAKE COLLEGE
VITERBO UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

October 3, 2005

The Honorable Steve Wieckert
Wisconsin State Assembly
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative  Wieckert:

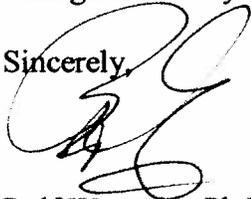
The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) enthusiastically supports 2005 Assembly Bill 641. This bill creates a state tax income credit for interest earned on bonds and notes issued by the Wisconsin Health & Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) for educational facilities at Wisconsin private, nonprofit colleges and universities. Establishing a state tax credit for WHEFA bonds will make them more marketable for Wisconsin residents. This will reduce WAICU members' cost of borrowing and make it easier to develop the kind of start-of-the-art facilities needed to offer the high-quality educational experience we provide to over 56,000 students in Wisconsin.

Cost reduction translates directly into expanded educational opportunity for students. One of our college presidents has estimated that reduced borrowing costs would enable his college to provide \$234,000 in additional financial aid to 45 students. Last year, WAICU members raised and distributed \$216 million in privately funded student aid, an increase of \$16 million from the year before. Therefore, this bill is directly tied to helping more Wisconsin students attending college. The bill also authorizes my association to use WHEFA financing for collaborative projects among Wisconsin's 20 private colleges and universities. WAICU members have been recognized by the *New York Times* as leading the nation in collaborative efforts to control college costs. There is a precedent for this type of collaboration in the current WHEFA statutes that allows consortia of nonprofit health care organizations to use WHEFA financing. There is no similar provision for higher education. Joint projects avoid duplication, and, because facilities are shared, the cost for each participant will be less.

This bill provides an important tool for WAICU members to use in reducing costs and expanding educational opportunity for Wisconsin students. I applaud your foresight in developing this legislation and I encourage all members to support it.

I am grateful for your willingness to sponsor this bill.

Sincerely,


Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President

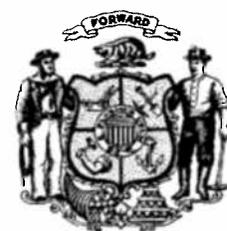
122 W. Washington Avenue, Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703-2718
www.waicuweb.org

ROLF WEGENKE, Ph.D.
President

Telephone 608.256.7761
FAX 608.256.7065
mail@waicuweb.org



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



1408 24 ½ Street
Cameron, WI 54822
October 3, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich, Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich:

As a Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) Board Member, I oppose AB 603. First, the current appointment process produces highly qualified and motivated board members. Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) board members are professionals from diverse backgrounds who see the importance of their technical colleges in meeting local needs for technical training. Technical college board members are busy people not likely to participate in technical college boards if forced to undergo the time and expense of campaigning.

My personal story is a good example. I grew up in Cameron, Wisconsin, a small town in Barron County. I earned an engineering degree from Harvard University, and returned to Wisconsin. I balance work as a consulting civil engineer with being a mother to a one-year-old, advising my husband in his operation of a well drilling business, and pursuing a law degree. I value education immensely. Even though my spare time is scarce, every minute I devote to WITC is well spent.

Second, the current system produces board members committed to balancing constituent needs and college mission. While my professional endeavors depend on having well trained technical staff, I am also a taxpayer. As a WITC board member, I am visible and accountable in my community.

Finally, the existing system builds collegial boards devoted to the best interests of their technical college district. WITC, geographically the largest technical college district in the state, has a board of trustees known across the state for our ability to function and speak with a consistent voice. While each of our board members represents a specific area of the district, the same committee of county board chairpersons appoints us all. While each of our board members knows her hometown best, we are all accountable to the entire district. We do not have board members answering to local special interests.

Please recognize the importance of maintaining a form of governance which will continue to provide quality assurance and oversight to the WTCS, an educational system serving as a catalyst for economic development throughout Wisconsin.

Respectfully,
Susan Wojtkiewicz
Board Member
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College



Hub, Brad

From: Vickie Young [vickieyoung@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 11:12 AM
To: Rep.Kreibich
Cc: 'Paul Gabriel'; 'mickey scholz'; 'Chris Tanner'; thejinxer50@yahoo.com
Subject: Assembly Bill 603 technical college students

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Attachments: WSGR-07.pdf



WSGR-07.pdf
(45 KB)

Representative Kreibich,

At the October 1, 2005 regular meeting of Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) the technical college students unanimously adopted the attached resolution regarding Assembly Bill 603.

WSG represents and advocates for roughly 460,000 technical college students (one in nine Wisconsin adults) across the state.

Please share this attachment with the committee on Colleges and Universities members.

It states that Wisconsin Student Government does not support any legislation the purpose of which is to eliminate locally appointed district boards and replaces them with elected boards hence eliminating the proven and non-political governance model.

If cannot open the attachment or you need any other information from me please feel free to contact me by email or at 920.360.9881 by phone or at my address 18512 Rocky Ct, Denmark WI 54208.

Vickie Young
WSG Resource Director
www.wsgtec.com





October 3, 2005

The attached Resolution was approved by the WWTC Mauston Campus Advisory Committee at their meeting on Monday, October 3, 2005 in support of the retention of the District Board Appointment Process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Resolution

The Western Wisconsin Technical College District has demonstrated that the appointed board process has been an effective governance structure for both the WWTC District and the Wisconsin Technical College System, and

The current categories of representation required on District Boards (2 employers, 2 employees, 3 additional members, 1 school district administrator, and 1 elected official) ensure that all community segments are represented, and

WWTC regularly seeks input from District communities to assure they are meeting the needs of each community, now therefore be it resolved that

We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

WWTC Foundation

Company/Organization

Lynn Rudig

Signature

WWTC Foundation Executive Director

Title

10/3/05

Date

Resolution

The Western Wisconsin Technical College District has demonstrated that the appointed board process has been an effective governance structure for both the WWTC District and the Wisconsin Technical College System, and

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We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

WWTC - MAUSTON CAMPUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Company/Organization

Michael DeBhurke Jr - Chairman
Signature

Chairman.
Title

10/3/05
Date

- Michael DeBhurke - chairman

Resolution

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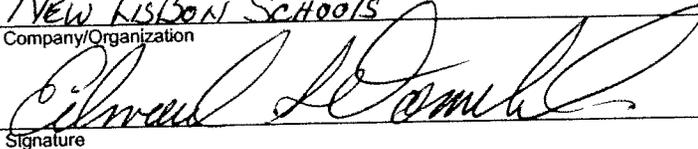
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WWTC regularly seeks input from District communities to assure they are meeting the needs of each community, now therefore be it resolved that

We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

NEW LISBON SCHOOLS

Company/Organization



Signature

SUPERINTENDENT

Title

10-3-05

Date

Resolution

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WWTC regularly seeks input from District communities to assure they are meeting the needs of each community, now therefore be it resolved that

We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

MAUSTON SCHOOLS / JCEDC BOARD

Company/Organization

W.A. Bomber

Signature

PRINCIPAL / BOARD MEMBER

Title

OCTOBER 3, 2005

Date

Resolution

The Western Wisconsin Technical College District has demonstrated that the appointed board process has been an effective governance structure for both the WWTC District and the Wisconsin Technical College System, and

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WWTC regularly seeks input from District communities to assure they are meeting the needs of each community, now therefore be it resolved that

We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

New Lisbon Wood Products, LLC
Company/Organization

Zina Burk
Signature

President
Title

10/3/05
Date

Resolution

The Western Wisconsin Technical College District has demonstrated that the appointed board process has been an effective governance structure for both the WWTC District and the Wisconsin Technical College System, and

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We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

White Bluff Medical Center
Company/Organization

[Signature]
Signature

Vice President
Title

10-4-05
Date

Resolution

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WWTC regularly seeks input from District communities to assure they are meeting the needs of each community, now therefore be it resolved that

We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Necedah Screw Machine Products *co*

Company/Organization

Michael E. Behl

Signature

U. P.

Title

10/3/05

Date

Resolution

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WWTC regularly seeks input from District communities to assure they are meeting the needs of each community, now therefore be it resolved that

We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

JUNEAU Co. Board Chairman
Company/Organization

James C. Barrett
Signature

Board Chairman + Co. Administrator
Title

10-3-05
Date

Resolution

The Western Wisconsin Technical College District has demonstrated that the appointed board process has been an effective governance structure for both the WWTC District and the Wisconsin Technical College System, and

The current categories of representation required on District Boards (2 employers, 2 employees, 3 additional members, 1 school district administrator, and 1 elected official) ensure that all community segments are represented, and

WWTC regularly seeks input from District communities to assure they are meeting the needs of each community, now therefore be it resolved that

We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Juneau Co. Board, Town of Germantown Chairman
Company/Organization

Robert L. Miller
Signature

Supervisor - - Town Chairman
Title

10/3/05
Date

Resolution

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We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Company/Organization

Signature

Lynn E Erickson

Title

Member WWTC - Mauston Advisory Committee

Date

10/3/05

Resolution

The Western Wisconsin Technical College District has demonstrated that the appointed board process has been an effective governance structure for both the WWTC District and the Wisconsin Technical College System, and

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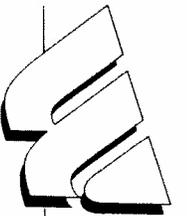
We endorse retaining the current board appointment process for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Juneau County Economic Development Corporation
Company/Organization

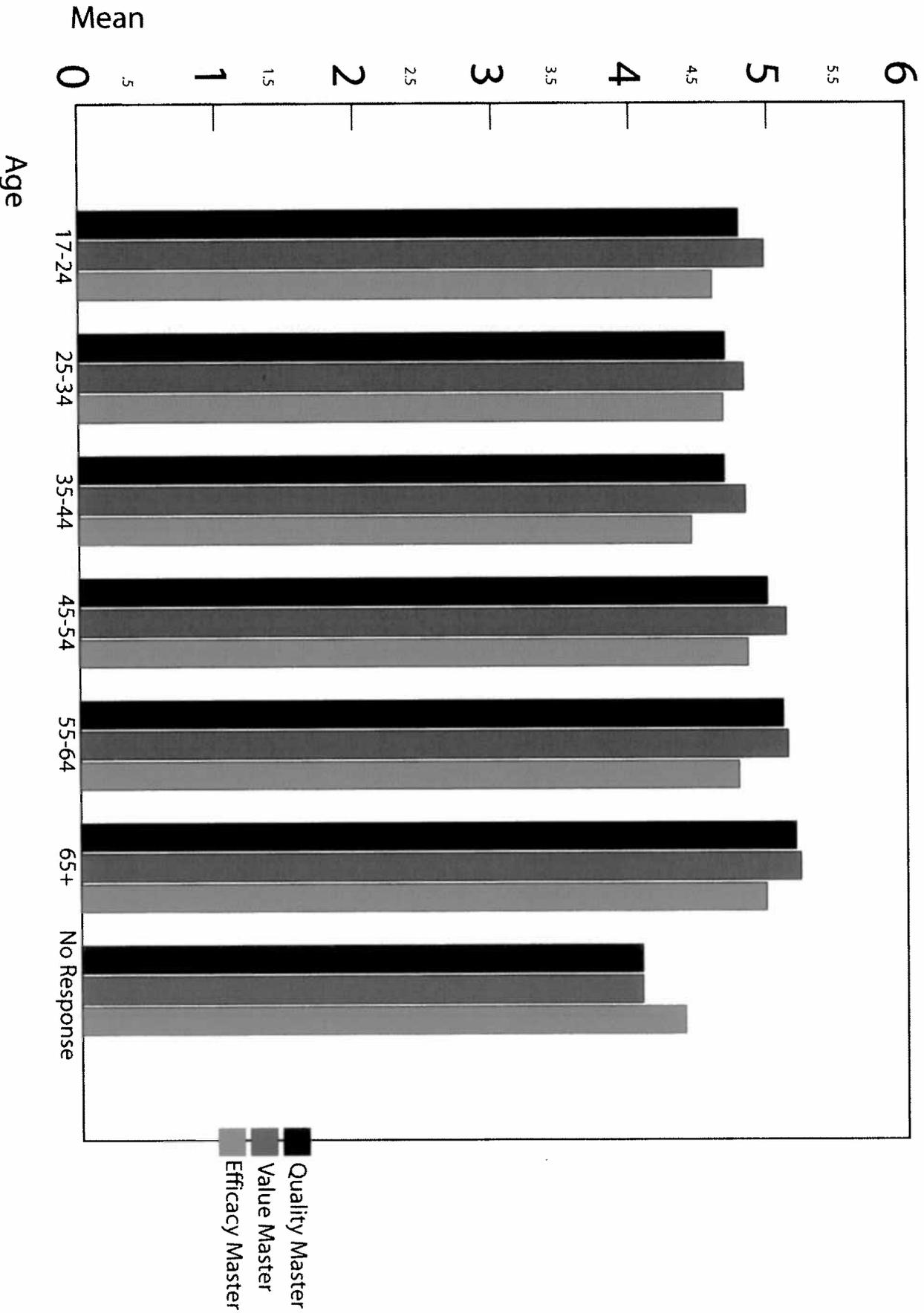
Shandra Moody
Signature

Administrative Assistant
Title

10-3-05
Date



WESTERN WISCONSIN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE





Hub, Brad

From: Michael Bark [mbark@witc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2005 9:43 AM
To: Rep.Kreibich
Subject: AB 603

Representative & Chairperson Kreibich and Committee Members,

This brief memo is a follow-up from talking with Mr. Brad Hub Legislative Assistant to Representative Kreibich this morning.

As President of the Local #22 Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education and Business Instructor for over 30+ years in the WTCS, I would like to request that you please review AB 603 very closely. Since 1911 the WTCS and form of governance has achieved a world-class reputation. If something has worked so well, for almost 100 years, is it really necessary to change the system?

I respectfully request that the Colleges and Universities Committee Members please continue your ongoing support for the Wisconsin Technical College System by showing your objection to **AB 603**.

10/04/2005