

☞ **05hr\_JC-Au\_Misc\_pt16d**



☞ Details: Proposed Audit: Personnel Policies and Practices, Wisconsin Technical College System

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2005-06

(session year)

### Joint

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on Audit...

## 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) (October 2012)

# Manufacturing Skills Certification:

## *A New Fast Track for Regional Innovation*

By Leo Feeney

Founder, National Council for  
Advanced Manufacturing, and  
Industry Manager, Manufacturing  
Skill Standards Council

A milestone in the history of American workforce and economic development will take place on November 15 of this year, when the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) launches a new certification system designed to prepare a generation of American workers to meet the challenges of globalization. The system will assess worker skills and knowledge based on industry-validated standards for all manufacturing sectors, leading workers to the nationally recognized certification of “Manufacturing Production Technician.”

For the economic development community, the advantages of certifying incumbent workers, dislocated workers and students are obvious. Regions impacted by technological change, trade disruptions, company relocations or declining economies will have the advantage of a flexible workforce prepared for rapid retraining and transfer to other industry sectors – including new types of manufacturing in fields such as bioengineering, nanotechnology and microelectronic mechanical systems.

On the front lines of global competition, manufacturers have increased productivity by stepping up their investments in advanced product and process technologies. As a result, manufacturing today requires a higher level of foundational skills. A workforce with broad-based skills will enable companies to shift more rapidly to new process technologies that transform the way products are made, such as smart systems, reconfigurable tools, modeling and simulation, advanced sensors and solid-free form fabrication. The fact that the MSSC skills are rooted in manufacturing makes certification an especially robust tool for accelerating this transition.

The MSSC certification system also will:

- Help regions gain a competitive edge against low-wage/high-skill countries such as China and India by accelerating innovation. America's principal advantage in the global economy;
- Secure investment from advanced manufacturers with high-wage, high-skills jobs and “new industries” that all economic developers are trying to attract;
- Leapfrog sluggish educational reform to prepare individuals for successful employment in advanced manufacturing firms in a matter of months, not years;
- Strengthen the math, science, and English skills so vital to workforce success by teaching them within a contextual, work-oriented framework; and

- Quickly create and document just the kind of workforce for which industry is clamoring.

In addition to increasing a region's productivity and competitiveness, MSSC Certification should enable significant cost savings for economic developers. The efficiency and economies of scale realized through this single system for essential skills can then be used for specialized efforts in economic fields unique to each region.

### **Focusing on foundational skills**

A unique feature of the MSSC system is that it is built upon standards for *foundational* skills and knowledge. It assesses and certifies individuals on their abilities in math, science, reading, listening, communicating, computer technology, analysis, problem solving, teamwork and basic technical skills, all in a manufacturing context.

The MSSC's focus on foundational skills represents a paradigm shift in workforce development. Building upon the centuries-old tradition of the craftsman or artisan, industrial workforce education and training typically has rested on the assumption that an individual would spend a lifetime in a single occupation, such as machinist, mechanic, electrician, welder, tool and dye maker, metalworker or electronics technician.

MSSC is changing that tradition by certifying individuals who are equipped with the foundational skills needed to fill a wide variety of occupations over a lifetime. Innovative and often disruptive technologies will alter or eliminate existing occupations and create new ones at an accelerating rate. By definition, the next-generation workforce must be agile and fully capable of adapting to change.

### **System elements**

Since its selection in 1998 as the “Voluntary Partnership” for

the manufacturing sector by the U.S. Department of Labor's National Skill Standards Board, the MSSC has been building the critical elements of its certification system. Those include:

- The creation of industry-led standards for all sectors of manufacturing, applicable to some 12 million production and production support workers (the only standards fully endorsed by the National Skill Standards Board);
- An on-line, state-of-the-art assessment piloted with 1,500 tests given in multiple regions of the nation;
- A system of industry-recognized credentials, including assessments in four areas – Manufacturing Processes and Production; Quality Assurance; Maintenance; and Health, Safety and Environmental Assurance – leading to full certification of “MSSC Production Technician;”
- A growing network of MSSC-authorized assessment centers; and
- A new textbook and instructor's guide published in collaboration with Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, which provides a curriculum framework based on MSSC standards.

The textbook is a guide to mastering foundational skills in all 14 manufacturing sub-industries, helping workers identify and fine-tune skills for entering, advancing and moving confidently throughout the manufacturing industry. It includes manufacturing case studies and career and employment advice from industry employers and experts. The textbook is specially geared for certification by including a full page of MSSC Certification Test Prep practice items at the end of each chapter.

MSSC is a comprehensive, integrated system, grounded in skill and knowledge needs defined and validated by 4,000 front-line workers, 700 companies, and over 300 subject matter experts. The importance of a systems approach was underlined by a July 2005 RAND report, “Education and the New Economy,” which welcomed the rise of industry-led skill standards, but called for a “coherent system” within industry sectors.

### **Benefits to companies**

The skills gap is a major barrier to innovation. A 2005 Deloitte Touche survey of 500 technology CEOs reported that the “main barrier to growth is finding, hiring and retraining qualified people to support technology companies' ambitious growth goals.” From the company perspective, the MSSC assessment and certification system will:

- Enhance the attractiveness and professionalism of manufacturing jobs, thereby aiding manufacturers in securing employee motivation and retention;
- Provide a diagnostic tool for manufacturers to assess the level of critical skills and knowledge in their present workforce;
- Increase ROI for training by targeting training to only the most critical job-related success factors (the “must know” and “must do”);
- Decrease recruitment costs by providing a certification credential manufacturers can use in the applicant

screening process;

- Assist manufacturers in selecting workers with higher levels of productivity, responsiveness and competitiveness; and
- Build a stronger national pipeline of motivated and qualified workers coming out of public, private and industry-based education and training providers.

At present, manufacturers are hard-pressed to realize benefits of this magnitude. For example, 80 percent of manufacturers still report a shortage of qualified workers and 78 percent cite failures in education and training systems as the cause. Only 17 percent of Americans graduate with science or technology majors, while the average among industrialized states is 27 percent (52 percent in China and 34 percent in Korea).

MSSC certification also articulates well with specialized national certifications in specific occupations and advanced industrial skill areas, such as certifications by the American Chemical Society, the Society of Plastics Industries, the National Institute of Metalworking Skills and the American Welding Society. Thus there is a smooth career pathway for individuals wishing to move from foundational skills into more specialized areas.

### **An example from the automotive sector**

A good example of the kind of system that MSSC is putting into place can be found in the automotive repair arena. In response to customer demands in the 1970s for more reliable service, the Big Three automakers supported the development of a national certification system. With their support, a nonprofit foundation developed the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification system. As a result, “ASE” logos are found in automotive repair facilities everywhere in the nation.

ASE has proven to be a winner for all stakeholders. Employers use this certification to facilitate recruitment and hiring decisions. Auto technicians use “ASE” certification as a way to document their skills and to secure a nationally recognized, portable credential. Consumers like us benefit, because we have a higher level of confidence that our automobiles will be properly serviced.

Today, over half of the nation's automotive technicians are ASE certified. By contrast, the level of certification in the manufacturing sector is very modest. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's “Occupational Outlook” series, fewer than 15 percent of the 110 occupations listed under “Production” have any form of skills recognition (i.e., certification, AA degree) beyond on-the-job training. A region that supports an MSSC certification system for its manufacturing workforce can use it as a key tool to attract manufacturers to the region.

### **Effectiveness requires partnership**

Effective use of the MSSC system will require economic developers to work closely with other key organizations in their states and regions. Foremost among these is the employer community. Economic developers can facilitate

dialogue between the MSSC and industry leaders and work with MSSC to establish industry advisory boards. Unless companies are willing to reward individuals for securing MSSC certification through hiring, training or promotion, there will be little incentive for the individual to seek certification.

Another critical partner is the technical high schools and community-technical colleges where much of the preparation for the MSSC assessment will take place. In the regional MSSC pilots, community colleges are playing a critical coordination and training role. These include San Bernardino Community College in Southern California, Milwaukee Area Technical College in Wisconsin, and Ivy Tech Community Colleges in Indiana. The federal- and state-supported Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEPs) also can be valuable partners in building an MSSC certification system, especially with small and medium-sized manufacturers with fewer than 500 employees.

Interest and investment in the MSSC certification system has been high. Organized by the National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) and the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, the MSSC has attracted about \$9 million in public and private investment. Since 1998, MSSC member organizations have included some 247 corporations and trade associations, 48 unions and professional societies, and 392 education and public interest organizations. In addition, the MSSC followed a meticulous process to ensure that its standards met all the criteria for due process and absence of racial or gender bias.

Most importantly, advanced manufacturers attracted by MSSC certification can serve as a powerful engine of economic development. The manufacturing sector has the unique attributes of being the leading investor nationwide in research and development, having the highest productivity growth rates, and paying some of the highest wages and benefits. Manufacturing also has the greatest multiplier effect. Each manufacturing job creates about twice as many jobs in service industries directly related to manufacturing, such as transportation, marketing, installation and repair, information technology and finance.

It is time for the economic development community to leverage this investment. While the MSSC is a national system, economic and workforce development professionals and local officials should integrate it into their regional innovation strategies to spur entrepreneurial activity and attract private sector investment that results from the creation of a high-skill workforce.

For more information on the MSSC, visit [www.msscusa.org](http://www.msscusa.org) or contact the author at [red-dyl@nacfam.org](mailto:red-dyl@nacfam.org). \* \* \*

## Skill Standards Overview

The MSSC skill standards have two major components. They are:

### Information About the Work

This component describes competent performance on the job. It includes:

- **Critical Work Functions:** The major responsibilities of work within a concentration.
  - **Key Activities:** The major duties or tasks to carry out a critical work function.
  - **Performance Indicators:** Ways to judge when someone performs each key activity competently.

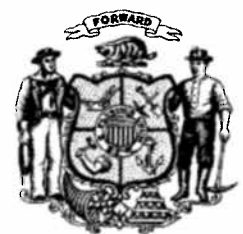
### Information About the Worker

This component describes what a worker needs to know and do to perform the work of each critical work function. It relates to the key activities and performance indicators. There are three types of knowledge and skills measured:

- **Academic Knowledge and Skills:** Skills such as science, reading, etc.
- **Employability Knowledge and Skills:** Broad skills such as working in teams, solving problems, etc.
- **Occupational and Technical Knowledge and Skills:** Skills specific to an industry or concentration. Examples include using inspection tools, or knowledge of manufacturing processes.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Posted on Wed, Nov. 30, 2005

## Lawmakers seek audit of technical colleges

### Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Lawmakers asked state auditors on Tuesday to launch a broad review of employment practices in the Wisconsin Technical College System.

The Legislative Audit Committee's vote to order the audit came as lawmakers learned irregularities at Gateway Technical College are now the subject of an investigation by the state Department of Justice.

The audit will parallel one under way of the University of Wisconsin System, examining practices such as paid leaves given to executives, felons on the payroll, use of sick leave and cash settlements paid to people who leave the system, state auditor Janice Mueller said.

Four lawmakers — Sen. Judy Robson, Sen. Glenn Grothman, Sen. Bob Wirth and Rep. John Lehman — asked for the audit in August after auditors documented excessive spending on outside legal counsel by Gateway and Milwaukee Area Technical College. The audit uncovered a retainer agreement in which Gateway paid \$120,000 per year to a former executive vice president for legal work that amounted to less than 20 hours per week.

Some of the legal fees incurred by Gateway are related to the college's creation of two nonprofit entities: The Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, or CATI, in Sturtevant; and the Bioscience and Integration of Computer and Telecommunications Technology, or BioCATT, at Gateway's Kenosha campus.

The state Department of Justice is reviewing the relationship between those entities and Gateway President Sam Borden — who helped to create them and sits on their boards — and whether taxpayer money was improperly diverted to those companies, witnesses testified Tuesday.

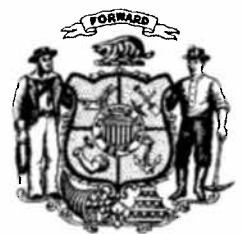
Borden announced last month he will retire in January. He agreed to return to Gateway as a consultant, and the college will pay any legal fees related to investigations of CATI and BioCATT.

The audit into the system's 16 technical college districts, which provide occupational training and assistance to businesses and industry, will begin after the first of the year, Mueller said. Tech colleges in Wisconsin employ almost 10,000 full-time employees who teach more than 416,000 mostly part-time students.

© 2005 St. Paul Pioneer Press and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved.  
<http://www.twincities.com>



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Original URL: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/state/nov05/374234.asp>

## State to begin audit of employment practices in technical college system

### Move comes in response to questions about spending on legal fees at Gateway, MATC

By ANNYSA JOHNSON  
[anjohnson@journalsentinel.com](mailto:anjohnson@journalsentinel.com)

Posted: Nov. 29, 2005

State auditors will launch a sweeping audit of employment practices in the Wisconsin Technical College system beginning in January as a result of questions raised about Gateway Technical College, where the school's creation of two non-profit spinoffs is under investigation by the Wisconsin attorney general's office.

The bipartisan Legislative Audit Committee unanimously approved the review during a hearing Tuesday, in which the panel also took testimony on continuing financial problems at the Wisconsin State Fair.

State Auditor Janice Mueller said the audit would parallel a similar review under way for the University of Wisconsin System and would include such practices as paid leave, felony checks, retainer agreements and payouts to executives who are asked to resign or retire.

"We're very happy they're doing this audit," said Sen. Robert Wirth (D-Kenosha), who with three area lawmakers had requested a full state audit and investigation into Gateway's practices.

"At best, I think they'll find that Gateway has done some questionable things, and it's time they were held accountable," he said.

James Zylstra, vice president of finance for the Wisconsin Technical College system, told the committee that it would cooperate fully with the audit, but that the process may be complicated by the system's decentralized structure.

Although the Wisconsin Technical College Board shares in their governance, each of the 16 campuses operates independently, Zylstra said.

In addition, he said, there are 44 separate bargaining units across the system that negotiate employment policies for their members.

Wirth and three colleagues - Sens. Judy Robson (D-Beloit) and Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) and Rep. John Lehman (D-Racine) - sought the full audit after the Legislative Audit Bureau in August documented excessive spending on outside legal fees by the state's technical schools, particularly Gateway and Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Gateway Technical College serves Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties.

Some of the legal fees incurred by Gateway are related to the college's creation of two non-profit entities, the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, or CATI, in Sturtevant; and the Bioscience and Integration of Computer and Telecommunications Technology, or BioCATT, at Gateway's Kenosha campus.

The state Department of Justice is investigating the relationship between the college and those entities, Justice Department spokesman Kevin Kennedy confirmed Tuesday.

Soon-to-be-retired Gateway President Sam Borden helped create at least one of the non-profits and sits on both of their boards of directors, according to the Wisconsin Technical College system.

Archive  
Coverage



Section: State  
Politics



He declined to say whether investigators were looking into other questions raised by the lawmakers, including whether taxpayer money was improperly diverted to the non-profits.

Borden announced late last month that he would retire earlier than expected, in January, in part because of the controversy surrounding the investigations.

As part of his retirement package, Borden will return to Gateway as a consultant, and the college will pay any legal fees related to his actions while president.

The Legislative Audit Committee also heard from State Fair Park, which said Tuesday that it is projecting a loss of \$2.3 million in the 2005-'06 fiscal year, about \$1.2 million more than estimated in October.

Fair officials used the hearing to promote their plans to turn around the park, which include selling the Pettit National Ice Center to the non-profit group that runs it and hiring an outside promoter to operate the Milwaukee Mile.

The park has posted a deficit each year since 2000, according to the Audit Bureau.

If nothing is done to stanch the red ink, by June 30, 2006, the park will have lost about \$12 million, it said.

Both proposals received a lukewarm reception from lawmakers Tuesday because of their initial cost to the state - \$1 million to underwrite the Pettit sale and the loss of state land along W. Greenfield Ave., where the promoter would build a hotel and other developments.

From the Nov. 30, 2005, editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Have an opinion on this story? [Write a letter to the editor](#) or start an [online forum](#).

Subscribe today and receive 4 weeks free! [Sign up now](#).



**Sue Jeskewitz**

---

**From:** "Handrick, Diane" <Diane.Handrick@legis.state.wi.us>  
**To:** "SueHome" <sjeskewitz@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2006 10:58 AM  
**Subject:** Sue, you can't link to this from WisPolitics, so I got it separately....

**Lawmaker wants more accountability for tech college boards**

(Published Monday, January 2, 2006 09:51:11 AM CST;  
 updated Monday, January 02, 2006 10:35:31 AM CST)

Associated Press  
 and Gazette staff

MADISON-The state's technical college district boards would have more accountability and less reliance on property taxes under a proposed law one legislator plans to introduce this year.

Rep. Garey Bies, R-Sister Bay, wants to see a one-third split in college funding among property taxes, tuition and state tax dollars. Right now, property taxes fund 68 percent of the tech system budget.

But two Blackhawk Technical College spokesmen don't necessarily agree with Bies.

"Anything that can be done to take the burden off property taxpayers is a good idea, but we have to be concerned about the increase in college tuitions and the possibilities of knocking that (educational) opportunity away because of the high cost," said Thomas A. Westrick, chairman of the Blackhawk Technical College Board.

Gregg Bosak, director of community relations at Blackhawk Tech, agrees.

"On the surface that (one-third split in college funding) looks good," Bosak said, "but if we're talking about tuition increases, it's making it unaffordable to those who already don't have the money to attend."

Blackhawk Tech's 2005-06 budget of about \$30 million is funded with about 50 percent property taxes, about 17 percent state funding and about 10 percent tuition. The remaining dollars come from federal grants, user fees and materials fees, Bosak said.

In addition to changing technical college funding, Bies also wants to require members of tech district boards to be elected.

Westrick and Bosak said that would hurt the system in place now.

"You wouldn't be able to get that diverse mix of people by having a regular election," Westrick said.

And that's one of the advantages of the appointed process, he said.

"You get a cross-section of a diversified board with varied areas of expertise," Westrick added.

Bosak, who said the Wisconsin Technical System is a role model for other states, echoed those sentiments: "The system that is set up gives us a good cross representation of various factors-

employers, employees, a male/female ratio, minorities and geographic representation, too. It's a diverse board and it's been working."

But Bies said the technical college system "is the only element of public government we have that has absolutely no controls on what (it's) doing."

With state money tight and concerns over making college too expensive for students, Bies said he knows his proposal will be a tough sell.

"In reality, I think I will be laying a foundation that other people can help me build upon," Bies said. "I'm hoping we can get there."

Brent Smith, president of the tech system's state board, said he doesn't believe the state has the money to change the funding balance that much, and he said appointed boards have "worked well" for the technical colleges.

The tech college system has 16 district boards that levy taxes and largely run the colleges.

They operate under a state board that is, by design, weaker than the UW Board of Regents governing the 26-campus university system.

For example, the state tech board, appointed by the governor, has no role in hiring or firing college presidents or faculty and it has limited involvement in building projects. It does set tuition and approve programs.

Smith noted state rules require the appointment per district board of two employers, two employees, a K-12 official, three at-large members and a person who holds an elected state or local office.

"I don't think there's any evidence to suggest it hasn't worked," he said.

*Diane Handrick*

*Office of Rep. Sue Jeskewitz  
608-266-3796  
1-888-529-0024 toll free in Wisconsin only*

*314N, State Capitol  
Madison WI 53708*

*Have you looked for unclaimed property in your name? [www.missingmoney.com](http://www.missingmoney.com)*



**Sue Jeskewitz**

---

**From:** "Handrick, Diane" <Diane.Handrick@legis.state.wi.us>  
**To:** "SueHome" <sjeskewitz@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2006 12:40 PM  
**Subject:** Jessica McBride blog on Elected Tech Coll Boards

**Tuesday, January 03, 2006****Why Technical School Boards Should Be Elected: By a Former Technical College Vice President**

*Since I opined in the Waukesha Freeman that Technical School Boards need to be elected (and should be our next "taxation without representation issue"), there's been some action on the issue. State Sen. Mary Lazich said she will propose making all boards elected, including MMSD and the Wisconsin Center District Board.*

*I'd written that opponents of elected boards had mobilized at a committee hearing this fall on an Assembly proposal to make the boards elected, but only one legislator spoke in support of elected boards, and he said he'd proposed making the boards elected at the urging of a sole constituent (the committee will vote on the bill this month). The bill was introduced in August 16, 2005 by Representatives Musser, Wood, Kerkman, LeMahieu, F. Lasee, Suder, Lehman and Towns, cosponsored by Senators A. Lasee and Darling.*

*Well, someone sent that sole constituent my Freeman column, and he wrote me an email. He's a former technical college administrator from Augusta, Wis. I asked him to write me a column for my blog expressing why he'd pushed this issue. Here it is:*

By Arnie Rongstad

**Taxation Without Representation Reminder – Property Tax Statement**

It is again the time of the year when we receive our property tax statements from our local municipality be it a city, village, or township. As in years past I review where my taxes are going, and again I am reminded that for nine percent of my taxes I have NO Representation. Taxation without representation is contrary to almost every form of government in this state except technical college districts. I get to participate in the election process for my township supervisors, my school district board members, my county board supervisor, and my state senator and representative. But I get no say in the selection of the technical college board members. That is unless I am the county board chair in my area, or school board president in some other technical college districts. Even a past Eau Claire County Board Chair has said they don't have much input because the State Technical College Board dictates who should be appointed.

Because of this contradiction to the intent of the democracy in which we live, I solicited the support of my State Assembly Representative, Terry Musser (R-Black River Falls) to draft a bill that would change the method by which technical College Board members are selected from being appointed to being elected. Rep. Musser introduced the bill this session that will require the election of technical College Board members, and it is now in the Capital Halls as AB-603. The Assembly College and University Committee held a hearing in early October, and the Wisconsin Technical College establishment (Boards Association, Administrators Association, and System President) was out in force opposing the bill in an effort, in my opinion, to control the selection process. Unfortunately, I was ill and unable to attend the hearing to testify in support of the bill, nor did anyone else testify in support other than Rep. Musser.

For the history of the bill and its co-sponsors check

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/AB603hst.html>

. A member of Rep. Musser's staff has now told me that she didn't think the bill would fly. Unfortunately, no one in the Assembly has been passionate in their support of AB 603. If you are opposed to taxation without representation contact your representative and ask him/her to come out in support of AB 603. I understand that the Committee will be considering the bill in January, so we need action now!

I am writing this as a retired Wisconsin Technical College vice-president for business and finance for approximately 25 years who did and does today strongly support the mission of the Wisconsin Technical College System, but not its method of taxation. As an individual it bothered me all those years that an appointed board was levying a tax. It should be noted that today the 16 Wisconsin Technical Colleges collectively are levying close to \$500,000,000, (that is nearly ½ BILLION dollars), in property taxes, which pays for approximately 55% of the districts operational costs. That is a lot of taxation without representation. During the years as the chief financial officer, and today as a tax-paying citizen, it was and is my opinion that the board members were responding to the wishes of the College President without considering the public as a whole. Without having a constituency, they had no one to be accountable other than the College President. They feel no obligation to respond to citizen concerns, because they know they don't have to face the public in an election, nor for that matter does the general public even know who they are.

Arnie Rongstad  
Retired Chippewa Valley Technical College Vice President  
Augusta, WI

*Diane Handrick*

*Office of Rep. Sue Jeskewitz  
608-266-3796  
1-888-529-0024 toll free in Wisconsin only*

*314N, State Capitol  
Madison WI 53708*

*Have you looked for unclaimed property in your name? [www.missingmoney.com](http://www.missingmoney.com)*





# SUE JESKEWITZ

State Representative • 24th Assembly District

---

For Immediate Release

January 10, 2006

For More Information Contact:

Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz (608) 266-3796

## **JESKEWITZ SEEKS ACCOUNTABILITY, NOT SPECIAL INTEREST INFLUENCE**

(Madison)...The Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities today voted down Assembly Bill 603 (AB 603), which would have required popular election of technical college district board members. Representative Sue Jeskewitz (R-Menomonee Falls), who is a long-standing member of the committee and who supports some form of elected boards, voted against the measure.

"I am adamant about represented taxation, and I can safely say every taxpaying citizen has this same view," explained Jeskewitz. "But it is possible to have two right answers to the same question. We need to decide as a state what our most beneficial answer will be for these boards."

Jeskewitz added that while the concept of popularly elected boards is ideal, actually putting an election process into practice must be carefully analyzed. "After saying elections are a good idea, think a few steps forward: Electing board members would cost the state and local governments money, would require interested candidates to campaign for an unpaid board seat encompassing up to parts of twelve counties, and open positions are likely to be well-funded by special interest groups rather than ordinary citizens. In a nutshell, going to elected board could mean getting people who often have an agenda rather than people who know, understand and care about technical colleges and the communities they serve," Jeskewitz explained.

State statutes currently require the appointed technical college district boards to be comprised of three employers, three employees, two at-large members, and a local school administrator. In addition, any two of these nine members must hold elected office locally.

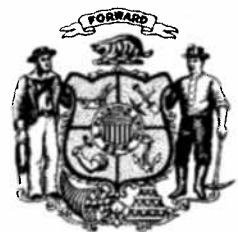
"Accountability is the highest priority of anyone who makes decisions spending taxpayer dollars," concluded Jeskewitz. "But we would also need a practical, manageable framework for elections and this bill does not have that."

Jeskewitz, who co-chaired the Speaker's Task Force on the Wisconsin Technical College System, plans to continue discussion of this issue in follow-up meetings throughout the year and welcomes input and ideas from any citizen to address this situation.

###



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Original URL: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/jan06/387116.asp>

## At MATC, students use common cents

Posted: Jan. 23, 2006



**Mike Nichols**

[E-MAIL](#) | [ARCHIVE](#)

Never question an MATC student's aptitude for numbers.

On a day when a too-seldom-seen sun brought a little clarity, I found Elliot Grant and Nick Becker standing outside the main building of the so-called technical school's campus Monday.

Both are working toward an associate's degree in Milwaukee Area Technical College's nursing program, something that normally takes two years. Neither plans on standing still.

"I am not going to stop with an associate's degree," Grant said. "That would get you nowhere. Master's (is the goal), or at least a bachelor's."

It would be silly, though, to do what most people with those goals do: Hike on over to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"UWM does not have as good a nursing program as even here," he proclaimed. "And it's a lot cheaper (here), more affordable."

All associate's degree programs at MATC, according to spokesman Jim Gribble, cost \$265 per three-credit course, same as it does for all technical colleges. That's \$1,060 for somebody taking four courses.

At UWM, tuition depends on how many courses you are taking, but even for a commuter, it's a bundle more.

Undergraduates living off-campus and taking between 12 and 18 credits on campus normally pay \$3,111 per semester - quite a bit when you consider that cheaper MATC credits in many areas such as nursing often transfer to four-year colleges such as UWM.

Hey, forget nursing. These guys ought to be in accounting.

And not just them.

In a recent survey, nearly a third of MATC students essentially said MATC was just a stopover. They plan to continue their education somewhere else. In fact, the school increasingly encourages it.

MATC offers associate's degrees in everything from business management to liberal arts, and credit transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities have exploded from only 89 in 2000 to 362 as of November - something of which MATC officials are extremely proud.

In many instances, they say, their curriculum is the same as it is at partner colleges.

About the only course you can't get at MATC nowadays, in fact, so far as I can see: basic logic.

Sure, MATC still offers air conditioning and refrigeration technology, paralegal and welding degrees, among many, many, many others.

It also, according to its Web site, offers "Wearable Art for Profit," "Holiday Decorations" and "Scrapbooking."

When you hear folks call MATC students "scrappy," now you'll know what they mean.

Those last ones are actually examples of what Gribble calls "personal enrichment classes" that usually cost between \$20 and \$100 per class and are part of MATC's mission of "giving back to the community."

Can't quibble with that, I guess, but if you really want to see some beneficence, stop by one of the private scrapbooking stores popping up all over the place and check out *their* deals. Some of them will teach you how to scrap for free.

Here, in the meantime, is the real cost.

Tech schools in Wisconsin are run by non-elected boards that, we found out this week, have been raising our local property taxes through the roof - which might be OK if more than one in a million students there were capable of fixing one.

Instead, they're increasingly offering what public two- and four-year colleges in Wisconsin do, only at a much, much lower cost.

MATC argues that is all good and well.

"This is definitely a much more affordable place to go, and that is by design," said Gribble, who calls MATC an "economically affordable entrance ramp" for people who could not otherwise afford to go to school.

Good point, I guess. Maybe we can just get rid of all the four-year and two-year colleges (hey, there's an idea) in this state instead, or at least the financial aid offices at those places that are supposed to be some sort of entrance ramp as well.

You can't blame students for going to MATC.












They're probably the smartest kids in Milwaukee.

It's the rest of us, the thing is, who are getting schooled.


From the Jan. 24, 2006, editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Have an opinion on this story? [Write a letter to the editor](#) or start an [online forum](#).

Subscribe today and receive 4 weeks free! [Sign up now.](#)

## Mike Nichols Archive

-  [At MATC, students use common cents \(1/23/06\)](#)
-  [This time, Cedarburg board got it right \(1/21/06\)](#)
-  [One hand giveth; so does the other \(1/16/06\)](#)
-  [Making a match and finding the catch \(1/14/06\)](#)
-  [Bereft mom honored for fighting system \(1/13/06\)](#)
-  [A referendum, alone on the ballot, on Feb. 21? How convenient \(1/9/06\)](#)
-  [Schmidt may be the sociopath next door \(1/7/06\)](#)
-  [Capitol fears are right on the money \(1/6/06\)](#)
-  [Thanks for the year's memories --- I think \(12/30/05\)](#)
-  [Be careful spreading yuletide cheer, fool \(12/26/05\)](#)
-  [More ...](#)

## Contacting Mike Nichols

 Call Mike Nichols at 262-376-4374 or e-mail: [mnichols@journalsentinel.com](mailto:mnichols@journalsentinel.com)

Original URL: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/editorials/jan06/387066.asp>

## Editorial: Representation and taxation

From the Journal Sentinel

*Posted: Jan. 23, 2006*

If you feel your appointed technical college board is misspending your money, how do you throw the rascals on the board out? Through the ballot box? Only in a way too roundabout to be practical.

The technical college boards in Wisconsin violate a principle of good government established by the American Revolution: A board that levies taxes ought to be directly elected by the people.

Sen. Mary Lazich, a New Berlin Republican, says she will introduce a bill that would require all boards in Wisconsin with taxing authority to be elected rather than appointed. Her bill would change the governance of not just the technical college boards but such entities as the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Wisconsin Center District Board. Her bill deserves support.

The obscure technical college boards are starting to get noticed because their tax bites are becoming more painful. Continuing a trend, their levies went up 5.3% altogether last year - more than twice as much as the overall property tax levy.

The increases may have been warranted. The colleges certainly play an indispensable role in keeping Wisconsin's economy churning. But voters can't hold board members accountable if they disagree. Sure, the boards include elected officials - by statute, at least one. For instance, West Allis Mayor Jeannette Bell sits on the board of the Milwaukee Area Technical College. But residents of the MATC district outside of West Allis have virtually no way to compel her to see things their way if they so choose. And West Allis residents are inclined to hold her accountable for what she does as mayor, not as a member of the MATC board.

True, committees of elected officials do pick members of the technical college boards. The committees may consist of county board chairmen or school board presidents or some combination of elected officials (plus in Milwaukee, four members named by the School Board). But the appointment power is too diffuse to hold accountable an official for a bad selection.

Defenders of appointed boards note that current statutes require that these boards be balanced by geography, profession, background, gender and race. But perhaps elections can be set up in such a way as to approach that sort of balance as well.

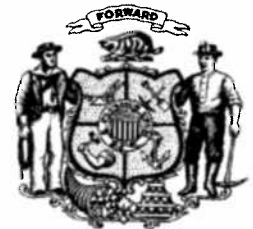
This is not to say that unelected boards abuse their taxing authority. But when members are elected, they are, we believe, more connected to those they serve.

From the Jan. 24, 2006, editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Have an opinion on this story? [Write a letter to the editor](#) or start an [online forum](#).

Subscribe today and receive 4 weeks free! [Sign up now.](#)



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Original URL: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/editorials/jan06/387066.asp>

## Editorial: Representation and taxation

From the Journal Sentinel

Posted: Jan. 23, 2006

If you feel your appointed technical college board is misspending your money, how do you throw the rascals on the board out? Through the ballot box? Only in a way too roundabout to be practical.

The technical college boards in Wisconsin violate a principle of good government established by the American Revolution: A board that levies taxes ought to be directly elected by the people.

Sen. Mary Lazich, a New Berlin Republican, says she will introduce a bill that would require all boards in Wisconsin with taxing authority to be elected rather than appointed. Her bill would change the governance of not just the technical college boards but such entities as the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Wisconsin Center District Board. Her bill deserves support.

The obscure technical college boards are starting to get noticed because their tax bites are becoming more painful. Continuing a trend, their levies went up 5.3% altogether last year - more than twice as much as the overall property tax levy.

The increases may have been warranted. The colleges certainly play an indispensable role in keeping Wisconsin's economy churning. But voters can't hold board members accountable if they disagree. Sure, the boards include elected officials - by statute, at least one. For instance, West Allis Mayor Jeannette Bell sits on the board of the Milwaukee Area Technical College. But residents of the MATC district outside of West Allis have virtually no way to compel her to see things their way if they so choose. And West Allis residents are inclined to hold her accountable for what she does as mayor, not as a member of the MATC board.

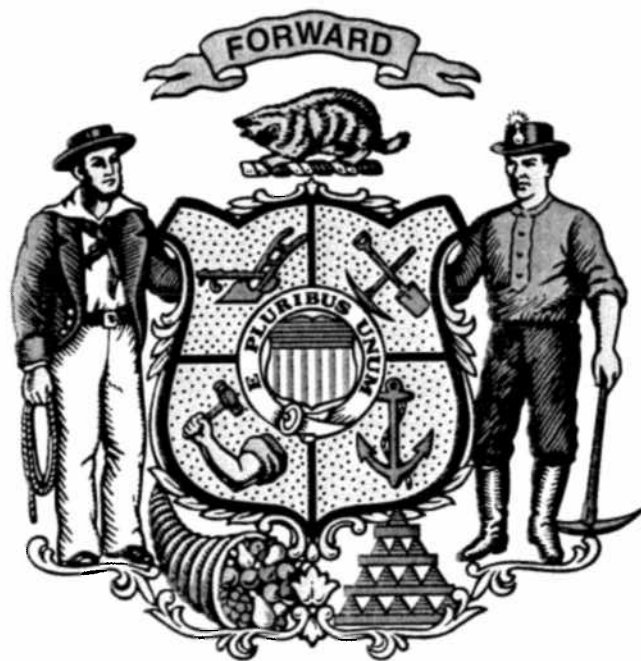
True, committees of elected officials do pick members of the technical college boards. The committees may consist of county board chairmen or school board presidents or some combination of elected officials (plus in Milwaukee, four members named by the School Board). But the appointment power is too diffuse to hold accountable an official for a bad selection.

Defenders of appointed boards note that current statutes require that these boards be balanced by geography, profession, background, gender and race. But perhaps elections can be set up in such a way as to approach that sort of balance as well.

This is not to say that unelected boards abuse their taxing authority. But when members are elected, they are, we believe, more connected to those they serve.

From the Jan. 24, 2006, editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Have an opinion on this story? [Write a letter to the editor](#) or start an [online forum](#).

Subscribe today and receive 4 weeks free! [Sign up now.](#)





# Lazich again calls for elected taxing boards

*Taxation at tech colleges outpaces state*

---

By LAWRENCE SILVER- GM Today Staff

January 25, 2006

PEWAUKEE - Future board members for Waukesha County may be elected rather than appointed.

For the second time in as many months, state Sen. Mary Lazich, R-New Berlin, said a need exists to have elections instead of appointments for any board with taxing authority.

Her call came after the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance recently reported that taxation in the Wisconsin Technical College System outpaced that of the state by more than 10 percent over the last six years.

Dale Knapp, research director for the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, told the Freeman on Monday that the total tax levy for WTCS rose 44.6 percent since 2000-01. The overall tax levy for the state increased 34.3 percent for that same time period, he said.

"The tax levy has been growing quite rapidly," Knapp said of WTCS. "One issue is, where is the accountability?"

Lazich said there is no accountability for the increased spending because board members are appointed rather than elected by the taxpayers.

"I think we need to take an overall look at elected versus appointed," Lazich said. "I think the public needs more input as far as taxation powers."

But Ted Raspiller, interim president of WCTC, said board members are accountable.

Raspiller, who worked previously in states with elected college boards, said members are identified during the selection process because they are accountable to taxpayers.

"The first thing I noticed is the diversity of the board," said Raspiller, who came to the school three years ago. "I also think in addition to diversity, the process to select board members is objective."

Two elected officials are on the WCTC board. The board's president, Paul Strobel, is the superintendent of the Mukwonago School District.

Cary Tessmann, WCTC chief financial officer, said spending at the school was less than that of other technical colleges in the state.

Over the last three years the tax levy has never been raised by more than 3.3 percent, she said.

The largest recent gains in tax levy came in the 2000-01 and 2001-02 school years at 8.6 percent and 10 percent, respectively, she said.

But Tessmann said the larger increases were due to a taxpayer-approved referendum.

Money from the \$26.3 million referendum was used to build the Harry V. Quadracci Graphics and Printing Building, a health building, the college center building and other various capital improvements around campus, she said.

A bill was introduced last summer into the Assembly that would require all technical college boards to be elected. The bill is still in committee.

Lazich said her bill would require all appointed boards with taxing authority in the state, including the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District and the Milwaukee Center District Board, to be elected.

She said there was no timeline for when she would introduce the bill, though.

"I think cooperation is needed at all levels and among all levels of government," Lazich said. "I think when you have these appointments is when the walls go up. The electorate doesn't want that. The electorate wants government to work together."

*Lawrence Silver can be reached at [lsilver@conleynet.com](mailto:lsilver@conleynet.com)*

*This story appeared in The Freeman on January 24, 2006.*



<http://www.milwaukeeemagazine.com/murphyslaw/>

February 21, 2006

## **GRAVY TRAIN: WHY ARE MATC STAFF PAID SO MUCH?**

### **And: The Journal Sentinel's Year-old "Scoop"**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of the best universities in the land, with top scholars in their fields. But professors there make less money than instructors at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

That's the average, remember. Many are earning in excess of six figures.

How high is this salary? It is about \$20,000 more per year than MATC administrators, who earn an average salary of just over \$71,000.

It is about \$23,000 more than the average professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee earns: A full professor gets about \$84,000, an associate professor \$65,000, an assistant professor \$57,000.

Full-time academic instructors at MATC teach for 15 hours (five classes) a week, compared to nine hours (three classes) for a typical university professor. But professors must get a doctorate, must be scholars in their chosen field, must publish or perish. Most MATC instructors lack a doctorate and many lack a master's degree. Some don't even have a bachelor's degree. But they get \$91,000 and a terrific package of benefits.

UW-Madison has some of the finest scholars in the world. Yet full professors there earn just under \$98,000, associate professors earn \$73,000 and assistant professors \$64,000. Most of these scholars could make more in salary and benefits if they got hired at MATC.

MATC union president **Michael Rosen** says the average salary earned by staffers can include "above load" work: extra classes during the year and summer teaching. But many instructors don't work at all in the summer.

The explanation for the irrational pay at MATC is twofold. First, the MATC board is not elected and is selected through an arcane, little-understood procedure: Board presidents of all public school districts in the area select members of the MATC board. Labor unions have

been smart and pro-active about getting union sympathizers appointed to the board, which has generally supported generous pay increases for MATC's unionized staff.

Second, MATC also has the ability to levy property taxes. Look on your property tax bill and you'll find that along with a tax for city, county and public schools, a portion of your payment goes to the budget of MATC.

Both MATC and the University of Wisconsin system get state funding as allocated by the elected state Legislature. But UW lacks the additional funding source that comes from levying your own property tax. That largely explains the irrationality of a state that pays far more to community college instructors than top professors.

For nearly nine years (1992-2001), former MATC President **John Birkholz**, a former union representative himself, agreed to fat raises for college staff. But current President **Darnell Cole** has taken a tougher stand on salaries and benefits.

In union newsletters, Rosen has condemned Cole's proposals for this round of contract talks, saying they would "destroy almost everything the union has spent decades building for this college."

So you can expect some tough negotiations. But as the union attacks Cole, it's instructive to look at what kind of compensation their members are getting.

### **The *Journal Sentinel's* Moldy "Scoop"**

Last Tuesday's top *JS* headline told us "Clout Moving to Suburbs," with a graph showing that the total tax base of Waukesha County is likely to pass Milwaukee County's by the year 2014. But the story is old, speculative and probably misleading. How in the world did it get front-page, top-of-the-fold placement?

To begin with, the article was based on an 11-month-old study by the Public Policy Forum, released in March 2005. If this is such a big scoop, why didn't it run last March?

Worse, reporter **John Schmid** ignored past reports by the Public Policy Forum, which had a different conclusion. The group's study in February 2003 predicted that "Waukesha is on pace to take over as the region's biggest source of property wealth in a few years." That prediction would suggest that Waukesha would be passing Milwaukee by 2007. The real

scoop, it appears, is that the forum's latest estimate has moved back the date at which Waukesha will pass Milwaukee – from 2007 to 2014.

PPF President **Jeffrey Browne** concedes that his group's research has moved the date forward and that as the group looks at future numbers, the date could move even further into the future. "Or it could go the other way," he adds. "It just depends on what happens in the future, so we don't know."

What might change the group's prediction? How about the fact that the City of Milwaukee is enjoying a boom in development and condo conversions? Or that the last assessment had the biggest increase for city-wide property values in 50 years? Or that Waukesha is running out of water it needs to support development and could have problems even supporting its current population? How about the impact of high gas prices and long commute times on exurban development?

These and many other factors could change the next prediction by Browne's group, as he concedes. This is a moving target and one that's already moved in the 11 months since his last report.





WisBusiness.com | WisPolitics.com

6/20/2006

## Urban Myths About Urban Technical College

By Charlie Dee

*The column below reflects the views of the author, and these opinions are neither endorsed nor supported by WisOpinion.com.*

Wisconsin faces a well-documented, critical shortage of skilled workers, a situation that will escalate the next few years as baby-boomers retire.

So what has been the response from right-wing talk radio, *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and certain bloggers? They have spread misinformation about the very institution that trains skilled workers: Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC).

Fox Point insurance agent Paul Pedersen is the latest to weigh in on WisOpinion.com, repeating some misinformation and inventing some other. I well remember Pedersen from his several terms on the MATC Board. His main contribution has been periodic rants about various issues at the college, but he never seemed to have his "facts" straight enough to get anyone to take him seriously.

He was straight about one thing: he couldn't stand unions or the people represented by them. He once voted to give MATC administrators a salary increase on the same night he voted to give no increase to janitors, secretaries and other employees represented by unions.

Pedersen's latest confusion was to repeat the *Journal-Sentinel's* contention that despite many job openings for welders in Milwaukee shops, MATC turned out "only 14 welders in the Class of 2005."

If Pedersen had cared when he was on the Board to actually pay attention to what went on at the college, he would have known that MATC has several different welding programs that produce One-Year Technical Diplomas, Two-Year Associate Degrees and Advanced Technical Certificates. In addition, MATC provides a variety of Customized Training programs for industry as well as Apprentice training.

The figure of 14 offered up by the *Journal-Sentinel* referred only to the One-Year Diploma graduates, failing to mention that in the past year well over 200 welders were trained in welding at MATC.

Pedersen is factually wrong about all kinds of other things in his article. Union President Michael Rosen has not billed himself as "Chairman of the Economics Department" at MATC for several years, ever since he, well, stopped being in that chair.

Pedersen also claimed Rosen made \$140,000 dollars at MATC, when Rosen's income was not close to that figure. In any case Pedersen re-circulated the myth that MATC instructors are overpaid, repeating the mythological "\$90,000 a year salary" of MATC instructors, without explaining what that salary represents.

The actual range of salaries for MATC instructors is \$47,000 to \$85,000 per year. Since the faculty is currently topped with baby boomers who have been teaching for 25-30 years and nearing retirement, the average salary skews to the high end.

Faculty members can make more money by teaching extra classes, summer school, or doing administrative functions. The real story, though, is when that happens, taxpayers save money.



Instructors who teach extra classes don't get time-and-a-half like many people who work overtime, but instead get only 60% of their salaries. If all those classes and functions were performed by people being hired as full-time employees, taxpayers would shell out 40% more in salary plus hundreds of thousands of dollars more per year in payroll taxes.

I'm certain Pedersen could understand this if he cared to know the facts. Repeating myths, however, is much easier.

Pedersen also rails at MATC for teaching liberal arts classes, as if that is not part of our mission. I happen to think, most employers, that nurses, police officers, heating and air conditioning technicians need communication skills, math skills and, yes, even economics.

But even a confused squirrel will stumble upon an acorn somewhere, and Pedersen does get one thing right: MATC and the state's other tech colleges should emphasize technical education. Pedersen would probably be surprised that the faculty union at MATC has been making the same argument for years now.

However, some legislators and University of Wisconsin system officials have pressured the leaders of the Wisconsin Technical College System to de-emphasize technical education and move more towards a junior college model in an attempt to create more four-year degree candidates for the UW system.

The MATC administration has wrong-headedly seized on this junior college model to plan for offering athletic scholarships and building dormitories.

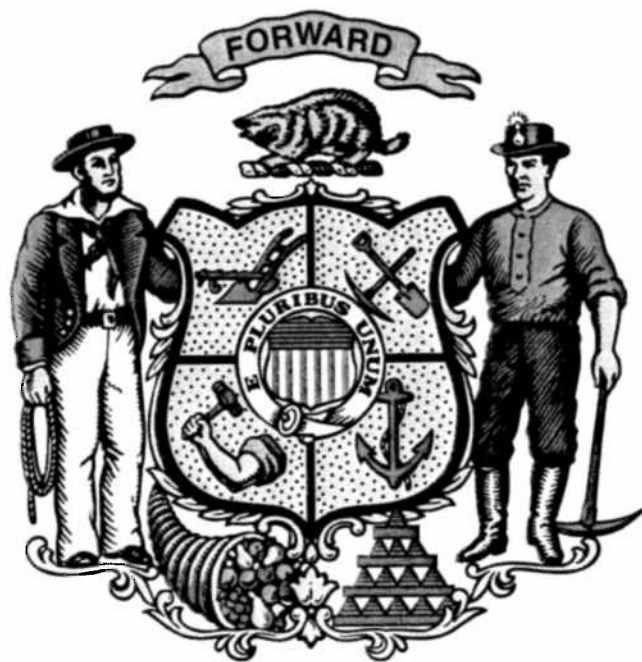
MATC's recent advertising campaign is a prime example. Rather than do targeted marketing to attract students to programs such as welding and tool and dye where employers are crying for more workers, the focus was a "Start Here, Go Anywhere" pitch to suburbanites to take their first two years at MATC and then transfer to four-year colleges.

MATC's huge waiting lists for technical degree programs is sufficient evidence that the marketplace offers jobs for technical college grads. There's a five-year wait to get into the Radiography program while over 1000 students are waitlisted for Registered Nursing and Licensed Practical Nursing.

MATC has a three-part mission: technical training, two-year degrees and adult high school. The faculty union believes these three are crucial for Milwaukee's citizens and Wisconsin's economy.

Technical colleges are the solution to the skilled worker shortage. Spreading misinformation about them does not help at all.

*-- Charlie Dee teaches American Studies at Milwaukee Area Technical College and is Executive Vice-President of the American Federation of Teachers Local 212*



**MEDIA RELEASE**

JUNE 21, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: MICHAEL ROSEN; 414-467-8908, [rosenm@matc.edu](mailto:rosenm@matc.edu)  
CHARLIE DEE; 414-559-4667, [deec@matc.edu](mailto:deec@matc.edu)

**REPUBLICANS IGNORE FACTS TO SPREAD MISINFORMATION**

Dr. Michael Rosen blasted the "Republican misinformation campaign about MATC" in a statement today.

Rosen, Economics Professor at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and President of American Federation of Teachers Local 212, responded to attacks made yesterday by Republican Senators Alberta Darling and Carol Roessler as well as Republican Representative Sue Jaskewitz.

"These lawmakers used a Joint Audit Committee hearing to spread inaccurate information about our college, our students and its employees," Rosen explained. "None of the Audit Bureau's recommendation dealt with faculty compensation. Yet, these legislators used the hearing as an opportunity to disparage the job we do and the population we serve," Rosen added.

"For example, Rosen said, "Sen. Roessler stated in the hearing that MATC faculty does not pay for our health insurance. That is a total fabrication. We pay co-payments, deductibles and co-insurance, and these costs have been going up for us just like they have for everybody else."

Rosen added that if the legislators had truly been interested in the getting the facts, they would have invited Local 212 to speak at the hearing and answer their charges, "But, of course, we weren't invited because their goal was a forum to trash us, not to get at the truth. "It's ironic that a week after the LAB concluded that Gateway's administration had misused more than \$3 million in property tax money for a private venture, these legislators turn their heavy artillery on hard working faculty members who train the local labor force."

"The state faces a critical shortage of skilled workers that is hampering economic development," explained Rosen. "MATC and other tech colleges train the very workers who are needed, and we have huge waiting lists in some areas," he added.

"These lawmakers should have been talking about how they can get resources to technical colleges to train more workers rather than engaging in attacks based on politically-inspired inaccurate information," Rosen said.

Rosen also pointed out the "utter hypocrisy" of these legislators criticizing MATC's reliance on the property tax levy.

**-MORE-**

“These legislators have voted for state budgets that have cut the state’s contribution to technical colleges by more than 50% over the past 15 years. Next year MATC will receive \$7 million less in state revenue than we did in 1999,” Rosen explained. “The legislature’s failure to meet its obligation to fund the tech colleges has shifted the burden of financing technical education to property tax payers and students.

“Ironically, the more Republicans cut their support of technical colleges, the more control they want,” said Rosen. “The world doesn’t work that way.”

Rosen also pointed out that references to faculty salaries were misleading.

“To make \$91,000 per year, an MATC instructor would have to be at the top of the pay scale, teach extra courses, teach summer school or perform administrative tasks. When our faculty do those things, it actually saves the taxpayer money, because extra work is not paid at time and a half, but at a reduced rate,” Rosen explained.

“If the college hired additional employees to teach those courses or do that work, their salary costs would be 40% higher and fringe benefit costs would run many hundreds of thousands of dollars more,” Rosen said.



WAKESHA  
FREEMAN  
(DEC. ?)

## **No taxation without representation: Why aren't Tech School Boards elected?**

My Freeman column this Saturday discussed an upcoming Assembly committee vote in January on whether technical college boards should be elected. If we really want to make a difference on taxes in this state, we might start by making technical college boards elected and accountable to the public.

School boards are elected. The UW System goes through a legislative budget process. Why are technical schools different? It's telling that the technical colleges district boards association has talking points on its web site opposing TABOR. This topic has received almost no attention. But technical schools jack up our taxes at a faster rate than other governmental entities.

And there's not a thing we can do about it, because the members are appointed. Well, other than change that and make them elected. But there's been zero public pressure to do so. The other side has been paying attention, but we haven't.

The full column will be posted Monday at [www.gmtoday.com](http://www.gmtoday.com). **Excerpts:**

No taxation without representation. That's the rallying cry that drove the gas tax revolt this week. I've got a great idea for the next revolt: Start making technical college boards accountable to the taxpayers. Right now, tech school boards can jack up your property taxes (and a lot of them do by quite a bit) but you can't vote them out. Nor do you get to pick their members.

The column discusses how only one person - a legislator - appeared at the recent public hearing on the bill to make tech boards elected:

This hasn't gotten much media attention, but I did find a report written about the hearing by the head of the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, Paul Gabriel. He stated: "There was no testimony made in favor of the bill except for the sponsor, Representative Terry Musser (R-Black River Falls). He admitted that he introduced this bill on behalf of 'a (one) constituent.' We delivered 26 letters and resolutions opposing the bill from all over the state."

And why it matters as much as the automatic gas tax:

Gov. Doyle exempted tech schools from his "faux" property tax freeze and has vetoed legislative attempts to limit technical school levies. Only 3 of 16 technical schools would have been already under the Legislature's proposed 2.6% limit.

A state Legislative Fiscal Bureau analysis from 2000 found that, far from holding the line historically, in a five year period from 1994-1999, technical school property tax collections grew 38.5% compared to 11.1% for statewide gross property taxes. And the Wisconsin Taxpayers League found that the technical college levy increased the most out of local governments levying the property tax from 1997-98 through 2002-03. In those five years, technical college levies increased an average of 7.9% annually. This exceeded the increase in state, county, municipal, and school district levies.





NOTES

Case Task Gov. have diff/autonomous

↳ general system guidelines  
in 1984

- uniform
- procurement
- accounting

not

- very surprised how system works

→ helps w/ more uniformity

↳ Not state agencies

↳ focal authorities

Miller

Leason - written testimony

- Miller  
↳ comments about tie to US audit -

not just about testimony

↳ Leason

Wassell - written testimony

- unpaid advisor

Gen

- testimony - 1st college to visit

12/19/05 - CB

- Approach of unions - lack of civility
- unions too focused on academic conditions, rather than "working conditions"
  - ↳ work, pay, benefits, hours...

### Committees

- faculty, V.P., Deans
  - ↳ S/N be a union representative
  - ↳ S/N be about power & control

- only Board/SB chair  
 ↳ resolution to Board w/ committee  
 ↳ vote

\*\*\* - Go to next WTC meeting!  
 Jan. 24th

- Look at CA, NY, CT - Community colleges
- strong union -

? Deane - each TC - how many countries

LAB  
 1/24/06  
 Carol Brown

\* Teacher Improvement Systems - TIS  
 ↳ WTC uses to make sure teachers are competent to teach.  
 ↳ one of the best CB has seen

? How are curricula issues discussed.  
 ? What's the representation? How chosen

WTCS

↳ Board

↳ appointed by Gov.

LAB ? What's the relationship between the state board and the state office.

TX - Higher Ed Coord. Board

↳ transfer courses - common courses #1's

MI - Macro agreement

- KS & NB - Elected Board of Regents

- WTCS - Structure

\* Meritum Park - trying to move towards

→ unionize part time faculty