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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

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

### 2005-06

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

## Committee on Labor and Election Process Reform...

### 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) (June 2012)

## **Resolution to Oppose Assembly Bill 603**

**Whereas** the Wisconsin Technical College System's model of appointed District Board governance has responsibly and effectively served the state, its residents and students for almost 100 years; and

**Whereas** WTCS District Board members are selected by the elected presidents of local school boards; and

**Whereas** WTCS District Board members are subject to all the laws and rules governing other local and state officials and are appointed through a detailed process that ensures accountability through public hearings and interviews; and

**Whereas** the appointed District Board of the WTCS insulates technical higher education from partisan politics while guaranteeing local accountability; and

**Whereas** the Milwaukee Area Technical College District Board and all WTCS District Boards conduct their board business including budget, tax levy and other financial issues at public meetings; and

**Whereas** MATC's District Board members represent a cross-section of the district's population as a result of the current model of appointed membership, which ensures representation of the college's diverse district; and

**Whereas** the WTCS/MATC District Board system is cost-efficient because board members receive no compensation and spend no time on campaign fundraising; and

**Whereas** the issue of publicly appointed WTCS boards versus elected WTCS boards has been studied, most recently in 2003 through the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce, which recommended the current board model be preserved; therefore be it

**Resolved** that the MATC District Board strongly opposes Assembly Bill 603, which proposes to eliminate the current District Board appointment system and replace it with politically elected boards.

Passed unanimously (roll call vote, 8-0)

by the Milwaukee Area Technical College District Board  
Jeannette Bell, Chairperson

September 27, 2005



**From:** Carvin, Heidi [mailto:carvinh@evansville.k12.wi.us]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2005 12:04 PM

**To:** rep.kreibich@legis.state.wi.us; rep.towns@legis.state.wi.us; rep.davis@legis.state.wi.us

**Cc:** Larson, Eric

**Subject:** AB 603

Representative Kreibich,

I am writing to express my opposition to AB 603 which would dissolve the current technical college board system and replace all boards with elected representatives. I have the following concerns:

1) As a newly appointed member representing school district superintendents in Rock and Green County, I was carefully interviewed and screened by two elected officials: The County board chairs of both Rock and Green County. Prior to that, I had to complete a detailed application process that included three letters of recommendation specifically assessing my qualifications for the position. I believe this process is superior to election because it requires an independent review of qualifications whereas anyone can run for office. It also provides oversight by elected officials and therefore does provide direct influence of elected officials on Tech College Boards.

2) The current process, by specifying the slots that need to be filled establishes a much more diverse board reflecting cultural, racial, gender, and background knowledge differences that creates a synergy leading to more effective and less partisan decision making.

3) Many of the people currently on the board would not have the time, financial, or campaign skill resources necessary to run for office. This would deter people who I would argue are more qualified for the role of Tech Board membership than those who might choose to run or see it as a stepping stone to a political career.

4) Abolishing the current boards, that in many cases includes members with many years of service and experience throws away the value of this experience. As a superintendent I have seen the improvement possible in districts where there is continuity of leadership, and the difficulties districts encounter when this continuity is lacking. As I have attended our board meetings I have seen the value these experienced members bring to our decision-making and training of new members. I believe abolishing the current boards would throw our technical colleges into an unnecessary state of disarray as they struggle with other much more important issues.

Thank you for your time. I would appreciate you sharing this with other members of your committee.

Heidi J. Carvin  
District Administrator

Website: [Evansville.k12.wi.us](http://Evansville.k12.wi.us)

Evansville Community School District  
340 Fair Street  
Evansville, WI 53536

608-882-3386



September 27, 2005

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

Dear Representative Kreibich & Committee:

While unable to come to Madison for your hearing on AB 603, I do want to offer my thoughts on why it is not necessary.

I want to start with the premise of "If it isn't broke, why fix it". I was a County Board member for 10 years and am now on my 3<sup>rd</sup> term as a Mid-State Technical College Board Member. In addition to my awareness of the value of the College to the District, it is a professional environment to work in. Our decisions are made based on the needs of the student. While I live in Wisconsin Rapids, my concern is that we are doing our job for all the campus locations in the District equally. I question if this would remain so in an elected environment.

One subject that keeps coming up is the taxing authority. We strive to be fiscally responsible. It would be nice to have the State move faster at budget time to assist the process. Our funding sources are many and having to set a tax rate without having all the numbers is difficult. We are well aware of how we are appointed and feel responsible to the appointment authority and ultimately the full body of our District for the fiscal policy guidelines we set to run the college. None of my fellow 8 Board Members take this accountability lightly.

One of the reasons I think the Appointed Board is effective is that it is made up of people from education, elected officials and employer/employee people from the District Community. This mix brings all points of view to the table and along with a competent staff, generally results in a final product on any issue that has been researched and well thought out before the Board action finalizes it. Again, the impact on the student is in the forefront of the decision making process.

The Appointed Board does avoid some of the expense associated with being elected. Check my record, I do not charge any mileage back to the College for travel to and from Board meetings. While we do get fed, there is no per diem. The college does pay for

travel and related expense for participation at conferences. Overall, the MSTC Appointed Board is, in my opinion, less expensive for the District to run and achieves a high quality of productivity from the members for its investment.

I am not a Professional Politician; however, I do follow the same ethics laws as you do. I operate in the open and publicly except for labor contract deliberations and matters covered by statute. I deliberate on each and every financial decision made asking how does it benefit the student, is it in the budget, can we afford it, etc.

I have made a commitment to represent the entire Mid-State District based on the needs of the student and of each campus within the District without regard to any factors except the result of the action against the goals and mission of the College.

It is my understanding that a Taskforce has already looked at the Appointed Board process and found it to be a sound method of providing governance, mission accomplishment and accountability to its main supporters, the taxpayer. Please do not disrupt this engine that is on track to deliver the talent we desperately need to revitalize and sustain our economy in Wisconsin today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Costello  
453 Shady Lane  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
Mid-State Technical College Board Member





AB603

September 27, 2005

Dear Representative Kreibich,

As a retired member of a Technical College Board for ten years (Madison Area Technical College) , I read with dismay your committee's proposal for transforming boards into elected ones.

As an initial concern, elected board members will require compensation rather than the volunteerism demonstrated by current members.

The concept of elected board members has been discussed for as long as I can remember, and over the years I went out of my way to talk to elected college board members from all across the country to make my own assessment of the difference between appointed and elected members. The outstanding difference was the politicization of the office.

Unions and other interest groups invest in elections and move the debates into their particular arenas. Unfortunately, this suppresses the actual mission of the colleges, that of creating a workforce pool that can compete in a word market place. When discussions focus on dollars and not what value dollars can create, much time and energy is wasted. I would urge you to reconsider this proposal.

I would also note that some districts are very large and will be much larger than that of senatorial districts. Does the Assembly really want to create a pool of politicians with areas of influence larger than that of Representatives and Senators? I am aware that in other states, this creation of elected members with name recognition in a wide area becomes a staging position for further elected office rather than an actual commitment to technical or community education.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Mrs. Judith Ecker  
312 Market Street  
DeForest, WI 53532





September 27, 2005

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

Dear Representative Kreibich:

I serve on the Board of Trustees of Mid-State Technical College as the appointed school superintendent to that Board. As such, I take seriously my role not only to make connections between K-12 public education and the technical college, but also as a representative of the concerns and interests of the property taxpayers of our technical college district.

I am opposed to proposal AB 603 that would change the Board structure to that of elected board members.


I would not choose to be a part of the Board if I had to be elected to that seat. I don't have the time to campaign throughout a six-county area. I do have the time to meet with and represent the school districts in that area. That's why the current system works well.

Whoever put together the current structure had it right. To have employer representatives, employee representatives, elected official representatives and school district representatives come to the governing table to make sure our technical colleges continue to be the economic engine for this state works best for the interests of this state. Let's not destroy a good thing.

Our current structure moves beyond single interest concerns and works for the whole. Our current structure lives within fiscal restraints established by state policymakers. Our current structure has created a strong technical college system that is envied throughout the country.

I urge you to resist changing the current structure of the technical college boards. Let's work for what's best for Wisconsin, not for single interests, power, and control.

Sincerely,

  
Dean Ryerson  
Superintendent

c: Rep. Marlin Schneider  
Rep. Louis Molepske Jr.  
Paul Gabriel, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

DR/gl



**From:** Hugh & Chris Williams [mailto:hacwlll@charter.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2005 1:48 PM

**To:** Rep.Kreibich

**Cc:** Rep.Musser; Rep.Ballweg; Rep.Black; Rep.Boyle; Rep.Jeskewitz; Rep.Lamb; Rep.Molepske; Rep.Nass@legis.state.wi.us; Rep.Schneider; Rep.Shilling; Rep.Towns; Rep.Underheim

**Subject:** Assembly Bill 603

**PLEASE PLEASE** consider before messing with something that by your own body's thorough Legislative Review (Taskforce to Review the WTCS, Wisconsin State Assembly, November, 2003) recommended maintaining appointed boards.

As you know, the 16 tech college boards are appointed by elected officials. We adhere to the same ethic regulations as elected officials; however, we receive no per diem or salary, but serve as **non-partisan volunteers**. Currently board members must meet a category: employer, employee, school administrator or elected. Considering the mission of technical colleges, these representations are most directly related and invaluable when conducting business. Appointment rules do not allow any category to dominate and there are gender and racial/ethnic considerations. All this would go out the door with AB603. Further, the appointment process is duly noticed and there is every opportunity for community participation.

As a retired county clerk and former member (including chair) of the Sparta K-12 School District Board, I am entirely familiar with the election process. The appointment process to a tech college board is no less daunting, but in so many respects it is so much "healthier."

I cannot stress enough that what we have is working, there is no evidence to the contrary, and I would think the November 2003 review and recommendation to maintain appointed boards would weigh heavily in any decision you make.

*Thank you so much for your time.* Not only in this instance but in serving as an elected official representing our great state. A state known for educational success.

Chris Williams  
Western Wisconsin Technical College  
District Board Member



September 28, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich  
Chairperson  
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee

Dear Representative Kreibich,

As chairperson of the Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) District Board, I am writing to express my opposition to 2005 Assembly Bill 603 (Popular Election of Technical College District Boards).

I am currently in my 9<sup>th</sup> year as a technical college board member. As an "employee" member of the MSTC board as well as an alumnus of MSTC, I take great pride in my board membership, Mid-State Technical College, and the Wisconsin Technical College System. The current system of appointing technical college board members has worked extremely well since its inception in 1911. We are appointed by a group of existing governing body chairpersons which helps to ensure equal representation of management and labor ("employer" and "employee" members). The current appointment system allows for board positions to be filled with people genuinely interested in nurturing quality vocational education.

Also appointed to each technical college board is a local elected official as well as a K-12 school district administrator. These specific positions help to promote extraordinary partnerships between technical colleges, local school districts, and local governments.

In my 8+ years of board membership, I have not witnessed one board member display an individual political agenda or the agenda of those who fund political parties and campaigns. Our board seats should not be used as stepping stones for individual political ambitions. Our board seats should be and are filled with local, uncompensated volunteers that are truly technical college and community focused.

Fiscal responsibility needs to be a requirement of any governing board whether appointed or elected. Every technical college district board member that I know takes fiscal responsibility very seriously. The current appointment system allows for board members to come from all walks of life and brings to the table tremendous knowledge of the local economy and tax burdens for all income levels. Technical college board members know that our decisions affect each and every taxpayer in our district and we form and adopt our college's budget each year with extreme consideration for both the student and the taxpayer.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a saying that I'm sure you've heard before but certainly applies to this issue. It's a saying that those of us who wear hardhats and steel-toed work boots to make a living use a lot. "If it ain't broke,

don't fix it!" The 1911 Wisconsin Legislature had tremendous forethought in creating a board appointment process that continues to work effectively today. Let's not throw their vision and hard work out the door.

Sincerely,

Randall R. Dhein  
Chairperson  
Mid-State Technical College





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# Gerald R. McGowan

September 28, 2005

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

Dear Representative Kreibich:

A previous commitment will make it impossible for me to testify at the hearing for AB 603 on October 4<sup>th</sup>. This letter is intended to state my views on this bill. I request that you share it with other members of the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee. Given the short timeframe, I am also sending a copy of this letter to you by email.

I am currently chairperson of the board of trustees for the Madison Area Technical College. I have served on this board for the past four years and am appointed as a member at large.

I am opposed to Assembly Bill 603 for several reasons. First of all, less than two years ago the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce to Review the WTCS included the recommendation to "Maintain the current method of appointing members of technical college district boards." This recommendation came after a thorough year-long review of the WTCS including college governance, funding, mission, service, and accountability to taxpayers. I feel that this topic has been studied and that the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee should adopt these recommendations.

Secondly, current Wisconsin Technical College Boards operate as openly, publicly, and with as much opportunity for public input as any form of local government. Board members follow the same ethics laws as elected officials.

Thirdly, we are held accountable by elected county board chairs who appoint us to our positions. The current process works well and provides for varied backgrounds of board members as well as gender and minority status.

I urge the committee to reject AB 603.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. McGowan, Chairperson  
Madison Area Technical College

Cc: Paul Gabriel, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

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[umcgowan@shglobal.net](mailto:umcgowan@shglobal.net)





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September 29, 2005

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

RE: Bill: AB603

Dear Representative Kreibich

I am currently on the Board of Trustees at W.C.T.C. (Waukesha County Technical College). I have been on the Board for the past ten years and have held various officer positions including Board Chair. I currently am co-chair on the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee for the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association. I am also active at the local level with various organizations relating to economic development as it affects our community and W.C.T.C. On the national level, I am on the Nominating Committee representing the North Central Region for A.C.C.T. (American Community College Trustees).

I have been to Washington D.C. on numerous occasions visiting our Congressmen and Senators and advocating legislation which would aid our State Technical College System.

I am a local business owner who has started and operated a wholesale distribution company in Menomonee Falls, WI for the past 37 years (RO-AN Corporation). I am also President/C.O.O. of a manufacturing company located in Waukesha, WI (Friction Stir Link, Inc.).

I am opposed to Bill: AB603 for the following reasons:

1. Wisconsin Technical College District Boards are Designed for Excellence in Representation and Governance – A proud legacy since 1911; A copied and proven national model
2. Technical College Boards are as Representative as Elected Boards – Geographically, by profession, background, gender, and minority status; As non-political/non-partisan volunteers; Because vacancies can be filled without special elections.
3. Locally Appointed Boards are Part of a Balanced and Accountable State-Local Governance Structure – Local boards are part of effective shared state and local governance; Local boards are only one part of colleges' community input.

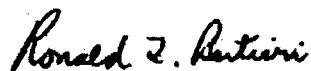
4. Boards Operate as Openly, Publicly, and With as Much Opportunity for Public Input as Any Form of Local Government – Board appointment is a democratic process; Boards operate openly and publicly under the same laws as all local governments; Board members follow the same ethics laws as elected officials.
5. Wisconsin Technical Colleges are a Key Economic Engine and Return More to the Economy than Any Other Publicly Funded Activity – Technical colleges' return on investment and responsiveness is related to local board governance.
6. Wisconsin's Appointed Technical College District Boards are Recognized as National Leaders and Role Models – Volunteer board members are well known nationally for commitment and leadership; Are leaders in quality improvement and in promoting partnership and collaboration.
7. A Comprehensive Legislative Taskforce Review Recommended Maintaining the Current Appointed Boards Model.

I personally would not have the time, or the desire, to be on the Technical College Board of Trustees if I had to go through the political process of becoming an elected official. How many other Community Leaders would feel likewise? How many other dedicated and qualified individuals would be willing to have fundraisers or spend their own money and time to go through the elections process to achieve a non-paid position on a local Technical College Board of Trustees?

Once again, I am asking you to vote "NO" to Bill: AB603.

We currently have an excellent Wisconsin Technical College System, which has been created through the "Appointment Process". Please continue this recognized and proven national model.

Respectfully yours,



Ronald L. Bertieri





# Blair-Taylor School District

219 S. Main Street • P.O. Box 125 • Blair, WI 54616 • [www.btsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.btsd.k12.wi.us)

BLAIR-TAYLOR ADMINISTRATION

Guy Leavitt  
Superintendent

608-989-2881  
Fax: 608-989-2451

Jeffrey S. Eide  
7-12 Principal

608-989-2525  
Fax: 608-989-9161

Connie M. Biedron  
K-6 Principal

608-989-9835  
Fax: 608-989-2451

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September 29, 2005

Representative Terry Musser  
Room 11 West  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

I am writing to offer testimony regarding AB 603, the bill sponsored by you to eliminate district technical college boards and replace them with elected boards. I don't understand the rationale behind the proposal and am troubled by your sponsorship of the bill.

It seems to me that an effort is being made to change a system that has operated since 1911 and is pretty efficient. Through the existing appointment process, colleges are assured representation from across their district boundaries. Diversity in representation is a real strength as the appointment process requires representation of employers, employees, elected local officials and a school district administrator. From my experience as a member of the WWTC board for the past two years I can personally attest to the diversity that exists on our board. The common thread, though, is the concern of each board member for the economic vitality of the region and the desire to create partnerships to keep our economy strong.

Many of the individuals serving on technical college boards, myself included, do so out of a desire to make a positive contribution to the community or region they represent. The present compensation for board members at WWTC is mileage reimbursement for attendance at meetings. On average, our board will meet once a month for a period of 4-6 hours. Additionally, we periodically attend planning sessions and are encouraged to attend a number of activities hosted by the college.

In 2003, the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce to review WTCS, comprised of legislators and citizens from around the state, completed a thorough year-long review of the WTCS including college governance, funding, mission, service and accountability to taxpayers. The Taskforce's final recommendations in November, 2003 included: "Maintain the current method of appointing board members of technical college district boards." My question is, What has changed in the past two years??

I have been pondering over the question of why a change in representation from appointed to elected is needed. The administration of the college is responsible to providing leadership and

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## BOARD MEMBERS

Duane Schaller, *President*

David Smikrud, *Vice President*

Susan Frederixon, *Clerk*

Fern Aleckson, *Treasurer*

Michelle Weisenberger, *Director*

Dr. Blaine O. Koxlien, *Director*

Randi Arneson, *Director*

direction for the college. Board members function as sounding boards to react to administrative recommendations and see that they fall within current college policy or procedure. Will an elected board do that any differently?

Further, the appointment process works well at WWTC. People who take the time to be considered for appointment to the board are genuinely interested in the workings of the college and have a desire to make the necessary time commitment to serve effectively as a board member. They are familiar with the issues of their area and are sensitive to the needs of taxpayers as well as the importance of the technical college as a primary economic driver in their region. I have a sense that many of these individuals may not be interested in campaigning for an elected office. As a result we may lose a good share of that diverse mix that exists on boards presently. Elected members may also represent the more populated parts of the technical college district and the rural perspective on needs will be lost.

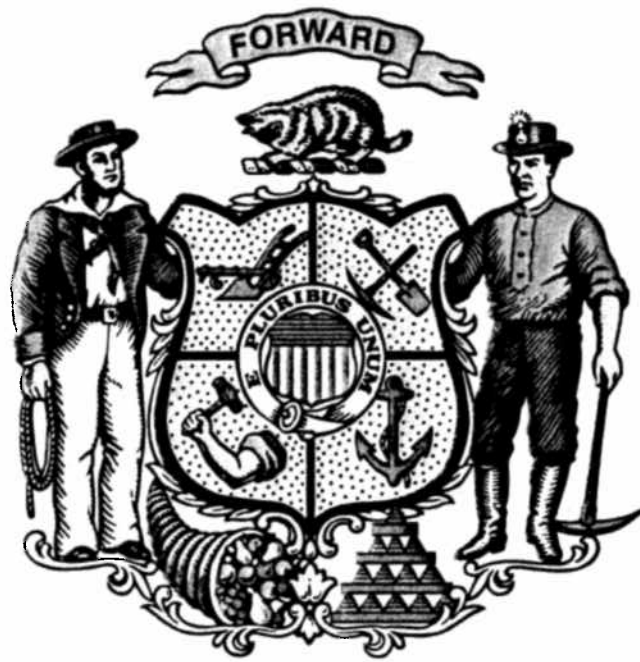
For this and many more reasons, I hope you will reconsider the proposal to change the process for technical college board representation. We have a system in place that is working well. We have a great board at WWTC and I think that sentiment will be echoed in many other colleges across the state. Why change it?

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guy Leavitt".

Guy Leavitt, Superintendent  
Blair-Taylor School District  
Member of Western Wisconsin Technical College Board





September 29, 2005

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

Dear Representative Kreibich,

I am writing with concerns regarding AB 603, a bill to eliminate WI Technical College Boards as they are today, and replace them with elected boards. It will be before your committee on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Electing Technical College Boards would not be a prudent move for the following reasons:

1. 1. Present board members are a mix geographically, by profession, background, gender, and minority status. The present mix gives the board of each college equal representation of management and labor, who are knowledgeable about current employment needs. This mix would not be guaranteed with the proposed elected boards.
2. 2. Present board members represent the community and are not political in nature. Large and small areas are all represented. My fear is that an elected board will have a primarily large community representation and the rural areas will be forgotten.
3. 3. There would be considerable cost involved in electing board members. Communities and Technical Colleges alike would be expected to foot the bill. How can you justify increasing the financial load to all concerned, especially in this time of budget trims?
4. 4. The present individual volunteer Technical College boards have a system of checks and balances in place. They are under the WI Technical College System Board (WTCS), that provides state-level strategic direction, accountability, and leadership across the system. At the local level, community-based advisory committees make recommendations to the individual boards and monitor public-private competition. Individual board members already follow the same ethics and financial reporting requirements as elected public officials. They file economic interest statements. Would elected boards have any different or better monitoring?
5. 5. Volunteer Board members are dedicated to their mission. They volunteer time to professional growth and development activities. They also volunteer hours to college and community events. They use personal vacation/leave to attend board development activities. Would elected board members be so generous of their time?

Technical colleges are known to "step up to the plate" quickly to provide a qualified workforce as the need arises. They are the "trainers" of the un-employed/under-employed, especially in times of economic depression. They are quick to meet the training needs of individual manufacturers and service organizations. They are innovative in presenting programs for students 24/7, so that they can work and train

simultaneously. On new economic activity and tax revenues, they create a huge economic return of \$2 in tax revenue for every \$1 of total public investment in just 2.2 years. The present system works. Why change it?

Please share my comments with your committee members on Tuesday. I regret that I cannot appear personally before your committee to voice my concerns. Consideration of the above by you and your committee is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Judith E Wendtlandt  
Moraine Park Technical College Board Member  
235 N National Avenue  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1940  
Phone: 262-644-7128



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.

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



30 September 2005

AB603

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.

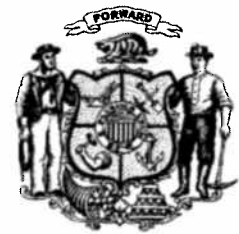
Best Regards

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





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Paul Gabriel**

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**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

10/3/2005



AB 603

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.

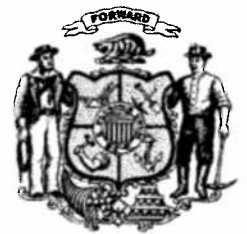
Sincerely,

David Logghe

cc: Representative Andy Lamb



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



AB 603

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





AB 603

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 PROCCSS 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/TRAIING PROCESS? PLEASE FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TASKFORCE OF 2003 AND SAY NO TO THIS CHANGE.

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



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 Kreibech  
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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas E. Neill".

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.

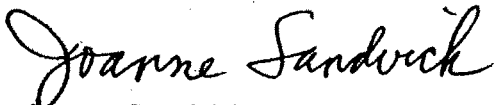
I am having a hard time understanding the logic behind this bill. In 2003 a Taskforce studied this issue in detail, and they recommended not changing the system. I also have not seen any concrete evidence as to how the technical system would be improved by this change. The current governance system has 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, 95<sup>th</sup> Assembly Representative



Wisconsin Student Government  
2005-2006

WSGR-07

**A RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, students realize the value and importance of Wisconsin's appointed technical college district boards; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's technical college board model is designed for excellence in local representation and college governance and is a copied and proven national model; and

**WHEREAS**, technical college boards are as representative as elected boards geographically, by profession, experience, and background, by gender and minority group status, because they are volunteers insulated from partisan politics and funding, because vacancies can be filled more quickly and cheaply; and

**WHEREAS**, locally appointed boards are part of a balanced and accountable state-local governance structure which is the best of combined state and local governance and local boards are only part of community input in college governance; and

**WHEREAS**, technical college boards operate as openly, publicly, and with as much opportunity for public input as any form of local government; and

**WHEREAS**, board appointment is a democratic process, does not create professional politicians, follow the same ethics laws as elected officials, bring together a wide cross section of community leadership, and include elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, technical colleges are the state's key economic engine and return more to the economy than any other publicly funded activity with a return of \$2 in tax revenue for every \$1 of total public investment while meeting an ever-changing variety of training needs, local community needs, and providing cutting edge technology and offerings; and

**WHEREAS**, the technical college boards are recognized as national leaders and role models; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce final recommendations included: "Maintain the current method of appointing members of technical college boards".

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, 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; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Representative Rob Kreibich, Chairperson-Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee.



Michelle Scholz  
President  
Wisconsin Student Government

October 1, 2005  
Date