



# ANDRÉ JACQUE

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*Testimony before the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business,  
Tourism and Workforce Development  
State Senator André Jacque  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

Colleagues on the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development,

Thank you for your participation in this hearing today and the opportunity to testify before you today in support of Senate Bill 44, strong bi-partisan legislation Rep. Murphy and I have re-introduced to expand the Tools of the Trade apprenticeship grant program within the Wisconsin Technical College System. Wisconsin employers desperately need skilled workers and apprenticeships have been successful in helping meet that demand, however the road to complete them is long and paved with financial challenges that can discourage even the most motivated individuals.

In response to this need, SB 44 will provide the Wisconsin Technical College System Board with an additional \$100,000 per academic year to assist technical college students who have undertaken apprenticeship training courses in conjunction with instruction at their schools. Each individual student who qualifies is eligible to receive up to \$1,000, which must be used to assist in paying for materials and expenses associated with the apprenticeship training program, including tools, clothing, equipment and supplies. The Technical College System Board is required to establish an application process and criteria for awarding these grants. The existing Tools of the Trade program is privately funded for the system by the Ascendium Education Philanthropy (formerly Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation) and dispenses \$200,000 annually in grants.

Since the Tools of the Trade program was established in 2013, approximately 96 percent of past recipients have either completed their apprenticeships or continued their training the following semester, a remarkable track record of success. Completion is critical, as the most recent data available showed the median salary for students completing an apprenticeship to be over \$67,000. Over \$600,000 in Tools of the Trade scholarships have been awarded to apprentices in Wisconsin since the program was expanded to apprentices at all WTCS colleges four years ago.

SB 44 will help WTCS keep pace with the increasing demand systemwide for assistance to apprentices. In 2017, the Tools of the Trade program received approximately 265 applications, with 225 deemed eligible and 200 funded. Last year, 317 applications for Tools of the Trade funding were received, with 272 of them being considered eligible (an over 20% increase), and demand is likely to grow even further.

SB 44 has support from the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, and numerous associations in the trades and passed Assembly and Senate Committees and the full State Assembly unanimously last session. Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 44.

# DAVE MURPHY

State Representative • 56th Assembly District

Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce  
Development  
March 20, 2019

## SB 44/AB 36: Tools of the Trade

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Senate Bill 44, our 'Tools of the Trade' bill.

Students at our technical colleges are critical to our growing workforce in Wisconsin. As a long-time proponent of training, education and experience, I'm proud to author this legislation along with Sen. Jacque. Our bill expands the Tools of the Trade apprenticeship program already in place in the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS).

The Tools of the Trade program was established in 2013, and has been privately funded by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation. Sadly, there is still an unmet need with these grants. Every year, applicants are not awarded the grant because the money's run out. This legislation will help WTCS students meet the demands of our workforce needs by awarding \$1000 grants to qualified students for use in paying for apprenticeship needs such as tools or special clothing and equipment. Trades jobs training requires students to have their own professional level supplies and equipment, and this is a great way to get those items in their hands fast.

Providing a state investment of an additional \$50,000 per year to this critical program is a small way to have a great impact on our students and our workforce of the future.

Again, thank you for hearing this bill. I hope you'll join me in supporting Senate Bill 44.

Thank you.

# Tribal Colleges in Wisconsin

## College of Menominee Nation

- in Keshena on the Menominee Reservation
- also an urban campus near the Oneida Nation in the City of Green Bay

Since 1993



College of  
Menominee  
Nation

## Lac Courte Oreilles Community College

- in Hayward on the LCO Reservation
- also outreach sites on 4 other Ojibwa reservations in northern counties

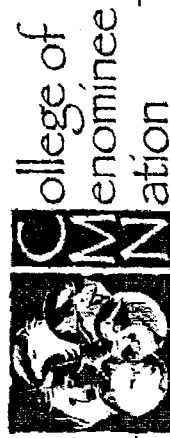
Since 1982



# Who Is Served

## CMN serves

- 721 students in Bachelor's Degree and Associate Degree programs, and in technical/trades areas
- 40% of these students are non-Indian



## LCO serves

- 557 students in Associate Degree programs and technical/trades areas
- 25% of these students are non-Indian



## 2017-19 Tribal Gaming Revenue Appropriations Under Act 59

	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Program Revenue</u>		<u>Purpose</u>
		<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	
1	Administration	\$563,200	\$563,200	County management assistance grant program.
2	Administration	0	0	UW-Green Bay and Oneida Tribe programs assistance grants.
3	Administration	79,500	79,500	Tribal governmental services and technical assistance.
4	Children and Families	717,500	717,500	Indian child high-cost out-of-home care placements.
5	Children and Families	0	0	Indian juvenile out-of-home care placements.
6	Corrections	50,000	50,000	American Indian tribal community reintegration program.
7	Health Services	712,800	712,800	Health services: tribal medical relief block grants.
8	Health Services	106,900	106,900	American Indian health projects.
9	Health Services	242,000	242,000	Indian aids for social and mental hygiene services.
10	Health Services	445,500	445,500	Indian substance abuse prevention education.
11	Health Services	250,000	250,000	Reimbursements for high-cost mental health placements by tribal courts.
12	Health Services	133,600	133,600	Minority health program and public information campaign grants.
13	Health Services	961,700	961,700	Medical assistance matching funds for tribal outreach positions and federally qualified health centers (FQHC).
14	Health Services	445,500	445,500	Elderly nutrition; home-delivered and congregate meals.
15	Health Services	22,500	22,500	American Indian diabetes and control.
16	Higher Educational Aids Board	405,000	405,000	Tribal College Payments
17	Higher Educational Aids Board	779,700	779,700	Indian student assistance grant program for American Indian undergraduate or graduate students.
18	Higher Educational Aids Board	470,900	481,800	Wisconsin Grant program for tribal college students.
19	Historical Society	201,100	201,100	Collection preservation storage facility.
20	Historical Society	217,100	217,100	Northern Great Lakes Center operations funding.
21	Justice	695,000	695,000	Tribal law enforcement grant program.
22	Justice	490,000	490,000	County law enforcement grant program.
23	Justice	631,200	631,200	County-tribal law enforcement programs: local assistance.
24	Justice	95,500	95,600	County-tribal law enforcement programs: state operations.
25	Kickapoo Valley Reserve Management Board	69,400	69,400	Law enforcement services at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.
26	Natural Resources	84,500	84,500	Payment to the Lac du Flambeau Band relating to certain fishing and sports licenses.
27	Natural Resources	156,800	156,800	Management of state fishery resources in off-reservation areas where tribes have treaty-based rights to fish.
28	Natural Resources	96,400	96,400	Management of an elk reintroduction program.
29	Natural Resources	77,100	77,100	Reintroduction of whooping cranes.
30	Natural Resources	1,122,100	1,122,100	State snowmobile enforcement program, safety training and fatality reporting.
31	Natural Resources	3,000,000	3,000,000	Transfer to the fish and wildlife account of the conservation fund.

Agency	Program Revenue		Purpose
	2017-18	2018-19	
32 Public Instruction	222,800	222,800	Tribal language revitalization grants.
33 Tourism	24,900	24,900	State aid for the arts.
34 Tourism	8,967,100	8,967,100	General tourism marketing, including grants to nonprofit tourism promotion organizations and specific earmarks.
35 Tourism	160,000	160,000	Grants to local organizations and governments to operate regional tourist information centers.
36 Transportation	396,000	396,000	Tribal elderly transportation grants.
37 University of Wisconsin System	417,500	417,500	Ashland full-scale aquaculture demonstration facility operational costs.
38 University of Wisconsin System (Building Commission)	271,900	265,800	Ashland full-scale aquaculture demonstration facility debt service payments.
39 University of Wisconsin-Madison	488,700	488,700	Physician and health care provider loan assistance.
40 Veterans Affairs	61,200	61,200	Grants to assist American Indians in obtaining federal and state veterans benefits and to reimburse veterans for the cost of tuition at tribal colleges.
41 Veterans Affairs	87,800	87,800	American Indian services veterans benefits coordinator position.
42 Wisconsin Technical College Board	594,000	594,000	Grants for work-based learning programs.
43 Workforce Development	314,900	314,900	Vocational rehabilitation services for Native American individuals and American Indian tribes or bands.
44 Administration	200,000	0	Stockbridge-Munsee For Youth Treatment Wellness Center
Subtotal (Non-Regulatory Items)	\$25,529,300	\$25,334,200	
45 Administration	1,974,800	1,996,300	General program operations for Indian gaming regulation under the compacts.
46 Justice	165,600	165,800	Investigative services for Indian gaming law enforcement.
Subtotal (Regulation/Enforcement)	\$2,140,400	\$2,162,100	
Total Appropriations	\$27,669,700	\$27,496,300	

[Act 59 Sections: 318, 390, 395, 396, 454, 455, 460, 2246, 9101(10), and 9401(5)]

[Act 59 Vetoes Section: 183 (as it relates to s. 20.505(1)(km))]

**2. DELETE APPROPRIATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY PROGRAMMING [LFB Paper 640]**

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Veto (Chg. to Leg)	Net Change
PR	-\$495,000	\$495,000	-\$495,000	-\$495,000

**Governor:** Eliminate statutory provisions and an appropriation in the Department of

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**Hearing on SB-44  
Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Senate Committee  
March 20, 2019**

Greetings Chairman Jacque, Vice Chair Bernier and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee and I am sorry I could not attend the hearing in person.

My name is Dr. Rebecca Villarreal and I am the Director of Education Grantmaking at Ascendium Education Group, formerly Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates. We launched our new name in November 2018.

At Ascendium, we believe that postsecondary degrees, credentials, apprenticeships and certificates are the surest path to economic success. We work to ensure that more students are able to access and complete the type of education most relevant to their goals, whether they are recent high school graduates or returning students with valuable workforce or military service experience.

The vast majority of apprentices are age 24 or older, many with families - returning to advance their career or to re-train for a new opportunity.

Apprentices often make sacrifices in order to invest in their futures. They earn modest wages with limited options for financial aid during their on-the-job training and classroom instruction—which can last up to five years. And costs for specialized equipment, tools and clothing can present serious financial challenges to even the most motivated apprentices. Simply put, the price of steel-toe boots can stand in the way of program completion—and the promise of a rewarding career.

Tools of the Trade Scholarships are meant to reduce those barriers by providing financial resources for apprentices to purchase the necessary equipment or gear required in their field.

In 2013, we made a 10-year, \$200,000 commitment honoring Jim Elliott for his lifelong dedication to the construction trades in Milwaukee, serving 22 years as

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President of the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council, as well as his years of service to Ascendium's Board and the Wisconsin Technical College System by creating the Jim Elliott Tools of the Trade Scholarship at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Our first scholarships were in support of a variety of high-demand construction fields. *(Such as steam-fitting, electrical construction, environment service, sheet metal construction, painting and decorating, and cement masonry).*

Our first recipients received \$1,000 and in 2014 we awarded 20 scholarships from an applicant pool of 33 apprentices attending MATC.

We saw the need statewide and the opportunity to expand this program across the Wisconsin System. The following year we awarded 170 Tools of the Trade scholarships across nearly all *(14 of 16)* WTCS colleges and expanded the opportunity to include industrial trades. The number of applicants that second year was 450.

Each year we work with a WTCS formed Tools of the Trade scholarship review committee comprised of two system office staff *(Apprenticeship Coordinator and another education director)* and 3-5 volunteers from colleges who are either leadership or staff in apprenticeship programs to review eligible applicants. To be eligible, apprentices must be from a low-income household *(300% or less of the federal poverty level)* and enrolled in an eligible program the semester the scholarship is awarded. As part of the application process we ask for a brief essay and a letter of recommendation from the apprentice's employer.

In an attempt to support more apprentices, in 2015, we increased the total number of recipients to 200 and have held steady at that amount through our most recent award cycle. Recognizing tools and equipment can be expensive and based on feedback from our WTCS partners, in 2018, we increased the award amount to \$1,500. Unfortunately we are not able to meet the demand and have to turn away a large number of eligible applicants.

In total, we have awarded nearly \$1.2 million in scholarships to Wisconsin apprentices across all 16 of the WTCS institutions and we believe these scholarships have made a difference in the lives of the recipients. Overall, there is



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a 95% retention rate for Tools of the Trade recipients. Meaning that the vast majority of the apprentices either re-enroll the following semester (85%) or graduate (10%).

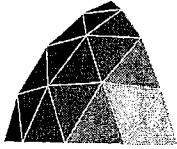
Tools of the Trade is a perfect example of how a philanthropic effort can be piloted, shown to be effective, and then scaled to serve more students by combining philanthropic and public dollars. *(Much like our work on emergency aid and the subsequent March 2016 Wisconsin legislation. Providing resources to both WTCS and UW students experiencing a financial emergency that might cause them to drop out. 2015 Wisconsin Act 282 – Beginning in 2016-17, providing \$450,000: \$320,000 for WTCS students, \$120,000 for UW College students).*

Our commitment to Milwaukee apprentices continues through 2024 with the Jim Elliott Tools of the Trade award and we look forward to continuing to partner with WTCS in support of apprentices statewide.

In closing, when asked what does this scholarship mean to you? Two recipients shared this:

“Financially, I was between a rock and a hard place—my particular company requires us to buy a lot of our own tools, so this scholarship really helped me out. It’s an honor, really—it makes me more precise in what I do, and I feel like I really made the right decision by getting into the trades” and “It means that I’m not alone in my journey to become a skilled tradesman.”

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.



WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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March 20, 2019

Chair Jacque, Vice-Chair Bernier, and Members of the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development:

I write today on behalf of Wisconsin's 16 local technical college district boards to express our support for Senate Bill 44. Technical colleges have been partners in the state's registered apprenticeship program throughout our more than 100-year history. Today, apprenticeship is enjoying a resurgence. Nearly 7,000 apprentices are currently enrolled in related instruction through technical colleges, a 47% increase since 2013.

Technical colleges wish to sustain strong growth in this important pathway to family-supporting careers. In order to continue to grow apprenticeship, we are pursuing several strategies. Our colleges are working with the Department of Workforce Development and our employer-partners to bring this learning model to more professions, including welding fabricator, industrial manufacturing technician, and maintenance technician, as well as to non-traditional sectors of the economy, including financial services, organic farming, pharmacy, and biotechnology. We are advocating at the federal level for additional financial support for apprenticeship programs, and the colleges continue to re-allocate scarce local resources to expand high-demand apprenticeship courses. We are also working as a System to educate more employer-partners and individual students about the tremendous benefits of apprenticeship. I hope you will all review the January 2019 WTCS Apprenticeship Completion Report, available at [wtcsystem.edu](http://wtcsystem.edu), which provides employment and salary data for the most recent class of new journey workers. They reported median starting salaries of over \$77,700, with 95% working right here in Wisconsin.

At a time of growing labor shortages and ongoing skills gaps, it is critical that Wisconsin invests in skilled workers by investing in technical education. We are finding at the technical colleges nearly every person who can work already is working. For the rest, many face significant barriers to re-joining the workforce. Wisconsin's workforce participation rate is presently an outstanding 67.6%, 4.4 percentage points higher than the national average. Consider though, that prior to the Great Recession, Wisconsin's rate was 70.8%. In the 1990s, the state rate hit its all time high—74.8%. To help those who are discouraged or disconnected, we must ask ourselves what we can do to remove barriers to the great careers available with Wisconsin's employers.

That's why Tools of the Trade, a scholarship program begun with private funding from Great Lakes/Ascendium, is so important. It reduces a significant barrier to entry to family-supporting careers for apprentices are just starting out. A full complement of industry-grade tools and equipment can cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000, depending on the profession. Most apprentices will acquire their tools over time, as they earn and learn, but some need help buying the basics. The private Tools of the Trade program annually provides \$1,500 toward tools, equipment, and clothing for 180 construction and industrial apprentices who can provide pay stubs showing a financial need. They also require a recommendation from an employer. However, demand is growing along with our enrollments, and private funding is no longer adequate to meet the need. We ask for your support in creating a public-private partnership with GL/Ascendium to expand the Tools of the Trade scholarship to more apprentices each year, and help make the great careers available through apprenticeship a realistic option for more Wisconsinites.

Thank you.

Layla Merrifield  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

# Senate Bill 44

Testimony from Bryan Obst – HR Manager Trace-A-Matic Corporation

- 2 attachments show cost of tooling
  1. First attachment shows WCTC tools needed for 1 year CNC Machining Diploma
  2. Second attachment shows the cost of tooling with our discount that we get from our supplier.
  
- Bill 44 will assist the Apprentices, Technical Colleges and the Employers by offsetting some of the expense of the necessities for the apprenticeship.
  1. Apprentices – Helps offset expenses of necessities for their trade
  2. Technical Colleges – Increased number of apprentices entering the various fields.
    - a. Studies on Millennials show they want to “climb the career ladder” Apprenticeship shows them the career path.
  3. Employers – Assists with the skills gap with more continuing on in the trades and the apprenticeship.
  
- Dual Enrollment
  1. 6<sup>th</sup> year
  2. 29 High Schools
  3. 4 of the 8 cohorts offer apprenticeships: CNC/Tool & Die, Welding/Fabrication, Building Construction Trades and Automation Systems
  
- Non-traditional students and College Graduates
  1. The average age of students attending the Wisconsin Technical System is 28.
  2. The number of 4 year degree holders attending Wisconsin Technical Colleges is 38,000.
  3. Percent of Wisconsin high School graduates attending tech college after graduation: 20%

## WCTC Required Supplies for Machine Tool Operation Courses 1- 2- 3- 4

<b>Textbook:</b>	Precision Machining Technology, 2012 DELMAR, CENGAGE Learning	Delmar Publishing ISBN-13: 978-1-4354-4767-7
<b>Authors:</b>	Hoffman; Hopewell; Janes; Sharp Jr.	
<b>Supplies:</b>	One 8 ½ x 11 Spiral bound subject notebook One calculator with "trig" function capabilities Safety shoes with safety toes	One 2 ½ to 3 inch 3 Ring binder Pencils, pens, erasers, highlighter Safety glasses with side shields

### WCTC Required Tools

Machine Tool Operation 1 + 2				Machine Tool Operation 3 + 4			
Item	Course 1	Course 2	420-320 420-321	Item	Course 1	Course 2	420-320 420-321
1	Tool Box-locking Examples are: KENNEDY, MATTCO, CRAFTSMAN, etc.			9	Outside Micrometers Set of 3 0 - 1 inch 1 - 2 inch 2 - 3 inch		
2	1-6 Inch Scale (steel) 1/64 + 1/32 graduations on one side. Decimal graduations on other side. 4r classification.			10	1 Dial Caliper 0 - 6 inch range (mechanical) non digital/battery Suggested: Brown & Sharpe		
3	1 "Jacobs" Drill Chuck Key Model K3 5/16 diameter			11	1 Indicol Universal Indicator Holder + 1 Dial Indicator increments of .0005 or .001		
4	1-Edge Finder .200 dia. tip			12	1-Center Punch for bench layout		
5	1 Flat Mill File with handle... example 10-12 Inch "flat smooth"			13	1-60 degree Center Gage for threading Looks like an arrow tip...		
6	1- 90 degree multi-flute Countersink 3/4 inch body diameter			14	1-118 degree Drill Sharpening Gage		
7	Hexagon (allen) wrench set, 12 pc. From 3/32 - 3/8 inch In 1/32 inch increments			15	1 Honing Stone medium grit		
8	Hexagon (allen) wrench set metric 9 pc. from 1.5 - 10 MM			16	1-.500 dia. Roughing End Mill 4 flute  1-.500 dia. Finishing End Mill 4 flute		
	OPTIONAL				OPTIONAL		
	1 Dead-Blow Hammer (soft body) 18 - 24+ ounces				1 Plunge Type Dial Indicator with Magnetic Base (buy as a package)		

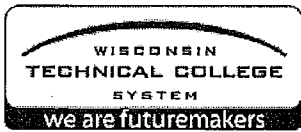
  

Item	Course 3	Course 4	420-322 420-323
1	1 - 10 piece Precision Parallel Set Range: ¼ to 1-5/8 tall 1/8 increment steps		
2	1- ¼ inch diameter, 118 degree Spot Drill		
3	10 piece (minimum) Screwdriver Set flathead + phillips		
4	1 Drill Bit Set high speed steel 1/32 thru ¼ inch set by 1/16 inch increments		
5	1 Inspection Mirror		
	OPTIONAL		
	1 Precision Square		

Item	Order #	Est Cost
Tool Box - 3 drawer chest	43282128	\$62.99
Lock for Tool Box	02149466	\$9.00
1-6 inch scale	06516355	\$12.36
1" Jacobs Drill Chuck Key	08592701	\$6.27
Edge Finder	86425246	\$20.63
Flat Mill File	80755333	\$9.73
90 degree multi-flute countersink	07847981	\$27.37
Hexagon - metric/standard set	88349808	\$33.60
Micrometers 0-1 inch - Mitutoyo	06231658	\$82.60
Micrometers 1-2 inch - Mitutoyo	06231674	\$110.40
Micrometers 2-3 inch - Mitutoyo	06231435	\$123.20
Dial Caliper -0-8 - Manual	84477819	\$123.90
Indicol - Holder + Dial Indicator	71458418	\$125.06
Center Punch	86404993	\$7.10
60 Degree Center Gage	81885840	\$5.77
118 degree drill sharpening gage	85720274	\$14.15
Honing Stone	44300994	\$7.60
.500 dia. Roughing end mill	01881010	\$58.37
.500 dia Finishing end mill	84311901	\$65.03
10 piece parallel set	07604929	\$150.29
1/4 inch dia 118 degree spot drill	71330161	\$4.65
Screw Driver set 20pc	63268619	\$23.24
1 drill bit set	01186709	\$90.34
1 Inspection Mirror	67735217	\$11.42
Optional		
Dead Blow Hammer	40973977	\$16.90
Plunge Dial indicator w/ magnetic base	71458250	\$166.66
Dial Caliper - Digital - 0-8	09683533	\$224.00
Precision Square	00273599	\$14.32


\$1,606.95

With Employer discount



**Morna K. Foy, President**

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**DATE:** March 20, 2019  
**TO:** Members, Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce  
**FROM:** Morna K. Foy, President, Wisconsin Technical College System   
**RE:** Support for Senate Bill-44, Apprenticeship Grants

Thank you, Chairman Jacque, for holding this hearing and to you and Representative Murphy for introducing this legislation in your respective bodies. Senate Bill-44 creates a Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) administered grant program for registered apprentices receiving their instruction at a WTCS college. The legislation provides \$100,000 annually for individual awards of up to \$1,000 to assist apprentices with the costs of tools, clothing, equipment and supplies related to their program.

WTCS works closely with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards (BAS) to meet employer needs by providing classroom instruction for state-registered apprenticeship programs in Wisconsin. WTCS colleges provide this instruction for 71 distinct apprenticeship occupations in the industrial, construction, utility and service sector areas. In 2017-18, just over 6,900 individuals were enrolled statewide in the WTCS classroom component for apprenticeship; 847 individuals received their apprenticeship completion certificate in 2016-17 (the latest data available).

WTCS strongly supports SB-44 for several reasons. First, tools, clothing and equipment for apprentices are costly. These expenses occur early in an apprentice's training when they have not yet achieved their full earning potential. An example of the costs encountered by one of our newer apprenticeship programs, mechatronics technician, will illustrate the magnitude of these costs. These upfront costs can be a real barrier to successfully complete an apprenticeship or even entering an apprenticeship program.

Mechatronics technicians support robotics and automation technologies used in modern manufacturing processes for electrical, mechanical and electronic systems. This apprenticeship was developed in partnership with BAS to address industry needs for additional skilled maintenance technicians. While a typical consumer may spend \$100 on a basic tool set, a mechatronics apprentice must invest about \$500 of their own money for safety-rated hand tools as well as specialized equipment (e.g., a \$600 multi-meter used to measure electronic voltage). To secure and maintain these tools, an entry-level tool box is also needed by an apprentice and runs about \$1,000. Further, apprentices must also often invest in safety-rated clothing and protective gear.

Second, the existing Ascendium (previously Great Lakes) privately-funded "Tools of the Trade" scholarship program to assist financially needy apprentices with these expenses is not able to keep up with the current demand. Since 2016, the number of eligible apprentices has exceeded available funding. In 2019, funding for 180 "Tools of the Trade" scholarships was available; 108 eligible apprentices (i.e., 38 percent of qualifying applicants) did not receive this scholarship due to a lack of funds.

Further, the need for these grants is expected to parallel the continued growth of apprenticeship in Wisconsin. Enrollment in WTCS apprenticeship instructional programs is increasing. As noted, just over 6,900 individuals were enrolled statewide in the WTCS classroom component for apprenticeship. This figure represents a 50 percent increase since 2014 and doesn't include the expected growth in new apprenticeship programs which BAS is developing in partnership with WTCS in the areas of agriculture, biotechnology, finance, health care and information technology.

Finally, AB-44 will assist apprentices in all sectors, including those in the utility and service sectors, who are ineligible under the Ascendium's "Tools of the Trade" scholarship program. Ascendium's program offers eligibility to apprentices in the manufacturing or construction sectors, only.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for AB-44.



First, I thank you all for your service to the people of the State of Wisconsin. Thank you also for hearing this testimony.

I am Alan Petelinsek (pedal-insect sounds really close) CEO and Business Director for Power Test, Inc. We are a privately held second generation manufacturing business employing just over 100 people. Our business is a vertically integrated manufacture of large machines used for testing engines, transmissions and vehicles. We sell to the transportation, construction, military, power generation and mining markets all over the globe. 50% of our business is export.

We have found the business climate to be very favorable here in Wisconsin, especially in recent years. We like many businesses are encountering significant challenges in hiring a skilled workforce. We have participated in providing apprenticeships for many years and presently have several new apprenticeships available. Please see the attachment above.

While we provide on the job training and pay apprentices for the time they attend school, each of these people are still exposed to costs involved in obtaining some necessary but rather expensive tools and equipment. These tools and materials are generally greater than a typical student would be required to obtain early in this stage of their education. This fact may prove to be a barrier to entering the apprenticeship programs.

I would like to state that the Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit allows our businesses more financial resources to invest in these apprentices. The recent surge of apprenticeships would seem to support this.

On behalf of my company, I urge you to pass Senate Bill 44, thereby minimizing the barriers to entry for those apprentices that we would like to invest in. This would be a great sign that Wisconsin believes in manufacturing and is willing to invest in these great family supporting jobs. The sooner we get these individuals into the apprenticeship program the faster they become tax payers and help us build machines IN WISCONSIN.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Petelinsek

**Alan Petelinsek** | Director of Business Development, CEO  
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O 262.252.4301 C 262.720.8260 F 262.246.0436  
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