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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: July 1, 2015

Re: WTCS Report to JFC

Attached is a report regarding grants to district boards from the Wisconsin Technical College System pursuant to s. 38.04(32)(b), Stats.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

AD:JN;jm



Morna K. Foy, President

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June 30, 2015

Senator Alberta Darling and
Representative John Nygren, Co-chairpersons
Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

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Dist. Finance

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

I am pleased to share with you the attached report in compliance with section 38.04 (32) (b) of the Wisconsin statutes. This provision requires the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) to submit an annual report regarding Grants to District Boards. The report is to be submitted to the Department of Administration, Joint Committee on Finance and the appropriate standing committees of the legislature (Senate-Universities and Technical Colleges/Assembly-Colleges and Universities). The reporting requirement was established in the 2013-15 Biennial Budget.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Willa Panzer, Associate Vice President, Office of Student Success at 608-267-9065.

Sincerely,

Morna K. Foy
President

Cc: Joe Malkasian, JFC Committee Clerk
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau



May 1, 2015

Prepared By: The Office of Student Success

The 2013-15 Biennial Budget changed how the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) awards and administers \$21.9 million as Grants to District Boards (state Categorical Aid). State General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funds provide support for targeted programs within the technical colleges that have been identified by the WTCS, the Legislature, and the Governor as priorities for state support.

New Grant Categories

The law change resulted in the creation of new competitive grant categories and restructuring of the number, function, and process in which to identify grant priorities. The new appropriation provided the WTCS Board greater flexibility to enhance workforce training and expand training in program areas with a high-demand.

The WTCS Board adopted a new process for determining funding priorities, evaluating, awarding, and monitoring grants to district boards. In preparation for the WTCS Board's action, an ad-hoc work group was established to advise System Office staff in its development of recommendations for consideration by the WTCS Board. Subsequently, the WTCS Board created the following GPR grant categories.

- ***Apprentice-Related Instruction - \$500,000***
To respond to cyclical industry demands, with current occupational curriculum, to provide a supply of skilled workers for rapidly developing industries, and ensure the continuity of apprenticeship training during periods of temporary labor demand shortages.
- ***Career Pathways - \$4,000,000***
To create, expand and/or implement career pathways – including providing instructional and supportive services for students in these pathways – to help students, who are engaged in a career pathway, achieve educational attainment and credentials, which prepare them for family sustaining employment and/or other career goals.
- ***Core Industry - \$6,000,000***
To help assure that WTCS programs, in core industry areas, provide industry relevant training using rigorous curricula current technology and related services. Grants may also expand programming in core industry areas within the district. Priority is given to grant projects that reflect inter-district collaboration on aligned curriculum or consortia programming that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of educational programming.
- ***New Markets - \$1,500,000***
To support programs new to the district to include: development of a program new to the district and approved by the System Board; development of curriculum and related instructional materials, technology and software, the purchase of major/minor equipment; staff development; and the delivery of instruction.



- **Professional Development - \$1,000,000**
To support professional development activities in the Wisconsin Technical College System.
- **Student Support - \$3,000,000**
To create, expand and/or implement innovative methods that provide direct services to students enrolled in courses and programs and for services that transition students through career pathways. The goal is to support students through specific completion points - course completion, completion of subsequent semesters and completion of programs or Wisconsin Technical College System Pathway Certificates.
- **Workforce Advancement Training - \$4,000,000**
To promote increased investment in the development of incumbent workers, improve Wisconsin businesses' productivity and competitiveness, augment the state's economic base, support career pathways, and expand technical college training services to businesses and industry. Grants are awarded to upgrade the skills and productivity of employees of established businesses operating in Wisconsin, with the additional objective of supporting regional workforce and economic development efforts. Training under these grants focus on occupational skills but can include a combination of occupational, academic, and employability topics or courses.
- **Statewide Leadership - \$1,700,000**
Incentive grants to WTCS districts for the purpose of the development of projects with a system-wide impact.

In all GPR grant categories a collaborative approach to the provision of services to technical college students continues to be encouraged through adult career pathways/career pathway bridge efforts.

Grant Reporting

The biggest change for FY2014-15 was the development of a new grant triannual reporting process and forms to replace the Mid-Year and End-of-Year Monitoring/Evaluation reports. Data collection and reporting requirements with triannual reporting dates were added to all categories with the exception of Apprentice-Related Instruction grants and Workforce Advancement Training grants.

The System Office provided an overview of the importance of grant activity reporting, received input from a sample of colleges on the development of the new forms and conducted a triannual reporting training webinar for colleges/grant recipients on the new triannual forms starting with the FY2014-15 grant period. Participants in the training webinar reviewed and were provided instruction on the functionality of triannual grant reporting.