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Career Impact

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

REELS IN SUCCESS

Industry and education
bridge the skills gap

A love of classic cars helps
transform a WITC program



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Put your hands on some money for college

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form every student needs to complete if they plan to attend college in the fall of 2014. It opens the door to potential cash for college. Complete the FAFSA form with assistance from financial aid experts at one of these sessions. This is the first and most important step to qualify for financial aid.

These events are free and open to all. It makes no difference where you plan to attend college.



College Goal Wisconsin

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

WITC-Rice Lake
1900 College Drive
Starts at 6 p.m.

For more information, call
715.234.7082, ext. 5262.

FAFSA Workshop

**Wednesday, March 5, 2014 and
Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

WITC-New Richmond
1019 South Knowles Avenue
Starts at 6:30 p.m.

To register for the workshop,
call 715.246.6561, ext. 4226



Students should attend with a parent or guardian, if possible. If parents are unable to attend, students may attend alone. Independent students may bring their own income and asset information.

Bring the following to the event:

- Correct Social Security numbers
- 2013 federal tax returns (2012 federal tax returns, if 2013 returns are not complete)
- 2013 untaxed income records (SS, TANF, welfare, veteran's benefits)
- W-2s
- 2013 bank statements
- 2013 business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, and stock, bond, and other investment records
- Alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

You may attend even if your 2013 income information is incomplete or you forget something. You may file your FAFSA after the event once you have the materials.

Career Impact

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

Career Impact is published for the community, alumni and friends of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

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WITC is part of the Wisconsin Technical College System, with four campus locations (Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake and Superior), two outreach centers (Hayward and Ladysmith), a learning center in Spooner, and an administrative office in Shell Lake.

Visit our Web site at witic.edu.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Learning is our passion. As Northwest Wisconsin's leader in technical education, WITC creates dynamic opportunities for career preparation and personal effectiveness. We are committed to making each and every experience with us meaningful and professional.



WITC is ranked the fourth best two-year college in the nation by Washington Monthly magazine.



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Do you have news or information about an alumni, program or event at WITC? Contact witic.news@witic.edu

SEEKING MORE

Learn how Maria Reyes overcame challenges and became a leader in the medical community

Story and photos by Jena Vogtman

Maria Reyes moved around swiftly at the front of the large room, speaking enthusiastically about a subject that comes naturally to her: caring for elders with dementia. Her hands and facial expressions showed her passion. She vividly explained how to approach and react to various developmental scenarios from flat stares to hallway pacing and confusion.

Her audience, a group of employees at an assisted living center in Two Harbors, Minn., listened intently, sharing their own experiences throughout the discussion. As a quality improvement nurse of behavioral health for Ecumen, Reyes shows her trainees how to live in the reality of their patients, putting elders at ease and allowing their world to make sense. It's a position Reyes climbed the ladder to get to; it never felt like work, she says. Caring for people has always come first for Reyes, because of the heavy responsibilities she had as a young teenager in Puerto Rico.

"Every time I take care of someone, I think about my grandma. She had lupus, and I took care of her," says Reyes. "That's when I learned about honoring and supporting elders."

After her grandmother passed away, Reyes moved to the U.S. at 16 years old to stay with her father and found school suddenly difficult and frustrating. The problem wasn't the curriculum. She had been a 4.0 student in Puerto Rico. The problem was she only spoke and understood Spanish and quickly landed in special classes.

"That's how I ended up getting off track," says Reyes, explaining how she went on to get pregnant at 17 and dropped out of school to care for her family. During that time, she taught herself new words and correct pronunciation with an English dictionary to communicate in the new reality that surrounded her. She went to work as a blackjack dealer for several years, but she became the one who was dealt a challenging hand of cards.

"No matter where you are today, if you really want something and you want it bad enough, it's attainable. You can achieve anything you like."

About a decade after having her first child, she walked into Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College a divorced 28-year-old who lost her job and had no high school degree. She was in search of a career that could allow her to solely support herself and her two children.

"I really wanted a GED," says Reyes. "I wasn't thinking that I could aspire to be a nurse."

A group of three women at WITC changed that.

“When I first met Maria, she was a timid, young girl. I sensed her fear, but also strength in her that maybe she didn’t realize she had,” says Ann Charbonneau, an academic affairs assistant. “It takes strength to walk through the front door of a college and ask for knowledge. There was something special about that girl.”

Charbonneau, along with student services assistant Kim Davidson and Bunni Haslerud, a former Success Center technician, took Reyes under their wing. Charbonneau says the three witnessed Reyes’s self-confidence grow as she completed her GED, and together, they helped Reyes structure a course to complete the nursing program.

“I knew in my heart of hearts that Maria would become a leader in the medical community someday,” says Charbonneau.

Reyes pushed herself to finish her schooling while holding down a job and taking care of her two boys. With no other family living in the area, community members quickly stepped-up and became Reyes’ support structure. Some neighbors watched her kids as she attended classes; others pressed her to constantly reach her potential.

“WITC really offers a lot to the community. It’s good at supporting you as an individual and realizing you are an adult. There is no connection like it at other colleges, and it’s a connection that continues today. We need to have more colleges like that,” says Reyes. “Even the nursing instructors that worked with me, they were just so committed to what they were doing, and every time I see red ink, I think of them. She always told me I could do better, and I can.”

The practical experience also allowed Reyes to narrow her career options within nursing.

“The clinical experience I received at

WITC was really rich. It made it very easy for me to determine what my career path would be,” says Reyes. “It was the beginning of a never-ending learning experience. It opened up an appetite for self-learning. It doesn’t stop at college.”

After graduation, Reyes found a company she could grow in and says its values met hers.

“Ecumen empowers their employees to go against the grain and to grow as professionals,” says Reyes. “It’s really leading the way in the way we care about elders. There are so many nursing interventions that are underutilized, there’s a lot more room for nurses to bring their intellect and their common sense.”

She says Ecumen and the “Awakenings” program is taking a more non-pharmaceutical approach to care, where appropriate.

“We have severely over-medicated our seniors. We’re changing that culture.

We train other organizations on how to do it differently,” says Reyes, saying although she loves being at the bedside of elders, she feels she can change more lives and touch more people through training staff at various facilities.

She says people are often surprised someone in her position held “only” an associate degree.

“You set out the tools, but it’s really up to us to embrace them and make the most out of them. Learn how to embrace the opportunities in front of you and really use them,” says Reyes. “No matter where you are today, if you really want something and you want it bad enough, it’s attainable. You can achieve anything you like. That’s really the takeaway.”

Charbonneau agrees.

“The adversity she has overcome and the strength she has inside that tiny, little body is comparable to Hercules. Beauty, brains and brawn – that’s Maria.”





Coming from Puerto Rico, Reyes has also gone against the grain of her culture, but has gained respect and pride from her family there.

“They always keep validating the fact that they always knew I would do big things. They are still in their cultural ways. My identity is not culture. It’s a big and lonely step when you come from such a strong culture. I’ve done everything taboo,” says Reyes. “I always knew from being a little girl, I wanted to be at home with my kids. At that time in my life, that’s what I was supposed to be doing, and I was very blessed to have the opportunity to stay at home with kids, but I am equally blessed to manage family and career myself. Culture is a great thing, it’s a valuable thing, but being true to yourself is more important. As a woman, we have so many opportunities available to us and to remain true to who you are as individuals.”

She says when she speaks to certified nursing assistants and others, she helps them to realize their potential

and ability. She always asks them their barriers, and then shares with them her own story of overcoming challenges.

“No one had a story to share with me when I did this, but it would have been a lot easier,” says Reyes. “There’s not a cookie cutter mold for success. You don’t have to have a nuclear family. Success is really dictated on the person’s perception of themselves and their attitude. It doesn’t have to happen right out of high school. When you’re ready for what it is that you want, focus on it and it’s yours.”

Reyes also helps them realize the community support that is available to help students. While she pushed herself, her success is also due to those who supported her. She now has turned around to help others by watching their kids and keeping her friends motivated to continue on their path to a career.

“You have to help yourself too. Your community can be a great support for you, but there comes a time when you

have to give back,” says Reyes about her experience.

She believes the biggest obstacle holding people back from pursuing their dreams is simply fear.

“It’s their own fear of the unknown that stops them from taking that first step. Eliminate the fear. You’ll get through,” Reyes says. “No matter what life has given them so far, the future is still unwritten. I just fed my soul, and I woke up and now, I’m awake.”

DRIVEN *to Succeed*

Bob Lorkowski has restored countless classic cars, while also helping to transform a WITC program

By Deborah Anderson, photos by Rick Vesper

Throughout his life, Bob Lorkowski has had a passion for cars – but the award-winning, world-renowned cars his company produces take a back seat to his dedication to youth, his community, the environment and education.

Lorkowski's business, L'Cars Automotive Specialties, has restored award-winning cars for more than 20 years at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, as well as other competitions around the world.

He and his wife moved from Chicago to northwest Wisconsin in 1978, settling in Bruce, Wis. His original shop, Classic Auto Collision Center, had a unique "hook" to attract customers: after a deer/car accident, he offered one-stop service to his customers – he didn't just fix their car; being a meat cutter, he could also process the venison for an additional \$25.

By the 1980s, Lorkowski was ready to expand into upscale classic car restoration, keeping the collision repair service



separate. He found a building in the small town of Cameron, Wis., secured a loan and remodeled it to restore cars on one side with a showroom on the other.

His customers come from throughout the United States. Some cars delivered as a jumble of parts in boxes. The best craftsman – machinists, mechanics, paint and body technicians, metal fabricators, upholsterers, woodworkers, etc. –

rebuild the cars from the ground up, inside and out.

A majority of the employees at L'Cars are WITC grads. At the Bruce location, all of the employees are graduates of WITC. In fact, Lorkowski is very proud that Shane Trott, who was with him for 12 years, working his way up the ranks to manager, recently bought the business with his wife, Whitney, a WITC graduate in business administration.

“They come from all career fields, they just have to love working on great cars,” Lorkowski says. “It takes thousands of hours, sometimes a year or more before they see the completed unit.”

Giving Back

An important part of L'Cars' mission is “to return part of the profit to the youth programs of the community.”

Lorkowski sponsors school sports teams, and also awards annual scholarships to outstanding area high school students who volunteer their time to environmental and community service projects. He also awards scholarships to those attending a technical college after graduation, as well as a student intending to go into an environmental career.

His dedication to youth has also led him to involvement with the Blue Hills District Boy Scouts of America, Chippewa Valley Council. He has been finance chairman of the district for 16 years. An Eagle Scout himself as a boy, he says the activities and merit badges expose them to a variety of leadership and service experiences, as well as career exploration.

Many WITC students have done short internships at L'Cars. This year, Lorkowski has started a new paid internship program with two students in the WITC auto collision repair and refinish technician and automotive maintenance technician programs. “They work alongside the craftsmen, learning by doing,” Lorkowski says.

There is also a ‘carrot on a stick’ – at the end of the year, if they are top in



Bob Lorkowski's passion for cars has led to numerous awards and world-renowned automobiles. All of that takes a back seat to his dedication to youth and his community.



Bob Lorkowski's L'Cars company has employed many WITC graduates throughout the years. Pictured (from left) are Jesse Weber, Tony Petty, Lorkowski, Blaine Downer and Joshua Saunders.

their class, they will get \$2,500 to put toward their student loans.” They will receive smaller amounts for second through fourth place.

When his good friend and first restoration customer, Dave Manosky, passed away in 2011, Lorkowski joined with Manosky's family and Dennis Bachman, CEO of Citizens Telephone Co-op in New Auburn, Wis., to raise funds for an endowed WITC scholarship in Manosky's honor. Since he was president of the Bruce Telephone Company for 36 years, they thought it fitting the annual scholarship go to a telecommunication technologies student.

Lorkowski also gives his time to the Regional Foundation Committee for the WITC-Rice Lake campus and

has served on the Advisory Council for the auto collision repair and refinish technician program since 1985. His valuable input toward the course curriculum is appreciated by instructor Steve Moullette.

“He is an advocate and recruiter, not just for the auto collision program; he promotes the value of an education at WITC,” says Moullette.

Lorkowski considers all of his contributions throughout the years to the development of the next generation, the success of WITC graduates, the environment and the community as investments; for his business and the future. ■

Auto collision repair and refinish technician program

In this program students gain hands-on experience repairing customer vehicles, working with the latest repair and refinishing equipment, learning to interpret information on a damage report, properly removing and replacing hoods, deck lids, and latches, using body fillers and specialty fillers, performing outer panel, quarter panel and roof panel replacements and much more.

For more information about this program, visit witc.edu/programs.



ANGLING FOR CHANGE

Twenty year old WITC student Travis Nez has built a career in the Northwoods and wants to help others do the same

Story by Shawnda Schelinder, photos by Artful Eye and Niina Therlfall-Baum

For many young people, their entrepreneurial adventures begin and end with their childhood lemonade stand. But Travis Nez had some pretty specific goals and a plan to achieve them. For him, it didn't matter that he was only 12. Nez knew he had the skills and expertise to launch his business plan, regardless of his youth. Eight years later, not only has Nez expanded his fishing guide business to include hunting, the 20-year-old WITC business management student has also earned his real estate license and is currently the youngest individual serving on a county board in the state of Wisconsin.

"It started out with just a few people and then it grew," Nez says. "The resorts started finding out I was putting

people on fish and that's how it grew. Then I expanded into hunting. Now I'm fully outfitted. If people don't have a fishing rod or have a fishing rod or gun, they can use mine, so it's a benefit for them and a great learning experience for me. It's also my 'fun' job."

Nez admits some of his clients were surprised to find out their guide was so young, but once the clients starting hauling in the fish, they honestly didn't care just how young he was. It was a good experience for Nez, allowing him to work with individuals older than he and learn how to gain their trust and respect.

"It's helped me out today as I've seen how different people react to certain things, and I can read people a lot better, all from the age of 12," Nez says. And





that experience has been a plus, considering his latest venture into public service and politics.

His foray into politics grew from something that many citizens might consider rather mundane – the United States Census.

“It started with reading the census report after 2010,” Nez says. “I noticed that our county, along with many others up here in the northwoods, are losing a lot of their population. I decided to look into that and I did some research. It seemed that family-supporting jobs were not keeping people here and not bringing our young people back to the area.”

Rather than sit on the sidelines, Nez decided to pursue his political ambitions and run for the Price

County Board of Supervisors. He admits that he’s always been interested in politics and had imagined himself running for a local office. He just didn’t know that he’d campaign and win before he even graduated high school.

For the most part, there have been no surprises. In fact, it’s been a lot easier than Nez anticipated.

“At first I thought people wouldn’t take me seriously because of my age,” Nez says. “After the first couple of months, I fit in with the board as a regular member. I think they enjoy my enthusiasm, and I bring a lot of new things, such as utilizing different technology. I can relate better with department heads when it comes to new technologies and new software, that has been the rewarding part of it.”

As a business management student looking forward to May 2014 graduation, Nez hopes to transfer his business management degree from WITC to a four-year college to obtain his bachelor’s degree in business management.

In the meantime, Nez feels his education at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College has been beneficial in both his business and political spheres.

“The most valuable class has been economics,” he says. “It taught me the basics of how economics work – how money multiplies within a community and how economics affects businesses locally and around the world. It’s all connected like a web. It’s great that I can take what I learn in school one day and apply it to my job and business the same day.”

Business Management Program at WITC

Many of the courses required for the Business Management program are offered through flexible learning. The benefit to flexible learning is that credits can be earned in a format that fits your busy schedule.



Online Courses Available



For more information about WITC’s business management program, visit witic.edu/programs.

★ SAVE TIME AND MONEY ★

DOUBLE DUTY

DUAL CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE

– especially when it comes to credits students earn in high school. Dual credit is a great way for high school students to get a jump start on their college education with credits that apply to both high school and college courses.

Dual credit allows students to simultaneously earn high school and college credits with a single course or sequence of courses at no cost to the student. Each credit represents a substantial savings on tuition costs to students and parents and is a saving for all taxpayers. During the past five years alone, participation in dual credit has doubled, with more than 21,000 high school students across the state currently taking advantage of opportunities through partnerships developed with their local technical colleges.



“In WITC’s district, there are now 29 high schools involved in dual credit,” says Barb Landstrom, WITC’s Director of Academic Advancement. “This past spring semester, there were 99 students enrolled at WITC who brought in dual credit.”

These partnerships not only ensure that the students know what to expect in college, but the college credits they earn can also mean cost savings and an accelerated career path.

With an estimated 65 percent of available jobs during the next 10 years requiring skills provided by technical education, the state’s economy depends on students being college and career ready upon high school graduation.

WITC plans to continue growing dual credit opportunities into the future; a benefit to students, parents, education and the workforce.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES, VISIT WITC.EDU/HIGHSCHOOL/PROCESS



WIN WIN

Industry and education packaged for success

Story by Elizabeth Whitchurch
Photos by Jeff Frey



After months on the drawing board, the contracts were signed recently and a new partnership forged between industry and education when Bosch Packaging Technology, Inc., and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, both in New Richmond, began a joint apprenticeship venture.

“We’ve been working together on this project since last spring,” says Nancy Cerritos, WITC academic dean of trade and technology. “Bosch is very proactive and realizes it will lose a

significant portion of its skilled work force in New Richmond and Shell Lake over the next five to seven years. They wanted to create apprenticeships – which we have available and can develop – to create a better skilled workforce for the future.”

“We tried to hire local workers, but it’s not a densely populated area, and we have a

“By utilizing our strong relationship with WITC and the state, we were able to custom design a program that gives us the skilled workers we need.”

Mark Hanson

Bosch Packaging Technology

need for highly skilled workers, so we had to come up with a new approach,” explains Mark Hanson, manager, continuous improvement coordination and technical functions at Bosch Packaging Technology. “By utilizing our strong relationship with WITC and the state, we were able to custom design a program that gives us the skilled workers we need.”

The program includes electro-mechanical technician and machinist apprentices. The electro-mechanic apprenticeship – the combination of an electrician and mechanic – is the first of its kind in the state and is now considered a new trade in Wisconsin.

Two WITC programs participate in this flagship effort: the automated packaging systems program and the machine tooling technics program, as these two WITC programs are best represented in the work at Bosch Packaging Technology.

The opportunity to become an apprentice was opened to Bosch employees, and four stepped up. Machinist apprentices are Josh Marquand and Brant Couch. Electro mechanical technician apprentices enrolled

in the automated packaging systems program are Philip Taylor and Paul Petty. These four apprentices will complete their respective program over a respective program over a four- or five-year time span, while also working at Bosch.

What makes the program unique is what the participant receives at the completion



of the apprenticeship – five years for an electro-mechanical technician and four years for a machinist – an associate degree in technical studies, a technical diploma and a State of Wisconsin Certificate of Apprenticeship, commonly known as a journeyman card. A traditional apprenticeship usually results in only the journeyman card.

Upon acceptance in the program, the apprentice signs a contract with the State of Wisconsin that they will meet the obligations required for a journeyman card. During the apprenticeship, Bosch is responsible for ensuring the apprentices meet the minimum requirements, as well as assigning a shop-floor trainer and mentor to each apprentice.

The apprenticeship program works very closely with Wisconsin’s Workforce Development Department through Travis Ludvigson, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, who produced the contract the apprentices signed. At WITC, Randy Deli,

divisional dean of trade and technology, coordinates the college’s apprenticeship opportunities.

Once accepted in the program, apprentices receive a salary and benefits for their 40-hour-a-week schedule, during which they split time between on-the-job-training and classroom work. In addition, the

program covers the cost for tuition and tools needed for coursework. Outside of the program, the normal curriculum requires classroom attendance for 30 hours a week, leaving little time for job training.

“This was a great opportunity for me,” says Taylor, one of the new apprentices. “It’s a perfect scenario. I get to continue working at Bosch, and in five years I’ll have a degree, diploma and journeyman card that will benefit my career and family.” ■

To learn more about WITC’s apprenticeship opportunities, visit witic.edu/programs/apprenticeship. For more information on WITC’s automated packaging systems technician and machine tooling technics programs, visit witic.edu/programs.



MONEY TALKS

**Making Dollars
Make Sense**



Money Talks program helps students with financial questions

Confusion is a common reaction when talk turns to dollars and cents. Savings goals, spending plans and credit management can be intimidating subjects. Yet a new program at WITC is helping to educate students to become financially responsible.

Money Talks provides financial education and one-on-one financial coaching, which focuses on increasing the financial management capabilities of students on multiple WITC campuses.

This program came to life about three years ago when Deb Meyer and Diane Schobert met at a UW-Extension Financial Coaching training session. For Schobert, after nearly 20 years in the residential lending industry, the concept of financial coaching was a perfect venue to use her experience to help students improve their financial capabilities. For Meyer, a former high school family living educator for 15 years, it also presented a great opportunity to once again teach and impact students' financial health.

"A key goal of financial coaching is behavior change and actually adapting into one's daily life the knowledge and skills that can improve financial health," says Meyer. "One basic concept of behavior change is the expectation that with improved financial knowledge and health, students could reduce the incidents of default on student loans, as well as, improving their general use of credit, savings and investments."

After a few months of imagination and program design, Schobert and Meyer presented this concept to a WITC leadership team and the Financial Capability Pilot Program was launched at WITC's Rice Lake campus. Soon, the program was expanded to the New

Richmond campus. At the end of the pilot period, and with the help of the Rice Lake Student Senate and Campus Activity Board, the Financial Capability Program was renamed to *Money Talks*.

"It is great that WITC leadership understands that financial education and financial coaching are of great value and needed by the students and contribute to student success," says Meyer.

The pilot program included three informational workshops: emotional spending, credit management and short-term and long-term savings. Also included was financial coaching, which helps individuals and families manage their money and improve their financial futures.

As coaches, Meyer and Schobert meet with students one-on-one. As a result of financial coaching, students develop self-directed goals that include starting and maintaining a budget, saving toward a goal, understanding credit, basic money management, and learning about banking options. Financial coaching is free and confidential and meets as often as the student wishes.

"*Money Talks* believes the ultimate goal is to make available tools and resources to help improve students' financial security," says Meyer. "One-on-one financial coaching can help build credit worthiness. Students can repay loans and bills on time, spend wisely, and show that they can live in a financially responsible way."

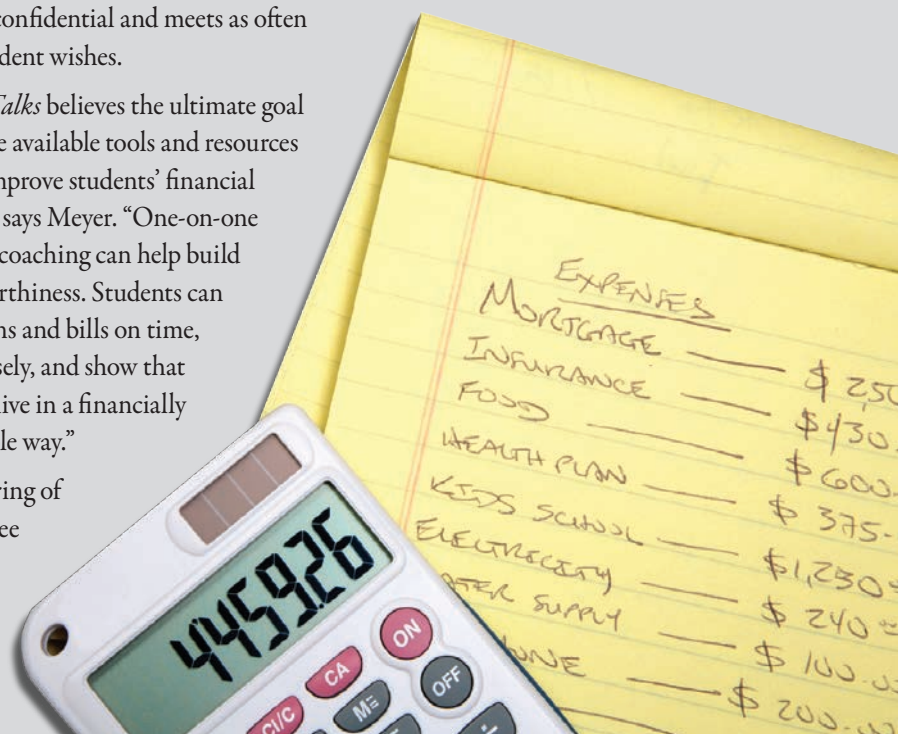
In the spring of 2013, three more

workshop topics were added to the program: Electronic Couponing, Preparation for Home Ownership, Identity Theft and Financial Budgeting: Decisions for Today and Tomorrow.

"The biggest challenge was consolidating the needs of students and college, while working on creating and designing a new program that hadn't been offered before," says Meyer. "It was crucial for Diane and myself to stay open-minded and flexible with the program design and curriculum."

Money Talks presentations have taken place at WITC's New Richmond and Rice Lake campuses this fall. Meyer hopes the program will be expanded to include all campuses and online students.

"It's been a fun and exciting first two years partnering with WITC," Meyer says. "The students, staff, facilities and administrators have supported this program, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to help students achieve their educational goals through financial education." ■





A FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH

Overcoming the intimidation of returning to school, Sandra Dietz now helps others throughout the state

Story and Photo by
Shawnda Schelinder

Sandra Dietz credits her education at WITC for providing her with the foundation and skills that helped her to advance in her career and become the person she is today. Dietz, who earned degrees in food service and supervisory management from WITC, is currently the realty officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Ashland, serving tribal members throughout the state.

"My degree in food service gave me the opportunity to travel around the country, which really gave me the stepping stones I needed to become the strong, independent woman I am today," Dietz says of the degree she earned in 1989.

After enjoying a career in the food industry, Dietz returned home to Ashland where she found an entry level position at the BIA.

"When I started at the BIA, I started at the lowest level," Dietz recalls. "As I worked my way up over the course of 10 years, I realized I needed to further my education."

That led Dietz back to WITC and the supervisory management program. Not only was she able to apply previously earned credits to her new program, Dietz

appreciated the flexibility of the course. And the evening classes allowed her to work full time while completing her degree.

"It was a commitment," Dietz says of the supervisory management program. "Although taking night classes took longer, it was well worth it."

Many of the supervisory management courses are taught via distance learning, such as interactive television. It allows an instructor at any one of WITC's campuses to teach a course broadcast to any campus or outreach location. At first, Dietz found the system slightly intimidating, but discovered that it was one of the aspects of the program that she enjoyed the most.

"It was exciting to see students from other campuses and interact with them," Dietz recalls. "Plus, I was able to attend classes at New Richmond when my work took me to Minneapolis. That was a definite plus. I never had to miss class, even when I was out of Ashland. That added element made it more personal for me."

Dietz graduated in December 2011 and was able to apply her education to her career immediately.

"I supervise a staff of five, and I work with

individuals throughout the state," she says. "I've taken a lot of the team building and leadership skills and incorporated that here with my staff. And my schooling allowed me to appreciate the diverse groups I work with."

Dietz continues her relationship with the college as a member of the advisory committee, where she helps to shape and update the supervisory management program to continue to meet the needs of employers and professionals in the field.

Regarding the ideal student, she says, "I believe they're looking for individuals who have taken the time and made the commitment to pursue a degree. That demonstrates drive, desire and the ability to stick with it. As a supervisor, I'm looking for those same qualities, too."

ARE YOU A WITC ALUM?

Then we want to hear from you!
Tell us what's new. Go to witc.edu/alumniupdate and send us your information!

WITC



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Alumni

AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

2004

Lorena K. Grimm, Supervisory Management, WITC-Rice Lake

Lorena works for Parker-Hannifin in Chetek, Wis.

Jan Traurig, Nursing-Associate Degree, WITC-New Richmond

Jan is employed with Pine Technical College in Pine City, Minn.

2006

Ben T. Nesja, Architectural Commercial Design, WITC-Rice Lake

Ben works for Menard, Inc., in Eau Claire, Wis.

Dana J. Zimmerman, Administrative Assistant, WITC-Rice Lake

Dana works for Phillips-Medisize in Hudson, Wis.

2009

Travis Puig, Architectural Commercial Design, WITC-Rice Lake

Travis is employed with Becher Hoppe in Wausau, Wis.

2010

Ally Gonzales, Architectural Commercial Design, WITC-Rice Lake

Ally is employed with Lampert Lumber in Rice Lake.

2012

Cheryl Klobucher, Accounting, WITC-Ashland

Cheryl is employed by Chicago Iron & Supplies, Inc., in Ashland.

Maggie Lokken, Architectural Commercial Design, WITC-Rice Lake

Maggie works for ABC Supply Company in Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Kaci Peterson, Administrative Professional, WITC-Ashland

Kaci is employed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in Ashland.



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**Based on the 2011-2012 WITC Graduate Follow-Up Survey*