



Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

CAMPUS HISTORY

THROUGH 2020

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Prepared by the
Office of Institutional Effectiveness
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Administrative Office | Shell Lake, Wisconsin

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CHRONOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF WITC

Fiscal Year

- 1972** Districts 17 and 18 were merged. Wisconsin Indianhead VTAE District is formed with Dr. James Covey named as District Director.
- 1973** District Office facilities in Shell Lake were completed.
- 1974** District is granted candidacy for accreditation by North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1975** Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at Ashland, New Richmond, and Rice Lake.
- 1976** Groundbreaking ceremony was held at Superior.
- 1978** Daniel Wagner was named District Director.
- 1979** Accreditation by North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools was received.
- 1980** Tourism Center at WITI-Ashland was dedicated.
- 1981** Rice Lake campus addition was completed.
- 1982** Shell Lake Administrative Offices addition was completed. New Richmond facility was remodeled.
- 1983** Ten-year accreditation from NCA was granted.
- 1984** David Hildebrand was named President.
- 1986** WITI Building Opportunities Campaign for New Richmond was initiated.
- 1987** Superior's 75th Anniversary was celebrated.
New Richmond's Conference Center was constructed.
- 1988** Institution's name changed to Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC).
Ashland's capital campaign was initiated.
Commitment was made to establish a distance learning network.
- 1989** Rice Lake's capital campaign was initiated.
- 1990** Additions to Shell Lake Administrative Office and Rice Lake were completed.
- 1991** Rice Lake's 50th anniversary was celebrated.
- 1992** Organization was restructured. ITFS began operation. Conference centers at Rice Lake and Superior were constructed.
- 1993** New Richmond's 25th Anniversary was celebrated and an addition/remodeling program at New Richmond was started.

Fiber optic network was inaugurated.

Major Tech Prep initiative with high school districts was inaugurated.
Enrollment management was fully implemented at all four campuses.

1994 State system name change - all Wisconsin vocational districts now called technical college districts and are part of the Wisconsin Technical College System.

North Central Association reaccredits WITC for another ten years.

1995 John Kmosena, WITC's Senior Board member, retires after serving on the Board for 23 years. WITC undergoes the largest turnover in its history with four Board members retiring.

Fred Baue, Executive Vice President-Instructional Services retires.
Campus Administrators Marilyn McCarty, New Richmond and Mary Ellen Filkins, Rice Lake retire.

1996 Thomas Lemler replaces Mary Ellen Filkins as campus administrator at the Rice Lake Campus. Tim Schreiner replaces Marilyn McCarty as campus administrator at the New Richmond Campus.

Ashland's 75th Anniversary was celebrated.

1997 Death of Thomas Lemler, Rice Lake Campus Administrator. Jann Brill is appointed campus administrator at the Superior Campus.

Major addition to the shop wing at the New Richmond Campus completed.

Total assets of the WITC Foundation exceed 1,000,000.

1998 Craig Fowler appointed Rice Lake Campus Administrator.

College Web page completed.

Shell Lake Administrative Office celebrates 25th Anniversary.

1999 Comprehensive Adult Learning Centers started at Hayward and Ladysmith. The Wisconsin Indianhead, Lakeshore and Mid-State (WILM) Consortium agreement was signed by Presidents Dave Hildebrand, Dennis Ladwig and Brian Oehler.

First online Internet course taught from the New Richmond Campus.

2000 College makes a major commitment to convert all administrative data processing software over to PeopleSoft.

Adult Learning Center started at Hudson.

2001 New Technology Center constructed at the Ashland Campus.

First Web-based program, Computer Information Systems/Programmer Analyst, fully accredited by the North Central Association.

Major upgrade of the Instructional Television Network completed.

Planning initiated to develop a computer graphics program that will be jointly taught by UW-Barron County and WITC-Rice Lake faculties.

WITC established a partnership with Franklin University. The two schools are partners in a bachelor's degree completion program that combines on-campus courses at WITC with online courses from Franklin University.

2002

College undertakes a major initiative to implement a learning college philosophy in its mission, vision, values statements, its tenets, and its policies and procedures.

Construction starts on a new technology center at the New Richmond campus.

Web-based courses are taught for the first time on the technical college system network known as E-Tech. Students in foreign countries now signing up for courses.

For the first time the number of unduplicated headcount served exceeds 30,000.

2003

New Technology Center at Rice Lake Campus started.

Moody's bond rating upgraded from Aa3 to Aa2.

Enrollments in English as a Second Language double as immigrants fill jobs in the local economy and enrollments (FTE's) in alternative delivery courses increase 55%.

The College is fully converted over to PeopleSoft Administrative systems and has discontinued using the 'in-house' legacy system.

Diversity End Statement approved by the College Board.

2004

David Hildebrand retires after serving as WITC President for 20 years and is named President Emeritus Hildebrand by the Board. Dr. Hank Hurley is named the new WITC President effective June 2004. Diane Vertin assumes the position of campus administrator at WITC Superior upon the retirement of Jann Brill.

The Adult Learning Center in Hudson closed.

The Shell Lake Administrative Office construction/remodeling project is completed. The Rice Lake Technology Center is completed.

The Higher Learning Commission – North Central Association reaccredits WITC for another ten years.

2005

A new position, Vice President for Learning, was established following the retirement of Vasant Kumar, Vice President of Operations, and Lois Eichman, Vice President of Instructional Services.

The college upgrades to PeopleSoft 8 for Finance, Human Resources, and Student Administration suites with self-service/portal functions for Human Resources and Student Administration.

WITC-Rice Lake and the City of Rice Lake exchange land that allowed direct access to the campus from Highway O.

WITC-Rice Lake and UW-Barron County Campus jointly develop a shared student parking lot that is located between the two campuses.

2006

Charles Levine was appointed as Acting President with the resignation of President Dr. Hank Hurley at the end of the Fiscal Year 2006.

Don Marcouiller, Ashland Campus Administrator retired. Joseph Huftel was hired as the New Richmond Campus Administrator.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) – North Central Association (NCA) focus visit confirmed their original decision for the ten-year accreditation of the college.

National League of Nursing (NLN) reaccredited WITC for an additional eight years. Moody's bond rating upgraded from Aa2 to Aa1.

2007

Charles Levine was appointed by the Board of Trustees as Interim President until June 30, 2008. Mary Stenberg was appointed Ashland Campus Administrator.

Administration implemented a new organizational structure to promote management of the college utilizing the "One College Concept". The four campus administrators became Vice Presidents; Mary Stenberg, Diane Vertin, Joe Huftel and Craig Fowler. John Will was hired as the new Vice President, Administrative Services.

The College Board of Trustees approved new strategic goals and action plans for fiscal years 2007 through 2009.

The College Foundation topped \$2,000,000 in total assets.

The college started a new Paramedic Program - Rice Lake, new Therapeutic Massage Program - New Richmond and expanded Criminal Justice-Corrections Program - New Richmond.

The college implemented an integrated enrollment management plan in conjunction with the new college brand, "Real College, Real World, Real You".

College saved \$217,000 in utilizing the WTCS Purchasing Consortium with most of the savings realized in the areas of technology procurement.

2008

Charles (Chuck) Levine, President, retired in June of 2008 after 35 years with the College. Mr. Levine began his association with WITC as a student and was subsequently hired and held positions as a business manager, vice president, and president of the college. Levine was named President Emeritus by the WITC Board of Trustees.

Under Levine, WITC was ranked 7th best 2-year college in the nation, according to a study published in the *Washington Monthly*. This award marked the beginning of a transition for the college.

Bob Meyer was hired as College President by the Board of Trustees and began his employment on July 1, 2008.

Miriam Crandall was appointed Ashland Campus Administrator upon the retirement of Mary Stenberg.

As part of the college's accreditation by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) – North Central Association (NCA) WITC was admitted as an AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) college.

Blackboard Enterprise was implemented successfully and represented a significant upgrade to the prior system.

2009 Steve Bitzer was appointed Ashland Campus Administrator/Vice President, Student Affairs.

The College began the process of collecting input for the development of new strategic goals. A series of forums were held between July and November at each WITC location and were open to students, employees, business/industry leaders, and the community. Over 700 people attended the WITC forums and over 1,000 comments were collected to the questions that were asked on the forum surveys.

The emergency response procedures were standardized across the five WITC locations. Major changes included the implementation of a 'blue light' notification in the event of lockdown and the rekeying of each facility.

The upgrade to Version 9 PeopleSoft added functionality in all modules (Human Resources, Student Administration, and General Ledger). Some of the key improvements were self-services for the Student Center, Student Financials, and Financial Aid areas in addition to online pay advices.

2010 The College FTE was at an all-time high closing the year at 3,148. The previous FTE high was 3,052 in 1983.

An addition to the New Richmond campus for a trade and technical center was completed.

Bookstore operations were expanded to the Superior campus and an electronic textbook management system was implemented.

WITC's intranet – The Connection – was created and went "live" in December 2009 utilizing Microsoft SharePoint as the tool.

2011 With the resignation of the Vice President of Administrative Services, John Will, Associate Vice Presidents were named in three areas and added to President's Cabinet: Steve Decker, Financial and Business Services/Chief Financial Officer; Cher Vink, Human Resources and Employee Relations; and Ellen Riely Hauser, Institutional Effectiveness.

A 10,112 square-foot addition to the Rice Lake Campus was completed for Allied Health programming.

WITC increased its ranking to sixth among two-year colleges nationwide in a study done by *Washington Monthly* utilizing the results of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and graduation rates. The Higher Learning Commission – North Central Association granted the College full approval to offer distance-delivered courses and programs.

2012 The Superior Campus and the College celebrated 100 years of technical education. In 1912 the Superior campus was one of the first cities in the State of Wisconsin where a technical school was founded.

An 8,000 square-foot addition to the New Richmond campus was completed.

WITC was listed as one of the nation's best 120 two-year colleges by the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program. This placed WITC in the top 10% of all institutions in areas of performance and improvement in graduation rates, degrees awarded, student retention, and equity in student outcomes.

A Learning Commons combining the Learning Resource Center, Student Success Center, and Educational Technology Center was implemented at each campus.

WITC was one of eight institutions in northwestern Wisconsin that joined to form a regional consortium of educational partners called Northwest Wisconsin Educators for Regional Development or NorthWERD.

2013 The WITC Foundation celebrated its 35th anniversary and topped \$3,000,000 in total assets.

A new brand was chosen: Experience. Success.

The WILM Consortium insourced Data Center Operations.

2014 Dr. Bonny Copenhaver was named Vice President of Academic Affairs and Superior Campus Administrator upon the resignation of Dr. Diane Vertin.

Elevated from associate vice presidents to vice presidents were: Steve Decker, Vice President of Finance & Business Services/CFO; Ellen Riely Hauser, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness; and Cher Vink, Vice President of Human Resources & Employee Relations.

For the third consecutive time, WITC received Top 10 ranking, being listed as fourth best two-year college nationwide by *Washington Monthly* magazine. Contributing data was from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) as well as the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College among the nation's top 150 community colleges.

Full reaffirmation of accreditation was received from the Higher Learning Commission.

Facilitating the Future, a partnership between CESA #11, WITC, and CESA #12 celebrated 25 years of professional development opportunities for educators.

Interior work at the WITC-Administrative Office in Shell Lake was completed.

2015 WITC's additional location and the New Richmond Community Commons was closed, and programming moved back to the main New Richmond Campus.

John Will was appointed by the Board of Trustees as the new President effective September 2, 2014, upon the resignation of Bob Meyer, who became the Chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in August. Ellen Riely Hauser, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness was appointed Interim President during the transition.

Paving work at the WITC-Administrative Office in Shell Lake was completed.

2016 Rice Lake's 75th Anniversary was celebrated.

Ellen Riely Hauser retired from the Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness position.

Steve Decker was appointed Interim New Richmond Campus Administrator in December upon the retirement of Joe Huftel.

2017 Susan Yohnk Lockwood was named Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness and New Richmond Campus Administrator.

WITC was approved for participation in the Midwest State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (MSARA) by the Wisconsin Distance Learning Authorization Board (DLAB). NC-SARA is a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education.

2018 Newly designed witc.edu website launched in December with a focus on prospective students.

The New Richmond Campus celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

Cher Vink resigned from the role of Vice President of Human Resources & Risk Management.

WITC launched a customer relations management system (CRM) to better recruit and retain prospective and current students and employers.

Dr. Bonny Copenhaver resigned from the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Superior Campus Administrator positions.

Dr. Stephanie Erdmann was named Vice President, Academic Affairs and Superior Campus Administrator.

2020

Jenna Vogtman was named Associate Vice President Marketing and Communications and Superior Campus Administrator.

Craig Fowler retired from the Vice President, Workforce Development and Advancement and Rice Lake Campus Administrator/Executive Director of the WITC Foundation positions.

Dr. Stephanie Erdmann was named Vice President, Academic Affairs and Rice Lake Campus Administrator.

The Balsam Lake Outreach Center was opened in fall 2019. The Balsam Lake Outreach Center offers WITC courses in a variety of formats. The center consists of multiple classrooms, lab space, and technology for remote learning.

In 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic led to a large-scale remote work effort. Most employees at the Administrative Office worked from home beginning in March of 2020.

In summer 2020, a 2962 square-foot space was added to the main building of the New Richmond campus to house the new Veterinary Technician Associate Degree program.

The UW Board of Regents approved authorizing the implementation of the **Associate of Arts Liberal Studies** and the **Associate of Sciences Liberal Studies** transfer program degrees at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS).

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

The backbone for Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College was set years before the college came into formation. With a vision of providing a learning environment designed to maximize personal success, WITC has become one of the top ranked two year colleges in the nation. Through its rich history, WITC has not forgotten its desire to provide dynamic opportunities for career preparation to Northwestern Wisconsin.

In 1911, the Wisconsin Legislature required that vocational schools be established in cities with populations of 6,000 or more. A year later, Superior became the first city in Northwest Wisconsin and the second overall location in the state where a technical school was founded. Schools were also established in Ashland in 1921 and in Rice Lake in 1941.

The Wisconsin Area District Law, enacted by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1965, required a “master plan” be developed by the Wisconsin Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education to create districts in the state by July 1, 1970.

In 1967, District 18, consisting of Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties was approved for operation. The following year, District 17, made up of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties, was formed. These two districts were merged in 1972, creating the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical and Adult Education District. This area of 10,500 square miles included a population of 236,200; 286 towns, villages and cities; and 47 school districts. In July 1971, Pierce County became part of District 1, later called the Chippewa Valley Technical College district.

The District Administrative Office was moved from Superior to Shell Lake in 1973. This location was selected due to its location in the center of the district.

To handle the growing population and the demand for the expansion of technical program offerings, groundbreaking began in 1975 for new campuses in Ashland, New Richmond and Rice Lake. Construction in Superior took place in 1976.

A name change occurred in 1987 when Wisconsin Indianhead Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District became Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

Today, WITC employs a staff of more than 1,000 and provides education to over 5,000 credit students in more than 50 full-time programs, technical certificates, and apprenticeship programs. Over 15,000 residents enroll in continuing education courses at the college.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College is accredited through the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) of the Higher Learning Commission.

HISTORY OF WITC-ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The Indianhead District was created by order of the State Board on June 20, 1972. Since both Districts 17 and 18 operated district offices at Superior and New Richmond respectively, a consolidation plan had to be drawn for establishing a central office for the newly created district.

Using the "Checklist for District Headquarters Site" as designated by the State Office, a study was undertaken to aid in the selection of a site for the district's headquarters, the results of which were published in September 1972. The study examined distance from geographic centers, distance from population centers, transportation services, community services, facilities for headquarters, access to mass media, capability to provide comprehensive services, and nearness to other VTAE facilities. Using a weighted rating scale, seven locations were identified - Superior, New Richmond, Shell Lake, Cumberland, Rice Lake, Spooner and Hayward. The cities of Cumberland, Spooner, Shell Lake and Rice Lake received the highest rating.

After the decision was made to build the District Office in Shell Lake, all districtwide functions were housed first at the Indianhead Art Center, then in the city high school until permanent facilities could be built. In the summer of 1973 all district administrative offices were moved into a 5,760 square foot building, constructed on 3.2 acres of land that was deeded to the district, for a nominal sum, by the city of Shell Lake. This building, plus a relocatable unit, housed the Director, four administrators and seven specialists.

As the number of students and programs grew, additional staff and space were required. An addition (5,343 sq. ft.) to the District Office was completed in 1982. Staff previously with offices in the relocatable were moved into the main building.

In 1990 another addition of 5,808 square feet was completed to accommodate Data Processing and other functions.

In 2003 another addition of 6,740 sq. ft. was completed to accommodate restructuring of office space and conference rooms.

In 2014, the Administrative Office received a significant upgrade to its HVAC system, installation of energy efficient lighting and refurbished office and conference room space.

In 2015, the lower parking lot and landscaped area around the Administrative Office were paved and upgraded.

In 2016, the Administrative Office received mechanical upgrades, including improvements to the HVAC system.

In addition to the office of the President, representatives of other Collegewide functions housed in this facility are: Academic Affairs, Business Services, Continuing Education, Financial Aid, Grants, Human Resources, Institutional Effectiveness, Registrar, Student Affairs and Technology Services.

HISTORY OF WITC-ASHLAND

WITC Ashland has been responding to the changing employment and training needs of individuals and business and industry since the early 1920's.

The first classes were offered in 1921 under Director H.O. Eiken. Evening classes—English, reading, mathematics, citizenship, drawing, typing, stenography, sewing, and shop—met in the main high school building twice a week for 22 weeks. Enrollments totaled 84.

Twenty years and five directors later, the old post office (now City Hall) was renovated for the school.

In 1947, Rinaldo Bonacci was appointed director. It was during that year that a referendum was passed to build a new school; however, no action was taken. Another building referendum was presented and this time passed in April 1967, which resulted in construction beginning in 1968 on the 40-acre Beaser Avenue site. In January 1970, 75 students were enrolled in five programs and attended classes in the new 25,000 square foot building.

The original campus saw a continued increase in student enrollment and program offerings. These increases resulted in building expansions in 1976 and 1980. A fourth building project to accommodate major campus renovations, the elimination of relocatable buildings, and the development of a conference center lounge, was dedicated in 1988. In August of 2000, construction began for the development of a 5,100 square foot Technology Center. This facility, which is added onto the Learning Resource Center, compliments all resources and services of technology to the students, staff, business/industry and the general public. In the 1990's, the Marine Repair Technology Program added over 1,000 square feet of lab space, making this a complete and unique program in the Wisconsin Technical College System. In 2007, the campus received a \$10,000 donation from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and

Department of Tourism Development Specialist Ruth Goetz to refurbish the Conference Center.

Upon the retirement of Don Marcouiller, who served as Campus Administrator for 31 years, Mary Stenberg was appointed Campus Administrator of the Ashland Campus in July, 2006. Upon Mary's retirement in 2008, Miriam (Mimi) Crandall served in an interim position for one year until Steve Bitzer was appointed Vice President of Student Affairs and Ashland Campus Administrator in 2009.

In 2016, the Ashland Campus completed a remodel consisting of approximately 10,000 square feet. Included in the project was the allied health classrooms, Sim Man lab, technology services server room and office, conference center, and conference center lounge. The remodel included new finishes, lighting, replacement of dated HVAC units, and controls.

The Ashland Campus is embarking on collaborative partnerships with the educational institutions of the region to boost educational opportunities for area residents. With nearly 75,000 square feet of facilities, the campus offers 60 programs in business, engine and equipment repair, family and consumer services, health care, information technology, and manufacturing technologies. Along with these programs and continuing education courses, customized training for business, industry and governmental agencies, the campus serves nearly 3,000 students yearly.

HISTORY OF WITC-NEW RICHMOND

As a result of the redistricting law in 1965, District 18 (Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties) was approved for operation on July 1, 1967. The district was known locally as AdVoTech 18. Arthur H. Cothran was appointed director on August 14, 1967. The Civic Center in New Richmond served as the center of operations.

Part-time adult evening and continuing education classes were held in several locations in District 18 as the new organization developed programs. By 1970-71 the District grew to 23 centers with 5,500 students enrolled. In 1970, three full-time programs were approved for the school: Small Engine and Chassis Repair and Welding operated out of a newly constructed facility in New Richmond; and Machine Tool was offered in leased facilities in Grantsburg. Additional facilities were added in 1970-71 as programs and services expanded into the six relocatable buildings, which housed classrooms and the Learning Resource Center.

With Pierce County electing to join District 1 on July 1, 1971, the three-county district was left with 17 school districts and 93 municipalities. Despite this setback, the district continued to expand its projects and program offerings.

By 1972 the number of programs the district offered included five, one-year; one two-year program; and three short-term programs.

When District 18 merged with District 17 on July 1, 1972, the many challenges that had to be overcome included:

- a. Board representation,
- b. District Office location,
- c. Multi-campus development,
- d. Suit by Polk County to withdraw from district,
- e. Efforts by school districts in St. Croix County to withdraw from the district
- f. Efforts to prevent Indianhead from engaging in extensive borrowing.

When these challenges were resolved, the campus and district began its building program. The campus faced a bright future; one that would build to 19 associate degree; 11 technical diploma; and numerous short-term technical programs currently offered at New Richmond.

Ideally located in St. Croix County, the fastest growing county in Wisconsin, WITC-New Richmond is now offering continually expanding services to the community and to business and industry. A new Business/Industry Training Services initiative will strengthen the linkages with Business and Industry by bringing WITC contracted services to Burnett, Polk, and St. Croix counties.

Construction of a permanent, main campus building on the present 38.3-acre site began in 1976 with a \$1.8 million, 50,700 square foot facility. Additional classroom, lab and conference center space was provided for in various stages to meet the growing demand for credit and non-credit programming.

1987 - the Cashman Conference center was dedicated; a modern, flexible conference facility of 4,212 square feet.

1992 - a 7,200 square foot addition and a 10,000 square foot addition to the trade and industry labs.

2001 and 2002 - additions totaling 10,700 square feet were added to accommodate a new Technology Center and administrative offices.

2010 - an 8,200 square foot addition provided for a new welding lab and small engine lab, as well as remodeling of the classroom portion of the Power Equipment Center.

2012 - 8,000 square feet were added to increase the number of classrooms and accommodate the new "Learning Commons" concept. The lab portion of the Power Equipment Center underwent extensive upgrades this year as well.

2015 – 5,400 square foot addition and renovation of 9,700 square feet of main facility focusing on upgrading the Learning Resource Center (LRC), Conference Center, Medical Assistant Lab, and Student Commons.

The additions bring the total New Richmond Campus square footage to 140,538 square feet.

In July 1999 WITC-New Richmond opened a new branch campus in Hudson consisting of two classrooms, a computer lab, instructor offices, storage and general reception area. The WITC-Hudson location totaled 3,800 square feet and was located at 944 O’Keefe Road in the City of Hudson. The Hudson Campus was closed June 30, 2004.

In July, 2006 Joe Huftel was named Campus Administrator and under his direction, the campus enrolls over 1,300 students each year in over 30 programs and over 5,000 students in non-credit courses.

In July, 2011, WITC New Richmond became the anchor tenant in the “New Richmond Community Commons” located at 421 South Green Street. The three year lease of 8,130 square feet from the New Richmond School District provided space for the campus to begin offering its first new program in six years; a two-year Associate Degree in Human Services Associate. Other programs based at the Community Commons included Nursing Assistant, Court Reporting, Early Childhood, Occupational Therapy, and real estate and insurance certification. The three year lease expired on June 30, 2014, and all of the programs returned to the main campus.

In December 2015, Steve Decker was name Interim Campus Administrator. Under his direction, a 5,400 square foot addition to the existing main facility and renovated approximately 9,700 square feet of the main facility. This project plan focused on upgrading existing spaces within the Learning Resource Center (LRC), Conference Center, Medical Assistant Lab and Student Commons. As part of the project a new air handling unit was designed for the building addition and existing pneumatic controls will be changed to Direct Digital Controls (DDC) in the remodeled spaces.

In July 2016, Susan Yohnk Lockwood was named Campus Administrator/Vice President Institutional Effectiveness. Early in 2017, work began remodeling the Garden Lobby area of the campus. Ceilings, lights, and finishes were upgraded during the project.

During the summer 2017, the faculty offices in the Technology & Industry Hallway were upgraded with new lighting, flooring and finishes. Additionally, in 2017, WITC-New Richmond celebrated its 50th year anniversary.

A remodel was completed of the Technology and Industry wing, bookstore, administrative offices, and Pharmacy Technician classroom in August 2018. The remodel included new finishes, lighting, fire suppression, HVAC, and overall space layout. The New Richmond campus served over 7000 people through associate degree programs, one- and two-year technical diplomas, short-term technical diplomas, professional development and personal enrichment courses.

An outreach center was opened in Balsam Lake in fall 2019. The Balsam Lake Outreach Center offers WITC courses in a variety of formats. The center consists of multiple classrooms, lab space, and technology for remote learning.

In summer of 2020, a 2962 square-foot space was added to the main building of the New Richmond campus. The addition houses the new Veterinary Technician Associate Degree program.

HISTORY OF WITC-RICE LAKE

Rice Lake has a proud history relating to the development and growth of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education. It began with the appointment of a vocational school board early in 1941 by the City Board of Education. By April of that year, classes began under the directorship of West Burdick with an educational emphasis in the homemaking and business areas.

The founding years witnessed the development of seven programs under the National Defense Act, and enrollments in excess of 175 students taught by a 13-member faculty. During the 1942-45 period, many part-time offerings in the trades, business and general education areas were implemented.

At the close of World War II (1945), the Rice Lake Vocational School geared up for the mission of retraining veterans. As growth continued, the vocational board received increased city support in financing the expanding curriculum. By 1949, the school outgrew its initial facilities. To meet the needs, the city purchased the cannery company building (the present Birchwood Manufacturing Company). The facility was completely remodeled by the school for educational purposes and growth continued. By 1951, the school was the second largest veterans' training center in the state of Wisconsin. Veteran training under the G.I. Bill provided career education for more than 600 veterans in such areas as Retail Selling, Bank Employee Training, Drafting for Lumber Yards and Hardwood Grading.

By the close of 1959 a new building, Burdick Hall (named after the founding director), was in operation at 34 South Wilson. The advent of the 1960s ushered in an era of new growth and specialized training with new full-time programs such as Architectural and Mechanical Drafting and expansion in related subject areas. The decade saw the growth from 37 full-time students to over 300 - from a handful of occupational areas to 17 different full-time program offerings.

In 1965, James W. Covey was appointed as school director following the retirement of West Burdick. The increasing demand for vocational and technical education during the 1960s resulted in further expansion in July 1968 when the school acquired the Red Cedar Hall building on West Ann Street, which formerly housed the Barron County Teachers College and later the Branch Campus of Stout State University.

After 1965, the institution conducted over 100 separate Manpower Training projects in about 20 different occupational areas. These projects provided career training for more than 4,000 people, and established Rice Lake as the second largest Manpower Training Center in the state - second only to Milwaukee.

Significantly, the Rice Lake campus received statewide recognition as a leader in the development of Adult Basic Education. Initiated in 1966, the ABE program provided basic skills education for thousands of people. In conjunction with those basic education efforts, the school received a national citation in 1971 for its programming in family living education, a program that is closely allied to the ABE mission.

Increasing enrollments and an expanding curriculum resulted in the need for leasing additional facilities to keep pace with the growth of the institution. The school operated out of nine separate buildings in the city prior to its move to new facilities in 1976.

The decade of the '70s brought continued growth and change to the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical Institute. Intensive planning saw the start of a new facility construction in 1975 and occupancy of two new buildings (74,496 sq. ft.) in August 1976, located on a 30-acre site adjacent to the University of Wisconsin-Barron County Center. Another 11,500 square feet were added in 1982. The two institutions shared a Student Center, Student Health Service facilities, and other areas of operation.

In 1990, an addition (8,604 sq. ft.), which joins Rigler Hall and Covey Hall, was completed and in 1992, a second floor was added. The new facility houses a Conference Center and Distance Learning Center. An additional 6,767 square feet was added to the second story of Covey Hall to accommodate Rice Lake's growing

instructional staff. In 1998, the campus facilities increased another 3,996 square feet with the addition of the Bricklaying and Masonry Technology Center. Remodeling in the summer of 2000 created space for a bookstore on campus and a three-story fire-training tower was also completed. The total campus square footage was over 120,000 square feet. In 1998, the Spooner, Hayward, and Ladysmith outreach centers became a part of the WITC-Rice Lake campus community. In 1974, the property WITC resided on was under a 99-year lease from Barron County, and In 2003 the county and WITC partnered to transfer the ownership of property directly to WITC.

In 2003, an addition of 17,000 square feet was completed to accommodate a new Telecommunication Center and relocation of Student Services. The total campus square footage is over 150,000 square feet.

In March 2005, WITC formally dedicated the David R. Obey Technology Center at the Rice Lake Campus in recognition of Congressman Obey's continued support of WITC and commitment to higher education. The Center includes high-speed communications equipment and software that allows WITC classrooms to set up real-time links with other similarly equipped facilities virtually anywhere in the world. A self-paced computerized electronics-training lab is also in the Center and provides convenience and flexibility for students and incumbent workers.

In January 2009, WITC began renting space in the former Marshfield Clinic building, thus creating the Health Education Center (HEC) for programs in the Allied Health division. All of the health programs were moved from the main campus to the HEC, and the additional leased space gave the college the opportunity to begin offering the Medical Assistant program in Rice Lake.

In 2012, an addition of 10,000 square feet for the Health Education Center was completed to accommodate the transfer of all Allied Health programs to the main campus site. The new space also included a state-of-the-art dental lab so WITC could begin to offer the Dental Assistant program. Part of this project was also a major remodeling of the IT/Network Specialist labs, as well as the faculty offices.

This was also the year the Masonry Technology Center was repurposed into the Criminal Justice Building. This remodeled space accommodates the tactical training and specialized classroom instruction for the law enforcement academies, and is also utilized by the law enforcement program.

In 2015, a 10,065 square-foot addition was added to accommodate The HUB, which provided a much-needed space for students and staff to gather. The HUB includes a new full-service kitchen, The HUB Café, casual seating for up to 150 people, a new Student Life Center, a Fireside Room, and a central information desk. South Street was fully upgraded to give complete access to the west parking lot and the new main entrance from the Red Cedar River to the campus.

Since its inception, WITC-Rice Lake has offered a wide variety of continuing education, retraining opportunities and evening programs. Several hundred different courses have been conducted annually, with courses taught in Rice Lake, at outreach centers in Hayward and Ladysmith, and a Learning Center in Spooner and within many other communities.

In 2016, a remodel was completed of the CNC Machine Tool and Automotive Maintenance program labs consisting of approximately 11,813 square feet. The remodel included new finishes, lighting, HVAC, and overall space layout. Additionally, WITC-Rice Lake celebrated its 75th year anniversary in 2016. The 1.3-mile loop extension of the Cedarside Trail was completed around the campus in that same year.

In 2017, a remodel of the welding lab and fab lab was completed, along with a major paving project, which upgraded several of the campus parking lots.

In 2019, another facilities upgrade included the addition of a second state-of-the-art science lab, an EMS simulation area and classroom, upgrades to the Cosmetology service rooms, and a beautiful, dedicated room for the unique Architectural Commercial Design program. In a concerted effort over the last 5 years, most of the classrooms are

now considered to be Next Generation Rooms, providing the opportunity to teach to just about anywhere in the world through web conferencing.

Today, the Rice Lake campus serves over 7,000 people each year. The campus offers 55 programs in associate degree, one- and two-year technical diplomas, and short-term technical diplomas. Three programs, Architectural Commercial Design, Utility Construction Installer, and Residential Construction and Cabinetmaking are unique to WITC, as they are not offered at any other technical college in Wisconsin.

HISTORY OF WITC-SUPERIOR

Originally founded in 1912 as the “Industrial, Commercial, Continuing and Evening School,” the Superior Campus of WITC has been around longer than almost any other technical college in Wisconsin. From the first one-room structure, where John P. O’Connor was appointed principal, to the current modern facility, the story is one of constant growth and change.

In 1914, the college began to offer additional classes at Superior and Blaine schools to meet the growing educational needs of the community. In 1922, under the directorship of Rudolph Hanson, the Webster Memorial addition was completed to house expanded programs and a larger number of students. When it was determined that additional shop space was required, the shop wing at 1411 Fisher was built and, seven years later (in 1938), the three-story front portion was added. Thus, in little over 25 years, the school had grown from rented classrooms in a converted downtown building to a three-story, 75,000 square foot classroom and shop building.

From 1912 to 1945, a combination of part-time evening and limited full-time day programs were offered. With returning veterans in 1946, day offerings increased in all disciplines. Following an evaluation in 1963 (under the leadership of Sam Lavine), associate degree programs were developed with Secretarial Science and Accounting being among the first. In 1965, the name was changed to Superior Technical Institute and, with the advent of the district in 1968, Superior and its adjoining seven counties became District 17. In 1972 (with Ron A. MacDonald as Campus Administrator) the merger between District 17 and Advotech 18 added three additional counties and adopted the Indianhead name.

In 1976, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for a new \$3.6 million facility to be built on six acres of land purchased from the University of Wisconsin-Superior Campus. In December 1977 all programs were moved to the 99,360 square foot building.

In August of 1987, the name was again changed (to the current Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College) to more accurately reflect the mission of the school. Richard Parish

was the Campus Administrator at that time until his retirement in 1990 when Reid Haglin replaced him. Reid Haglin served as Campus Administrator until 1997. From 1997 to 2004 Jann Brill served as Campus Administrator until her retirement in July of 2004. Diane Vertin served as Campus Administrator/Vice President of Academic Affairs from June 2004 through June 2013. Bonny Copenhaver became Campus Administrator/Vice President – Academic Affairs in July of 2013 until January 2019. Stephanie Erdmann then became the Campus Administrator/Vice President – Academic Affairs from January 2019 – March 2020, when she was relocated to serve as the Rice Lake Campus Administrator, retaining her academic affairs role. Jena Vogtman was then appointed to serve at the Superior Campus Administrator/Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications starting April 2020.

In 1980, an addition of 3,500 square feet was completed to accommodate a new alternate energy lab. In the fall of 1992 an addition of 4,500 square feet was completed to accommodate a second story level for needed classroom space. In 1998, an addition of 5,400 was completed to accommodate a new conference center. In 1998, an addition of 2,600 square feet was completed to accommodate a cold storage addition. In the summer of 2006, a 6,633 square foot addition was added to house two flexible labs and a lobby which accommodates recreational items for students as well as study areas. With this addition, the campus square footage is over 120,000.

Once the new addition was underway, an extensive renovation of Student Services and Learning Resource Center was also completed encompassing over 51,000 square feet. The renovation included the creation of handicapped accessible restrooms as well as an upgrade of the current air handling system. The student lounge area was also updated and reconfigured to give the students well-defined areas for eating, studying and relaxing.

The Superior campus remodeled and built a bookstore on campus that opened August of 2011. Previous to this, all campus students needed to walk over or contact the UWS bookstore to purchase classroom materials and books.

WITC-Superior celebrated its centennial in July of 2012 with an outdoor community event.

In the spring of 2015, the Superior Campus began renovations to the Learning Commons, which consists of the Learning Resource Center, the Educational Technology Center, the Student Success Center, as well as major renovations to the Atrium. The Atrium has moveable furniture and dedicated spaces for working in groups. The Learning Commons features more open space for group work, easier access to the spaces, and private testing rooms.

In the summer of 2016, the Superior Campus completed \$4.6 million renovation. Projects included the renovation of academic labs for HVAC/R, welding, and machine tool programs as well as new classroom spaces for the automotive maintenance and the industrial maintenance programs. Faculty office spaces were relocated to the first floor and additions included private spaces for faculty to meet with their students or peers. Administrative offices and a conference room were moved to the second floor to a newly constructed space. A simulation lab was added to the third floor for the nursing program. Equipment purchases of over \$700,000 improved the teaching equipment in the renovated classrooms and labs. Other renovated areas included replacing the kitchen flooring, removal of wallpaper and painting hallways, repainting stairwells and banisters, installing uniform baseboards, recarpeting hallways, replacing the store front windows in Student Services, and adding a sprinkler system throughout the building.

Over the summer of 2018, the building got a new façade, exterior paint job and preliminary construction for the new front entrance facing Catlin Avenue. Additional projects included relocating the Student Life office, replacing the glass on the atrium's exterior wall, installing new plumbing throughout the building, and renovating the bathrooms on the second and third floors.

In 2019, the new main entrance was completed with the renovated front entrance patio and sidewalks. The College also added new staff and student parking lots and an updated the entrance for the conference center. The new main entrance features a colonnade with columns supporting an iron-like sculptural piece replicating the bridge

between the Twin Ports. The other entrances around the building have a smaller version of the colonnade.

In 2020, the third floor of the Superior Campus was renovated with new spaces for programming including medical assistant, nursing/nursing assistant, IT programming, business and general classrooms, additional small huddle rooms for students and a new office and laundry space for cosmetology.

The Superior campus currently offers 20 associate degree programs, 30 technical diplomas programs and 11 certificates spanning career areas in IT, manufacturing, transportation, business, healthcare, family and consumer services and more, along with special programming for local high schools and more.

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WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
1967 – 2020**

Dates of Service	Name	Title
1967 – 1972	Mr. Arthur H. Cothran, Jr.	District Director 18
1968 – 1971	Mr. Sam Lavine	District Director 17
1971 – Sept. 17, 1978	Dr. James W. Covey	District Director
Sept. 18, 1978 – Nov. 30, 1978	Ms. Dianne Loomis	Acting Director
Dec. 1, 1978 – 1984	Mr. Daniel Wagner	District Director
1984 – 2004	Mr. David R. Hildebrand	College President (President Emeritus)
2004 – May 2006	Dr. Hank Hurley	College President
May 2006 – July 2006	Mr. Charles Levine	Acting President
July 2006 – April 2008	Mr. Charles Levine	Interim President
May 2008 – July 2008	Mr. Charles Levine	College President (President Emeritus)
July 2008 – Aug. 15, 2014	Dr. Bob Meyer	College President (President Emeritus)
Aug. 16, 2014 – Sept. 1, 2014	Ms. Ellen Riely Hauser	Interim President
Sept. 2, 2014 – Present	Dr. John Will	College President