Message from the President

Welcome to the inaugural issue of MadisonCollege, our semi-annual newsletter. It’s part of an ongoing effort to keep you informed about activities at Madison Area Technical College.

This publication is a reflection of things that have happened over the past six months and an overview of forthcoming events and activities. You’ll also discover information about how we serve our students by providing hands-on experiences that help them develop technical skills and acquire practical knowledge that is relevant to their professional and personal development.

As a campus stakeholder, you deserve to know what’s happening here. Madison College is your college, and we have much for which to be proud. Take a few minutes to check out some of the great things that are taking place on our campuses in Madison and throughout the district, and I’m sure you’ll agree.

Sincerely,
Jack E. Daniels, III, Ph.D.
President

Taking the lead in STEM education

Biotechnology instructor Dr. Tom Tubon has been leading efforts to engage the community in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects. Madison College STEM faculty and students have been visiting K-12 schools and community centers to engage and interest young people, especially in underserved communities, in STEM education and career fields.

Tubon serves as the college’s representative on the STEM Higher Education Council (SHEC), a D.C.-based organization that coordinates academic-industry partnerships to create STEM workforce career pathways.

Beyond the bricks and mortar

Madison College is driven by people who share a commitment to the success of our students. For the past year, the college has been moving toward a shared governance form of decision making, where individuals at every level of campus have a voice in how policies are shaped.

The result of this collaborative effort is effective, transparent and informed decision making that holds us accountable to our stakeholders and the communities we serve.

Manufacturing from motorcycles to medical devices

“Celebrating Manufacturing Wisconsin,” an exhibit in The Gallery art space at Truax, covered the breadth, diversity and ingenuity of people and companies who work in manufacturing in our state. Many of the manufacturers featured employ graduates from our Advanced Manufacturing, Machine Tool, Welding, CNC Specialist and Mechanical Design programs.

Mid-year Commencement by the numbers

- 7 veterans
- 7 international students, 6 countries
- 17 special service award recipients
- 46 high honors (3.75 and higher GPA)
- 117 Phi Theta Kappa honor society
- 1,500 graduates
Blueprint for student success

Last summer Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch visited Madison College to announce the college would receive more than $5 million as part of the Blueprint for Prosperity Initiative to train workers for high-demand technical jobs across the state. The college’s share of the grant was the largest in the Wisconsin Technical College System.

So far, more than 425 students have benefited from the grant in the areas of construction, manufacturing and health. The grant enabled the addition of 13 full-time faculty members to expand capacity and reduce waitlists in high-demand fields. Students are enrolled in Machine Tool, Welding, Industrial Maintenance, Process and Metal Repair, Construction and Remodeling, as well as construction apprenticeship programs. In one example, a cohort of welding students, who would have had to wait more than a year to be enrolled, are now in classes and developing skills, thanks to the grant funding.

Bridging the nursing gap

Paramedics who want to earn nursing degrees to either change careers or advance on the job will have an easier transition thanks to a new program being developed at Madison College. With funding from a federal training grant, the Paramedic-to-Nurse bridge program would allow paramedics to receive credit for prior education when entering the Associate Degree Nursing program.

In the past, paramedics did not receive credit for past learning and had to start at the beginning of the nursing program. With the new bridge curriculum, they would take two theory courses, a basic skills course and a clinical experience before applying for admission to the third semester of the nursing program — earning the degree in one versus two years.

This year, the college is developing the curriculum for the first bridge courses to be offered in spring and summer 2016 for students planning to apply to enter the nursing program the following fall.

Online badges display earned skills and abilities

Madison College is a national leader in the issuance of digital badges, online visual representations of a person’s knowledge. After piloting last year, the college’s Continuing Education department rolled out a successful badge program for several professional development classes and series including health care interpreting, nutrition counseling, culinary arts and computer software.

WolfPack women’s volleyball wins again

The Madison College women’s volleyball team claimed their program’s second consecutive national title this fall. The WolfPack beat Lorain County Community College (OH) in a five-game match for the NJCAA Divison III National Championship. The team finished with an impressive 30-3 record and set numerous team and individual records.