High Percentage of Madison College Grads Finding Jobs Despite Uncertain Economy

The recently completed Madison Area Technical College Employment Report shows 87 percent of the College’s graduates are employed—many in their related field of study—despite a downturn in the economy.

For the academic year ending May 2010, Madison College had 3,802 graduates. That’s an 18 percent increase compared to the previous year. Graduates listed “getting a job” and “further education” as their top reasons for attending Madison College. More than 96 percent of graduates say they are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their training. Area employers agree—98 percent approve of their Madison College graduate’s educational or technical training.

“For nearly 100 years, Madison College has offered students hands-on, affordable education that is second to none,” says President Bettsey Barhorst. “The vital role we play in worker training demonstrates how critical we are in creating jobs.”

Enrollment at Madison College has jumped 22 percent in the past five years—in part, because of the crucial need to retrain displaced workers. The College is now facing another economic emergency. The proposed state budget calls for a 30 percent cut in aid to technical colleges, in spite of a plan to train 250,000 new workers.

“Unfortunately, these budget cuts could mean larger class sizes, more limited access to courses and programs, and increased challenges for Wisconsin employers looking for the skilled workers we train.” says Barhorst.

The U.S. Department of Labor says 80 percent of new jobs will require skills beyond high school. The vast majority of these jobs require college-level technical training, but not a bachelor’s degree.

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*Madison Area Technical College serves approximately 40,000 individuals annually, providing “real world smart” education through a comprehensive curriculum of technical, liberal arts and sciences, adult basic education and continuing education, as well as customized training for employers.*