Madison College Board Approves 2011-12 Budget

The Madison Area Technical College District Board unanimously approved the College’s proposed 2011-12 budget Wednesday night, after overcoming a $10.3 million deficit and allocating funds for a new building plan.

The budget calls for a 14.69 percent capital tax increase—but no increase for operations, which includes salaries. Most of the tax money will be used to help pay back the debt for Madison College’s $133.8 million referendum project that was overwhelmingly approved by voters last fall. The building plan calls for a new Health Education Building, a Protective Services Education Center, an Ingenuity Center for advanced manufacturing, and renovations to the College’s regional campuses. The College hopes to break ground on some of the new buildings by late August.

“The building referendum was approved by nearly 60 percent of voters,” says Jon Bales, Madison College District Board Chair. “This shows that people see the value that the College provides the community and that we play an important role in training workers for family-supporting jobs.”

For the average Madison home valued at $238,000, taxes will go up about $48 or $4 a month.

Despite a 22 percent jump in enrollment during the past five years, Madison College was recently hit hard by Governor Scott Walker’s budget proposal that reduced state aid to technical colleges by 30 percent. The College had to cut $10.3 million from its budget plan. Most of it came from voluntary amended labor contracts.

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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.