

DONATION *Matters*

Issue 5

Spring 2000

*A Newsletter about the Corporate
Donation Program of the Wisconsin
Technical College System Foundation*



*Madison Area Technical
College Trains Biotechnology
Workers of Future*



*Western Wisconsin Technical
College Apprentices Build
Regional Health Center*



*Blackhawk Technical College
Teams Up With UAW and
General Motors*



*Southwest Wisconsin
Technical College Grads Keep
John Deere Running*

*Help educate Wisconsin's
workforce...donate equipment
to the Technical Colleges*

Corporate Donation Program

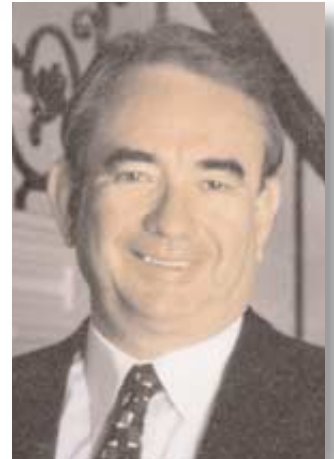
Wisconsin Technical College System Foundation, Inc.

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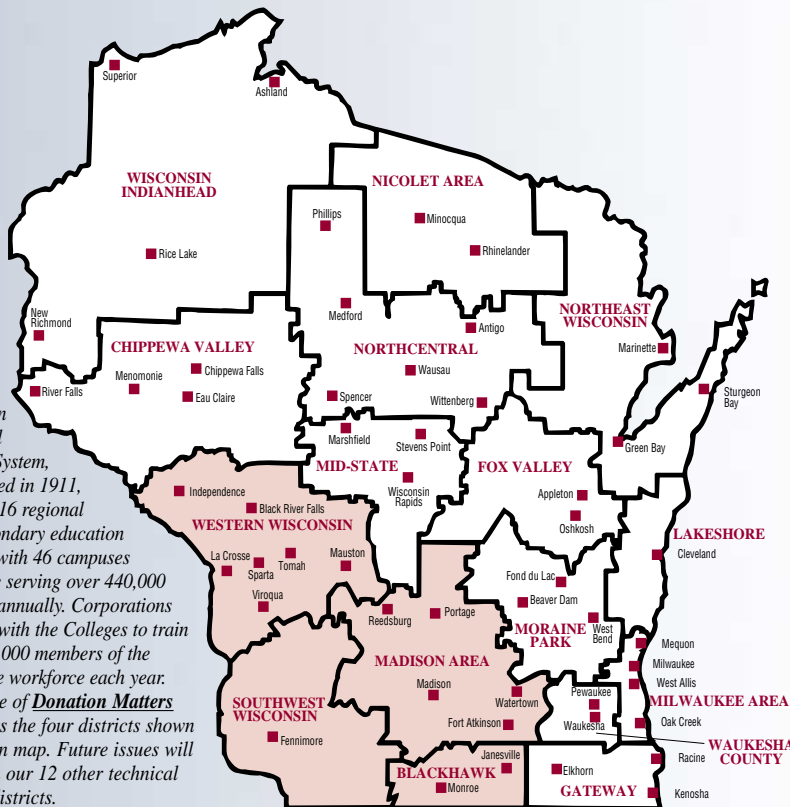
Mary Hall, former MATC student, now a scientist at Promega Corporation



“Wisconsin is proud to have the finest skilled training system in the nation. Help us so that your workers can acquire the skills to keep Wisconsin in the forefront of productivity.”

— Tommy Thompson, Governor State of Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Technical College System, established in 1911, includes 16 regional post-secondary education districts with 46 campuses statewide serving over 440,000 students annually. Corporations contract with the Colleges to train over 125,000 members of the corporate workforce each year. This issue of **Donation Matters** highlights the four districts shown in pink on map. Future issues will visit with our 12 other technical college districts.





“ WMC Members turn to the Wisconsin Technical Colleges for customized training of their existing workforce, on-site technical assistance, and a continuing source of new skilled workers. Your donations of materials and products will help us maintain productivity and keep our competitive edge.”

— James S. Haney, President
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

“ Our Wisconsin Technical College system has served as a dynamic partner with business and industry across the state in developing a highly-skilled workforce ready to take on the economic challenges of the new century. The customized, hands-on training provided by our technical colleges is one of the keys to the continued strength of our thriving Wisconsin economy.”

— John Gard,
Representative-Peshtigo,
Assembly Chair, Joint Committee
on Finance

“ Investing in technical education pays dividends for all of Wisconsin, creating new opportunities for workers and employers. Building on today’s partnership between the business community and state is the best way to meet the demands of tomorrow’s workplace.”

— Brian Burke, Senator-Milwaukee,
Senate Chair, Joint Committee
on Finance

“ Our job is to help employers by training new and existing skilled workers. You can help us to maintain our position as the finest training system in the nation. Your donations of your equipment, materials, and products will help us provide cutting-edge hands-on training.”

— Ed Chin, State Director
Wisconsin Technical
College System

***Wisconsin needs your help...
donate your equipment to
technical education***



DONATE YOUR EQUIPMENT TO TECHNICAL EDUCATION


Hundreds of corporations have seen the advantages of helping the Wisconsin Technical College System. Recent years have shown major increases in donations... over \$30 million in equipment and material gifts.

When you donate your equipment and materials, students and instructors benefit immediately. The Technical Colleges use the donated equipment and materials for the type of hands-on training that benefits companies once those newly-trained workers hit the job market... or during apprenticeship programs.

YOU WIN because your future workers are trained on your products. Your company gets lots of positive publicity. Your equipment is the standard on which tens of thousands of students receive training. And you build goodwill with the Colleges you turn to for new workers.

STUDENTS WIN because they can be trained on state-of-the-art equipment. They learn in labs and workshops with materials actually used in industry.

Among the 440,000 students educated in the technical college system each year are over 125,000 employees of Wisconsin companies. These employee/students get customized training through their employers and the Technical Colleges. So your donated equipment gets even more exposure.

Wisconsin needs your help... donate your equipment and materials to the Technical Colleges. If you can help call 1-800-322-1354 or email corporate@wtcsf.tec.wi.us. 

Entire State to Reap Benefits from Moraine Park's Applied Manufacturing-Technology Center

Moraine Park Technical College has begun development of Wisconsin's first-of-a-kind Applied Manufacturing-Technology Center. The State's legislative leaders, Governor Tommy Thompson, and the manufacturing community have joined with the College to create a national model for solving the severe shortage of highly-skilled industrial workers. The unique relationship of private and public entities will focus on emerging technology in computer-controlled manufacturing.

The \$7.1 million Applied Manufacturing-Technology Center will be built on the West Bend Campus with construction scheduled to begin July 2001.

Dr. Jack Shanahan, President of Moraine Park, notes that "manufacturing is Wisconsin's second largest industry. It's been a tradition in the State for generations. We now face a major shortage of workers trained on linking manufacturing cells with sensors, computers and machine tools. Advanced manufacturing technologies rely more and more on computer-controlled equipment. The new Center will maintain Wisconsin's technological and competitive edge."

The computers needed to conduct training in the Applied Manufacturing-Technology Center must be current



Dr. Jack Shanahan, President of Moraine Park Technical College and Governor Tommy Thompson announce the development of the Applied Manufacturing–Technology Center.

enough to work with sophisticated design software and represent one of the Center’s most prevalent needs. “We will need the most up-to-date computers out there and will probably need to replace them each year,” said Chuck Brendel, Moraine Park’s Interim Dean for Manufacturing Technologies and Apprenticeships. “Every time a software company releases a new software version, the enhancements require more memory and faster processor speeds. So receiving donations of this type are vital to the Center’s success.”

“Training at Moraine Park’s Applied Manufacturing–Technology Center will mirror what is being done in industry.”

Chuck Brendel, Moraine Park’s interim dean for manufacturing technologies and apprenticeships.

Dr. Shanahan said the donations already made by several businesses and foundations have provided a huge jump-start to the fundraising efforts currently underway for

the Center. “These donations are critical to the successful completion of the Applied Manufacturing–Technology Center,” he said. “It is very significant to have major corporations stepping forward and placing their confidence and trust in us and our ability to bring this whole project together. It sets a benchmark and clears the way for others to think about participating with us.”

If your company or organization is interested in making donations or contributions, or would like more information about the Applied Manufacturing–Technology Center, contact Jack Shanahan at Moraine Park Technical College.

The \$7.1 million Applied Manufacturing–Technology Center will be built on the West Bend Campus with construction scheduled to begin July 2001. 🇺🇸

You can help Wisconsin remain competitive by donating state-of-the-art computers and servers, industrial control technology, equipment and materials for use in the Applied Manufacturing–Technology Center.



The Legislature required the \$7.1 million Applied Manufacturing–Technology effort be a private/public partnership. Over the next year, Moraine Park will need to raise \$2.1 million in donations from the private sector to cover capital costs. The remaining \$5 million will be raised through user fees and a Legislature-approved tax levy on the ten-county Moraine Park District.

Major Contributors to the Center include:

- D.P. Technology Corporation of California*
- Unigraphics Solutions of Missouri*
- Ted and Grace Bachhuber Foundation, Inc. of Wisconsin*
- Programming Plus, Inc. of Wisconsin*



MATC is Building the Biotechnology Workers of the Future



— Beverly Simone, President of Madison Area Technical College:

“Promega and BCTI are a classic example of the strategic alliance MATC builds to promote its mission of economic and workforce development. This relationship has increased in importance as the State of Wisconsin moves forward in its plan to promote and enhance biotechnology as one of the critical economic sectors to develop in the twenty-first century.”



Stephanie Albrecht, MATC student, learns valuable skills in the college's Biotechnology Lab Technician Program.

Biotechnology paints us a picture of a bright future. We'll live a longer and healthier life. Plants created with biotechnology will resist insect damage and provide extra nutrition. We'll use bacteria to consume industrial toxins. But biotechnology can only deliver on these hopes if it has the workers to get the job done.

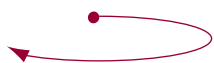
PROMEGA CORPORATION on the south side of Madison is a world leader in creating high-value products for the life sciences through biochemical and molecular biology. **PROMEGA** gets many of its skilled workers from nearby Madison Area Technical College. **PROMEGA's** growth has been phenomenal: ten years ago, the company had fifty workers; today it employs over five hundred just in the Madison area.

Only a close working partnership with MATC—established through MATC Associate Dean Joy McMillan—enables **PROMEGA** to meet the demand. Looking at the potential growth of **PROMEGA** and working in conjunction with them, McMillan contacted the National Science Foundation (NSF) for technical and financial help in creating a leading-edge program for training

biotechnology workers. Her approach succeeded spectacularly: NSF awarded a million-dollar grant to a consortium of the University of Wisconsin, MATC, and **PROMEGA's** in-house non-profit organization—**BIOPHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER INSTITUTE**. McMillan manages the program as principal investigator.

Mary Hall is now a **PROMEGA** scientist, but not long ago she was a student at Madison Area Technical College. She said “This is a great job in an open, exciting, and challenging work environment. I work in the bioluminescence lab creating products to advance gene reporting technology. And I'm really proud of what we're accomplishing.”

MATC keeps its training program closely aligned with fast-changing industry needs. Joseph Lowndes is an instructor at the College's Biotechnology Lab Technician Program, and he's excited about the school's support of **PROMEGA** on the cutting edge of biotechnological research: “We now have sixty students in Lab Technician training, and we're placing our students directly into an intern program at **PROMEGA**. This is a program that works for everyone.” 🇺🇸



Madison Area Technical College

Madison Area Technical College has campuses in Madison, Fort Atkinson, Portage, Reedsburg, and Watertown. The college serves nearly 50,000 students in 94 major program areas. Business and industry contracts with MATC for customized instruction and technical assistance. Over 500 separate contracts provided 12,000 people with educational services in 1999. MATC President Beverly Simone stated “MATC builds strategic alliances with business and industry. This promotes

economic and workforce development. We’re committed to working directly with business and industry.”

David Shonkwiler, Dean of Agriscience, Apprenticeship, Technical and Industry, sees biotechnology as a major force in the future: “It’s a key growth sector in Wisconsin. We at MATC will focus our efforts to link the needs of the workforce with the strengths of the state technical education system.” 🇺🇸



— David Shonkwiler, Dean of Agriscience, Apprenticeship, Trade and Industry:

Biopharmaceutical Technology Center Institute

The **BIO**PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER INSTITUTE (**BTCI**) is a major non-profit corporation established to “contribute to the continued success of the biotechnology industry and to enhance the quality of education in the life sciences.” **BTCI** is supported by and shares facilities with **PROMEGA**. **BTCI**’s efforts focus on developing educational programs that are critical to the growth and expansion of the biotechnology sector of the economy. The Institute offers science enrichment

programs for grade school children, on-site training for teachers, and “Frontiers in Science” career days for high-school students. It’s a valuable scientific resource for the entire community.

Joy McMillan, MATC Associate Dean states: “**BTCI** has been an important partner in the link between business and industry for our two-year Biotechnology laboratory technician program. We deeply appreciate Karin Borgh’s (**BTCI**’s Executive Director) insight and openness.” 🇺🇸

“ MATC is committed to bridging the gap between businesses workforce needs and the Wisconsin Technical College System.”

Promega Corporation

Founded in 1978 by William A. Linton, **PROMEGA CORPORATION** has forged a leadership role in applying biochemistry and molecular biology to product development. Linton is currently the corporation’s President and CEO. The firm has offices throughout Europe and in Australia and Japan. It has more than forty distributors worldwide.

PROMEGA’s goal is “To be the most responsive supplier of biological reagents and reagent systems used in research and applied technology applications worldwide.” Its roster of two thousand

products support work in life science research, genetic identity, high throughput screening, molecular diagnostics, neuroscience, plant biotechnology, and quality monitoring. 🇺🇸





— Lee Rasch, President, Western Wisconsin Technical College:

“I feel that the partnership in the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium has been one of the most significant initiatives ever to reach western Wisconsin. The Health Science Center is a \$27.1 million investment in state-of-the-art instructional technology that features shared facility use among the five partners. In addition, the Consortium has pledged to use combined efforts to improve population health in the region. These kinds of collaborative efforts are the way of the future, as a means to address complex challenges facing health care and higher education.”

Regional Health Center Built with WWTC Apprentices



Artists rendering of Health Science Center

The La Crosse Health Science Center is now under construction and due to open early in the Fall. It will bring a new level of state-of-the-art education, research, and health care services for the residents of western Wisconsin. Such a large project requires a range of skilled workers. And Western Wisconsin Technical College in La Crosse has the trained workers to fill the bill. Bob Pruse, Western’s Associate Dean for Apprenticeship says: “We think the construction industry is doing a fine job on the new Health Science Center. Many of our apprentices are playing critical skilled roles in bringing one of the finest health centers in the Midwest to reality right here in La Crosse.”

The College provides a full range of training to local skilled trade contractors. This raises the quality of the workforce and keeps contractors fully staffed for the demand.

ALL FACETS SHEET METAL of La Crosse is the sheet metal contractor for the Health Science Center project. It’s a well-established firm, which handles many of the

major sheet metal projects around La Crosse. **ALL FACETS** owner Bill McArthur graduated from the Western apprenticeship program and chairs the La Crosse Area Sheet Metal Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

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Western Wisconsin Technical College

Overall, Western Wisconsin Technical College serves nearly 20,000 students annually in eleven counties with six campuses. The College offers 61 programs and has apprenticeship programs in some six skilled trades throughout the region, with about three hundred apprentices currently on job sites. The College’s job placement record is outstanding: latest results show 97% of graduates were working within six months of graduation.

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La Crosse Health Science Center

Within the next few months, every resident of western Wisconsin will benefit from a new 168,000 square foot, \$27.1 million facility in La Crosse, the La Crosse Health Science Center. It is a collaboration unique in the nation. Two health organizations and three educational organizations have joined together to create the Center—Western Wisconsin Technical College, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo College, Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center, and Franciscan Skemp-Mayo Health System. It will house educational and research programs in twelve allied health professions.

Western donated the land and equipment for the Center. Co-facility Managers for the project are Julie Dahl and Darrell Oelke of Western's Physical Plant operation. Julie says "We'll make the building operation as smooth and seamless as possible, with a low level of maintenance. We also want it to be very user-friendly."

Governor Tommy Thompson is also upbeat on the Center: Through this alliance, western Wisconsin is setting a course for leadership and excellence in healthcare and health education, securing its own economic health." 🇺🇸



Founded twenty years ago, **ALL FACETS** specialized in heating, cooling, ventilating, and exhaust systems. It's played an important role in many of the area's larger construction projects, such as the Juvenile Detention Center and Law Enforcement Center in La Crosse, Gunderson Clinic in Onalaska, Blair High School, classroom buildings for UW-River Falls and Menominee, and assorted projects for the UW System in Stevens Point and Eau Claire.

ALL FACETS's Owner, Bill McArthur, has a close working relationship with Western Wisconsin Technical College. He regularly donates his time, equipment, and knowledge to help the sheet metal apprentices. "Our workers have made our company a success, says McArthur. "When you have highly-skilled, well-trained, and honest workers committed to the highest quality, you can promise a good job." 🇺🇸

Bill McArthur, President of All Facets Sheet Metal, Inc., left, and Mark Owen, 5th year apprentice with All Facets, right, at Health Science Center.



UAW & General Motors Team Up With BTC On Job Training and Life Skills



— Eric Larsen,
Blackhawk President

“Blackhawk is dedicated to serving business and industry through technical assistance and customized training. We appreciate the trust and close working relationships with business and industry.”



Above: Mike Zawlocki, Blackhawk Automotive Technician instructor, and Dennis Ott & Don Swisher apply cutting edge high-tech electronics to continue GM and the UAW's tradition of high quality vehicles.

Right: Tom Westrick, UAW Education Center Administrator, and Julie Monahan, GM Supervisor of Training.



For 65 years, the **UAW** and **GM** have worked together to turn out high quality vehicles. They are also partnering in the area of on-going education.

To train people on an ongoing basis, the **UAW** and **GM** have an advanced Technical Training Center to conduct a range of job-specific training utilizing instructors from nearby Blackhawk Technical College.

Global competition and the demands of technology require well-trained workers at almost every position on the production line. Management and union people have worked closely together with Blackhawk to get workers the training they need.

“We’ve established an atmosphere of trust with Blackhawk,” says Julie Monahan, the **GM-JANESVILLE** Supervisor of Training. “Over the past five years, we’ve faced some critical product changes. And we’ve been

able to count on Blackhawk for help in the training that goes along with such changes.”

Working on model changes and newly-introduced technology can be ticklish business because the competition would dearly love to get an inside view on **GM**’s plans for the future. But the company was comfortable working with Blackhawk. “We had to compromise our privacy to plan for the new training,” said Monahan. “Blackhawk respected our need for privacy. They never let us down.”

Michael Zawlocki is an Automotive Technician Instructor at the Blackhawk Center on-site at the plant. He works at **GM** directly with the **UAW** members in the Tahoe-Yukon quality assurance area about ten hours a week. He provides hands-on training for the new high-tech electronic test equipment. “**GM** and the **UAW** continue

Continued page 14



Blackhawk Technical College

The main Blackhawk Technical College lies in Janesville, along with the North Rock County Center, the Aviation Center at the Rock County Airport, the Monroe Center, the Beloit Adult Center, and the Rock County Job Center. Blackhawk offers 52 programs to over 16,000 students. A recent survey showed 97% of area employers were satisfied with Blackhawk graduates they hired.

Blackhawk President Eric Larsen stated “We’re dedicated to maintaining close relationships with business and industry. We encourage local businesses to contact us with their workforce and technical assistance needs. We now serve over 240 local area businesses with customized instruction and technical assistance. Last year we provided training and assistance to over 5,000 people.”

Bob Borremans, Blackhawk’s Vice-President for Administrative/Student Services, commented “We’re fortunate to have a great corporate partner such as **GENERAL MOTORS**. And our close working relationship with the **UNITED AUTO WORKERS** has been an important part of Blackhawk’s training efforts.” 🇺🇸



General Motors Janesville

Founded in 1908, **GENERAL MOTORS (GM)** has grown into the world’s largest automotive corporation and vehicle manufacturer. **GM** employs over 388,000 people and has over 30,000 supplier companies. As the largest U.S. exporter of cars and trucks (with manufacturing operations in 50 countries), **GM** has a presence in over 200 countries. Along with vehicle design, manufacture, and marketing, **GM** has substantial interests in digital communications, financial, and insurance services, locomotives, and heavy-duty transmissions.

GM came to Janesville in 1919. The facility exceeds 3.5 million square feet and has 5,000 workers. Since 1920, **GM** has built a range of vehicles in Janesville—cars, pickup trucks, medium duty commercial trucks and sports utility vehicles. Currently, the plant assembles Chevy Tahoes and Suburbans, GMC Yukons and Yukon XLS, and medium duty trucks. 🇺🇸

UAW Local 95

Local 95 of the **UNITED AUTO WORKERS (UAW)** represents thirteen locations in the Janesville community, including over 4,500 employees at the **GM-JANESVILLE** site.

The International Union—United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (**UAW**)—was founded in Detroit in 1935. It’s one of the largest and most diverse unions in North America, with members in every sector of the economy. It includes 760,000 active members and 500,000 retired members.

The **UAW** includes more than 1,000 local unions. It covers 122 locations under GM contracts and represents 220,000 **UAW-GM** workers.

UAW Local 95 has a close working relationship with Blackhawk through its training center, called the Rick Holte Education Center, which instructs more than 800 workers each year. **UAW** training funds support the three Blackhawk instructors at the **UAW** Rick Holte Education Center. 🇺🇸



— Bob Borremans,
Blackhawk Vice President
for Administrative/Student
Services:

“ Blackhawk is proud of its close working relationships with business and industry. Our partnership with GM is very important to our organization.”

SWTC's Grads Keep Dubuque Operation Running Like A Deere



— Karen Knox,
Southwest President

“Working closely with business and industry is extremely important to Southwest. Many residents of our district are employees of John Deere. Even more may become employees during this period of transition for John Deere. If we can assist the company in meeting its workforce needs and also provide training so that residents of the Southwest area will have a better opportunity for the high paying jobs, then we all win.”



Greg Kausman, Training Coordinator at John Deere discusses training needs with John Gander, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College's Dean of Industrial Occupations.

With more than 2,300 workers, the **JOHN DEERE DUBUQUE WORKS** “across the river” in Iowa is one of southwestern Wisconsin’s major employers. Over 94% of **DEERE**’s 1,300 wage workers are eligible to retire within the next thirty months. This unprecedented situation provides **DEERE** with a dilemma on where to find skilled workers, as well as, a unique opportunity to bring in a new generation of technically cross-trained workers.

The plant has been dedicated to pursuing highly-automated manufacturing strategies which require well-trained workers with multiple skills in computer-controlled manufacturing processes.

JOHN DEERE turned to Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC) for big-time training help. **DEERE** met with John Gander, SWTC’s Dean of Industrial

Occupations, and his staff to layout the problem and strategize solutions. Greg Krausman, Technical Training Coordinator for John Deere in Dubuque: “SWTC has been wonderful in helping us meet our needs. John Gander and his instructional staff have done an exemplary job in customizing a program that provides the education and training our new employees will need in order for **DEERE** to meet the competitive challenges it faces. We appreciate the aggressive and dedicated commitment they’ve made to us.”

SWTC developed an Integrated Manufacturing Technician (IMT) training program to meet **DEERE**’s needs. Students receive training in multiple skills that will provide any future employers with staff assignment flexibility. *Continued page 14*



Southwest Wisconsin Technical College

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC) is located in Fennimore. SWTC offers 40 programs with a 1999 headcount over 10,000. A recent survey indicated that over 97% of area graduates were employed within six months of graduation.

SWTC's President Karen Knox stated "SWTC recognizes the importance of our agri-business and local industry. We welcome contacts regarding workforce and technical assistance needs. Last year we served over 200 local area businesses with over 1000 courses of customized instruction and 27 contracts for technical assistance."

John Gander, SWTC's Dean of Industrial Occupations, commented "We are pleased to meet with any organization who may need training or technical assistance. Our close working relationship with employers, such as the **JOHN DEERE DUBUQUE WORKS**, has become an important part of SWTC's training efforts." 🇺🇸



John Deere Dubuque Works

Since its beginning in 1837 in a pioneer's blacksmith shop, **DEERE AND COMPANY** has grown to become the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural equipment, and a major producer of other types of equipment for homeowners and the construction industry. **JOHN DEERE's** steel plow started it all. That invention, which made farming practical in the Midwest, marked the birth of the worldwide organization known today as **DEERE AND COMPANY**. The multinational corporation does business in more than 160 countries and employs 34,000 people worldwide.

The first machine off the new **DUBUQUE WORKS** assembly line in 1947 was a general-purpose tractor. Over the years, the **DUBUQUE WORKS** tractors become legends in the history of power technology. These classics were the result of years of planning,

engineering, prototype designs, and trial and error testing. **JOHN DEERE** was the highest quality then, and is the highest quality now.

The **DUBUQUE WORKS** products include various engines, motor backhoes, and crawlers. The plant includes over 4.5 million square feet on one floor, with a 1.1-mile main corridor. The manufacturing systems currently used at the **DUBUQUE WORKS** are world class. Teams of employees have made the backhoe loader assembly line into one of the most efficient and productive in the industry. The backhoe loader frame is pulled through six modular zones by a "tugger" that is guided and controlled electronically by wires buried in the shop floor. The end product is designed for rugged use as well as ease of installation and maintenance. 🇺🇸



We thank these recent donors:

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Thermo Wisconsin Inc
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All donations help...these are some of the things our colleges make the most of:

New product and inventory:
automotive components, power supplies, electronics, industrial controls and sensors, laboratory and medical equipment and supplies, water and air pumps, hydraulic components, small engines or automotive and truck engines

Machinery, equipment and tooling:
electric motors, machine shop equipment and tooling, robots, and laser cutting equipment

Printing equipment and supplies:
printing machinery, paper and inks

Maintenance equipment and supplies:
hand tools, warehouse shelving and racks, workbenches, abrasives, nuts, bolts or screws

Material handling equipment:
pallets, forklifts, power hoists and jacks

Office supplies and furniture:
from furniture to paper, computers, printers or copy machines

Raw materials:
wood products, plastic pipe, windows and doors, metal rods, plates, chains and bar stock

Heavy equipment and vehicles:
from automobiles to bulldozers to airplanes and marine equipment

Buildings, land and cash gifts

UAW & General Motors Team Up on Job Training and Life Skills

continued from page 10

their tradition of high quality in production standards," said Zawlocki. "We at Blackhawk are pleased to be working with the **UAW** and **GM** to provide training to meet industry needs. This is a close working relationship that rewards ALL partners."

But job training isn't the only kind of learning going on in the partnership of **GM**, **UAW**, and Blackhawk Technical College.

In the negotiated 1990 national contract, the **UAW** and **GM** created a program of specialized centers nationwide to conduct basic skills training for workers. In 1992, the Rick Holte Education Center at the **GM** Janesville plant was opened. It was one of the first in the country and continues as one of the finest Centers. Rick Holte was a local Union Vice-President who was one of the vigorous early boosters of adult learning for workers. He died prematurely, and a contest to name the Center chose his name to go above the door.

The learning that goes on here isn't always directly job-related, but it is certainly life-enhancing. "About a eight hundred individuals a year study at the Center," said Tom Westrick, the **UAW** Site Administrator. "They work in subjects ranging from math to gourmet cooking, operating a personal computer, and running personal finances.

The Rick Holte Education Center is open from 5am to 11pm, so workers can enhance their education almost any time. This performance-based instruction gives them pride of accomplishment, prepares them for apprenticeship programs, and even makes them better on the **GM** line. A happier, more personally fulfilled worker is a winning situation for everyone.

For the best level of instruction both vocationally and personally, **UAW** and **GM** turned to a strong local resource: Blackhawk Technical College. 🇺🇸

SWTC Keeps Dubuque Operation Running... *continued from page 12*

Their preparation at SWTC earns them preferential hiring status at **DEERE** in addition to possible internships, a mentoring program, and possible scholarships.

The four main technical areas of training are: assembly; lean manufacturing strategies; welding, including robotic and Computer Numerical Control (CNC); and Machine Tool/CNC operation. Program graduates come to work with far greater technological skills and appreciation for lean manufacturing than workers that just walk in the door ... along with just the kind of talent and drive **DEERE** needs in its Dubuque plant. The new program offered by SWTC is an excellent example of the Wisconsin Technical System Colleges

responding quickly and effectively to meet industry's challenges and continuously changing needs. 🇺🇸



Curtis Cummins, a student in SWTC's Integrated Manufacturing Technician (IMT) training program

Regional Health Center Built with WWTC...

continued from page 8

He has a deep personal commitment to the school—every one of his workers is either a current or former apprentice in the College’s Sheet Metal apprenticeship program. “We’re a union shop,” says McArthur, “and we’re very fortunate to have a really top-quality resource like this nearby. Western coordinates regularly with the trades to keep the training current and high-quality. You can’t produce quality construction without well-trained, skilled workers.”

Mark Owen of ALL FACETS is finishing up the heating and air conditioning work on the new Health Science Center. “I’m in my fifth year of the apprenticeship program at Western,” he says, “and this is one **great** project to be using my skills on.” 🍷

Western Wisconsin Technical College

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College President Lee Rasch said “We’re extremely proud to serve industry in western Wisconsin. In 1999 we had 177 technical assistance and customized training contracts. We feel it’s central to our success as an organization. We welcome area corporations to contact us regarding training.”

“Western’s Program Advisory Committees are key to serving business and industry” said Ron Sellnau, Dean of Industrial Technologies. “These committees are formed from representatives of local business and industry, and they guide curriculum development.” 🍷

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

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