

# NTO

NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS

Maybe Your Dream Job Is In A Place You Never Dreamed Of!

Western  
Technical College  
THE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

## NTO Connection (NON-TRADITIONAL GENDER OCCUPATIONS)

### Career Services

You are on the downhill side of the semester & one step closer to your goal of graduation! Finding a job is probably foremost on your mind. Today, growing companies want a culture of diversity...it makes them more competitive. As a student in an NTO occupation, you have proven you know how to work in a diverse work environment. Use that perspective to reinforce those assets that make you stand out from the others when writing your **cover letter** & in your actual **interview** situations. Career Services is offering **cover letter, resume & interviewing workshops**.

March 22	Walk-in Resume Review	1 – 4 PM
<b>March 29</b>	<b>CAREER FAIR (Lunda Center)</b>	<b>10 AM – 4 PM</b>
April 05	Walk-in Resume Review	1 – 4 PM
April 26	Walk-in Resume Review	1 – 4 PM
May 03	Walk-in Resume Review	1 – 4 PM

#### Interviewing 101—Lunda Center

This is a two part workshop that you need to **register** for in advance. You may email [careerservices@westernnc.edu](mailto:careerservices@westernnc.edu), or call **608-785-9440** or stop by **Career Services** in the **Welcome Center**. The first part will help you polish your interviewing skills, while the second part is an actual hands-on face-to-face mock interview! Register early—seating is limited!

**Tuesday Afternoon Workshop**  
**April 12 & 19 2-3pm**

OR

**Thursday Morning Workshop**  
**April 14 & 21 10-11am**



If you can't find a job right away, make the best possible use of your time.



**Volunteer in your Community.** Who knows who you will meet that may help you find a job. Local volunteer opportunities are listed below. Meet new people, have fun & enhance skills while building your network of contacts.

Coulee Region Humane Society	<a href="http://www.couleehumane.com">www.couleehumane.com</a>	608-781-4014
Great Rivers 211	<a href="http://www.greatrivers211.org">www.greatrivers211.org</a>	608-775-6335
Great Rivers United Way	<a href="http://www.greatriversunitedway.org">www.greatriversunitedway.org</a>	608-796-1400
Hillview Health Care Center	<a href="http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/hillview/">http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/hillview/</a>	608-789-4800
La Crosse Special Recreation	<a href="http://www.cityoflacrosse.org">www.cityoflacrosse.org</a>	608-789-7596
Mobile Meals of La Crosse	<a href="http://www.mealcall.org">www.mealcall.org</a>	608-784-4623
Riverfront, Inc.	<a href="http://www.riverfrontinc.org">www.riverfrontinc.org</a>	608-784-9450
Special Olympics Aquatics	<a href="http://www.cityoflacrosse.org">www.cityoflacrosse.org</a>	608-789-7596
Vernon Co Humane Society/Animal Shelter	<a href="http://www.vchumane.org">www.vchumane.org</a>	608-637-6955
WAFER Food Pantry	<a href="http://www.waferlacrosse.org">www.waferlacrosse.org</a>	608-782-6003
YWCA of the Coulee Region	<a href="http://www.ywcalax.org">www.ywcalax.org</a>	608-781-2783

**Jackie Newman (608) 785-9257 [newmanj@westernnc.edu](mailto:newmanj@westernnc.edu)**

## MEET KATIE & DIANA!



Careers are often chosen because the work is rewarding, both personally and financially. **Katie Mulera** (graduating May 2012) & **Diana Leystra** (graduating in May 2011) both chose a field that was primarily male, **Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology (ECET)**.

Katie is looking for her first career. She is married and has a young child. As Katie considered career choices, she knew the financial aspect was important. She knew she enjoyed learning how things work. As a child she loved taking things apart, and then reassembling them. She loves computers and Math. So enter ECET. Katie did mention it would have been even more helpful if she would have taken more math during her high school years. Her math foundation is calculus and advanced placement statistics. This foundation enabled Katie to score high on her Math ACTs allowing her to step right into her program! So far So GOOD!

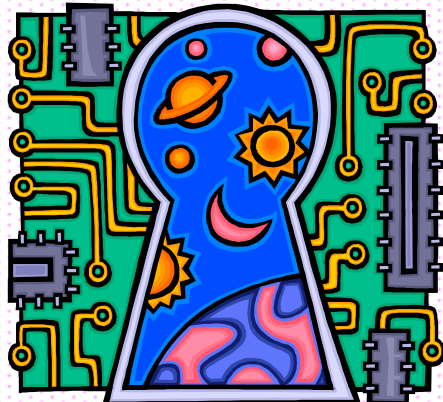
Diana, on the other hand, is a returning adult student, who found herself laid off after years of employment

as an interior designer. Diana spent time thinking about her next move. She decided she wanted to be financially secure and have more time off. She made the decision to return to school and has not looked back. ECET allows her to utilize her love of computers and creativity, while simultaneously solving problems.

Both Katie and Diana did not think being female in a male dominated field was cause for concern. Diana commented "Just like any class, it takes about two months to get to know your classmates". She recalls with humor the learning curve for faculty in addressing the class "ok guys...Oops! I mean ok guys and LADIES!" The students have worked very well together with gender not being an issue at all.

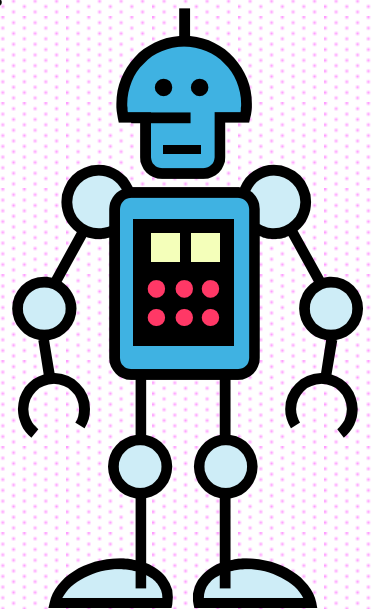
Both women are very determined, or "stubborn" as Katie says and committed to the work it takes to be a successful student regardless of gender, in this very rigorous associate degree program. Diana adds the electronics component of the program at times can be somewhat overwhelming, but dropping out was not an option considered. "What would I have if I left?" Diana said. What keeps her going is the reward of seeing a project come together. She never ceases to be amazed at the variations on methods of problem solving!

The **National Science Foundation** formerly offered a scholarship for ECET students.. Both Katie and Diana are recipients of this scholarship. Both women wanted to continue their education after completing their associate degree. This would allow them to earn an income that would meet their financial needs while expanding their career options in the field. Katie plans to begin at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse in Fall 2012, while Diana is starting this Fall 2011. Receiving that scholarship is a significant asset to help them both reach their goals.



What's next? The women aren't completely sure. Will it be a job in robotics? Working on a smart grid? Or possibly teaching in a **STEM** ( science, technology, engineering or math) field as a non-traditional occupation for women? Who knows?

What they both know is they have found a field that meets both their personal and financial goals and is a good fit. Isn't that as good as life gets?



*Your Dream Job May be in a Place you Never Dreamed of!*

## JEREMY'S advice "Do your homework when planning your career!"



Choosing a career path requires **homework**. Just ask Jeremy Hundt, nursing student. Before Jeremy chose nursing, he took a couple of assessments to see where his career interests and personal strengths were. He knew he was looking for a field he was passionate about that would make a difference in the lives of others. He thought about nursing and wanted to find out more about the working conditions, labor markets, job trends and other details pertinent to nursing. Jeremy researched his field on-line. One resource that he really felt was particularly helpful was the Bureau of Labor and Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/>. This resource had a plethora of information including what he could expect to earn as an LPN(\$19.00 an hour median wage) or as an RN(\$31.99 median wage). He also learned that nursing is projected to grow faster than average for the next ten years. Jeremy talked with friends that were in nursing, did a job shadow, talked with instructors and sat in on classes. He did his **homework** to plan his career!

This was a HUGE decision for Jeremy to make! He had worked in the cities as a manager in the hotel industry for ten years. He would have to relocate back to Wisconsin if he was going to return to college as a nursing student. He already had an associate degree from Normandale Community College in

MN...what if none of those credits transferred to Western? Well, the credits were evaluated and all of his general education credits transferred so he would be able to begin his program immediately! He was returning to school!

"This year was a year of change and it was very different and stressful! If you enjoy the work and are passionate about it, you will be fantastic at it!" Jeremy said, "Doing all of the **homework** was worth it."

Jeremy will continue his education at UW-Stout to complete his bachelor's degree while he works as a nurse. He will be fantastic wherever his journey takes him!  
**GOOD LUCK, JEREMY!**



### COULEE REGION MEN IN NURSING

YOU are **INVITED** and **VERY WELCOME**  
both **MEN** and **WOMEN**

Call **Paul (608) 775-4329** (54329) Pager 3768

[pjarson@gundluth.org](mailto:pjarson@gundluth.org)



### Career Services Videos For YOU!

Engaging Resumes and Cover Letters  
Solid Interview Skills  
Communicating with Tact Candor and Credibility  
See Jackie Newman @ Career Services.



WWA will present a **\$1000** scholarship to a student from an institution of higher learning in La Crosse area. Applicants must be current students planning on attending a La Crosse area educational institution next semester.

The scholarship winner is required to attend the WWA lunch & speak briefly about their background & professional goals. The check will be made payable to the school once proof of enrollment is received & the luncheon requirements have been met.

Download application <http://www.westerntc.edu/scholarships/directscol.asp>

Applications must be **completed & submitted** no later than **APRIL 1, 2011**.

Submit to: Wendy Kelly, BPW Scholarship Committee, S1475 Ernie's Lane/Chaseburg WI 54621 or [wkellyiris@gmail.com](mailto:wkellyiris@gmail.com).

Questions? Contact Wendy @ 608-304-0056 or via email above.

## Calendar of Events



- April 18 **Begin Registering Continuing Students Summer/Fall— check date/time on My Western**
- April 22 **Good Friday—COLLEGE CLOSED—Earth Day!**
- April 24 **Happy Easter**
- May 09 **Begin Open Registration Undeclared Students Summer**
- May 09-17 **CASH FOR USED BOOKS Campus Shop**
- May 13 **Commencement**
- May 16 **Credit Classes End TODAY!**

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## Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to ease the financial burden to prospective/continuing female students in public service, public administration & government affairs. May be used for tuition, supplies, child care or to reduce loan burden.

Scholarship Value: **\$3000 per year** at any State of Wisconsin University or Technical College OR any in-state private college affiliated with the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

**Six scholarships total will be awarded, two at each system.**

Applications are **due April 29th**. Download information and application at:

<http://www.wiscwomeningovernment.org/pdfs/WWIG-undergrad-scholarship-2011.pdf>

## WOMEN BUILDERS NEEDED



**Starting on April 30**, Habitat for Humanity encourages you to pick up a hammer for the third annual “Women Build” program. This event allows women of all skill levels to build homes for families in need.

You can participate as an individual or get a team together. Each team is asked to raise \$1,000, and those participating as individuals are asked to raise \$100. Each team will build an entire house together throughout the summer.

You may also contribute by participating in Habitat for Humanity’s Mother’s Day opportunity. Honor a woman who has made a difference in your life by making a donation, and Habitat for Humanity will send a card to the woman being honored.

Visit [www.habitatlacrosse.org/buildingprojects/womenbuild.shtml](http://www.habitatlacrosse.org/buildingprojects/womenbuild.shtml)

OR (608) 785 2373 for more information.

