

WESTERNCONNECT

THE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE | A publication for alumni & friends of Western Technical College

September 2025 | Volume 22, Number 2



Wanek Center of Innovation
See story on page 12!

Dear Alumni & Friends,

It's been a busy few months since our last edition, and we're excited to share all that's been happening! From spring achievements to summer activities and now the start of a new academic year, the momentum on campus hasn't slowed.

Fall classes are officially underway, and the energy is electric. New and returning students have filled the hallways once again, ready to tackle their schedules and move one step closer to graduation. It's always inspiring to see their enthusiasm and determination as the semester begins.

In this edition of *Connect*, you'll find highlights from the past few months and a look at what's ahead. We've had some incredible moments this summer, and we're looking forward to an exciting fall filled with opportunities to connect, grow, and celebrate.

We also continue to welcome your stories of success. Whether it's a new job, a personal milestone, or a memory from your time here, your experiences inspire our current students and remind us of the lasting impact of our alumni community.

Thank you for being part of our journey—and here's to a strong start to the fall season!

Warmly,



Stephanie Knutson
Alumni Relations Coordinator



Stephanie Knutson



SCHOLARSHIP

Are you or someone you know planning to attend Western?
Check out the Western Foundation scholarships:
www.westerntc.edu/scholarships

Connect opt-in

In a world where costs keep rising, we are asking if you prefer to receive an online version of the **Western Connect** or continue receiving the printed version.

Your feedback is very important to us! Please visit:
www.westerntc.edu/connect
to let us know your preference.



Connect with us!



www.westerntc.edu/alumni

Western Connect is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Western Technical College.

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Western's Newest Changemaker!



Left to Right: Mark Moulton, Associate Dean Integrated Technology, Doug Ramsay, CEO HSR Associates, Inc., Josh Gamer, Associate VP Workforce Partnerships & Innovation, Roger Stanford, President of Western, Joyce and Ron Wanek, Mike Poellinger, Dean of Integrated Technology, Jeff Wieser, CEO Wieser Brothers General Contractor, Inc.

Meet the Future—the Wanek Center of Innovation is officially open.

What used to be the Business Education building is now Western's most advanced learning space—home to robotics, cybersecurity, automation, and so much more.

Thanks to the **Ronald and Joyce Wanek Foundation** and **Western**, students now have access to world-class technology right here in La Crosse.

Smart. Hands-on. Industry-connected. This is the future of workforce training—and it's happening at Western.

Go to page 12 for how this space came to life—and what it means for the next generation of makers and innovators.

Built to Stay: Joel and Nick Von Haden on Legacy, Loyalty, and Local Impact

At Winona Heating & Ventilating, Inc., the work is technical—but the legacy is deeply personal. For father-and-son team **Joel and Nick Von Haden**, HVAC systems and building automation are only part of the story. Their real focus is building people, nurturing relationships, and staying rooted in the community that shaped them.

From the outset, Joel Von Haden has carried a sense of responsibility that goes beyond merely managing a successful HVAC business. “We are a continuation of a family business that has been running successfully since 1902,” Joel explains, referencing over a century of family enterprise. In an era when many trades are being outsourced or automated, the Von Haden family remains steadfast in their belief that certain work is best kept local. This outlook is rooted in decades of experience—directly linked to Western Technical College.

Joel’s Path: A Career Built from the Ground Up

In 1978, Joel Von Haden was ready for something more lasting than the string of short-term jobs he’d been taking. A conversation with a friend pointed him toward Western’s HVAC program, and he enrolled — not realizing he was setting the course for the next four decades of his life. “The campus looked completely different back then,” Joel recalls, “but the education was outstanding. Everything I learned in class applied immediately.”

While working toward his associate degree, Joel picked up part-time and summer jobs that gave him hands-on experience in heating, cooling, and refrigeration systems. Those early opportunities didn’t just build his skills—they cemented his confidence. “Western gave me the tools and the belief that I could make a career out of this,” he says.

After graduating in 1980 from Western’s HVAC program, Joel joined Halderson Corporation, where he worked on emerging building automation systems. A few years later, he found his long-term home at Winona Heating & Ventilating, Inc. There, he expanded the service division from just two people to more than 30, helping the company grow into a

regional leader in automation and controls. Along the way, mentorship from industry veterans—and the discipline instilled at Western—kept him ahead in a fast-changing field.

Nick’s Path: Growing Up in the Shop

For Nick Von Haden, the connection to the family business began well before his first day on the

“The world is outsourcing everything. But we’ve built something that stays—something grounded, local, and lasting.”

— Nick Von Haden

job. He grew up sweeping floors, organizing inventory, and tagging along with service crews. “I was probably more of a nuisance than a help at first,” he jokes, “but I loved being around the work.”

After high school, Nick followed his father’s example, enrolling in Western’s HVAC program. He graduated in 2003, then transferred to Ferris State University for a bachelor’s in HVAC engineering. To make it happen, he sold nearly everything he owned and relied on the work ethic he’d seen modeled at home. “The instructors at Western were phenomenal,” Nick says. “They didn’t just teach how things worked—they helped us understand why. That’s a big difference.”

That mindset continues to guide him today. Now helping lead operations across divisions—including roofing, piping, HVAC



Joel Von Haden and Nick Von Haden

systems, plumbing, and controls—Nick believes in learning every facet of the business before making big decisions. “If you don’t understand how all the parts connect, you can’t lead effectively,” he says.

Innovation With Purpose

Innovation has been a constant in the Von Haden’s careers. Joel helped usher in building automation in the 1980s, when computer-controlled systems were still new to the industry. Today, Nick is moving the company forward with smart building technologies like Building Information Modeling (BIM), real-time weather integration, and AI-driven energy optimization. But both agree that technology matters only if it serves people. “Innovation should help us serve better and grow stronger as a team,” Nick says. “Otherwise, it’s just gadgets.”

Staying Connected to Their Roots

Western remains a touchstone in their story. Joel served more than 20 years on Western’s HVAC advisory board, ensuring that the

program keeps pace with industry changes. Nick now carries that torch, providing feedback that helps shape the next generation of graduates. He also serves on the Western Technical College Foundation Board, further strengthening the connection between the college and local industry. The company actively recruits Western alumni, many of whom stay for years and move into leadership roles.

“Western gave us our foundation,” Nick says. “Supporting students now just makes sense.”

That support extends beyond hiring. Winona Heating and Ventilating frequently hosts Western classes for tours, demonstrations, and job-shadow opportunities, giving students a firsthand look at the work—and the career paths available to them.

Skills for Life

For both Joel and Nick, the trades represent more than just a paycheck. They see HVAC as a career that offers strong earning potential, a low cost of entry, and the kind of problem-solving satisfaction that never goes out of style. “There’s pride in being able to fix things, to make systems run right,” Joel says. “It’s work that matters.” Nick adds, “These are skills for life, and they’re always in demand. If you have the right training — and Western provides that—you can build a career anywhere.”

Built to Stay

The Von Hadens’ story is proof that staying local doesn’t mean thinking small. From a two-person service team to a multi-division



L to R: Western HVAC Instructor Mike Stewart, Joel, Nick, and Josh Gamer, Western Associate VP of Workforce Partnerships & Innovation

operation serving clients across the region, their success is built on technical excellence, community ties, and a shared commitment to teaching and mentoring the next wave of skilled workers.

In their eyes, that’s a legacy worth protecting. And as long as there are buildings to heat, cool, and automate, Joel and Nick Von Haden plan to keep it running—right here, where it started.



Joel and Nick in Western classroom

Basic Needs Campaign Overview: Meeting Needs, Changing Futures

Every student at Western Technical College has a unique story. For many, that story includes barriers most of us can’t imagine—hunger, housing insecurity, lack of childcare, or the inability to afford basic essentials. When these challenges arise, the question isn’t whether students are capable; it’s whether they’ll have the support they need to keep going.

Your gift to the Basic Needs Campaign provides:

- Emergency assistance for unexpected crises
- Food for students facing hunger
- Support for students with disabilities
- Help for students raising children
- Tuition assistance when financial barriers threaten progress
- Hope and stability that allows students to stay focused on their education



These students aren’t looking for a handout—they’re working tirelessly to change their lives and their futures. What they need is someone to believe in them.

When you give to the Basic Needs Campaign, you are that someone. **Together, we can change futures by meeting students’ most urgent needs.**

Learn more: www.westerntc.edu/give-now

Consider donating!

Reflecting on 50 Years of Accredited Excellence: A Celebration of Our Medical Assistant Program

This year, Western Technical College proudly celebrated a major milestone—the **50th anniversary of accreditation for our Medical Assistant program**. What began as a commitment to preparing skilled healthcare professionals has grown into a legacy of excellence, impact, and community.

A Milestone Marked by Meaning

The 50th anniversary celebration brought together alumni, current students, faculty, staff, and community partners to reflect on the program's deep roots and continued success. Held on March 27, 2025, at the Lunda Center in La Crosse, the event was

a heartfelt tribute to the individuals and experiences that have shaped the program over the decades.

There were stories of lifelong friendships formed in class, memories, interactions during clinicals, and gratitude expressed by alumni whose careers were launched by the foundation built here.

Honoring the People Behind the Program

Throughout the celebration, the focus remained on the people—those who have taught, supported, and mentored students for five decades. Faculty were recognized for their dedication, alumni shared their professional journeys, and current students offered a glimpse into the future of healthcare.

A Legacy Built to Last
Accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health

Education Programs (CAAHEP), the Medical Assistant program has remained a model of quality and consistency. It has adapted to industry shifts, embraced technology, and responded to the evolving needs of healthcare systems—all while staying true to its mission.

From its first graduating class to today's students, the program has produced thousands of compassionate, capable medical assistants who make a difference in clinics, hospitals, and patient lives every day.

Looking Forward with Pride

As we reflect on this golden anniversary, we also look to the future—with pride in where we've been and excitement for what's ahead. The Medical Assistant program will continue to evolve, innovate, and support students as they enter the healthcare workforce. To all who have been part of this journey—thank you. Your contributions have helped shape not only a program, but a legacy of care, compassion, and opportunity.

Here's to the next 50 years!



Moon Tunes Spotlight: Alumni Association Supports Former President Lee Rasch and The Executives

On the evening of July 25, the **Western Technical College Alumni Association** joined the community at the beloved Moon Tunes concert series in Riverside Park for a night filled with music, connection, and school spirit. The highlight of the evening was a performance by The Executives, a band that includes former Western President **Lee Rasch**.

With perfect summer weather and a lively crowd, the event provided an ideal setting for community outreach and engagement. The Alumni Association was thrilled to see so many familiar faces in the audience, including Western employees, retirees, students, and long-time community supporters. The atmosphere was electric, as attendees gathered to enjoy great music and celebrate a shared commitment to Western and the greater La Crosse area.

"Moon Tunes is such a special event that really showcases the heart of this community," said **MacKenze Ramsey**, a Alumni Association Board member. "Seeing Lee Rasch perform, surrounded by so many people who care about Western, made for a truly memorable evening."

Hosted by the Valley View Rotary, the Moon Tunes series continues to be a shining example of what community partnership looks like. If you haven't experienced it yet, it's a must-attend event—offering live music, beautiful river views, and a strong sense of local pride.

The Alumni Association was honored to be part of this evening and looks forward to future opportunities to support both Western and the community we call home.





Congratulations, Class of 2025!

You did it—and we couldn't be prouder to claim you as an alum! The real adventure begins. Wherever your road takes you next, stay in touch and share your stories—we want to celebrate your wins, your milestones, and all the amazing things we know you'll achieve.

As a Western alum, your perks include:

- Career and networking resources
- Exclusive shopping discounts
- Free admission to athletic events
- Access to library services
- Special Wellness Center rates

Congrats!

Don't miss out—check out all your alumni benefits today at
www.westerntc.edu/services-and-benefits

Western Night at the La Crosse Loggers a Home Run for Alumni Fundraising

On June 9, 2025, Western Technical College once again took the field—this time as the proud sponsor of a La Crosse Loggers baseball game. Each year, Western partners with the Loggers to host a night at the ballpark, and this year's event brought an exciting new twist: a fundraising opportunity led by the Western Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association used this Western-sponsored game as a way to give back even more—by selling tickets with a portion of the proceeds directly supporting student scholarships and alumni initiatives. Fifty percent of every ticket sold through the Association went back to help Western students, making the event both fun and impactful.

The evening was filled with perfect weather, great baseball, and strong school spirit. Alumni Association Board President **Kevin Knerzer**, '03, had the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch, kicking off a night

that brought together alumni, community members, and friends of Western.

"We're always looking for creative ways to support our students," said **Stephanie Knutson**, Alumni Relations Coordinator. "Combining a night of baseball with an opportunity to give back made for a truly memorable event."

A big thank-you goes out to everyone who purchased tickets, attended the game, and helped turn a summer tradition into a meaningful fundraiser. Your support continues to strengthen our alumni network and directly impacts the success of Western students.

We hope to see you again next season!



2025 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Nick Von Haden – Class of 2003

Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Maintenance Technology



Western Technical College is proud to recognize **Nick Von Haden** as the **2025 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient**. A 2003 graduate of the Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Maintenance Technology program, Nick exemplifies the values of dedication, leadership, and service that define Western's mission.

Nick's journey began at Western, where he quickly demonstrated a passion for his field. That passion carried him forward to Ferris State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in HVACR Engineering Technology. He has worked at Winona Heating & Ventilating, Inc. since high school and is poised to take the helm of the family-owned business.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Nick has remained deeply connected to Western. He has served on multiple advisory committees since graduation, is an active member of the Western Technical College Foundation Board and has helped establish scholarships to support students in HVAC programs. His unwavering advocacy and volunteer efforts have left a lasting impact on the college and its students.

Nick's dedication to lifelong learning and community involvement is a reflection of the spirit of Western. He continues to mentor students and support college initiatives, serving as a role model for current and future generations.

Western Technical College is honored to recognize Nick Von Haden for his outstanding contributions to his profession, his community, and his alma mater.

Meet Shane Landrath: Western's 2025–26 Student Ambassador

As a Criminal Justice student, Senior Campus Community Safety Officer, and active volunteer in area police departments, **Shane Landrath** is already making an impact. Now, he's taking on another role: representing Western Technical College as the 2025–26 Student Ambassador.

Landrath, from Richland Center, was selected to serve as the college's official student representative through the Wisconsin Technical College System. He'll speak with prospective students, community members, and state leaders about the value of technical education and what makes Western stand out.

"There's support at every corner at Western," Landrath says. "Whether it's financial help or figuring out life after high school, Western has people who are ready to help. It's a place where you can move forward."

Landrath is a second-year student in the Criminal Justice–Law Enforcement program.

On top of classes, he works on campus in Community Safety, serves as a Police Reserve Sergeant with the La Crescent Police Department, and volunteers with the La Crosse Police Department Reserves. His goal: to become a full-time officer after graduation.

"I've faced challenges, and I know a lot of people have their own struggles," he says. "In law enforcement—and in life—you don't always know what someone's going through. That perspective drives how I show up, whether I'm helping a student on campus or working in the community."

Margy Krogman, Student Leadership and Engagement Manager at Western, says Landrath stood out right away. "Shane's a strong communicator with a great sense of responsibility. He's someone who listens well, stays calm under pressure, and brings a lot of thoughtfulness to everything he does,"



As Student Ambassador, Landrath will represent the college at a variety of events throughout the year, including statewide leadership and advocacy opportunities. "It's a chance to give back and to tell people what Western is really like," he says. "I've had a great experience here. I want to help others see what's possible."

The Deb Klug Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Honoring a Life of Heart, Service, and Student Impact

For more than 43 years, **Deb Klug, '76**, made Western Technical College a better place—leaving an indelible mark on students, colleagues, and the campus community. Over 30 of those years were devoted to the culinary program, where Deb guided, mentored, and inspired countless students. She had a rare gift for making people feel seen, capable, and cared for.

Deb passed away in January 2025, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, service, and student-centered dedication that continues to inspire all who knew her.

To honor her extraordinary legacy, the **Deb Klug Memorial Endowed Scholarship** has been established to support students currently working in the food service industry. Special preference is given to those employed at Union Market or with the Lunda Center catering team on Western's La Crosse campus—where Deb's own journey began.

We're working to endow this scholarship so her legacy lives on forever—empowering future students just as Deb always did.

In Deb's spirit of kindness and community, a former student and a former coworker have pledged to **match all gifts up to \$6,000**, doubling the impact of your generosity.

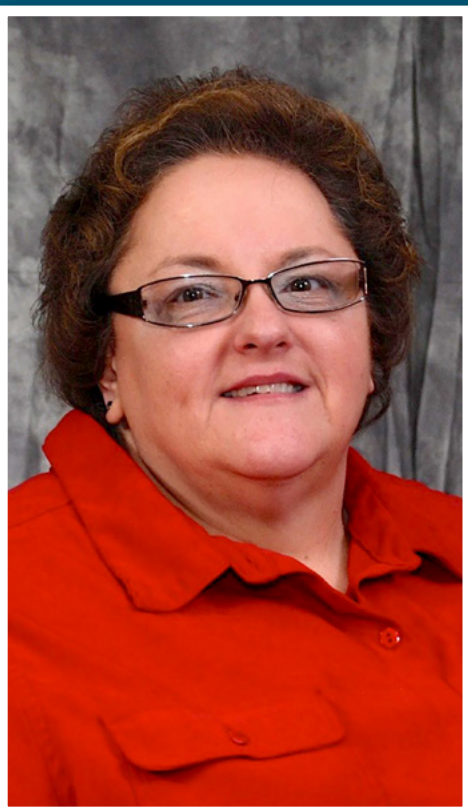
Your gift is more than a donation—it's a tribute to a life dedicated to lifting others.

How to Give

To support the Deb Klug Memorial Endowed Scholarship:

Make checks payable to:
Western Technical College Foundation
Memo line: "Deb Klug Endowed Scholarship"
Mail to: Western Foundation
400 7th Street North, La Crosse, WI 54601

Or make a secure gift online at:
www.westerntc.edu/deb-klug-memorial-endowed-scholarship





PRIDE

Join us for *Calling all students past and present!*

CAVALIER PRIDE WEEK

OCTOBER 5 – OCTOBER 11

THIS IS OUR WESTERN. OUR SPIRIT. OUR WAY.

Join us as we celebrate **CAVALIER PRIDE WEEK**—a full week of events, competitions, and campus traditions that bring together students, alumni, and staff the Western way. Wear your **RED** and **BLACK**, post your pride using **#CAVALIERPRIDEWEEK**, and show the world how we do it—Our Way.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Swag Station – Oct. 8, at the Open House! Lunda Center (11 a.m.–1 p.m.)
- Cavalier Arena Gaming Night
- Cornhole Tournament in the Wellness Center
- Clay Target Shooting Day
- Spirit Days, Residence Hall Decorating, and more
- Volleyball Home Games:
 - Oct. 8 – Cavalier Pride Night & Staff Appreciation
 - Oct. 10 – Homecoming & Alumni Night
 - Oct. 11 – Second Year Night

BE YOUR OWN CAVALIER—BECAUSE NO ONE DOES IT BETTER!

Check out WESTERNCAVALIERS.COM for full schedule.

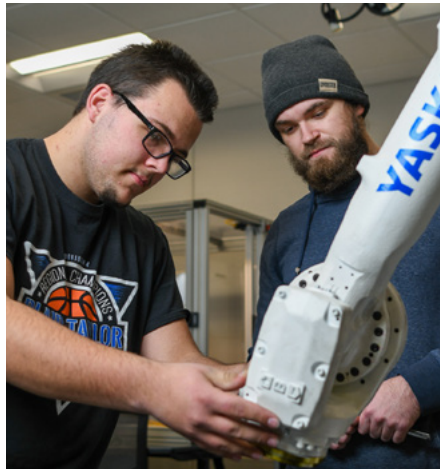
NEW
at Western

NEW Mechatronics Technician Apprenticeship Helps Students Earn While They Learn

Western has launched a new **Mechatronics Technician Apprenticeship** that's giving students a powerful way to combine education and real-world experience. Through this innovative program, students earn a living while training for high-demand jobs in manufacturing automation and systems integration.

Designed with flexibility in mind, the program pairs classroom instruction at Western with on-the-job training at local employers. Apprentices learn how to maintain and troubleshoot complex mechanical and electrical systems—skills that are vital to today's smart manufacturing workplaces. This is a great opportunity for students who are hands-on learners and want to build a career while earning a paycheck. It also helps our industry partners build the skilled workforce they need to stay competitive.

Western's Mechatronics apprenticeship is part of a larger effort to align programs with local workforce needs and create more earn-while-you-learn options for students in our region.



NEW Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Creates Pathway for Working Students

Western Technical College is expanding opportunity and access in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) field with the launch of a new **ECE apprenticeship**. This exciting program gives current professionals in childcare settings the chance to earn their associate degree while continuing to work—offering a flexible, supportive path forward in a field that desperately needs more trained educators.

Students in the program work full time while taking courses at Western, earning wages and gaining experience along the way. The model is designed to reduce financial barriers while addressing the region's workforce shortage in early childhood education.



This apprenticeship is a big step toward creating real, sustainable solutions. There are so many people working in childcare that have passion and dedication. Now, they'll have a way to move forward in their education and careers—without stepping away from the jobs they already love.

Western's ECE apprenticeship is made possible through partnerships with local childcare providers and funding from the Wisconsin Technical College System. It's another way Western is helping students grow their careers, while building stronger communities.

Xcel Energy Donates Transformer for Apprenticeship Training

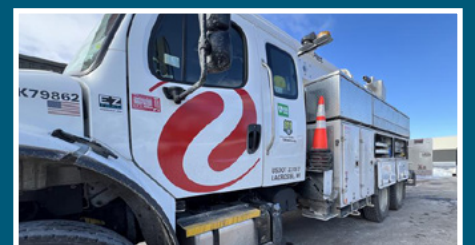


Western recently received a generous transformer donation from Xcel Energy, strengthening hands-on learning in its Electrical Apprenticeship program. The college marked the occasion with a small ceremony and tours of the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Center, along with an early look at the Wanek Center of Innovation, opening later this summer.

The transformer gives students the opportunity to train on real utility-grade equipment—mirroring what they'll see on the job and helping them build the confidence and technical skills employers are looking for.

Xcel Energy's support reflects a shared commitment to preparing the next generation of energy professionals. The company's ongoing partnership with Western helps ensure that students have access to high-quality training and the tools they need to succeed in a fast-changing field.

This collaboration helps power hands-on learning and career readiness for Western students. It's also a prime example of how industry and education can come together to build a stronger community and workforce.



Western Celebrates Grand Opening of the Wanek Center of Innovation

Western Technical College proudly hosted the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the **Wanek Center of Innovation** on August 19, 2025, marking an exciting new chapter in the college's commitment to education, collaboration, and cutting-edge technology.

The event welcomed students, alumni, faculty, staff, community members, and local leaders to tour the state-of-the-art facility and witness firsthand how the Center will inspire creativity, problem-solving, and forward-thinking solutions.

Funded by a transformative and historic gift from the **Ronald & Joyce Wanek Foundation**—the largest in Western Technical College's history—the Wanek Center of Innovation is part of a \$10 million collaborative project that establishes a world-class facility. Designed as a hub for students, businesses, and community partners, the Center provides modern learning spaces, collaborative labs, and access to emerging technologies—empowering students to explore ideas, develop skills, and prepare for the workforce of tomorrow.

A Community Celebration

During the ceremony, **Dr. Roger Stanford**, Western Technical College President expressed gratitude for the vision and generosity that brought the project to life.

This center is about more than technology and space—it's about opportunity. The Wanek Center of Innovation will empower students to think differently, to work together, and to create solutions that make a lasting impact on our communities and beyond.

Guests gathered outside for the ribbon-cutting, officially opening the doors to the new facility. Tours showcased interactive demonstrations, collaborative classrooms, and spaces designed to encourage cross-disciplinary projects.

Building the Future, Together

The Wanek Center of Innovation is poised to become a cornerstone of Western's educational experience, serving not only students but also employers, entrepreneurs, and community members. By fostering connections between education and industry, the center will help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application.

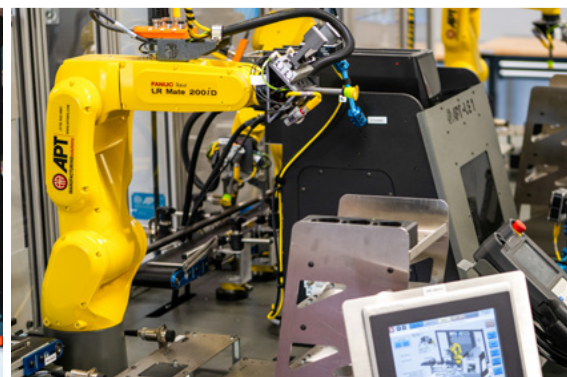
Western extends heartfelt thanks to the Wanek family, and all community partners who played a role in making this vision a reality. Together, we are ensuring that innovation, creativity, and opportunity remain at the heart of Western's mission.



Ron and Joyce Wanek

Looking Ahead

With the ribbon officially cut, Western looks forward to the many ways the Wanek Center of Innovation will transform learning and spark inspiration for years to come.



Scholarship Golf Outing

Thank You



What an incredible day! Our **Scholarship Golf Outing** was a sold-out success, and it's all thanks to you—our generous sponsors, enthusiastic participants, and loyal supporters.

Each year, the **Western Alumni Association** hosts this event to raise funds for student scholarships, and each year, we are blown away by the continued support from our alumni, community partners, and friends of Western. Your commitment makes a real difference in the lives of our students.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our primary sponsors and team sponsors—your partnership is essential, and we're truly grateful for your role in making this event such a success.

Save the date!

We're already looking forward to next year's outing on **May 20, 2026**, at **Cedar Creek Country Club** in Onalaska, WI. We hope to see you there!

May 20, 2026 | Cedar Creek Country Club, Onalaska, WI



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ENGINEERING
INTERIOR DESIGN**
HSR Associates

THE TOUGH JOB TEAM
MID-CITY STEEL

Bronze

TUMMA
The Upper Mississippi Manufacturing Alliance

In Memoriam

Kenneth C. Bach 1/15/25
1969 Graphics - Commercial Art

Kathryn D. Bandell 4/1/25
1975 Food Service Management

Elmer C. Blank 4/11/25
1976 Welding

Linda Clark 2/21/25
1988 Administrative Assistant/Information Processing

Donald J. Curti 5/29/25
1974 Production Agriculture

Joel Dow 2/26/25
1972 Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Tech

Laurie A. Engel 5/6/25
1986 Dental Assistant

Steven L. Esser 1/24/25
2005 Industrial Electrician Apprentice

Raymond Falkner 1/20/25
1975 Feed, Seed & Farm Supply

Verda Grabinski 3/13/25
1985 Health Unit Coordinator, Medical Record Technician

Harry G. Helfrich 5/8/25
1979 Finance

Steven M. Kallenbach 6/12/25
1976 Welding

George K. Kleinertz 4/29/25
1948 Accounting

John L. Knutson 1/21/25
1968 Auto Mechanics

Walter B. Kuruzovich 5/1/25
1968 Welding

Kevin E. McGuire 3/12/25
1984 CIS Programmer/Analyst

Raymond L. Miedema 7/21/25
1969 Auto Mechanics

Rebecca M. Murphy 7/20/25
1980 Retail Management, Marketing
1993 Printing & Publishing

Katherine A. Nichols 6/3/25
1985 Radiography

Ronald W. Paulsrud 5/30/25
1968 Accounting

Shannon M. Petersen 2/4/25
1995 Commercial Art

Renee Peterson 1/17/25
1992 Nursing

Lorna M. Rogich 4/1/25
1988 CIS Microcomputer Technician

Donald P. Schultz 6/10/25
1975 Power - Electrical

Joshua R. Sendelbach 7/27/25
2019 Emergency Medical Technician - Basic
2022 Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic

Elizabeth J. Strittmater 6/13/25
1989 Nursing

Kathleen A. Vaughn 2/4/25
1994 Community Developmental Disabilities Associate

Bonnie J. Venner 1/5/25
1989 Nursing - Technical

Edward V. Watson 7/17/25
1976 Marketing

Steven E. Weiland 2/8/25
1988 Accounting
2000 CIS Network Specialist

Carole J. Wieland 6/1/25
1974 Administrative Assistant
1975 Secretarial Science

Gary Zimmerman 5/16/25
1975 Marketing

Western Retirees & Staff

Suzann Balduzzi 3/15/25

Jennifer Grohman 5/11/25

Bertha Hoch 4/23/25

Deborah A. Klug 1/26/25
1976 Food Service Management

Elsie McDowell 5/15/25

Jeff J. Muellenberg 7/18/25
Agri-Business Science Technology

Patricia Reichenbacher 1/23/25

Marlene A. Shimanski 7/17/25

Fall

OPEN
HOUSE

Wednesday, October 8 | 4–7 p.m.

Stop by any time; join us at any of our locations:
**La Crosse, Black River Falls, Independence,
Mauston, Tomah, and Viroqua**

Design your future on your terms—check out all things Western at the annual open house.
Explore the campus, learn about academic programs and financial aid assistance, scholarships,
refreshments, and get a jump on the application process.

Get a chance to win a **\$500 scholarship** from the Western Foundation and Alumni Endowed Scholarship

Apply during the open house and the application fee is waived!
For more info, go to: WesternTC.edu/OpenHouse

WESTERNCONNECT

THE  SSENTIAL EXPERIENCE | A publication for alumni & friends of Western Technical College

Tell us your story!

Keep current with changes in contact information and tell us what you've been doing since graduation. New job, baby, marriage, or honor? We'll print it in an upcoming edition of *Connect*. Include your email address and the classnote will be sent to you before publishing.

Mail to: **Western Technical College, Alumni Office, 400 7th Street North, La Crosse, WI 54601**

or complete online at: westerntc.edu/stay-connected

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First M.I. Last

Name at Graduation (if different) _____

Program _____ Yr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell _____ Landline _____

Email _____

Employer _____

Job title _____

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Spouse is a Western Alum ☐ Spouse program/graduation year _____

Additional news for college publication: _____

☐ YES! I would like to continue to receive a printed copy of the *Western Connect* newsletter.

☐ An electronic copy is preferred.

Western Alumni Association

Western Technical College, Alumni Office, Coleman Center Room 111
400 7th Street North, La Crosse, WI 54601

alumni@westerntc.edu 608-789-6083 westerntc.edu/alumni

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Remember When...

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