



Wisconsin Student Government
Wisconsin Technical College Advocacy Group
Established 1972
www.wsgtech.org

MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 3 & 4, 2025
Chippewa Valley Technical College
620 W. Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Start of Day: Commons Area
After Lunch and 2nd Day: Casper Conference Room

Friday October 3, 2025

10:00 a.m. Roll Call

Technical College	Day 1	Technical College	Day 1
Blackhawk	X	Moraine Park	X
Chippewa Valley	X	Nicolet	X
Fox Valley		Northcentral	X
Gateway	X	Northeast WI	X
Lakeshore	X	Northwood	
Madison	X	Southwest	X
Mid-State	X	Waukesha	
Milwaukee Area	X	Western	X

10:05 a.m. Welcome & Introductions:

- **President's Introduction - Kendra**
- **Executive Team**

10:20 a.m. Welcome from Chippewa Valley Technical College – Dr. Sunem Beaton-Garcia
Dr. Sunem Beaton-Garcia was unable to attend and was replaced by Joni Geroux – Vice President of Strategic Communications Engagement & Chief of Staff at CVTC

10:30 a.m. Team Building/ Professional Development - Autumn Egan
True Colors leadership activities

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Networking (Advisors Meeting - Jon Steele)

12:45 p.m. Meeting resumed

12:45 p.m. Overview of Wisconsin Student Government - Cassie

- **Mission and Vision**

1:00 p.m. Parliamentary Procedures Overview - Ben

- **Roles of the Governor and Lt. Governor**

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1:15 p.m.

Brandon Trujillo – WTCS Policy Advisor

- **WTCS Overview**
- **Legislative and budget update**

Budget Updates:

- *Requested \$45 million in general aid, received \$5.5 million*
- *Requested \$10 million for AI grants and received \$2 million in one-time funding*
- *Requested recurring funding for Open Educational Resources (OER) but did not receive, raising concerns about outdated materials and limited access for students*
- *Received \$7 million over the biennium for EMS education, pending final approval*
- *Requested \$10 million per year in Wisconsin grants and received \$5.9 million per year*
- *WTCS System Office received \$348,200 over the biennium to support operational expenses*

Legislative Updates:

- *AB 198/SB 182 (EMS Grants): Requires WTCS to provide grants for EMS training and certification and establishes reimbursement programs for tuition and materials*
- *AB 47/SB 59 (Veterans Tuition Remission): Removes the five-year residency requirement for veterans and their dependents seeking tuition remission*
- *AB 27/SB 02 (Veterans Benefits Expansion): Extends tuition and fee remission to individuals who served in Laos during the Vietnam War*
- *AB 58/SB 40 (Flag Displays): Limits displayed flags on public buildings to the U.S. and Wisconsin state flags*
- *AB 56/SB 53 (National Motto Display): Requires display of the national motto in public buildings and schools*

Q&A Summary:

- *Why does Milwaukee's district board structure differ from other colleges?*
Response: The legislature decided in 2021 to modify Milwaukee's structure due to the region's number of unions.
- *Does the WTCS track data on current technical college students in the workforce?*
Response: WTCS does not currently track that information.
- *Does the FTE count include international students, and are there statistics specific to them?*

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Response: International students are included as part of the overall WTCS student body in FTE data.

- *What do you mean by AI funding?*

Response: The AI funding refers to grants awarded to colleges to train faculty and help campuses adapt to current technologies.

- *What is the total investment for Open Educational Resources (OER)?*

Response: The current investment is \$3 million, adding to an existing total of \$6 million.

- *Why would the government not continue to fund OER, given that information and materials are constantly updated?*

Response: State funding priorities often change; funds may be redirected to other initiatives at the legislature's discretion.

- *Does WTCS have a backup plan if OER funding is not renewed?*

Response: That has not been formally discussed, but the WTCS office expects to work closely with local boards to maintain support and funding.

- *Can future WSG meetings include a legislator to strengthen advocacy discussions?*

Response: A legislator had been scheduled to attend but canceled a week prior. WSG typically invites legislators each year and will continue to do so.

2:05 p.m. *Break*

2:15 p.m. **WSG Advocacy Priorities 2025-2026**

- *Discussion of developing a broad “umbrella” of student resources to help fund emergency support for various student issues.*
- ***School Safety and Security:*** *Funding to help prevent against increased incidents of violence in schools.*
- ***Open Educational Resources (OER):*** *Continued and expanded funding.*
- ***Support for In-Demand Programs:*** *Addressing financial needs, clinical training access, instructor shortages, and reducing waitlists.*
- *Inclusion of personal student stories in Position Paper to strengthen advocacy efforts.*
- *Discussion of a more specific request for childcare support.*

2:50 p.m. *Recess*

3:05 p.m. ***Meeting Resumed: Continued Discussion on Advocacy Priorities***

- **Career Experience Funding:** Calls for expanded opportunities, job shadows, and hands-on experiences to help students explore and commit to their chosen fields.
- **Sustainability:** Focus on lowering WSG's and member colleges' carbon footprint.
- **Transfer Articulations:** Discussion on improving credit transferability between institutions. (Brandon - difficult due to conflicts with the UW system, heavy ask)
- **Wisconsin Grants:** Emphasis on the need for increased state funding, as current support remains low relative to student need.
- **International Students:** Addressed concerns about credit minimums for visas. (Seen as an issue on the Federal level)

Motion: Northcentral moves to table the WSG Advocacy Priorities discussion to the following day.

Seconded by: Blackhawk

Result: Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed

3:42 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

Saturday, October 4, 2025 - CVTC - Casper Conference Room

9:00 a.m. Call to Order and Roll Call

Technical College	Day 1	Technical College	Day 1
Blackhawk	X	Moraine Park	X
Chippewa Valley	X	Nicolet	X
Fox Valley		Northcentral	X
Gateway	X	Northeast WI	X
Lakeshore	X	Northwood	
Madison	X	Southwest	X
Mid-State	X	Waukesha	
Milwaukee Area	X	Western	X

9:05 a.m. Reports

- President's Report – Kendra
 - Official Report
 - Executive Team Goals for 2025-2026
 - Approval of April Minutes

Motion: Mid-State moves to approve the April minutes

Seconded by: Western

Result: Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed

- WTCS Voices Nov. 6-7

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- **AFO's Report - Jesse**
 - **Budget 2025-26 and Approval of AFO Report**

***Motion:** Milwaukee Area moves to approve the AFO Report*

***Seconded by:** Mid-State*

***Result:** Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed*

- **Housekeeping - Kendra/Cassie**
 - **Communication List (QR code)**
 - **In-person/Hybrid meeting (5-minute discussion)**

Consensus: In-person attendance is encouraged, with online attendance available by request.

- **2026 Legislative Seminar Thoughts**
 - o **Executive Recommendation for Speaker - Alonzo Kelley**
 - *Question (Mid-State): Do we know topic he would present?*
Response: He is flexible and willing to tailor his talk to WSG's needs.
 - *Northcentral, Mid-State, and Lakeshore suggested reviewing more options and revisiting the discussion at the November meeting.*
 - *Mid-State and Milwaukee Area supported Kelley's selection due to his history with WSG*

***Motion:** Milwaukee Area moves to vote on the speaker recommendation*

***Seconded by:** Mid-State*

***Discussion:** Northcentral requested clarification on Kelley's topic.*

Result:** Unanimous Approval – **Motion Passed

Topic/Theme Ideas:

- *Student success and college life*
- *Advocacy in communication with decision-makers and school funding*
- *Interactive presentation*

***Motion:** Northcentral moves to hire Alonzo Kelley for the Legislative Seminar*

***Seconded by:** Milwaukee Area*

Result:** Unanimous Approval – **Motion Passed

10:05 a.m.

WSG Advocacy Priorities 2025-2026

Mental Health Support:

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- **Discussion:** *Add to Priorities List*

Emergency Grant Funding:

- **Discussion:**
 - o *Some schools have lost access to emergency funding.*
 - o *Certain students who don't qualify for FAFSA depend on these funds to attend college.*
 - o *Governors agree this may be better handled at the local college level rather than as a statewide WSG priority.*

Motion: *Milwaukee Area moves to keep Emergency Grant Funding on the priorities list.*

Seconded by: *Blackhawk*

Result: *5 In Favor, 6 Opposed, 0 Abstaining – Motion Failed*

Motion: *Northcentral moves to remove Emergency Grant Funding from the priorities list.*

Seconded by: *Moraine Park*

Result: *7 In Favor, 4 Opposed, 0 Abstaining – Motion Passed*

College Security:

Motion: *Chippewa Valley moves to remove College Security from the priorities list.*

Seconded by: *Northcentral*

Result: *Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed*

OER:

Motion: *Northcentral moves to keep OER on the priorities list.*

Seconded by: *Gateway*

Result: *Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed*

Support for High-Demand Programs:

- **Discussion:**
 - o *Clarification requested for which programs are included (e.g., medical imaging, dental hygiene, nursing, behavioral health).*
 - o *Suggested additions included Aviation Technology.*
 - o *Discussion of tailoring this priority regionally, as program needs vary by college.*

Motion: *Northcentral moves to keep Support for High-Demand Programs on the priorities list.*

Seconded by: *Lakeshore*

Result: *Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed*

Expanded Career Experience:

Motion: *Northcentral moves to remove Expanded Career Experience from the priorities list.*

Seconded by: *Milwaukee Area*

Result: *Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed*

Childcare Support (modeled after EMS reimbursements):

Motion: Northcentral moves to table discussion on childcare support, modeled after the EMS reimbursement bill, until a future meeting.

Seconded by: Mid-State

Result: Unanimous Approval – **Motion Passed**

Funding for Future Career Experience:

Motion: Mid-State moves to remove Funding for Future Career Experience from the priorities list.

Seconded by: Western

Result: Unanimous Approval – **Motion Passed**

Sustainability:

- **Discussion:**

- Clarification on potential priorities such as solar systems, campus recycling, and green building initiatives.

Motion: Madison moves to keep Sustainability on the priorities list.

Seconded by: Northcentral

Result: 3 In Favor, 9 Opposed, 0 Abstained – **Motion Failed**

Motion: Blackhawk moves to remove Sustainability from the priorities list.

Seconded by: Madison

Result: 10 In Favor, 1 Opposed, 0 Abstained – **Motion Passed**

10:50 a.m. Break

Motion: Madison moves to table WSG Advocacy Priorities 2025-2026 discussion until November meeting.

Seconded by: Milwaukee Area

Result: Unanimous Approval – **Motion Passed**

Motion: Madison moves to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Lakeshore

Result: 4 In Favor, 6 Opposed, 2 Abstained – **Motion Failed**

11:10 a.m. Governor's Reports

Blackhawk:

Reported an active start to the semester with strong student and community engagement. In August, SGA members participated in local events such as Janesville National Night, Rock the Pride Fest, and the CommUNITY Back to School Health Fair. On campus, they supported students during Smart Start Week, hosted movie nights, and organized meet-and-greets for clubs. September activities included the grand opening of a new Parenting Lounge, Constitution Week voter registration with the League of Women Voters, and the annual Fall Festival featuring a petting zoo, bouncy houses, popcorn, cotton candy, and food trucks. SGA also recognized Hispanic Heritage Month with cultural displays and activities and held its first General Assembly meeting along with leadership and personal branding events to promote student involvement.

Chippewa Valley:

Welcome Week activities across multiple campuses, including Wilder Waffles, Street Eats, and Votes for Floats. CVTC hosted its 3rd Annual West Campus Welcome Back Bash, drawing over 280 students for hands-on program activities and community building. Additional events such as Scoops of Success and Stress Less Kits promoted wellness and campus resources.

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Gateway:

Several campus engagement events over the summer and early fall, including Sunkissed SummerFest, Gateway Days, Clubchella, and National Voter Registration Day. The college also hosted leadership training and internship fairs to support student development. Upcoming fall activities include Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, Breast Cancer Awareness tabling, Title IX & AODA Awareness events, and community gatherings such as Halloween Town and Coffee with Student Life.

Lakeshore:

Started the year with the Student Resource Carnival, bringing in over 250 students, which introduced campus clubs and resources. The Student Leadership Board held its first meeting for new club officers. Upcoming activities include a TRIO and student engagement career experience at Fiserv Forum, offering students insight into sports management and a Bucks game, as well as the Learn Lead Succeed leadership conference focused on personal growth and leadership development.

Madison:

Reported a strong start to the academic year under new College President Dr. Jennifer Berne. The Student Senate is operating near full capacity, connecting with students both in person and virtually. Meetings have included regular attendance from the president and cabinet members to address key topics such as belonging, college affordability, and mental health resources. In the coming months, Madison will partner with the JED Foundation to evaluate and strengthen mental health supports, advance improvements to its student employment information system, and further develop the CampusGroups platform to enhance student involvement and communication.

Mid-State:

Accreditation has been reaffirmed by the Higher Learning Commission for another ten years. Student Life has been rebranded as Student Engagement, featuring a new virtual Engage platform for event planning and involvement tracking. Recent highlights include Welcome Week celebrations, a screening of Written Off, and Student Engagement Week introducing students to campus opportunities. Other events included a 16 Personalities workshop. Upcoming events include etiquette luncheon on October 9 and Student Employment Rush Week the week of October 13. Planning is also underway for their German exchange, with six students and a faculty member preparing to visit Germany in June 2026.

Milwaukee:

Began the semester with new student orientations, coffee socials, and welcome lunches to foster community across campuses. Hispanic Heritage Month featured Panadanza performances, Venezuelan Arepa luncheons, and other cultural celebrations. Oak Creek hosted game and craft nights, while Mequon held a blood drive, promoted Domestic Violence Awareness, and will host a Pumpkin Decorating Spooktacular. The IT department offered a career workshop and gathered student feedback on college systems to guide technology updates. Upcoming events include Mindful Mondays, Domestic Violence and Personal Safety workshops, Fall Immunization Clinics, and the Student Leadership Series.

Moraine Park:

Reported a busy start to the semester with Welcome Week and other student activities, including performances by comedians and magicians, a Student Information Fair with ice cream and giveaways, Bingo and Casino Day, and a mental health fair. The college also held Student Senate elections and named the District Student

Ambassador. Additionally, 51 students attended the annual Take Me Out to the Ballgame event at American Family Field, which featured a leadership presentation by Dominic Syracuse followed by a Brewers game and buffet.

Nicolet:

Started the year with a new Student Engagement Partner, who organized Welcome Week events, a free concert, and the first meeting of the Student Leadership Council. Recent activities include a Garden Harvest Gathering hosted by the Garden and Culinary Clubs, and an Emotional Wellness Fair in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Upcoming events include Career Exploration Day for 8th graders, Indigenous Peoples' Day programming, the annual MFA Art Gallery exhibition, study abroad opportunities in Guatemala and London, and rehearsals for the play Suite Surrender as part of the Nicolet Live theater series.

Northcentral:

Started the year with a redesigned student onboarding process that received positive feedback and higher attendance. The college relaunched its Timberwolf Town Halls to gather student input and enhance academic support. New community partnerships were established, including monthly visits from The Women's Community nonprofit. Recent events included an Ice Cream Resource Fair to connect students with campus resources and a 9/11 Service Challenge, where participants exceeded the 300-hour volunteer goal with over 330 hours of community service.

Northeast:

Recently held its second Student Leader Forum meeting with 55 attendees, during which officer elections were conducted. The campus currently supports 35 recognized clubs and expects to reach 40-45 by the end of the academic year due to increased enrollment. NWTC is also launching six new colleges this year, including Advanced Manufacturing & Skilled Trades, Business Communication & Social Sciences, STEM, Allied Health, Public Safety, and Nursing. Recent and upcoming events include Fall Fest, which featured food trucks, live entertainment, and interactive activities, and preparations for Veterans Month in November, which will include a campus-wide club competition to create a care package for a deployed staff member's son.

Southwest:

Recently celebrated winning the national Aspen Award this past spring with a community event featuring live music, food trucks, face painting, program demonstrations, and campus tours. The college is now in its second year of implementing individualized student success plans, which include career assessments, academic planning, and budgeting sessions with Financial Aid. Recent student life activities included Charger Fest, an outdoor kickoff event with a picnic, dunk tank, and yard games; an outdoor movie night supported by the new SWANK film platform; and the BACyard Bash, an alcohol awareness event featuring mocktails, Mario Kart with impairment goggles, and a presentation from a local police officer. Also hosted a Transfer Connection Showcase, where students met with representatives from six partner colleges.

Western:

Recently completed several major remodels, including updates to the Student Success Center, Auto Diesel Campus, and the new Wanek Center of Innovation, which serves as a hub for advanced manufacturing and industry collaboration. The Student Success Center now includes a Basic Needs Center and more centralized student support offices such as Access Services and Career Services. The semester kicked off with a Block Party attended by over 400 students, featuring community partners, food, and live music. This week, Western hosted its annual Leadership Night, where student organization representatives received training and heard from the Mayor of La Crosse.

Motion: Mid-State moves to adjourn the meeting

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Seconded by: Milwaukee Area
Result: Unanimous Approval – Motion Passed

11:27 a.m. Meeting Adjourned