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SMA PARTNERS with Blackhawk

LEARNING LAB Superheroes

PSTC PROJECT Begins to Take Shape

BELOIT MOM DISCOVERS PASSION TO HELP OTHERS
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WELCOME!

It’s hard to believe that it has been five years since joining the Blackhawk team and moving to the Rock and Green County region. I couldn’t have asked for a better place to be than in this vibrant and dynamic community and part of an incredible team at BTC.

In 2016, the college set a strategic priority to focus on education options to meet student, industry, and community needs. Who could have fathomed how important this focus would become in March 2020.

Thankfully, the college’s planning and investments meant that Blackhawk was prepared to retool, pivot, and continue delivering on our promise of flexible education in a supportive environment. Since fully reopening our doors in June 2020, we kept the choice in the students’ hands, as we remained open for business. We believe this focus on students and our community was a key factor in our continued enrollment growth at a time when most colleges are seeing enrollment decline.

Thanks to the tremendous support of our community and industry partners combined with incredible students and staff, Blackhawk is truly becoming a first choice and best choice for training and education.

This coming year will be an exciting one. From new academic and athletic programs to extra-curricular opportunities, Blackhawk will continue to keep students at the center of our work. We are grateful for voter support of the $32 million referendum for a new Public Safety + Transportation Center. This three-phase project is slated for completion in late 2023. With a flurry of activity occurring over the summer and fall, I invite you to take a ride by our Central Campus and look for yourself - a new Blackhawk is emerging.

Although we are concluding a year and a half of tremendous upheaval few of us will never forget, the pandemic has not deterred us. We continue to transform our campus, delivering essential training and education and creating new programs to serve our community. We understand that the education we provide is not the end game, but rather a stepping stone to help achieve the ultimate goal of students acquiring the knowledge, the skills, and the abilities needed to succeed.

As a result, we continue to innovate and improve the college to better fulfill our mission: Build Your Future through Flexible Education in a Supportive Environment. We have truly galvanized around our mission. I do not believe there is another group of people more committed to their mission and students than here at Blackhawk. I am proud to be a member of our community and a member of this outstanding team. Together, we will build on the success of the past and drive ourselves and our community to a bright future.

Tracy Pierner, Ph.D.
President, Blackhawk Technical College

Blackhawk Technical College Winter 2022 Magazine

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BELOIT MOM DISCOVERS PASSION TO HELP OTHERS THROUGH HUMAN SERVICES
As a young mother, Sophia Lindsey wanted to make sure that she was the best mom to her two boys. This meant putting college on hold to ensure that she was available for family dinners, school conferences, and extra-curricular activities.

But now that her boys are grown, Sophia is working in the lab at Beloit Health System and is excited to be on the path to a new career in Human Services.

When Sophia got to Blackhawk, she wasn't sure which program to choose. Knowing Sophia had a passion for helping others, her advisor, Linda Fair, steered her into the Human Services program.

“I came in at first just to ask about classes, to find a degree I could finish,” Sophia said. “Linda told me about this program. She said it would be a great fit for me because she knows who I am and the type of person I am. I took her at her word and have not regretted a moment of it.”

Now, Sophia plans to further her education after she graduates from Blackhawk.

“I want to attend a four-year geared toward the field that I am in. I eventually want to become a social worker or child protective services caseworker,” she said. Along with the convenience of Blackhawk being close to home and having a campus that was comfortable for her to navigate, Sophia has appreciated the ways BTC provides a supportive environment for all students.

“What I like most about Blackhawk is the instructors,” she said. “I have to honestly say that I have not had one instructor yet that hasn’t put themselves out there and made themselves readily available. They don’t make you feel like you are a bother.” Previous college experience made Sophia hesitant to come back to school and try again.

“Being back home [at Blackhawk] has shown me that I was not and am not the problem,” she said.

Sophia has taken advantage of the resources and flexibility BTC is known for to keep on the road to success, including the Learning Lab for tutoring and the MyEdChoice classes. While working full time, having the flexibility to attend class in person, live online, or on her own schedule has been invaluable for her, she said.

“For the people who work or have small children, this is a great opportunity to complete the classes you need without falling behind. If the end goal is to get that degree, this is the way to do it.”

-Sophia Lindsey

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Potential Careers
- Case Manager
- Community Support Worker
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Outreach Worker
- Prevention Manager

Based on EMSI Occupational Employment Statistics

Easy transfer opportunities to four-year institutions available!
Stephanie Hanson was born a teacher. Her earliest memories involve setting up a classroom in her bedroom and playing school with her siblings.

“My mom bought me a chalkboard and a teacher’s grade book from a rummage sale,” she said. “And I would have class for them regularly. I would use my allowance to buy trinkets from the dollar store to bribe them into letting me teach them. As far back as I can remember, it’s what I’ve always wanted to do.”

For the past seven years, Stephanie has been a special education teacher at Merrill Elementary School in Beloit, earning the praise of her colleagues and being named Beloit Rotary Teacher of the Month. Now, she can add Blackhawk Technical College Alumni of the Year to her list of accolades.

“I’m surprised, excited and honored to be selected. I love Blackhawk for the opportunities it has provided for me.”

-Stephanie Hanson

“Stephanie’s passion for students and her community is why she was chosen as Blackhawk’s Alumni of the Year,” said Lisa Hurda, Director of Advancement & Foundation at BTC.

“Stephanie’s passion for education is evident, and that includes her own education at Blackhawk,” Lisa said. “She exhibits a high level of commitment to improve the lives of her Beloit community, which also embodies BTC’s mission of providing a supportive environment for all.”

Stephanie’s journey to becoming a teacher came into focus when she volunteered in her son’s Head Start classroom. The teacher noticed Stephanie’s skills and encouraged her to pursue a degree in education.

“As a parent of two children, at that time, I did not think education – college – was something that I could do,” Stephanie said. “But my Aunt Donna explained that Blackhawk has wonderful programming and grants and loans, and she got me hyped up once I realized that it was an option for me. I went the very next day and met with a counselor and enrolled in classes.”

She chose the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at Blackhawk Technical College where she also stood out to her instructors.

“She inspires me with her kindness and passion.”

-Michelle Weirich

She truly has made a difference in the lives of people through her community service and work at the school,” Michelle Weirich, BTC Early Childhood instructor said.

After completing her work in the ECE program at Blackhawk, Michelle encouraged Stephanie to keep going.

“Michelle explained to me the great collaboration that Blackhawk has with University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and encouraged me to continue after graduation,” Stephanie said. “I just needed that opening. I went to Whitewater right after she talked to me about it, met with a counselor, and figured out a plan to take that bridge. The summer after I graduated from BTC, I started at Whitewater.”

She now has a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education and is qualified to teach students from birth through third grade in regular or special education. For the past seven years, Stephanie has taught at Merrill Elementary.

Stephanie is a student-centered leader who goes beyond expectations, said Brandye Hereford, the Principal of Merrill Elementary.

“She works with all stakeholders in the building to make sure that Merrill is a better place for students each day,” Brandye said.

Over the summer, Stephanie was awarded the Beloit Rotary Educator of the Month for her outstanding work. Like most teachers, she puts her heart and soul into what she does every day.

“I don’t do it for the recognition at all. I do it because I love to teach. And just seeing that other people do notice and do care is always a good feeling,” she said.

Stephanie will begin teaching first grade at a Powers Elementary School, which is in the same district that her four children attend.

Stephanie’s two oldest children are now teenagers and considering what their career paths might be. Her son is currently an apprentice at Frito Lay and plans to attend a welding program. At the same time, her daughter is debating between a career in education and a career in medicine. Fully aware of how her journey has impacted her family’s future, Stephanie knows that if she hadn’t taken that first step of enrolling at Blackhawk, her children would not be considering these kinds of careers.

She also encourages others to take that next step.

“You will not regret it,” she said. “Your family will benefit so much from you going back. You will benefit so much from going back. Many things changed in my life, from that first choice of going back, to moving from a small apartment to now owning my own home and having my dream job. I am happy to say that I have built a life that I love, and it took that first step.”
“I don’t do it for the recognition at all. I do it because I love to teach.”
-Stephanie Hanson

Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

60 Credits
$9,288

Average Wage
$24,835

Potential Careers
- Nannies
- Nursery Schools
- Day Care Centers
- Head Start Classrooms
- Infant Toddler Center
- Before/After School Child Care
- Instructional Aide in Public Schools

based on EMSI Occupational Employment Statistics

Easy transfer opportunities to four-year institutions available!
Instructors Fuel Variety of Community Development Options

Tina Aldrich has been sharing her passion for self-improvement with thousands of students and companies through her leadership and computer skills classes at Blackhawk for the past 24 years.

Tina, an avid goal setter, who teaches classes and provides training on Microsoft Office and Supervisory and Leadership, said she has never let life’s trials stop her from achieving whatever she sets her mind to. She said she hopes others will do the same.

Through BTC’s Workforce and Community Development, Tina is one of many instructors who provide community and workforce classes with expertise that goes beyond traditional classroom learning.

From acrylic painting to computer skills, these classes are giving community members and local companies access to the educational resources and talented instructors for which Blackhawk is known as well as providing flexible, immediate, and relevant training opportunities for students of all ages and abilities.

An adjunct instructor here for 22 years, John Bittner has added to his skills in electricity and hydraulics with a passion for painting.

“After retiring, I decided to paint in acrylics. I am very active in the Wisconsin Regional Art Program and have won 17 State Awards, seven monetary awards, and sold several paintings in 8 years. I enjoy teaching an Acrylic Painting class through Blackhawk as well,” he said.

Holding both a technical degree and a Master’s in Fine Arts, John’s experience benefits students from across the educational spectrum.

With multiple delivery methods for many classes, students can learn in the classroom or from the comfort of their own home, which gives working adults more flexibility to expand their learning.

“I think it is a perfect place to get an amazing education with a great opportunity for employment after completing a program,” said Tina. “This is a very cost-effective and flexible way to move towards your goals.”

“Never be discouraged by obstacles or challenges. There are always options, always possibilities, to better your career or life. There’s no reason not to take advantage of these opportunities.”

-Tina Aldrich

About 300 high school students from 12 school districts and about 20 manufacturing partners from the Stateline Manufacturing Alliance participated in Manufacturing Day (MFG) on Oct. 26 at Blackhawk’s state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Milton.

MFG Day is part of a national effort to inspire students to pursue careers in manufacturing.

“It is a wonderful collaboration between employers, the school districts, and our workforce economic groups to bring awareness of the great career opportunities in manufacturing and showcase the many career paths available right in our own backyard,” said Greg Phillips, Dean of Manufacturing, Apprenticeship, Technology, and Transportation at Blackhawk Technical College.
In September, Blackhawk entered into a partnership with the Stateline Manufacturing Alliance (SMA) to strategically coordinate efforts to build the youth and adult talent pipeline. With 40 regional manufacturers participating in SMA and Blackhawk’s state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, the partnership includes training initiatives, programming, and activities to increase career exposure, engagement, and interest.

The College’s flexible delivery format has proved invaluable to employers, including Prent and GOEX and Baker Manufacturing Company, which participate in SMA and have already utilized BTC to grow talent.

“BTC has been a wonderful training partner to utilize as we grow our own talent at Prent and GOEX. The flexible, competency-based courses/programs offered through BTC allow many options for us to send current employees to upskill, whether through a full program or by taking individual classes.” said Rachel Pregont Andres, Senior Vice President of Corporate Services at Prent and GOEX. “In addition, having our employees working, gaining on the job experience, while pursuing their education has proven to be a great model for development.”

BTC’s model allows employers to provide specific academic programming that meets their needs when they need it to enhance the employability skills of their workforce.

“Having a well-trained workforce is critical for Baker Manufacturing Company,” said Dulcy Smith, Human Resources Manager. “BTC’s flexible industrial training options have helped Baker bridge the skills gap while providing ‘hands on’ learning in a lab environment which is exactly the type of training our employees need to stay engaged,” she said.
Construction of the Public Safety + Transportation Center (PSTC) began in March 2021, following the $32 million referendum approval. Throughout the summer, asphalt was poured for the various training courses, allowing the public safety and truck driving programs to start using the outdoor tracks. The new fire tower was completed in November, and by the end of 2021, the Center for Transportation Studies will be complete, with automotive and diesel programs moving here in the spring.

By June 2022, nearly all of the projects on the main training grounds are expected to be complete and open for use.

For more information, go to: www.blackhawk.edu/PSTC

SAVE THE DATE
BTC will host two events in 2022 that will include tours and demonstrations at the new PSTC facilities:

• BUSINESS AFTER 5
  Thursday, April 14

• COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
  Thursday, June 30
Motorcycle Area

EvOC Observation Tower

Fire Training Tower

Residential Scenario Building

Tactical Scenario Building

Confined Space

Emergency Vehicle Operator Course
Parking Lot

Street Scenario Building

2-Story Education Building

Center for Transportation Studies

Building

Pictured-top left: Rendering of the PSTC Education building by Angus Young.
Pictured-bottom left: Center for Transportation Studies building.
NURSING PROGRAMS BEST IN STATE

Nursing Schools Almanac has just released its 2021 rankings of the best nursing programs in Wisconsin. Blackhawk Technical College was included on two distinct lists: the best associate’s degree in nursing (ADN) programs and the best licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs.

BUSINESS AFTER 5:
MADE IN ROCK COUNTY

A special thank you goes out to all our community members who attended our collaborative Forward Janesville and the Milton Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Five on October 14 at our Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) in Milton! Blackhawk Technical College enjoyed welcoming the community to our manufacturing training facility to participate in demonstrations and tours.

VOTED BEST OF THE BEST LOCAL COLLEGE

Each year the Beloit Chamber of Commerce awards a Small Business of the Year (fewer than 50 employees) and a Large Business of the Year (more than 50 employees). This year, Blackhawk Technical College was honored with the Large Business of the Year Award.

“We thank the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce for this recognition – it means a lot to us. It is a testament to the Blackhawk team, their talent, and their focus on service to our community, making it a good place to work. It is a testament to our students and tens of thousands of alumni, and anyone who has utilized BTC in one way or another. Their impact continues to make our community better.”

- Rob Hendrickson, BTC Board Member

WELCOME NEW BLACKHAWK DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Kathy Sukus
Rock County Communications Center

Rob Hendrickson
Frito-Lay

Suzann Holland
Monroe Public Library

Taking part at the event were (L-R) front: Devon Timblin, Soda Gonzalez, Linda Fair, and Colleen Koerth. (L-R) back: Darian Snow, Rob Hendrickson and Jon Tyse.
AG INSTRUCTORS HARVEST TOP HONORS

Congrats Dusty Williams and Ralph Johnson! Our BTC agribusiness instructors were honored at the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE) conference. Ralph received the 2021 Honored Secondary Educator for his 30+ years of educating and Dusty was honored by his peers as the 2021 Outstanding Postsecondary Agricultural Educator.

CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS SUPPORT GOOD CAUSES

This fall, our Culinary Arts students raised $500 with their Cream Puff Fundraiser for victims of Hurricane Ida. All proceeds from the event went directly to the American Red Cross Hurricane Ida Relief Fund. They also had an autumn harvest scholarship dinner to benefit the Culinary Arts Scholarship Fund within the foundation and raised over $10,000.

STAFF COMPLETE WLDI TRAINING

The WLDI Foundation Academy is a yearlong leadership development program designed by the WTCS and the Chair Academy. Gerri Downing and Eva Peterson began the program in fall 2019 and, despite pandemic interruptions, successfully completed the Academy in September 2021. Congrats Gerri and Eva!

Blackhawk Technical College celebrated its 10th anniversary of offering excellent lab career programs on the Monroe Campus.

Throughout the celebration, tours and demos were held highlighting the Medical Laboratory Technician, Laboratory Technician Assistant, and Lab Food Science Technician programs.

Jennifer Murphy, the featured speaker, said, “I commend Blackhawk and this campus for always being forward-thinking.” As a former BTC faculty member, Jennifer helped get the Medical Lab Technician Program accredited and taught the first online Blood Bank class.

Dr. Tracy Pierner said, “Blackhawk is very proud of its graduates, the continued success of our programs, and our community partnerships. congrats!”

WELCOME NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Liz Menz
PremierBank

Angela Slagle
Frito-Lay
Blackhawk’s Learning Center on Central Campus is the go-to spot for new students as they start their educational journey and for established students who are seeking help for more advanced classes. And two of Blackhawk’s long-term center instructors, Joanne Seager and Patty Keller, are the rock stars behind the Learning Center’s success.

About Patty

Patty began her journey at Blackhawk in the secretarial program, and she noticed and respected how the BTC instructors interacted with the students. “It was my dream to return someday to BTC to teach and to be part of this community that truly strives to support students in achieving their goals,” Patty said.

After finishing her secretarial program, Patty was an assistant secretary to the supervisor of Adult Basic Education.

“That experience opened doors for me to later get a teaching position under the same supervisor once I completed my teaching degree. What a blessed journey it has been,” Patty said.

About Joanne

Joanne thought her professional journey would start and end in a high school classroom once she graduated with her teaching degree. “While living in Appleton, I stumbled upon the world of adult literacy, where I helped adults learn how to read and write. It was truly inspiring work,” Joanne said. “When my family and I moved to Beloit, I began another gratifying job teaching suspended and expelled high school students for the Beloit School District. That position led me to working here at BTC, helping at-risk high school students earn their HSED. My path has taken a 10-year rest stop in the Learning Center where I have taught students in various areas, including GED, ELL, basic computers, math, and, of course, English.”

Joanne’s specialties are writing and APA Style (for writing), but she also assists with math and has experience with GED instruction. Many nursing students seek her out for assistance with written nursing assignments.

“I love the opportunity to work with students and to help them succeed in math, which often leads to a joy in math that many students had never experienced before,” Patty said.

Erica Fenton, the Department Chair for the Learning Support Division, said she is proud of the work Joanne and Patty are doing. “Joanne and Patty are long-term adjuncts with Learning Support and have many years of experience assisting students in the center and are truly dedicated to student success. We couldn’t operate the center without them!” –Erica Fenton

Erica encourages students to actively take part in their education by talking to instructors and utilizing the resources BTC offers. “So many times, I have heard students tell us that they wish they had come for help sooner,” Erica said.

Located inside the Student Success Center, the Learning Center is open: Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Friday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Learning Center is available for both drop-in and online appointments.

Students should actively take part in their education.” –Joanne Seager
Magdalena Doyle used to work in food production. Disappointed with the lack of Good Manufacturing Procedures (GMPs) and quality standards, she quit and spent time working as a nanny. Still, the desire to see the systems work better and make food production safer never left her.

“I decided that to change the system, I needed to have a better understanding of how the system works.” Magdalena said. “In particular, I was interested in food safety and allergen controls. I talked to Chef Joe before I applied to see what his thoughts were, and he was very encouraging. I spent a few evenings pouring over the class catalog and degree requirements, and when I went in to talk to the advisors, I had a class schedule all prepped by semester.”

Magdalena combined elements from several programs and created her own degree.

“She came into class motivated and with a solid idea of what she wanted,” said Dan Harrigan, Lab Technology Instructor. “She had a picture of her career goal to own her own business – likely a bakery focused on items without some of the major food allergens. Knowing this, she already had an idea of what she needed to study, and the knowledge areas she was missing drove her to design her own degree. BTC had what she needed but in pieces. Part from the Food Lab Program, part from the Culinary Program, and part from the Business Program.”

Magdalena learned a week or two after orientation that she was expecting her first child.

“My teachers were so accommodating that fall when I needed to sit during lab classes,” she said. “The next spring when I had him, my teachers all knew about it, so they let me take my time to catch up, which I appreciated.”

Magdalena also faced a number of struggles related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other family concerns. Her husband lost his job, and she lost her nanny job. She also had some medical issues. But she remained determined, and to help her stay on track for graduation, Magdalena took advantage of BTC’s emergency grants to cover unexpected costs.

Following graduation, Magdalena plans to take over as kitchen manager at a local daycare. It’s a job that allows her to be off in the afternoons to be with her son and enjoy the outdoors.

When asked what advice she has for other students, Magdalena said, “Know your goals and keep going. Talk to people when you need help. There’s tutoring, financial help, and counseling if you find you need any of those. But honestly, everyone is super supportive at Blackhawk, so don’t be afraid to ask.”

“Everyone at BTC is super supportive so don’t be afraid to ask for help.”

-Magdalena Doyle
The Best of the Best Awards – also known as the “The Official Community Choice Awards” – is presented each year by the Janesville Gazette. These awards celebrate and recognize the best our community has to offer in many categories including education.

Blackhawk Technical College was nominated for the Local College category along with Beloit College, Madison Area Technical College, Upper Iowa University – Blackhawk Campus, and UW-Whitewater at Rock County.

Voting took place June 11-28. This year, approximately 110,000 votes were cast by 8,000 different people throughout the community.

On Friday, October 8, Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk Technical College, accepted the 2021 Best of the Best Local College award on behalf of the College. The award was presented by the Janesville Gazette Advertising Director, Steve Lauber, and Multi-Media Account Executive, Ben Hassinger.

Since opening our doors more than 100 years ago, Blackhawk has continually provided a wide range of offerings. Our long-term goal is to redefine the educational landscape through flexible scheduling, diverse program offerings, partnerships with regional employers, and world-class facilities and high-tech equipment.

“We are proud of our team and the work done to live out our mission of providing flexible education in a supportive environment. This team effort positioned Blackhawk to efficiently shift operations when faced with the pandemic and continue providing quality education for our students,” said Dr. Pierner. “We are honored to serve as a critical resource in the community and value our ongoing partnerships. We thank the Gazette and our community for this honor.”

BTC is pleased to recognize Frito Lay (Beloit, WI) for the 2021 Technical Education Champion Award. They are a premier partner of Blackhawk Technical College and a relentless advocate of BTC, promoting the College as a “one-stop-shop” for the community’s workforce and training solutions. Through their partnership, they have placed BTC in the spotlight as a critical catalyst for the region’s economic success. Frito Lay employees serve on many BTC Advisory Committees, providing critical input and support to our programs. They are frequent visitors to campus, promoting their job opportunities and highlighting how BTC’s education prepares students to launch their careers. Additionally, they provide financial support to students enrolled in BTC through earn and learn programs which include internship and apprenticeship programs. Frito Lay is a fierce advocate for technical education, and this is demonstrated through their daily commitment to developing and filling the talent pipeline in our region.

BTC is proud to announce that Frito Lay was selected to be recognized for their work at the state level. Frito Lay has been named the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association Technical Education Champion.
The BTC Community Partnership Award is presented to those individuals, groups, or agencies within our community who have made significant contributions to Blackhawk Technical College. The recipient(s) of the award are selected from a prestigious pool of candidates nominated by BTC students, faculty, and staff. From finding ways to continue educating our students to COVID testing to COVID vaccinations—two organizations stood apart from other nominees. They were there for Blackhawk and our greater community, helping BTC remain fully open to students with no community spread. This year, the recipients were Beloit Health System and Rock County Public Health Department.
On Thursday, September 23, Blackhawk recognized campaign donors for the Nancy B. Parker Nursing Scholars program through the presentation of a donor wall in the Health Sciences Wing of BTC’s Central Campus. This program targets high-achieving students who have been admitted into the Blackhawk nursing program.

The lead gift of the campaign was generously provided by the Parker Family Foundation in 2018. They issued a match challenge for our communities to respond to the impending nursing shortage in Rock and Green Counties. Their vision and forethought set the groundwork for the campaign, providing a half million dollar donation contingent on the community coming together to provide the matching half million dollars. By December 2020, the BTC Foundation achieved this campaign goal.

Lead donors of the Nancy B. Parker Nursing Scholars Program include the Parker Family Foundation, Mercyhealth, Hendricks Family Foundation, JP Cullen Foundation, Janesville Foundation, Beloit Health System, and Theodore W. Batterman Family Foundation.

“Without the generosity of our community members and businesses to complete that match campaign, we would not have been able to achieve this landmark.”

- Lisa Hurda

In June, Wayne and Janet Albertson announced their plan to endow a scholarship for agriculture students at Blackhawk.

The new scholarship will be awarded through the BTC Foundation to graduating high school seniors enrolling in one of Blackhawk’s agriculture programs: agribusiness/science and technology associate program or an agriculture-related technical diploma program. The scholarship will be renewable for two consecutive semesters.

“We felt that Blackhawk has a great selection of courses to offer students with varying interests,” they said. “And to obtain a degree in the field of the student’s choice in two years, without a healthy debt loan, is very appealing.”

A few months after the Albertsons announced their plan for this scholarship, Janet passed away. She will be greatly missed, and the Blackhawk community sends its condolences to Wayne and the Albertson family.

The fund for the Future of Agriculture is established to support all agriculture related programs at Blackhawk Technical College with an eye toward benefiting programs that have a presence on the Monroe Campus at Blackhawk Technical College. The fund is a spendable fund that is restricted to supporting agriculture related programs and students.

Need more information about scholarships?
Contact: Lisa Hurda, Director of Advancement & Foundation
(608) 757-7704 • Lhurda@blackhawk.edu
The Fund for the Future of Manufacturing was established by the BTC Foundation to support manufacturing-related programs at Blackhawk Technical College. The goal of the fund is to provide a giving opportunity for the future manufacturing-related scholarships and program needs — making education in these programs a reality for students in our region.

The fund received its first philanthropic gift of $15,000 from Blackhawk Bank. “We are grateful for community partners like Blackhawk Bank who clearly understand the important of a technical college education,” said Lisa. The BTC Foundation will continue to partner with large manufacturing corporations, small and medium-sized regional businesses, and work with K-12 students and teachers to ensure that the future of advanced manufacturing provides opportunities across the board,” reported Lisa.

This fund is open to philanthropic gifts from individuals and organizations that support the mission of the BTC Foundation, which is to develop and sustain resources to empower our students and enrich our communities.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US FOR A LUNCHEON TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

FEB. 22 • 11AM-1PM • CENTRAL CAMPUS

Event Sponsor: ANGUS-YOUNG ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS

More details to come soon!
The Blackhawk Technical College Foundation has received a $200,000 donation from the Alliant Energy Foundation for the naming rights on the new dig pit and utility pole lines for BTC’s new Public Safety + Transportation Center (PSTC) project, which is currently being built at Central Campus.

This transformative gift – BTC Foundation’s first philanthropic lead gift for the project - will enhance BTC’s Electric Power Distribution program, which provides students with the training needed to construct, operate and maintain power line equipment for residential, commercial and industrial customers.

Students will use the new dig pit and utility pole lines to learn how to properly climb and set poles in any weather.

“Alliant Energy Foundation’s partnership to sponsor the Dig Pit and Pole Lines in our new Public Safety + Transportation Center is an example of the commitment and support our industry partners have for Blackhawk Technical College’s efforts at education and training in critical career pathways that ultimately result in creating stronger and safer communities,” said Lisa Hurda, Director of Advancement & Foundation at Blackhawk. “This premier training center is a valuable resource for our power and utility industry’s future workforce training and having a partner like Alliant Energy adds to our mission of industry-aligned training that adds value to our students to successfully enter their power and utility careers.”

Alliant Energy Foundation Impact Grants support co-created, collaborative, high-impact projects that build stronger communities. The BTC project aligns several Impact Grant focus areas for funding, including workforce readiness and the intentional inclusion of diverse perspectives to lead to more equitable outcomes.

“We are proud of our longstanding partnership and are excited to support Blackhawk Technical College Foundation with our Impact Grant as their program provides the vital training and workforce preparation needed now more than ever,” said Julie Bauer, executive director of the Alliant Energy Foundation. “Funding their efforts provides vital growth and development for their students which ultimately will benefit and strengthen our Wisconsin communities.”

The PSTC project, which Rock and Green County voters approved on Nov. 3, 2020, has already begun to transform the once-vacant land at the corner of West Sunny Lane and County Road G along the northwest corner of Blackhawk’s Central Campus.

In addition to serving the Electric Power Distribution program, the new facilities will serve first responder programs, including fire, EMS and law enforcement, and include an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course pad, which is already in use for physical agility, traffic stop training and drivers training. Installation of the new fire tower was complete in November.

“The BTC Foundation is grateful for the financial support the Alliant Energy Foundation has provided through this naming rights opportunity which will assist the BTC Foundation in carrying out its mission to support and empower Blackhawk students through their educational pursuits at the College,” Lisa said.

The Foundation is seeking to partner with more businesses and organizations as part of its work to enhance the BTC learning experience in the new PSTC facilities.

To make an unrestricted gift donation for a naming opportunity for the Public Safety + Transportation Center training facility, please contact:

Lisa Hurda at: (608) 757-7704
Lhurda@blackhawk.edu

In partnership with Alliant Energy, high school juniors and seniors can take a 15-week Energy Basics Course through Blackhawk. The online course gives students an understanding of the skills and knowledge needed to work in the energy industry. After completion of the course, students are eligible to apply for summer internships with Alliant Energy.

Pictured above (L-R): Liz Paulsen, Mark Borowicz, Dr. Tracy Pierner, Paul Gregor, Greg Phillips, Lisa Hurda, and Colleen Koerth.

BTC Foundation Receives Grant from the ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION

ENERGY BASICS COURSE FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS

Pictured above (L-R): Liz Paulsen, Mark Borowicz, Dr. Tracy Pierner, Paul Gregor, Greg Phillips, Lisa Hurda, and Colleen Koerth.
The youngest of ten children, Issa Conombo left his home in Burkina Faso, Africa for Brooklyn, NY in 2016 to study and seek his future.

Coming from a country with an official language of French, but whose 20 million residents speak an additional 59 languages, transitioning to English has been an ongoing process for him. Since arriving, he has been working diligently to support himself, first as a dishwasher in Brooklyn and then as a taxi driver. With a growing desire to continue his education, Issa left behind the big city for the fields of Wisconsin with the sole intent of attending Blackhawk Technical College’s renowned agricultural program. “I chose the Agribusiness/Science Technology program because I want to learn more about soils, crops, livestock, and how to operate machinery,” he said.

In true Blackhawk fashion, the staff of the agriculture program has helped Issa secure a place to live and an internship at Wegmueller Dairy Farm, where he works with both the crops and the livestock.

Dan & Ashley Wegmueller, owners and operators of Wegmueller Dairy, are no strangers to international studies, having studied abroad in their college days. They are thrilled to support international students and collaborations with students like Issa. “Connections like these have the ability to heal the world, one conversation at a time. What better way to connect with one another than through agriculture & education? To feed the world is to heal the world,” said Dan.

Issa has been very thankful for the help of the Blackhawk staff, who made the transition to student easier for him. “BTC has the best educational staff,” he said. “They helped me fill out my application, have the newest technology systems to learn and practice on, and help you find internships and employers.” Blackhawk instructors are just as thrilled to have Issa in their classes.

“Issa is a pleasure to have in class and adds an incredible perspective to our discussions about agriculture,” said Agriculture Instructor Dusty Williams. “It’s fascinating learning about the similarities and differences of our industry half way around the world. I’m honored that Issa chose BTC and I look forward to learning more about African agriculture and his experiences.”

Best of luck, Issa, as you continue your studies and apply what you have learned from one corner of the globe to another.

“I want to impact the world by providing food and protecting against climate change.”
- Issa Conombo
"I am more than grateful for receiving scholarships through the BTC Foundation. Scholarships have reduced the financial burden of returning to school and have allowed me to pursue my educational dreams in the nursing field!

With the financial support of the scholarship donors to the Foundation, one day I hope to be able to give back to my community the gift that they gave me."

-DeAnna Wallace

Pao did not think college was possible, but the IDEAL Scholars Program made her dream a reality. Through this new diversity & inclusion effort at BTC, she receives free tuition, a faculty mentor, a paid internship, and a living stipend, which opened the doors for her in the criminal justice program at Blackhawk. "The Criminal Justice program and the IDEAL Scholarship helped me grow into the woman I am right now."

-Pao Delgado

While Heather works toward her associate’s degree in automation systems technology, she knows she will be ready to serve local employers with the skills they need because she was trained on state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment at Blackhawk!

The Blackhawk Fund addresses the areas of greatest need for both our students and the college. Whether it’s a student in need, an event to benefit the community or a special project, your gift will benefit the highest priorities at Blackhawk. Your gift empowers the Foundation to continue to do its good work of supporting students and carrying out our mission.

If you would like to support one of these four areas, please use the enclosed remittance envelope to create change.

Thank you for your partnership with Blackhawk Technical College.
Should you wish to discuss your year-end giving goals and find the most meaningful investment for you with Blackhawk, please call: Lisa Hurda, Director of Advancement & Foundation • (608) 757-7704 • Lhurda@blackhawk.edu.
# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
## AT BLACKHAWK

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES
- Accounting
- Administrative Professional
- Agribusiness/Science Technology
- Automation Systems Technology
- Behavior Technician
- Business Management
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography & Vascular Tech
- Digital Marketing
- Early Childhood Education
- Electro-Mechanical Technology
- Fire Protection Technician
- Foundations of Teacher Education
- Funeral Service
- Human Resources
- Human Services Associate
- Individualized Technical Studies
- IT-Network Specialist
- Laboratory Food Science Technician
- Leadership Development
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Medical Administrative Coder
- Medical Administrative Specialist
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Nuclear Technology
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetic Technician
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiography
- Sales Management
- Substance Use Disorder Counseling
- Supply Chain Management
- Surgical Technology
- Technical Studies - Journeyworker
- Web Software Developer

### TECHNICAL DIPLOMAS
- Administrative Support Professional
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
- Agribusiness Specialist
- Automotive Technician
- Central Service Technician
- Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Technician
- Computer Service Technician
- Culinary Production Specialist
- Dental Assistant
- Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician
- Electric Power Distribution
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Farm Business & Production Management
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
- Laboratory Science Technician Assistant
- Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Academy
- Manufacturing Information Technology Specialist
- Medical Assistant
- Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Truck Driving
- Welding

### ADULT EDUCATION
- General Education Development (GED)
- High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED)
- English Language Learner (ELL)

### APPRENTICESHIPS
- Electrical Apprenticeship
- Industrial Electrical Apprenticeship
- Industrial Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship
- Machinist Apprenticeship
- Mechatronics Apprenticeship

### CERTIFICATES
- Computed Tomography
- Human Resource Generalist
- Law Enforcement - Basic Jail (Corrections) Academy
- Patient Service Specialist
- Project Management
- Secure Juvenile Detention Academy
- Supply Chain Management

### EMBEDDED TECHNICAL DIPLOMAS
- Accounting Assistant
- Business Management Specialist
- Entry Maintenance Technician
- Flux Core Arc Welding
- Gas Metal Arc Welding
- Gas Tungsten Arc Welding
- Residential HVAC
- Shielded Metal Arc Welding
- Substance Abuse Education

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**KEY**

▲ Advanced Manufacturing Training Center
■ Monroe Campus

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