

THE

BU  @BTC

SUMMER 2020 EDITION

In this issue:

Unexpected Path

from Manufacturing to PTA

Family Tradition Ignites Student's Journey

Foundation Under New Leadership



When the Student Becomes the Teacher





MyEd CHOICE @ Blackhawk



EARN CREDITS & GET AHEAD

How, When, Where You Learn Best.

This option allows you to choose how you attend each class and does not lock you into one format. In a MyEdChoice class, you have the option to attend:

- in the classroom at a set class time
- live during class time using video conferencing
- online at anytime

You can mix and match how you attend class or pick the option that works best.

At Blackhawk, we understand our students have busy lives and hectic schedules which is why the College offers a variety of flexible learning options to best serve you.

For a complete listing of our flexible learning options, visit:

blackhawk.edu • info@blackhawk.edu



Contents



4-5

- 7 REMOTE WORK TIPS
- 8 COVID-19:
HELPING OUR STUDENTS
- 12 ZOOM TIPS
- 13 NEVER STOP LEARNING
- 14-15 BTC TIDBITS
- 16 PURSUIT OF AN EDUCATION
- 17-19 BTC FOUNDATION
- 20-21 PTA SUCCESSES
- 23 IT STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
- 24-25 PUBLIC SAFETY &
TRANSPORTATION CENTER
- 26 BLACKHAWK SCHOLARS



9

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

I think we can all agree, this has been an unusual year. Our world has changed rapidly and it continues to be fluid with a lot of unknowns. This is likely a year that few of us will ever forget.

As our communities make progress towards reopening, Blackhawk is proud to continue its mission of providing flexible education in a supportive environment.

We are confident in our safety protocols and excited to welcome more students and employees back to our campuses as we reopen. We are in the workforce development business. To that end, we must be responsive to the needs of our community and available for students who want to continue their training and education.

Understanding students have diverse needs, Blackhawk offers a variety of flexible learning options. While in-person and online courses continue to be popular offerings, the college also delivers courses as MyEdChoice. This delivery method does not lock a student into a particular format. Rather, students can choose to either attend online, in-person at a set time, or via video conferencing. Students can mix and match how they attend class and pick the option that is best for them. MyEdChoice is like online, only better. With the uncertainty around the public health crisis, students can choose to be safer-at-home or they are welcome to come to campus. It gives students more control over their education and schedule.

Now, more than ever, it is important that students have options to stay safe, stay connected, and stay on track. We are here for you. Let us know how we can help you get connected and get ahead.

Tracy Pierner, Ph.D.

President, Blackhawk Technical College



BLACKHAWK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ALUMNI

STAY CONNECTED

Share your story at: blackhawk.edu/About/Alumni



When the Student Becomes the Teacher

Blackhawk Instructor Dedicated to Student Success

“My goal is to give students that same wonderful environment that I experienced.”

-Sheldon

Automotive Technician Program Instructor Sheldon Newkirk knows firsthand what it is like to be a Blackhawk Technical College student. He came through the college's Automotive Technician Program as a non-traditional student. Before starting the Blackhawk program, Newkirk gained hands-on experience in the Army as well as in the drag racing circuit in South Carolina.

The technology of the auto industry is constantly evolving. Cars today can have over 50 computers to help them run effectively and efficiently. It is important for instructors to not only teach this but to also learn the new technology and to keep up with the changes.

The Blackhawk Automotive Technician Program is one of many flexible programs at the college.

“Flexible education provides a support system in which everyone has a part to play in helping a student succeed,” Sheldon mentioned.

Student's needs are the determining factor in the development of flexible programs and courses. The Automotive Technician Program is a FlexLab Hybrid

Program. That means the students will do some assignments like reading and pre-tests before they come to the Auto Lab to do the hands-on portion of the learning. Newkirk said this model really helps students because, “they can plan around appointments and other activities that they may have, without affecting the success of their learning.”

The program at BTC teaches diagnosis and repair on automobiles and light trucks from bumper to bumper. Some of these courses include Brake Service, Steering and Suspension Service, Engine Repair, Heating and Air Conditioning, Drive Train Service, Electrical and Electronic Troubleshooting. Automotive instructors at Blackhawk teach all courses, so they are competent and experienced in all areas of automotive repair.

“Our students are a diverse group with more starting without any background in the automotive industry,” said Newkirk. “It is still a non-traditional field for females, but I am seeing that slowly change.”

In fact, female students in the program recently completed the fastest tire change during an in-class competition.

There are many opportunities for graduates of the Automotive Technician Program. Employers are searching for technicians that can communicate well and perform professionally. Soft skills like promptness, reliability, accountability, and honesty are just a few characteristics that employers seek.

Employers in the region are always looking for qualified entry-level technicians to join their teams. “I urge all students to reach for the highest level of education that they can attain because they can use it anywhere, and in almost any capacity,” said Newkirk. “This area is in dire need of entry-level technicians looking to grow and work with them.”

Newkirk takes his role at the college personally. As a graduate of the program, he aims for the highest level of quality instruction. He enjoys the creative freedom faculty have in developing and delivering curriculum. This provides instructors the flexibility to meet the student's needs and demands in the high-tech learning environment.

Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

55 Credits

\$8,799

Average Wage

\$29,404

**based on WTCS Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates*

Potential Careers

- Automotive Line Tech
- Automotive Specialty Tech
- Diagnostic Tech
- Service Manager
- Parts Manager

Based on his experience as a Blackhawk student, Newkirk is able to offer wisdom to his students. "Persistence is the key to success and our flexible programs have been developed to be adjustable for things that happen in our lives. Don't let life events overwhelm you because we have already thought about it and anticipated adjustments in the program just for you."

"Flexible education provides a support system in which everyone has a part to play in helping a student succeed."

-Sheldon



Newkirk added, "A student should choose Blackhawk Technical College because they will not find a more personal, caring, and loving college with faculty who are experienced experts in their field. BTC is a great choice all around for quality education, ability to stay near home, and cost-effectiveness that allows several choices in financing your education."

AUTO AND DIESEL PROGRAMS ADJUST TO COVID-19



This fall, classes may look a little differently for our automotive and diesel programs. Students will begin coursework through an online orientation session that helps students learn the mechanics of how to navigate their courses. Students can complete work online, on their own time and will come into the lab to demonstrate the skills they have learned. Students will come to the lab to perform tasks that are observed and verified by instructors.

(Photo: Instructor Corey Groebner is doing a hands-on demo out of his garage. Photo credit April Groebner)



GET CONNECTED

at Blackhawk Technical College

Prepare Your Workforce.
Empower Your Team.

We provide flexible training options to help you keep pace with the changing workforce and provide your employees with the skills and tools they need to succeed.



blackhawk.edu

BTC is an EO/AA educator/employer. For more information, go to blackhawk.edu

Contact us today to learn more about
our training/coaching solutions.

(608) 757-7623

BusinessDevelopment@blackhawk.edu



5

Tips for New Remote Workers

About Cindy Leverenz MBA, PhD

Cindy Leverenz is all about teaching and learning. As an adult learning specialist, her main gig is teaching leadership skills to all levels of leaders in Rock and Green counties. Mixing fun and practicality in all she does, Cindy provides coaching, consulting, and genuine caring in the success of others. When she is not working, she enjoys gardening, acrylic painting, getting outside with the dogs, and keeping her husband on his toes!



Are you new to working remotely?

The Blackhawk Workforce and Community Development team has you covered. Dr. Cindy Leverenz, Blackhawk Workforce Training Specialist, has some words of advice for employees who now find themselves working from home. **Here are five tips for new remote workers.**



- 1. Designate a specific spot in your home as your workspace so you can mentally and emotionally go to work and then leave it at the end of the day.** The physical aspect is only a part of working remotely. We have to consider our mental and emotional well-being as a big part of what makes us effective and productive in the long-run.
- 2. Set-up your work area so it is inviting and pleasant.** Have the things you need to work easily accessible and feel free to make it pretty. So, not only designate a specific spot but turn it into a place you want to be...not one you want to avoid.
- 3. Step away from your workspace and technology from time-to-time.** Be sure to take short breaks to protect your vision and keep you mentally sharp. This is something even the most skilled work from home employees need to be reminded.
- 4. Learn how to use technology and apps that make your life easier.** Find tools that work for you and use them to become an effective remote worker. Be open-minded and willing to learn new tips and tricks.
- 5. Use time management skills and goals to prioritize projects, to use your time wisely, and to become productive.** It is also important to schedule or plan some self-care so you get enough sleep, eat well, and get some physical activity. Self-care will help you stay vibrant, focused, and effective while working from home.



STUDENTS AT THE CENTER

BTC's Response to COVID-19



In early February, the Blackhawk Emergency Preparedness Committee gathered to talk about a virus that was gathering momentum around the globe. Little did college officials know that a month later the World Health Organization (WHO) would declare coronavirus a global pandemic. Although it came sooner than officials thought, Blackhawk was ready.

So, what exactly did the college do to get ready?

As students were wrapping up midterms and preparing for spring break, the college assembled their Incident Command Team. Orders of personal protective wear were increased, strict cleaning protocols were implemented, and faculty began working to move instruction online.

On March 11, when the pandemic was declared by WHO, College leaders assembled and began to put the plan into motion. Although the College was on spring break, plans were solidified to move instruction online. When Governor Evers declared the Safer-at-Home Order, Blackhawk's plan to keep students and employees safe was already activated.

From the very beginning, the needs of the students were front and center. The thought was, if one student has a need then others are likely to have that same need. Teams from across the College got creative and worked fast to meet the needs of students.

Here are a few of the ways Blackhawk lived out its mission of flexible education in a supportive environment:



- Laptops were deployed to students who needed devices to access online courses and specialized software.
- Drive-up Wi-Fi spots were created in the parking lots at Central and Monroe Campuses.



- The BTC Student Cupboard prepared bags of food, hygiene items, and cleaning products for contact-free pick up on Central Campus.



- From IT to Surgical Technology, faculty created to-go lab kits so students could complete hands-on lab work remotely.
- Public Safety and Health Sciences faculty designed virtual and simulated clinicals when students were no longer permitted into clinical sites.



- Student Support Services quickly transitioned services like advising, recruitment, mental health counseling, tutoring, and library services to provide meaningful virtual services to both prospective and current students.



- The Blackhawk Technical College Foundation partnered with Student Services to offer emergency and other financial assistance through programs like The Blackhawk Fund and the CARES Act.

Together, Blackhawk students, faculty, and staff wrapped up an unusual spring semester. Everyone is looking forward to the day when operations are back to normal. In the meantime, students returned to campus for summer face-to-face classes on June 15.

For more information about the college's response to COVID-19 visit www.blackhawk.edu/coronavirus.



Family Tradition Ignites Student's Journey



"I really enjoy the closeness we have within our program. A lot of us are friends outside of class and our instructor is always willing to assist when needed so we can succeed in the field."

"If you love what you do, it's not a job," said Fire Protection Technician student Whitney Gerber. "I don't think the passion will ever go away for me to go on a call or to help people." Whitney grew up in a house of firefighters and became curious about fire science at a young age. Now it is her turn to become the next firefighter in the family.

Whitney started her college career at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater studying education. Changing programs and colleges was not a decision she made lightly. "It was hard to say good-bye to that but the change has helped me grow as a person."

Her journey has not been without other challenges. Whitney is pursuing her degree full-time while balancing three jobs. She says the temporary lack of sleep and stress will be worth it in the end.

"Blackhawk has helped me. Instead of just wishing for my dream job, I actually get to pursue a degree that will help me reach my goal easier," said Whitney.

"I really enjoy the closeness we have within our program."

-Whitney

After her studies at Blackhawk, she hopes to get hired onto a department full-time and start living her dream.

Her instructors have no doubt that she will achieve her goals. "Whitney comes from a family of Firefighters, so it is in her blood. After she completed a year at a university she wanted to try something different. She's a great student, a very hard worker, and will complete our program early," said Blackhawk Fire Science Instructor Eric Moe.

"I've always wanted to give back to my community and to other people that have helped me along the way," Whitney shared.

She offered this advice for others considering a career in fire protection. "It is a lot of hard work. You will have to study and prepare for state tests. It is a long road in two short years, but one with a great payoff in the end."

Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

60 Credits

\$9,483

Average Wage

\$44,338

**based on WTCS Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates*

Potential Careers

- Fire Fighter
- Fire Protection Technician
- Fire Fighting Equipment Specialist/Sales
- Fire Inspector
- Fire Investigator
- Fire Fighter EMT
- Emergency Service Dispatcher

FIRE PROTECTION TECHNICIAN

The Fire Protection and EMS programs have added many state-of-the-art tools to train our students. The changes and upgrades in equipment mean the programs are more mobile than ever before. For more information about these programs, contact Rob Balsamo at rbalsamo@blackhawk.edu.



Student to faculty ratio
9:1

Average Student Age: 27

18 Programs added in 3 yrs.

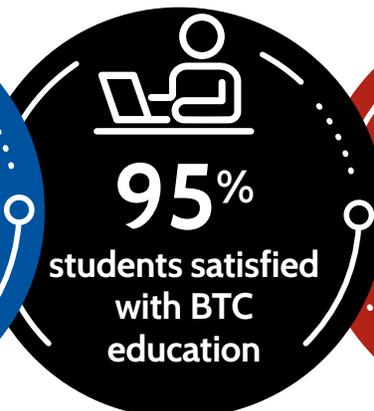
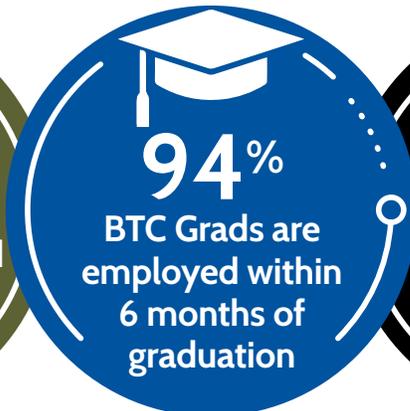
13 Programs in Development

6 Delivery Methods

5 Locations

90+ Program & Training Options

572 Full & Part-Time Employees



○ Flexible Education. Supportive Environment. ○

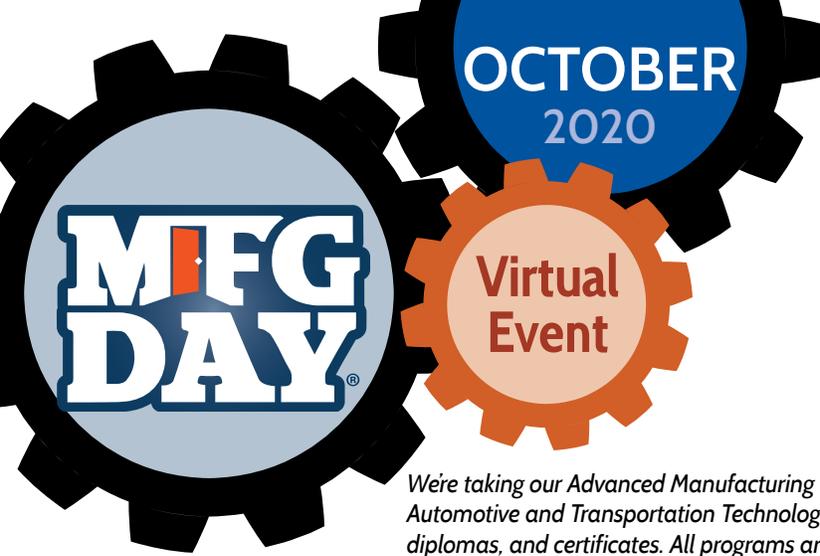
Credit & Non-Credit Students



62% Female

38% Male

23% Minorities



We're taking our Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) Manufacturing Day online! Our Manufacturing Automotive and Transportation Technology Division provides associate degrees, two-year and one-year technical diplomas, and certificates. All programs are offered as flexible delivery. [Call \(608\) 757-7628 for more information.](tel:6087577628)

Programs include:

- Automation Systems Technology
- Computer Numeric Control Technician
- Computer Service Technician
- Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician
- Electric Power Distribution
- Electromechanical Technology
- HVAC/R
- Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
- IT-Network Specialist
- Manufacturing Information Technology
- Technical Studies-Journeyworker
- Welding

RUHS EXPANSION AT CENTRAL CAMPUS

Rock University High School (School District of Janesville) is located on the Blackhawk Technical College Central Campus, allowing its students to have easy access to pursue college-level coursework. RUHS is expanding its footprint at the College to accommodate its growing student body.



The Collegiate Academy event highlighted messages from leaders throughout the area.

Blackhawk Technical College and the School District of Beloit announced a very special opportunity for Beloit Memorial High School (BMHS) students beginning in fall 2020. The opportunity, called Collegiate Academy, is an early college model that allows college-ready

of transcribed and dual credit courses. For the Collegiate Academy students, college coursework will take place on one of three Blackhawk Technical College campuses: Central Campus (Janesville), Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (Milton) and Center for Transportation Studies (Janesville).

Early College allows high school students to pursue a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit by taking a mixture

For more information, contact Matt Young at myoung22@blackhawk.edu or (608) 757-6983.

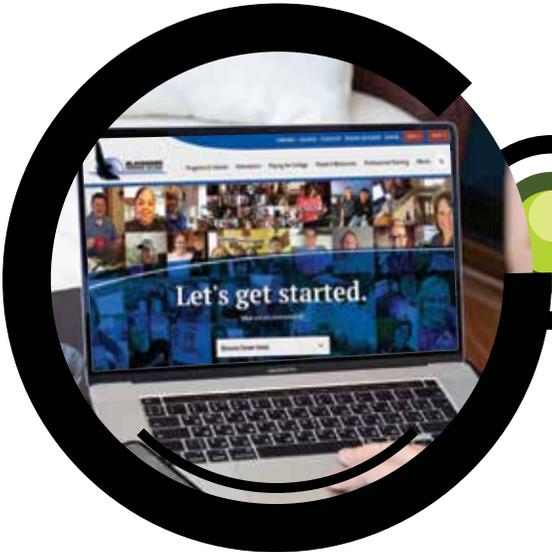
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

BMHS students to pursue post-secondary training in the following

areas: Automotive Technician, Business Management, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Foundations of Education, Pre-Nursing, and Welding.

LOADING...

ZOOM



Tips & Tricks

One thing has been certain during the pandemic, the world has quickly learned to rely on online video conferencing tools such as Zoom. Instructional designers from Blackhawk Technical College's Center for Innovation, Teaching, and Learning assist faculty everyday with best practices in engaging students in online learning platforms. That team of experts has put together some quick tips to help educators and students.

BEFORE THE SESSION

INSTRUCTOR

- Plan your content, keeping lecture portions short.
- Plan student engagement and interaction activities such as questions, discussions, break out rooms, and opportunities for student sharing.
- Plan your expectations and pre-session work and communicate that information with your students.

STUDENT

- Plan ahead. Make sure your technology is ready/working.
- Plan ahead. Review expectations and complete any pre-session work.

DURING THE SESSION

INSTRUCTOR

- Welcome students, provide an overview of the session, and remind students of expectations. Record the session if possible.
- Deliver the lesson keeping lectures short.
- Foster and encourage discussion.
- Conduct formative assessments through polls and student sharing.
- Conclude the session with a recap – did you do what you said you were going to do? Assign work for next session and direct students to additional resources.

STUDENT

- Be fully present and participate; no multitasking.
- Work from a distraction-free location.
- Take notes, ask questions, and participate in discussions. Don't stay on mute the entire class.

AFTER THE SESSION

INSTRUCTOR

- Follow-up with students by providing a brief summary of the session and instructions on how to access the class recording and additional resources.
- Follow-up on any questions or items that were not fully addressed in the session.
- Remind students about any assignments.
- Begin preparations for the next session.

STUDENT

- Review the recording and other resources from the session to answer questions or clarify unclear points. Read the class summary.
- Complete any assignments or work related to the session.
- Prepare for the next session by completing any readings or additional assignments.



Never Stop Learning

A Student's Mantra

For some students, one degree just isn't enough. With a passion for agriculture and a desire for a deeper understanding of soil science, Blackhawk alum Travis Skattum returned to the classroom recently to pursue a second degree. Travis graduated from the Agribusiness/Science Technology Degree program and is currently pursuing the Laboratory Technician Assistant program.

"I have always loved science and this gives me another avenue to pursue an interest of mine. Blackhawk has provided a great learning environment for me to continue learning," said Travis.

Blackhawk has given Travis an affordable, flexible option to continue his education. With the Monroe Campus close to home, Travis can more easily work around his busy life schedule. Travis balances school, marriage, fatherhood, employment, and a small farm. "What I am learning and experiencing here, I want to instill that in my own children. You are never done learning," said Travis.

Laboratory Technology Instructor Daniel Harrigan appreciates a student like Travis. "Travis has a genuine interest in the topic. He always comes to class with questions

about something he read, something interesting he was discussing with family, or additional research he was doing about topics from class."

Travis' plate may be full, but one would never know it based on his approach to learning. His instructors describe him as someone who helps his peers succeed. As a member of Professional Agriculture Students (PAS), Travis served as an officer for two years, competing at state and national competitions.

He said this work ethic was instilled in him from a very young age and then later reinforced when he served in the United States Army. "Learn everything you can, and just try to do your best to help others."

"His drive to learn is infectious to other students in the class," said Daniel. "Somehow he finds time for all of this while working, spending time with family, and being involved in the community. Travis is the kind of student instructors love to have."

Travis offered words of encouragement to other students: "Your education is like an iceberg...there is so much more below the surface. Be who you are and don't worry about the rest."

"What I am learning and experiencing here, I want to instill that in my own children. You are never done learning."

-Travis



Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

33 Credits

\$5,843

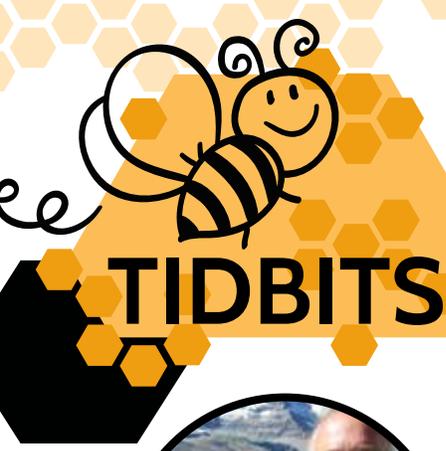
Average Wage

\$62,961

**based on EMSI Occupational Employment Statistics*

Potential Careers

- Food Lab Quality Assurance Technician
- Food Lab Technician
- Medical Lab Assistant
- Quality Control Technician



#WTCS

Agribusiness student **Casey Bennett** was selected into the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) District Ambassador program. The program selects one student from each of the state's 16 technical college districts to act as advocates for vocational and technical education. Casey will serve a one-year term, making special appearances and giving presentations on behalf of the WTCS.



Congratulations to **Cindy Leverenz** for being named to **The Future Talent Council Faculty and Staff Development Advisory Board**, a global strategy group based in Stockholm, Sweden focused on understanding and influencing the future of talent and work.

#BTCinAction



#funatBTC

The students were excited to start using their **NEW STUDENT UNION** in late fall. This is located on our central campus with video games, pool/foosball tables, comfy chairs to relax in and access to the student engagement coordinator.

This year Blackhawk started a **BOWLING TEAM** and our students are looking forward to a full season next school year!



We are proud of our shuttle drivers for all their dedication and service to getting our students to our BTC locations. This year we celebrated **5 years and 500K miles!**

#gettherefaster



Jeff Kropp, Supply Chain Management/Business Management Instructor was named **Wisconsin Business Professionals of America (BPA) Advisor of the Year**.

Congrats to **Brad Smith**, Manager of Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness. He was named to the University of WI-Whitewater Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health Department (OESH) Advisory Board.

#BlackhawkStrong



Monroe Agriculture programs celebrated the opening of their new building with a **ribbon cutting** in December 2019.

Student Awards Ceremony

2020

Each spring, the Student Government Association (SGA) hosts the Annual Student Awards Ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of Blackhawk students.



Congrats to **Bethanie Dodd** on receiving the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) Future Nursing Leader Award. Dodd graduated from the Nursing Program in Dec. 2019.

#BTC Proud



Hendricks Family Foundation and CareerTek
Community Organization of the Year

Presenting awards looks a little differently these days. Accepting the award social distance style are: Derrick Carter, Lisa Furseth, Tracy Pierner.



37 BTC students were inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success; the largest leadership honor society in the U.S.



Kristine Weir-Martell
Faculty of the Year



JoAnn Moller
Staff of the Year



Amidst a snowstorm, over 50 high school seniors committed to Blackhawk Technical College at our annual Signing Day.

#BTC Signed



Audrey Pettit
Student of the Year



Medical Imaging Club
Club of the Year



“I chose Blackhawk because of its quality teaching, affordability, and opportunities to transfer to a 4-year school.”

-Abraham

South Sudan to Janesville: One Student’s Pursuit of Education

While some students travel down the street or across the county to attend Blackhawk, one particular student has traveled a much greater distance. Business Management student Abraham Riar took an uncommon path to Blackhawk. Abraham, once a refugee in the northern part of Kenya, now calls Janesville and Blackhawk home.

“I chose Blackhawk because of its quality teaching, affordability, and opportunities to transfer to a 4-year school,” said Abraham.

Abraham is originally from South Sudan, located in east-central Africa. South Sudan has experienced civil wars and has been in a state of political crisis throughout the last several decades. As a child, he saw tremendous violence and unrest in his community and fled to northern Kenya to seek refuge. During the crisis in South Sudan, Abraham has lost many family members. Still, he aspires to one day return home to help his country rebuild and recover.

With an entrepreneurial spirit, Abraham chose Business Management as his pathway in hopes of one day starting an organization to help find a solution and resolution for the conflict in South Sudan. “Communities need people to stand for them.” He continued, “I want to serve marginalized groups and give them hope.”

One might wonder, how does one find their way to Blackhawk from a war-torn country? The internet. Abraham reached out through different internet communities, curious to see if there was a place somewhere in the world that would help him pursue an affordable, quality education. Through the power of Facebook, Abraham connected with a family in Janesville who recommended Blackhawk Technical College.

“I came to Blackhawk with financial challenges but the college supported me through Blackhawk Foundation scholarships.” Even though the cost of attending college can be daunting, Abraham credits the Blackhawk Financial Aid Office as well as the Blackhawk Foundation for continuously helping. Both departments offer support to help students find the financial resources to offset educational expenses.

Abraham recently completed the Business Management Program with plans to transfer to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He is very grateful for the opportunities he has had as a Blackhawk student. “I never imagined graduating from college. But, when I came to Blackhawk I got the support I needed. It is a college that is committed to transforming the lives of students.”

Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

63 Credits

\$9,573

Average Wage

\$36,397

**based on WTCS Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates*

Potential Careers

- Assistant Store Manager
- Branch Manager
- Buying and Planning Specialist
- Customer Service Manager
- Department or District Manager
- Distribution Center Manager
- Entrepreneur/Owner

Foundation Under New Leadership



Lisa Hurda meets with George Cullen of JP Cullen Foundation on Central Campus.

Many things are on hold right now. The Blackhawk Technical College Foundation is not one of them. With new leadership at its helm, the Foundation is running full steam ahead on enhancing donor relations, creating new scholarship opportunities for students, and rebuilding the Blackhawk Alumni Association. The women leading the charge are Lisa Hurda (Foundation Director) and Eva Frazier (Foundation Administrative Assistant).

The mission of the Blackhawk Foundation is to develop and sustain resources to empower BTC students and enrich our communities. "We want to continue to learn and grow every day so that the Foundation can better serve the students and the College as a whole. This translates into more robust growth for scholarship and financial support for our students," said Lisa Hurda, Foundation Director.

Lisa comes to Blackhawk with wide-ranging and extensive experiences in non-profit leadership and education. She is a current Forward Janesville Ambassador as well as a member of the School District of Janesville School Board. Her rich history is already proving valuable in her responsibilities for providing leadership and administrative oversight for the BTC Foundation, community relations, and Alumni Association.

Luckily, Lisa does not have to manage the

BTC Foundation alone. Eva Frazier is by her side. Eva may be newer to the Foundation but is a ten-year veteran of Blackhawk Technical College. When asked what she likes best about BTC, Eva replied, "The people. I have been at BTC for 10 years in a variety of roles and have found a wonderful and supportive work family."

While the Foundation has seen changes in leadership and even operations, it will not be slowing down any time soon. "As the industry and the world continue to change, BTC has always been quick to adapt without slowing down," said Eva.

From new scholarship funds to launching an alumni connection campaign, this dynamic duo has accomplished a lot in a short time together. They plan to continue connecting people and organizations in the community to opportunities at Blackhawk Technical College, and connecting students and employees of Blackhawk to opportunities in the community.

Are you interested in learning more about the Foundation? Lisa and Eva would love to hear from you at (608) 757-7704 or Lhurda@blackhawk.edu.

Learn more today by visiting:
blackhawk.edu/About/Foundation



Lisa Hurda
Foundation Director

"Due to my passion for philanthropy and education, the work of the Foundation was a perfect match for me. Our mission is focused on making a difference in the lives of our students as well as caring about our communities. It coincides perfectly with my personal devotion to making an impact in other people's lives each and every day."



Eva Frazier
Foundation Administrative Assistant

BTC Foundation Board Welcomes Dr. Gregg Dickinson

Dr. Dickinson, a retired pediatric dentist in Janesville, joined the BTC Foundation Board in January and has already made a large impact on the Foundation. A proud supporter of the annual Blackhawk Fund, Dickinson and his wife, Helen, provide scholarships for advanced manufacturing and health sciences students.

Give

FROM THE
HEART

Support

Our Students with a Strong Foundation

Lisa Hurda, Foundation Director • (608) 757-7704
Lhurda@blackhawk.edu

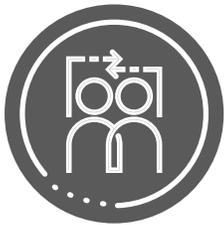
Blackhawk Fund

The Blackhawk Fund is mindful of our mission of preparing students to address the demands of the modern workforce and supports activities that help students achieve their goals. The Blackhawk Fund supports operational expenses for the Foundation as well as the following initiatives:



Annual Scholarships

Whether for high school seniors or adult learners returning to education, many of our students have significant financial need. This general scholarship pool of dollars supports these students who qualify for tuition assistance.



Support for Students

Support for students in our GED programs including testing fees and supplies.



Coins for Caring

Coins for Caring provides students who demonstrate need, up to \$100 in assistance, once per semester. These grants often times are the difference in keeping students enrolled and moving forward.



Emergency Grants

Some economic disruptions are larger in scope. Our Emergency Grants offer support on a limited basis for our students who are encountering more serious economic challenges.



Support for Programs

Each year BTC plans and supports career exploration programs that foster professional engagement opportunities for students and the community.

We look forward to building partnerships with you and other contributors as we build a bright future for all we serve.

Donate to the Blackhawk Fund to help our students during these difficult times.

tinyurl.com/btcgift



Fund for the Future of Agriculture

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. As such, the fund is restricted to supporting agriculture related programs and students.

*Nancy B. Parker
Nursing Scholars update.
Thank you to the following for
their substantial gifts this year:*

- Beloit Health System
- Blackhawk Bank
- First National Bank & Trust
- JP Cullen Foundation
- Kennedy Family Foundation
- Wisconsin River Bank

Culinary Arts High School Scholarship

The **NEW!** Culinary Arts High School Scholarships. Ten scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to high school seniors from any high school.



Foundation High School Scholarships

Blackhawk Technical College High School Scholarships mark the first time the Foundation awarded scholarship funds to Rock & Green County high school seniors who are committed to attend Blackhawk Technical College in the Fall.



Cullen Donation to BTC Foundation

The JP Cullen Foundation, the charitable arm of the nationally recognized construction company headquartered in Janesville, has pledged \$50,000 to the Nancy B. Parker Nursing Scholars Program. *(Photo: George Cullen, Mark Cullen, Tracy Pierner)*



Gregg & Helen Dickinson Scholarship

Dr. Gregg and Helen Dickinson created a scholarship fund this year to assist students in advanced manufacturing and Health Sciences. These two \$2500 scholarships will help support students as they prepare for changes in the workforce.

#newBTCscholarships



Donald Doering Scholarship Fund

Sgt. Donald Doering, Vietnam Veteran born and raised in Janesville has been an avid supporter of Blackhawk Technical College students by providing a yearly scholarship to a welding student.

Unexpected Path

from Manufacturing to Physical Therapist Assistant

When his wife asked, “do you want to do this for the rest of your life?” Shawn Campbell knew the answer was a resounding no. Shawn had worked in manufacturing for 17 years when new ownership was poised to push him back onto the shop floor. At a crossroads, Shawn decided to return to school and he chose Blackhawk Technical College.

“I didn’t do the greatest in high school; I wasn’t very motivated,” said Shawn. Thanks to a family connection, he secured a job in manufacturing and thought that would tide him over until he had some better direction. “The money was always great there, but I wanted more; I wanted to help people.”

That desire to help others, and the encouragement and support of his wife, led Shawn to the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Blackhawk. But Shawn was nervous. He had been out of school for 18 years. The PTA program accepts limited students each year, and he knew he would need to work extremely hard to make the cut.

“After my first month of school, my head was spinning and I thought this is crazy. However, once I had some success I knew I could do it,” said Shawn. He had to overcome self-doubt while second-guessing if he had made the right decision to return to school.

After a very successful first semester, Shawn petitioned for entrance into the PTA program in Feb. 2019. Determination, hard work and perseverance earned Shawn a seat in the fall 2019 PTA cohort.

“I kind of blew my own mind with how well I did. If you put the effort and motivation behind what you want, you can succeed in anything.”

“I’ve always wanted to be something that could help make a difference in

people’s lives. I appreciate the one-on-one connection you can make with an individual and hopefully improve their quality of life.”

The connection goes beyond patient care. Shawn spoke of the connection between the members of his PTA cohort. “We work together each and every day, hours on end, which has created great relationships. It has turned into quite the school family.”

Shawn initially chose Blackhawk because it was close to home, affordable and had the right program. What he has received is a supportive group of classmates, faculty and support personnel to help him on his journey.

“Blackhawk has so much to offer that many people don’t take advantage of -- it is a great atmosphere where everyone is there to help you reach your goals.”

After graduation, Shawn plans to seek work as a physical therapist assistant as well as continue his education.

Shawn lives in Janesville with his wife (who is also a graduate of Blackhawk) and their five children. “I get choked up when I talk about my wife. She is extremely supportive and I definitely would not be able to do this without her.” Shawn and his oldest two daughters will all walk across the stage next year as they graduate from high school and he graduates from Blackhawk.

Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

70 Credits

\$10,971

Average Wage

\$41,597

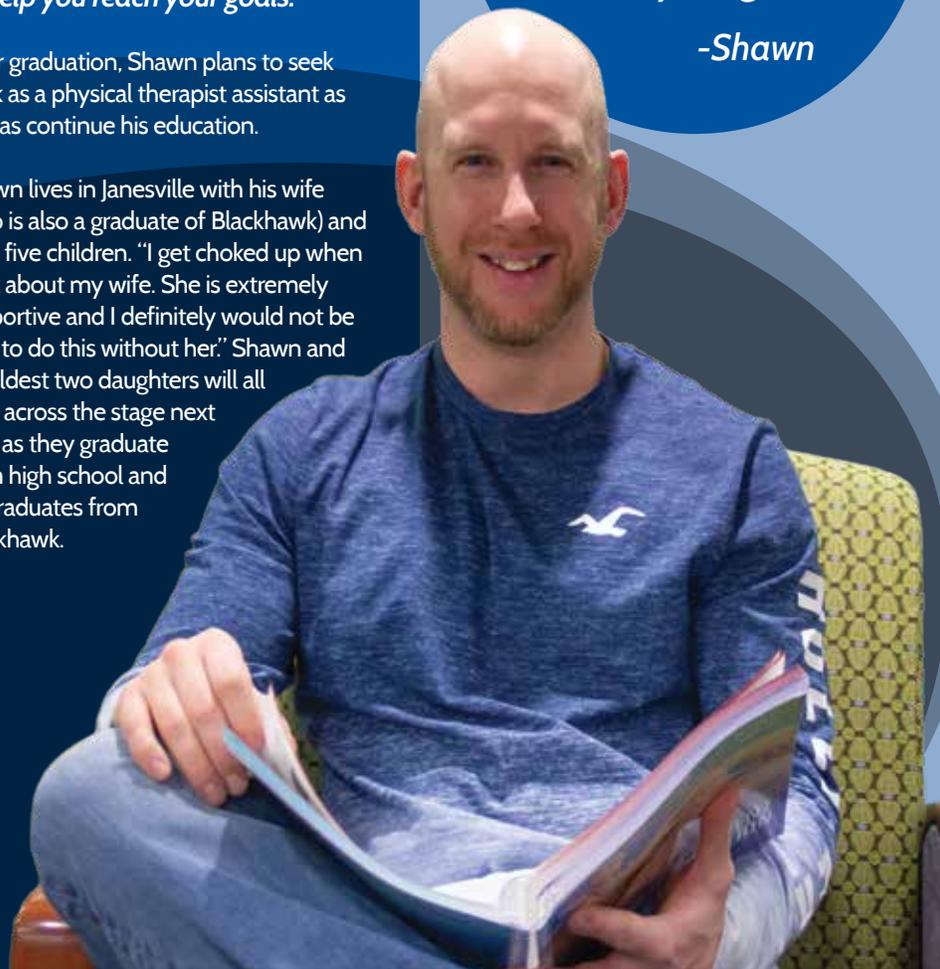
**based on WTCS Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates*

Potential Careers

- Physical Therapist Assistant

“If you put the effort and motivation behind what you want, you can succeed in anything.”

-Shawn





BLACKHAWK HONORS ALUMNI OF THE YEAR, SHAWN LERCH

Shawn Lerch, CEO of Sauk Prairie Healthcare located in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, received Blackhawk's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a living testimony to the foundation for success that is provided by a Wisconsin Technical College System education. A native of Albany, Wisconsin and a veteran of the United States Navy, Lerch has used his Physical Therapy Assistant degree to launch him into a lifelong career in rural healthcare.

Blackhawk Technical College PTA faculty member Ilene Larson recommended Lerch for this honor. She said, "Shawn was a stellar student in the PTA Program and he has had an interesting career path. He is a good example of how someone can start in a technical college setting and climb the career ladder to contribute to the well-being of patients as a hospital administrator."

During his time in the PTA program at Blackhawk, Lerch completed his last clinical site rotation and externship at Columbus Hospital. He demonstrated talent and promise, and was hired. Lerch went on to complete his Bachelor of Science degree and was later promoted to Vice President of Facility Services at Columbus. He was consistently recognized for his ability, background, and potential.

Lerch completed his master's degree in health care administration and made the leap to the CEO desk at Miners' Colfax Medical Center in Raton, New Mexico; a large hospital that provided critical care between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Pueblo, Colorado. After five years in Raton, and being offered positions at larger healthcare systems, Lerch returned to Wisconsin to be closer to his family and to be part of a community-based health system.

From technical college student to CEO, Lerch credits his start at Blackhawk and the PTA faculty for jumpstarting his career in health care. "Blackhawk stressed the importance of how you are

"Jump in & commit 100%. Understand your purpose & then everything gets easy. Have joy in what you do!"
-Shawn

an integral part of patient care. I have carried that through all my roles in health care. Once you understand your why and you enjoy what you do, everything gets easier after that."

Ilene Larson adds, "Shawn is most deserving of this award. He has worked hard to advance his career as well as rural health care in Wisconsin, and is a shining example of a Wisconsin Technical College System success story."



FROM LANDSCAPING TO WINE TASTING...



Opportunities Await at BTC

We offer a wide array of classes to help enrich your life, such as:

- Computer programs
- Food and culinary skills
- Arts & crafts
- Furniture refinishing
- Woodworking
- CPR
- Landscaping
- Investing & more!

NEW

**Classes Start
in August**

*We provide fun and enriching opportunities to learn
and grow. Learn more at blackhawk.edu*

Call us today: (608) 757-7736



“I see how much faculty works towards being the best for students. My experience at Blackhawk has been pretty amazing.”

-Raven

Involvement is Key for IT-NETWORKING SPECIALIST STUDENT

With her eyes set on a position in an area school district, IT-Networking Specialist student Raven Schneeberger jumped into student life at Blackhawk Technical College. Raven is a member of BTC's Student Government Association and serves as a Peer Advisor as well as a tutor.

“The environment of BTC is super inviting and helpful compared to other schools I experienced in the past,” said Raven.

She chose BTC for many reasons: it was close to home, tuition was affordable and it had the program to match her career goals. Raven is in her second year at BTC and is a recipient of scholarships through the Blackhawk Foundation. Their financial support helps make college a possibility for her.

The experience at BTC has helped her to become more involved not only on campus but also in the community. “I have built a network of people who can help me on my journey.” In addition to her life on campus, Raven also works for Youth2Youth as a communications specialist.

“Raven’s involvement on campus as a tutor, in student government, on hiring committees - all are a testament to Raven’s success,” said Web Development Instructor Melissa Dix.

Raven credits engaging instructors and advisors for her success. According to Raven, “The instructors and advisors are seriously the best tools in the BTC toolbox: use them. I suggest getting involved with something on campus if you can, whether it be a work-study, internship, organization, peer advisor, something, because it gives you a more rounded experience as a college student.”

However, instructors give the praise and accolades back to Raven. “She is an exemplary student, and her instructors recognize her firm grasp on the material she’s learned. What makes Raven even more exceptional is her willingness and ability to share what she’s learned with other students in the lab - making her a fantastic asset as a student and also as a peer,” said Melissa.

Raven graduated this spring. “I see how much faculty works towards being the best

Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

63 Credits

\$9,986

Average Wage

\$41,597

**based on WTCS Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates*

Potential Careers

- Network Administrator
- Help Desk Specialist
- Network Support Specialist
- Technical Support Specialist
- Network Technician
- User Support Specialist
- Technical Consultant

for students. My experience at Blackhawk has been pretty amazing.”

For more information about getting involved at BTC, visit blackhawk.edu/Student-Resources/Student-Life.



The Future of Blackhawk:

PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION CENTER

In fall of 2018, the College was presented with the opportunity to purchase land adjacent to Central Campus. As a landlocked institution with hopes of future growth, these opportunities don't come around every day. At the time, the College was conducting classes for truck driver training as well as law enforcement in the parking lots nearest County Road G. With the available land and the need to relocate training out of the parking lots, the College jumped on the opportunity to secure the purchase of the land. The purchase was made in spring 2019.

Since that time, a team from the College (led by Rob Balsamo) has worked with various groups, staff and the community to evaluate the college's needs and develop recommendations on how to best use the land for years to come. The initial need identified was an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) primarily for use by truck driver training and law enforcement programs. The team toured multiple EVOC facilities and met with public safety and transportation organizations and determined the College truly has an opportunity to create an incredible environment for public safety and transportation studies. The proposed multi-use center will serve not only Blackhawk students, but also law enforcement agencies, fire departments, distribution centers, and more for years to come.

The center will provide a home for the following programs:

- Electric Power Distribution
- EMS/EMT
- Fire Science
- Law Enforcement
- CDL/Truck Driver Training
- Auto Technician
- Diesel Technician
- Motorcycle Safety
- Select Workforce and Community Development offerings

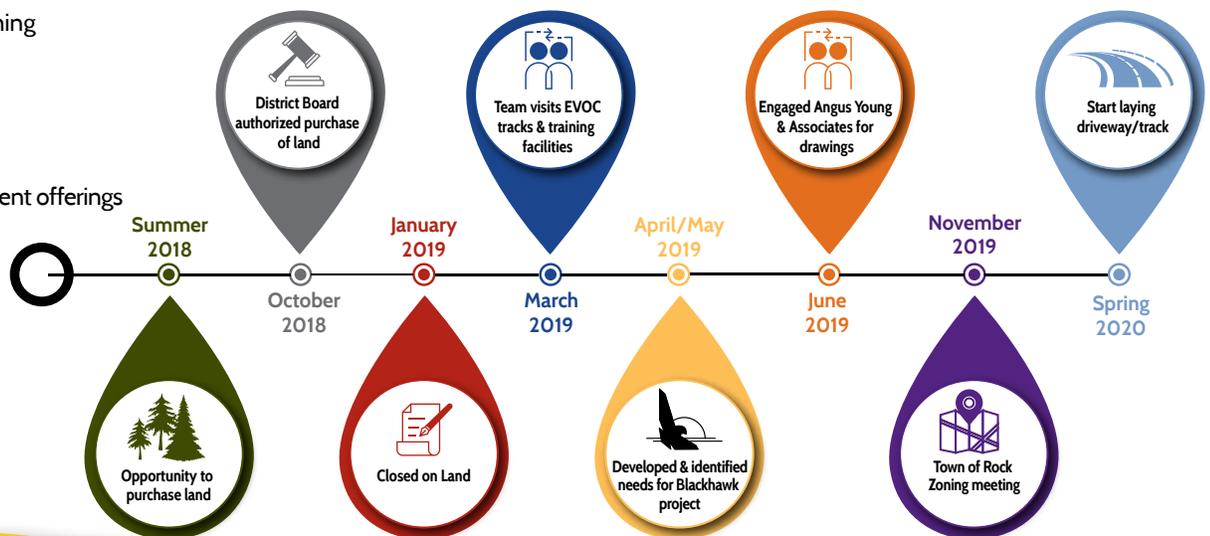
This is Blackhawk's opportunity to look to the future to address the changing needs of students and community partners in Rock and Green Counties. Here are some of the issues/concerns that drove the committee's planning:

Safety

The college currently has several areas using parking lots for training: truck driver training, law enforcement, fire science, EMS, and motorcycle safety. As the College's enrollment grows, that space will be needed for parking and even more space will be needed to serve the growing academic areas to meet the demand of our workforce. Not to mention, training in the parking lot is not ideal for the safety of our students, employees, or visitors.

Use of External Training Spaces

The College currently pays to rent a variety of facilities to offset and enhance course content that we currently offer. For example, Blackhawk rents time at Blackhawk Farms Raceway, conducts tactical training at Mercy Health System, and makes use of the City of Janesville pistol range. Classes have also had to relocate to larger parking lots in the community as well as rent other public safety training facilities outside of our college district.



Growth

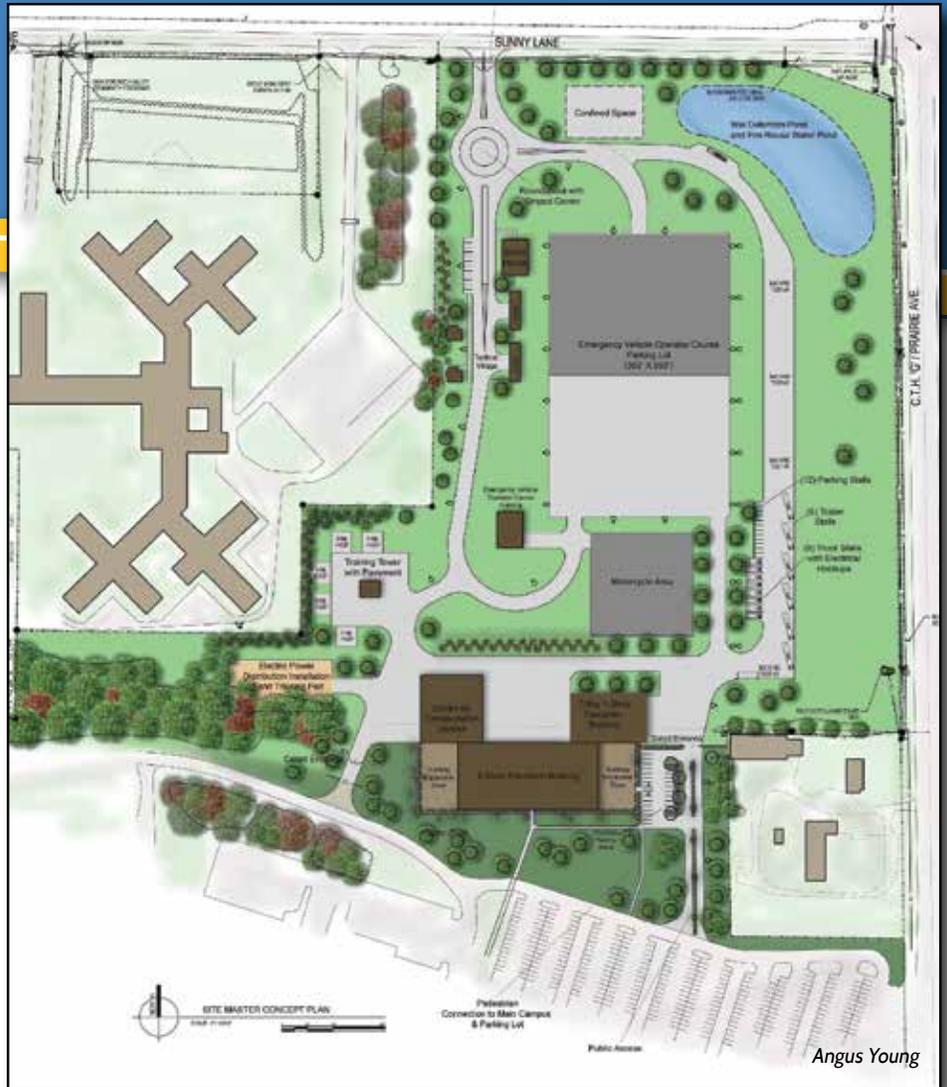
With the demand for more public safety and transportation employees in our communities, many of our programs are simply outgrowing their current physical locations. All of our public safety and transportation programs are in need of upgraded lab, classroom, and storage areas. Parking lots are deteriorating as they were not necessarily intended for their current use. Tactical training often spills out into hallways, takes place at off-campus locations, or is impacted by the scheduling of shared spaces.

Benefits

1. Reduce operational costs from rental of/ travel to other facilities
2. Increase student instruction time; decrease travel and set-up time for practical training
3. Substantially increase student, staff, and visitor safety
4. Centrally locate resources for student learning and success to gain efficiencies
5. Increase professional development and new training offerings for community partners
6. Practical training labs and simulation areas designed for current and future needs of the programs and partners

Moving to the Future

The College is excited to move forward and address the changing public safety and transportation training needs of its region. In May, the College broke ground to begin construction on the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course. The first part of that course will be completed by early fall. Stay tuned to Blackhawk.edu for more information on this and other construction projects at the College.



Angus Young



BLACKHAWK SCHOLARS

New Earn & Learn Program to Address Workforce Shortages



Blackhawk Technical College has implemented a new earn and learn program in partnership with business and industry, to recruit, educate, and graduate students in fields where workforce shortages exist.

IT-Web Software Development student Leonardo Saenz has learned first-hand the benefits of being a Blackhawk Scholar. "You can start the program after your first semester and it's amazing! I've found a lot of success through the program in finding a great internship within my field, making professional connections and improving my skills."

Through this program, students can expect to:

- gain the skills necessary to excel in today's business world
- receive valuable, on-the-job work experience related to their field (*attending full- or part-time*) and earning their degree
- attend classes through a variety of flexible delivery options
- potentially secure a rewarding, well-paying career with an area employer after graduation

Leonardo began his journey at Blackhawk for the flexible classes that provide hands-on experience in the latest technologies. The flexible delivery allowed him to continue working a full-time job. And now he has added Blackhawk Scholar at Royle Printing in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin to his resume. Royle Printing was the first company to sign on as a participant in the program.

"The Blackhawk Scholars program allows you to continue your education at Blackhawk Technical College while gaining valuable work experience with local employers," said Kerry Osmond, Internship Specialist at Blackhawk. "Students will be paid a minimum of \$12 per hour and may be eligible for tuition reimbursement or a stipend, at the employer's discretion."

This non-traditional approach to pursuing a degree and employment has been a positive experience for Leonardo. "The flexible classes provided by Blackhawk have been a wonderful experience. I've been able to make time for my family, work, and myself while still being able to complete assignments and course work."

Blackhawk has provided support to help Leonardo succeed. As a veteran with previous military credits, the College was able to transfer in credit to help him complete his degree faster. "I was able to rework my semester plans to allow me to best use my time. This has greatly helped me in completing courses." Leonardo plans to transfer after completing his degree at Blackhawk with intentions to eventually start his own company for IT solutions.

"I could not have asked for better teachers in guiding me in my journey through BTC."

-Leonardo



About the Blackhawk Scholars Program

Blackhawk Scholars must be enrolled at Blackhawk Technical College as a part- or full-time student (must be at least 18 years old) in one of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) degree programs, have successfully completed a minimum of six credits within their program, and maintain a 2.5 GPA or better throughout the program.

Blackhawk Scholars must also remain in good standing as an employee of the sponsoring employer. Blackhawk Scholars must also permit the College to release academic progress reports and semester grade reports to your sponsoring employer.

For more information, visit blackhawk.edu/Professional-Training/Blackhawk-Scholars



PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Associate Degrees

- Accounting
- Administrative Professional
- Agribusiness/Science Technology
- Automation Systems Technology
- Behavior Technician
- Business Management
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Culinary Arts
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography & Vascular
- 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
- IT-Web Software Developer
- Laboratory Food Science Technician
- Leadership Development
- Medical Administrative Coder
- Medical Administrative Specialist
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Nuclear Technology
- Nursing
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiation Safety/Health Physics
- Radiography
- Sales Management
- Substance Use Disorder Counseling
- Supply Chain Management
- Surgical Technology
- Technical Studies - Journeyworker

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

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 Cor Arc Welding
- Gas Metal Arc Welding
- Gas Tungsten Arc Welding
- Residential HVAC
- Shielded Metal Arc Welding
- Substance Abuse Education

Apprenticeships

- Electrical Apprenticeship
- Industrial Electrical Apprenticeship
- Industrial Maintenance Apprenticeship
- Mechatronics Apprenticeship

FLEXIBLE EDUCATION. SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.





Blackhawk Technical College
6004 S County Road G • P.O. Box 5009
Janesville, WI 53547-5009

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Janesville, WI
PERMIT NO. 402



**Discover our flexible class options that
allow you to earn credits & get ahead!**

Get started at BLACKHAWK.edu/get-connected
info@blackhawk.edu • (608) 757-7710



BTC is an EO/AA educator/employer. For more information, go to blackhawk.edu