



## Wisconsin Fast Forward – *Blueprint for Prosperity* Addressing Technical College Wait Lists

Governor Walker signed 2013 Act 139 into law in March 2014 as part of his *Blueprint for Prosperity* initiative following the strong bipartisan support of the state Legislature. The legislation allocated an additional \$35.4 to the Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training program with a focus on three areas:

- **Reduction of waits lists at Wisconsin technical colleges for high-demand fields.**
- Collaborative projects between high schools, technical colleges, businesses, and other partners to increase opportunities for high school students to earn industry-recognized credentials.
- Enhancing the employment opportunities for workers with disabilities.



Governor Walker in July 2014 announced more than \$28 million in Wisconsin Fast Forward grants to reduce technical college wait lists. Highlights include:

**Number of technical colleges awarded grants: 16**  
**Total amount: \$28,021,052**  
**Number of programs funded: 100**  
**Projected number of students: 4,908**

### WTCS School Grant Evaluation

- Technical colleges submitted initial lists of programs for grant consideration earlier this year. Each technical college was instructed to prioritize high-demand fields linked to regional cluster or sector economic development strategies.
- Technical colleges were instructed to include with each submission a variety of other data that DWD analyzed along with other data sources to forecast the potential impact of each funding request on the local, regional and state economy.
- DWD excluded from eligibility the use of grant funds for capital projects, new curriculum development, remediation-related coursework, financial aid and other specific areas.



### WTCS Program Submission Scoring System

DWD developed nine criteria to objectively evaluate each technical college program submission, with a maximum of 37 points for the highest priority programs at each technical college. A total of 100 out of 141 requests from WTCS colleges were funded using this formula:

Criteria	Maximum Points	Description
<b>Technical College Priority</b>	<b>4</b>	Technical colleges used perceived employer demand and the potential impact upon the local economy to prioritize submissions.
<b>Employer Commitment to Hire</b>	<b>5</b>	Strength of regional employers' commitment to hire graduates based on existing surveys or other evidence of employer support, lists of employers with stated skilled labor demands, documented regional cluster or workforce sector strategies, employer letters of support, or other evidence.
<b>High-Demand Fields</b>	<b>5</b>	Based on 10-year job projections; skill sets noted in regional economic development and growth plans; wage progression for occupational titles as determined by labor market economists.
<b>Job Openings</b>	<b>5</b>	Potential for hires determined through annual projections based on occupational codes and job titles in counties and regions.
<b>Regional Economic Development – Sector Strategy</b>	<b>4</b>	Job title and sector demands as documented in regional economic growth plans or workforce sector strategies.
<b>Return on Investment – Payback Period</b>	<b>4</b>	Higher points for quicker payback periods as calculated by labor market economists.
<b>Per-Student Cost</b>	<b>3</b>	Number of students to be trained divided by total funding request of specific program.
<b>Credential/Diploma/Degree Awarded</b>	<b>4</b>	Points assigned based upon the type of credential, diploma or degree awarded to graduates of each program.
<b>Duration of Training – Time to Hire</b>	<b>3</b>	Short-duration programs to complete training or to secure a credential (e.g. boot camps or one semester programs) received more points than programs that required 1-2 years to complete.
<b>Maximum Number of Points Available: 37</b>		



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