

# Jenstead was a tireless advocate for WCTC

She spread the message of technical colleges worldwide

By Joe Petrie  
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WAUKESHA – After taking the helm, Waukesha County Technical College President Barbara Prindiville found herself with a positive board leader who could help take the school forward – Joan Jenstead.

“I just loved her. She was like a second mom to me,” Prindiville said. “She has been a tireless advocate for technical colleges.”

Jenstead, a 26-year veteran of the WCTC District Board of Trustees and nationally recognized leader for technical colleges, died Friday. She was 75 years old.

Jenstead lived in Brookfield and was a graduate of WCTC, which Prindiville said helped her lead while keeping both the concerns of students and taxpayers in mind.

She was president of the board five times, with her last stint ending in July. Prindiville said Jenstead also was twice named to the Wisconsin District Board Association, and was the longest serving member of the Association of Community College Trustees Board, a national two-year college advocacy organization.

Jenstead also helped forge international relationships, Prindiville said, when she went to Hessen, Germany to represent Wisconsin and help leaders there understand the concepts of American technical education.

“She leaves a tremendous legacy. She guided the college through three administrations, through campus expansions, and when we did a referendum she was part of that, and the devel-



Jenstead

opment of many new initiatives,” Prindiville said. “She was a wonderful mentor and she was so supportive of women in leadership roles.”

Besides her service to the college, Jenstead also served as property manager for Ten Chimneys, where leaders there said her efforts contributed to the historic site’s national rise to prominence.

“You can’t just send a cleaning crew out to take care of Ten Chimneys estate. She had to work with so many layers and she had the ability to do it all well,” Ten Chimneys Foundation President Sean Malone said. “She had to be simultaneously gracious and wonderful and a pitbull when it came to the vendors to make sure her budget came in right. The money we spent on the facility and overhead came in under budget every single year with her, and that has an enormous impact. Her unsung contribution was profound.”

Jenstead also was active in Brookfield, where she served on the city’s economic development board. Economic development coordinator Patrick Drinan said she provided perspectives from both the world of real estate and higher education to the group’s work.

“She was the consummate volunteer and spent a lot of dedicated time on committee matters,” he said. “She always had a sharp perspective and aggressive approach to pressing economic matters.”