• The artistic talents of alum Joe Till
• Explore rewarding careers in health
• Earn college credit in high school
Welcome!

Waukesha County Technical College graduates positively impact the communities in which they live and work. Their contributions can be felt far and wide – and in numerous industries.

They’re working in accounting offices helping to prepare your tax returns. They’re public servants at local police and fire departments ensuring the safety of others. They’re driving trucks that transport the goods we use in our daily lives. They’re nurses and allied health professionals providing top-notch medical care with heart. They’re manufacturing precision parts used in machines, tools and devices that make our lives easier.

WCTC Impact showcases stories of how our graduates, students, instructors, and community and business partners are making a difference in the world around them, and how WCTC has propelled them to succeed. This new publication highlights the latest happenings, changes and improvements at the College, and it shines a light on student achievement.

Please enjoy this inaugural edition of WCTC Impact!
From raw talent to studio owner

Graphic Design grad creates bold, distinctive art for clients

Like many young kids, Joe Till loved to draw. He remembers having a pencil or marker in hand nearly all the time, filling page after blank page with creative sketches of dinosaurs, sports figures and superheroes.

And, like many young kids, Till enjoyed watching and playing sports, namely basketball. He played hoops throughout his childhood and into high school until a knee injury sidelined him from the game.

By the time Till got to second or third grade, however, his art (now mostly basketball themed) began to take on a more stylized look – one commonly associated with graphic design.

“I was looking at art and redesigning NBA logos long before I even knew what that was. I remember my mom saying that graphic design was a job, even though I wanted to be an NBA player for a bit,” he joked.

TECH COLLEGE – OR ART SCHOOL?

Till’s talent in illustration – paired with a desire to explore the technical side of art and design, and the practical side of printing – brought him to Waukesha County Technical College. He enrolled in the Dual Enrollment Academy’s Printing and Publishing program in 2014 while a senior at Greendale High School, and he completed his WCTC education earning an associate degree in Graphic Design in 2017.

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“Naturally, I thought about going to MIAD, but once I was in the dual enrollment program, it wiped away any doubts I had about coming to WCTC,” Till said. “I fell in love with WCTC in my senior year, and it provided me with great background in (Adobe) InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop programs. A lot of what you learn in printing and publishing applies to graphic design, and I really got a scope of how to create something all the way to getting it produced.”

Till got involved with many WCTC organizations and earned accolades along the way, such as serving as president of the Graphics Club, and membership in the National Technical Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the American Institute of Graphic Arts. He competed and placed second in the Phoenix Challenge, a competition that tests knowledge of platemaking, press operation, math and prepress skills. Additionally, he designed the poster for the College’s Graphic Design Portfolio Night, and he earned the Outstanding Student Award for both his program and the School of Applied Technologies.

**PROJECTS IN THE BREW CITY**

A requirement for many WCTC programs, including Graphic Design, is the completion of an internship. One of Till’s classmates had interned at Sprecher Brewing Co., and he encouraged Till to get in touch with the brewery’s creative team. He did, landed an internship – and then a job.

“They loved my style. I worked on rebranding some of their beer products during the summer, and that led into them hiring me as a regular employee,” he said.

While at Sprecher, Till refined his craft, creating bold, distinctive package design. He had the chance to work on labels for several year-round beer varieties, including Abbey Triple, Special Amber and Black Bavarian.

The experience he gained at the microbrewery “was amazing,” Till said, but he had a strong desire to start his own brand, with his own name. So began Joe Till Studios, a full-service creative firm focusing on illustration, design and brand strategy.

“I went to meet-ups, talked to a lot of people, and when I asked around about working for myself, most people said, ‘no, don’t do it.’ But the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to take a chance,” he said.

Opportunities knocked for Till, and his passion for art and basketball would merge again. He connected with the Milwaukee Bucks and was hired to create a mural for its NBA 2K off-site gaming studio. His artwork was also selected for a limited edition t-shirt design, which was available at the first Klement’s Milwaukee Monday Bucks’ game of the 2018-19 season. Additionally, he has done commissioned pieces for pro athletes and their families, and he has created work that accompanied an ESPN story.

“The highlight of my career so far has been going to that Bucks’ game and seeing the shirt I designed in the pro shop. As an illustrator, that was really something,” he said.

Beyond sports organizations and breweries, Till’s clients include restaurants, performers, public figures, nonprofit agencies, retail stores, water parks and more.

The young artist hasn’t looked back on taking a chance and starting his own business. It’s rewarding work, he says, and he credits WCTC for providing the framework for a solid career.
WCTC offers healthcare options for those interested in patient care or nonclinical roles

Career options in healthcare go well beyond becoming a doctor or a nurse, and expensive medical schooling is not the only place to begin.

In addition to the well-known and respected Nursing program, WCTC offers several programs that can kick-start a rewarding career in the healthcare field while saving students time and money.

One especially popular program is the Medical Assistant technical diploma, which can be achieved in just one year. Students learn a broad range of skills to perform administrative, lab and clinical tasks to prepare for work in a variety of settings.

Another short-term technical diploma program, Phlebotomy Technician, gives students hands-on training to draw blood and collect other specimens safely and effectively. In just 16 credits, students are on their way to a career that is always in demand.

Those drawn to the specialized setting of the operating room can earn an associate degree in Surgical Technology, developing in-depth knowledge of human anatomy, medical terminology and surgical equipment. This career path is a great fit for those who enjoy working on a team, are detail oriented and have a steady hand. The affordable, two-year program earns graduates an average salary between $49,000 and $72,000 annually.

An associate degree is not the only way to become part of the surgical team. WCTC offers a Central Service Technician technical diploma, which can be earned in just six credits. Those in this role maintain the tools and equipment used in sterile surgical settings and other patient care areas, helping to keep the hospital running smoothly.

Another key component of healthcare efficiency is information technology. In WCTC’s Health Information Technology associate degree program, students learn how to best collect, analyze and report healthcare data while protecting the integrity and security of patient information. As technology continues to rapidly evolve, the healthcare industry is facing a growing need for knowledgeable graduates to fill these roles.

Bilingual students have a unique opportunity in the Language Interpreter for Health Services program. Clear communication is vital to effective healthcare, and hospitals need employees who can help bridge language and cultural gaps. This 21-credit technical diploma can be earned in just three semesters.

WCTC also offers short-term certificate programs and partnership programs with other area colleges for students looking to pursue a career in healthcare. With so many facets to explore, there are options to fit any interest, schedule and budget. Most importantly, a technical education helps WCTC graduates provide cutting-edge care.

For a comprehensive list of WCTC health-related programs, visit www.wctc.edu/programs.
Since the 2013-14 academic year, Waukesha County Technical College has offered high school seniors an opportunity to earn college credits and industry-recognized certificates through the Dual Enrollment Academy (DEA). It gives students a jump-start on their post-secondary education in programs that prepare them for jobs in high-demand fields. The DEA also exposes them to the college experience as they spend the majority of their school days at WCTC working in cutting-edge labs.

INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT, NEW PROGRAMS ADDED

In its first year, 40 students were enrolled in three programs. Now, in 2018-19, the academy has grown to 140 students in seven programs – with plans to expand in 2019-20. Additionally, well-qualified juniors are now welcome in DEA.

“Word has spread so fast about the Dual Enrollment Academy, and what I’ve noticed is that it’s become part of the culture in the (K-12) school districts,” said Sandra Maylen, WCTC coordinator of Early College Opportunities. “Planning can start as early as freshman year.”

Dual Enrollment Academy experiences significant growth

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The DEA maintains strong industry partnerships, which help support the programs and keep it affordable for students and their families.

To be eligible, students must have a strong interest in pursuing a career related to their program, be in good academic standing with a minimum 2.0 high school GPA, meet WCTC program requirements, and have parental and high school approval.

FIRST CLASS TO PRESENT DAY

As a DEA student in the initial 2013-14 class, Jason Koepp says the experience has led him to a rewarding career at Trace-a-Matic, where he currently works as a CNC machinist – and has been employed since he was a student.

“The Tool and Die program at WCTC was great. When I stepped foot into my first machine shop, I was confident in what was going on,” he said. “This has given me the ability to learn and grow in the industry.”

For current DEA Hospitality Specialist student Adrianonia Williams, dual enrollment has given her inspiration and is helping her prepare for the future.

“WCTC is an amazing institution, and it has instructors who really want you to succeed,” she said. “The program is outstanding, and I’ve learned so many new skills that can be used in various career fields.”

BROTHERS BENEFIT FROM DEA

Students and their families have reaped the benefits of DEA, thanks to a savings of time, credits and money.

Max Czechowski earned his associate degree in Automation Systems Technology (AST) in 2018, but started studying robotics in the DEA program as a high school senior in 2016-17.

“There is no better use of a senior year than to get an introduction to college and an introduction to industry,” Max said. “Technical education is really practical; it makes sense. What we learn here will make us successful in our careers.”

A hallmark of all DEA programs, Max earned enough credits in his senior year to need just one additional year of studies to complete his associate degree. He is currently taking additional classes at WCTC and plans to transfer to a four-year university to earn a bachelor’s degree.

Max’s younger brother, Mark Czechowski, is following his lead. Mark is now a high school senior and a student in the DEA’s IT-Computer Support Specialist program.

“Max would tell me things that he learned … and you could see that he took great pride in his education at WCTC. I also saw a degree get handed to Max one year out of high school, which then motivated me to follow in his footsteps,” Mark said.

Mark’s time in the DEA so far has been a positive one. He is excelling in his classes, meeting new people and learning from instructors who bring real-world examples into the classroom. He plans to continue along the IT path and complete his associate degree next year.

Max and Mark’s mother, Laurie Czechowski, said both her sons have benefited from dual enrollment. It has provided them a head start in college, given them a feel for what college involves and introduced them to other like-minded students. Plus, she said, it’s a significant savings in tuition and books.

“WCTC is a hidden gem in our community, and it has instructors who really want you to succeed.”

– Adrianonia Williams

DEA Hospitality Specialist

Dual Enrollment Academy offerings (for 2019-20 school year)

• Automation Systems Technology
• Building Construction Trades
• Firefighter/EMT
• Hospitality Specialist
• IT Systems Specialist
• Preschool Credential
• Tool and Die/CNC
• Welding/Fabrication

243 high school students have completed a Dual Enrollment Academy program since 2014.
63% of them have continued on toward a WCTC degree!
To fulfill their program requirements, WCTC’s Hospitality Management and Culinary Management students spend hours in the kitchen, behind the bar and in front of the house in The Classic Room and The Classic Bistro, the College’s on-site training restaurants. Second-year students gain valuable experiences creating the menu, preparing foods, interacting with customers and serving meals to diners.

The restaurants recently completed a multi-year renovation project, which included adding space for more diners and a private dining room, updating kitchen/prep spaces with state-of-the-art appliances and remodeling the main dining room to reflect an airy, modern feel.

The Classic Room and The Classic Bistro provides diners with the opportunity to have a wonderful, unique meal – American and international fare in the dining room and soups, salads, sandwiches and pizzas in the bistro – overlooking a wooded setting, and it gives students an authentic training experience.

“It’s a live operation,” said Brad Beran, Ph.D., associate dean of Hospitality, Culinary, and Baking and Pastry Management. “An easy way to think about it is, we have a car, we throw them the keys and they run it - under supervision.”

Open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
February through mid-May; September through mid-December
For more information, visit www.wctc.edu | 262.691.5194

• The Classic Room
  Reservations required
  Seatings at Noon, 12:15 p.m.
  and 12:30 p.m.

• The Classic Bistro
  No reservations required
  Serving Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Michael Hostad is quick to tell others that his WCTC education is what laid the foundation for the rest of his career. “WCTC set me on the right path for what I wanted to achieve and opened the doors for me to get started.” He graduated in 2000, with an associate degree in Microcomputer Support Specialist, along with an advanced certificate in Computer Networking. Shortly after, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch University.

Early in his career, Hostad focused on IT and web development roles. He co-founded UWM’s Mobile Innovation Lab, where he worked as the college’s director of Web and Mobile Strategy. He then moved on to serve as executive director of Innovation in Milwaukee and co-founder of The Commons, an initiative of the Greater Milwaukee Committee. Last year, he was named The Commons’ executive director. The Commons is a bold collaboration between a growing network of southeast Wisconsin universities and colleges, the metro Milwaukee business community and regional entrepreneurs.

Through this experience, Hostad has met many technical college students, and he makes a point of connecting with them. “I’m always happy to share and offer to help in any way that I can,” he said. The IT grad’s hard work and dedication have earned him several accolades, and his activity with business/community organizations have further propelled his success.

Hostad was named to Milwaukee Business Journal’s “Forty under 40” list in 2014 and was the recipient of the 2016 Cardinal Stritch University “Graduate of the Last Decade” award, among other honors. He co-founded Light the Hoan, was a lead project manager for the MKE United project and has served on several education and community boards.

“I can’t say enough about how the education I received at WCTC prepared me for success in my career. I’m grateful to have been a part of such a fantastic organization.”

To kick off the first event of the WCTC Speaker Series, and to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, WCTC is hosting Elizabeth Smart on Tuesday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Building S on the main Pewaukee Campus.

The abduction of Smart was one of the most followed cases in recent history. She was kidnapped in June 2002 at age 14, and her abductors controlled her by threatening to kill her and her family if she tried to escape. Fortunately, the police safely returned Smart to her family in March 2003, after being held captive for nine grueling months.

Smart will share her poignant, personal story of being a survivor of child abduction and how she has become an advocate for change related to child abduction, recovery programs and national legislation.

Cost of the event is $40 for community members and includes a light lunch; registration is required. Smart’s memoir, “My Story,” which details how she survived her abduction and the secret to forging a new life in the wake of a brutal crime, will be available for purchase.

WCTC’s Office of Compliance and Equity and the Student Government Association are sponsoring the event.
Starting and growing a business is about combining courage and dreams with the right knowledge. That’s why WCTC’s Small Business Center is dedicated to providing affordable courses, free one-on-one counseling, networking events and more for current and aspiring small business owners.

Jayne Laste, owner of Jayne Laste Design Solutions, designs print products for a wide variety of clients on a national scale. “At a career crossroads five years ago, I knew I had the talent and basic know-how to provide competitive value and services,” says Laste, “but as I started my business in 2013, I knew I needed guidance and a push in the right direction.” Laste began her journey with WCTC’s Small Business Certificate and has since continued working through several for-credit marketing courses and certificates.

“The staff has been amazing,” says Laste. “They’ve been in the field themselves and know firsthand the challenges small business owners face. They answer real-world questions with real-world answers.”

The Small Business Center works with businesses of all shapes and sizes, but Laste has found plenty of insight specific to her goals. “I have realized that marketing and graphic design are interwoven skill sets for businesses,” says Laste. “I understand the connection in which good design works with marketing efforts to further a business’s greater goal.”

The Small Business Center is a resource for anyone, regardless of experience level or area of expertise. For Harrison Keyes, the road to owning a small business has been long and winding. “I have had an interest in motor vehicles ever since I rode in my first go-kart,” says Keyes. His journey into small business ownership started back in 2000, when he got a job at Jerry’s Automotive. He moved his way up from sweeping the floors to head technician, dreaming along the way of eventually owning his own business.

Keyes graduated from WCTC’s ACDelco TCEP program (now Automotive Technology - GM ASEP). “This two-year associate degree program helped me with all of the basic skills and knowledge I would need to succeed in the auto repair industry,” says Keyes. He has been an active member on the program’s advisory board ever since.

After pursuing his goal of business ownership for some time, Keyes grew frustrated trying to sort through the overwhelming amount of information on his own. He decided to reach out to his alma mater and was connected immediately with the Small Business Center. “I knew I was on the right track with the Small Business Certificate program,” he said. Beginning the program in January of 2018, Keyes graduated on May 10 and bought a business on May 29. “The teachers were very knowledgeable and capable of adapting every class to meet the needs of each individual student...” – Harrison Keyes

The individuals served by WCTC’s Small Business Center are a constant source of inspiration. Through thoughtfully designed curriculum, individualized attention, scholarship opportunities and more, the Small Business Center is able to meet its clients wherever they are on their journey and help them achieve their unique goals.
Nursing grad earns prestigious award

At WCTC’s Nursing Pinning Ceremony, held Dec. 18, graduate Eric Eichelberger was presented with the Wisconsin Nurses Association Future Leader Award. All Wisconsin schools of nursing are invited to nominate one student from their graduating class for this award.

Nominees are those who show exemplary leadership and embody the ethics and values of nursing. Only five students in the state are selected for this award by the WNA Mentorship Committee each semester.

Two new programs to be offered in fall

WCTC is gearing up to offer two exciting new programs in the fall 2019 semester: Customer Service Specialist and Supply Chain Management. Industry partners have identified both as programs in high demand by employers in the Milwaukee and Waukesha areas.

The Customer Service Specialist program is a 19-credit technical diploma that students can achieve in just one year. This is the first technical diploma program of its kind in the Wisconsin Technical College System. WCTC will transform one of its classrooms into a lab designed specifically for simulating a call center, giving students vital exposure to this real-world work environment.

Supply Chain Management is a 60-credit associate degree program that explores in depth how to create and manage an efficient flow of goods and services for businesses of any size. This program meets a growing need in Waukesha County for knowledgeable supply chain and logistics employees.

New job openings in both customer service and supply chain management are growing quickly throughout the state of Wisconsin. The Supply Chain Management degree program and the Customer Service Specialist diploma program are now accepting applicants for fall.

MEET JACK JAEGER

Technical training in the trades: the right path for 2018 grad

When Jack Jaeger was deciding on what he wanted to do with his future, he knew a job behind a desk wasn’t the right gig for him. When he was old enough to work, he was drawn to jobs where he could use his hands.

“Before I went to (WCTC) I was working in the manufacturing area,” he said.

Learning a technical trade was the perfect educational path for Jaeger. He enrolled in WCTC’s Industrial Maintenance Technician program, gained hands-on, practical experience through lab work and an internship at Quad Graphics, and he earned his technical diploma in 2018.

“WCTC really gives you a good baseline to tackle everyday tasks at work. You learn something, and the next day, you can use it at work,” said Jaeger, who now works as a service engineer at Helios Gear Products in South Elgin, Ill. “I have a really good career, and I’m living on my own.”

“You couldn’t ask for a better experience, and with all the scholarships and grants I got at WCTC, I left with no debt.”

– Jack Jaeger

Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language offerings move to Pewaukee Campus

WCTC’s main campus is welcoming two new additions: Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language (ESL). In January, these programs moved from the Waukesha Campus at 327 E. Broadway to the Pewaukee Campus at 800 Main Street.

Both programs are now hosted in Building K, which formerly housed the bookstore. With the move, there is potential for more than 1,000 additional students at the Pewaukee Campus.
Visit wctc.edu to find out more about WCTC programs!

ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION
Associate Degrees:
Architectural Drafting/Construction Technology
Technical Diplomas:
Building Trades - Carpentry, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating
Service Technician

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT
Associate Degrees:
Business Management, Human Resources, Leadership Development, Quality Management
Technical Diplomas:
Customer Service Specialist, Human Resource Professional, Organizational Leadership

EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
Associate Degrees:
Early Childhood Education, Foundations of Teacher Education, Human Services, Associate Interior Design, Master Aesthetician, Technical Diplomas:
Aesthetician, Cosmetology

FINANCE
Associate Degree:
Accounting

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS
Associate Degrees:
Graphic Design, Web and Digital Media Design

HEALTH
Associate Degrees:
Anesthesia Technology, Dental Hygienist, Health Care Services Management, Health Information Technology, Nursing – Associate Degree, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography, Surgical Technology
Technical Diplomas:
Central Service Technician, Dental Assistant, Language Interpreter for Health Services, Medical Assistant, Medical Coding Specialist, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy Technician

HOSPITALITY, CULINARY AND PASTRY
Associate Degrees:
Baking and Pastry Management, Culinary Management, Hospitality Management
Technical Diplomas:
Baking and Pastry Production, Food Service Production, Hospitality Specialist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Associate Degrees:
IT - Computer Support Specialist, IT - Database Specialist, IT - Network Security Specialist (Cybersecurity), IT - Network Specialist, IT - Web and Software Developer
Technical Diplomas:
Desktop Support Technician, IT - Mobile Programmer, IT - Software Development Specialist, Network Enterprise Administrator, Apprenticeship:
IT - Service Desk Technician

MANUFACTURING
Associate Degrees:
Automation Systems Technology, Metal Fabrication/Welding - Advanced, Technical Studies - Journeyworker
Technical Diplomas:
CNC Setup Technician, Industrial Maintenance Technician, Machine Tool Operation, Metal Fabrication/Welding Tool and Die Making, Welding Technician

MARKETING AND SALES
Associate Degree:
Global Business, Marketing, Real Estate, Supply Chain Management
Technical Diplomas:
Import/Export Specialist, Property Management Associate

PROTECTIVE SERVICES
Associate Degrees:
Criminal Justice Studies, Fire Medic, Fire Protection Technician, Paramedic Technician (degree)
Technical Diplomas:
Advanced EMT, Emergency Medical Technician, EMS Leadership and Management, Paramedic Technician (diploma)
Academy:
Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Academy

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM)
Associate Degrees:
Biomedical Electronics Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Technology, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Mechanical Design Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology

TRANSPORTATION
Associate Degrees:
Automotive Technology - General Option, Automotive Technology - GM ASEP Option, Diesel Equipment Technology
Technical Diplomas:
Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair, Automotive Maintenance Technician, Diesel Equipment Mechanic Truck Driving (CDL Class A)

WCTC APPRENTICESHIPS
Concrete Finishing (ABC), Electrician (ABC), Industrial Electrician, Injection Mold Setup (Plastic), Machinist, Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright, Maintenance Technician Mechatronics Technician Plumbing (ABC), Tool and Die Maker Welding

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