

WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Date of enactment: 4/12/2023
Date of publication: 4/20/2023

2023 RESOLUTION 6

Advisory Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Pilot Community College Concept

WHEREAS, in the last 15 years, demographic trends impacted both UWM at Washington County leaving devastating enrollment declines; and Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) with significant enrollment decreases; MPTC is still sustaining strong programming with fiscal responsibility, despite these challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Higher Education Task Force (the “Task Force”), comprised of leaders from industry, K-12 districts, higher education, government and elected officials, was convened by the Washington County Executive to evaluate and provide recommendations for sustainable higher education in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force conducted eight due diligence sessions to examine higher education in Washington County from the perspective of:

- Current and future state
- K-12 programs in collaboration with institutions of higher learning
- Financial structure and sustainability
- Current needs of industry and employers in Washington County
- Voice of the student
- What other states are doing in two-year college education; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the higher education institutions in the county, along with Task Force members, provided significant data that was examined by the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, an examination of models and trends of two-year campuses across the country was conducted; and

WHEREAS, both UWM at Washington County and Moraine Park Technical College now offer competing two-year liberal arts associate degrees; and

WHEREAS, UWM at Washington County and its students are supported by scholarships from the Washington County Foundation (the “Foundation”); and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Technical college System has five long-standing dual track community college concepts – Nicolet College in Rhineland; Madison Area Technical College in Madison (branded as Madison College); Milwaukee Area Technical College in Milwaukee; Western Technical College in La Crosse; and Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire serving as precedents for a similar community college concepts in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the investigation of the Task Force revealed that Washington County needs a new model for higher education that serves all relevant stakeholders and is a magnet to keep young residents in the community and this model must include the following characteristics:

- 1 • Affordable – Incredible value – Offering high ROI to students
- 2 • Accessible in-person and on-line
- 3 • Customizable to each student
- 4 • Strong K-12 partnerships
- 5 • Responsive to employer needs
- 6 • Unmatched direct pipelines to Washington County communities
- 7 • Gateway for further education; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force has determined that to ensure a sustainable higher education
10 system in Washington County, it is in the best interest of the students, residents, employers, school
11 districts, taxpayers and both higher education institutions in the county to combine the resources
12 from UWM at Washington County and the Moraine Park Technical College West Bend campus
13 to create a community college concept in West Bend under the governance of Moraine Park
14 Technical College; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the Washington County Higher Education Task Force recommends the
17 creation of a pilot community college concept combining the resources of UWM at Washington
18 County and Moraine Park Technical College to be implemented via legislative and policy actions,
19 creating a post high school educational model with the following assets, services and educational
20 offerings:

- 21 • Dual credit access in participation with area school districts
- 22 • Open enrollment for all citizens of Washington County.
- 23 • Solid financials derived from tuition, GPR, referendum-approved bonding, property
- 24 tax support and Foundation scholarships
- 25 • Connectedness to the community, four-year institutions, school districts, employers
- 26 and their apprenticeships and internships
- 27 • Stackable and easily transferable credits
- 28 • Hybrid curriculum, stressing face-to-face based instruction, buttressed by on-line
- 29 classes
- 30 • Intense individualized guidance for each student and counseling
- 31 • Foundation support for Washington County juniors and seniors
- 32 • Local administration and aggressive recruiting
- 33 • Powerful marketing efforts and resources
- 34 • Potential athletic teams and increased student activities pending funding and viability
- 35 studies.
- 36 • Café and student union space
- 37 • Student government
- 38 • First generation student support
- 39 • Low-cost tuition as a differential
- 40 • 2+2 articulation agreements with regional universities, with locally taught classes,
- 41 where applicable
- 42

43
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington County Board of
45 Supervisors adopts the recommendations of the Washington County Higher Education Task
46 Force and requests one-time state funding be granted to Washington County, by legislation, to
47 create an endowment which must be used to:

- 48 • Lower student debt and provide tuition assistance
- 49

- Fund the startup, including athletics and student activities
- Fund comprehensive branding and awareness of the community college concept
- Support capital improvements as approved by the appropriate governing body

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a local support board chaired by the Washington County Executive or his or her appointee, with remaining board members appointed by the Washington County Executive and confirmed by the Washington County Board of Supervisors, shall be created to manage the endowment, and to support and advise Washington County in distributing funding in support of the community college concept.

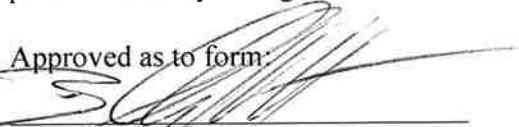
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Washington County, as it has for over 50 years with the University of Wisconsin System, will foster a partnership with MPTC West Bend Campus to support future facilities and needs of the community college concept as identified by the community and employers, and as approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors and as approved, owned, and operated by MPTC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Tony Evers, members of the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory Resolution endorsing the concept of the creation of a pilot community college.

Approved as to form:


Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney

Dated 4/12/2023

Introduced by members of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.


Jeffrey D. Schleif, Chairperson

Approved:


Josh Schoemann, County Executive

Dated 21 Apr 23

Considered 4/12/2023

Adopted 4/12/2023

Ayes 19 Noes 2 Absent 0

Veto

Voice Vote _____

Partial Veto

(No fiscal impact.)