

THE
BU 
@BTC

SUMMER 2019 EDITION

In this issue:

BTC Instructor
Searches for
New Antibiotics

gBETA Beloit
Web Development
Students Soar



CAROLINE
Cooks Up A Successful Career

NEW

PROGRAMS

at Blackhawk Technical College



- Administrative Professional
- Digital Marketing
- Leadership Development
- Sales Management
- Substance Use Disorder Counseling
- Surgical Technology

For a complete listing of our programs, certificates, diplomas & location information, please visit our website at: blackhawk.edu

BTC Locations

- Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (Milton)
- Beloit Public Library
- Center for Transportation Studies (Janesville)
- Central Campus (Janesville)
- Monroe Campus (Monroe)



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WELCOME



It's an exciting time to be a part of the Blackhawk Technical College family. Our promise to every student that walks through the door is to provide an opportunity to build a future through flexible education in a supportive environment.

College and learning environments are not one-size-fits-all. At BTC, we have part-time and full-time students; we have working adults as well as recent high school graduates. We have students going back to school to earn a certificate for their job, ones who are learning an entirely new career, and yet others who will transfer to four-year colleges and universities. We strive to provide our students with the tools, support, and guidance to reach their goals.

BTC's flexible education is designed to create more options for you to complete your educational goals. We offer classes in a variety of formats; such as:

- Traditional: instructors meet face-to-face with students
- Online: all coursework is delivered and completed online
- MyEdChoice: choose from attending class in-person, joining via video streaming, or watching online anytime
- FlexLab: open lab times allow flexibility to attend and complete lab work
- Hybrid: coursework is a blend of online and face-to-face
- ITV: classes are held at one campus and streamed to another campus or location

Our diverse learning environment is dedicated to helping you reach your goals.

Whether you are looking to begin a program that leads to the workforce or to a four-year college or university, Blackhawk Technical College has something for everyone. We are excited about our future and invite you to be a part of it.

Tracy Pierner, Ph.D.

President, Blackhawk Technical College

Cooking up Success at BTC



It all started with a radio advertisement. After years of odd jobs and moving around to several cities, it was time for Caroline Gunn, of Janesville, to settle down and find her path.

She tried attending U-Rock and Madison Area Technical College; she tried jobs like customer service, postal carrier, and pharmacy technician. But after becoming a mom, she wanted more than working 50-plus hours a week at a job she did not love. "Having a child changes everything," said Caroline. With some encouragement from her mom, Caroline visited Blackhawk Technical College and fell in love with the Culinary Arts Program. "I'm so glad she made me do it. Moms know best."

"Caroline made a positive impression upon me the first day of class. I could see immediately she was serious about culinary arts.

When I learned that she was a single mother working full-time as well as carrying a full class load, I was further impressed," said Chef Mark Olson, Culinary Arts faculty member at BTC.

Caroline completed her externship at the world-class Hotel Madrid in Milwaukee and she credits them for being very accommodating with her schedule as a student and a mom. When describing all the delicacies she was able to try during the externship, she closed her eyes, her face lit up and she smiled widely talking about things like antelope, dry aged steak and acorn-fed pig.

But what really lights up Caroline is when she talks about her three-year old daughter. "Baking is my thing," explained Caroline, "and I love when I get her involved in the creative process." Baking with a toddler has to be simplified, she explained, and admitted to using a box mix to

make things less complicated. The important thing is spending time with the one she loves doing what she loves.

One of the things she appreciates most about the Culinary Arts program is the opportunity to experiment with recipes.

"We have the freedom to make recipes our own."

And make it her own, is what she intends to do. She longs to open her own café, bakery and garden, a place she dreamt up during one of her early program courses, Food Service Industry and Menu Design taught by Chef Katie Koel. Caroline said the idea was inspired by Chef Joe Wollinger, BTC Culinary Arts faculty, and his passion for creating farm-to-table educational opportunities for his students.



“I want to keep ingredients local, from Wisconsin, and to grow what I can in my own garden,” said Caroline.

Caroline encourages other adult students looking for more to consider returning to school.

“Just do it. Years from now, you’ll remember what you didn’t do. Don’t have regrets. If you don’t try, you will never know.”

Caroline graduated with her Culinary Arts degree in May 2019.

She describes her BTC culinary instructors as mentors; they are more than teachers. “Everyone wants to give up sometimes. I am thankful I didn’t. I am thankful I found this program and I am thankful for my instructors; my mentors.”

Estimated Program Costs & Potential Earnings

63 Credits

\$12,063

Average Wage

\$28,078

**based on WTCS Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates*

Potential Careers

- Kitchen Manager
- Executive Sous Chef
- Restaurant Manager
- Lead Cook
- Kitchen Supervisor



CULINARY ACADEMY

Springboard to Associate Degree

A short-term Culinary Academy at Blackhawk is all it took to hook Robert Kincy, a May 2019 graduate of the program. In the summer of 2016, Robert enrolled in an eight-week summer academy thanks to WIOA and FSET funding. He enjoyed it so much he enrolled in the associate’s degree program.

As part of the culinary curriculum, students in their final semester plan and prepare a gourmet lunch featuring contemporary cuisine. Students research and plan the menu,

supervise a kitchen staff made up of fellow students, and serve special guests. This spring, Robert presented his contemporary menu on a very special day – his 50th birthday.

Robert’s menu consisted of French onion soup, jalapeno cheddar bread, strawberry/kiwi/spinach salad, rainbow carrots, pave potatoes and beef tenderloin. The meal was topped off with a chocolate explosion creation for dessert.

To learn more about Culinary Arts: Chef Joe jwollinger@blackhawk.edu.



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BUILD A FUTURE



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- Seek real-world experiences

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Affordability and Accessibility

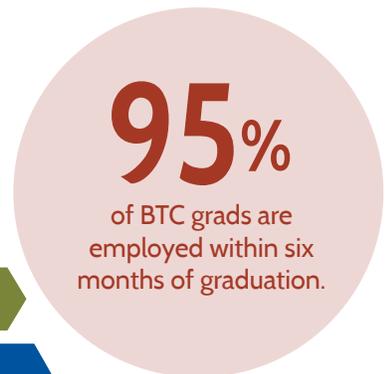
A BTC education is an investment that will pay dividends for a lifetime and the cost for obtaining a degree or certification is one of the lowest in the state. BTC offers a variety of financial aid programs, payment plans, grants and scholarships to help you with tuition. In addition to our affordability, BTC is also very accessible to both traditional and non-traditional students. Online courses, night and Saturday classes as well as dual credit opportunities all are available.

COST COMPARISON

BTC	\$2,968
2-year non-technical college	\$5,243
4-year public university	\$7,611
Private college/university	\$9,102
For-profit college/university	\$9,543

Tuition and minimum fees are based on a two semester rate of 12 credits per semester rate x \$132.20 per credit.

Ed. Note - the above information was provided by the Wisconsin Technical College System office.





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FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Preparing & Planning for College

1. Tech Exploration Days 2. Health Care Day 3. Health Care Day 4 Tech Exploration Days 5. Rock Internship Signing Day 6. Manufacturing Day 7. Tech Exploration Days 8. Rock Internship Signing Day

When is the right time to talk to children about career choice?

By Erin Eagan, Wisconsin Technical College

The question is often posed to our children: “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

It’s asked half-heartedly by adults who are expecting responses like astronaut, professional athlete or super hero. But in all seriousness, an earnest discussion on career-related topics with a child even before they reach middle school is a good idea.

Of course, no one’s asking you to crush their dreams of becoming the next Aaron Rodgers or Wonder Woman. But as they age, be aware of the fine line between encouraging them to follow their dreams and steering them toward more realistic options.

When beginning these conversations, start with the basics. What are their interests? What about favorite books or TV shows? If you were to take away screen time for a few hours, what would they do to pass the time? Signing them up for different activities and clubs may help facilitate things. Maybe it’s a sport, maybe it’s Scouts or maybe it’s a youth summer camp. Encourage their involvement and see where that takes them. For older children, have them take a Career Interest Questionnaire to use as a starting point.

By starting career exploration earlier, children can give some thought to what type of jobs they might want and what the best path is for them to get there. As they get ready to enter high school, they’ll have a better idea of what their strengths/weaknesses are and where their passions truly lie. This could also serve as a blueprint for what classes to take in high school and beyond.

Beyond your guidance, schools are very involved in facilitating the discussion. Wisconsin school districts are now required to have an academic and career planning (ACP) program in place for all students

entering sixth grade and beyond. Career Cruising is the online tool that the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction uses for this purpose.

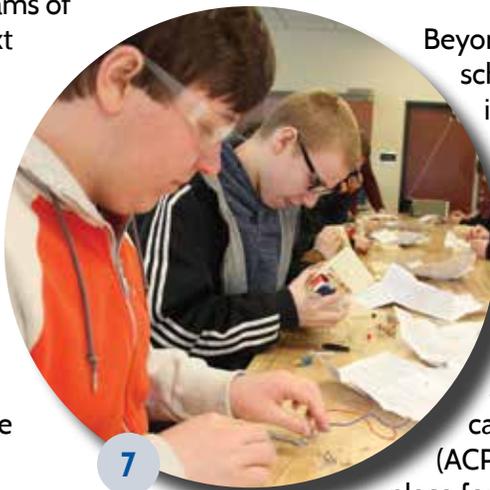
Career Cruising is a self-exploration and college/career software program that helps students explore and plan for school, career and life. For students in K-2, interactive games help get them excited about exploring their interests and aspirations. As they



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get older, they can participate in various career activities and assessments.

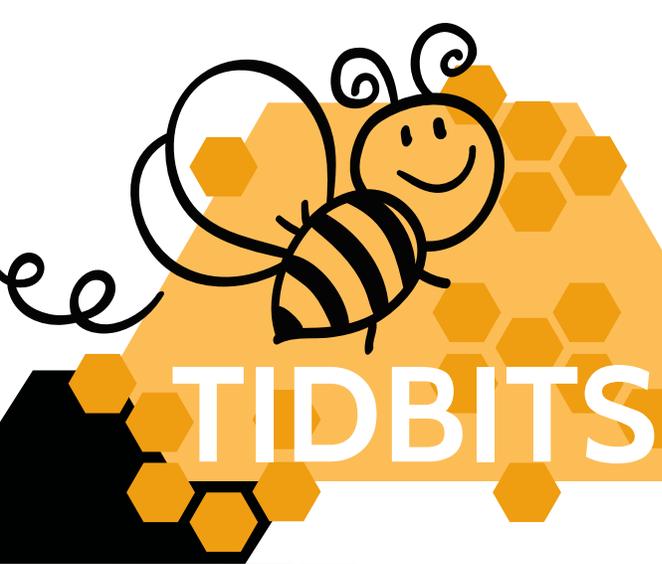
In high school, students use Career Cruising to take career-related assessments, explore online career and college profiles and get information about financial aid and employment. Using the program’s database of career profiles, schools, programs, scholarships and job-search tools, they can choose a pathway that’s right for them.



7



8



Nursing student **Kwamesha Milsap** 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. Kwamesha will serve a one-year term, making special appearances and giving presentations on behalf of the WTCS.

#BTCproud



Erika Bemrich, lead instructor for Rock County Education and Criminal Addiction Program (RECAP), received one of two Rock County Sheriff's Office Annual Community Service Awards. She was instrumental in partnering with the Southwest Workforce Development Board to implement Accelerated Machine Operator's Course for incarcerated individuals.

#BTCintheCommunity



Janesville Gazette senior writer, Catherine Idzerda, was awarded a Wisconsin District Boards Association Media Award this spring. Catherine was nominated for an in-depth story on the nursing program at Blackhawk and the newly created Nancy B. Parker Scholars Program. Her exceptional journalistic skills and advocacy for technical education were the reason she was nominated and selected for this honor. Pictured (l to r): Dr. Tracy Pierner, Carla Hedtke, President of District Boards Association, Catherine Idzerda.

#BTCinAction

BTC-Monroe Campus will soon have a 3,200 sq. ft. lab facility for its Agribusiness degree program. Keller, Inc. is the construction management team for the project. The \$650,000 project will provide a new home for the program that will give students the space and opportunity to have important hands-on training regardless of weather conditions.





Faculty of the Year

Congrats to Deb Heder on her award for 2018-19 Faculty of the Year. She was the Grand Marshal at our 2019 Commencement held at the Dream Center on May 18, 2019. Thanks for representing BTC well!

#BTCsuccess

We are proud of all of our student organizations this year. A special shout out goes to our Business Professionals of America and Postsecondary Agriculture students as they excelled at state and national competitions representing BTC well. Kudos to all of you!



Pictured above: Postsecondary Agriculture Association students at the state competition. Pictured to left: BTC Business Professionals of America students recognized by Dr. Tracy Pierner, and Advisor, Jeff Kropp upon returning from nationals in San Diego, California.



#gettherefaster

The Rock County Internship program kicked off with a signing day on Monday, June 10. Thanks to Rock County 5.0 and Southwest Workforce Development Board for leading this effort. This program has 35 students doing internships with over 20 business sites.





Web Development Students Selected for

gBETA Beloit



Blackhawk Technical College Web Development students Bryan Williams, Josh Shope and Sarah Meadus participated in the gBETA Beloit Startup Accelerator Program. gBETA is a program of nationally ranked startup accelerator, gener8tor. The program is a free seven-week program for new or concept companies with local roots, and limited to five companies per cohort.

Bryan, Josh and Sarah came together to participate in the Summer gALPHA Beloit

program, in which teams research and develop startup ideas from scratch. "It all started when a faculty member told me about a networking opportunity, and after learning more I knew this wasn't something you stumble across every day," said Bryan. "I wondered if any other students would be interested in this sort of thing"

During the gALPHA program, the team conceived their product idea through reviewing reverse pitch opportunities. These opportunities are problems sourced from

Project North, gener8tor's innovation network of top venture capital, merger and acquisition and strategy executives from across the Midwest.

This approach allows industry professionals an opportunity to pitch problems to startup hopefuls, who then create solutions and ultimately startup companies owning those product solutions. "I would say at first we didn't really know what we were getting into. We had an idea what gALPHA was but saw it as a great opportunity

Advanced Manufacturing in Milton



The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC), is home to the Manufacturing Automotive and Transportation

Technology Division which provides associate degrees, 2-year and 1-Year technical diplomas and certificates. All programs are offered as flexible delivery, meaning students have more flexibility and choice in how and when they attend lab classes.

Programs include:

- Computer Numerical Control
- Industrial Maintenance Technician
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing Information Technology Specialist
- Welding
- Electro-Mechanical Technology
- Electrical Apprenticeship
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (HVAC/R)
- General Education classes (required for these programs)

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for networking with local technical talent," said Sarah.

When they returned to Beloit, the magic happened. "One of the biggest selling points of the program is getting students and participants in front of decision-makers and end users," said gBETA Beloit Director Phil Fonfara. The team met and began working with representatives from Hendricks Commercial Properties, who sponsors gener8tor's Beloit programming.

According to Josh, "Hendricks Commercial Properties had a few issues that needed to be solved, and initially our team wanted to solve them all." Eventually, the team decided to tackle only one issue -- the complex and problematic nature of lien waivers. A lien waiver is a document from a contractor, subcontractor, supplier, or another party who is working on

a construction project. It states they have received payment and waive any future lien rights to the property.

In any given construction project there can be many waivers to track. The process is often manual and failure to use lien waivers properly and timely can lead to problems for everyone within the project chain. After substantial research, the team has created a solution called ezLien. The solution will better track, monitor and follow up on lien waivers.

Through participation in both gALPHA and gBETA, they have been able to really dive into the research and concept design phase of ezLien, and evolve the product to solve the needs of their end customers. "We went into it thinking this would be a great experience and an awesome opportunity to build our resume. But we began to get some

"This was an awesome opportunity to build our resumes."

wind in our sails, so-to-speak, and ultimately we really have something here," said Bryan. By leveraging their participation in these programs, the team will be able to meet others in the field, refine their solution, develop their revenue model, acquire capital and make something that is truly marketable and useful in the industry.

The team agreed with Sarah when she said, "It's not really something I thought I would be into, but now that it's going, this is very exciting."

For more information about gener8tor, gALPHA and gBETA visit www.gbetastartups.com/beloit



Several scholarships have been established to benefit Blackhawk Technical College students:

Christine Scaccia
Lubeck Scholarship

Thomas Niman Memorial Scholarship

JX Truck Center Rockford
Randal Bishop Scholarship

Fire Protection Technician Scholarship

Kelsea Anderson Scholarship

Foreign Type Cheesemaker's Association (FTCMA) and Precision Biolabs Scholarship

This annually funded scholarship will provide \$2,000 per semester for students studying in our Food Science Technician program. The scholarship will follow the student from year one to year two as long as they remain in good standing with BTC and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Preferences are given to students living within 50 miles of Monroe and to those who have worked in the cheese-making industry or have family members who have worked in the cheese-making industry. It is the desire of the FTCMA to fund a first and second year student simultaneously.

About FTCMA: The FTCMA is committed to providing professional practices, high quality and timely test results. Customer satisfaction is their focus and their Quality Management System provides a standardized process to continually meet the needs of their customers. Their daily objective is to exceed the expectations of their customers by providing accurate and timely laboratory testing, outstanding customer service and knowledgeable technical guidance.

#communitypartners

Nancy B. Parker Nursing Scholars

In partnership with the Parker Family Foundation, the Nancy B. Parker Nursing Scholars Program launched in fall 2018. It is a scholarship to help retain skilled nurses in Rock and Green Counties. The Parker scholarship gift is in the name of Nancy B. Parker for her lifelong contributions to, and involvement with, nursing activities, including her service to Mercy Hospital in Janesville where she served on the Board of Trustees for many years.

#newBTCscholarships

The inaugural class of Parker Scholars is pictured above. Front row: Rebecca Glass, Heidi Hamilton, Danielle Schumacher, Elizabeth (Betsy) Kroll, Anna Swanson, Ariel Darin, and Emily McAllister. Second row: Kimberly Richards, Megan Scanlon, Maria Hernandez, Christin Olsen, Kathleen Dutenhoefer, Lorena Hebble, Melissa Harnack, and Tracy Pierner.



Now is the time to start saving for your child's college fund.

By Erin Eagan,
Wisconsin Technical College System



With tuition costs continuously on the rise, it's never too early to start saving for your child's college tuition. Planning well in advance can help relieve the financial burden of post-secondary education later on down the line.

While it may seem the easiest way to start a college fund is to set up a standard savings account, it's not the most ideal. In fact, in Sallie Mae's annual *How America Saves for College* report, 45 percent of parents are doing so. But they end up paying thousands of dollars in avoidable taxes. While saving this way is better than not saving at all, a more efficient option is through a 529 college savings plan.

In 1996, the federal government stepped in to encourage saving for future higher education expenses by creating tax-advantaged 529 savings plans. These plans make it easier to save for college – even for those on a modest budget – and have become the most popular education-specific savings plans because of their tax-free benefits

and higher interest rates. The Edvest College Savings Plan is Wisconsin's state-sponsored tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan. As one of the lowest-cost 529 plans in the country, you can open an EdVest account with as little as \$25 dollars. Accounts can be managed online, and users can set up automatic contributions from their bank account or by payroll deduction (if supported by your employer) with a minimum contribution of \$15 per month. Funds can be used for Wisconsin's technical colleges and most accredited colleges and universities in the United States – even certain colleges abroad.

There has also been movement around the state recently to make these plans even more flexible. They can now be used for parents, as well as children, who want to continue their education. Because you can now change a 529 college savings account's beneficiary to another member of your family without penalty, some people take out 529s with themselves as a beneficiary and then transfer it to their child's name.

Besides paying for tuition, EdVest funds can be used for fees, certain room and board costs, books, supplies, as well as computers and related technology costs such as Internet access fees and printers. Additional equipment required for attendance may also qualify.

All parents want a bright future for their child, and postsecondary education or training is the best way for that to happen. To avoid the burden of student loans, consider starting a savings plan sooner rather than later. Even small monthly contributions add up over time. Visit Edvest.com for more information.

**LEARN
MORE...**

Get free assistance with
financial aid:

studentaid.ed.gov



The Blackhawk Fund

The Blackhawk Fund provides annual support for a number of important initiatives at Blackhawk Technical College. It is designed to be a responsive source of funds to meet student needs.

Some examples of how Blackhawk Fund dollars are spent:

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.

Coins for Caring



Many of our students are operating on the thinnest of economic margins. A flat tire, an unexpectedly high heating bill or food instability can derail their educational plans. 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. These grants can be once a year for as much as \$500.

Support for Programs



Each year BTC plans and supports career exploration programs; such as Manufacturing Days, Health Care Day and Junkyard Wars. These events foster professional engagement opportunities for students and the community.

Support for Students



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

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

For more info., contact:
Foundation Director-Tim McKearn
(608) 757-7704 • tmckearn@blackhawk.edu

Blackhawk Instructor Joins Initiative to **DISCOVER NEW ANTIBIOTICS**



Antibiotics are an important, powerful tool in fighting infections and saving lives. Finding new antibiotics is essential to public health as bacteria develops resistance to existing antibiotics. So, scientists are returning to an old method of antibiotic discoveries. Scientists like BTC Microbiology instructor Daniel Harrigan are now a part of a network of instructors and students focused on crowdsourcing antibiotic discovery from soil. The effort is led by the Tiny Earth initiative to address the global critical health crisis of antibiotic resistance.

“All of us at BTC are very excited for the purposeful application and experience it is providing agribusiness, microbiology and lab technician students,” said BTC faculty member Daniel Harrigan.



The Tiny Earth Program Initiative (TEPI) is a global network of students and instructors dedicated to discovering new antibiotics from soil and creating engaging laboratory coursework. The program includes nearly 10,000 students in 45 states and 15 countries. It was originally launched by Jo Handelsman in 2012 at Yale University but is currently headquartered at University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Wisconsin Institute for Discovery. Its mission is two-fold: to encourage students to pursue careers in science through real-world, applicable laboratory research, and to address the diminishing supply of effective antibiotics.

BTC students in the Lab Technician Program, Medical Lab Technician Program, and General Microbiology courses are among those participating in the initiative. Students in the lab science courses are hunting for new antibiotic organisms in soil samples collected by students from the Agribusiness Program. All of the students are experiencing scientific method in action.

As part of the curriculum, BTC faculty Kathi Winker and Kevin Holmin have been helping the students characterize their potential discoveries. Harrigan continued, “As we launch

and expand the program here at BTC, we plan to include K-12 and other community partners because outreach and providing engaging scientific education is part of the initiative.”

Harrigan attended an intensive five-day training hosted at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery with partner instructors from institutions across the U.S. recently. Tiny Earth leverages a network of partner institutions where instructors learn the curriculum and incorporate best practices into their classes. Adding new instructors is part of Tiny Earth’s commitment to engage schools, departments, colleges and aspiring scientists across the globe.

Agribusiness, Lab Technician, and Medical Lab Technician Programs are located on the Blackhawk Technical College Monroe Campus located at 210 4th Avenue in Monroe.

For more information about Tiny Earth visit tinyearth.wisc.edu. To learn more about the initiative at Blackhawk Technical College contact Daniel Harrigan at dharrigan@blackhawk.edu.



EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENT

Finds Balance & Success at BTC



Balancing a campus job with being a full time student seems to be the norm for many college students today. The norm for Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) student Noel Jones also includes volunteering and raising her five children between the ages of 2 and 10. Jones entered BTC's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in August 2017 and graduated with honors in May 2019.

Jones, a 2006 graduate of Beloit Memorial High School, is a role model for her children and everyone around her. She recalls accepting the award for Student Worker of the Year in 2017 with her oldest son in the audience. Through tears, she said, "I remember him telling me that he was proud of me." She continued,

"I went back to school and I want my kids to know it is never too late to pursue their hopes and dreams."

She is a fine example for her peers and is often sought out for her warmth and kindness. Lead Early Childhood Education Instructor Michelle Weirich said, "Noel is an amazing woman. When she was a work study student in our ECE Lab last school year, students would flock to the lab during her hours to be with her." Weirich went on, "She has never used her personal situation as an excuse not to be prepared for class."

As a mother of five young children, Jones balances school, work, family, volunteering and more with grace and a positive outlook. Weirich considers Jones the unofficial cheerleader of the Early Childhood Education program. When a fellow student had to drop a class, Jones reached out to make sure he was all right, reassuring him that his classmates were concerned and would miss him in class.

This caring touch is what Jones plans to bring into her in-home daycare

after graduation. Knowing firsthand the challenges of being a working parent, Jones is looking forward to helping other parents by providing an affordable and caring environment where children can learn and grow.

When students are stretched thin it may be easy to crack under the pressure. "She is an amazing student, a wonderful parent and all around just one of the most positive, motivated and engaged students I know," said Social Science Instructor Rubina Jan.

Jones credits the staff at BTC for much of her success. "Everyone is helpful and wants me to succeed. They work around my schedule as a mom." She encourages anyone who may be considering a return to the classroom and offers some advice. "Too often we put things off. There is no perfect time. Don't wait to pursue your dreams." That is great advice coming from the woman pursuing hers.

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