

Financial Wellness Newsletter

CONNEXUS DONATES TO MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Connexus Association recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) which serves the educational needs of several Central Wisconsin Communities with campuses in four cities.

In June of 2018 MSTC conducted extensive meetings and community visits which led to the determination that there was a need for the Stevens Point area to expand programming to support manufacturing, engineering technology and apprenticeship careers, all of which are experiencing skilled worker shortages. Of the four cities with MSTC campuses, the Stevens Point location is considered easily accessible from every part of the state. The central location of Stevens Point is also well-situated to be a destination to attract new employees and employers to Wisconsin while addressing growth needs of existing businesses in the area.

A conceptual plan had been developed by MSTC leaders and faculty, and industry partners by January 2019. It included the expansion, relocation and development of new programming to both increase student enrollment and provide skilling and upskilling opportunities for area employees and employers. The new center now known as The Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology and Apprenticeship Center will also “host facility tours; equipment demonstrations; continuing education; contract training; vendor demonstrations; conferences; and community events such as job and career fairs. In connection with K-12 partners, Mid-State will offer Metal Mania & Advanced Metal Mania bootcamps; participate in the Manufacturing Heavy Metal Tour; provide opportunities for Dual Credit and Youth Apprenticeship; and host summer manufacturing camps and elementary & middle school events and tours. The Center will also serve special populations such as returning veterans, unemployed, underemployed, economically disadvantaged, minorities and re-entry programs for the incarcerated.” (Mid-State Project Overview Document) (continued on page 2)



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CONNEXUS DONATES TO MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE CONTINUED

In July 2020, MSTC launched a focused capital campaign with the hope that by Fall semester of 2022, the new training destination would be built and could begin serving the central Wisconsin training needs with the following programs:

- ◇ Machine Tool Technician (expansion)
- ◇ Machinist Apprenticeship (relocation)
- ◇ Fabrication Technician (new)
- ◇ Welding Technical Diploma (expansion)
- ◇ Ironworker Apprenticeship (relocation)

What area leaders said:

“This expansion would demonstrate the value placed on the importance of mastering new skills and the growing need for training opportunities for our high school graduates. Having this facility in our community would be a huge benefit to our existing employers and help attract new ones, creating an economic cycle that will spiral upwards.” -City of Stevens Point, Mayor Mike Wiza

“To strategically address our needs, we support Mid-State’s plan to provide comprehensive educational programming in the areas of advanced manufacturing, engineering and apprenticeship in Stevens Point. Planning for the future of advanced manufacturing is critical to keep Mid-State relevant in preparing a skilled workforce in central Wisconsin for today and tomorrow.” -NCWWDB Executive Director, Wisconsin Workforce Development Area 6, Jane Spencer

(From Mid-State Project Overview Document)

- ◇ Electrician Apprenticeship (relocation)
- ◇ Electrical & Instrumentation (E&I) Apprenticeship (relocation)
- ◇ Mechanical Design (new)
- ◇ Civil Engineering Technology (relocation)
- ◇ Automated Systems Technician (new)
- ◇ Quality and Lean Certificates (new)

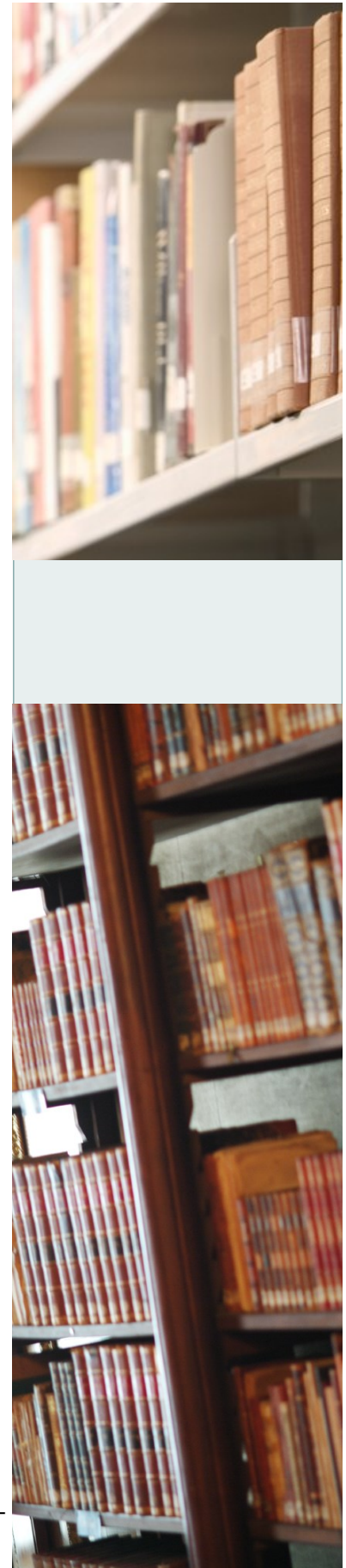
The Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship Center is expected to train over 400 students annually which is a 175-percent increase to help infuse central Wisconsin with highly skilled workers, address the workforce shortage, and sustain and grow our area businesses.

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

Connexus Association received membership dues totaling \$402,727* during 2020. Connexus Association donated \$258,873* during 2020. A list of all individuals or organizations that benefited from Connexus Association during 2020 are listed below:

10K with a Cop - Central WI	Mosinee High School DECA
Achieve Center	MS Walk
Aspirus Health Foundation	National Credit Union Foundation
Assumption High School	Newman Catholic Schools
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Northland Lutheran High School
Blessings in a Backpack	NTC Foundation
Boy Scouts of America	One Bead
Boys & Girls Club	Pacelli Schools
Breakfast Optimists	Paige Bootz Memorial Scholarship
Center for Visual Arts	Portage County Literacy Council
Charles & JoAnn Lester Library	Price Hill Will
Community Matters	South Wood County Financial Stability Coalition
Dani's Journey Educational Fund	Stem Scouts
DC Everest Public Schools	Stevens Point Area Schools
Friends of Rib Mountain State Park	Texas Lions
Greenpath	United Way of Marathon County
Junior Achievement Central WI (Wausau and Merrill)	WATEA
Junior Achievement of OKI Partners	Wausau Community Theater
Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest	Wausau Conservatory of Music
Junior Achievement of Wood and Portage Counties	Wausau School District
Lincoln High School	WI Valley Lutheran High School
Maine Lions	WINGS
Marathon County Literacy Council	Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy & Service (WIPPS)
Mid-State Technical College	Women's Community
Monk Botanical Gardens	Worldwide Foundation of CU's

*Connexus Association year-end financial information has not yet been reviewed by our outside auditor and final numbers may change.



CONNEXUS

ASSOCIATION

The primary purpose of Connexus Association is to provide scholarships for education, to assist educational institutions and to provide financial literacy education to help borrowers and savers reach their financial goals. Members of the Connexus Association consist of organizations or individuals who pay dues. Dues will be \$5.00 and will allow membership for two years. Members may renew their membership every two years with dues of \$5.00.

Please contact us with questions.

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile customers can now support Connexus Association. When you shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-1473074>, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Connexus Association with no fees and no extra cost.

Additionally, AmazonSmile is now available in the Amazon Shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

You can make a difference while you shop—Simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/61-1473074 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app and AmazonSmile donates to Connexus Association Inc.



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