

News Release

Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes Visits NWTC to Discuss Benefits of a Technical College Education

GREEN BAY (March 11, 2022) – Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes visited Northeast Wisconsin Technical College yesterday afternoon to discuss the benefits of a two-year education and the role it plays to meet workforce demands within the community.

"What the students at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College are doing is what is going to fix our economy," said Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, candidate for U.S. Senate. "They are getting a good education and putting themselves on a pathway to get good-paying jobs that are absolutely essential to our communities. I was proud to spend time with them today, and I will continue to advocate for more resources and support for technical colleges so students can get affordable, high-quality education to help them build their future — and build the future of Wisconsin."

Lt. Gov. Barnes was joined by Mayor Eric Genrich. During the visit, they met with students and leadership to discuss NWTC's high-impact practices, which make higher education more accessible and lead to high-wage careers.

"This is an important opportunity for our students to share, in their own words, how the community college experience made an impact on their lives and community," said Dr. Rafn, NWTC president.

The conversation focused on financial accessibility, student resources, closing equity gaps within high-wage careers. They also talked about the student experience and why a technical college education was the best fit for them.

ABOUT NWTC: Established in 1912, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College is a two-year technical college with three campuses, five regional learning centers, and several specialty centers throughout a nine-county district. Serving over 24,000 students annually, the College offers flexible degrees, classes, and training in over 200 high demand career fields via in-person, online, and blended instruction. Ninety-one percent of NWTC graduates are employed within six months of graduation. Additionally, hundreds of alumni continue their education through NWTC's transfer agreements with over 40 other colleges/universities. The College is nationally recognized for student success having earned the 2020 Achieving the Dream (ATD) Leader College of Distinction status, 2021 ATD Leah Meyer Austin Award, 2021 Bellwether consortium finalist recognition, and 2019 INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. NWTC, home of the Eagles, believes everyone - no matter where they are in their personal and professional journeys - can soar higher.

“Not everyone can be a full-time student. The flexibility of technical college courses works so well because you can still have a job while pursuing your degree through online or evening classes,” said Macie Herm, NWTC student in Energy Management.

Participating students ranged from various personal backgrounds who are pursuing careers within dairy science, early childhood education, renewable energy, farm production and more.

“I’m pursuing my degree not necessarily because I need to, but because I choose to. Even after 10 years within my field I am still learning. I think it’s important that we lead by example, and the asset of a quality education is invaluable,” said Keegan Pries, NWTC student in Early Childhood Education.

NWTC offers training in over 200 high demand career fields, and 91% of NWTC graduates are employed within six months of graduation.

Enrollment for NWTC’s next 8-week session, which begins in March, is available now. To learn more about the College’s student services and academic opportunities, visit [NWTC.edu](https://www.nwtc.edu)

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