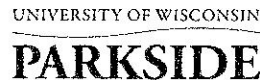


Technology Pathway Partners



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For immediate release

New opportunities for student success, talent development address regional needs

KENOSHA – The emerging success model for business and industry is highly dependent on the availability of employees with technology and engineering skills. New collaborations between three institutions of higher education in southeastern Wisconsin are designed to build that important talent pool by creating easier access to educational programs in engineering, and new opportunities for teacher licensure in technology and pre-engineering.

The Innovation Works center at Snap-on Incorporated was a fitting site for new partnership announcements by leaders from Gateway Technical College, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. *Technology Pathway Partners* create links in learning and skills development from middle school through higher education.

“Southeastern Wisconsin is poised to continue its leadership position advancing the technology and innovation demands of the 21st century through sustained collaboration and partnership between industry and education,” said UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford. “Through affirming our region's commitment to creating pathways leading to careers in technology and engineering we will meet the current and growing need for highly skilled talent.”

Continued innovation and expansion of advanced manufacturing and product development rely on the quantity and quality of technology and engineering talent.

“Ongoing prosperity in southeastern Wisconsin and across our nation depends on more career and technical education - more skills training,” said Snap-on Incorporated Chairman and CEO Nick Pinchuk. “To achieve this, industry, education and government must join in broadening support for technical education so that students learn the skills that get them jobs and create rewarding careers.”

Businesses such as Snap-on Incorporated play an important role as partners with educational institutions at all levels. The common goal: build the capacity to develop and train students with the skills needed to create lasting careers.

New Teacher Licensure

According to the Wisconsin Standards for Technology and Engineering, K-12 students who participate in technology and engineering curriculum are exposed to increased academic, technical and employability knowledge and skills that are critical for students to be college and career ready.

"Building the workforce for tomorrow begins in our classrooms today," said Gateway Technical College President and CEO Bryan Albrecht. "The partnership between Gateway Technical College and UW-Parkside serves as a national model for addressing the critical need to align technology and engineering teachers with the skill needs of industry."

The UW-Parkside Institute of Professional Educator Development and Gateway Technical College will work together on a licensure program for professional educators specializing in technology and pre-engineering. At the state and national level, there is a significant shortage of technology and pre-engineering teachers.

The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium notes several factors contributing to the shortage in career and technology education (CTE) teachers, including increased student demand for CTE courses; elimination of existing teacher education programs that license CTE teachers; and retirements affecting the current supply of teachers.

The Kenosha and Racine unified school districts have seven technology and pre-engineering teachers on emergency licenses this year and expect vacancies of up to 15 over the next three years due to retirements and new programs at the middle school level.

In partnership with Gateway, UW-Parkside's technology education program is a post-baccalaureate program that leads to a technology and pre-engineering license to teach at the early childhood-adolescence level. It is the sole licensure-only program in the state of Wisconsin.

Engineering Opportunities

The new guaranteed transfer agreement between UW-Milwaukee and UW-Parkside provides students with a seamless pathway to degree completion in the areas of mechanical or electrical engineering.

"This training is key to filling a statewide workforce need," said Brett Peters, dean of College of Engineering & Applied Science at UW-Milwaukee. "The partnership opens doors for more students who want to become engineers. Working together, we are able to better serve distinctive needs of both industry and students."

Students complete the first two years of course work at UW-Parkside, then transfer to UW-Milwaukee and enter the College of Engineering and Applied Science with junior standing. Students are eligible to complete a degree in electrical engineering or mechanical engineering.

“Increasing the number of students in the STEM disciplines [science, technology, engineering and math] will help the United States stay competitive in today’s global economy,” said Dr. Emmanuel Otu, dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences at UW-Parkside. “The agreement between UW-Parkside and UW-Milwaukee provides a new and exciting path for more students to succeed.”

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