



WTCS Systemwide Activity Update for Fall 2015 State Trade Committees

- **System wide Curriculum:** Model Curriculum Standards established and currently posted for 33 trades; 11 additional occupations to be added this year to public access website:
<http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/occupational-academic-excellence/architecture-and-construction;-apprenticeship/apprenticeship>
 - Colleges are now able to map/create a matrix showing how their curriculum aligns with the model standards; a solid tool for program promotion and credit evaluation.
- **Bridge the gap/strengthen ties between apprentice related instruction and wider education/career pathway initiatives.**
 - Eight WTCS colleges joined the System Office as members in Registered Apprenticeship Community College (RACC) consortium <http://www.doleta.gov/oa/racc.cfm>. Promotion continues to encourage the remaining Districts to join by the end of the year.
 - Career Pathways website improvements completed to include apprenticeship information and resources throughout both youth and adult portals. <https://www.wicareerpathways.org/>
 - Improve retention: WTCS continues to collaborate on various projects under the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant for the Midwest region.
 - Incorporate ACA/USDOL-OA guidelines for quality pre-apprenticeship in WTCS preparatory programs, and Career Pathway initiatives.
- **Great Lakes Tools of the Trade/WTCS Apprenticeship Scholarships:** The Great Lakes Higher Education Foundation, in partnership with the WTCS, successfully distributed 170 \$1000 scholarships to lower income construction and industrial apprentices in January 2015. For 2016, the scholarship fund is expanded to provide 200 awards total, including the 20 awards dedicated to the MATC-Milwaukee construction apprentices via the Jim Elliot Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- **Apprentice Direct Instructional Support GPR grants:** For the 2014-15 academic year, WTCS grant awards in the amount of \$208,000 supported College provision of direct instruction for apprentices when budget gaps occurred due to rapidly expanding or shrinking enrollments. The WTCS will continue to encourage regional planning to counteract and bridge the negative budgetary impact of chronic low enrollments.
- **Personnel changes:** Nancy Nakkoul (Nancy.Nakkoul@wtcsystem.edu) is the new WTCS Education Director for Apprenticeship; Katie.Roberts@wtcsystem.edu will continue to work with Service sector apprenticeships; Ann.Westrich@wtcsystem.edu will lend her expertise to Career Pathway and YA-RA work. Sandy Schmit, former WTCS Associate Vice President and prior member of the WI Apprenticeship Advisory Council, recently left her position with the WTCS. Kathleen Cullen (Kathleen.Cullen@wtcsystem.edu), WTCS Provost and Vice President, will be the new WTCS representative to the WI Apprenticeship Advisory Council.