



WTCS Systemwide Activity Update for Fall 2014 State Trade Committees

- **System wide Curriculum:** Model Curriculum Standards established currently posted for 21 trades; 15 additional occupations to be added this year to public access website:
<http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/instruction-student-services/instructional-activities/apprentice-related-instruction>
 - 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.
 - Next: WIDS JW-AAS credit recommendations for “non-traditional” occupational areas: Corrections (both inmate & Officer training), Fire Fighter/Medic, Health, Early Childhood
- **Bridge the gap/strengthen ties between apprentice related instruction and wider education/career pathway initiatives.**
 - All 16 WTCS colleges join System Office as members in Registered Apprenticeship Community College (RACC) consortium <http://www.doleta.gov/oa/racc.cfm> .
 - Promote new searchable WTCS site: <http://www.wistechcolleges.org/your-education/types-degrees-and-diplomas/apprenticeship>
 - Improve retention: Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations (WANTO) grant, Jayne Vellinga, Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT), lead. As CWIT’s post-secondary partner WTCS instructors receive technical assistance on retaining women in non-traditional programs, diversity, incorporating a “gender lens” in preparatory curriculum, and share in development of an online regional resource center.
 - Incorporate ACA/USDOL-OA Guidelines for Quality Pre-Apprenticeship in WTCS preparatory programs, and Career Pathway initiatives.
 - Explore Workkeys as a preferred valid and reliable test for apprenticeship applicants.
- **Great Lakes Tools of the Trade/WTCS Apprenticeship Scholarship (pilot):** ensure equitable distribution of \$1000 scholarships to 150 low income construction and industrial apprentices prior to start of 2nd semester. The Great Lakes Higher Education Foundation previously committed to give 20, \$1000 Jim Elliott scholarships to MATC-Milwaukee construction apprentices for the next 10 years; this pilot expands eligibility to industrial apprentices and extends it to the other 15 colleges in the WTCS.
- **Review Apprentice Direct Instructional Support GPR grant guidelines** to encourage regional planning over reactive backfilling to sustain chronic low enrollments.
- **Personnel changes:** Marge Wood retired September 5, 2014 after 24 years with the WTCS (37 years as a UA member). Timothy.Weir@wtcsystem.edu is acting as interim 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. Associate Vice President Sandra.Schmit@wtcsystem.edu, is the new WTCS representative to the WI Apprenticeship Advisory Council. Sandy and expects to fill the WTCS Architecture, Construction & Apprenticeship position by December 1, 2014.