

## **Resolution from Recommendations**

### **Washington County Higher Education Task Force**

**Whereas**, in the last 15 years demographic trends impacted both UWM at Washington County leaving devastating enrollment declines; and Moraine Park Technical College(MPTC) with significant enrollment decreases; MPTC is still sustaining strong programming with fiscal responsibility, despite these challenges.

**Whereas**, the Washington County Higher Education Task Force (the “Task Force”), comprised of leaders from industry, K-12 districts, higher education, government and elected officials, was convened by the Washington County Executive to evaluate and provide recommendations for sustainable higher education in Washington County.

**Whereas**, the Task Force conducted eight due diligence sessions to examine higher education in Washington County from the perspective of:

- Current and future state
- K-12 programs in collaboration with institutions of higher learning
- Financial structure and sustainability
- Current needs of industry and employers in Washington County
- Voice of the student
- What other states are doing in two-year college education

**Whereas**, representatives of the higher education institutions in the county, along with Task Force members, provided significant data that was examined by the Task Force.

**Whereas**, an examination of models and trends of two-year campuses across the country was conducted.

**Whereas**, both UWM at Washington County and Moraine Park Technical College now offer competing two-year liberal arts associate degrees.

**Whereas**, UWM at Washington County and its students are supported by scholarships from the Washington County Foundation (the “Foundation”).

**Whereas**, the Wisconsin Technical college System has five long-standing dual track community college concepts – Nicolet College in Rhinelander; Madison Area Technical College in Madison (branded as Madison College); Milwaukee Area Technical College in Milwaukee; Western Technical College in La Crosse; and Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire serving as precedents for a similar community college concept in Washington County.

**Whereas**, the investigation of the Task Force revealed that Washington County needs a new model for higher education that serves all relevant stakeholders and is a magnet to keep

young residents in the community. This model must include the following characteristics:

- *Affordable – Incredible value – Offering high ROI to students*
- *Accessible in-person and on-line*
- *Customizable to each student*
- *Strong K-12 partnerships*
- *Responsive to employer needs*
- *Unmatched direct pipelines to Washington County communities*
- *Gateway for further education*

**Whereas**, the Task Force has determined that to ensure a sustainable higher education system in Washington County, it is in the best interest of the students, residents, employers, school districts, taxpayers and both higher education institutions in the county to combine the resources from UWM at Washington County and the Moraine Park Technical College West Bend campus to create a community college concept in West Bend under the governance of Moraine Park Technical College.

**Now, therefore, be it Resolved**, that the Washington County Higher Education Task Force recommends the creation of a pilot community college concept combining the resources of UWM at Washington County and Moraine Park Technical College to be implemented via legislative and policy actions, creating a post high school educational model with the following assets, services and educational offerings:

- Dual credit access in participation with area school districts
- Open enrollment for all citizens of Washington County.
- Solid financials derived from tuition, GPR, referendum-approved bonding, property tax support and Foundation scholarships
- Connectedness to the community, four-year institutions, school districts, employers and their apprenticeships and internships
- Stackable and easily transferable credits
- Hybrid curriculum, stressing face to face-based instruction, buttressed by on-line classes
- Intense individualized guidance for each student and counseling
- Foundation support for Washington County juniors and seniors
- Local administration and aggressive recruiting
- Powerful marketing efforts and resources
- Potential athletic teams and increased student activities pending funding and viability studies.
- Café and student union space
- Student government
- First generation student support

- Low-cost tuition as a differential
- 2+2 articulation agreements with regional universities, with locally taught classes, where applicable

**Further Resolved**, that Washington County, as it has for over 50 years with the University of Wisconsin System, will foster a partnership with Moraine Park Technical College West Bend campus to support future facilities and needs of the community college concept as identified by the community and employers, and as approved, by the Washington County Board of supervisors and as approved, owned, and operated, by Moraine Park Technical College.

**Further Resolved**, that one time state funding of \$30 million shall be granted to the Washington County Government, by legislation, to create an endowment, which must be used to:

- Lower student debt and provide tuition assistance
- Fund the startup, including athletics and student activities
- Fund comprehensive branding and awareness of the community college concept
- Support capital improvements as approved by the appropriate governing body.

**Further Resolved**, that a local support board, chaired by the Washington County Executive or his or her appointee, and appointed by the Washington County Executive and confirmed by the Washington County Board of Supervisors, shall be created to manage the endowment, and to support and advise Washington County in distributing funding in support of the community college concept.