

Public Support for Wisconsin Technical Colleges

Independent polls demonstrate public's support for technical colleges

“Wisconsin’s technical colleges have the most positive effect on the state’s economy of all its institutions”

Technical colleges are “at the front of the class” among all institutions in terms of their contributions to state economic development.

Source: Building the New Wisconsin Economy statewide poll of 500 adults, September, 2004. BNWE is a two-year civic journalism project led by an alliance of media, business, labor, research and education partners.

In a separate “Wisconsin Trends” statewide poll conducted in July, 2004:

... 86% of those polled responded that technical colleges make a valuable or extremely valuable contribution to their local communities. Just 5% responded “not valuable” to “not at all valuable.”

... More than 70% said that technical colleges are a good use of their local property tax dollars. Only 15% responded that technical colleges are not a good use of their property tax dollars.

... Less than one-third would support a constitutional amendment to limit property taxes if it would reduce technical college courses, enrollment, or local control of the colleges. 48% would “oppose” to “strongly oppose” an amendment to limit property taxes if it would reduce courses, enrollment, or local control.

Source: Wisconsin Trends poll 600 Wisconsin adults, July, 2004.

For more information about these polls, contact Paul Gabriel, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, 608 266-9430 or pgabriel@districtboards.org.