



NEWS Release

Daniel Clancy, President
Email: info@wtcsystem.edu
www.wtcsystem.edu
www.witechcolleges.org

4622 University Avenue
PO Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874
Telephone: 608.266.7983
Fax: 608.266.1690

For immediate release
August 22, 2006

Contact: James Zylstra, 608-266-1739
Kyle Schwarm, 608-266-0050

Wisconsin's Technical Colleges have highest bond rating

MADISON – Wisconsin's Technical Colleges have the highest bond rating found in any state technical or community college system in the nation, according to Moody's Investors Service. Moody's rates 160 technical and community college districts in the U.S. and found Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges, as an aggregate, "...Have a stronger credit profile than community college districts in other states," with a median rating of Aa2.

"The high-quality bond ratings reflect the prudent financial management of all the colleges within the System," said Dan Clancy, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System. "High bond ratings are an important factor in our colleges' ability to obtain financing at the lowest possible interest rates. This ensures the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars while helping to fuel Wisconsin's economic growth," he said.

Moody's awarded two of Wisconsin's Technical Colleges, Madison Area and Waukesha County, with the highest possible rating of Aaa. Fourteen of the 16 are rated at Aa3 or above.

Moody's, a highly-regarded international bond rating agency, concluded that the colleges' high-credit quality will likely continue in the future due to their healthy reserves and manageable debt levels. In addition, the report noted that the colleges' strong relationships with local businesses and the University of Wisconsin System are likely to result in future enrollment growth.

"It is gratifying that the report foresees a bright future for Wisconsin's technical colleges. The recognition of the colleges' strong ties to the local and regional economies and their ability to continually adapt their programs to meet market demand is especially important," said Mary Quinnette Cuene, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board.

The Wisconsin Technical College System has 16 technical college districts throughout Wisconsin, which offer more than 300 programs awarding two-year associate degrees, one and two-

- MORE -

year technical diplomas and short-term technical diplomas. In addition, the system is the major provider of customized training and technical assistance to Wisconsin's business and industry community. One out of every nine adults in Wisconsin receives education from the state's technical colleges. Find more about educational programs at www.witechcolleges.org.

###