

WCTC to fully open in August

Fall semester to offer in-person, hybrid and online courses

PEWAUKEE — Waukesha County Technical College announced Tuesday a fall 2021 reset plan to fully reopen its main Pewaukee and Waukesha campuses Aug. 2, with the fall semester beginning Aug. 16.

Because of COVID-19 WCTC adjusted its campus hours and access last spring, shifting course delivery options and providing alternative technologies to be used in place of in-person meetings. The college also implemented strict safety, cleaning and disinfecting practices, along with enforcing masking and social distancing guidelines to keep the WCTC community safe.

WCTC has followed, and continues to follow, guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local health agencies.

As part of the fall reset, WCTC will welcome back students with in-person classes and labs at pre-COVID-19 levels, business hours will return to normal and support services will be available in person. Prior to the virus outbreak, courses were offered in online, in-person and hybrid options and have been continuing in that manner.

WCTC President Rich Barnhouse said the college and the country are at a very different place than 12

months ago, and that has helped shape the return-to-campus plan.

“What we do know is this is not March 2020 (when) we had no control over the virus,” Barnhouse said. “We are not at the same level of concern as a year ago. Very soon, in Waukesha County, most people who want a vaccine will be able to receive a vaccine. We’re building a plan for return based on today and moving forward toward August.”

The return to campus is not unique to WCTC, Barnhouse said, as most colleges and universities around the country — and locally, including those in the Wisconsin

Technical College System — will be reopening their physical doors in fall. However, he stressed, health and safety remain paramount.

“We’re changing the philosophy of ‘if it can be done off campus, then it must be done off campus,’ to ‘if it can be done safely on campus, then it should be done safely on campus,’” he said.

Both Barnhouse and WCTC’s Vice President of Learning Brad Piazza praised the college’s employees for their commitment, flexibility and dedication to WCTC and working creatively throughout the pandemic to provide positive experiences for students.



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“If we think back to where we were a year ago and where we are now (then) that’s a testament of the work of everybody from one end of this campus to the other,” Piazza said.

Barnhouse added that he is

looking forward to the energy that will return to campus with students, staff and faculty back in classrooms, labs and offices.

“We are going to be a vibrant campus, because presence matters,” he said.