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# A TECHNICAL APPROACH TO EDUCATION

HOW CAN PARENTS AND STUDENTS DECIDE IF TECHNICAL COLLEGES ARE A GOOD FIT? MS. MICHELN RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Research technical colleges by visiting and sitting in a class while school is in session.

Talk to your children about the world of work and what they need to succeed and support themselves.

Have them consider all of their interests, and see which ones might have applications for the workforce.

85% OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF GRADUATION.

For some high school graduates a four-year degree might not be the right match. One option for those interested in preparing themselves for the working world is to attend one of Wisconsin's 47 technical colleges. According to the Wisconsin Technical College System, more than 85 percent of graduates are employed within six months of graduation and 97 percent are satisfied with their technical college education.

Barbara Micheln is a WEAC member and instructor at Gateway Technical College in Kenosha. The path that led her to teach both high school graduates and adults at Gateway is very similar to some of her students. After years of working in radio and television and media sales, she attended Gateway to pursue a degree in interior design. After working in the field, she then came back to Gateway as an instructor. Her experience is something she passes along to her students, who often successfully compete in the workforce alongside students from four-year universities and colleges.

"At technical colleges you get hands-on experience. One of the greatest advantages is the one-on-one attention in classes, taught by instructors who have worked in these fields for years," said Ms. Micheln.

"People leave here fully equipped to start their lives," said Ms. Micheln. For parents and graduates, those just might be the words they need to hear.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Two-thirds of the fastest growing occupations require technical education of an associate degree or less.

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WISCONSIN'S TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM:

The Wisconsin technical college system is 100 years old.

Many schools allow students to start a program while still attending high school.

Many credits can transfer to a four-year university or college.

More than 300 programs are offered in the system.

Classes are often more affordable than four-year universities and colleges.

Visit [witechcolleges.org](http://witechcolleges.org) to learn more about Wisconsin's technical colleges.