

Seniors Graduate from WCTC Dual Enrollment Academies

School District of New Berlin students earned certificates, college credits

New Berlin, Wis. – Seven School District of New Berlin seniors graduated Tuesday from Waukesha County Technical College academies that awarded them certificates, college credits and a jump start on future careers.

The seniors at New Berlin West and New Berlin Eisenhower attended a graduation ceremony at WCTC Tuesday night for the college's 2014-15 Dual Enrollment Academies (DEA). The New Berlin graduates and their respective DEA program certificates are:

Printing and Publishing:

Nathan Miller (Eisenhower)

Tool and Die:

Dustin Pearson (West)
Ryan Scherbarth (West)

Welding:

Vincent Ewert (West)
Sullivan MacDonald (Eisenhower)
Robert Nemec (Eisenhower)
Benjamin Weber (Eisenhower)

"These students have pursued both rigorous and relevant coursework that jump starts their career and progress toward their college degree. We are extremely proud of their accomplishment," New Berlin Schools Superintendent Joe Garza said.

"The School District of New Berlin is pleased to have been a partner of this regional program for the past two years," Garza added. "Student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. It has been a perfect fit for those students who wanted to do something completely different with their senior year."

[WCTC's Dual Enrollment Academy Program](#) provides students with access to some of the most cutting-edge technology and tools available in industry today, said Kelli Kwiatkowski, SDNB Director of Curriculum.

High school students attend WCTC from 8 to 12 a.m. and then return to their home school to complete any requirements needed for graduation and/or participate in school events and activities. Students graduate from the School District of New Berlin with 20-24 credits through WCTC, an industry credential and a head start at securing employment while they pursue their post-secondary education.

Program areas available for the 2014-15 school year were: Tool and Die/CNC; Welding and Fabrication, and Printing and Publishing. In 2015-16, WCTC is adding a new program for Baking and Pastry Production.

Denise Rood, WCTC Vice President of Learning, said, "Over 80% of the WCTC DEA graduates are already employed. We are certainly pleased with the performance measures associated with this program to date."

At Tuesday's graduation ceremony, these students were recognized for additional scholarships and honors:

Nathan Miller (Eisenhower) won a \$500 scholarship and a medal when his Printing and Publishing DEA team finished 2nd place in a printing competition in North Carolina. The 2 ½-day competition in March, called the [Phoenix Challenge](#), featured 18 teams from around the country. Miller competed on a WCTC team with Joe Till of Greendale High School.

Robert Nemeč (Eisenhower) won a Technical Excellence scholarship.

Dustin Pearson (West) earned a National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Certification for Machining Level 1 (Measurement, Materials, and Safety).

"This was the first time the NIMS Certification was pursued with non-apprentice students and these high school students certainly rose to the occasion.... We could not be more proud," Mike Shiels, Dean of the WCTC School of Applied Technologies, said at the ceremony.

Shiels said WCTC's DEA program is successful because of strong partnerships between industry, K12 education and local and state government.

"I applaud all of the partners involved in this program for your part in moving Wisconsin forward," said Scott Jansen, Administrator of the Division of Employment & Training for Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. "Tonight's event is the culmination of what transpired the last 18 months in Madison when the government reinvested in economic development and workforce by investing in our high school students."

Kaylen Betzig, Waukesha County Technical College President, said, "WCTC has joined DWD officials to promote the Dual Enrollment Academy (DEA) as a best practice in public-private partnerships.... I commend you on getting a head start on your post-secondary education and careers."

Students interested in learning about WCTC's DEA programs can visit www.wctc.edu/dual-enroll.



(Left to right) Denise Rood, WCTC Vice President of Learning; Paul Farrow, Waukesha County Executive; Kaylen Betzig, WCTC President; Ben Weber (IKE); Sullivan MacDonald (IKE); Nathan Miller (IKE); Dustin Pearson (West); Robert Nemeč (IKE); Ryan Scherbarth (West); Mary Baer, Vice President of Community Engagement at Waukesha County Business Alliance; Mike Shiels, Dean, WCTC School of Applied Technologies. Not pictured: Vincent Ewert (West)

See the School District's Facebook page for more photos from graduation and a [February visit by State Officials](#).