

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Wisconsin Technical College System, DSPS Partner to Facilitate Faster Licensing**

*Collaboration focuses on students graduating into health care fields*

**La Crosse, Wis.** - The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) today announced a collaborative effort to streamline the professional licensing of students graduating from health care programs at WTCS institutions, guiding them into the state's healthcare workforce as quickly as possible.

"State technical colleges graduate a large number of students directly into the state's healthcare workforce and are a vital source of talent. Many of those workers need a professional credential from DSPS to practice in the state," explained Wisconsin Technical College System President Dr. Morna K. Foy. "This collaboration with DSPS will allow our colleges to provide an enhanced service to our students while simultaneously benefitting Wisconsin's healthcare employers."

During the announcement at Western Technical College in La Crosse, Wisconsin DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth pointed out this announcement is part of a larger scope of work at the department focused on workforce development.

"Our mission will always include safety and protecting Wisconsinites through our regulatory duties. However, we have a dual focus on workforce and licensing professionals as efficiently as possible while maintaining that safety net," Hereth explained. "We've improved internal processes to reduce our application review and licensing times. We've worked with professional groups to streamline licensing steps in various careers, and now we're pursuing opportunities with the state's institutions of higher education to find further efficiencies."

The collaboration between DSPS and WTCS involves the LicenseE Educator Access Portal (LEAP). Through LEAP, participating WTCS colleges will receive fixed access to DSPS's LicenseE system. With that access, college and university staff will be able to monitor their respective students' progress through the license application process and help guide any students having challenges.

LEAP will also allow participating colleges and universities to electronically notify DSPS when a batch of students meet graduation requirements, as opposed to the previous process of manually uploading a statement of graduation for each individual license application.

“We share a mutually beneficial goal of ensuring students who are prepared to enter the workforce can swiftly transition from academia to the professional realm,” Western President Dr. Roger Stanford said before a ceremonial signing of the LEAP agreement with Secretary-designee Hereth.

Wisconsin DSPS announced similar collaborations with the Universities of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities late last year to offer LEAP to programs training health care students at their respective campuses.

### **Wisconsin Technical College System**

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) offers more than 500 programs awarding two-year associate degrees, one- and two-year technical diplomas, short-term technical diplomas and certificates. The System is the major provider of customized instruction and technical assistance for Wisconsin employers. With nearly 280,000 people enrolling in a technical college each year, it is the largest higher education system in the state.

### **DSPS**

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With three offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

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