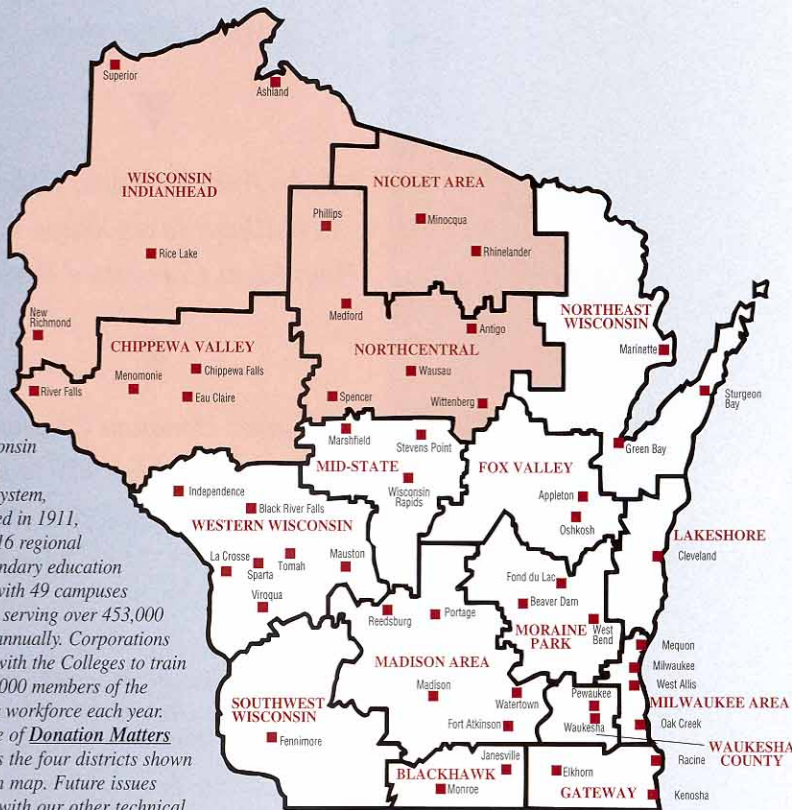


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On our cover:

NTC students in the Residential Building Systems program build a log house.



The Wisconsin Technical College System, established in 1911, includes 16 regional post-secondary education districts with 49 campuses statewide serving over 453,000 students annually. Corporations contract with the Colleges to train over 100,000 members of the corporate workforce each year. This issue of *Donation Matters* highlights the four districts shown in pink on map. Future issues will visit with our other technical college districts.

At Northcentral Technical College

Golden Eagle Log Homes Helps Students Learn Building Practices and Standards

Two years ago, when Walter Frei brought a group of students to Wisconsin, he became intrigued by log homes. In his native Germany, Frei, who heads the department of civil engineering at Staatliche Berufsschule in Altötting, Bavaria, had never seen the construction used in an American log home. During his visit last spring, Frei's students and their counterparts in Northcentral Technical College's (NTC) Residential Building Systems program built one.

Actually, they built a 8 by 12 foot full-log playhouse, with a front porch. All materials as well as technical assistance for the project were donated by **GOLDEN EAGLE LOG HOMES** in Wisconsin Rapids.

The building project is the capstone of a two-week exchange between NTC's Residential Building Systems Program and Staatliche Berufsschule's carpentry apprentice program. Now in its fifth year, this exchange allows students from each school to experience first-hand international building principles, practices, and standards.

"Our challenge was to find a project that could be completed in two weeks, and to keep expenses at a minimum," said Andy Clark, NTC Residential Building Instructor. "We hadn't worked with **GOLDEN EAGLE LOG HOMES** before, but when I called to ask their help, there was no hesitation. They said 'no problem, we'll take care of it,' and they supplied the entire building."



Exchange students from Germany and NTC students in the Residential Building Systems program worked together to build a log house. Besides providing an educational experience, the log house was used in auction to raise money for 12 NTC students to continue the exchange in Germany next spring.

“We’ve got five or six NTC graduates on the payroll as designers, but we’d never been involved in the Building Systems program,” said Jay Parmeter, co-owner of **GOLDEN EAGLE LOG HOMES**. “There are so many misconceptions about log homes, we saw this as an opportunity to teach kids about our product and how to build a log home.”

The playhouse was a custom design, Parmeter said. **GOLDEN EAGLE** made slight modifications to the design created by NTC students. Once NTC personnel traveled to **GOLDEN EAGLE** to learn how to miter the logs and assemble the house, the materials were shipped to NTC. The playhouse was constructed at the College.

The students also toured **GOLDEN EAGLE**’s facility in Wisconsin Rapids before setting to work. The group of 10 German and 12 NTC students worked together for 40 hours to build the playhouse. The finished product was dedicated in a traditional German building dedication ceremony on the visitors’ last day in Wisconsin.

“As a public technical college, we really rely on cooperation from the building industry,” Clark said. “Their participation and help is a long-range investment in the workforce.”

“This was a great experience for us,” Parmeter said. “We learned something too. We’re very interested in continuing to work with NTC – they’re good people.”

And what’s become of the log playhouse? It’s now a sauna in northern Minnesota. Over the summer, it was auctioned on the internet. Proceeds from the sale will provide scholarship assistance for 12 NTC Residential Building Systems students to continue the exchange in Altötting next spring. 🍷

See more on CVTC on page 10.



GOLDEN EAGLE LOG HOMES is a family owned-business located in Wisconsin Rapids.

Founded as a building supply business in 1966 by Walter and Marlace Parmeter, today **GOLDEN EAGLE**’s exclusive business is the custom design, manufacture and sale of full (solid log) and 2” x 6” conventional frame split log homes. Its 45 employees work with homeowners throughout the nation.

“The majority of business is in the Midwest – Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan,” said Jay Parmeter who owns **GOLDEN EAGLE** with his brother, Tod.

Continued on page 10

See what's new at NTC on page 2 and 3

Northcentral Technical College



—Dr. Robert C. Ernst,
President
Northcentral
Technical College

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) takes seriously its mission to “build a competitive workforce in a changing global society.” To that end, NTC has become a leader among Wisconsin’s technical colleges in international and intercultural programming.

“North central Wisconsin’s employers are increasingly doing business internationally, said Robert C. Ernst, NTC president.

“Because we believe our graduates must enter the workforce with an international perspective, NTC is committed to truly integrating international experiences into our programming and curriculum.”

A growing number of NTC’s program offerings, including Residential Building Systems, Nursing, Electromechanical, and

Graphic Communications, feature an international exchange opportunity. Additionally, NTC hosts exchange students from Germany, Latin American and Caribbean nations, and has established a sister school relationship with Staatliche Berufsschule in Altotting, Bavaria, Germany. The college also hosts thirty visiting Ukrainian professionals each academic year.

Northcentral Technical College’s central campus is located in Wausau, with regional campuses in Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer, and Wittenberg. The College has 2,700 full time equivalent students with more than 19,000 individuals taking at least one class at NTC last year. 🍷

Continued from page 3

Golden Eagle Log Homes

“However we’ve designed homes and shipped materials all over including Massachusetts, New Mexico and Montana. We’re now working with a dealer in Arizona.”

Last year, the company designed and sold 110 homes. This year, they expect the number to climb to 130. Ninety-five (95) percent of **GOLDEN EAGLE** customers live in their log homes full-time, Parmeter said. “Today’s log homes have all the creature comforts. They are typically air-conditioned and have a two or three stall garage. They’re comfortable and beautiful.” 🍷

Thank You American Family Insurance

American Family Insurance has a 75-year tradition of community involvement providing community reinvestment. The company’s sense of community extends beyond financial contributions. This was demonstrated this summer when Judy Lowell of American Family Insurance contacted the Wisconsin Technical College System Foundation with a donation of Dell laptop computers.

American Family Insurance donated 86 laptop computers to the Wisconsin Technical Colleges through the Foundation. This is in addition to a number of other computers that were donated directly to Madison Area Technical College.

These laptop computers were distributed statewide to the Technical Colleges and were greatly appreciated. 🍷

