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*Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development
State Senator André Jacque
March 6th, 2019*

Chairman Petryk and Members of the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of Assembly Bill 36, strong bipartisan legislation Rep. Murphy and I have re-introduced to expand the Tools of the Trade apprenticeship grant program within the Wisconsin Technical College System. Wisconsin employers desperately need skilled workers and apprenticeships have been successful in helping meet that demand, however the road to complete them is long and paved with financial challenges that can discourage even the most motivated individuals.

In response to this need, AB 36 will provide the Wisconsin Technical College System Board with an additional \$100,000 per academic year to assist technical college students who have undertaken apprenticeship training courses in conjunction with instruction at their schools. Each individual student who qualifies is eligible to receive up to \$1,000, which must be used to assist in paying for materials and expenses associated with the apprenticeship training program, including tools, clothing, equipment and supplies. The Technical College System Board is required to establish an application process and criteria for awarding these grants. The existing Tools of the Trade program is privately funded for the system by the Ascendium Education Philanthropy (formerly Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation) and dispenses \$200,000 annually in grants.

Since the Tools of the Trade program was established in 2013, approximately 96 percent of past recipients have either completed their apprenticeships or continued their training the following semester, a remarkable track record of success. Completion is critical, as the most recent data available showed the median salary for students completing an apprenticeship to be over \$67,000. Over \$600,000 in Tools of the Trade scholarships have been awarded to apprentices in Wisconsin since the program was expanded to apprentices at all WTCS colleges four years ago.

AB 36 will help WTCS keep pace with the increasing demand systemwide for assistance to apprentices. In 2017, the Tools of the Trade program received approximately 265 applications, with 225 deemed eligible and 200 funded. Last year, 317 applications for Tools of the Trade funding were received, with 272 of them being considered eligible (an over 20% increase), and demand is likely to grow even further.

AB 36 has support from the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, and numerous associations in the trades and passed Assembly and Senate Committees and the full State Assembly unanimously last session.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 36.

DAVE MURPHY

State Representative • 56th Assembly District

Assembly Committee on Workforce Development
March 6, 2019

AB 36: Tools of the Trade

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 36, our 'Tools of the Trade' bill.

Students at our technical colleges are critical to our growing workforce in Wisconsin. As a long-time proponent of training, education and experience, I'm proud to author this legislation along with Sen. Jacque. Our bill expands the Tools of the Trade apprenticeship program already in place in the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS).

The Tools of the Trade program was established in 2013, and has been privately funded by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation. Sadly, there is still an unmet need with these grants. Every year, applicants are not awarded the grant because the money's run out. This legislation will help WTCS students meet the demands of our workforce needs by awarding \$1000 grants to qualified students for use in paying for apprenticeship needs such as tools or special clothing and equipment. Trades jobs training requires students to have their own professional level supplies and equipment, and this is a great way to get those items in their hands fast.

Providing a state investment of an additional \$50,000 per year to this critical program is a small way to have a great impact on our students and our workforce of the future.

Again, thank you for hearing this bill. I hope you'll join me in supporting Assembly Bill 36.



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: March 6, 2019
RE: Testimony on Assembly Bill 36
TO: The Assembly Committee on Workforce Development
FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Chairman Petryk and members of the committee, thank you for today's hearing and for accepting my written testimony on behalf of Assembly Bill 36 (AB 36), which allocates \$100,000 annually for the creation of a grant program under which the Technical College System Board may award technical college students up to \$1,000 to help address the cost of materials and expenses that accompany an apprenticeship training program. This bill expands the successful Tools of the Trade program to include public funds. Currently, the program dispenses \$200,000 every year and is funded by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wisconsin's unemployment rate has been at or below 3.0% for over one year – an incredible stretch. Over the last eight years, our state has gone from having an unemployment problem to facing a workforce challenge. Wisconsin needs more workers, and statistics show that apprenticeship programs pave the way for family supporting jobs. The median salary for students who complete an apprenticeship is over \$67,000. As students realize these opportunities, the number of apprentices taking advantage of the Tools of the Trade program has increased. In 2017, 317 students applied, 272 met eligibility standards, and 200 grants were awarded. By passing this bill, we will be able to help even more students pursue a path that ends in a high paying job for them and a need met for our employers. It's also worth noting that the current program uses financial need as a criteria for determining eligibility for a grant. Under this bill, financial need would be a criteria for the distribution of the public funding as well.

In its current iteration, the Tools of Trade program has helped give hundreds of students the materials they need to be successful. Approximately 96% of students who utilized the program have gone on to complete their apprenticeships or continue their training in the following semester.

Please join me in supporting this legislation, as it builds on a model that has a proven track record of success for growing our state's workforce.

Written testimony RE: 2019 Assembly Bill 36

First, I thank you all for your service to the people of the State of Wisconsin. Thank you also for hearing this testimony.

I am Alan Petelinsek (pedal-insect sounds really close) CEO and Business Director for Power Test, Inc. We are a privately held second generation manufacturing business employing just over 100 people. Our business is a vertically integrated manufacture of large machines used for testing engines, transmissions and vehicles. We sell to the transportation, construction, military, power generation and mining markets all over the globe. 50% of our business is export.

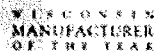
We have found the business climate to be very favorable here in Wisconsin, especially in recent years. We like many businesses are encountering significant challenges in hiring a skilled workforce. We have participated in providing apprenticeships for many years and presently have several new apprenticeships available. Please see the attachments above.

While we provide on the job training and pay apprentices for the time they attend school, each of these people are still exposed to costs involved in obtaining some necessary but rather expensive tools and equipment. These tools and materials are generally greater than a typical student would be required to obtain early in this stage of their education. This fact may prove to be a barrier to entering the apprenticeship programs. I would like to state that we manufacturers that support apprenticeship programs, are thankful for the Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit, as this allows us more financial resources to invest in these apprentices and the surge of apprenticeships supports this.

On behave of my company, I urge you to pass Assembly Bill 36, thereby minimizing the barriers to entry for those we would like to invest in and truly showing that Wisconsin believes in manufacturing and is willing to invest in these great family supporting jobs. The sooner we get these individuals into the apprenticeship program the faster they become tax payers and help us build machines IN WISCONSIN.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Petelinsek

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POWER TEST, INC. APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

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Power Test has a robust, nationally recognized apprenticeship program that allows you to work 4 days per week and get paid one day a week while you attend classes at a local accredited technical college. In 4 years, you will graduate as a journeyman and have 4 years of relevant training all the while receiving strong hourly wages. The classes in the curriculum may also be eligible for additional certifications and degrees.

Applicants must have graduated from high school, be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and a strong desire to help make amazing machines that are exported all over the world.

For more information regarding the apprenticeship program, contact Director of HR, Mary Burback (mary.burback@powertestdyno.com) or apply at www.PowerTestDyno.com.

We Make It Better

Power Test, Inc. is a world leader in the manufacture of heavy-duty engine, transmission and chassis dynamometer systems. Established in 1976, we are a consistently growing and dynamic organization. Power Test is a two-time recipient of the Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Award, named one of Southeast Wisconsin's Healthiest Employers in the Small Business category, and was awarded the Governor's Export Achievement Award for the state of Wisconsin.

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Apprentice Related Instruction



Active WTCS/BAS Programs by Sector and Occupation - January 2019

	BLACKHAWK	CHIPPEWA VALLEY	FOX VALLEY	GATEWAY	LAKESHORE	MILWAUKEE AREA	MORaine PARK	NICOLET AREA	NORTH CENTRAL	NORTHEAST WI	SOUTHWEST WI	WI INDIANHEAD
Construction Sector Apprentice Related Instruction												
Bricklaying/Masonry												
Carpentry												
Concrete Finishing												
Electrical												
Electronic Systems Tech/Voice/Data/Video												
Glazing												
HVAC/Environmental Service												
Ironworking												
Operating Erector/Heavy Equipment												
Painting & Decorating												
Plumbing												
Roofing												
Sheet Metal												
Sonotek/tilting												
Steamfitter/Service/Refrigeration												
Steamfitter/Construction												
Industrial Sector Apprentice Related Instruction												
Automated Packaging Technician												
Electrical Instrumentation/Instrumentation Tech												
Industrial Electrician												
Industrial Manufacturing Technician												
Injection Mold Set-Up (Plastic)												
Machinist/Tool & Die/Patternmaker/Moldmaker												
Maint. Mech/Machine Repair/Millwright/Lube Tech												
Maintenance Technician												
Mechatronic												
Metal Fabricator/Welder												
Pipe Fabricator												
Pipelitter												
Service Sector Apprentice Related Instruction												
Arborist												
Barber/Cosmetologist												
Cook/Chef												
Dairy Grazer												
Electrical Line Worker												
Funeral Director												
Meatening Technician												
Substation Electrician												
Wastewater Treatment Operator												