

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Public Hearing on Madison College's Facilities Master Plan Set for Wednesday;
Health Care, Green Jobs, Protective Services Are Top Priorities for the College**

Wisconsin is projected to have a nursing shortage that will intensify as baby boomers age and the need for health care grows. So who will help train the nurses and health care workers of the future? Madison Area Technical College is focused on remaining a leader in this area.

The college's Facilities Plan, which is open to public comment on Wednesday, September 8, includes a new Health Services Education Center, Advanced/Green Manufacturing Center and Protective Services Education Center. Madison College trains most police, fire, and emergency medical services workers in the district's 12-county area.

The Facilities Plan includes renovation, expansion and upgrades for all campuses in the district.

"Student enrollment and waiting lists are at all-time highs," says Madison College President Bettsey Barhorst. "This proposed plan will provide an opportunity for more students to learn in high-tech classrooms. It's what our students need for increasingly complex jobs that are essential to our community and our local economy."

Following the public hearing on the college's Facilities Master Plan, the District Board may vote on whether to approve the authorizing of general obligation bonds for an amount not to exceed \$133,770,000 and a resolution providing for a referendum election. The last time Madison Area Technical College went to referendum was more than 35 years ago.

A Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance study shows the economy receives a return of nearly \$4 for every \$1 invested in technical colleges.

The public hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m. in room 122 at the Truax administration building (3550 Anderson St.)

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Madison Area Technical College serves approximately 40,000 individuals annually, providing "real world smart" education through a comprehensive curriculum of technical, liberal arts and sciences, adult basic education and continuing education, as well as customized training for employers.