

THOUGHTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIKE KERR



If there's one word that sums up the state of education in Wisconsin for 2018, it's change. Here are a few of the many changes we saw during the past year:

- A new governor who will most definitely prioritize education. Welcome Governor Tony Evers!
- An overhaul of the Department of Public Instruction. We look forward to working with both new faces and old friends.
- What many have coined the "Education Election." In November, Wisconsin taxpayers voted to invest \$1.3 billion into our public schools via a record number of 82 local school district referendums, an amazing 77 of which passed.
- Hitting an array of WTI milestones. By the end of 2018 WTI had accomplished the following: provided financial gifts and support to over 200 of the public school districts in the state; held our 12th and 13th statewide conferences during our eight-year existence; and completed our 12th round of funding for school districts, with gifts totaling in excess of \$11 million!!

WTI's 2018 grants maintained the commitment to classroom technology established at our inception, and continued to focus on the new, impactful direction we embarked on in 2017. Those impactful changes included support in the following critical areas:

- **CODING.** We funded a two-day code.org K-6 Certification class at all of our conferences and added a more advanced middle school/high school session as well.
- **MAKERSPACES.** WTI's grants are now helping fund these spaces in over 30 districts in the state.
- **TECH EDUCATION LABS.** WTI provided 12 schools with teacher scholarships to attend the Three Lakes School District Fab Lab Academy in the summer of 2018.
- **RURAL SCHOOLS.** WTI is committed to help meet the critical needs of rural schools. In 2018 we more than tripled our CESA partnerships in the northeast corner of the state, expanding from eight to 25 districts.

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THOUGHTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIKE KERR, continued

It was opportunities such as these that drove some of our state's most committed and forward-thinking leaders in education and technology to come together in late 2010 to found the Wisconsin Technology Initiative (WTI). Funding for WTI is provided by Cisco Systems' first CEO John Morgridge and his wife Tashia through their TOSA Foundation. WTI's mandate then and now: to investigate technology-related education trends, disseminate our findings to state institutions and educators and collaborate with them to find more effective ways to integrate technology into the classroom.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about WTI. I look forward to your thoughts and feedback and to discovering how, together, we can make 2019 an even better year for education in Wisconsin.

Respectfully,
Mike Kerr
Executive Director



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 RECAP

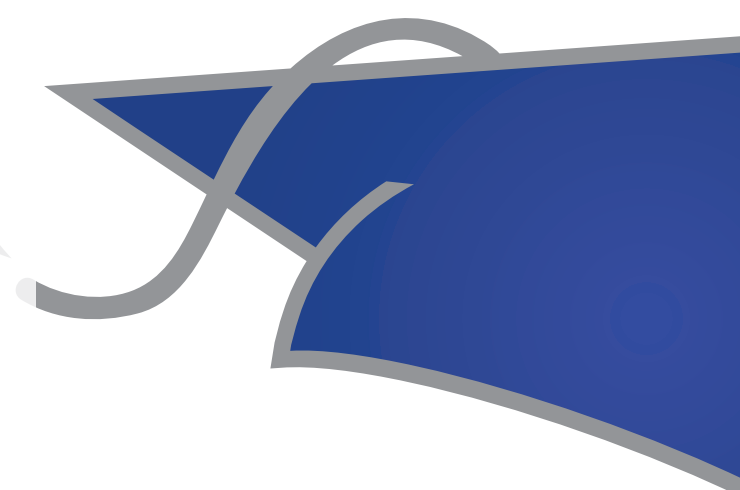
Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the WTI project. These past 12 months were an unbelievable period of growth for our organization and, as always, the generosity of our benefactors, John and Tashia Morgridge, made all the difference and was so very much appreciated. The total gifts provided to our 2018 grant recipients totaled more than \$1 million for Wisconsin education institutions.

As we look to 2019 we continue to focus on professional development, makerspace environments and tech education

labs. Technology will, of course, remain at the forefront with ongoing investments in code.org, Google Classroom, SMART Boards and Interactive Video classroom technologies.

Please visit our website to learn what's in store throughout the year. We look forward to an amazing Tech Ed Fest on the UW-Madison campus on May 31st and June 1st.

On behalf of WTI, thank you for the important role you play in transforming our state of classrooms!



WISCONSIN TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Transforming Our State of Classrooms

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

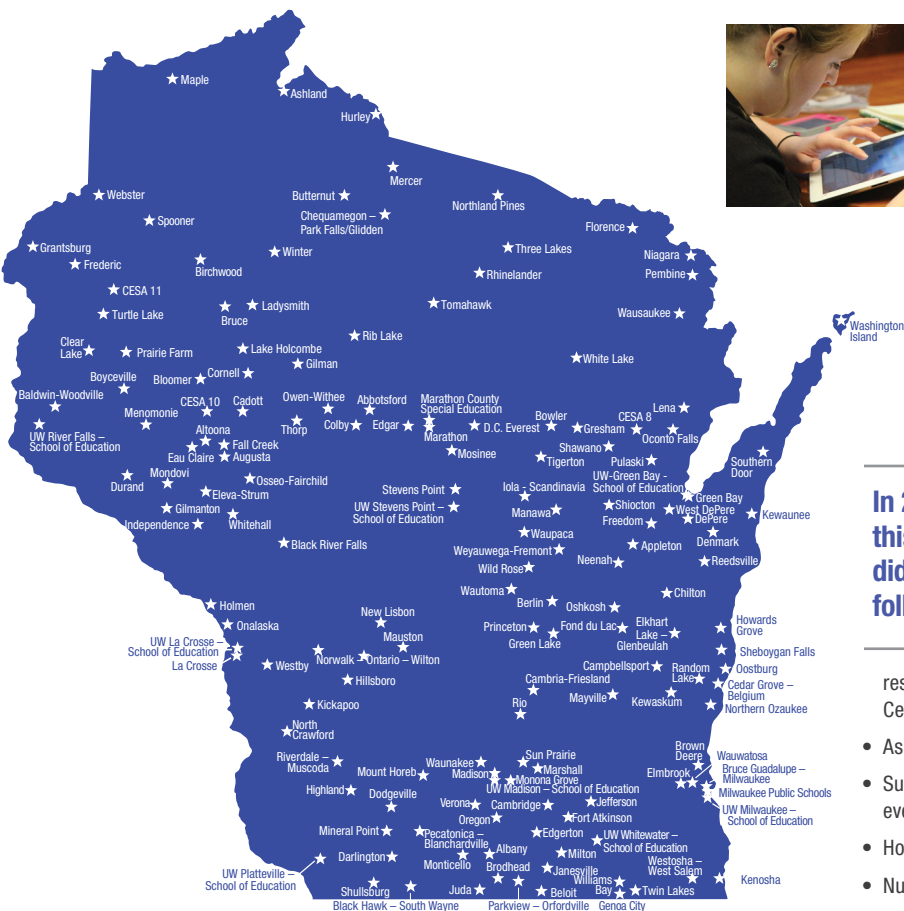
DISTRICTS/ENTITIES RECEIVING GRANTS



Our Schools' Brighter Tomorrow Starts with Technology Investments Today

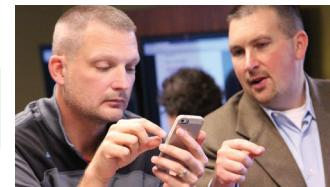
As it had in previous years, in 2018 WTI received a \$2 million budget from the TOSA Foundation to provide grants to schools and educational facilities throughout the state of Wisconsin. These grants are to be used to acquire and implement classroom technologies and are awarded in two rounds each year. WTI provided support for classroom technologies (SMART boards, video, Chromebooks, Robotics, Tech Education, etc.) that can demonstrate documented strategies and results.

The following areas received grants from WTI:



Grants Given — The numbers tell the story

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Number of classrooms receiving whiteboards | 2,500+ To Date 2011-2018 |
| Number of classrooms receiving peripheral interactive classroom technologies (document cameras, audio systems, Makerspaces) | 2,600+ To Date 2011-2018 |
| Elementary classrooms supported | 2,300 |
| Middle school classrooms supported | 1,125 |
| High school classrooms supported | 1,410 |
| Number of school districts/educational institutions that received technology grants | 202 |
| Number of students who are benefiting from 21 st -century learning technology | 150,000+ |



WTI ACADEMIC FORUM 2018

WTI Academic Forums provide an opportunity for Wisconsin PreK-12 educators to take a deep dive into topics that will help them support critical district-wide initiatives. Our sessions, workshops and certification programs offer a range of professional development opportunities for teachers and district support staff.

As project-based learning environments continue to evolve, so does WTI forum content. Each year we add a variety of new sessions to ensure school districts have access to the content and inspiration they need to grow professionally and better meet their students' needs.

We typically host two academic forums each calendar year, but Mother Nature was not on our side for our spring conference. Bad weather forced us to cancel for the first time in nine years of hosting professional development events, but we're happy to report our fall academic forum was very well attended. During that event educators had the opportunity to discuss and learn about the latest in technology innovation through a series of collaborative, hands-on courses.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING



Ongoing professional development helps ensure Wisconsin educators get the training and hands-on experience they need to turn existing and emerging technologies into powerful tools for education.

In 2018, this budget did the following:

- Provided training for over 2,500 teachers, administrators, district support staff and students.
- Funded several summer learning academies and tech fests.
- Supported nine advanced Smart Technologies summer symposiums, resulting in an additional 79 Smart Notebook Certified teachers.
- Assisted with five edCamps held around the state.
- Supported Rural Schools Teacher training events held in both districts and CESAs.
- Hosted the annual WTI Academic Forum in November.
- Number of attendees to date: over 16,000

WTI Fall Forum Overview

The Time is NOW

November 9 and November 10, 2018

Our Host: Brown Deer School District

WTI Pre-Conference Event – November 9th

Location: Brown Deer Middle/High School

Attendees: District Administrators, Technology Integrators, Information Technology Staff

Attendance: 50

To get a jumpstart on our forum, the Brown Deer School District hosted a pre-conference session. District leaders from around the state started the day sharing recent "district wins" to give insight into all the great things happening around Wisconsin. Dennis Rockhill of the Einstein Project along with Steve Yahr, Director of the Fab Lab in Three Lakes, led the group through a fantastic session on project-based learning environments. The day ended with Dennis overseeing an Instant Challenge that focused on team building and collaboration.

WTI Academic Forum – November 10th

Location: Brown Deer Middle/High School

Attendees: PK-12 Teachers, District Administrators, Technology Integrators & Coaches, Information Technology Staff

Attendance: 90

On Saturday, we welcomed over 90 educators to the Brown Deer School District, a number of whom were first-time WTI attendees. We were thrilled with the turnout, especially as this was our first time hosting the forum in the southeastern part of the state. The staff at Brown Deer School District, along with our own WTI community, did a fabulous job getting the word out. It was a true testament to the value attendees find in this event.

We introduced a slightly new format that included the following:

- Morning overview sessions on today's most relevant topics in education.
- A variety of "fast track" learning tables during the lunch period. Each focused on one key concept along with "how to" information attendees could use in their own classroom.
- Afternoon follow-ups that built on the morning sessions. These breakout sessions allowed facilitators to go into more detail and incorporated hands-on work time.