

All News Is NOT Bad News

Wisconsin Technical Colleges Show Progress Amid National Trends

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As 2025 draws to an end, many people are expressing a feeling of trepidation about escalating threats, but some of that angst may be unwarranted, which is good news! Examining crime trends in 2025 so far, violence in the country is NOT increasing overall. It has actually started trending downward since the pandemic, according to the FBI and Council on Criminal Justice. Large universities across the nation have shown increases in crimes of violence on campus, but this has not mirrored 2-year colleges nationwide. In fact, it appears that incidents of violence on smaller campuses are extremely low and have remained that way over the last few years.

What accounts for this disparity, particularly at technical colleges? A closer look reveals a proactive approach that focuses on student-centered education. The colleges are investing in comprehensive student support services, including tutoring, mental health counseling, academic coaching, food pantries, community partnerships for additional resources, and diversion programs that steer individuals away from the justice system. DMI's Lance Klukas discussed CARE and BIT teams during his last topical snapshot presentation, and this is just another program the colleges use to identify concerns and provide support that moves the needle away from escalating issues.

It boils down to this simple fact: the colleges have done an incredible job in the State of Wisconsin of making the technical college a neutral hub of wraparound services that provide a genuine community of support that deters violence.

This represents a resounding success for Wisconsin's technical colleges, which continue to prioritize safety, security, and holistic support. Looking ahead to 2026, the outlook is even more promising. With growing enrollment of minors, colleges are advancing robust Youth Protection measures. There is also a renewed emphasis on violence prevention, including "See Something, Say Something" campaigns, and greater collaboration among leaders statewide. I see a continuation of sharing best practices and seeking input to strengthen institutional plans with many new leaders bringing additional perspectives to these efforts.

Don't be swayed by the external noise of negativity; the technical colleges' efforts on prevention are yielding exceptional safety outcomes, leading them into a bright 2026.

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