

History of Vocational Education in the Chippewa Valley

Year	Event
1912	Vocational training begins in Eau Claire, Menomonie and Chippewa Falls. Goals: Industrial Education and apprenticeship. (manual training) day and evening Location: First wards public school - girls Eight wards public school - boys Chippewa High School BLDG Teachers paid \$1.00 per evening Eau Claire course offerings: cooking, citizenship, mechanical drawing, shop arithmetic, commercial, academic, sheet metal and telegraphy. Chippewa course offerings: English for foreigners, spelling and language, sewing, and cooking. Students: 14-16 yr. olds not attending regular school Enrollment: 95 Eau Claire, 32 Chippewa
1914	William Dixon, Director
1916	Full-time director appointed, \$1500, Milton Towner
1917	War emergency training class for ladies in gas engines and auto mechanics. Charles Beardsley, Director
1921	Bond issue defeated. Difficulties with discipline solved by excusing students as soon as work completed.
1922	Chippewa enrollment: 542; 32 occupations represented. School attainments ranged from 4th grade to university graduates. Unusual interest in show card writing, basketry, machine shop, and telegraphy.
1923	Evening School opened to those older than 16. Evening school salary \$2.50 per evening. Added classes in home nursing, salesmanship, commercial law, agri lab, elements of banking, physical culture for girls, English for new Americans.
1924	Enrollment at Chippewa Falls school: day-35 boys, 36 girls. Evenings: 70 men, 348 women. Girls and boys do not go to school at the same times.
1926	Moved to new high school. Added papermaking, industrial safety, coordination for rehab education.
1927	Harley Brook, Director. Agreement with Board of Education to trade industrial equipment in high school for sixth ward bldg. (School) on Mappa Street.
1931	Beginning of outreach.
1933	Federal relief classes in Chippewa.
1935	National Youth Administration set-up in Chippewa.
1937	First school building for vocational education. Moved to remodeled old 6th ward school building on Mappa Street. More respect in the community- not seen as just for delinquents and truants. Police instruction course for Chippewa and Eau Claire. Added business and distributive ed.
1939	Enrollment: day 503, night 554
1940	Sam Davey, Director, set up additional classes to accommodate all defense classes.
1941	Machine Shop established on Jones Street and electrical shop on Graham Ave. Multi-tone factory purchased on First Ave., Eau Claire Vocational and National Youth Admin Center trained youths for war industries, Residents Center classes held 24 hr. a day.
1942	Classes offered in Civilian Defense
1943	Machine Shop for girls, Diesel Engineering to be offered, William Enge, Director.
1944	Increase in number of full time occupational students, Chippewa trains workers for Manitowoc shipbuilding and Western electric. Many classes added including lineman, pharmacy, Dresden china painting, leader institutes, driver's ed, barbering, growth pressures increase, enrollment: day-562/night 538.
1949	Compulsory ed instituted voc ed and option. First Tech program diploma.

1950	Classes added in radio and TV, traffic safety, data processing, family relations, topographical drafting. Chippewa adds citizenship, selling of banking services, and boat building
1955	Total enrollment day and night: 2924
1957	Stein property purchased (20 acres) for \$24,000.
1958	Eau Claire and Chippewa vocational schools discuss the matter of area vocational school.
1959	Long-term building plans were reviewed and plans were prepared for the Eau Claire school to be constructed at the Clairemont Avenue location.
1961	Signed contract for construction of new building. Chippewa acquires vocational building from Board of Education.
1961	Phase I building (on Clairemont Avenue) completed. Cost: \$644,251
January 1963	A new Eau Claire Technical Institute on Clairemont Avenue was dedicated. This was the first facility in Eau Claire built specifically for vocational-technical education and housed trade and industrial programs. Other programs continued at the Vocational School on First Avenue. Data: Enrollments - 485 full-time day students; 929 part-time evening students. 11 majors (T&I at Clairemont; business at First Avenue). Technical diplomas: Marketing, General Clerical, Auto Mechanics, Barbering, Carpentry & Cabinet Making; and Machine Tool. Associate Degrees: Accounting, Secretarial Science, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology, Electronics Technology, and Mechanical Design-Drafting.
July 1963	Director Willard Enge retired. Cecil Beede was named Director. Campus is split between First Avenue and Clairemont Avenue. Full time enrollment: 473; part-time enrollment: 1,845. Enrollment increases 26% from 1962. Voc Ed Act broadened concept of vocational education and increased appropriations.
1963	Developed preliminary plans for second phase of building program (on Clairemont Avenue).
1964	Built warehouse adjacent to school (now referred to as the West Annex).
1965	Boundaries extended, funds requested from state for more building, Governor Knowles supports bill for new vocational districts. Land acquisition on south side of Clairemont controversial; potential political issue. Land was purchased (28 acres) for parking and future building expansion. Enrollment 519 males, 164 females.
June 9, 1965	First formal graduation is held for 185 graduates at North High School auditorium.
1966	Norb Wurtzel began at Eau Claire Vocational, Technical and Adult School
1967	Building phase II-new addition opened. Enrollment: full time day 896, part time 504, evening 1200. Staff: administrators-12, Secretary and clerical-12, teachers-50, custodians-5, cooks-3. Teaching staff forms union.
November 1967	New campus of the Eau Claire Vocational, Technical and Adult School at 620 West Clairemont Avenue was dedicated.
1968	Chippewa County Board voted to attach Chippewa County to vocational district District No. 1 effective July 1, 1968. Audio Visual department established.
July 1968	Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District One was organized as one of 18 districts in the state system. It originally included five counties--Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire and Pepin Counties. Vocational schools in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire and Menomonie became part of VTAE District One. Cecil Beede, Director of the Eau Claire School, was named District Director. The comprehensive center in Eau Claire was named District One Technical Institute (DOTI), and the schools in Chippewa Falls and Menomonie were named District One Vocational & Adult School. Full-time enrollment surpasses 1,000.
1969	First Tradewinds (employee newsletter). New program: Medical Lab Technician, *Certified Lab Assistant "CLA"
1969	William Hehli, Bill Neverdahl, Arnie Rongstad, and Bill Boyle joined DOTI.
1969	Constructed classroom-shop facility adjacent to warehouse. (Now referred to as the East Annex.)
1970	Jerry Jacobson began at DOTI
1970	New programs: Electrical Power Distribution, Auto Body. Many instructors came right from College to DOTI: Marilyn Seguin, John Moseng, Marv Franson, Pat Devine.
1971	New programs, Precision Inspection, Police Science, Medical Lab Technician,

	Radiography, Medical Records Technician, Practical Nursing.
July 1971	When the VTAE system went from 18 districts to 16—CVTC got the River Falls school district. Courses offered in River Falls.
1971	Production Agriculture began in 1971 with Dale Diedrich and Howard H. Johnson as the initial instructors. Later Don Ahrens and CW Dahlby joined the crew. District One receives North Central Association recognition. Accreditation is achieved in 1973.
1972	In recognition of LE Phillips, District One is given \$415,000—the largest single gift to a vocational school in the state system from a private source. It was used to build the L.E. Phillips Service and Health Building. Phillips and shop buildings are constructed.
1973	Data: Enrollment – 2,144 full-time day students; 7,173 part-time evening students (Eau Claire only). 42 programs.
1973	Clerical staff organizes, Math Study Skills opens. 130 acres of land acquired on the west side of Eau Claire to expand campus. Menomonie Center moved into the Dunn County Health Care Center (7/1/73).
March 1973	District One Technical Institute received five-year accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
October 1973	The L. E. Phillips Service and Health Careers Center and the Trade and Industrial Shop Building (now East Annex) were dedicated.
1974	Real Estate added, study skills center opens, start of Project SERVE for handicapped students.
July 1974	Cecil Beede retired. Norbert Wurtzel was named District Director.
1975	West Campus Building begun with Truck Driving Range development to follow
1976	Jerry Jacobson became Assistant Director-Student Services
November 1977	The West Campus in Eau Claire was dedicated. Ag Mechanics, Truck Driving, and Electrical Power Lineman programs were held there.
1977+78	Pedestrian bridge was built. New programs: Hospitality, Legal Assistant, Supervisory Management, Histotechnology, Motorcycle and Marine Mechanic.
July 1978	North Central reaccreditation was received for five years.
October 1978	The Pedestrian Bridge over Clairemont Avenue was dedicated.
1979	Hmong refugees begin to arrive
May 1979	Groundbreaking for the addition to the Main Campus was held.
May 1979	The "Search for Knowledge" hand sculpture was dedicated.
1980	Addition to main building (39,696 sq ft; cost - \$1.5 million). Includes student health services, Student Services, Registrar, Field Services (Continuing Ed), Marketing Store, classrooms, and meeting rooms. Heated partially by body heat and special lighting.
1980	Agribusiness Sales and Service was revised to Machinery Parts and Sales.
August 1980	Groundbreaking for the new Chippewa Falls Campus was held.
November 1980	The addition to the Main Building on the east end of the facility was dedicated.
1981	Adv. Degree Nursing, Administrative Assistant/Information Processing
October 1981	The new Chippewa Falls Campus was dedicated; 19,000 sq. ft. Offered evening school courses and courses from full-time programs.
1982	Fire Science training.
1983	Electromechanical program
January 1983	Two storage buildings at the West Campus were completed.
April 1983	North Central reaccreditation was received for ten years.
1984	Hobbs Child Care Center built. New programs: Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Farm Hand/Helper, Homemaker/Home Health Care Aide, Materials Management. Manufacturing Cell is built at the main campus, room 148.
April 1985	The Hobbs Family Child Care Center was dedicated—one story, 6,000 sq. ft., solar structure—serving as a child care center and teaching facility.
August 19, 1987	District One Technical Institute was renamed Chippewa Valley Technical College at a special meeting of the District Board on 8/19/87.
August 1992	Signed lease for space for Neillsville Center located at 501 Hewett Street (old dime store)

December 1987	The 75th Anniversary Time Capsule in memory of Harold Kassing was dedicated. Harold Kassing was the business agent for the Bricklayers union. He was a good friend of the college. The time capsule enclosure was built by the bricklayers apprenticeship students.
October 1988	The West Campus Driver Safety Center was dedicated.
1989	Agriscience began
December 1990	Jerry Jacobson retired from CVTC
July 1991	Groundbreaking for the new Menomonie Campus was held.
October 1992	The new Menomonie Campus was dedicated.
February 1993	North Central reaccreditation was received for ten years.
December 1993	Board changed administrative titles from District Director and Assistant Director to President and Vice President.
July 1994	Norbert Wurtzel retired as College President. Judith Ristow was named Interim President.
September 12, 1994	Dr. William Ihlenfeldt was named President.
April 8-9, 1996	NCA Focused Visit on Assessment & Communication (NCA recommended another focused visit on assessment and communication in 1998)
October 1996	Arnold Rongstad retired as Vice President-Operations
February 1997	Jim Brown was named Vice President-Operations
April 1, 1997	CVTC residents passed a \$10 million referendum to build a new River Falls Campus, an Emergency Service Education Center, a Manufacturing and Technology Center, and ITV upgrades
July 1997	Judy Ristow retired as Vice President-Academic
August 1997	Brenda Finn was named Vice President-Academic
April 15, 1998	Groundbreaking ceremony for River Falls Campus
April 22, 1998	Groundbreaking ceremony for the Emergency Service Education Center
June 8, 1998	Groundbreaking ceremony for the Manufacturing & Technology Center (Governor Thompson was keynote speaker)
November 9-10, 1998	NCA Focused Visit on Assessment and Communication (NCA recommended a focused visit on assessment in 2000)
August 29, 1999	Open House/Ribbon Cutting for River Falls Campus
October 2, 1999	Open House/Ribbon Cutting for the Emergency Service Education Center
October 6, 1999	Open House/Ribbon Cutting for the Manufacturing & Technology Center
Nov.-Dec. 1999	Chippewa Falls Addition—Business & Industry Conference Center
January 5, 2000	Open House for Alma ITV Center
Jan. 24-26, 2000	NCA Focused Visit on Assessment, Request for Approval: Opening New Sites, and Request for Approval: Delivering Programs through Distance Learning Methods
June 15, 2000	Jim Brown, Vice President-Operations, last day.
June 26, 2000	Bruce Barker was named Vice President-Operations.
Nov. 17, 2000	Brenda Finn, Vice President-Academic, last day.
March 19, 2001	Joe Hegge was named Vice President-Education
Jan-May, 2001	Administrative Remodeling/RCU Community Center Construction
Oct. 16, 2001	Haas Technical Center Open House
Oct. 25, 2001	HPS Lab Open House
Nov. 5, 2001	RCU Community Center Open House
July 26, 2002	First Summer Commencement
July 2003	Start of Advanced Manufacturing/Nanotechnology Initiatives
July 31, 2003	Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Health Education Center
April 30, 2004	Chippewa Job Center Groundbreaking Ceremony
July 12, 2004	Neillsville Center Groundbreaking Ceremony
August 30, 2004	Classes began in the Health Education Center
Oct. 22, 2004	Health Education Center Ribbon Cutting
Oct. 23, 2004	Health Education Center Community Open House
Jan. 10, 2005	Nanoscience Technology Program Started
Jan. 12, 2005	Neillsville Center Grand Opening
Jan. 19, 2005	Chippewa Job Center Grand Opening

Oct. 4, 2006	NanoRite Groundbreaking Ceremony
August 24, 2007	NanoRite Ribbon Cutting
November 19, 2007	Simulation City Ribbon Cutting
December 31, 2007	Bill Ihlenfeldt's Last Day
January 1, 2008	Bruce Barker became College President
August 25, 2008	Tom Huffcutt became Vice President of Operations
January 26, 2009	Margo Keys became Vice President of Student Services
September 18, 2009	Joe Hegge, Vice President-Education, Retires
March 3, 2009	1 st eNewsletter was emailed
October 21, 2009	Induction Ceremony for Beta Rho Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. 53 Inductees signed the PTK charter.
October 26, 2009	Ellen Kirking became Vice President of Education
August 2010	Construction/remodel of new barber/cosmetology lab complete. Grand opening was held October 26, 2010.
September 2010	Construction/remodel of new library/The Learning Center complete. Grand opening was held September 1, 2010.
August 2011	Construction/remodel of new Business Education Center Student Commons complete. Grand opening held on 8/31/11.
August 25, 2011	First CVTC Retiree Reunion/Open House held in the newly remodeled BEC Student Commons.
2011	Centennial Circle created. CVTC employees, retirees, friends can purchase engraved pavers to commemorate their connection to the college.
September 2011	Search for Knowledge sculpture moved to Gateway Campus.
2012	CVTC celebrated its Centennial!
September 2013	Roger Stanford became Vice President of Education
2013	BEC 103 (Auditorium) construction/remodel to conference center.
2014	Construction/remodel of old cafeteria in BEC lower level. Institutional Research, Finance, Purchasing, Information Technology moved into that area in Dec. 2014.
August 17, 2015	Julie Furst-Bowe became Vice President of Instruction
August 25, 2015	Classes started in the new Energy Education Center. Grand opening was held on 9/28/15.
2015	Room 32 in BEC remodeled for Curriculum and College Professional Development.