

Elmer G Biddick

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554

Phone (608) 943-6363

www.biddickfoundation.com

GRANT APPLICATION

***Must be received in our office on or before the due dates below**

Due Dates April 15th, and October 15th

Date: 03/27/2025

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation)

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation

Address, 1800 Bronson Blvd

City, State, Zip Fennimore, WI 53809

Phone. (608) 822-3262

Person Responsible for the Grant. Angie Herting

Position in the Organization. Director of Development

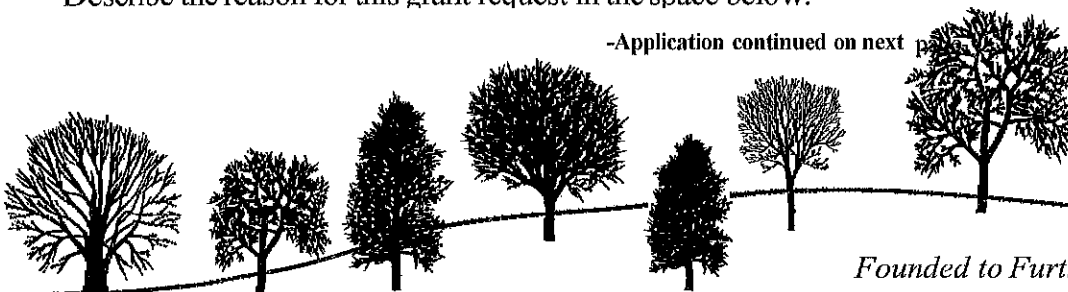
Organization's Purpose: The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation promotes learning through funding and activities that enable Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC) to provide opportunities for success. SWTC provides education and training opportunities responsive to students, employers, and communities. SWTC is dedicated to providing quality, affordable education that meets the evolving needs of our students and community. Our mission is to empower learners and foster economic development through innovative education and training, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to achieve their personal and professional goals.

This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status. (Not required for units of Government & public schools).

Grant Request \$3,000

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below:

-Application continued on next page



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

A. Supporting information.

A- Specific use of grant.

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College – Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation Student Success Plan STEP Scholarship for Iowa-Grant Students

Students from underserved communities, particularly in rural areas, often face significant barriers to completing their education and securing meaningful employment. Financial constraints, mental health challenges, and limited access to essential services hinder academic progress and career readiness. In the Iowa-Grant School District, these challenges are particularly pronounced, as students navigate economic hardship and the limited availability of postsecondary resources in their local community.

The SWTC Student Success Plan STEP Scholarship Program, supported by the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation, directly addresses these issues by providing Iowa-Grant students with targeted financial assistance and comprehensive support services to improve access, retention, and graduation rates. The program is designed to serve students who need it most, including those from low-income families, first-generation college students, and individuals facing financial and logistical obstacles to higher education.

This scholarship program utilizes a proven STEP Scholarship model, where students receive financial support at key academic milestones:

- 15 credits – Encourages strong engagement and retention in the first semester.
- 30 credits – Ensures continued progress by reducing financial barriers mid-way through the program.
- 45 credits – Supports students nearing completion, increasing graduation rates.

Data from Boscobel and Wauzeka-Steuben School Districts demonstrate that this step-based approach leads to a 10.2% increase in student retention and a 9.2% higher graduation rate compared to the general student population. By expanding this program to include Iowa-Grant graduates, we expect similar results, helping more students persist, graduate, and transition into successful careers.

In addition to direct financial support, the SWTC Student Success Plan STEP Scholarship program includes comprehensive wrap-around student services that help students overcome non-financial barriers to success, including:

- Fuel-A-Charger Transportation Assistance – Ensuring students can commute to classes without financial strain.
- Katie's Cupboard Food Pantry and Feed-A-Charger Meal Program – Addressing food insecurity so students can focus on their studies.
- Free Mental Health Counseling & Embedded Tutoring – Providing academic and emotional support to enhance student well-being and success.
- Career & Financial Planning – Connecting students with advisors to ensure they have a clear path to employment and financial stability.

D- Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.

Postponing this funding request for the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation Student Success Plan Scholarship would significantly impact Iowa-Grant students who rely on financial assistance to pursue their education at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC). Without this support for the 2025-2026 school year, students facing financial hardship may experience the following challenges:

- **Delayed or Abandoned Education Goals** – Many students from the Iowa-Grant School District struggle with tuition costs and related expenses. Without timely scholarship support, some students may delay enrollment or drop out, unable to bridge financial gaps. Once students delay or drop out, only 3% return.
- **Increased Financial Burden** – Students may be forced to take on additional student loan debt, work excessive hours while studying, or forgo essential educational resources such as textbooks, transportation, or technology.
- **Lower Retention and Completion Rates** – The STEP Scholarship model strategically supports students at critical milestones (15, 30, and 45 credits) to keep them on track toward graduation. Without this funding, students may lose momentum and struggle to persist.
- **Missed Workforce Development Opportunities** – SWTC collaborates with regional employers to develop a highly skilled workforce. Postponing scholarships would result in fewer graduates entering the workforce, impacting local businesses and economic growth.

Timely funding from the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation ensures that Iowa-Grant students have the financial resources and support needed to stay enrolled, graduate on time, and contribute to their communities. Delaying this request would limit access to education and hinder the success of students who need it most.

E- Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.

The Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation Student Success Plan Scholarship will directly benefit students from the Iowa-Grant School District who enroll at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC). This includes:

- High school graduates transitioning to postsecondary education.
- First-generation college students who may lack financial and academic support.
- Low-income students facing financial barriers to higher education.
- Non-traditional learners seeking to gain skills for new career opportunities.

Additionally, regional employers and the broader Southwest Wisconsin community will benefit as more students gain credentials and enter the local workforce, strengthening rural economic development.

B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition. (Videos are of limited use.)

History, Activities, Services, and Composition of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College and Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC) was founded on July 1, 1967, under Chapter 292 of the 1965 Wisconsin Laws. The college quickly set in motion plans to establish its first programs, form advisory committees, and recruit dedicated faculty and staff. The first official program, Farm Training, launched in the fall of 1967, setting the stage for SWTC's future as a leader in technical education.

In the 1968-69 academic year, SWTC began developing its permanent campus in Fennimore, Wisconsin, strategically located in the heart of the Southwest Tech District. The initial campus buildings laid the foundation for continued expansion and innovation.

A major milestone was reached on April 1, 2008, when voters in the Southwest Tech District approved a \$31.9 million capital projects referendum to support campus growth and renewal. This expansion introduced new facilities, including the Health/Science Center, Ag/Auto Building, Child Care Center, and Public Safety Complex. Renovation efforts ensured that existing structures were modernized and repurposed, resulting in a fully updated and state-of-the-art campus.

Today, SWTC plays a critical role in the economic and educational landscape of Southwest Wisconsin. The college offers a wide array of occupational programs leading to associate degrees and technical diplomas, ensuring students receive practical, career-focused education. Covering a geographical area of 3,800 square miles, the Southwest Tech District includes Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties, as well as portions of Dane, Green, Sauk, and Vernon counties. Thirty public K-12 school districts are part of the Southwest Tech network, reinforcing its strong ties to local communities and workforce development.

The Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation was incorporated in 1980 to secure alternative funding sources that support the college's mission of educational excellence. As a nonprofit organization, the Foundation is dedicated to providing financial assistance to students, enhancing programs, and supporting faculty and staff development. Through scholarships, grants, and industry partnerships, the Foundation helps ensure that SWTC students have the resources needed to succeed in their educational and career pursuits.

SWTC has gained national recognition for its commitment to student success and workforce development. In 2023, the Aspen Institute named Southwest Wisconsin Technical College one of the ten finalists for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. This award honors institutions that excel in teaching and learning, degree and certificate completion, transfer success, workforce outcomes, and equitable opportunities for students of color and low-income students.

Building on this achievement, SWTC is focusing on advancing individualized Student Success Plans for 2025-2026. These comprehensive plans include career pathway guidance, financial planning, and gap analysis to ensure students receive the support they need from enrollment to post-graduation. The Student Success Plans are designed to help students navigate their educational journey while addressing barriers that may hinder their progress.

Internal Revenue Service
District Director

Department of the Treasury

P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date: APR 25 1987

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
Foundation, Inc.
1800 Bronson Blvd.
Fennimore, WI 53809-9778

Person to Contact:
Gordon Schnur
Telephone Number:
513-241-5199
Fax Number
513-684-5936
Federal Identification Number:
39-1828080

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in response to your request for a copy of your organization's determination letter. This letter will take the place of the copy you requested.

Our records indicate that a determination letter issued in June 1981 granted your organization exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. That letter is still in effect.

Based on information subsequently submitted, we classified your organization as one that is not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because it is an organization described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's sources of support, or its character, method of operations, or purposes have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the exempt status and foundation status of your organization.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

All exempt organizations (unless specifically excluded) are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more paid to each employee during a calendar year. Your organization is not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes.