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SAUK CITY; WIS. – The Western Technical College Agribusiness/Science and Technology Program, has received the Outstanding Post-Secondary Program Award from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE).

This honor was presented to Dona Goed and Brad Sirianni at the 2023 WAAE Professional Development Conference held June 25-29, 2023 in Oshkosh at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center.

The Western Technical College’s Agribusiness/Science and Technology Program completed a redesign in 2020 which included additional classes in business management and the soft skills regional employers have prioritized. In the first term of classes all students complete 3 full-day job shadows in order to create strong networking opportunities with real-world agribusiness leaders. Along with their redesign, a connection was made to a local non-profit called GROW, introducing students of all ages from the community to growing their own food. The agribusiness science and technology program has a very active group of community members that serves on the advisory board. Over 85% of Western agribusiness students participate in PAS (Professional Agricultural Student Organization) where they compete nationally and serve their local community. All full-time instructors at Western are completing the Quality Matters Learning Series for professional growth to best serve their students. Also, the college is working to eliminate the use of textbooks and tests making assessments all real-world experience based.

WAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators in Wisconsin. Members include 410 middle school, high school, technical college and university educators. The focus of the association is to provide professional development, legislative support and educational resources for teachers to enhance their local agriculture education programs.
For more information about your local agriculture education program and to find out how you can support agriculture in your community, please contact your local agriculture education instructor or visit www.waae.com.

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