6. THE FORT MCCOY REGION'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



Public support for \$97 million in bond referendums for schools and high ACT scores illustrate high quality educational systems in the Fort McCoy Region. There are 4 public high schools located in Monroe County, 3 public high schools in Jackson County, and 5 public high schools in La Crosse County, Map 6-1. Both Monroe and La Crosse counties have several alternative schools for high school students. These include: LaCrosseroads Charter, Western Wisconsin Technical College, and La Crosse Juvenile Detention (La Crosse), Sparta High Point School and Sparta Independent Learning School (Sparta) and Robert Kupper Learning Center (Tomah). In Monroe County there are 5 private high schools and a Mennonite School, while in La Crosse County there are 5 private high schools.

TABLE 6.1 ENROLLMENT, DROP OUT RATES, ACT PERFORMANCE					
Governmental Unit	2003-2004 Enrollment Grades 9-12	Drop Out Rates 2002-2003	ACT Performance Report 2002- 2003		
Jackson County	1,073	0.75	22.10		
La Crosse County	5,287	0.88	21.83		
Monroe County	2,455	0.86	21.55		
Wisconsin	287,800	1.98	22.2		
United States	NA	NA	20.8		

All counties in the Fort McCoy Region recorded dropout rates lower than the state in 2002 and 2003. ACT scores in Jackson, La Crosse and Monroe counties were higher than the Nation and comparable to the State of Wisconsin which ranked number 1 in the Nation in 2003, see Table 6.1 above and Table 6.2 on Page 6-5. These statistics attest to why Wisconsin's educational system is often regarded as one of the best in the Nation. Residents of the Fort McCoy Region also live in close proximity to post secondary education institutions that include the Western Wisconsin Technical College, Viterbo University, and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, all within a 30 minute drive.

The school districts and residents in the area are committed to maintaining, upgrading and expanding the region's K-12 facilities to maintain pace with regional growth and high educational standards. In the last ten

years, all twelve public school districts in the region have passed a bond(s) referendum for capital improvements (new construction, building additions, and facility upgrades) to the numerous school facilities throughout the region. In the Fort McCoy Region's most rapidly expanding communities of West Salem, Holmen, Tomah, Sparta, and Bangor, multiple referendums for facility improvements have been passed in each community, which has resulted in a public investment in educational facilities exceeding \$97 million dollars. The successful track record of school facility referendums demonstrates the commitment of the region's residents to providing a quality K-12 education to the region's youth. This commitment ensures that as communities continue to grow educational facilities and standards will continually be improved.



A \$ 29.9 million referendum in 1998 allowed for an expansion to the Sparta High School

Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC) offers over 60 degrees and has distance learning capabilities "ETECH" with the 15 other technical colleges in the state. WWTC has seven campus locations throughout western Wisconsin, Map 6-1. The main campus is located in La Crosse and six extended campuses are located in the cities of Black River Falls, Independence, Mauston, Sparta, Tomah, and Viroqua. All these campuses are within easy commuting distance from Fort McCoy. Annually WWTC serves over 20,000 students. WWTC provides a high quality educational experience for students. Some of the services provided for students include a library, computer labs, counseling services and financial aid assistance. Besides the classroom, WWTC offers several ways to take classes making quality training available to a larger audience. WWTC has an interactive television system that connects all WWTC campuses so students can participate in classes at other campuses in the WWTC system. Telecourses (videotaped lessons) are also offered along with Internet courses that can be taken at any time of day.

There are more than 60 degrees offered at Western Wisconsin Technical College. Full time students can earn a degree in two years or less. WWTC offers 39 programs that lead to an associate of applied science degree and 26 programs that lead to technical diplomas. Advanced Technical Certificates (ATCs) are also offered. ATCs contain content that is beyond the associate's degree level and not available in any current WWTC program. Certificates are also offered to working adults wishing to take related courses to build professional skills without having to take all required courses for earning a degree. Table 6.3 lists the 78 degree, diploma and certificate programs available through WWTC.



Western Wisconsin Technical College has campuses in Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe & Juneau Counties

Distance learning, the use of electronic media to link instructors and students separated by distance includes the following at WWTC: 1) courses taught via the Internet, 2) courses taught on video tape (telecourses),

and (3) courses offered over interactive television. WWTC is part of Etech College of Wisconsin. The Etech College System consists of sixteen Technical Colleges in the state and incorporates online programs from all 16 colleges.

WWTC also has customized training classes for business and industry on-site, at WWTC campuses or area high schools. This training is delivered as short courses, clinics, workshops and seminars for the medical profession, agriculture, education, governmental agencies and other community-based organizations. WWTC, through tits Extended Education and Training Division also provide technical assistance to small and medium size manufacturers through the Northwest Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC), a program in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Stout and five technical colleges. NWMOC provides manufacturing operations assessments to determine the level of modernization and then determines the most appropriate level of assistance.

Lifelong learning courses are also offered at WWTC. These courses are short non degree courses.

WWTC also has a Rural Development Program designed to meet the needs of rural western Wisconsin residents. Classroom instruction and seminars, plus individual and on-site counseling for rural business management, planning, marketing, alternative enterprises, financing and other important areas of business management are offered.

Apprenticeship Training is also offered at WWTC. Instruction for apprentices is offered for: Bricklaying, Electrician-Construction, Electrician-Industrial, Maintenance Mechanic, Metal Fabricating, Sheet Metal, Tool & Die Machinist, Carpentry, Electrician-Electronic, Machinery Mechanic, Masonry, Plumbing & Steamfitting.

WWTC is one of sixteen Wisconsin technical colleges and is accredited by the High Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. WWTC is also a member of the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Technical Education Association, and the American Vocational Association.

Viterbo University is a Catholic, Franciscan, Ecumenical University that offers 40 majors, 29 minors and 4 graduate programs. Viterbo University is located in the City of La Crosse, Map 6-1. Viterbo University prepares students for leadership and service by providing a student-centered, values-based, learningfocused liberal arts education rooted in the values of human dignity and respect for the world. Viterbo's nursing, education, and fine arts programs have outstanding reputations for exceptional quality. The 2004 fall enrollment at Viterbo is 2,395 with 1,840 undergraduate students and 555 graduate students.

WWTC and Viterbo University have recently entered into a new associate degree partnership that expands options for students who want to earn a bachelor's degree. This partnership offers an Associate of Arts (A. A.) option for students who are interested in continuing their education after completing the two-year degree. In 2005 an Associate of Science degree will also be available.

Viterbo University is accredited by: American Dietetic Association, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, National Association of Schools of Music, The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, The Higher Learning Commission, Wisconsin State Board of Nursing, and Council on Social Work Education. Its chemistry program is approved by the American Chemical Society and is recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for the certification of teachers in elementary and secondary schools and for the training of veterans.

Graduate Programs offered at Viterbo include: Master of Arts in Education (tracks for the classroom teacher and for the administrator), Master of Arts in Servant Leadership, Master of Business Administration (proposed), and Master of Science in Nursing.

Viterbo University's newest building the D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center, an \$11 million, 68,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility is home to the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership. The purpose of the D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership is to promote the concepts of ethics in leadership as integral to the advancement of American society and to promote leadership and ethics in courses, conferences, workshops, and public forums for the students of area high schools and colleges, the employers and employees of the Coulee Region, and the people of western Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa, and southeastern Minnesota. The bachelor degree programs and minors offered at Viterbo are listed in Table 6.4.



Viterbo University's New \$11 million D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center—Institute for Ethics in Leadership

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse offers 44 majors and an array of minors and post graduate degrees. It also offers distance education opportunities that include interactive television, audio graphics and web based courses. The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UW-L) is a part of the University of Wisconsin System and was founded in 1909, Map 6.1. UW-L offers 44 undergraduate majors and a wide array of minors, emphases and other programs. In 2002 UW-L had an enrollment of 8,750 undergraduate and graduate students.

Technology is on the forefront of an education at UW-L. UW-L offers Distance Education opportunities that include interactive television, audiographics and Webbased courses. Students and faculty have access to technology that can link UW-L to nearly anywhere in the world. UW-L is a member of the WONDER DS-3 twoway interactive television network and has three rooms equipped with IP and dial up ISDN compressed video.

UW-L's Educational Television Center (ETC) provides a wide variety of video production, consultation, and instructional design services for faculty, staff, students, and other agencies. The Center can produce and edit in 1/2" VHS, 3/4", 1/2"MII, and Betacam. Productions can be shot in the field or in the studio. The ETC produces programming which includes classroom instruction, departmental promotions, campus publicity, documentaries, research videos, and public service productions.

UWL's "Enhancing Student Learning Through Technology" web site serves as a clearinghouse for issues on teaching and learning, and provides a source for faculty resources, by listing faculty development opportunities, and by providing information on innovative teaching and learning strategies from around the country. The site provides a multitude of resources which can lead to answers, new processes, and new creative ways of enhancing learning.

UWL's Educational Technologies offers a full complement of satellite services as well as distribution and duplication of video programming at the Wing Technology Center. With three steerable C/Ku dishes and two DBS receivers, educational programming from around the world can be down linked for duplication and distribution to classroom buildings and residence halls anywhere on the UW-L campus.

UW-La Crosse and ITS/Educational Technologies joined forces with the Annenberg/CPB project so it could bring education and information programming on Charter Cable Channel Six. The nationally distributed Annenberg/CPB programming features renowned educational series in all areas of the high school and college curriculum.

UW-L's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is part of the statewide network of Small Business Development Centers that uses a variety of resources to help small business owners solve their business concerns. Services are targeted toward businesses that are planning for expansion, improving efficiency of operations or resolving specific problems. The SBDC provides businesses with information and guidance concerning business plans, exports and imports, cash flow management, record keeping, bank financing, personnel inventory, marketing, production, and product innovation. SBDC's service area includes Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties.

UWL's Continuing Education offers workshops, conferences and credit courses that stimulate new ideas and educational practices to meet the needs of both individual educators and school districts. Offerings include: curriculum development in writing, math, reading, science, social studies or community building; exceptional education human growth and development; research; standards and assessment; technology; school district management; and on site professional development. Majors and minors offered at UW-La Crosse are listed in Table 6.5.

There are opportunities for Department of Defense medical education, training, and research at the Health Science Center in nearby La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Health Science Center is a new stateof-the-art, \$27 million building that offers 168,500 square feet of highly specialized class room, laboratories, video conferencing facilities, and telehealth assets. The impressive five story facility is located on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus.

The Health Center Science facility came into existence through a unique multi-institutional partnership that included Franciscan Skemp Healthcare/Mayo Health System, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center; the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo University, and Western Wisconsin Technical College. This partnership incorporated in 1993 as the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium. This partnership is unique in that it is made up of several strong competitors in the delivery of healthcare and education. These organizations have come together as a multi-institutional partnership to take advantage of shared resources and to better leverage the assets of each individual partner. The La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium's mission statement "to implement and manage collaborative initiatives focused toward meeting community and regional needs through enhancing healthcare, strengthening medical health science education, and solidifying interactive research within the clinical sciences" poses many opportunities that merit investigation that could fulfill needs of the Department of Defense.



The Health Science Center at UW La Crosse provides state-of-the-art educational training and research opportunities

TABLE 6.2						
	Enrollment, Di	-	and ACT	Performa	ance	
School District	School Name	2003-2004 Enrollment Grades 9-12	School Type	No of Dropouts	Dropout Rates 2002-2003	Act Performance Report 2002-2003
Alma Center	Lincoln Hi	184	Public	1	0.54	23.00
Black River Falls	Black River Falls Hi	646	Public	5	0.77	21.40
Melrose-Mindoro	Melrose-Mindoro Hi	243	Public	2	0.82	21.90
JACKSON COUNTY		1,073		8	0.75	22.10
Bangor	Bangor Mid/Hi	228	Public	0	0	20.50
Holmen	Holmen Hi	931	Public	4	0.43	21.20
La Crosse	Logan Hi	1,007	Public	13	1.29	21.90
La Crosse	Central Hi	1,431	Public	16	1.12	22.60
Onalaska	Onalaska Hi	899	Public	9	1.00	22.20
West Salem	West Salem Hi	511	Public	2	0.39	22.60
La Crosse	Aquinas Hi	385	Private	NA	NA	NA
La Crosse	Faith Baptist School	14	Private	NA	NA	NA
La Crosse	Leadership School	23	Private	NA	NA	NA
Onalaska	Luther Hi	233	Private	NA	NA	NA
West Salem	Coulee Reg. Christian Sch	55	Private	NA	NA	NA
La Crosse	WWTC	19	Alternative	0	0	NA
La Crosse	La Crosse Juvenile Det.	10	Alternative	0	0	NA
La Crosse	LaCrossroads Charter	75	Alternative	1	1.33	NA
LA CROSSE COUNTY		5,821		45	0.88	21.83
Cashton	Cashton Hi	186	Public	1	0.54	20.70
Norwalk-Ontario Wilton	Brookwood Hi	224	Public	0	0	22.70
Sparta	Sparta Hi	914	Public	15	1.64	21.20
Tomah	Tomah Hi	1,044	Public	3	0.29	21.60
Sparta	Sparta Area Christian Sch Inc	7	Private	NA	NA	NA
Sparta	Monroe Co. Christian Sch	8	Private	NA	NA	NA
Sparta	Sparta Mennonite Sch	1	Private	NA	NA	NA
Tomah	Tarr Valley Pvt Sch	1	Private	NA	NA	NA
Tomah	Tomah Baptist Academy	7	Private	NA	NA	NA
Sparta	Sparta High Point Sch	29	Alternative	0	0	NA
Sparta	Sparta Indep Learning Ctr	17	Alternative	2	11.77	NA
Tomah	Robert Kupper Learning Ctr		Alternative	0	0	NA
MONROE COUNTY		2,455		21	0.86	21.55
WISCONSIN		287,800		5,686	1.98	22.2
U.S.		NA		NA	NA	20.8

TABLE 6.3 Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC) - All Programs – Summer/Fall 2004 (WWTC website - http://www.wwtc.edu/wwtcstudents/allmenu.asp) Degree Programs & Technical Diplomas Office Assistant Accountina Paralegal Agri-Business/Science Technology Paramedic Technician Air Cond., Heating & Refrig. Tech. Pharmacy Technician Automotive Technician Physical Therapist Assistant **Bio-Medical Electronics** Practical Nursing Central Service Technician Printing and Publishing CIS-Microcomputer Specialist Radiography **CIS-Microcomputer Technician** Refrig, Air Cond & Heatg Serv Tech **CIS-Network Specialist Respiratory Care Practitioner** CIS-Programmer/Analyst Supervisory Management CIS-User Support & Training Surgical Technologist **Clinical Laboratory Technician** Technical Communication Comm Dev Disabilities Associate Technical Studies-Journeyworker Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Visual Communications Criminal Justice-LE Academy Weldina **Culinary Management** Wood Tech Dental Assistant Dental Hygienist **Certificate Programs & Advanced Technical Certificates** Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Academy Early Childhood Education Dietary Manager / Food Service Supervisor Electrical Engineering Technology Electronic Design/Publishing Certificate Electromechanical Technology **Emergency Medical Technician - Basic Certificate** Electroneurodiagnostic Technology Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate Certificate **Electronic Servicing Technician** Emergency Medical Technician - IV Technician Electronics Graphic Web Design Certificate **Emergency Medical Services** Interpersonal Relations Certificate EMT - Intermediate Laboratory Assistant Certificate EMT - IV Technician Nursing Assistant Certificate Farm Business & Production Mgmt. Offset Press/Finishing Finance **Technical Communications Certificate** Fire Protection Technician Food Production Specialist Graphic Design Health Information Technology Health Unit Coordinator Human Resource-Business Admin. Individualized Technical Studies Instructional Assistant Instructional Assistant-A.D. Interior Design Machine Tool Operation Machine Tooling Technics Marketing Mechanical Design Technology Medical Assistant Medical Coding Specialist Nursing Assistant Nursing-Associate Degree Occupational Therapy Assistant

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Religious Studies Social Work Sociology Technology Education		
Social Work Sociology Technology Education	Religious Studies	
Technology Education		
Theatre Education		
	heatre Education	

Maj	TABL jors and Minor Degrees Available at University o	E 6.5 of Wiscons	in La Crosse (website: www.uwlax.edu)
College of Bus	siness Administration	College o	f Liberal Studies (Continued)
	untancy	— mMt	History
— m Busin	ess Administration		Regional world emphasis
-mMt Econo		— m	Public History
— M Finan		— m	International Studies
	k and Insurance concentration		European emphasis
	nation Systems		Latin American emphasis
	ational Business	— m	Military Science
	<u>gement</u>	— mM	<u>Philosophy</u>
	n tracks in:	— mMt	Political Science
G	eneral Management and Technology	— mM	Psychology
	uman Resources	— mM	Public Administration
	ternational Management	— mMt	Sociology
– M Marke	-	— mMt	Spanish
	<u>sung</u>	— mivit	
			Business concentration
<u>College of Hea</u>	alth, Physical Education, Recreation and	— mt	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Teacher Educ	ation		University Honors
	etic Training	— m	Women's Studies
	nmunity Health Education		
		School of	Arts and Communication
	rcise and Sport Science	— mMt	Art
	ith emphases in:	-	
	Fitness	— mM	Communication Studies
:	Sport Management		with emphases in:
—t Pl	hysical Education		Interpersonal Communication
	oncentrations		Public Relations and Organizational Communication
-	Coaching Competitive Athletics		Persuasion and Public Communication
			Telecommunication
	Special Physical Education	— mM	Music
	Strength and Conditioning	— 11111	
	ool Health Education		with emphases in:
— mM <u>Rec</u>	reation Management	— t	Choral
– M The	rapeutic Recreation	— t	General
	<u>.</u>		History
School of Edu	action	— t	Instrumental
			Jazz Performance
	ly Childhood Education		Performance
	mentary/Middle Education		Piano Pedagogy
– mt Inst	ructional Media		
— mMt Scie	ence (Broadfield)		Theory
	ial Studies (Broadfield)	— m	<u>Photography</u>
	cial Education	— mM	Theatre Arts
			with emphases in:
	motional Disturbance		Design/Technical
L	earning Disabilities		General Studies
College of Lib	eral Studies		Management
	hropology		Performance
	naeology		
	Id/Youth Care emphasis		options indicated by code letters preceding each program
		title are: —	(m) Minor; — (M) Undergraduate Major; — (t) leads to
	ninal Justice		eacher certification
– mMt <u>Eng</u>			
	reative Writing		
– m Pi	rofessional Writing		
	ironmental Studies		
	nic and Racial Studies		
	usiness concentration		
–mMt <u>Ger</u>	man Studies		
В	usiness concentration		
	rontology emphasis		
00			

		6.5 (continued) sity of Wisconsin La Crosse (website: www.uwlax.edu)
- m - M - mMt - M - mMt - mMt - mMt - mMt - M - M - M	Majors and Minor Degrees Available at University a of Science and Allied Health Applied Geography Biochemistry Biology Finance with concentrations in: Aquatic Science Biomedical Science Cellular and Molecular Environmental Chemistry with concentrations in: Business Environmental Science Computer Science Computer Science Geography with concentrations in: Applied Geography with concentrations in: Applied Geography with concentrations in: Applied Geography Environmental Science Mathematics Statistics emphasis Medical Laboratory Science Microbiology with concentrations in: Environmental Science Preprofessional Occupational Therapy	1 <i>j</i>
— M — mMt — m	Physician Assistant Studies Physics with concentrations in: Biomedical Business with emphases in: <u>Astronomy</u> Computational	
— M — M — m <u>GRADU/</u>	Optical <u>Radiation Science: Nuclear Medicine Technology</u> <u>Radiation Science: Radiation Therapy</u> <u>Statistics</u> <u>ATE PROGRAMS</u>	
Biology With con Bi Ce Cl Mi Nu	ness/Cardiac Rehabilitation centrations in: quatic Science omedical Science ellular and Molecular inical Microbiology icrobiology urse Anesthesia hysiology	

	Table 6.5 (continued) University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Graduate Student Classifications (website: www.uwlax.edu)			
GADM	ESS — Sports Administration	GPED	ESS — Physical Education —Teaching Option	
GAFC	Adult Fitness/Cardiac Rehab.	GPES	ESS — Physical Education — Special	
GBAE	Biology — Aquatic Science	GPHP	ESS — Human Performance	
GBCB	Biology — Cellular and Molecular Biology	GRDG	Reading Education	
GBCM	Biology — Clinical Microbiology	GREC	Recreation — Management	
GBIO	Master of Science Biology	GRTH	Recreation — Therapeutic	
GBMI	Biology — Microbiology	GSCH	School Health Education	
GBNA	Biology — Nurse Anesthesia	GSDA	College Student Development & Administration	
GBPH	Biology — Physiology	GSED	Special Education	
GCMH	Community Health	GSPY	School Psychology	
GEPC	Education — Learning Community	GXXC	Graduate Special — Spec. Continuing Education	
GEPD	Education — Professional Dev.	GXXE	Graduate Special — Education	
GMBA	Master Business Administration	GXXT	Teacher Certification/License Renewal	
GMPH	Public Health/Community Health	GXXX	Graduate Special	
GMPT	Physical Therapy	GXXY	Graduate Special — Psychology	

The above information was obtained from UWL's website August 2004 with the following notation: Courses listed are subject to change through normal academic procedures. New programs and courses, and changes in existing course work are initiated by departments or programs and approved by the appropriate academic dean, the curriculum committees and the faculty senate. Additions to the curriculum for the ensuing years are published in the official curriculum committee minutes which are on file in the offices of the Vice Chancellor, the Deans, and the Records and Registration Office.

