



For Immediate Release

Contact: Dr. Kristi Cole, 608-690-5100

kristi.cole@tlabeloit.com

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Wisconsin Technology Education Association Selects The Lincoln Academy to Receive WTEA High School Program of the Year Award

BELOIT, Wis – Each year, the Wisconsin Technology Education Association (WTEA) honors education and industry professionals who have demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to Technology Education. For 2026, The Lincoln Academy was awarded with the WTEA High School Program of the Year Award. The official awards banquet will be held on March 11, 2026.

The WTEA's awards program promotes program excellence by recognizing classroom educators, school programs, administrators, and businesses for delivering and promoting quality Technology and Engineering programs to children in Wisconsin. The WTEA High School Program of the Year award provides recognition to a high school that delivers an outstanding program that provides rigorous training and skill development in the areas and concepts of technology and engineering.

TLA Career Tech Education Teacher, Matt Schultz, states, "It is an honor to be selected by the WTEA as the 2025-2026 High School Technology Education Program of the Year. In just four short years, TLA's Technology Education Team has worked diligently to create opportunities for our scholars not just inside the classroom but outside as well."

Schultz continues, "TLA partners with Blackhawk Technical College and offers 24 dual credit courses for scholars taking Tech classes. There are currently 18 scholars enrolled in technology education related Work Based Learning Experiences. The Work Based Learning program at TLA is a model for other schools to replicate. It provides so many opportunities for scholars to experience a potential career choice."

Dr. Kristi Cole, TLA CEO, shared her praise for TLA's Technology Education program, stating, "This recognition from the WTEA is a powerful affirmation of the intentional work our educators have done to build a rigorous, future-focused technology education program. Our scholars are gaining real-world

skills, industry exposure, and confidence in their abilities, and that is a direct result of strong instruction, meaningful partnerships, and a shared commitment to preparing scholars for life beyond graduation.”

TLA Director of Career Planning and Partnerships, Laura Benisch, states, “Our technology department is thriving and scholars are getting hands-on learning opportunities both in the classroom (whether at TLA or through Dual Credit) and on the job. Once an employer hires a TLA scholar they look forward to hosting a TLA scholar every year. It is important to us that we set scholars up for future success. Exploring careers starts in K4. This year's graduating class has now experienced six years of intentional strong career exploration since they started at TLA - and it shows!”

Schultz adds, “Working closely with the scholars who are on job sites, I get to hear their excitement in what they are learning and get to have so many meaningful conversations about their futures. I think back to TLA's first year, and how incredible this journey has been over the past four and half years. So much of the success of our program comes from the leadership at TLA. Having the support of school administration, along with scholars who want to come to class makes TLA the success that it is.”

About The Lincoln Academy

The Lincoln Academy (TLA) is an innovative K4–12 public charter school in Beloit, Wisconsin, chartered through the University of Wisconsin System’s Office of Educational Opportunities. Since 2021, TLA has provided a free, high-quality education for Wisconsin families, with enrollment determined by a random lottery when the number of applications exceeds available seats. Learn more at www.thelincolnacademybeloit.com.

###