

2021 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The WSESI Annual Instructors Conference, held Feb. 19-21, returned to Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC), but in a way that, like so many events and activities in this year of pandemic, has made history for our Society yet again. All programs connected with the Conference were posted by WCTC on their Canvas learning management system. Lectures and learning activities utilized Zoom to connect participants in their own homes (or in some cases, fire stations).

As in the past, pre-Conference training led off the week. The Emergency Services Instructor (ESI) course was delivered by WCTC instructor Courtney Hull. Twenty students completed the course, the prescribed curriculum for Wisconsin State ESI Certification, and prerequisite for Wisconsin Fire Officer.

Participants in Track A (Instructor Development) met via Zoom Friday afternoon for a workshop conducted by representatives of Jones & Bartlett (J & B) publishers. Mike Torino outlined the features available to instructors through J & B's Navigate 2 online learning resource system.

That evening, Conference attendees and other current members from around the state settled in for the Society's 60th Annual Meeting. Three Board positions were up for (re-) election, with unanimous ballots re-electing Northwest Director Red Van Ert and Director At-Large Lee Smith. The Trustees of the William E. Clark Scholarship Fund Charitable Trust met briefly afterward, with all incumbents continuing for the coming year.



Saturday's program began with a welcome by WSESI President Jim Austad, and presentation of the 2020 Instructor of the Year award to Mike Carlin of Nicolet Area Technical College. Over 20 participants were logged on as Instructor Development Track A kicked off with Wisconsin

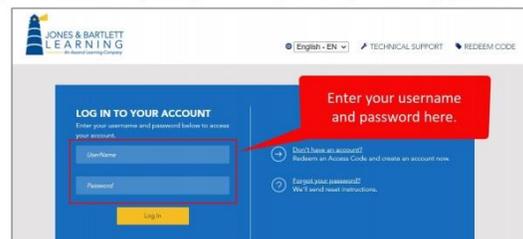
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A view of J & B's Navigate Training Manual, one of the resources discussed at Friday's workshop.

Technical College System (WTCS) Fire Training Update with Angie White, Director of WTCS Fire Education & Training.

Acting Fire Chief Aaron Lipski of the City of Milwaukee Fire Department delivered a comprehensive Review of the Molson-Coors Active Shooter Incident of February 2020. He outlined policies and SOGs, shared live radio traffic from the incident, and offered a candid professional assessment of lessons learned.



‘Starting from Scratch’ was the title of a presentation by Training Division Chief David Briggs of the City of Wausau Fire Department.

In addition to the methods and techniques used in building a department training program, he shared to the Canvas learning platform downloadable materials which can be adapted by Conference participants for use in their home agencies.

Chief Tony Burgard of the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company offered a close-up look at meters and metering in his presentation, “I Can Feel it in the Air: Dissecting the Gas Around Us.” His materials will also be made available through the Society upon request.

Chief Briggs returned to the screen with his second presentation, “Getting ‘Into’ the Job,” focusing on what motivates firefighters and fire instructors. As a surprise finale to the day’s learning, Dave introduced a special guest, Chief Rick Lasky, who kept the audience spellbound for nearly an hour of training insight and wisdom.

Concurrently, Track B featured the National Fire Academy (NFA) two-day course Preparation for Initial Company Operations (PICO), taught Saturday and Sunday by NFA Adjunct Instructor Tim Woodward. Eighteen students participated in the all-virtual delivery, believed to be one of the first conversions of an off-campus classroom course to virtual format. Thanks go out to the NFA staff for working with WTCS, WCTC and WSESI to make it happen.

In addition to the presenters already mentioned, an additional heartfelt Thank-You goes out to Courtney Hull for A TON of behind-the-scenes work and preparation to make our Conference feasible as well as virtual, WCTC administrative assistant Laura Kozlowski for registration help, and the WCTC Canvas support staff.

Please check back with our Conference webpage regarding the 2022 Annual Conference, as plans develop. Hope to see you then!



Chief Lasky (second row, right) drops in on the Track A participants.