



May 20, 2025

Dear contest judges,

I am pleased to nominate Madison Area Technical College student Kelly Feng for the Associated Collegiate Press two-year school reporter of the year. This past summer, Kelly graciously stepped up to serve as our editor in chief for a second year after another student vacated the post because of family issues. A non-traditional student at Madison College, Kelly returned to school after raising her family. She started as a freelancer for multiple blog sites, but she wanted to expand her skillset. That interest brought her to Madison College's journalism certificate program and to The Clarion. In her time with the newspaper, she has held a variety of roles from reporter to managing editor to editor in chief.

Now that she has wrapped up her journalism certificate studies, Kelly has decided to embark upon the college's visual storytelling certificate with a target completion date of December 2025. As you will see from the online links to two of her work samples, she enjoys working on multimedia packages and hopes to expand her work in that area.

Kelly is a talented writer and a strong leader. As a writer, Kelly generates more quality content than anyone else on staff. Although she can cover almost any topic, her strength is doing in-depth personality portraits. She does an excellent job connecting with her subjects and conveying their stories. As leader, she has become a strong editor focused on helping the rest of her staff improve their skills. She often holds coaching sessions with the new writers on her staff, helping them learn how to write more engaging articles while adhering to journalistic standards. In addition, she has led the launch of an electronic newsletter in 2023-24 and worked with her staff to revamp the newspaper's website this past year.

Kelly has been an excellent writer and editor during her time at Madison Area Technical College and would be a worthy recipient of this honor.

Thanks for your consideration.

Doug Kirchberg
Clarion advisor
Madison Area Technical College

Kelly Feng

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kellyafeng@gmail.com | [Kelly Feng LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

Waukesha County Technical College Pewaukee, WI

Web Design Certificate 2018

Digital Photography Certificate 2020

Madison Area Technical College, Madison, WI

Journalism Certificate 2023

Visual Storytelling Certificate Fall 2025

Columbia College Chicago Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Arts: Film & Video Production

SKILLS

Adobe Creative Cloud, Experienced in HTML5, CSS & WordPress • Greenhouse

EXPERIENCE

Clarion Editor in Chief

- Manage writers, section editors, graphic designers and photographers. Write and edit articles. Create story ideas for the staff. Publish a monthly newspaper and supervise a weekly newsletter. Recruit staff members.

Freelance Writer | 2017 – PRESENT

- Write feature articles and blogs for online newspapers, non-profits and websites including [Red Line Editorial](#), [BizTimes](#), [FloGymnastics](#), [CollegeGym News](#), [Active Network](#) and [Next Avenue](#)

Writing Samples:

Red Line Editorial (TeamUSA)

[Meet the 2022 U.S. Olympic Long Track Speedskating Team](#)

[Brittany Bowe Relinquishes 500-Meter Spot, Clearing Olympic Path For Erin Jackson With Laser-Sharp Focus, Teenage Speedskater Jordan Stolz Strides Towards Olympic Trials](#)

[What to Watch for at this Weekend's Long Track Trials](#)

BizTimes

[After canceled seasons, Wave reignites its brand, Admirals strengthen relationships](#)

FloGymnastics

[Why Nicole Ahsinger Is Flying Into Tokyo, Ready And](#)

[Confident How U.S. Trampolinist Alexi Shostak Strengthens](#)

[His Mental Game Laura Zeng Bounds Into Tokyo, One Step](#)

[At A Time](#)

College Gym News

[Lynnzee Brown Brings Trademark Energy, Amplitude to the GOAT](#)

[Tour No Strategy Needed for UCLA Choreographer BJ Das, Just Authenticity](#)



JACK LISKA-VERDU / CLARION

Teegawende “Josephine” Segrado created an honors project titled, “Seizure Detection and Mitigation,” to research epilepsy.

Studying epilepsy to help at home

KELLY FENG

Editor in Chief

Globally, epilepsy affects over 50 million people, with a significant number residing in Africa. It is the most common neurological disorder in Africa, affecting approximately 25 million people, making it the most widespread neurological disorder on the continent.

One African country, the Sub-Saharan Burkina Faso, in particular, endures even more challenges because

of the disorder. A study of three rural villages revealed a high epilepsy prevalence of 44.27 per 1,000 people, with an association found between epilepsy.

Burkina Faso has a population of 23.03 million. Now, compare that number to another number...five.

Five. Five neurologists. How do you treat this neurological disorder in a county where 4.43 percent of its population has epilepsy?

Burkina Faso is the birthplace and home of Madison College Honors Program student Teegawende

“Josephine” Segrado. While she speaks lovingly of her home country, like most villagers, she comes from an impoverished family.

“In Burkina now, it’s a developing country in the sense of the word because right now it’s trying to strive for electricity access and education. We are working to get a decent lifestyle for everybody right now,” said Segrado. “It’s a place where people know what they want, but it’s hard to get it.”

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EPILEPSY

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Segrado has always dreamed of the opportunity to further her higher education goals and study electrical engineering. After a rigorous testing and preselection process, learning English, computer training, public speaking, and a year of waiting, she received her visa in the summer of 2023, came to Madison and enrolled at the college.

She participates in an endless list of extracurricular activities. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a Peer Health Educator and the Alternative Winter and Spring Break coordinator at the Volunteer Center. But behind the hectic schedule of robust activities, friends, and homework, there is an urgent need. Her dream has now taken on another purpose.

Segrado has five siblings. She has one older brother and two older sisters, all married and with children. Her father passed away in January and her mother now lives with her young brother Wendtoin (Josephat), 20.

Josephat is studying for his baccalaureate. He has always been the entertainer in the family, smiling and happy-go-lucky, talkative and always telling jokes.

Some time while Segrado was waiting for her visa, the laughter in her household began to fade. Something was off with her brother. Josephat started having seizures in an epileptic episode.

There is no pathway to treating epilepsy in her country. There is little access to hospitals. Even when you are admitted to one hospital, you still have to wait to see a specialist for your condition.

More often than not, most epileptic patients are not even treated with a prescription. In so many words, they are told to accept and live with their condition.

Motivated by her brother's crisis and under the mentorship of Electrical Engineering Instructor Dr. Jacob Eapen, Segrado created an honors project titled "Seizure Detection and Mitigation." During her research, she learned that there are products that detect and mitigate seizures, which can prevent what could be a fatal injury and save a life.

She was excited about some existing products to treat epilepsy, like the Garmin Seizure Detector. It monitors the movement of the wearer's arm and raises an alarm if shaking, similar to a tonic-clonic seizure, is detected for more than 10 seconds.

Segrado's project was to create a similar product in a developing country, where only 26% of the population has access to electricity, 87% in urban areas and only 7% in rural areas.

She said that if people in villages need help, they should be able to let their loved ones know that they are having a seizure. Realizing that her epileptic patients in her country have no access to help, she knows there is an urgent need.



JACK LISKA-VERDU / CLARION

Burkina Faso is the birthplace and home of Madison College Honors Program student Teegawende "Josephine" Segrado.

Helpful products are available in the United States, but access to these types of products is not a reality for a struggling person in a developing country who doesn't even have enough to eat.

In her project, using the concept of seizure detection and mitigation, she used the least expensive Garmin watch and, through the implementation, tried to understand the watch's code and see how to manage the radio waves. She also collected data so it could connect to a parent, guardian or loved one's phone. In her project, she is trying to partner with a tech company to make it affordable and accessible to those who need it most.

Segrado dreams of returning and visiting her country. Her course management and ongoing research make it challenging. Then there are the ever-changing international traveling rules that can create anxiety with anybody with a visa, creating a barrier to visiting family. However, she is confident she has chosen the right path not only for education but also for providing affordable treatment for her brother and her neighbors.

OPINIONS

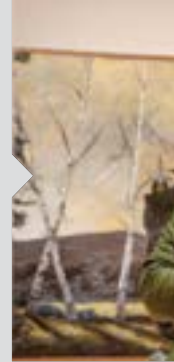
**Lend a helping hand
year-round, not just
during holidays » 6**



ARTS

**Indigenous Wisconsin:
A Story of Resistance**

Art exhibit in the Truax
Gallery includes traditional
craftwork and pieces that
are a fusion of traditional
and modern elements » 8



JACK LISKA-VERDU / CLARION

Madison College President Dr. Jack Daniels, III, shown in his office, is retiring after 11 years at the college

Career of helping students

**Dr. Jack Daniels retires
after 11 years at college**

KELLY FENG
Editor in Chief

Stroll into the Truax campus any day of the week, and you will spot President Dr. Jack Daniels, III, moving around. He frequently talks with students in the hallways, chats with the bookstore cashier, visits lively classrooms or stops by busy lunch tables.

As his 11-year tenure winds down and he prepares for retirement, Daniels reflects on what he will miss most about his career. It is not his accomplishments or accolades that he'll miss, but rather the moments of student interaction.

In conversations, Daniels is easy-going and relatable, a skill that does not always come naturally to his colleagues across the country, and he encourages all of them to leave their Ivory Tower and check in with the student population. "They need to be out with them. They need to be out with people. That's what it's about," he said.

Before joining Madison College in 2013, Daniels served as Los Angeles Southwest College president for seven years. Before his time on the West Coast, he served as president of Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois, and Houston Community College's central campus.

Originally a law school student, Daniels was drafted into the military and served in the U.S. Army. While

stationed overseas in Germany he noticed that incarcerated individuals did not receive access to education. This realization inspired him to consider higher education and seek ways to expand accessibility.

After receiving his Ph.D. in Psychology from the Wright Institute, he began to understand the difference between two-year colleges and four-year universities: two-year colleges tend to form alliances within the community, while four-year universities focus more on research.

Daniels became passionate about two-year colleges because he believed in forming deep connections with the city's residents, neighborhoods and businesses. He also recognized another

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Milestones and Accomplishments

2013 At the annual fall convocation, Madison College is introduced to Dr. Jack E. Daniels III, the college's eighth president. During his first year, he introduced Interest-based Problem Solving (IBPS) and worked to establish the college's strategic plan.

2014 Established a system of shared governance at the college.

2015 The college completes its initial 10-year facility and budget plan. InBusiness magazine names Dr. Daniels one of the 25 most influential people in the Madison Area. Madison365 selects him as one of the 28 most influential African Americans in Wisconsin.

2016 Madison College completes its first diversity plan.



2017 Truax Atrium construction completed with culinary, food service, bookstore and Student Services additions. The new Goodman Sports Complex opens.

2018 The STEM Academy is created. The Truax rooftop solar array was installed and celebrated with a grand opening in January 2019.

2019 Closed the Downtown Education Center in May and celebrated the opening of the Goodman South Campus in August.



2020 Navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and established the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship with the Madison College Foundation.

2021 Madison College became a participant in the Achieving the Dream program.

2022 Madison College Foundation unveils a "Stand by Jack" gratitude wall to honor Dr. Daniels' efforts to boost donations for the Scholars of Promise program.



2023 IT and Health Sciences Building facility remodels are completed.

2024 Dr. Daniels is honored with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award by the King Coalition. Madison College hosts President Joe Biden.

CAREER

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er disparity between the two types of institutions: at the time, four-year Research 1 universities only accepted 5% of college applicants, leading Daniels to ask, "What happened to the other 95% of students?"

A source of inspiration was Dale Parnell's "The Neglected Majority," a book published in the late '80s. Parnell suggested ways that community, technical, junior colleges and local high schools can collaborate for most high school students who may not earn a postsecondary degree.

After reading, Daniels realized he was drawn to this overlooked population of students left behind. "That's the folks I really wanted to work with," he said.

This past January, as Daniels entered his last year as a leader at Madison College, he faced a busy schedule of recognition, goals and unpredicted events, including accepting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award Honorees award and receiving an unexpected visit from President Biden. He has also taken time to give thought to his achievements at the college and to consider his legacy.

Goodman South

In 2016, determining a need for a new southern Madison campus for students who struggled with access to the Truax Center, Daniels assembled an alliance of city leaders, reaching out to the businesses and communities that supported the region.

Daniels noticed that many students from South Madison were not attending the Truax Campus. "Why did they not come up to Truax? Because they felt overwhelmed coming here, notwithstanding the transportation," said Daniels, explaining the two-hour shuttles from some of the campuses.

He envisioned building a new campus to replace the school's former location in Villager Mall. This new site would attract students who attended the school's downtown location to the new campus, and it would also draw Black and Latino students living nearby.

The Goodman South campus opened in the fall of 2019 and Daniels remains proud of the collective work and collaboration done in South Madison. "That was a shining moment. On the first day of the Goodman South opening, we stood on the steps and could see students coming from the neighborhood," Daniels said.

Due to the Goodman South campus, Daniels is regularly mentioned as the force behind an initiative often cited as helping reinvigorate Madison's south side. He's quick to dismiss the spotlight, crediting the hundreds of people who reached out to accomplish the creation of the campus.

"I'm the face of the institution. But the work is done by countless folks who work here. They are the ones that make it happen. It's the faculty. The staff. It's the custodians. It's the folks from Public Safety. All of them together are working to make that happen," he said, highlighting the key role of each contributor.

Lasting Impact

Every semester, Daniels sees his lasting impact on Graduation Day and emphasizes that students must know they belong. He loves seeing the joy beaming in the many faces he sees during every commencement, men and women on the cusp of starting new lives in their chosen direction. Those are the images that are etched in his mind.

Daniels, who will attend his 23rd graduation this month, said, "Seeing those students — some of them — the barriers they have overcome to get where they are. That is the joy. That's the joy that needs to continue."

However, before the students can start a new chapter of life, whether post-graduation or just beginning at the college, Daniels has some guidance. He stresses the need for students to realize their limitations and barriers and use the school's resources to help them determine what they want to do. "What you want to do today may be different in 10 years, and that's OK. What you do today may be different in a year. That's OK," he said.

According to Daniels, students need to be more resourceful and aware of the school's services, meaning the college needs to do better by engaging students to listen and ask, pointing them in the right direction. "Students also have to feel comfortable to say they're having a problem — it could be an academic problem or another problem," he said.

He said that while they have come a long way since 2013, the year he started as president, there is quite a way to go so the students feel comfortable. "The whole issue of belongingness is part of that. If you belong, you are more open, relaxed and feel respected," Daniels said.

He has advice for another population: the college's veterans.

Daniels, a veteran, says the college's commitment to veterans is excellent but can always use improvement.

He said that veterans are often not given the opportunity to access resources and that the college needs to continue to push that for every population.

"Which goes back to the sense of belonging. If folks feel they can get something they can respect, they will come. But we have to be here to serve them effectively," he said.

Onward

Daniels said he is grateful to his faculty, staff and outstanding administrative team, saying he has a strong sense of the community college culture nationally.

"I have never been to a finer institution — an institution that is as caring as Madison College, where you get the support you need from Madison College — to the board of trustees to the folks that work here. It's just a different feeling," he said.

He appreciates that he has had a good relationship with all presidents in the state, whether it has been four-year or two-year institutions. He has always valued their insights and collaboration, regardless of all the challenges and issues. His decision to lead at Madison College is "the best thing I could do," he said.

Unlike many retirees, Daniels does not feel he has lost his sense of purpose. He is not planning to go home and sit in a chair and watch TV. He will find where he could best utilize his talents, whether through consulting or volunteering at colleges.

As he hands over his responsibilities to his successor, Daniels contemplates any advice he might give them.

He emphasizes the importance of learning the culture, saying there is a culture within and outside the institution, stressing the need to engage with both the internal and external community.

"Know you have good people. Learn everything you can before making changes to improve the institution," Daniels said.



HUNTER RADKE / CLARION

Jovhany Michaud works in the Madison College food pantry. An immigrant, Michaud is excited to vote this year.

Voting for first time

Immigrant student excited to participate in election

KELLY FENG
Editor in Chief

His first chance to cast a ballot in the United States has been a long time coming for Jovhany Michaud.

On a Wednesday morning during a WolfPack Welcome event last summer, Michaud found himself waiting among a group of students stationed at a video camera and filling out forms. A variety of first-time voters were asked to share their feelings about the upcoming election.

Although most agreed to be interviewed, many students were reluctant

to talk. When they opened up about first-time voting, most shared the same feeling – fear – in the form of nervousness, apathy and anxiety.

But the vibe quickly changed when it was Michaud's turn to speak. He was enthusiastic and ready to talk. His excitement was palpable, and he chatted about visiting the polls and casting his ballot.

After arriving in the United States from Haiti in 2017, he received his citizenship late last year and he'll be voting in his first presidential election in November.

"I'm excited because this is my first time," said Michaud, laughing and shaking his head. "In my country, we don't trust our officials," he said.

A paralegal student at Madison

College, Michaud shared many concerns that will move him to the ballot box, including immigration, jobs, education and free community college. But as he spoke, he grinned and joked, a stark contrast to his peers.

"I have a voice, and I have to cast it. That's how I see the first time voting," the 29-year-old Haitian American said.

He appreciates the importance of service to others, like working in the food pantry or attending a meeting with the Black Student Union, La Raza Unida or United Common Ground.

He's determined to serve people, whether they're Haitian or American. To understand Michaud's commitment to the present, you first need to under-

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VOTING

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stand his past.

Jovhany Fidel Michaud was born in 1995 in Delmas, Haiti, and he grew up in nearby Tabarre. Both cities are in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, the epicenter of the devastating 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Despite daily waves of violence, Michaud, the second of three siblings, enjoyed his childhood. There were peaceful moments he cherished. He remembers watching soccer games and gathering friends to witness any match, whether televised or live.

He wasn't always on the sidelines. Michaud often played the sport, seeing it as a way to escape.

Soccer is a sport where only a ball and a field are needed. Haiti has plenty of abandoned spaces, so he often joined the other kids in an impromptu game.

Since he was unaware of any life outside of Haiti, it also served as a way to cope. "Because you didn't know any better, it's like you're satisfied with what you get," Michaud said.

You may not recognize his name, but you've probably seen Michaud around campus — tabling a WolfPack event, greeting new students, storing supplies in the food pantry, presiding over a student senate meeting or attending one of his many club meetings.

You've also seen his character in every American immigrant you encounter — hardworking and ambitious, optimistic and curious, leaving their country behind in search of a better life.

In Haiti, violence is embedded in daily life, from the time the country rebelled against French colonists in the late 1700s to recent decades of political instability.

Looking back, Michaud realizes there were always dangerous places in his country, but people were warned of them, and they heeded the warning. He said these days are different.

"It doesn't matter if it's in the morning. If it's in the evening. There is still a chance that you may be kidnapped or killed," he said.

Among the many protests he's seen, Michaud vividly remembers the weeks-long conflict of the 2004 Haitian coup d'état, resulting in the removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from office. Only 9 years old at the time, he witnessed the unrest unfold with burning cars, billowing smoke, gun battles and boys toting sawed-off shotguns.

In 2017, his grandmother urged him, his father and his sister to leave the country, which was the first step in coming to America. (His brother and his mother, under President Biden's Family Unity Immigration Initiative, joined them last year)

Michaud's journey took him to Florida, but a housing issue moved him to Wisconsin Dells, and he admits he had to Google "Wisconsin."

The Dells gave him employment and independence, but he knew he needed more human connection, so he moved to Madison.

After COVID-19, he recognized he needed more advanced schooling but didn't know how any college could accept him. It wasn't a lack of education holding him back since he already had a diploma, but it was the fact that the document originated from Haiti.

"To go back to my roots. Any paper from Haiti won't have any sway in the United States. It's just going to make it hard for you," Michaud said. Realizing he could not persuade anybody of his high school diploma, he decided to pursue his High School Equivalent Diploma.

That all changed when he met a Madison College advisor who suggested the Dual Enrollment Program, which allows for a high school and college degree.

Given his extroverted personality, it's no surprise that Michaud would want to meet people. He attended one of the many WolfPack events and had the chance to visit the Student Senate, where he found his life making a hard left turn, opening many avenues.

He had no idea what a Student Senate was, let alone that the membership had a voice. He was astonished the students had a say.

"Really? I always want to help people. That's why I do so many things. I always want to help. Seeing students have a voice here — in my country, students don't grow up like that," he said.

Michaud said that in Haiti, students are voiceless. They are more responsible for parties, buying T-shirts and socializing. He recalls an incident at his high school where the director sent the entire student body home, whether or not they were involved.

"There was no power. After being in the Senate, I see we own some power," he said.

Michaud later decided to run for Student Senate president to help people, winning the race and heading the organization from 2023 to 2024.

Now that he is settled in America, his advice for other immigrants is simple. "Try to connect with people. Don't treat it as you're just passing (through the country) because you're lying to yourself," said Michaud, suggesting they avoid getting caught up in two worlds and only focus on the United States.

"Because most people come here have this mentality like 'I'm just coming here to save and to go back.' But in reality, you never will go back," he said.

He sees other immigrants convinced that they could save money and return to their country, but he said they have already accustomed themselves to a certain lifestyle, making it impossible to return.

Michaud encourages other immigrants to take advantage of being here, use their voice, create opportunities and focus on goals.

"Treat this country as the only one you got," he said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOVHANY MICHAUD

Jovhany Michaud, left, is pictured with his family in Haiti around 2010. Now a U.S. citizen, Michaud is excited about being able to vote for the first time.

Board decides to restart president search

Dr. Tim Casper will be the interim president

KELLY FENG
Editor in Chief

Last week, the Madison College District Board of Trustees decided to restart the search process for the college's next president.

The decision was prompted by Carlos Cortez's withdrawal from the presidential search

process, where the board determined that with only two candidates remaining, it needed to have all the necessary options to make the best possible choice for the school.

The board selected current Madison College Executive Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Tim Casper, to serve as interim president, effective upon President Daniels' retirement in January.

The board said the unanimous decision reflects its com-

plete confidence in Dr. Casper's leadership and the demonstrated commitment and continuity he will bring to the interim period.

"The responsibility the board has trusted me with is something I take very seriously. I'm honored to have been provided this opportunity to lead the institution until we identify a permanent president of Madison College," Casper said.

Casper's familiarity with the college community and its senior leaders, coupled with

understanding the college's goal for the Vision 2030 plan, will ensure continuity.

Vision 2030 is a strategic plan that the college has engaged with students, employees and community leaders to consider its goals for the next five academic years. It encompasses six strategic commitments that will guide the school's decision-making and commitment to student success.

Casper plans to advance

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Dr. Tim Casper, executive vice president of Student Affairs.

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SEARCH

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Project 2030's goals while bridging the gap between Dr. Jack Daniels's retirement and the selection of the new college leader.

Casper, who's been with the college since 2011, believes it's essential to collectively think about how those items get advanced as they move forward to better serve the communities, as well as current and prospective students.

As an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay majoring in Urban Studies, he was active in student life, organization, and government, inspired by faculty and the classroom. Thus, he recognizes the importance of understanding students, having excellent faculty and staff and serving and supporting students.

"The students we had five years ago are different from the students that we have today — and the students that we have five years from now will be different from those here today, too," said Casper, who earned his doctorate in Education Leadership from Edgewood College.

"While we draw from the past, we act in the present and we're also trying to plan for the future. That, to me, is invigorating and exciting work."

His interest is to continue to understand the students, not just from the perspective of what he has learned, but to learn from the faculty and staff's perspectives.

He's grateful to collaborate with the many dedicated professionals, whether faculty, student service professionals, or part of the human resources, administrative or facilities team.

"Each and every single person — when we speak with them — regardless of their role, have a "why" and that "why" is always connected to the students," he said.

Casper said "the why" drives everybody, whether they are a bookstore cashier, academic advisor or an Introduction to Psychology instructor.

"All of them have that passion, and that is rewarding to be part of a community of people so dedicated to something important as educating people who live in our communities," Casper said.



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