

100 years ago it was called the La Crosse Continuation and Adult Schools. Now 100 years, it's called Western Technical College. And with plenty of celebrations going on this month, retired dean of industrial technologies, Bill Welch Sr, explains that the tech college set the stage for familiar programs nationwide.

The college started in 1912 as a continuation school for adults, high school dropouts and trade training. From two rooms in the Longfellow school building, Western has expanded to a 15 building campus in La Crosse, with regional locations in Black River Falls, Independence, Mauston, Tomah, and Viroqua, and a public safety training center in Sparta.