

# Gerontology at the Capitol



*Legislative staffers Samantha Linden (Sen. Bewley – D) and Ericka Braatz (Rep. Quinn – R) are using goggles that simulate aging-related vision impairments. The goggles simulate macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, retinitis pigmentosa and unilateral detached retina.*

As a result of recent participation in the Wisconsin Technical College Showcase in February 2019, Gerontology-Aging Services Professional Instructors Kimberly McDonald and Jennifer Ellis brought their physical aging simulation equipment to the Capitol.

“Having legislators and staffers experience a variety of aging-related conditions through this simulation opportunity is phenomenal! There are a lot of aging and disability-related legislative items being considered at the Capitol as we speak.”

*–Jennifer Ellis, Gerontology - Aging Services Professional Instructor at WITC*

Senator Bewley’s office, with support from Representative Romaine Quinn’s office, hosted a day-long opportunity on June 13th for legislators and their staff to use various pieces of aging simulation equipment that is embedded into the Gerontology program.

Equipment made available to the legislative offices included the aging suit, hemiparesis (stroke) suit, kyphosis simulator, Parkinson tremor gloves, vision impairment goggles, back pain simulator, tinnitus simulator, and the COPD simulator.



*Legislative staffer Samantha Linden from Senator Janet Bewley’s (D) office is garbed in the hemiparesis simulator. This equipment impairs Samantha’s vision, hearing, arm and leg movement as though she has complete one-sided weakness that is often the result of a significant stroke.*

