

TRANSFORMATIONS

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Checota puts students on the career fast track

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MATC PRESIDENT

Dr. Vicki J. Martin is the 10th president of MATC. She has served in higher education for four decades, at MATC for three decades and has led the college since 2014. In 2015, Dr. Martin launched the MATC Promise, a public-private partnership that provides free tuition for eligible new high school graduates, and in 2018, she announced the MATC Promise for Adults, which provides free tuition for eligible students to finish their degree. Dr. Martin has attracted growing private-sector and foundation support to the MATC Foundation, serves as vice chair of the Higher Education Regional Alliance, is the chairperson of the Bradley Tech High School Commission and is a founding leader of the M³ (pronounced M-cubed) initiative, which brings together MATC, Milwaukee Public Schools and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to transform the future of Milwaukee through education. Leading the college with a focus on success for all students, Dr. Martin has guided MATC's implementation of the nationally recognized Guided Pathways framework and participation in the nation's first regional launch of the Moon Shot for Equity, which is aimed at eliminating higher education equity gaps by 2030.



MISSION

Education that transforms lives, industry and community

VISION

The best choice in education, where everyone can succeed

VALUES

Empowerment, Inclusion, Innovation, Integrity, Respect



★ ★ ★
**CONGRATULATIONS,
STORMERS!**
★ ★



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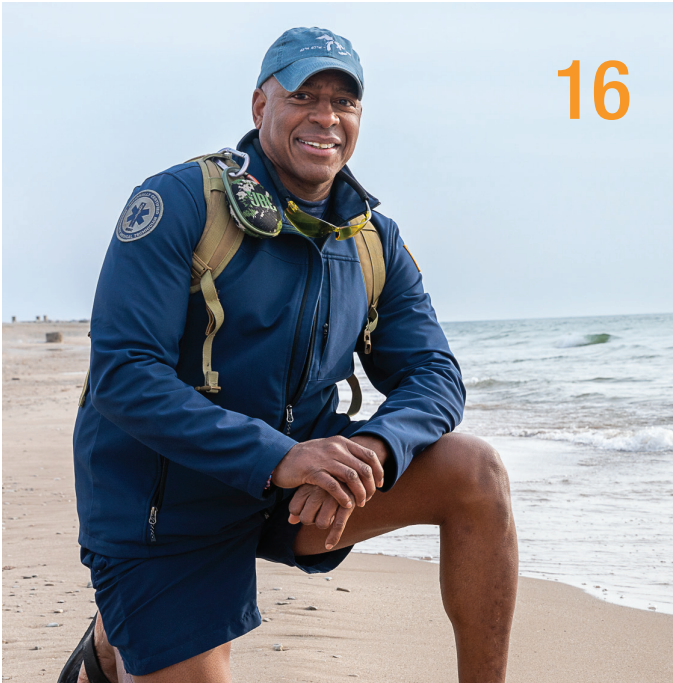
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MILWAUKEE AREA Technical College
Transforming Lives, Industry & Community

MESSAGE FROM THE President and District Board Chairperson

WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSFORMING THE LIVES of the students we serve and building the region's diverse talent pipeline, Milwaukee Area Technical College has and will continue to deliver on our mission for the past 110 years for our community.

In August 2022, we launched the most comprehensive and largest scholarship fund in MATC history. In just a few short months, the generous founding gifts that created the Ellen and Joe Checota MATC Scholarship Program began paying dividends for our students and employers.

By December, 48 scholarship recipients had already graduated with short-term certificates and technical diplomas that prepared them to enter the workforce immediately. For one of our students, financial hardship meant he was not planning to come back to MATC to finish his Computer Numerical Control (CNC) program until he heard about the new scholarship. Instead of dropping out of college, Jorge Alvarez graduated and launched his CNC career thanks to the extensive support provided by the Checota MATC Scholarship Program. You can read more about Jorge's story, some of the other 290 active scholarship students and learn how your contribution can be matched \$2 to \$1 through this new program on page 12.



*Dr. Lisa L. Olson, MATC District Board chairperson (left)
with Dr. Vicki J. Martin, MATC president*

In addition to short-term training, the college continues to offer two-year associate degrees, including those that seamlessly transfer to more than 40 four-year colleges and universities. Every year, hundreds of MATC students transfer so they can earn a bachelor's degree. In addition to our transferable Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, we offer career-specific two- to four-year pathways. One of our recent transfer graduates, Hunter Burazin, completed an electrical engineering technology degree and then transferred to the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He is now gainfully employed at Milwaukee Tool, a fast-growing employer in the region with a new office just down the street from our Downtown Milwaukee Campus. His story is on page 30.

To best serve and enhance the college experience of students at a time when so many say they are housing insecure, we are proud to have completely filled our 195-student Westtown Green apartments. We proudly celebrated move-in day for our residential students, and you can see photos and read stories about our student residents on page 27.

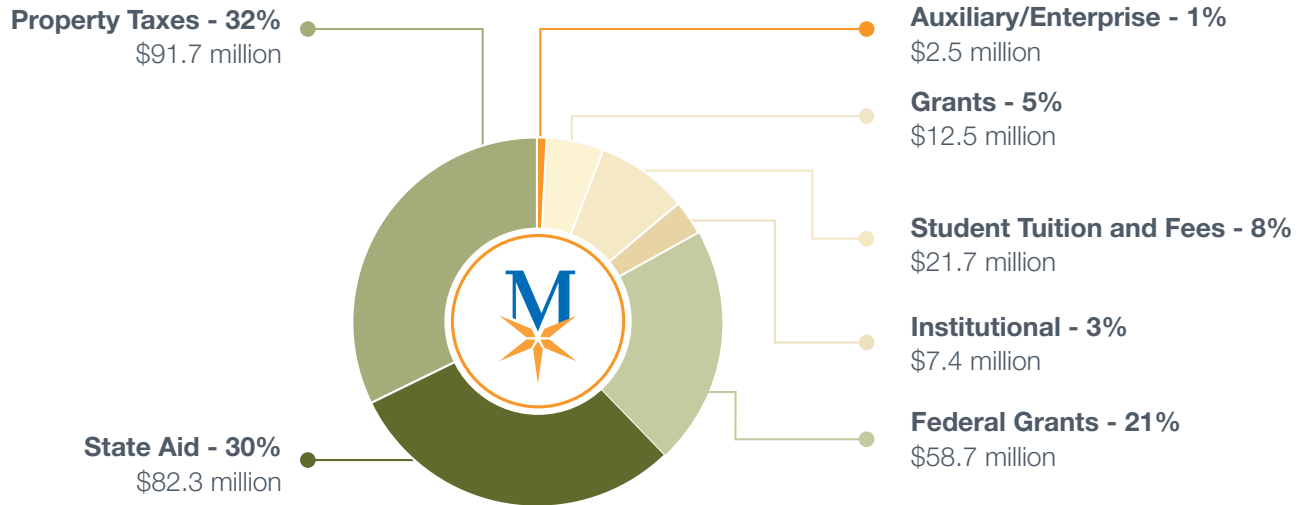
It is our pleasure to share with you these and many other stories that demonstrate our value to the students, employers and all residents of our region. I hope you see the opportunity and potential for partnering with us to meet your needs. Please visit matc.edu/impact and choose "Partner With Us."

Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D.
MATC President

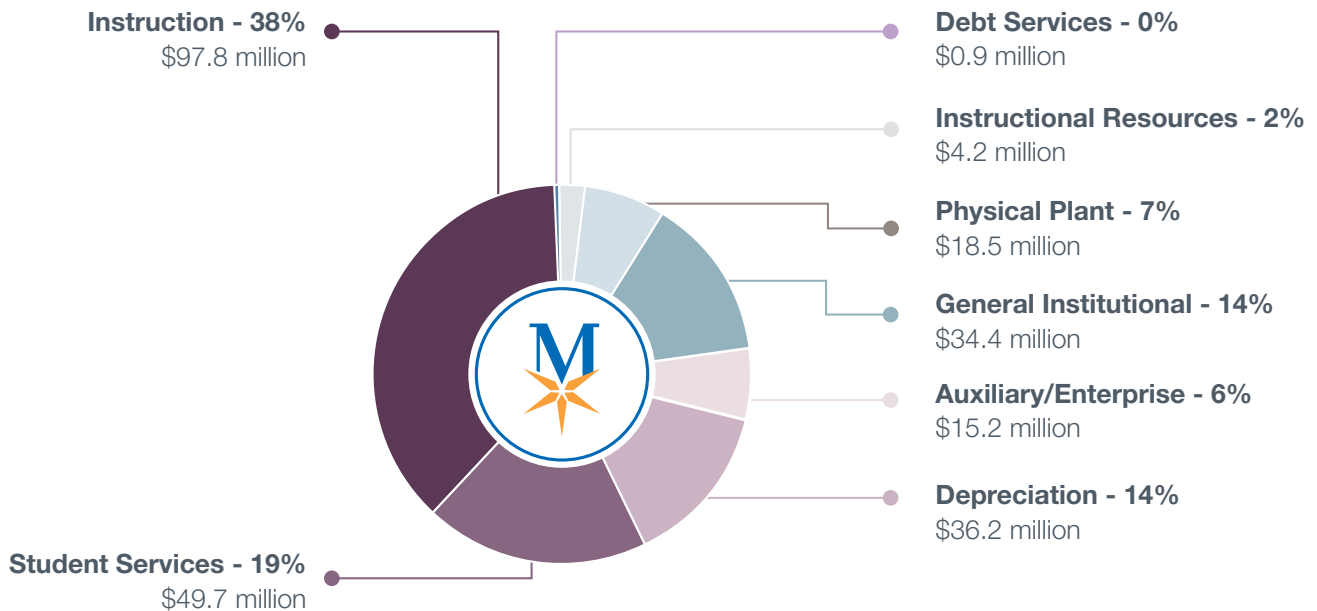
Lisa L. Olson, Ph.D.
MATC District Board Chairperson

MATC 2022 Financials

Total Revenue \$276.8 Million



Total Expense \$256.9 Million



Milwaukee Area Technical College is fiscally responsible, balancing the needs of students and taxpayers.

The college retained a strong Aa1 bond rating from Moody's Investors Service in the 2021-22 fiscal year. The tax levy decreased from 1.151 (2021) to 1.009 (2022) for every \$1,000 of equalized value. The owner of a \$100,000 home in the MATC service district paid \$100.94 in 2022, compared to \$115.06 in 2021, a decrease of \$14.12.

Highlights 2022



Froedtert Health Honored as Futuremaker

MATC JOINED THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) Board in November in recognizing Froedtert Health with the Futuremaker Partner Award. The award is presented four times a year by the WTCS Board to recognize the unique, long-standing connections between the state's employers and local technical colleges.

In June 2022, Froedtert Health established the Froedtert Memorial Hospital Scholarship Fund with a \$6 million gift to the MATC Foundation to fund scholarships for underprivileged and deserving students over the next 20 years.

MATC has a long-standing relationship with Froedtert Health including partnering through a work-education program which employs current students in entry-level healthcare careers. Students in the college's Healthcare Academic & Career Pathway also benefit from clinical placements at Froedtert Health. MATC also partners with Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network to provide free health care clinic options for students.

Largest Class of M³ College Connections Participants Prepared to Succeed



A RECORD 152 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATED in the innovative, nationally-recognized M³ (pronounced M-cubed) College Connections program in 2022. The partnership connecting MATC, Milwaukee Public

Schools and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee enables students to attend college classes and earn college credits while still enrolled in high school. The dual enrollment initiative, heading into its fifth year, saves students money and prepares them for college-level work.

DACA Plus Scholarship Fund Received Boost From Local Businesses

IN JULY, the MATC Foundation received a \$112,000 donation from Van Horn Latino, a Milwaukee automotive dealership, and El Rey, a family-owned and operated grocer, to increase the college's DACA Plus scholarship fund. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a U.S. immigration policy that allows eligible immigrants into the country for a period without fear of deportation. But those non-U.S. citizens are not eligible to receive financial aid.



MATC's DACA Plus scholarship program offers \$500 per semester for eligible students taking six to eight credits, \$750 for nine to 11 credits and \$1,000 for 12 or more credits. During the 2022-23 academic year, MATC awarded DACA Plus scholarships to 53 students.



MATC Hosted WisCORE, State-Wide Discussion on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

AROUND 200 STUDENTS, and staff from Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges gathered at MATC in November for the second

Wisconsin Technical College System Conference On Race and Ethnicity (WisCORE). The two-day event featured guest speakers, breakout sessions and student panels focused on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) issues and initiatives.

"WisCORE stems from an annual national event on DEI topics called NCORE. The aim of the state conference is to have a system-wide conversation about DEI, connect students and staff to form a state-wide equity and inclusion network, increase awareness of disparities in communities, workforce, and education and build momentum for campus-wide DEI initiatives," said Eva Martinez Powless, Ph.D, MATC's vice president and chief DEI officer.

New Food Pantry to Provide Sustenance for Student Success

STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS celebrated the opening of a new food pantry at the MATC Education Center at Walker's Square in November. MATC now has food pantries at Walker's Square and all campus locations: Downtown Milwaukee, Mequon, Oak Creek and West Allis.

"We're continuing to do the work that's most impactful," said Equan Burrows, MATC's dean of Student Experience, at the ceremony. "We're responding to the needs of our students. By opening this food pantry, we can serve all of our students."



New DEI Office at Downtown Milwaukee Campus Creates Welcoming, Inclusive Space

PRESIDENT VICKI J. MARTIN, Ph.D., along with Vice President and Chief DEI Officer Eva M. Martinez Powless, Ph.D., and other leaders, staff and students gathered in October to celebrate the newly-opened Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at MATC's Downtown Milwaukee Campus. The space, in Room 281 of the Main (M) Building, will serve as an inclusive hub for the college's diverse student population.

In the summer of 2022, the college completed a five-year plan to improve the college's DEI climate and experience for both employees and students and enhance the institutional commitment to DEI. Part of that plan was to establish a physical DEI office. Permanent offices are expected to open next summer in the S Building, which is currently being renovated.

Car Show Returned to MATC's Oak Creek Campus

CARS OF ALL SHAPES, sizes and speeds converged on MATC's Oak Creek Campus in June. It was the college's first in-person car show since 2019 — the last two were held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The car show raises money and community awareness of MATC Drive, which launched in July 2017. MATC Drive provides strong career and academic support for students learning about automotive technology, automotive maintenance, automotive finish repair, and diesel and powertrain servicing.



Funeral Service Program Acquires Cutting-Edge Equipment

IN JANUARY, MATC's Funeral Service associate degree program — the only program of its kind in Wisconsin — acquired a SynDaver synthetic cadaver and an Anatomage digital anatomy table.

The two pieces of innovative mortuary equipment will provide state-of-the-art educational enhancement for both in-person and virtual environments. MATC is one of only

five college funeral service programs in the nation to use the state-of-the-art lifelike cadavers.

The synthetic cadaver is a life-size body model that includes bones, organs, vessels and skin made from water, salts and fibers. The cadaver replicates the mechanical, chemical, thermal and dielectric properties of living tissue and will be used to demonstrate techniques for locating and raising vessels, vascular injection, cavity embalming, feature setting and suturing.

Highlights 2022

MATC Selected to Help Advance Racial Equity in Manufacturing

MATC WAS ONE of 13 community colleges selected to share its experience and expertise in a national effort to make manufacturing more racially diverse. The project, called Industry and Inclusion 2.0, is a collaboration between The Century Foundation, the Urban Manufacturing Alliance and eight urban workforce development organizations concentrated in the Midwest.



Meet Pepper – MATC’s Newest Best Friend

IF YOU’RE HAVING A “RUFF” DAY, Pepper is here to help you stay “pawsitive.” Four-legged, furry and about a foot long, Pepper is a new member of MATC’s Student Accommodation and

Interpreting Services team. As an emotional support animal, Pepper is helping to reduce stress, anxiety and depression among students and employees. Research studies have shown positive psychophysiological and psychosocial benefits from holding, stroking or simply being with an animal.

Milwaukee Brewers Scholarships a Huge Hit

A PROGRAM SPONSORED by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 333, the Milwaukee Brewers Latino Players and the MATC Foundation has awarded 137 scholarships totaling \$88,320 to MATC students since 2014.

In August, the council presented another batch of scholarships during Mexican Fiesta along with several Milwaukee Brewers Latino players, including Willy Adames and Freddy Peralta.



LULAC, the largest and oldest Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States, advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of Hispanic/Latino/a Americans.



Pumping up the Volume on Stormer Sports

FOR THE FIRST TIME in at least four years, MATC students, staff and faculty gathered at the college’s Downtown Milwaukee Campus to generate good vibrations, good cheer and good mojo for the Stormers sports teams. “We’re expecting big things from all of our teams,” said MATC Athletic Director Randy Casey, who also is the head coach of the men’s basketball team. “We’re trying to reach new heights.”



Casey praised the college for emphasizing and expanding its athletic programs, and lauded the hard work of current and past players. “We appreciate all those who came before us to get us to where we are today,” he said.

MATC offers students the opportunity to participate in baseball, softball, women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer, and men’s and women’s tennis teams as part of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

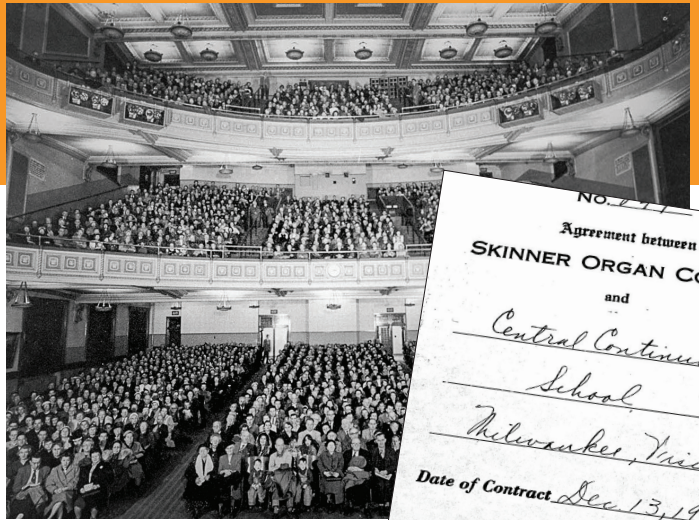
In the past four years, MATC has moved the men’s and women’s tennis teams to NJCAA Division I competition, and the basketball teams began competing in Division II in 2018. For the 2023-24 season, the college will move all other teams to NJCAA Division II, which means the college can offer students athletic scholarships.

Skinner Organ's Rich History Detailed by OnMilwaukee

THE MAIN (M) BUILDING on MATC's Downtown Milwaukee Campus has served the college for more than a century. The building oozes history — and on the second floor is a fascinating and rare piece of musical lore. Inside the Robert L. Cooley Auditorium is the Opus 849, a pipe organ designed and built by the Skinner Organ Company. The instrument has 2,621 pipes, 34 stops and 67 registers.

Bobby Tanzilo, a senior editor and writer with the OnMilwaukee website, took a deep dive into the Skinner organ in his Urban Spelunking series. Tanzilo details the parts of the organ, how it functions, its history and the college's efforts to restore and maintain the unique instrument. Numerous photos are included.

The story, "MATC's unique, world class Skinner organ," can be found at onmilwaukee.com/articles/matc-skinner-organ.



Milwaukee PBS Celebrates 65th Anniversary

THE YEAR WAS 1957. Eisenhower is president, Frank Zeidler is Milwaukee's Mayor, people are shopping at Schuster's Department Store, the Milwaukee Braves win the world series and Milwaukee PBS begins broadcasting on October 28.

Milwaukee PBS became the nation's 28th educational television station on WMVS-TV, Channel 10. The station was licensed to MATC which had established a hands-on Television Production Course in 1952. In 1963, MATC obtained a license for a second station, WMVT-TV, Channel 36.

Throughout the years, the station has experienced technological advances, including broadcasting in color in 1965, joining the PBS satellite system in 1978, stereo broadcasting in 1985 and digital broadcasting in 2000.

Today, Milwaukee PBS offers its two over-the-air channels in high definition, and four additional channels — WORLD, PBS KIDS, CREATE and weather/traffic.

The station is proud of its locally-produced programs that bring your story to viewers. Local programs include "Adelante," "Black Nouveau," "10thirtysix" and "The Arts Page." And now Milwaukee PBS is more than television, offering digital first and streaming options including the digital-first program "My Wisconsin Backyard" and "Speaking Of..." the station's first podcast.

Learn more about the Milwaukee PBS 65th anniversary celebration at milwaukeepbs.org.

Wasting No Time to Fast Track Students to Careers

New scholarship program serves hundreds of students in first year



Ellen & Joe Checota Scholarship Program

A full-ride scholarship to quickly earn a technical diploma or certificate

The Ellen and Joe Checota MATC Scholarship Program hit the ground running last year.

Unveiled in August 2022, the scholarship program helps eligible students pursuing technical diplomas and certificates earn their credentials and enter the workforce quickly within 18 months or less. Students can achieve their goals quickly thanks to comprehensive support. It is MATC's first full-ride scholarship that covers tuition, fees, books, equipment, a meal plan, transportation, child care at a licensed facility or MATC Children's Center and housing at MATC's Westtown Green student apartments.

Last fall, 123 current MATC students received the first batch of Checota scholarships; 48 graduated in December 2022, ready to enter the workforce.

The scholarship program was opened to new MATC students for the first time for the Spring 2023 semester with 251 students receiving scholarships for a total of 290 in the current cohort.

The scholarship program is driven by a charitable gift expected to grow to \$5 million from the Checotas, longtime residents of Milwaukee. Ellen Checota is an artist, and Joe Checota is the chairman and CEO of Landmark Healthcare Facilities LLC, a national developer, owner and manager of outpatient medical buildings.

The \$5 million from the Checotas is contingent on gaining matching gifts from other donors. For every dollar contributed, the Checotas provide a two-for-one match.

The Checotas' gift, when combined with \$2.5 million in matched donations, will create a \$7.5 million scholarship fund, the largest ever in the 110-year history of MATC.

"We have always wanted to find a way to help trade and technical students, the people who want to dig in and work and make a better life for themselves and their families but might need a leg up," said Joe Checota. "We want students to know that if you make the effort, we will continue to support you. We're trying to change lives one life at a time in Milwaukee."



"We want students to know that if you make the effort, we will continue to support you."

JOE CHECOTA, Chairman and CEO,
Landmark Healthcare Facilities LLC

More than 90+ MATC short-term programs are scholarship eligible programs to accelerate careers in the areas of manufacturing, information technology, business management, and trade and technical fields. Here's a look at how three lives have changed:



From left to right: Laura Bray; Ellen and Joe Checota; and Dr. Vicki J. Martin



Joe Checota (left) and Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson (right)



Mayor Johnson listens as instructor Dale Howser Sr. demonstrates a Haas Vertical Machining Center.



Going Back to School

Without a Checota scholarship, Jorge Alvarez (above) would still be thinking about going back to school, still be trying to find a better job and still be waiting to start a good career.

Born in Vera Cruz, Mexico, Alvarez came to the United States when he was 3 years old. His family moved to Milwaukee when he was 12. After graduating from Milwaukee Public Schools’ Pulaski High School, he thought about going to college but ended up working for the next 10 years.

“I was working entry-level, menial jobs,” Alvarez said.

He wanted something better. In 2019, after saving money for several years, he started Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining classes at MATC. In Spring 2022, he started the CNC turning machine courses. He planned to finish in Fall 2022 but ran out of money.

“At that point, I didn’t really think I was coming back to school,” Alvarez said. “I figured I would work, save money and go back when I could.”

That’s when Chris Chomicki, MATC machine shop instructor, and Erik Riley, an advisor in the Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation Pathway, stepped in.

“I keep in contact with my students to make sure they will be enrolling in the next semester’s classes,” Chomicki said. “When I saw Jorge was not enrolling, I reached out to him. The Checota scholarship had just been implemented. I reached out to him and said this may be an opportunity that he might qualify for.”

Alvarez talked to Riley and applied for the Checota scholarship.

“Checota has opened the doors to many opportunities for our students who are interested in pursuing the trades,” Riley said. “Not only has it provided

financial assistance, but it also removes barriers and allows students to focus on what means most — learning.”

Thanks to the Checota scholarship, Alvarez went back to school. While still a student in the fall, he got a job as a trainee at Alliance Manufacturing Group in South Milwaukee. That turned into a full-time CNC technician position when he completed classes in December 2022.

“Getting this scholarship was more than a big help,” Alvarez said. “Without it, I would be stuck in the same place. Now I have finished school and have a full-time job.”



Free to Pursue a Better, Brighter Future

Terry Davis (above) gave college a try in 2007 after graduating from Milwaukee Public Schools’ Washington High School. He headed north, playing football and studying carpentry at Rochester Community and Technical College in Minnesota.

However, he left Rochester before completing a degree; he returned to Wisconsin, worked and started a family.

Now he has the time, the desire and — thanks to a Checota scholarship — the financial assistance to earn a technical diploma in MATC’s Power Engineering and Boiler Operator program and start a fulfilling, family-sustaining career.

“Getting this scholarship is a huge relief,” Davis said. “It has really helped out with everything. The scholarship gives me time to focus on schoolwork and not how I will find a way to pay for all these things. This scholarship helps take away a lot of those kinds of distractions.”

Hear Terry Davis tell his Checota story.



At the Energy Conservation and Advanced Manufacturing Center at the college's Oak Creek Campus, Davis is learning how to operate, control and repair low-pressure and high-pressure boilers and auxiliary systems used in factories and other buildings.

"It can always be challenging when you're learning something new," Davis said, "The instructors here have been very, very supportive. I have always enjoyed working with my hands. Any types of tools have intrigued me. When I was growing up, I was always fixing stuff around the house."

Davis's lifelong love of tinkering and the expertise he's learning at MATC will hopefully help him start a promising career in a field where the average annual salary ranges between \$50,000 to \$60,000.

"I think this scholarship program is wonderful," said Christin Cech, one of Davis' instructors. "Everything these days is so expensive. So giving students the help they need to learn, to get ahead and to have a career is great."



Making the World a More Beautiful Place

Sonia Gholson (above) wants to make the world healthier and happier.

In December 2022, Gholson received a technical diploma in the aesthetician program thanks to a Checota scholarship, and she plans to own and operate a full-service salon and spa — a place where people can put aside the inconveniences of everyday life and indulge themselves, even if for a few hours.

"We need more places where people can treat themselves," Gholson said. "I'd like to have a one-stop shop, a place

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\$2 to \$1

donations

matched up to \$5 million for new program
when you support the Ellen and Joe Checota
MATC Scholarship Program

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where people can treat themselves for an hour or even for a whole day with facials, manicures, pedicures and massages."

Gholson used her Checota scholarship to pay tuition, buy some supplies and have a meal plan. She drove to school so she also got reimbursed for her mileage, which covered her fuel costs.

"The scholarship was a complete blessing," Gholson said. "I have been really surprised how many things it has covered."

Gholson heard about the Checota scholarship during the summer and applied knowing she would need financial help.

"I have been trying to go to school and not have a balance at the end," Gholson said. "But the funds I had really weren't lining up. I will always try to find a way. I got an email about the Checota, and I saw that the program had way better benefits than other scholarships." ■

[**Learn more about the Checota Scholarship at matc.edu/scholarships**](https://matc.edu/scholarships)

Always Vigilant, Always Watching, Always Ready

EMT alumnus helps keep city beaches, parks and neighborhoods safe

Lloyd Seawright was never a Boy Scout. But he is always prepared.

At a moment's notice, the muscular Seawright can administer first aid to a gunshot victim, pile up heavy sandbags to stanch flooding from a swollen river, pull a homeowner from a burning building and clear away fallen trees from a storm-ravaged road or save a swimmer from the chilly, treacherous waters of Lake Michigan.

Almost like a superhero, Seawright casts a watchful eye over his environs, always vigilant, always ready to respond. He learned how to save lives and respond to emergencies at MATC, graduating from the college's Emergency Medical Technician program in 2012.

"The basics of everything I know I received at MATC. It was the beginning of my real emergency-medical background and I took to it like a fish in water," Seawright said.

Today, Seawright serves as a beach ambassador at Milwaukee's Bradford Beach, volunteers for the American Red Cross, handles security details for clients and works with a private firm that offers disaster-response support around the world.

He also helps evaluate EMT and paramedic candidates at MATC as an activity facilitator, assisting students completing their National Registry psychomotor exams, said Michael A. Jankowski, MATC's Emergency Medical Services department chair.

Over the past several decades, Seawright has trained to handle explosives, deal with domestic disturbances and conduct many types of water rescues. He has helped stem destructive flooding in Burlington and Waterford in Racine County and control a major fire in Bayside last year that displaced more than 100 residents. Most days, he is on call for Response Systems Inc., a private disaster-preparedness and disaster-response firm that covers the globe.

On July 22, 2022, Seawright didn't hesitate to help a 30-year-old man who was shot on Milwaukee's Brady Street. He was nearby with friends, heard the gunshots and jumped into action. Seawright, who always travels with a backpack filled with medical supplies, found the victim, applied a tourniquet using a belt and waited with him until help arrived. The man was taken to the hospital and survived.

"You never want to be the guy on the spot, but I'm always ready if it happens," Seawright said. "I travel with that kit because what good would it do just sitting at home?"

As an adventurous kid growing up on Milwaukee's east side, Seawright hardly stayed inside. He participated in Cub Scouts and became a Webelo — the level just before becoming a Boy Scout. But he was too impatient to advance and ventured out on his own.

"Some friends of mine and I started our own survival group," he said. "We got ourselves some tents, some uniforms and we camped out, learning skills like hunting and fishing."

Seawright believes everyone should know basic first aid, how to administer CPR, how to swim and even how to forage for food.

"We don't have near enough EMTs, paramedics, police officers, firefighters and lifeguards. We need to make ourselves as prepared as we can be," Seawright said. "Save yourself, save your family, save your friends, save your neighbors. You learn to read, you learn how to do math. Everyone should know how to swim. Everyone should know CPR. These are life skills."

For Seawright, perhaps his most important messages are delivered as a representative of the Beach Ambassador Project. The program was organized by the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, Milwaukee Community Sailing Center, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Milwaukee Water Commons and Coastline Services LLC in response to four drownings at Milwaukee's McKinley Beach in 2020.

OUTLOOK



\$57,702

annual salary for EMT-paramedics in Wisconsin.

Source: MATC Graduate Career Report, 2022

The ambassadors walk the city beaches and educate beachgoers about water safety and water quality.

"Lake Michigan is a beautiful body of water that can turn into a beast very quickly," Seawright said. "When you reach out like that and someone listens, you get a real feeling of success. You hope they spread and share the message with their friends, their families and their community."

Seawright is always on the move and always wants to learn more. He plans to undergo ice-rescue training, swift-water rescue training and high-ropes training.

"Doing this has been very satisfying for me. The brotherhood and camaraderie among people who do this is very strong. It's a close-knit family," he said. "It can be challenging at times, but it's immensely rewarding." ■

To learn more about MATC's EMT program, visit matc.edu/course-catalog and search "EMT."



*MATC alumnus Lloyd Seawright
at Milwaukee's McKinley Beach*



Electricity Instructor **Lights It Up**

Construction Electrician Apprentice Instructor and Department Chair Kennedy wins national competition

When 30 electricity students arrive at Thomas V. Kennedy's class every Tuesday, they're learning from an instructor recently named the best professional electrician in North America.

Kennedy is full of energy and doesn't blow a fuse when under pressure. So it should come as no shock that the long-time MATC electricity instructor and electricity department chair won the seventh annual IDEAL Elite Trades Championship Series in Tampa, Florida, in November.

He beat out 144 other electric trade professionals and apprentices to win \$60,000 during two days of competition that tested contestants' electrical knowledge, skill, accuracy and quickness.

"We want the college, our alumni and our community to know that we have the most skilled electricity instructor in the country," said Becky Alsup, academic dean of MATC's Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation pathway.

Kennedy, who started teaching at MATC in 1997 after finishing his apprenticeship a year before, became a

full-time instructor in 2009. He competed in the IDEAL National Championship last year and made the semifinals before earning the top spot this year.

"This is a competition that proves that we know what we're doing and love doing it," Kennedy said. "Electricity is a unique field. You need both strength and the brains to understand the science of what you're doing, and do it correctly."

At the same event, MATC student and third-year apprentice Brady Wraalstad competed in the apprentice division. He made the semifinals and competed in a surprise team final event with professional competitor Roman Ryszewski, the 2017 professional champion.

The finals, held at the Tampa Convention Center, included four rounds of challenges, such as wiring a hot tub, installing a solar panel and preparing a commercial pull box. Competitors are judged on quality of work, how long they take to complete the work, correctly using tools and equipment, and adhering to safety standards.

“Every electrician has a responsibility to be conscientious and comply with standards and codes. If you don’t, you can create a fire hazard or an electrical concern,” Kennedy said.

In the summer months, Kennedy works for a contractor to stay current on the newest technology. “That way I stay connected to what’s happening in the field. Every week I’m chasing something new,” he said. “Things change so fast. If you don’t keep up, it’ll pass you by.”

Competitors earned a place in the finals at qualifying events held across the country. Scores were based on the quality of work and the time it took to complete the challenge. More than 35,000 electricians from the U.S. and Canada attempted to qualify. From that pool, 144 professional and apprentice electricians were selected to compete in the national championship.

The IDEAL National Championship, established in 2016, highlights the professional trades as a rewarding, mentally-stimulating and in-demand career path.

“The event is becoming our annual holiday to showcase the skilled trades community and honor the importance of this work,” said Carmen Cardillo, general manager of IDEAL Electrical U.S. and Mexico.

The manufacturing industry faced a major setback at the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the trades industry has brought jobs back and struggled to hire entry level and skilled workers alike, and

WAGE



\$64,829

annual mean salary for electricians in Wisconsin

Source U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021

the need for new hires is at an all-time high. Coming out of the pandemic the demand for skilled trades has increased from 100 percent to over 300 percent.

“While no job is completely recession-proof, the skilled trades provide better job security than others during an economic downturn,” Cardillo said. “You can make an excellent living in the trades without incurring student debt along with the satisfaction of knowing that you’re contributing something vital to society.” ■

The Electricity program is one of 90 MATC programs eligible for a full-ride scholarship through the Ellen and Joe Checota Scholarship Program. See page 12 for more information.

MATC SPOTLIGHT

At MATC, the Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation Academic & Career Pathway encompasses several skilled trades. Students can obtain a certificate, a technical diploma or an associate degree, or experience on-the-job training with an apprenticeship. Programs in this Pathway lead to careers related to manufacturing, maintenance and repair of appliances, building systems, automobiles, aircraft and diesel trucks; and the building, plumbing and electrical work in residential, commercial and industrial structures.



MATC's Aviation Technician — Powerplant program at the Aviation Center in Oak Creek



Nursing alumna Monique Stewart Ejimbe traded spreadsheets for a stethoscope.

Nursing Graduate **Followed Her Passion** to Achieve Satisfaction, Success

Somerville-Skinner scholarship recipient finds joy as traveling nurse

A promising career in high finance afforded Monique Stewart Ejimbe a substantial paycheck, a private office and a chance to associate with prosperous, wealthy clients.

It also meant a slog of never-ending paperwork, a work-life balance heavily tilted toward work and little personal satisfaction.

“I’d finish up doing my work one day and the next day there would be another pile of paper on my desk,” said Ejimbe. “There was not a lot of gratification.”

So when a friend opened a group home, Ejimbe volunteered, working for free as her friend established the business.

“I found I really, truly enjoyed that,” she said. “Talking to

the residents, helping them as much as I could. I have always thought that if you follow your passion, success will follow.”

Ejimbe followed her passion. She quit her finance job, switched careers and enrolled in MATC’s Practical Nursing program in 2011.

Having already borrowed money to complete her business degree, Ejimbe had to work while attending MATC to pay for classes. She also was raising a 2-year-old daughter as a single mother.

She received some much-needed assistance by earning the Edie L. Somerville and Eddie Myrtle Skinner Nursing Scholarship, awarded to Black nursing students at MATC through the MATC Foundation. The scholarship, started in

2004, is named for two women who exhibited a commitment to nursing and community involvement.

Edie L. Somerville, who was born in 1909 and died in 2004, was one of the first African Americans to graduate from MATC's Practical Nursing program. She became the first African American to be hired on staff at St. Michael's Hospital, Children's Hospital and Lakeview Hospital.

Her daughter, Eddie Myrtle Skinner, followed in her mother's footsteps and graduated from MATC's Practical Nursing program in 1962. She joined the nursing staff at Zablocki Veterans' Administration Medical Center, where she worked for 25 years. She retired in 1995 and turned 90 years old in October.

"That scholarship helped me so very much," Ejimbe recalled. "That helped me pay for food and keep a roof over our heads. It was just a lifesaver and I cannot thank the people who gave that to me enough. I honestly believe I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

Ejimbe also found her voice through her time at MATC, recalled nursing instructor Melba Redmond. Ejimbe served as president of the Future Black Nurses Student Nursing Association and spoke at the national nurses day event at the state capitol in Madison.

"I knew when she turned to me prior to going up to the microphone and asked respectfully, 'Mrs. Redmond, can I go up and speak?' that her leadership skills were plainly evident," Redmond said. "My colleagues and I were left in awe and feeling so proud that she was a brick component of the MATC nursing program."

After graduating, Ejimbe worked at Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee for four years. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she became a traveling nurse and earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Chamberlain University

in Illinois. Ejimbe plans to earn a master's degree and become a nurse practitioner with a focus on mental health and wellness. She remarried and had a second daughter in 2022.

As a traveling nurse, Ejimbe has worked in almost every healthcare system in the Milwaukee region. She likes the flexibility and the pay of travel nursing, and someday wants to start her own scholarship fund for nursing students who are single mothers.



"That scholarship helped me so very much. I honestly believe I wouldn't be where I am today without it."

MONIQUE STEWART EJIMBE, recipient of the Edie L. Somerville and Eddie Myrtle Skinner Nursing Scholarship

And she absolutely does not miss her private office.

"No regrets at all," Ejimbe said. "When you see gratefulness in a patient's eyes, and when you see someone who is sick and might get better as a direct result of what you have done, that brings me joy that I never felt in any other job." ■



Edie L. Somerville (top) blazed a trail for other nurses, including her daughter Eddie Myrtle Skinner (bottom), when she became the first African American graduate of MATC's Practical Nursing program.

MATC SPOTLIGHT

About the Somerville-Skinner Scholarship: The Edie L. Somerville and Eddie Myrtle Skinner Nursing Scholarship supports the education of Black nursing students at MATC. At a time when the nation is experiencing shortages in healthcare, MATC continues to provide our community with highly trained nurses. Please join the MATC Foundation as a partner to provide the financial support for education and training that will preserve our community's future vitality and health. Make a contribution at matc.edu/donate.

MATC: A Foundation For Success

Solaris Inc. founder Kathy Weatherly credits MATC for accomplishments in medicine, business and life.

One class can change the course of a lifetime. For Kathy Weatherly, that class was at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

As a young mother working as a heating, ventilation and air conditioning operator and security guard at Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company, Weatherly started classes at MATC in January 1988. She enrolled in a course that explained how to study effectively, manage time efficiently, organize materials, cope with exams, write research papers and deliver oral presentations.

“I thought it was just about the most ridiculous class in the world,” Weatherly recalled. “But in the end, that course helped me and my children more than any other class I ever took. It became the basis for all the success I have had in my life.”

And Weatherly has had quite a lot of success. Her classes at MATC provided the foundation to earn three college degrees, work as an occupational therapist, start and operate a highly-successful, multi-million dollar medical equipment business and become a respected philanthropist and servant leader.

“At MATC, I found out I loved learning,” Weatherly said. “I loved reading books. It built my self-esteem and made me curious about the world. To me that’s what MATC represents: You can enter the next level of education with a support network to help overcome any fears and insecurities you might have.”

Born in Missoula, Montana, and raised in Washington state, Weatherly was never expected to — and certainly not encouraged to — attend college. “My mother always said ‘men go to college and women marry men,’” she said.

The family moved to Kennewick, Washington, and Weatherly graduated from Kamiakin High School in 1974. She met her husband, Richard, when he was serving as a VISTA volunteer. They married in 1975 and moved to Milwaukee, where Richard grew up and attended high school and college. He worked in the Waukesha school district while she raised their sons and worked at Northwestern Mutual.

Weatherly’s husband encouraged her to take classes, and MATC offered an affordable, convenient option with a diverse student population. “College was so foreign, so extremely frightening to me,” she remembered.

Despite her anxiety, she took several English courses, speech, anatomy, physiology, science and math. She took classes during the day, at night and on weekends, whenever she could fit them into her schedule. She would frequently take her kids to Chuck E. Cheese so they could play while she studied.



“Technical Colleges are a way to get into the door and gain the skills that are in demand.”

KATHY WEATHERLY, MATC alumna

“The flexibility MATC offered was another great part of the experience,” she said. “I started out thinking I couldn’t do it, but I found out I could learn and I enjoyed learning. I became an education addict. My memories of MATC are so vivid because the school made such an impression on me. It represented a dramatic change in my life.”

Weatherly went on to earn three degrees from what is now Mount Mary University, in art, occupational therapy and business. She started working as an occupational therapist for Health Reach, a contract provider. There, she and several co-workers began trying to figure out ways to better treat lymphedema, a swelling of the skin caused by diseases like cancer.

They discovered something that worked — chipped foam covered in quilted sleeves — and began assembling customized compression products. Weatherly started



After selling her business, Kathy Weatherly focuses on philanthropy.

making them at home, in her son Kyle’s bedroom while he was away at college. She soon expanded to the basement, then the living room. Kyle returned home from college and discovered “mom’s hobby” had turned into a big, burgeoning business — Solaris Inc. was born.

In 2006, Weatherly urged Kyle to take the helm of the company. From Weatherly’s Brookfield home, Solaris moved into a 15,000-square-foot facility in West Allis, then built a \$5.3 million, 68,000-square-foot facility at the Menomonee Valley Industrial Center.

In 2014, the European firm Lohmann & Rauscher (L&R), an international supplier of medical devices and hygiene products, acquired Solaris for an undisclosed price — enough to take care of Weatherly and her family for the rest of their lives.

Today, Weatherly and her husband divide their time between Wisconsin and Florida. She joined the Lymphedema Association of North America (LANA) board in 2001, and now serves as vice president. She is coordinating and planning LANA’s lymphedema summit in October in St. Louis.

“The learning never stops,” she said. “It keeps me mentally busy, keeps me interested in learning. If I don’t have a project, I’ll make up something.”

Kyle Weatherly runs Vliet Street Capital, a Milwaukee investment firm that supports non-tech startups. Two of Kathy’s sons went to four-year colleges, while another took several classes at MATC before attending Pinellas Technical College in Florida. Today he’s a successful plumber and business owner.

“Technical colleges are a way to get in the door and gain the skills that are in demand,” Weatherly said.

And even one course at a technical college can make the difference.

“After a while, I gained the confidence that I needed, but the education all goes back to that one class at MATC,” Weatherly said. “Without that class, I wouldn’t have had the skillset to be successful.” ■



EVERYBODY
WANTS
TO BE A
RAFFAEL
I WANT

HARLEY-
DAVIDSON
MOTORCYCLES



WAP

Sparks Fly When Creativity Meets Craftsmanship

Welding student fabricates steel sculpture for Technical Building, forges career as community artist.



Artist or artisan?

Sublime creator or simple craftsman?

David Perez mulls those questions in the detached garage of his tidy south side Milwaukee home that serves as a studio.

Colorful paintings, charcoal sketches, vivid graphics and intricate metalworks adorn the wall. He wears sturdy work clothes, a welding helmet and thick safety glasses.

“Sometimes I don’t really feel like an artist,” said Perez, a Milwaukee native. “I always thought I was at a disadvantage because I didn’t really know art history. I didn’t have that kind of training.”

Instead, as the son of a blacksmith and welder, Perez learned the basics of metal fabricating. He also was entranced by pictures drawn by an uncle. The images inspired Perez to sketch superhero characters, monsters, vampires and other fantastic creatures.

Perez studied architectural drafting and commercial art at what was then Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School, now Bradley Tech, and graduated in 2000. On his father’s advice — and with money his mother took out of her savings — Perez enrolled in welding classes at MATC.

“When I was young I honestly didn’t know what I wanted to do,” Perez continued. “My dad told me I should take some welding classes. I also wanted to do art, but I never really thought there’d be any way to make money in art. I took the classes my dad told me about and combined those with art. And now we have this.”

“This” is an impressive and growing collection of murals, pictures, images and pieces he’s created over the past 15 years that showcase his skill as a craftsman and his talent as an artist.

And now Perez, who signs his art with the name Wet Paint Chango, is creating his biggest project yet — a large-scale steel sculpture for MATC that fully fuses the functional and the artful.



A

The sculpture shows intertwined hands making the four letters that spell “MATC” in American Sign Language. The inspiration came from several members of his family who are hearing impaired and a cousin who teaches American Sign Language. The piece, which Perez calls “Persistence,” illustrates

the inclusive environment that MATC provides for the community.

“We can challenge ourselves by taking on things that make us uncomfortable,” Perez wrote about his project. “That is where the growth is, where I find my true self and where my gift from God is allowed to shine.”

The sculpture is one of a dozen projects chosen by MATC’s Community Arts Committee to beautify MATC’s Downtown Milwaukee Campus. For the past two years, the committee has selected local artists, MATC faculty, students and alumni to create art for the college.

“The committee wanted the sculpture to be inclusive and to help create a sense of belonging for our community,” said Julie Ashlock, director of MATC’s Center for Teaching

Inspired by family members who are hearing impaired, artist David Perez is creating a steel sculpture spelling out “MATC” in American Sign Language.

“The committee wanted the sculpture to be inclusive and to help create a sense of belonging for our community. It was David’s idea to have the hands use American Sign Language to spell ‘MATC’ — he felt very strongly about that.”

JULIE ASHLOCK, director of MATC’s Center for Teaching Excellence and co-chair of the Community Arts Committee.



Alumnus David Perez fused his love of art with welding at MATC.

Excellence and co-chair of the Community Arts Committee. “It was David’s idea to have the hands use American Sign Language to spell ‘MATC’ — he felt very strongly about that.”

When completed, the sculpture will be installed at the north entrance of MATC’s Technology and Applied Sciences Building — often called simply the T Building, it’s a well-traveled location close to the Fiserv Forum and several bus stops used by students, faculty and staff every day.



Perez, who followed in his father’s footsteps and has been an ironworker for the City of Milwaukee for the past 16 years, comes home at about 2:30 p.m. each day to spend time with his wife and five children. He then works on his art projects in his studio until 9 or 10 p.m.

“As a fellow artist, it’s a real joy to see someone so committed to his craft and vision, and to balancing the extreme dedication of hours within his life as a full-time

employee in a related field, as a husband and father,” Ashlock said. “Many people have a misconception that artists live lives that are somehow different, footloose and fancy free with little money or responsibility, and that’s just not true. Anyone can be an artist — it just takes dedication and vision.”

And Perez is showing that dedication. In 2020, he participated in the Milwaukee Artist Resource Network (MARN) Mentors Program with visual artist and Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design Professor Brad Anthony Bernard. He also designed and created welcome art for the African American Chamber of Commerce’s new Legacy Co-Working and Innovation Space, a unique, accessible and safe space for African American entrepreneurs in Milwaukee’s Bronzeville neighborhood.



So despite some fleeting self-doubt, Wet Paint Chango has arrived as an artist.

“The plan has always been to do this full time,” Perez said. “I think it will happen soon. I think I’m getting close to making that leap. The goal has always been to get something in an art museum, many pieces in many museums, on college campuses, hotels, mansions — my own mansion — cruise ships. I want to do as much art as I can.” ■

Are you an MATC alumnus? Visit matc.edu/alumni



Finding a Home Away From Home at MATC

With help from faculty and staff, students move into Westtown Green Apartments at Downtown Milwaukee Campus

Kale Stephens grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana; graduated from high school in Suwanee, Florida; and attended community college in Independence, Kansas.

But he has found a home at Westtown Green, MATC's student housing apartments, conveniently located a couple blocks from the Downtown Milwaukee Campus. Stephens

came to Milwaukee in January 2022 to play for the MATC men's basketball team and has lived at Westtown Green since then.

"It's a place where I can get away from things and have my own personal space," he said. "The neighborhood is great. It's in a really nice area. And if there are any problems, they get taken care of right away."



Westtown Green is located within walking distance of MATC's Downtown Milwaukee Campus and the vibrant Deer District with easy access to transit, Pere Marquette Park, the Riverwalk and Milwaukee River, Marcus Performing Arts Center, 3rd Street Market Hall and more!

Nearly 200 MATC students moved into Westtown Green on August 15. MATC faculty and staff helped students move wheeled carts full of furniture and furnishings into the amenity-rich, state-of-the-art student apartment building. Dr. Vicki J. Martin, MATC president, greeted students.

Located at 925 North Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Westtown Green opened in August 2021 in the eastern half of the former Milwaukee Journal Sentinel building. The innovative, affordable apartments aim to combat housing insecurity for MATC students while also expanding their college experience. The 83 furnished units include studio, two-bedroom and four-bedroom apartments. Amenities include in-unit washers and dryers, free high-speed internet, fitness center, community room, computer lab and study lounges.

A number of students unpacking on move-in day were from out of state. They looked forward to living at Westtown Green because it met their needs for affordable housing near campus.

Michael Burke came from the western suburbs of Chicago to participate in MATC's emergency services and paramedic technician programs based at the Oak Creek Campus.

In June, Burke graduated from Timothy Christian High School in Naperville, Illinois. He considered attending Western Illinois University and Eastern Illinois University, but decided he wasn't ready for a four-year college.

"I think that a setting like that would be a little too intense for me right now," Burke said. "I'm easing myself into it."

Burke will live with three roommates at Westtown Green. He moved in with the help of his mother and two brothers. "Everything has gone really smooth," he said. "We visited here during an open house in April and really liked everything. This is a really nice city."

Melinda Calnimpewa, from Flagstaff, Arizona, is in her second year of living at Westtown Green and has adjusted to Milwaukee's climate.

"When we first visited up here we just really liked the city," said Calnimpewa, who plays on the women's basketball team and is studying animation.

Aniya Bethea, who moved to Milwaukee from Tampa, Florida, said, "I am definitely not ready for the winter. But I'm looking forward to being in a different kind of environment. It's a different kind of city. I'm loving it so far."

Briana Green saw Milwaukee for the first time last August when she arrived from Newport, Arkansas, a small town near Little Rock.

"I love this place," said Green, who plays on the women's basketball team and plans to study communications. "I went outside and walked around and it's a beautiful place. I'm excited about starting." ■

Watch TV coverage
of move-in day.





Clockwise from top right: Student volunteers help new residents move into Westown Green, MATC's student apartment building; amenities include four-bedroom apartments, a community room and a fitness center.



Hunter Burazin at Milwaukee School of Engineering's campus

Engineered for Success

Seamless transfer process
helps MATC graduate earn
bachelor's degree from MSOE

The engineering gene hibernated inside Hunter Burazin for years.

In high school, he envisioned himself as an English teacher. But in his first attempt at attending college, he socialized more than he studied.

“It didn’t really work out,” he said.

Burazin spent the next decade waiting tables and serving diners in dozens of restaurants ranging from the tony Wisconsin Club to fast food eateries. He was also married and had two daughters to support. He knew his life needed to change because serving wasn’t going to pay all the bills.

In 2016, Burazin headed to MATC and laid the groundwork to return to school and study engineering. His grandfather and uncle were engineers, and a career in the field sounded interesting and fun.

“I always liked computers and science. Plus, I knew I could support my family in a career that would never go out of style,” Burazin said. “I guess I was inclined to engineering, and once I put my mind to something, I can make it happen.”

Burazin attended MATC for two years, earned an associate degree in electrical engineering technology, then transferred to the Milwaukee School of Engineering, where he received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in May 2022.

Last September, Burazin secured a full-time job at Milwaukee Tool as an electrical engineer on the company’s battery team. He also serves as a volunteer to encourage middle school and high school students to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“The most important reason I chose MATC was its transfer agreement with MSOE,” said Burazin, who grew up in Franklin and graduated from Waukesha South High School. “Being able to get

an education in a technical environment and then transfer to a four-year college was very beneficial. I loved the support I received at MATC — it really helped to get into the mode of being a successful college student.”

At MATC, Burazin served as the college’s state ambassador for the Wisconsin Technical College System. In that role, he participated in a leadership development program and helped extol the value of technical education. Burazin helped increase awareness of the electrical engineering technology program among MATC students; and of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses among local middle school and high school students.

“Hunter was genuinely happy to be in school and managed his school-life stresses well,” said Patricia Berg, one of Burazin’s mathematics instructors at MATC. “After he was done with math, I would see him on campus where he was studying electronic technology. Hunter kept his eyes on the prize.”

Burazin also organized an electrical engineering job forum. Local employers spoke with students about postgraduation expectations, essential

OUTLOOK



Electrical engineering technology graduates have a **91%** job placement rate at an average salary of **\$56k** annually.

Source: Graduate Career Report, 2022

“Being able to get an education in a technical environment and then transfer to a four-year college was very beneficial. I loved the support I received at MATC.”

HUNTER BURAZIN, MATC alumnus

interview skills and necessary soft skills needed to be successful in the workforce.

Transferring to MSOE was straightforward and uncomplicated, Burazin said. “The advisors from MSOE walk you through everything — classes to take, schedules, financial aid, registration,” he said. “And all the people at MATC made sure everything was absolutely seamless. They made it very, very easy.”

MATC students with an associate degree in numerous programs can transfer to MSOE to earn bachelor’s degrees in management, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and as of Spring 2022, technical sales.

With his electrical engineering degree, Burazin is confident his first postgraduation job is just the start of a lifelong career.

“Electrical engineers can do all sorts of things. There aren’t many things we use that haven’t had an electrical engineer’s hand on them,” Burazin said. “The list of what electrical engineers can’t do is shorter than what we can do.” ■

For information about MATC’s transfer programs, go to matc.edu/transfer



Burazin is an electrical engineer on the battery team at Milwaukee Tool.



MATC PROMISE

Moving Forward in Life by Going Back to School

**MATC Promise empowers graduate to become
businesswoman and community leader.**

Everything could have turned out so differently for Raquel Aleman.

While growing up on Milwaukee’s south side, Aleman said her father flitted in and out of her life. Her mother worked three jobs and raised her mostly alone. They constantly moved and lived in 18 places. Aleman graduated from Milwaukee Public Schools’ Bay View High School in 2003, walking across the commencement stage two months pregnant with her first son — with no idea what she was going to do.

**“I use what I learned at MATC every day.
Going back really kicked me into gear.”**

RAQUEL ALEMAN, MATC alumna

“If you look at the statistics, I should either be dead or in jail,” Aleman said. “I probably shouldn’t be where I am

today, but here I am. I’ve taken a lot of little steps along the way that got me here.”

For Aleman, here means being an MATC graduate, a successful real estate agent, a respected community organization leader and a devoted mother of three sons.

Aleman relied on her determination and work ethic to succeed.

“In high school, I really had no plan, or any kind of guidance, and that was a problem,” she said.

After graduation she worked several jobs, then started business management courses at MATC in 2005 but soon quit. She had her second son and went back to work.

“It was all work, work, work,” she said. “Inside myself I always had a passion for business. I always wanted to run my own business. But having an incomplete degree weighed on me.”

MATC alumna Raquel Aleman opened her own real estate business in 2022.

In 2018, her mother was working at MATC and told Aleman about the MATC Promise for Adults program, which provides free tuition for eligible students who have earned some college credits but have not completed a degree. Eligible students earn up to 75 credits of free tuition — after other scholarships and grants are applied — to complete an associate degree or technical diploma related to an in-demand career.

Aleman finished her business courses, attained an associate degree in business management and, at the same time, earned a real estate certificate.

She also became involved in the Hip-Hop Chess Club in Milwaukee, part of a national effort to show youths ages 9 to 19 years old how to use chess strategy and music-making techniques to navigate complicated life situations.

In February 2020, Aleman helped transform the club into a nonprofit organization called Your Move MKE which she now leads as executive director. Over the last two years, Aleman has connected with hundreds of pre-teens and teens over games of chess.

80% of MATC Promise students identify as students of color

“I’m sitting at the same table with them, I’m sitting at the same board with them,” Aleman said. “It brings you down to the same level, and it’s a lot easier to build a rapport with them at that point.

“We offer a laid-back environment, very informal,” she added. “There’s no membership fee. So many government programs make people feel like a number and that wears people down.”

Right now Your Move MKE hosts its events at a variety of locations on the south side. Aleman is helping the organization raise money to have its own building to better serve the community.



Raquel, executive director of Your Move MKE, plays chess with a student.

“My long-term goal is to help redevelop the city’s south side,” she said. “Everything I do is community based. It all ties into making the south side a better place for everyone. My heart is tied to this area.”

She strengthened those ties in February 2022, when she activated her real estate license and joined Realty ONE Group. In three months she closed four deals, then listed one house and got 12 offers. By the end of the year, she went on her own, opening Raquel Realty LLC.

“I’ve sold everything and anything. I’ve been selling since I was 11 years old. I can sell,” she said. “I love doing it.”

Aleman said she would love to keep working in business and for a nonprofit organization. And she knows she can move forward because she decided to go back to MATC.

“Things are working out very well for me. I use what I learned at MATC every day,” she said. “MATC gets you to make smart decisions about your future, and they have so many options. Going back really kicked me into gear.” ■

Support MATC Promise students at matc.edu/donate.

MATC SPOTLIGHT

MATC Promise

In addition to Promise for Adults, MATC offers a Promise program for recent high school completers. The MATC Promise for New High School Graduates was the first Promise program in Wisconsin.

MATC’s Promise programs have served more than 2,800 qualified students and 600 have completed an associate degree, technical diploma or certificate program. The MATC Promise is made possible by the generosity of more than 514 donors. Through a public-private partnership, private donations support the gap between the cost of tuition and what financial aid provides.

The Promise program provides access to career-focused education, helps break cycles of poverty and builds the skilled, diverse workforce our regional economy needs.

MATC
PROMISE



Julianna Ebert (left) and Laura Bray (right)

MESSAGE FROM THE Foundation Board President and Executive Director

You can never say thank you too many times.

In today's hectic, frenetic world, we all need to find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference.

For us, that means expressing our sincere and profound gratitude to all the generous individuals, corporations and foundations who have invested in our mission to transform lives.

The power of partnership provides a host of scholarships for students to access education and create a pipeline of diverse talent for our regional businesses. Employers get critically-needed, highly-skilled workers who can boost our economy, while graduates get fulfilling, family-sustaining careers that can break the detrimental cycle of poverty.

Your support for our scholarships has grown tremendously in the past decade — from \$200,022 in FY 2012 to **more than \$1 million** in FY 2022 — an astonishing 500% increase.

Our generous contributors and supporters include those highlighted in this year's annual report:

Long-time Milwaukee residents **Ellen and Joe Checota**. Last August they unveiled the full-ride, \$7.5 million Ellen and Joe Checota Scholarship Program designed to get skilled workers into the workplace faster. The program also features a \$2-to-\$1 matching component that hopefully will galvanize the local philanthropic community to expand this unprecedented gift to the college.

Julianna Ebert
 Board President
 MATC Foundation Inc.

Laura M. Bray
 Executive Director
 Vice President, College Advancement
 and External Communications

Eddie Myrtle Skinner, an MATC graduate who established the Edie L. Somerville & Eddie Myrtle Skinner Nursing Scholarship for Black nursing students.

Van Horn Latino, a Milwaukee automotive dealership, and **El Rey**, a family-owned and operated grocer, who together donated \$112,000 to the college's DACA Plus Scholarship Fund to help non-U.S. citizens not eligible for federal financial aid.

Froedtert Memorial Hospital, which gave \$6 million to fund scholarships for underprivileged and deserving students during the next 20 years.

The **Milwaukee Brewers** baseball team and the **League of United Latin American Citizens** Council 333, which has awarded 137 scholarships totaling \$88,320 to MATC students since 2014.

Everyone who gave to the **MATC Promise** program, which offers free tuition to eligible students, and to **MATC Drive**, which provides career and academic support for students learning about automotive technology, automotive maintenance, automotive finish repair, and diesel and powertrain servicing.

These are but a few of a long list of supporters who have answered the call to help make MATC a place that impacts skill building, employability and equity.

Again, we offer a heartfelt thank you to those who contributed and who are contributing. We hope their example shines bright for others to see and follow.

Financial Statements

2021-22 Revenue

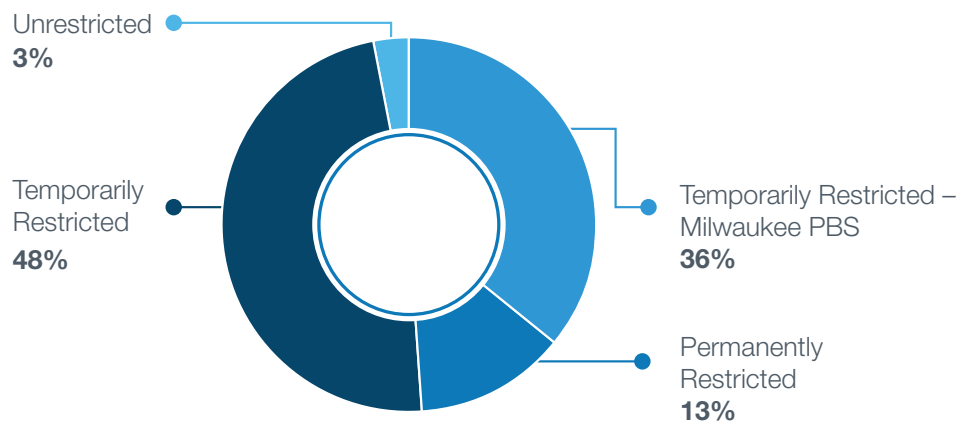
Revenue Type	Amount (in Thousands)
Milwaukee PBS	\$ 6,975
Program	\$ 2,195
Investment (Net Loss)	\$ 3,384
Scholarships	\$ 7,586
In Kind	\$ 561
Emergency Student Assistance	\$ 94
Special Events	\$ 0
Other	\$ 105
Total	\$ 14,132

2021-22 Expenses

Expense Type	Amount (in Thousands)
Milwaukee PBS	\$ 6,344
Scholarships	\$ 1,417
Management and General	\$ 384
College Programs	\$ 1,873
Fundraising	\$ 294
Program Administration	\$ 187
Emergency Student Assistance	\$ 140
Total	\$ 10,255

Net Assets \$33,021,976

as of June 30, 2022



NEW FACES ON THE MATC FOUNDATION BOARD

MATC Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit corporation with the mission to support student success and enhance learning by engaging those who are passionate about the college and the community it benefits. The Foundation partners with philanthropic organizations, corporations and individuals to work with college leadership on meaningful solutions to two of the most pressing problems in our community: economic disparities and the skills gap. We are grateful to Milwaukee-area leaders who joined the board in 2022, including:



MONA FOWLER

Director of Leadership Development for Molson Coors Beverage Company, Americas

Fowler possesses over 20 years of experience leading, supporting and/or coaching supply chain, HR, IT, and sales teams including C-suite leaders during her tenure working for Corning Inc., Unilever HPC and Molson Coors. Her experience includes fostering engagement and performance by leading the design and implementation of DEI and development strategies. She is a sought-after training facilitator, mentor and coach. She enjoys volunteering her time supporting community programs that prepare students for work. In recent years this has included the African American Youth Council and the Thurgood Marshall Institute. She prides herself as a lifelong learner. She received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in mechanical engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She is a member of the Society of Human Resources, Association of Talent Development and NEXTUp.



EMILY R. PHILLIPS

Financial Advisor, Drosner Phillips Ristau Group, a wealth management team at Baird

Prior to joining the financial services industry, Phillips took an unconventional path and worked in a variety of industries including management consulting, information technology, advertising and marketing. In addition to her day job, Phillips is also actively involved in the business and nonprofit community; she serves on several business advisory and nonprofit boards. She is deeply committed to a variety of charities investing time and energy to the greater Milwaukee community. She is one of the 2017 Milwaukee Business Journal 40 Under 40 award recipients and the 2018 OneMKE Driver of Diversity Professional of the Year award recipient. Although the awards demonstrate her involvement in making the world a better place, the driving force in her quest for World Domination 4 Good is because she has a passion for people, especially the underdogs.

2022-23

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The MATC Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1979 to raise funds for student scholarships and emergency grants. The Foundation also engages donors in supporting MATC educational programs that address the workforce development needs of the community.

Our mission is to support student success and enhance learning by engaging those who are passionate about the college and the community it benefits.

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and External Communications

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Impact Made Through Scholarships and Emergency Dollars

Student Scholarships and Emergency Assistance

— AWARDED IN 2021-22 —



2021-22 MATC Promise Impact



10-Year Totals

— OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE* —



*Scholarship and emergency assistance given by MATC Foundation Inc. between 2012-13 and 2021-22.

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