



Transformations

MATC MILWAUKEE AREA
Technical College

MATC Promise Changed Joey Nicgorski's Life

Ellen and Joe Checota to Make Historic Gift for Short-Term Credentials

MATC Launches Bilingual (English/Spanish) Welding Program

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Dr. Vicki J. Martin is the 10th president of

MATC. She has served in higher education for four decades, at MATC for more than 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

MATC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 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.

Transformations is published by Milwaukee Area Technical College Department of Marketing and Communications

matc.edu | 414-297-6365

700 West State Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1443



MATC Downtown Milwaukee Campus, third floor of S Building, Campus Café

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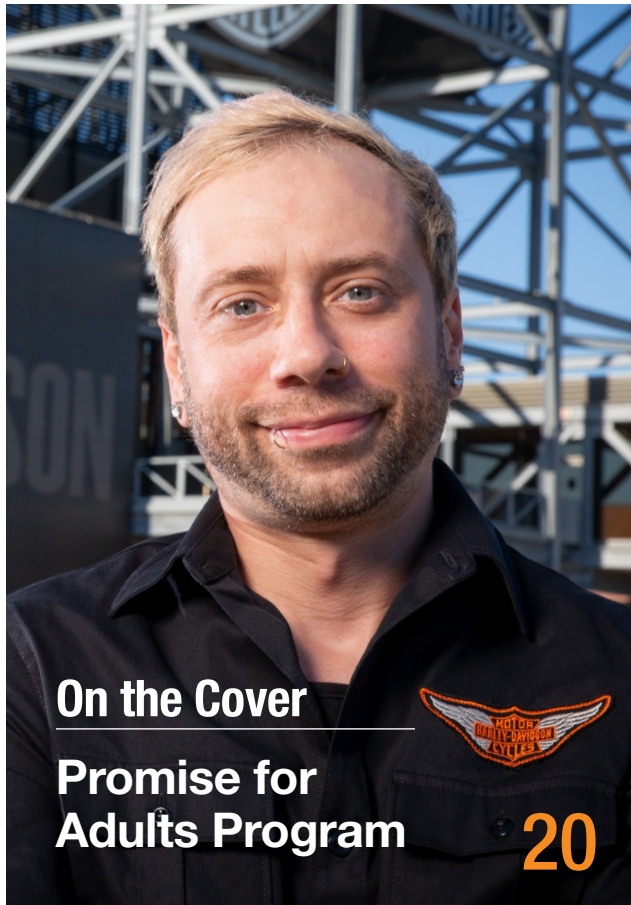
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Letter From the President



*Dr. Vicki J. Martin,
MATC President*

WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF OUR MATC ALUMNI who are building better lives for themselves and their families, strengthening our community and building the diverse talent pipeline local businesses require.

Our business partners, community leaders and donors continue to recognize the important role we play in the community through the employer in-demand programs we offer. A great example is the impressive \$5 million gift from long-time Milwaukee residents Ellen and Joe Checota. Thanks to their gift and our first matched gift from Julianna Ebert and Frank Daily, the new Ellen and Joe Checota MATC Scholarship Program provides a true “full ride” to students earning short-term credentials and diplomas.

It is the most comprehensive scholarship in the college’s history and will ultimately represent our largest scholarship investment. The scholarship is intended to significantly reduce barriers to success and quickly prepare students to enter the workforce in trade and technical fields. Read more

about this groundbreaking scholarship — and how your donation to the MATC Foundation will be matched \$2:\$1 — on page 7. We also share an impressive list of recent grants and gifts in the highlights article (page 13).

As many of our students prepare for a career-centered program or four-year transfer option, we support them with foundational skills including learning English. One such student came to us having earned international acclaim, including being named one of Time magazine’s most influential people in the world. Maryam Durani’s remarkable story is on page 22.

Other stories of incredible success featured in this edition of Transformations magazine include two recipients of our first-in-Wisconsin Promise program. Joey Nicgorski utilized the donor-supported free tuition program to return to college after almost 20 years and advance in his Harley-Davidson career (page 20). The Promise presented Ola Sellers (page 10) with the opportunity to earn a marketing degree and start a new business at an age when many others are ready to put work behind them. We also profile one of our bilingual (Spanish/English) instructors, Karen Feliciano, (page 26) and the launch of MATC’s new diversity, equity and inclusion plan (page 14). This plan is critically important to the college as we match our diverse population of students and employees with support to truly meet their needs and create a culture that is welcoming to all.

I invite you to learn more, stay connected to the college and appreciate the impact we can have together.

Sincerely,

Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D.
MATC President

Couple to Make \$5 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP INVESTMENT in MATC



Ellen & Joe Checota Scholarship Program

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

Joe Checota is ready to reward those ready to work hard.

Checota, a long-time Milwaukee resident and highly successful developer of medical facilities, and his wife, Ellen, have committed \$5 million to MATC to fund scholarships for students in short-term trade and technical programs.

In August 2022, MATC officials unveiled the Ellen and Joe Checota MATC Scholarship Program at the college's Downtown Milwaukee Campus. Combined with \$2.5 million in donations that will be matched two-to-one, the gift represents the largest-ever scholarship investment in the 110-year history of the college.



We always wanted
to be in a position
to help trade and
technical students
better their lives.”

JOE CHECOTA, Chairman and CEO,
Landmark Healthcare Facilities LLC

The scholarships are also the most comprehensive offered by the school, covering not only tuition, but also books, equipment, meals, transportation, housing at the Westtown Green student apartments and child care, said MATC President Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D.

Through the scholarships, MATC can help students seeking to complete their education and quickly start careers. And that will provide Milwaukee-area employers with urgently needed workers including carpenters, plumbers, electricians, medical and dental assistants, website developers, property managers, welders, auto mechanics, barbers and cosmetologists.

“We always wanted to be in a position to help trade and technical students better their lives,” said Joe Checota, chairman and CEO of Landmark Healthcare Facilities LLC. “People who want to dig in and work and make a better life for themselves and their families. That’s what this program is all about.”

Every dollar contributed to the Checota MATC Scholarship Program will be matched by Joe and Ellen Checota \$2 for every \$1, up to \$5 million. MATC has begun a campaign to raise \$2.5 million to fulfill this match and bring the fund’s total to \$7.5 million.

At the August event, the college also announced the first matched gift: \$500,000 from Frank Daily and Julianna Ebert, who is president of the MATC Foundation board.

“We are completely committed to your vision and your goal of raising these funds,” Ebert told the Checotas during the event.

The scholarship program will showcase the college’s wide variety of technical programs; eliminate many barriers for students to attend MATC; and benefit businesses and industries in the region that need trained workers as soon as possible, Ebert said.



(Pictured front row) Ellen and Joe Checota. (Pictured back row) Laura Bray, Frank Daily, Julianna Ebert, Dr. Vicki J. Martin.

The Checotas' initial funding plus the gift from Daily and Ebert gave MATC \$1.5 million to spend on scholarships right away. With that money, MATC had the funds to provide full-ride scholarships for between 300 to 400 students for the 2022-23 academic year.

In the Spring semester, which begins in January 2023, the scholarship program will open to eligible students pursuing short-term technical diplomas and certificates, including newly enrolled and returning students. The total number of participants could reach more than 1,500 students, Dr. Martin added.

"This is a major investment for student success," Dr. Martin said. "It's such a life- and game-changer for our students."

The scholarships will give students the tools and the support they need to take the next steps to a fulfilling career, noted Erik Riley, advisor for the

college's Manufacturing, Construction and Transportation Pathway.

"This program will remove the barriers so many students face, so they can focus on what they are here for," Riley said.

Laura Bray, MATC's vice president for college advancement and external communications, and executive director of the MATC Foundation, encouraged Milwaukee-area businesses and individuals to contribute funds, which will be matched two to one, and ensure the community has a vibrant, successful and rewarding future.

"We understand your vision to make lasting change," Bray told the Checotas. "Not just for today's students, but for their children and their children's children. We hope this will create a legacy that lives here for many generations."

The couple, who have lived and worked in Milwaukee for decades

and raised their children in the city, are excited to see the fruits of their investment. "I encourage others to contribute both small and large gifts so we can spend this money as fast as possible," Joe Checota said. ■

Support the Ellen and Joe Checota
MATC Scholarship Program at
matc.edu/donate

INVEST IN SCHOLARSHIPS



\$2 to \$1

donations matched up to
\$5 million for new program



Ellen & Joe Checota Scholarship Program

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

Ellen & Joe Checota MATC Scholarship: Eligible Programs

Business & Management

Accounting Assistant
Accounting Bookkeeper Trainee
Bilingual Office Assistant
Business Management
Business Management Trainee
Digital Marketing and Integrated Communications
Entrepreneurship Certificate
Entrepreneurship Technical Diploma
Financial Services
Financial Services Trainee
Foundations of Lodging and Hospitality Management
Medical Billing
Office Technology Assistant
Property Management
Real Estate Broker Associate
Real Estate Salesperson
Sales and Customer Experience
Special Event Management
Supply Management
Transportation - Logistics

Community & Human Services

Aesthetician
Barber
Child Care Services
Cosmetology
Emergency Medical Technician
Emergency Medical Technician - Advanced
Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic
Nail Technician
Preschool Certificate
Water Technician

Creative Arts, Design & Media

Audio Engineer
Baking Production
Culinary Assistant
Digital Imaging
Food Service Assistant
Front-End Web Developer
Production Artist
TV/Video Field Production Assistant
TV/Video Studio Production Assistant
Unity Developer

Healthcare

Central Service Technician
Dental Assistant
Dietary Manager
EKG Technician
Enhanced Yoga Instructor
Health Unit Coordinator
Healthcare Customer Service
Medical Assistant
Medical Coding Specialist
Medical Interpreter
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomy
Practical Nursing

Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation

Appliance Technician
Architectural Woodworking/Cabinetmaking
Auto Collision Repair and Finish Technician
Automated Building Systems
Automotive Express Lube Technician
Automotive Maintenance Technician
Automotive Technology Maintenance Light Repair

Aviation Maintenance Technician - General
Aviation Technician - Airframe
Aviation Technician - Powerplant
Boiler Operator
Bricklaying
Carpentry
CNC Setup and Operations
Dental Technician
Diesel and Powertrain Servicing
Electrical Power Distribution/Line Mechanic
Electricity
Landscape Horticulture Technician
Machine Tool Operations
Power Engineering and Boiler Operator
Preparatory Plumbing
Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating Service Technician
Truck Driving
Welding
Welding Fundamentals

STEM

Electronics Technician Fundamentals
IT Computer Support Technician
IT Digital Forensics Analyst
IT Help Desk Support Specialist
IT Networking and Infrastructure Administration
IT User Support Technician
Level 2 - Service Center Technician
Mechanical and Computer Drafting
Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Support Specialist
Science Processing Technician
Service Center Technician
Surveying and Mapping

A Business Startup With Plenty of Experience

Possessing a keen business mind has no expiration date. Ola Sellers can attest to that.

She completed MATC's Marketing associate degree program in May 2022 at the age of 70. Sellers had attended college classes over the years but had not completed a degree, so she was eligible to apply for the MATC Promise for Adults scholarship. She plans to open a boutique selling plus-size women's clothes.

“There were times I was going to throw in the towel, but MATC has amazing resources to help you get through almost anything.”

OLA SELLERS, MATC alumna

What interests you about your new career?

I love to bring beauty to people. I love to serve them and to put a smile on their face. I've always had a passion for retail, but I'm not sure that brick and mortar stores reach enough people. The online avenue can reach not just Wisconsin, but the whole world. I would love to serve people all around the globe.

Did the pandemic affect your coursework?

I was taking in-person classes and, because of the pandemic, switched to online courses. At first I was horrified about going online, but I really learned to love them.

How was your experience as a college student?

The younger students and I got along great and interacted very well. They were always asking me about my life's journey because I already was a mother, a grandmother and a great-grandmother. There were times I was going to throw in the towel, but MATC has amazing resources to help you get through almost anything. It's been a wonderful journey. ■

See the CBS-58 (WDJT) story about Ola Sellers:
[tinyurl.com/MATCgrad](https://www.wisconsin.com/news/education/matc-grad)

EMPLOYMENT RATE

92% employment rate for Marketing associate degree graduates within six months

Source: Wisconsin Technical College System
Outcomes Report for 2021 Graduates



Ola Sellers at MATC's Spring Commencement inside Fiserv Forum

MATC: A Place for Students of All Ages

Sellers and other students aged 50 and older were celebrated at a luncheon held at MATC's Oak Creek Campus in April 2022.

“These students show no signs of stopping,” Eugene Parks, Ph.D., head of the Oak Creek Campus Climate Committee, said at the event. “Older students enhance our classroom diversity, enrich discussions and help prepare younger students to manage a diverse workforce.”

He added, “Sometimes you discover later in life what you want to do. MATC is here to provide support for applying, attending and completing the courses you need if you reconsider or retool your future.”

Amber Miller, AARP Wisconsin associate state director of community outreach, who also attended the event, noted, “Age should never be a roadblock to pursue your dreams.”

In June, an outdoor gathering space, created with support from AARP Wisconsin, was dedicated at the campus's lower level patio for students of all ages to enjoy.

Highlights 2022



New Programs: Five Began in August 2022

BASED ON INPUT from area employers regarding their needs for skilled professionals, MATC now offers:

1. Community Health & Nutrition Navigator Associate Degree
2. Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) Setup and Operations Certificate
3. Food Science Technology Associate Degree
4. Leadership Development Associate Degree
5. Sign Language Interpreting in Education Associate Degree

Links to all the college's academic programs are at matc.edu/course-catalog.

New Campaign: College's Profound Community Impact Showcased

TO INCREASE AWARENESS of the extensive reach and deep roots MATC has in the community, the college launched a campaign that includes two 30-second television spots, print advertisements and digital spots.

"This is an opportunity to share the significance and value of an MATC degree and underscore our readiness to form partnerships to solve local problems," said Laura Bray, MATC vice president of college advancement and external communications.

For more information, visit matc.edu/impact.



Credit for Service: Military Pathways Grant

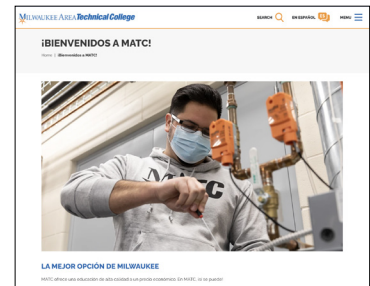
MATC RECEIVED a \$49,425 Military Pathways Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, presented by DSPS Secretary Dawn Crim in June 2022. MATC will assess correlation between military experience and military occupational specialties with course credit for six college programs leading to licensure for civilian careers.

A dedicated grant-funded MATC project specialist for veterans will collaborate with military units, faculty and key stakeholders to accomplish project outcomes.



En Español: MATC Website Goes Bilingual

AS MATC WORKS to become a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), www.matc.edu now offers a Spanish-language site. The college's HSI Committee identified important webpages to make available in Spanish. Visit matc.edu/es or click on the "En Español/ES" button at the top right of any page on matc.edu.



National Science Foundation: MATC Awarded Nearly \$650K



IN JUNE 2022, MATC was awarded \$649,740 over three years from the National Science Foundation – Advanced Technological Education. With leadership by Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation Pathway instructor Ted Wilinski, the grant project will focus on access to careers in advanced building technology. It seeks to increase the pool of skilled technicians ready to maintain the ever-changing and complex technology in buildings. STEM Pathway instructor Rafat Elsharaf, Ph.D., and General Education Pathway instructor Eric Hagedorn, Ph.D., will also contribute expertise to the project.

Highlights 2022



Chair of Social Justice: Innovative Projects Planned

IN APRIL 2022, MATC chose Dasha Kelly Hamilton from a national pool of applicants to be the college's first chair of social justice. She is planning three projects that unite students, employees and the external community in the exploration of social justice issues. Kelly Hamilton reports to Naydeen Gonzalez-De Jesus, Ph.D., executive vice president of student success, and works with Eva Martinez Powless, Ph.D., chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer. Her appointment is a key component in the development of the college's Center for Social Justice and Cultural Wealth.



Student Honor: State Ambassador From MATC Chosen

WEB AND DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGN student Samantha Shields was selected among 31 MATC applicants to serve as the college's state ambassador for the Wisconsin Technical College System. Every year, each of Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges selects one student to participate in a leadership development and recognition program, and help extol the value of technical education.

Gaining In-Demand Skills: Inmates Earned Welding Certificates From MATC

THROUGH THE SECOND CHANCE PELL program in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, eight men earned certificates in welding fundamentals and participated in a ceremony at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus in May 2022. The Second Chance program provides federal aid to people in prisons so they can receive postsecondary education while incarcerated. MATC was the first Wisconsin college to participate in the program, which began in 2016.



Marquette University Award: MATC's Public Health Officer Lauded

IN JUNE 2022, the college's public health officer (COVID-19), Josie Veal, Ph.D., received the Marquette University College of Nursing Alumni National Award for Professional Achievement. Dr. Veal, who also has held academic leadership roles at MATC, helped guide health and safety efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, including on-campus vaccine clinics, case tracking, contact investigation, mask practices and hundreds of informational sessions for students and employees.

"Dr. Veal has done a remarkable job during one of the most difficult times the college has experienced; showing compassion, patience and resilience," said MATC President Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D. "Her experience and skills have proved to be of great value during this pandemic."



Middle School MEDAL Program: Students Visit MATC to Explore High-Wage Careers

THE MEDAL (Medical, Engineering, Dentistry, Architecture and Legal) career exploration camp came to MATC in July 2022. Milwaukee Municipal Judge Derek Mosley (pictured center) created and sponsored the camp as a signature program showcasing career possibilities to Milwaukee youth. Participants also visited Marquette University, the Medical College of Wisconsin and Milwaukee School of Engineering.

“When I was their age in Chicago, I didn’t see lawyers that looked like me — until I saw Blair Underwood on ‘LA Law.’ It made me curious and say, ‘That’s what I want to do someday,’” Judge Mosley shared. “This camp is a way of giving that gift of a glimpse of what’s possible. I can help students to see themselves in these places, open doors for their future and encourage them to ask questions, have fun and get some new ideas.”



Donors Choosing MATC Foundation to Make Meaningful Impact



TO BUILD OFF THE MOMENTUM of previously announced gifts with Froedtert Hospital, Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Johnson Controls, Northwestern Mutual and PepsiCo, area donors continue to form impactful partnerships through the MATC Foundation. In addition to Ellen and Joe Checota featured on page 7, MATC is grateful to these partners who provided gifts of \$100,000 and above from April through June 2022:

\$477,000

To create the Dr. Joseph & Ellen M. Pellegrin Endowed Scholarship Fund to support tuition, books, supplies and equipment for MATC Second Chance Pell students, and MATC Promise students who have completed MATC’s Adult High School or a General Educational Development (GED) or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). Dr. Pellegrin, who served as MATC’s dean of vocational education from 1984-93, and his wife included MATC in their estate plans.

\$200,000

From Advancing Healthier Wisconsin Endowment to support the Building a Healthcare Workforce Through Access and Equity project to redesign MATC’s scholarship system for the Healthcare Pathway in conjunction with the recent \$6 million gift from Froedtert Hospital, with an emphasis on building a greater equity of representation in healthcare careers.

\$100,000

From Molson Coors through its Project Justice effort to fund MATC Completion Scholarships in the 2022-23 academic year.

\$100,000

From Chuck VanHorn and Van Horn Automotive Group in support of the DACA Plus Scholarship.

\$100,000

From an anonymous donor given without restriction.

Learn more about supporting student success through the MATC Foundation at matc.edu/foundation.



Striving for More: Making a Highly Diverse College More Equitable and Inclusive

For students and employees

Already one of the most diverse colleges in the Midwest, MATC strives to become a more equitable and inclusive place for all its students and employees. College officials in July presented a comprehensive and holistic plan to do just that.

“Our aspirational goal is to position MATC as a premier diverse and inclusive college,” said Eva Martinez Powless, Ph.D., chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer. “This entails coming together to promote equitable outcomes for all students and employees, and by working diligently toward a more inclusive environment for everyone that works and learns at MATC.”

The plan will help the college break down barriers that stand between students, instructors and staff by providing a safe place where differences are valued and celebrated.

“We promote awareness, training and crucial conversations to move beyond our individual biases, whether unconscious or implicit, to create an inclusive environment that welcomes, accepts and respects all students and employees while serving the unique needs of each individual,” said Elle Bonds, vice president, Office of Human Resource Services. “This resonates through the attitudes and behaviors of all those who work and learn at the college.”

The plan identifies four improvement areas, or Pillars for Change, to guide the college’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts for the next five years: Climate, Employee Experience, Student Experience and Institutional Commitment. The plan details goals and objectives for each area.

The DEI plan was guided by the college’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, which collected input at large and small group meetings, from employee affinity groups, from individual employees and students, and from community groups.

The plan builds on current efforts, enhances existing strategies and develops new approaches for building leadership capacity for equity, Dr. Martinez Powless said.

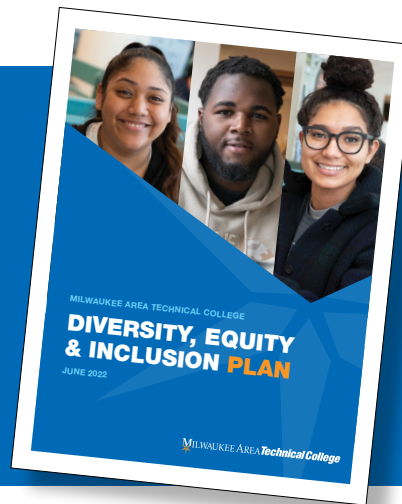
“We recognize that lasting change is only possible when we make intentional and incremental efforts toward collective goals,” she said. “Through this plan, we are committed to consistent and intentional progress toward a culture of equity and inclusion.” ■

[Access MATC’s DEI Plan at matc.edu/diversity](https://matc.edu/diversity)

MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION PLAN

PILLARS FOR CHANGE



CLIMATE	EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE	STUDENT EXPERIENCE	INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT
<p>GOAL 1 Welcoming and Inclusive Community</p> <p>Every employee, student, staff, faculty, administrator, contractor and guest will experience a welcoming, respectful and inclusive environment.</p>	<p>GOAL 2 Diverse Community</p> <p>MATC will recruit, retain and advance a community of diverse employees that reflects the diversity of the student body.</p>	<p>GOAL 3 Equitable Community</p> <p>Black students, students of color and under-represented populations will experience a sense of belonging, grow and succeed holistically, and persist and graduate at greater rates.</p>	<p>GOAL 4 Anti-Racist Community</p> <p>MATC will engage in the journey to become an anti-racist institution by eradicating racist policies, practices and procedures.</p>
<p>METRICS</p> <p>Conduct racial climate study for students and employees as benchmark for culture of inclusion</p> <p>Improve PACE responses related to diversity, equity and inclusion</p> <p>Improve equity and inclusion programming and employee/student engagement</p> <p>Centralize DEI Office and Multicultural Student Services, etc.</p>	<p>METRICS</p> <p>Increase racial/ethnic diversity and diversity across the college</p> <p>Improved employee experience as measured by PACE survey</p> <p>Improved retention and turnover rates</p> <p>Equity in salary and pay</p> <p>Increased diverse candidate pools and hiring pools; increase leadership diversity</p> <p>Increased support/resources for employee affinity groups, etc.</p>	<p>METRICS</p> <p>Improved student success rates of Black, Hispanic and students of color</p> <p>Improved racial climate, sense of belonging/student experience as measured by student satisfaction survey and racial climate study</p> <p>Equitable classroom experience, academic services, and student support services for all student groups (2021-22 as benchmark), etc.</p>	<p>METRICS</p> <p>Implement the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) 10 Key Priorities for Anti-Racism at the college</p> <p>Conduct policy review for Title IX, recruitment, hiring/promotion</p> <p>Develop anti-racism oversight committee</p> <p>Increase employee satisfaction/culture of inclusion (PACE), etc.</p>

STUDENT DIVERSITY



Native American/Alaskan Native	0.5%
Multiracial	3.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.9%
No response	7.8%
Hispanic/Latino/a	19.3%
Black/African American	25.9%
White	37.1%

FACULTY DIVERSITY



Native American/Alaskan Native	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.62%
Hispanic/Latino/a	7.77%
Black/African American	18.46%
White	68.5%

EMPLOYEE DIVERSITY



Native American/Alaskan Native	1.01%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.73%
Hispanic/Latino/a	10.12%
Black/African American	25.96%
White	58.19%

55%
identify as
students of color

58%
are women

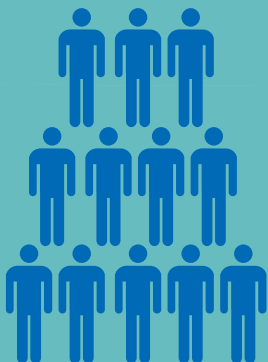
42%
of team members
are people of color

ONE OF THE
Most Diverse
Two-Year Institutions
IN THE MIDWEST

LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY

Percentage Racially Diverse

Cabinet	33%
Executive/Administration	46.83%
Professional Non-Faculty	50.66%



Source: MATC's DEI Plan, June 2022.
Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100%.

Preparing Students With Autism for Careers in CNC Machining

Jonathan Bell learned how to operate computer numerical control (CNC) machines in about four months at MATC.

He also got a big boost of confidence.

Bell was among the first group of graduates from the Uniquely Abled Academy (UAA) at MATC. UAA is designed to provide students with autism the hands-on training needed to prepare for a career as a CNC operator. Individuals who can participate in activities without the assistance of a caregiver (DSM-5 terminology: Level 1 Autism) are welcome to apply.

“

I definitely feel better about continuing my education.”

JONATHAN BELL, alumnus,
MATC's Uniquely Abled Academy

The program also prepares them to take additional college courses in the future. “I definitely feel better about continuing my education,” said Bell,

noting he learned that several potential employers are located near his home.

For Ethan Tutaj-Blaz, the program offered him a place where his aptitude for mathematics was nurtured, his aversion to English and writing classes understood, and his autism accepted.

“I didn't feel like the typical college experience was for me,” said Tutaj-Blaz, who graduated from Marquette University High School in May 2021. “MATC and this program have allowed me to focus on the skills I will need to be successful,” he added. “I get to use my hands, use my head and challenge myself.”

Meeting needs of students and employers

During the Fall 2021 semester, UAA students completed more than 500 hours of training to earn the CNC Setup and Operations certificate.

“The most rewarding thing for me has been watching students get that ‘aha’ moment, when I can see they fully understand what I have taught them and the next day they do it on their own without supervision and without instruction,” said Terry Wezyk, an MATC machine shop instructor.

Many individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are either unemployed or underemployed. The



Uniquely Abled Project sets out to shift people's perspectives by placing individuals with perceived employment challenges in high-skill jobs, connecting the unique abilities of the neurodiverse community with careers that capitalize on their skill sets.

MATC's program is the result of a partnership with the Uniquely Abled Project, which is based in Los Angeles.

“The program is another innovative approach where MATC is working to nurture the talents of individuals in our district while meeting employer demands in an industry that needs skilled workers,” said Laura Bray, MATC vice president for college advancement and external communication. “This is a clear win-win for students and employers.” ■

Support the UAA program and see it in action at matc.edu/uaa

WAGE



\$40,767

average starting annual wage for CNC positions

Source: Wisconsin Technical College System Outcomes Report for 2021 Graduates

BAKING A BETTER LIFE

Cameron Settler
at the Downtown
Milwaukee Campus

MATC PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER

Growing up, the kitchen was a magical spot for Cameron Settler.

At the knee of his maternal grandmother, Phoebe Sue Wechsler, Settler learned to cook a delicious array of Jewish specialties, and to bake muffins, scones, cakes and pies. The first thing they ever made together was carrot cake, using cinnamon applesauce instead of vegetable oil to make it extra moist.

For both of them, the kitchen was a place of discovery, patience, education, accomplishment, joy, and above all, acceptance.

Back then, Settler was Carolyn Settler, the youngest daughter of a family living in Fox Point. Today, Settler is Cameron Settler, a transgender, gay

man and an award-winning graduate of MATC's Baking and Pastry Arts associate degree program.

"There's a structure to baking that I love," said Settler, 29. "Everything is so exact — the ingredients, the instructions, the methods. I love the science of everything involved. You start with such basic and humble things and it turns into something really beautiful. Every recipe is an adventure, its own story."

Settler started at MATC in 2018 and navigated a series of medical issues — sprained ankle, strep throat, mononucleosis, pneumonia — before graduating in December 2021.

He earned MATC's highest honor, the President's Award, for his academic

EMPLOYMENT RATE



100%

employment rate for MATC
Baking and Pastry Arts graduates
six months after graduation

Source: MATC Graduate
Career Report, 2021

achievement, development of high-level skills, and participation in college activities and community organizations.

“When I was a kid, I had no one like myself to look up to as a role model or to even know that transgender people existed,” Settler wrote in his essay for the President’s Award. “In my heart, I know that I have an obligation to not only educate the people who don’t know about trans issues, but to also be a mentor and advocate for those who aren’t able to come out for safety reasons or those who don’t even know who they are yet.”

Transitioning experience

Before attending MATC, Settler graduated from the Milwaukee Aveda Institute of Beauty & Wellness in 2014. “That’s where I really learned I could experiment with who I was, with gender and with aesthetics,” he said.

That Halloween, Settler dressed as a male character from the “Dr. Who” television series. “It felt so good looking like a man,” he said. “That helped me see that I had other opportunities for my life.”

He decided to begin his transition from Carolyn to Cameron and has never looked back. “I have faced more than my fair share of adversity, but I also have experienced some of the best moments of my life on this journey to becoming my authentic self,” he said.

While passionate about becoming his authentic self, after almost four years in the cosmetology industry, Settler realized that it wasn’t his true calling. He remembered the culinary connection he had with his grandmother and decided his future lay in the kitchen.

“I knew several people who spoke highly of both the baking and culinary programs at MATC,” he said. “I toured the campus and knew immediately that MATC was the right fit for me.”

Settler didn’t sugarcoat how tough baking classes could be — he and other students lifted heavy mixing bowls, transported weighty sacks of ingredients, scoured pots and pans and stood for hours.

“The whole program was a wonderful adventure into the industry,” he said. “I learned so much about myself. All the hurdles made it even more worthwhile to me. I rarely say I’m proud of myself, but I am proud of myself.”



I knew several people who spoke highly of both the baking and culinary programs at MATC. I toured the campus and knew immediately that MATC was the right fit for me.”

ALUMNUS CAMERON SETTLER,
baker and pastry cook

His teachers were also impressed. “He was a good student, showing promptness, professionalism and a willingness to learn,” said Andrew Schneider, one of Settler’s baking and pastry arts instructors.

He also was active in several community groups, including the Hillel Milwaukee Young Adults and Young Jewish Professionals, and volunteered at the Human Rights Campaign Booth at PrideFest.



Honoring his grandmother

Settler recently started his own pastry and baked goods company called PS, I Love You. The PS in the name honors the initials of his beloved grandmother, who suffered a stroke in 2017 and passed away in 2019.

Settler compiled his grandmother’s and great-grandmother’s original handwritten recipes, and continues to bake them. He makes Jewish baked goods with a modern twist, along with traditional American desserts and pastries. He also is a pastry cook at the new Milwaukee restaurant Lupi & Iris.

“I have made it my mission to continue her legacy of baking, especially all the Jewish delicacies she made,” Settler said. “My grandma would be so proud that I can continue her legacy and the legacy of Jewish grandmothers all over.” ■

Are you an MATC alum? Join the Alumni Network, matc.edu/alumni



Upper left: Cameron Settler (pictured in lower left corner) with family members including his grandmother, Phoebe Sue Wechsler (pictured in lower right corner). Above: Settler at MATC Commencement, December 2021. Left: Settler baking as a child.

**PROMISE FOR
ADULTS PROGRAM**

**‘COMPLETELY
CHANGED
MY LIFE’**

Alumnus Joey Nicgorski

Joey Nicgorski

took a crack at college 20 years ago, attending the University of Texas at San Antonio from 2002 to 2004. He left broke, empty-handed and disillusioned.

“I got pretty bitter about higher education,” said Nicgorski, who was born in Milwaukee, grew up in Texas and moved back to Wisconsin in 2018. “I owed a bunch in student loans. I didn’t have a degree. I also really didn’t have a path or a focus.”

That all changed in 2020, when he saw an advertisement on Facebook for MATC’s Promise for Adults program.

The program 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 in-demand associate degree or technical diploma.

“It seemed too good to be true,” said Nicgorski, 39. “I fit the criteria almost exactly so I researched it.”

Nicgorski began online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. He compiled a 4.0 grade-point average, was inducted into the national technical honor society and, in December 2021, graduated with an associate degree in Business Administration and Management.

Today he works in the Harley-Davidson Inc. branding department in Milwaukee and is taking online classes for a bachelor’s degree in marketing through the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business.



SCHOLARSHIP

\$2.1

million in
MATC Promise
scholarships
awarded since the
2016-17 school year

“Without seeing something that said free tuition, I probably would have never gone back to school,” he said. “The program completely changed my life.”

Realized need for college degree

After his two years at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Nicgorski played in a rock band for more than a decade, scraping out a living by playing gigs, tending bar and working at a local radio station.

By 2018, he had reassessed his life and had a job at a Harley-Davidson store in San Antonio. He then applied for and got a job at Harley-Davidson’s headquarters in Milwaukee. Nicgorski quickly discovered he needed more education to move up in the company.

That’s when he found MATC’s Promise for Adults program. Taking advantage of the flexible course offerings, Nicgorski worked full time while taking classes, and appreciated the support he received from instructors and staff.

“I call Joey ‘Mr. 4.0’ because that is exactly what he accomplished at MATC,” said Erik Riley, an advisor at the college’s Oak Creek Campus. “Perfection. Joey is truly one of a kind with his personable character, dedicated efforts and goal-driven mindset. Even through his challenges, one word describes him best — perseverance.”

Joey Nicgorski on MATC’s Promise for Adults program:

“For me, life has been a bit of a wild ride. I went from having no chance of ever going back to school to researching graduate schools. And that wouldn’t have happened without the Promise program.

“Not having a financial burden is really a gift and having mentors and support from staff was hugely beneficial. I was ready to do this and I had to do this. I learned to be disciplined about deadlines and had a laser focus.

“Lives and people move at different paces. When the time is right for you, you’ll know it.” ■

Support MATC Promise students at matc.edu/donate

MATC SPOTLIGHT

5+ Years, 500+ Promise Graduates

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. Last October, the college expanded it to include new graduates of MATC’s Adult High School and students who have earned GED (General Educational Development) and HSED (High School Equivalency Diploma) credentials.

MATC’s Promise programs have served more than 2,300 qualified students and over 500 have completed an associate degree, technical diploma or certificate program.

The MATC Promise is made possible by the generosity of more than 480 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.





Maryam Durani

**MATC HELPS AFGHAN WOMEN'S
RIGHTS ADVOCATE PREPARE FOR FUTURE IN U.S.**

Maryam Durani is used to attracting attention. Hillary Clinton called her fearless. Michelle Obama draped a medal around her neck. Time magazine declared her one of the world's most influential people in 2012. In Afghanistan, the ruling Taliban government tried to kill her — twice.

Kandahar, Afghanistan, 2003-2021

Born in Iran to Afghan refugees, Durani and her family moved to Afghanistan when she was 18. She lived in Kandahar, about eight hours south of the Afghan capital of Kabul. The Kandahar province is often called the spiritual home of the Taliban, the group that ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996 through 2001, and once again controls the country.

Her father, an art professor, often spoke out about politics. Her mother routinely shared the family's home with refugees, offering them food and blankets. Durani — who called Marie Curie one of her early role models — graduated from the Payame Noor and American University of Afghanistan with degrees in law, political science and business.

Durani, 37, also became a leader in the fight for women's rights in Afghanistan.

At 21, Durani became a member of the Kandahar Provincial Council and served a second term four years later. She was one of only four women on the council. She also founded the Kandahar Women's Advocacy Network, started a women's internet cafe, a women's library, a fitness center for women, and opened the nation's first women's radio station.

The Taliban threatened her many times for being an unapologetic and outspoken advocate for women in a society where women are expected to be submissive. Twice the group attempted to assassinate her, she said. The international community, however, praised her. In 2012, she won the International Women of Courage Award. Durani received her honor from then-First Lady Michelle Obama and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

In September 2021, the U.S. military left Afghanistan for good and the nation became the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. When the Taliban seized Kabul, Durani fled and became one of 76,000 Afghans who relocated to the United States.

Milwaukee, 2022

The Hanan Refugee Relief Center occupies the upstairs of a squat, cream-brick building on busy South Howell Avenue on Milwaukee's south side. On a cold March day, a mix of rain and snow pelted the second-story windows while the center hummed with activity.

Women who had recently arrived from Afghanistan were learning English. Children were laughing in a nearby playroom. Volunteers were making sure people had rides home. And in the middle of it all, a group of Afghan women hovered around Durani, chatting and asking her to translate for them.

After spending several months in Fort McCoy in central Wisconsin, Durani, her father and her two brothers now call Milwaukee home.

"Many people left their families behind, left their friends behind. There, they were afraid of war. Here, they are afraid of the unknown. I just want to help," she said.

Durani took MATC classes to strengthen her English skills, along with volunteering at the Hanan Refugee Relief Center. MATC has partnered with the center to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to refugees who speak the prevalent languages of Afghanistan: Pashto, Dari and Urdu.

"She has served as an excellent mentor and role model to my students. She interprets for the vast majority of Afghans locally and is already involved with various community-based organizations," said Bara Omari, instructional chair of MATC's ESL program.

"She's very inspirational," said Sheila Badwan, vice president of the Hanan Refugee Relief Center - Wisconsin Chapter, which helps refugees transition into their new communities by providing housing, food, medical relief, education and employment.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY



30+

languages spoken by students who have participated in MATC's English as a Second Language (ESL) program

"A lot of women look up to her. I know there are many women in Afghanistan who miss her very deeply," Badwan added.

Although grateful to experience peace after years of war and strife, Durani often thinks about what will become of the country she left behind.

"Now that the fighting is over, the country needs educated and skilled people, but there is no one left. Those people are gone," she said. "The Taliban also needs money and all the people to agree on what they want to do. The Taliban has neither."

The Taliban continually insists that it will create an inclusive government that protects the rights of women and ethnic minorities, but instead the Taliban is trying to convince Afghans that girls and women don't need to attend school or have jobs, Durani said.

"They talk, but they don't show," Durani said. "It's important that the

international community stay focused on what is happening there."

If the Taliban fails to make life better for all Afghans, Durani fears she might never see her homeland again.

"If there ever becomes a good situation, I would return," she said. "Afghanistan is my country. It's my home, it's my work. I have everything there, so of course I would go back. But I think that I will be here in this country for a long time." ■

Find out more about MATC's partnerships with community-based organizations at matc.edu/esl



“Many people left their families behind, left their friends behind. There, they were afraid of war. Here, they are afraid of the unknown. I just want to help.”

MARYAM DURANI

Maryam Durani at Hanan Refugee Relief Center

Determined Women: Together, Two Afghan MATC Students Are Finding Their Way



Fatema Watandost (pictured left) and Nikbakht Dadfar at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus, C Building lobby for Milwaukee PBS

For Nikbakht Dadfar and Fatema Watandost, their friendship is a bond created and strengthened while working together in Afghanistan. They left behind family and friends to flee their country, enduring an arduous journey to the United States and striving to create a new life.

A vital step for both women has been taking English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at MATC to improve their English skills and prepare them for future college courses.

The two 26-year-olds arrived in the U.S. in August 2021, each with only a bag, a cellphone, a few dollars and the clothes on their backs. With assistance from organizations and volunteers, the women have found a place to live together.

Met at TV station in Afghanistan

Watandost and Dadfar worked at the same television station in Daykundi. After the Taliban seized control of the country in 2021, many Afghan television and film workers lost their jobs and went into hiding. As educated, female journalists, the two feared for their safety.

“The situation became very bad for us,” Watandost explained. “The Taliban came and told us girls and women didn’t work in media and TV, and that university and schools were bad for us.”



I want to continue my education and go back to being a reporter so I can help my family.”

NIKBAKHT DADFAR, MATC English as a Second Language student

The two women came to the difficult conclusion that they had to leave. They made it to the Kabul airport and waited outside the gates in the hot sun for eight hours. Then they spent another day inside the terminal.

“It was so dangerous,” Dadfar said. “The Taliban were shooting at people. We didn’t have any plan at all.”

The women eventually boarded a plane to Qatar and then to the U.S. After four months at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, they arrived in Milwaukee in December 2021.

The International Institute of Wisconsin, which provides assistance to immigrants and refugees, found them an apartment. Volunteers at Congregation Sinai in Milwaukee connected with the women in January 2022 to give rides to stores and help them feel more comfortable in the city.

The two then began working at a manufacturing plant in Waukesha and taking online ESL classes from MATC. “I want to continue my education and go back to being a reporter so I can help my family,” Dadfar said. “Right now it’s very hard for them. But I have a lot of hope.” ■

Learn more about MATC’s English as a Second Language/English Language Learners programs at matc.edu/esl



Karen Feliciano at the Oak Creek Campus

SPARKING SUCCESS MATC Launches Bilingual Welding Program

Karen Feliciano says people are often surprised to learn she is a welder because “I don’t look like a typical welder to them. It’s very much a male-dominated field.”

Yet the MATC welding instructor sees herself in her students every day.

“My students inspire me,” Feliciano said. “I see the challenges I faced when I moved to Wisconsin from Puerto Rico. I see how much I struggled when I was first starting out in this career. But I see myself in their successes, too.”

When Feliciano moved to Milwaukee at age 15, she spoke little English. In high school, she had the support of English as a Second Language teachers. But once she started taking college coursework, she was on her own. She spent hours translating her homework into Spanish so she could understand the concepts, then translating it back to English to communicate her ideas to her instructors.

After working in the welding field for a few years, Feliciano turned to teaching. Her own experience as a student motivated her to develop a bilingual (English/Spanish) welding program at Waukesha County Technical College, where she taught for six years before starting at MATC in 2021.

“Milwaukee’s large Spanish-speaking population offered a great opportunity to grow the bilingual program,” Feliciano said. “Some of my students just moved here. Others, their English is not strong enough for them to take English-only courses. I always share my story. I tell them, ‘Everything I translate for you, I didn’t have anyone to do that for me.’”

“Milwaukee’s large Spanish-speaking population offered a great opportunity to grow the bilingual program.”

KAREN FELICIANO, bilingual (English/Spanish) welding instructor

The first cohort of 12 students began the one-year bilingual welding program in June 2022. Upon completion, students will earn a technical diploma and have the knowledge they need to seek employment in the industry.

MATC SPOTLIGHT

Breaking Barriers

Experience in male-dominated fields influenced these MATC alumni to become instructors

Like Karen Feliciano, **Jean Hurt Taylor** entered a career not typically chosen by women.

An MATC alumna, Hurt Taylor worked as a journeyman electrician for 15 years. Viewing teaching as one way to help bring more women into the field, she became an instructor for MATC's electrical courses in 2020. Hurt Taylor encourages any woman who is determined to work in the trades to follow that dream.



"If you like it, do it. Don't let someone else's nonsense keep you from doing what you want to do," she said. "If you believe in yourself and know you can do the job, do it."

Not all nontraditional occupations for women are in manufacturing and construction. Fewer than 25% of

jobs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and business are held by women.

MATC alumna **Natasha Mortimore** has worked in the banking and finance industry for a decade. She earned her business management associate degree in 2010, and also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a Master of Business Administration (MBA).



Mortimore became a part-time business administration instructor at MATC in Fall 2022. She believes sharing real-world work experiences with students is important. "I'm very excited to have this opportunity. I've led a lot of training sessions where I work and I feel that teaching might be my sweet spot. It feels like a dream come true," she said.

Teaching the skills employers seek

Feliciano continues to grow her own skills, too. To teach her students new techniques, she recently completed the intensive training for advanced heavy-plate welding instructors offered by global manufacturer Komatsu.

"I push my students because I know this is hard," Feliciano said. "It's hard to come to a country where your language is not the language. They work full-time jobs before coming to class from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at night, every day, plus Saturday mornings. But after one year, they will be able to make good money."

The potential for a competitive salary drew Feliciano to the welding profession. She initially considered a degree in engineering but switched to welding once she learned she could complete the program in a year and enter the workforce.

"It depends on what type of welding you do, but the average welder makes around \$20 an hour," Feliciano said. "There are so many companies desperate for good welders right now. It's a great time to get into the field."

Prior to teaching, Feliciano worked for a company that manufactured handrails. She also held a supervisory position overseeing the welding shop and a team of men.

"I worked very hard to prove myself and my work speaks for itself. I was blessed to have some good jobs and now I have the privilege of watching my students learn and improve their skills."

Though the bilingual program recently launched at MATC, Feliciano has big plans for adding more Spanish-speaking instructors and increasing enrollment.

"I'm excited to expand the bilingual program," she said. "It's going to grow fast." ■

OUTLOOK



800

job openings (new and replacement) for welders in 2023

Source: Emsi Employment Outlook for Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha Counties

Read about MATC's bilingual (English/Spanish) programs at bit.ly/3zDEQjs



*Student Rosy Jimenez at
Downtown Milwaukee Campus*

Cooperative Education Pilot Program Brings Talent to Healthcare Careers

When Victor Santiago-Avila arrived in the United States from Mexico in 2003, he struggled to learn English but managed to complete high school. Then he began classes at MATC, until family problems forced him to leave the college.

As a Mexican immigrant with only a high school diploma, Santiago-Avila realized it would be difficult to achieve the strong future he desired.

“No one expected me to have a career in anything,” he said. “I was told there really weren’t any options except to go find a job.”

So he worked: at a factory, for a cleaning service, at McDonald’s, in construction and as a plumbing apprentice. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he was laid off.

Santiago-Avila, 33, decided to return to MATC and enroll in business management courses.

JobUp Milwaukee: A cooperative work-education program

While a student, Santiago-Avila heard about MATC’s JobUp Milwaukee pilot project. This cooperative education

approach connects employers seeking job candidates with MATC students interested in paid, on-the-job training in their field of study.

In January 2021, he became a patient service representative at Aurora West Allis Medical Center, a position offered through the JobUp program.

Santiago-Avila worked full time at Aurora while taking classes at night and online. He graduated with an associate degree in December 2021 and has since been promoted to a Level II patient service representative and is also training new employees.

“I feel like I didn’t really start college until I was 31,” Santiago-Avila said. “It took me long enough to get here, but I am finally here.”

He plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in healthcare sciences while continuing to work for Aurora, and one day hopes to earn a master’s degree in health administration.

“I never expected to work in healthcare, but so far it has been great,” Santiago-Avila said. “I feel like I’m on the right path for me, and thanks to MATC I was able to find that path.”

That's exactly the aim of JobUp Milwaukee, which received funding to pilot the cooperative education approach from JPMorgan Chase, Bader Philanthropies and Greater Milwaukee Foundation, said Laura Bray, MATC's vice president for college advancement and external communications. Bray added that the greatest success so far has been implementing this model within healthcare fields.



It's a real win-win. Employers get workers now. Students get paid to work in their areas of study."

COURTNEY KELLY, coordinator, JobUp Milwaukee

Impact of JobUp Milwaukee: Employers

"Workforce shortages and the skills gap are negatively impacting our local economy," Bray said. "Cooperative education can provide employers with the workers with the essential skills and vital talents needed right now,

with ongoing training for the student employee to advance into higher-skilled positions."

Courtney Kelly, MATC's coordinator of the JobUp Milwaukee program, noted that employers in the program build their talent pipeline, increase productivity, evaluate prospective employees under real working conditions and reduce recruitment and training costs.

"It's a real win-win," Kelly said. "Employers get workers now. Students get paid to work in their areas of study."

Impact of JobUp Milwaukee: Students

Gaining on-the-job experience in their field of study and receiving a paycheck are key perks for the students. The workplace opportunities also help the participants enhance their résumés, expand their professional network and gain valuable insight into their career pathways.

"The goal is to provide learning through jobs and academics," Kelly said. "These are paid positions. Our students, who are mostly nontraditional, usually need to work. Now they do not have to decide — should I work or attend school? They can do both and build time of service with a company in their field."

WAGE



\$20.82

average wage for JobUp Milwaukee participants

Source: JobUp Milwaukee, 2021

Bray said MATC often sees students delay or even stop their education to pursue jobs that pay well. But by not completing their degrees, those students can lose opportunities for longer-term wage growth and career advancement.

Santiago-Avila knows that all too well. But thanks to JobUp Milwaukee and other MATC resources, he is heading in a good direction and urges others to follow his path.

"It might seem like every door is closed. But if you keep at it," he said, "you'll find that there are doors that open." ■

Employers, to get connected with MATC students, email careerhub@matc.edu or visit matc.edu/careerhub

MATC SPOTLIGHT

MATC Receives \$200,000 Grant From AHW Endowment

Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment is the state's largest health improvement philanthropy and invests more than \$17 million annually for biomedical research, community health initiatives and the health workforce needed in the state, said Christina Ellis, program director for the AHW Endowment.

MATC recently received a \$200,000 community partnership grant from the AHW Endowment to help

train and provide skilled — and desperately needed — healthcare workers during the next 18 months.

"There isn't a job in healthcare where people aren't needed," said Jesse Ehrenfeld, M.D., senior associate dean and director of the AHW Endowment. "We can't do it alone. We need partners to help us provide the trained people we need right now."



Alumnus Michael Plewa

eProduction Grad Gets His Shot to Shine

Creates digital healthcare-related content for the Medical College of Wisconsin

From a young age, Michael Plewa was constantly making videos with his friends and family, usually using his mom's cellphone as a camera. By the time he entered Cudahy High School, he had expanded into editing, metadata and sophisticated camera work.

"I was always passionate about images," Plewa, 21, said. He enrolled in MATC's eProduction program in 2019 to turn his passion into a profession.

"MATC is well-known for this program," he said. "I always heard good things about it. The more I looked into it, the more I liked what I saw."

Plewa graduated with an associate degree in May 2022; the next month he began his full-time job creating healthcare-related videos and other digital content for the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) Endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Plewa interned with the AHW communications team for a year while an MATC student. He helped produce short promotional videos, then worked on a large editing job. Medical College officials were so pleased with his work that they offered him a full-time position on the team.



Now [Michael] will have a chance to be behind the camera, creating and telling stories that will have a real impact on the state's health."

JESSE EHRENFELD, M.D., senior associate dean and director of the AHW Endowment

"Michael has a real eye and he can take an idea and really go with it," said Jesse Ehrenfeld, M.D., senior associate dean and director of the AHW Endowment. "Now he will have a chance to be behind the camera, creating and telling stories that will have a real impact on the state's health."

The aim of AHW is to make Wisconsin the healthiest state in the nation, Dr. Ehrenfeld added, and the endowment's partners need compelling content on a variety of digital media platforms to help accomplish that. "We have found that you can't put out copy without images anymore," Dr. Ehrenfeld said. "You really need some strong visual storytelling."

Plewa is the perfect person for the job, said Mark S. Bergner, an instructor for MATC's eproduction, television and audio production programs.

"He's a strong videographer and editor with experience in music, audio editing, corporate communications and graphic design," Bergner said. "Throughout his time at MATC, he's proven himself to be a consistent and talented leader whose dedication and creative insights make any class, project or client he works with, better."

Plewa will work with Medical College faculty, community partners, staff and other stakeholders to create content for AHW's communication channels about a wide range of programs and projects across the state.

"We need to translate the science into something that almost everyone can understand," Dr. Ehrenfeld said. "Michael has been integral in making that happen with what he has produced for us." ■

Watch one of Plewa's AHW videos, tinyurl.com/AHWvideo

WAGE



\$30

median hourly wage
in Wisconsin for
video editors

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor
Statistics, 2021 data

GAP YEAR PROGRAM

Guides Students to Set Course for Future



Many high school students aren't sure what to do after they graduate.

That's why the MATC Gap Year program, in partnership with NEWaukee, provides an alternative educational experience for recent high school graduates who are taking time off to work and save money, to figure out their future or to plan how to best continue their education.

The innovative career exploration and learning experiences are paired with community showcases and speakers, and with field trips to Milwaukee businesses and cultural assets.

"This new curriculum uniquely addresses a growing need in American education and workforce development," said Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D., MATC's president.

Participants explore a variety of fields including business; creative arts; healthcare; human services; manufacturing; and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Program applicants must live in the MATC District and have a demonstrated financial need as determined by a household income not exceeding \$75,000. There is no cost to apply or participate. In fact, students receive pay for



This new curriculum uniquely addresses a growing need in American education and workforce development."

VICKI J. MARTIN, Ph.D.,
MATC president

participating in a 10-week intensive that kicks off the year-long program. A new cohort started in September 2022; application information for 2023 will be announced in the spring.

Here's what four recent participants shared regarding their Gap Year experiences.

CAREER-FOCUSED



170+

associate degree,
technical diploma and
certificate programs

When it comes to numbers, Ingrid Rondin figures it out

"I was good at math and science," said the 2021 graduate of Milwaukee Public Schools' Alexander Hamilton High School. "I took all the Advanced Placement (AP) classes in those subjects. But I never really knew what I wanted to do or what I could do with those skills."

While participating in the Gap Year program, working with computers and information technology presented a new way to harness her mathematical and analytical skills. She has started IT classes at MATC and wants to become a cybersecurity specialist.

Rondin will be the first person in her family to graduate from college.

"I highly recommend the Gap Year program because it doesn't focus on only one path and that can really help open people's minds," she said. "Plus you get to meet people who are actually working in the field."



Ingrid Rondin



Anai Calderon Perea

Anai Calderon Perea goes from art to automotive career

With hopes of becoming an artist after graduating from Milwaukee's Cristo Rey High School, Perea received a scholarship to Columbia College in Chicago that covered nearly all her tuition.

But then her mother struggled through a lengthy recovery from COVID-19. Perea and her siblings took jobs to help pay medical bills.

A high school counselor told her about the Gap Year program. "I learned so much," she said about the program. "There are so many things you can do. For me it was a real eye-opener."

Perea was attracted to the automotive repair industry and plans to start classes at MATC in the spring of 2023. She wants to learn skills that can give her a steady, successful career.

"I'm pretty determined," she said. "If I'm going to do it, I'm going to finish it."

Unsure about college during the pandemic, Kailah Malone explores options

Graduating from Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay in 2020, Malone placed her college plans on hold as the pandemic evolved. "I felt like everything was changing and I wanted to feel more prepared," she recalled.

She saw an advertisement for the Gap Year program on Instagram and signed up.

"It was exactly what I was looking for to help me. I loved every minute of it," Malone said. "I also learned that it's OK to take some time off and decide what you really want to do."

Malone plans to take cosmetology courses at MATC. "I know people who have gone to MATC and I have realized that MATC wants to see young people succeed and do well," she said.



Kailah Malone



Darius Guyton-Holman

Music career on horizon for Darius Guyton-Holman

Although Guyton-Holman grew up in Milwaukee, he later moved to Madison where he graduated from high school. After getting his diploma, he thought he was ready to continue his education.

"I had the grades to go to college right away, but I felt undecided about what I really wanted to do," he said.

His mother received an email about MATC's Gap Year program. Guyton-Holman looked into it and signed up.

"During this program I found out I'm into more creative things," he said. "It also made you feel that it was all right to be stuck, and there were a lot of other people who felt the same way."

Guyton-Holman is now enrolled in MATC's Music Occupations associate degree program and eventually hopes to hit it big as a rap star. "I know it will be challenging and I know I have a lot to learn. But I feel I'm a lot more prepared thanks to going through this program," he said. ■

Learn more at matc.edu/gapyear

'Clear Example of Stormer Pride'

Kelsi Casey named MATC's outstanding graduate for Spring 2022

In the classroom, on the job, in the community and on the soccer field, Kelsi Casey certainly makes an impact. Her accomplishments and service led to her selection as the college's outstanding graduate and student speaker for the May 2022 Commencement held at Fiserv Forum.

Casey graduated from Cedarburg High School in 2020, which was named Wisconsin's best high school in the 2019 U.S. News and World Report's annual rankings. Many of her classmates already knew which four-year colleges they would attend. Casey wasn't so sure. She knew she wanted to be a psychologist but that was about it.

She decided she needed more time to consider where to earn her bachelor's degree. Casey knew MATC offered two-year liberal arts degrees that transfer to universities and was very familiar with the college's campuses. Her father, Randy, is MATC's athletic

director and men's basketball coach. Looking back, she said she made the right call.

soccer for most of her life, first as a youth with North Shore United Soccer Club, then three years with her high school squad. In 2021, she became the first female MATC soccer player to play for the men's team.

She joined after the women's season was canceled in 2021 due to low participation. Head coach Diego Garcia, who coached both the men's and women's teams, kept Casey on the playing field and added more talent to the men's team. Garcia described her as one of the leaders on the team.

Casey now attends the University of Missouri to study psychology. Eventually she wants to earn a master's degree, attain a doctorate and establish her own psychology practice. She plans to treat the elderly, an underrepresented population for mental health services. ■

"Coming to MATC was a great decision for me. I got high-quality general education classes at an affordable price, plus I had two years to look at colleges more closely," Casey said.

She also showed unique leadership skills on the soccer field. Casey played

KELSI'S ACHIEVEMENTS

3.95 grade-point average compiled in her two years at MATC

Excellent service to students while working in the Office of Student Life

College athletic history made by being the first woman to play on MATC's men's soccer team

Scholarship to University of Missouri based on her academic achievement at MATC



Off-campus volunteer work with Voces de la Frontera, advocating for in-state tuition for first- and second-generation immigrant students

Goalkeeper coach for Cedarburg High School girls' soccer team

MATC's Spring Semester 2022 Outstanding Graduate award received upon completion of her Associate of Arts degree

“She is a great

asset to our program. She works hard, is eager to learn and shares great knowledge with our players. It is an honor to have her on staff and we are really proud of her for her accomplishments at MATC.”

ROBERT WILLIAMS,
Cedarburg High School
head soccer coach

“I have seen her blossom as a leader and a person.”

EQUAN BURROWS,
dean of student
experience

“Kelsi has excelled and has engaged with the MATC community despite the challenges of COVID. She has gotten as much as she could out of her MATC experience and certainly has given just as much back to our school community. She is a clear example of Stormer Pride.”

MICHELLE M. FELIX, English
instructor

BACHELOR'S



40+

four-year college and
university partners

“Kelsi has always been a very driven person and when she puts her mind to something she won't stop until it is accomplished. I can't wait to see what the future holds for her and all her successes.”

RANDY CASEY, father and MATC
athletic director and men's
basketball head coach



Learn more about MATC's transfer agreements with four-year universities at matc.edu/transfer

Alumna Kelsi Casey

ALUMNI NEWS

If you wish to share an MATC Alumni News update, please send it to MATCalumni@matc.edu.

If you'd like to start a scholarship in honor of an MATC alumnus or alumna, email Donor Relations Coordinator Bob Holland at hollanrj@matc.edu.

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

Danaz Bailey, Fashion Marketing, launched an online boutique, FineVines4U. Featuring street-chic apparel and accessories at wallet-friendly prices, it offers hundreds of items including dresses, jumpsuits, sweaters, outerwear, shoes and handbags.

Jasmin Treske, Business Management, was named manager of tech programs and community outreach for the MKE Tech Hub Coalition, a nonprofit that aims to grow and diversify Milwaukee's tech community.

COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES

Eryka S. Cunningham, Human Service Associate, was honored with the Outstanding Associate Degree Graduate Award and gave the student address at the December 2021 commencement ceremony. Here is an excerpt from her inspirational speech: "In a time of division, broken values and dangerous uncertainties, I dare to call your attention to the holistic beauty of this moment. Because one day, you may look back at the experience you had at this great institution and realize the greatest building wasn't the college itself. It was the building of your character within the frame of your integrity."

“ Because one day, you may look back at the experience you had at this great institution and realize the greatest building wasn't the college itself. It was the building of your character within the frame of your integrity.”

ERYKA S. CUNNINGHAM, 2021 Human Service Associate graduate

Herbert Davis, Criminal Justice, was featured in numerous Milwaukee news reports in early 2022 after being injured in the line of duty. The Milwaukee police officer and Cincinnati Bengals fan was the recipient of a free trip to Super Bowl LVI thanks to a local fundraising effort.

Marisol Mendoza, Legal Studies/ Paralegal, works for the City of Milwaukee, focusing on civil rights and labor law. She had received scholarships to attend Marquette University, where she studied criminology and legal studies.

Scott Owen, Fire Science, retired as a fire and rescue chief after his 25-year career serving the citizens of Marshfield, Wis. He shared that, "I went to a career event at MATC and took three courses. I started looking into firefighting and the rest, as they say, is history."

David Tate Jr., Early Childhood Education, was featured on TMJ4 News (WTMJ-TV) regarding MATC's innovative apprenticeship program with Next Door, which attracts and retains early education teachers to serve in some of Milwaukee's most under-resourced neighborhoods.

CREATIVE ARTS, DESIGN & MEDIA

Jason Alston, Culinary Arts, owner of Heaven's Table BBQ in Milwaukee, opened a new restaurant location in the Washington Heights neighborhood in December 2021. Alston also was featured by TMJ4 News (WTMJ-TV) in February 2022 for a program he created to help other minority entrepreneurs get the training they need to make their dreams come true.

Paul Bartolotta, Culinary Arts, two-time James Beard Award winner, and chef and owner of The Bartolotta Restaurants, returned to MATC in April 2022 to visit with students, share stories of his career journey and tour the MATC kitchens (pictured below).



Karen Bell, Culinary Arts, was a finalist for best chef, Midwest, in the 2022 James Beard Awards. The mission of the James Beard Awards is to recognize exceptional talent and achievement in the culinary arts, hospitality, media and the broader food system, as well as a demonstrated commitment to racial and gender equity, community, sustainability and a culture where all can thrive.

Rosetta Bond, Culinary Arts, was chosen from more than two dozen other applicants to receive the contents of the Tandem restaurant and operate her own restaurant at the Milwaukee site after impressing the decision panel with her flavors and flair. Bond opened a soul food restaurant, 1700 Pull Up, this spring.

Megan Gajewski, Culinary Arts, was profiled by the Milwaukee Journal

Sentinel in January 2022. She opened her own business as a personal chef in 2019 called Morsel Chef and prepares meals in homes throughout the Milwaukee area.

Tonya Garrido, Culinary Arts, was featured in the Shepherd Express in May 2022 for her work as head chef at Harwood Place Retirement Community in Wauwatosa, where she creates their unique international meals.

Gordie Gohr, Commercial Art, recently celebrated 20 years as the owner of Gohr Creative Services. His story is part of MATC's Alumni Voices, matc.edu/foundation/alumni/voices.

Sara Lewkowski, Baking and Pastry Arts, expanded her business with the opening of Supernova Coffee & Doughnuts in Milwaukee's 3rd Street Market Hall.

Joe Muench, Culinary Arts, was named an outstanding restaurateur semifinalist in the 2022 James Beard Awards. Muench is chef/owner at Black Shoe Hospitality.

John Suess, Commercial Art, exhibited 30 works at the Wauwatosa Public Library in July 2021. The pieces were a selection from his "Road Trips" series, featuring rural scenes from locations around southeastern Wisconsin and a wide variety of florals.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Reuben Harpole, was described by Milwaukee Magazine in March 2022 as "Milwaukee's other mayor" because his work in the community is so extensive. Now retired, he served as senior outreach specialist at the UW-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education – University Center for Urban Community Development for 31 years. Check out his interview for MATC's Alumni Voices, matc.edu/foundation/alumni/voices.

La Toya Sykes, Associate of Arts, president and CEO of Our Next Generation Kids, was featured on the TMJ4 News (WTMJ-TV) television program "Milwaukee Tonight" in July 2022. The nonprofit organization she has led since 2014 provides academic support and enrichment programs

for students in kindergarten through high school. She also was featured on MATC's Alumni Voices, matc.edu/foundation/alumni/voices.

HEALTHCARE

Tanya Fenninger, Nursing Assistant, was included in a Borderless Magazine article for her success in quickly finding a job after graduation. The story looked at strategies two-year colleges are implementing to support students and make college more attainable.

Pakou Thao, Dental Assistant, completed her technical diploma as a dual enrollment student, attending both MATC and Brookfield East High School her senior year. Thao not only excelled in the classroom but secured a job in the field following graduation.

Imunique Triplett, Practical Nursing, earned her MATC diploma ahead of her Rufus King International High School graduation. She was the first Milwaukee Public Schools student to complete the M³ College Connections dual enrollment nursing program at the college while still in high school.



STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS)

Patrick Torhorst, eCommerce & Web Administration, is chief information officer at Quest CE. In October 2021, he was interviewed for MATC Alumni Voices (matc.edu/foundation/alumni/voices) and discussed the vital impact MATC had in providing the skills he needed.

Joel Woppert, Networking and Infrastructure Administration, was appointed to the Wisconsin Cyber Response Team in August 2021. He is the information security officer and IT infrastructure manager for Washington County.



Welcome, all new alumni from the Class of 2022!

Join the MATC Alumni Network. It's free!

- Special alumni-only discounts
- Unlimited access to MATC's CareerHub to post your job opportunities and to find interns
- Unlimited job-seeking services – résumé review, interview tips and more
- Social and invitation-only alumni opportunities
- Monthly MATC alumni newsletter emailed to you

Update Your Contact Information or Sign Up Today!

EMAIL
MATCalumni@matc.edu

VISIT
matc.edu/alumni

In Memoriam

MATC has touched the lives of so many people throughout our region, state and country. We honor and celebrate the lives of the following alumni who passed away in the last year, as reported in obituaries in local newspapers. To honor the memory of an MATC alum in future magazines, please send to MATCalumni@matc.edu. If you'd like to start a scholarship in memory of an MATC alumnus or alumna, email Donor Relations Coordinator Bob Holland at hollanrj@matc.edu.

A

Michael A. Adams, 68,
July 23, 2021, Wausau, Wis.

Peter Adams, 88,
March 6, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Susan M. Adelmeyer, 74,
Nov. 22, 2021, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

Paul D. Albrecht, 39,
April 7, 2022, Hartford, Wis.

B

Judy Ann Balistreri, 74,
Aug. 23, 2021, Milton, Wis.

Jeffrey A. Bauer, 57,
Jan. 18, 2022, West Bend, Wis.

Doreen Marie Baumgartner, 62,
April 21, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Frank Bearden Jr., 74,
Aug. 21, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Harry Bindelli, 90,
Aug. 17, 2021, Kenosha, Wis.

Fred Bowen, 80,
Aug. 27, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Patricia Joanne Braun, 87,
Jan. 20, 2022, Winter, Wis.

Antone Lamar Brazil, 54,
Feb. 9, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Justin Alexander Briley, 22,
Feb. 2, 2022, Dallas, Texas

Alice Parker Brown, 96,
Feb. 2, 2022, Elkhart, Ind.

Susan Marie (Gasiorowski) Burss,
63, May 31, 2022, Arcadia, Wis.

C

Cherlyn Lynn Carlyle, 63,
Oct. 18, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Robert "Uncle Bob" Edward Carrara, 91, Feb. 17, 2022,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Richard "Rick" Lee Cline, 74,
Oct. 1, 2021, West Bend, Wis.

Alice Yvonne Cole, 89,
Aug. 24, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

James Francis Colores Jr., 42,
Jan. 18, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Sonya Lynette Cunningham, 58,
March 8, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

D

Austin James Dale, 24,
Dec. 7, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Gregory Scott Dendor, 71,
Feb. 3, 2022, Baraboo, Wis.

DeLisa Dixon, 64, Nov. 7, 2021,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Virginia (Joseph) Dodson, 77,
Aug. 9, 2021, McFarland, Wis.

James "Jim" Theodore Drankus, 79,
Jan. 3, 2022, Waukesha, Wis.

Georgia Anne Dzwinel, 72,
July 22, 2021, Mequon, Wis.

E

Doris Jean Mathews Easter, 83,
Dec. 31, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Kalen Aubrey Ellis, 35,
Aug. 24, 2021, Dallas, Texas

Roma Erickson, 90,
Dec. 31, 2021, Wauwatosa, Wis.

F

George H. Figol, 87,
Aug. 31, 2021, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

Emilie Fluker, 74,
Aug. 25, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Brian Ernest Freitag, 53,
Sept. 20, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

George Kenney Frey, 64,
June 15, 2022, Muskego, Wis.

G

Milton J. Gaertig, 73,
April 22, 2022, Grafton, Wis.

Al Galovits, 75, April 6, 2022,
Kewaskum, Wis.

Donald David Gardner, 73,
July 8, 2021, Pleasant Prairie, Wis.

Steven A. Gavin, 63,
Oct. 8, 2021, Sugar Hill, Ga.

Jo Ann Geiser, 87,
Aug. 5, 2021, Belgium, Wis.

William “Bill” Gibson, 88,
Sept. 24, 2021, Atlanta, Ga.

Lisa Lanette Gillyen, 46,
Aug. 15, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Robert E. Gipp, 40,
Feb. 28, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Justin Donald Glander, 35,
Feb. 21, 2022, Fredonia, Wis.

Eugene “Geno” M. Golden, 85,
Sept. 18, 2021, Eau Claire, Wis.

Francis R. Goldie, 70,
Sept. 17, 2021, Edmonds, Wash.

Miguel Antonio Santino Gonzales,
31, Sept. 9, 2021, Waukesha, Wis.

Gerald “Jerry” “Styx” Graebert, 68,
March 7, 2022, Tomahawk, Wis.

Nicole Virginia (Lambert) Graham,
43, Sept. 8, 2021, Cudahy, Wis.

Steven D. “Whitey” “Bowser” Gray,
39, Feb. 20, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Cynthia Teresa Green, 59,
Dec. 26, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Burton Greer, 67,
Sept. 10, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

John M. Greiten, 59,
Oct. 10, 2021, Lisbon, Wis.

Lynn Grunewald, 85,
September 13, 2021, Waukesha, Wis.

D. Michael Guerin, 81,
June 1, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

H

Michael David Hackett Sr., 60,
May 5, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Wadie Lee Hampton-Coleman, 88,
Oct. 27, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Jeffrey “Jeff” S. Hansen, 64,
Jan. 4, 2022, Plymouth, Wis.

Steven “Steve” R. Hare, 72,
Dec. 23, 2021, Grafton, Wis.

Avery F. Harris, 61,
Sept. 26, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Karen J. (Brawders) Heine, 65,
June 8, 2022, Mukwonago, Wis.

Andrew “Andy” J. Hell, 53,
Feb. 21, 2022, Sun Prairie, Wis.

James C. Herian, 39,
June 14, 2022, West Bend, Wis.

Ernest J. Hill, 71,
June 6, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Lucille “Lucy” Hoepner, 79,
Dec. 10, 2021, Oshkosh, Wis.

J

Angela Marie Jackson, 45,
Dec. 21, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Gwendolyn Jackson, 66,
Jan. 8, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Marva E. James-Williams, 84,
Aug. 3, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Joseph Henry Jobs, 54,
Sept. 7, 2021, Saukville, Wis.

Patrick L. Johnson, 73,
April 3, 2022, Townsend, Wis.

Charles C. Jones, 75,
May 1, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Johnny B. Jones Jr., 38,
April 10, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Nathaniel “Nate” Jones, 87,
Sept. 22, 2021, Jackson, Tenn.

Pamela Joan (Franklin) Jones, 81,
April 17, 2022, Plainfield, N.J.

Michael E. Jordan, age 67,
June 29, 2022, Fitchburg, Wis.

K

Jamie Kadlec, 43,
May 8, 2022, Eagle River, Wis.

Donald James Kasprzak, 76,
May 26, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Raymond H. Kastern III, 39,
July 7, 2021, Greenfield, Wis.

Raymond “Ray” L. Kelnhofer, 75,
Oct. 30, 2021, Westboro, Wis.

David Jerome Kendall, 79,
Oct. 13, 2021, Cudahy, Wis.

Virginia E. (Pociecha) Kerns, 88,
Feb. 26, 2022, New Berlin, Wis.

Edward Francis Kerscher, 38,
March 2, 2022, Seattle, Wash.

Sandra M. Kersten, 79,
Feb. 17, 2022, Hubertus, Wis.

David C. King, 70,
Feb. 25, 2022, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Thomas Kinnard, 64,
Nov. 28, 2021, Sun Prairie, Wis.

Frank Kloss Jr., 84,
March 16, 2022, Oak Creek, Wis.

David W. Klug, 74,
February 2, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Karl John Kolbe, 75,
March 8, 2022, Austin, Texas

Gregory Valentine Konz-Krzyminski,
75, Nov. 7, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Deacon Kenneth Kopydlowski, 82,
Aug. 21, 2021, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Nathan E. Kraucunas, 71,
Nov. 1, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Edward Krause, 68,
Nov. 12, 2021, Pulaski, Wis.

Peter Howard Krueger, 76,
August 2, 2021, Boulder Junction, Wis.

Duane “Papa” L. Kreuziger, 92,
Jan. 22, 2022, Allenton, Wis.

David John Kuck, 72,
Oct. 28, 2021, Sheboygan, Wis.

Matthew Edward Kurtz, 45,
July 17, 2021, Phoenix, Ariz.

L

Kathleen Ann (Bacik) Lagowski, 77,
April 3, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Rachel Pearl Landry, 86, July 29,
2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Jay “Bobbi” Robert Lazarus, 58,
Sept. 11, 2021, Mequon, Wis.

In Memoriam

Continued

Howard Earl Lea, 64,
Oct. 23, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Maria Leannah, 71,
Sept. 3, 2021, Lubbock, Texas

River J. Lee, 26,
July 5, 2021, Fitchburg, Wis.

Thomas Lewis Lee, 80,
Sept. 1, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Jeffrey Scott Lesar, 60,
April 1, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

John R. Lindert, 57,
Aug. 19, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Joan G. Link, 82,
Jan. 13, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Mary Marjorie “Marge” Logan, 96,
Sept. 7, 2021, Whittemore, Iowa

Ronald J. Luepke, 81,
April 30, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

David M. Lundberg, 73,
March 2, 2022, Grafton, Wis.

M

Daniel Joseph Mackin, 60,
Sept. 8, 2021, Green Bay, Wis.

Timothy “Bird” Madenwald, 66,
Nov. 24, 2021, South Milwaukee, Wis.

Donna J. Marek, 58, March 5, 2022,
Wind Lake, Wis.

Joan Ruth Marquardt, 82,
March 29, 2022, Watertown, Wis.

Micah L. Martzke, 49,
Sept. 15, 2021, Burlington, Vt.

Gary Edward Mason, 69,
March 28, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Bobbie Jean Mathews, 82,
Dec. 6, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Claude “Dane” Everton McFarlane Sr., 66, March 6, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Robert John McGinnis, 81,
Feb. 10, 2022, Cross Plains, Wis.

Noryne E. Merkey, 54,
Nov. 10, 2021, Waukesha, Wis.

John Mark Miller, 68,
Oct. 6, 2021, Oak Creek, Wis.

Connor Luke Mitchell, 24,
Nov. 3, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Thomas Allan “Flyer” Muehl, 74,
Feb. 25, 2022, Pewaukee, Wis.

David B. Mueller, 71,
May 30, 2022, Port Washington, Wis.

N

Judith Kay Nelson, 83,
Oct. 22, 2021, Brookfield, Wis.

Richard “Dick” Neu, 73,
Jan. 16, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Allan Orlando Newson, 44,
Feb. 24, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Cary Jay Norberg, 57,
June 20, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

O

Donald Oscar Odegard, 89,
July 6, 2021, Ocala, Fla.

Kathleen Ann O’Neill, 60,
Aug. 21, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

P

Thomas “Tom” Edward Pearce, 73,
May 24, 2022, Green Bay, Wis.

John “Johnny P” Michael Penoske, 58, Sept. 7, 2021, Franklin, Wis.

Joe Louis Perkins, 84,
Nov. 12, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Robbin Denise Perkins-Oby, 61,
Feb. 8, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Mattie Zenobia Pinkerton, 88,
May 18, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Marilyn B. Piper, 69,
Jan. 9, 2022, Antigo, Wis.

Brenda Denise Pittman, 65,
Dec. 3, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

James R. Pope, 43,
Dec. 11, 2021, Westland, Mich.

Q

Steven “Steve” J. Quam, 65,
Jan. 7, 2022, Pewaukee, Wis.

R

James “Jim” Hobert Reagan, 62,
April 16, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Gary C. Redlin, 65, July 10, 2021,
Baraboo, Wis.

Myrtle Lee Reeves, 71,
Nov. 16, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Kelly Hall Rhodes, 54,
April 11, 2022, Corpus Christi, Texas

Robert Charles Richards, 73,
June 4, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Karl Ringlein, 84,
Oct. 30, 2021, Racine, Wis.

Steve Gregory Rodger, 72,
Sept. 23, 2021, Coloma, Wis.

Susie Romano, 76,
Jan. 1, 2022, Oregon, Wis.

James “Jim” “Rosie” Arthur Rosenberg, 71, Sept. 6, 2021,
Newbold, Wis.

Julia “Judy” A. Rowan, 78,
May 24, 2022, Altoona, Pa.

Mary Alice (Casto) Rosprim, 50,
Aug. 27, 2021, Alamogordo, N.M.

Sergio Pulido Ruiz, 56,
Feb. 23, 2022, Sheboygan, Wis.

S

Peter “Pete” Schlefke, 60,
Nov. 28, 2021, West Bend, Wis.

Sarah J. Schmadl, 34,
Nov. 26, 2021, Waukesha, Wis.

Wendy A. Schoeder, 43,
Nov. 23, 2021, Germantown, Wis.

Ellen Johanna Schrubba, 65,
April 20, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Gerald “Jerry” W. Schuknecht, 69,
Nov. 22, 2021, Port Washington, Wis.

Timothy E. Schuldt, 62,
Sept. 17, 2021, Sussex, Wis.

Russell Leonard Schuman, 82,
March 2, 2022, Slinger, Wis.

David Frederick Seidler, 76,
July 22, 2021, Nekoosa, Wis.

Clarence C. Simmons, 61,
Jan. 12, 2022, Portsmouth, Va.

James Skifstad, 72,
May 14, 2022, Esko, Minn.

Bobbie Ann Smith, 75,
Dec. 14, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Gloria Jean Smith, 61,
Sept. 12, 2021, Houston, Texas

Romanita Smith, 63,
Feb. 6, 2022, Houston, Texas

Ruby Delores Smith, 61,
Oct. 14, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Ronald “Ron” Sowinski, 84,
April 28, 2022, Stone Bank, Wis.

Frank Lee Spain, 65,
Dec. 30, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Roger George Stark, 87,
Sept. 9, 2021, New Berlin, Wis.

Kyle M. Stevens, 29,
Oct. 27, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Peter Robert Strelke, 86,
Jan. 8, 2022, San Diego, Calif.

Jackson (Kayla) Sullivan, 23,
April 1, 2022, Green Bay, Wis.

T

Barbara Lee (Lewitzke) Talbot, 72,
April 8, 2022, Appleton, Wis.

Maxine Tatum, 69,
Nov. 23, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Carol Taylor, 79,
Sept. 23, 2021, Tavares, Fla.

Sandra Louise Teague, 73,
Dec. 24, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Shane Daniel Thekan, 52,
Sept. 13, 2021, Palmyra, Wis.

Richard Tomasello, 70, June 12,
2022, Neillsville, Wis.

Norma Rae (House) Topping, 73,
June 14, 2022, Vesper, Wis.

Tim “Flash” Townsend, 62,
Feb. 8, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Darlene Kay Treder, 79,
Dec. 18, 2021, Waukesha, Wis.

Patrick Joseph Troshynski, 33,
April 11, 2022, Wauwatosa, Wis.

V

Karol “Charles” Valovic, 86, Aug. 10,
2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Donald H. Van Engen, 90,
March 14, 2022, Sheboygan, Wis.

Joseph F. Vodnik, 67, Feb. 26, 2022,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Noel “Butch” A. Vollmer, 78,
March 11, 2022, Land O’ Lakes, Wis.

W

Scott Wanty, 66,
Jan. 16, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Diane M. Walcheske, 68,
Dec. 14, 2021, Crooked Lake, Wis.

Mary Ann (Joers) Warren, 93,
June 11, 2022, Green Bay, Wis.

Sandra Washington-Lopez, 50,
April 12, 2022, Jackson, Tenn.

Gloria Josephine Wehner, 94,
Aug. 18, 2021, Milwaukee, Wis.

Dennis Todd Weisen, 71,
Nov. 23, 2021, Greendale, Wis.

Carol Welch, age 63,
Sept. 21, 2021, Kenosha, Wis.

James Alan White, 75,
Dec. 22, 2021, Cedarburg, Wis.

Michael D. Wilhelm, 71,
Nov. 16, 2021, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

Lori L. (Miller) Wirts, 63,
Jan. 9, 2022, New Glarus, Wis.

Gail L. Witscheber, age 70,
June 3, 2022, Tomah, Wis.

Y

Rebecca P. Ybanez, 75,
Nov. 14, 2021, San Antonio, Texas

Sharlene Young, 71,
Feb. 23, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

Z

Esther M. Zblewski, 85,
July 22, 2021, Madison, Wis.

Elizabeth Ann Zodrow, 44,
April 23, 2022, Sheboygan, Wis.

John Gerard Zywicke, 66,
April 25, 2022, Milwaukee, Wis.

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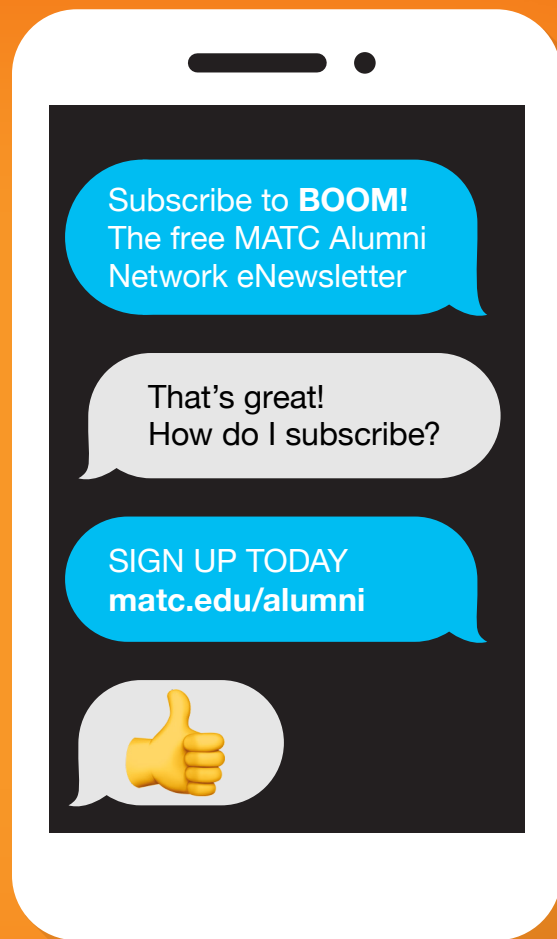
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