Dear MATC Community:

While we are in the midst of challenges none of us has faced in our lifetimes, I have never been more proud to lead this college. My leadership team and I appreciate your hard work and resilience in continuing to work productively and creatively with your colleagues to serve our students in our new learning environment. Now more than ever, MATC is committed to delivering the transformative education on which our students and community depend.

We are balancing the desire and need to return to campus and the safety of our staff and students, which is of paramount importance. It is a time for us to reenvision our campus, our delivery methods of instruction, the way we provide support services for our students, how we meet the needs of employers, and how we produce programming on Milwaukee Public Television. As we effectively address the challenges we face together, we will emerge stronger than before.

MATC has withstood and has even triumphed over immense challenges in the past, including World War II – when the college excelled in its response to those conditions. I am certain we will excel again, though we are waging a different kind of war. Thank you to our frontline essential employees who are here every day to make sure we can continue our operations. Thank you to all of our employees for dedication and commitment to our students, the college and the community. Together we ensure that MATC remains unwavering in our mission to serve our students and partners within the district. Please keep reading this issue for more details about some major milestones we’ve already achieved, which help our students “Stay on the Path” to graduation, to transfer or begin their careers.

Sincerely,

Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D., President

MATC Promise Deadline Extended

Application Deadline Extended to July 17

To better serve our community affected by the economic stress caused by COVID-19, MATC is reopening the application window for the MATC Promise for New High School Graduates. The program helps break down financial barriers and ensure students are able to access a quality, in-demand education.

Eligible students from the high school Class of 2020 have the opportunity to receive free tuition for up to 75 credits after federal and state financial grant aid has been applied. Help spread the word – information is at matc.edu/promise.
Pathways Update

Academic & Career Pathway virtual offices opened in April to help students “Stay on the Path” and graduate. Students now have one place to get connected to these services and more with the help of Student Success Liaisons, Pathway Advisors, Retention Coaches, Deans and clerical support:

• Selecting and registering for classes
• Tutoring, writing and other academic support
• Finding child care, food, housing or transportation
• Setting and achieving goals

Congratulations to all who worked to help achieve this major milestone! We are on track to serve all students through Pathways this Fall semester.

Pathway offices for Community & Human Services (pictured) and Creative Arts, Design & Media opened in November 2019. These offices continued providing assistance to students “virtually” when the college closed campuses March 17.

Update on Strategic Planning

Strategic planning offers all employees the opportunity to have a voice in determining MATC’s priorities over the next few years. Last fall, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, working with our planning partner, CampusWorks, gathered feedback from students, employees, District Board members and community stakeholders to create a draft of the student experience statement.

In February, nearly 200 employees completed a survey and/or participated in workshops to help establish the values that will guide the college. Additionally, members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee; the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; the Guided Pathways Oversight Committee and the President’s Cabinet began developing the four strategic priorities that will be the focus of the strategic plan.

At some colleges, employees perceive the strategic plan as “just another document” on the website or printed on an index card. Therefore, when the time comes to update the plan, these employees don’t prioritize the task. At MATC, however, that is not the case. Our mission, vision and values (core components of any strategic plan) guide our daily work, and we reflect on them during annual reviews. This was particularly apparent when COVID-19 struck. At a time when the college was forced to make dozens of decisions daily, questions such as, “Does this align with our values?” and “How does this connect to our mission?” preceded every decision.

While it might have been easier to focus only on other more pressing concerns and postpone strategic planning, seeing firsthand how the college’s actions were shaped by the current strategic plan made it all the more important to ensure that the next plan would be in place. MATC employees stepped up to the plate by attending workshops, completing surveys and giving feedback.

All employees were invited to complete a survey on values and strategies in late March. In May, employees completed a survey for feedback on the proposed mission and vision statements. The goal is to use this feedback to finalize the strategic plan for Board approval by June 23.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee is co-chaired by Vice President Dr. Christine Manion and Myra George and includes both employee and student members. Members include Dr. Sarah Adams, Dr. Julie Ashlock, Aisha Barkow, Dr. Valencia Brown, Carole Burns, Barb Cannell, Jamey Chadek, Jill Crowder, Caryn Dreher, Dr. Melanie Gray, Kyle Hayden, Elaine Hines, Regina Ivy, Suzanne Jarvis, Everett Marshburn, Emilia Meinhardt, Dr. Jennifer Mikulay, David Polk, Brenda Schmitt, Beth Schultz, Jose Solorzano, Karli Tatum, Carol Voss, Dr. Yan Wang, James Weishan, Rebecca Wincell and Ellen Winters.
MATC Respiratory Therapist instructor Mike Christman (left) cared for COVID-19 patients in a New York City hospital and shared experiences with his students online. Nou Thao, a 2019 MATC respiratory therapy graduate, is working with COVID-19 patients at a hospital near Newark. She contracted the virus after working there for five days, but has now recovered and returned to finish her 10-week commitment.

To help save lives amid the COVID-19 crisis, MATC donated supplies from its health programs to six local healthcare facilities. The items included 174,500 pairs of gloves; 11,200 surgical masks; 978 gowns and coats; 140 N95 masks; and 110 containers of wipes. Six ventilators were loaned to hospitals.

The college also donated food from culinary programs and food service to the Hunger Task Force in March, including 212 pounds of potatoes, 37 cartons of eggs, 35 pounds of carrots and 37 pounds of onions.

- Thanks to tremendous efforts by faculty, the college offered 1,600 courses online for Spring semester to help students complete their courses
- The Bookstore sent 950 Chromebooks requested by students with no other option for accessing courses online
- Dreamkeepers provided $72,900 in emergency assistance to 343 students

Healthcare Pathway Dean Dr. Kelly J. Dries and Healthcare Hub Operations Director Dr. Eric Gass organize donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) donated by the college.

Bookstore staff members Erich Lehnberg, Max Vargas and Heidi Carl help send Chromebooks to students.
Celebrating Employee Achievements

Healthcare Academic & Career Pathway Dean Dr. Kelly J. Dries’ article entitled “Variables Impacting Program Completion of Readmitted Associate Degree Nursing Students” was published and released in Nurse Educator and cited in PubMed/MEDLINE, CINAHL, Scopus, and other indexes.

Mathematics instructor Mathew Zachariah will serve as a reader for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program® (AP). He will join other college faculty and AP teachers from around the world to evaluate and score students.

Social Science instructor Gabrielle Gray recently completed her doctorate in Political Science from Howard University.

Director of Quality, Planning and Assessment Dr. Jennifer Mikulay completed the 12-credit Graduate Certificate in Mediation & Negotiation at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and graduated in December 2019. This is an interdisciplinary program supporting dispute resolution in organizational, educational and community contexts; her final research project proposed the creation of an Ombuds Office.

Congratulations to Head Coach and Athletic Director Randy Casey and his coaching staff!

• In February, Casey won his 400th career game as a head men’s coach of the Stormers men’s basketball team and was named “Coach of the Year” by the conference and received several other honors.

• Yuri Swinford was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Region First Team in District 3; Justin Briley and Steven Ross Jr. were named to the All-Region Second Team.

• The team won their division in regular season play and won the Region IV tournament championship and would have advanced to the NJCAA Division II championships in Danville, Illinois, which were canceled.

• Several sophomores have signed with four-year colleges and universities. Click for a summary of the team’s exciting season!

Two women’s basketball players were named to the North Central Community College Conference (N4C) All-Conference Teams for the 2019-20 season. Sophomore Kennedy Perry has been named to the All-Conference First Team, and freshman Jasmine Malone (above, right) is honored with an All-Conference Second Team selection. Kudos to Head Coach Leonard Erickson.
Celebrating Employee Achievements

Training and Talent Specialist Nick Brayton completed his Diversity and Inclusion Certification through Cornell University. The program is focused on many facets of equity and inclusion including legal aspects, coaching, engagement and bias.

Oak Creek Campus Librarian Jennifer Medved presented at School Library Journal’s Middle Grade Magic 2020 virtual convention in April on “DREAM in STEAM: Hosting a Career Exploration Convention for Tweens and Teens.”

Around Campus, In the Community

Oak Creek Campus
Starting in late May, the Oak Creek Campus is open for limited in-person instruction for courses that could not be completed in the Spring semester in programs serving essential industries.

The Oak Creek Campus community continues to interact through “virtual” social events via Google Hangouts. “Take Your Pet to Work” was particularly popular. These informal get-togethers allow employees to stay connected and reach out to others.

While most employees work remotely, we also recognize those critical employees reporting daily to the campus. A heartfelt thanks to these hard-working employees who take pride in maintaining our campus – it has been recognized by the South Suburban Chamber of Commerce three years in a row for the beautiful grounds and exceptional maintenance.

The third annual MATC Car Show is going “virtual” through May 30 at www.matccarshow.com. The website will include live features, prizes in all categories and video of celebrity vehicles.

The “Daydream” virtual convention for middle and high school students opened May 22. It features digital versions of what MATC students would have presented in person at the DREAM convention, a college and career exploration event sponsored by MATC’s Imaginative Fiction student organization.

Senior Technician Caryn Dreher (left) and Child Development Specialist Stacy Pasbrig (right) shared photos from their off-campus offices.

The college community is proud of our alumni working as nurses, medical assistants and respiratory technicians; serving as EMTs, police officers and firefighters; manufacturing in-demand goods; running IT networks; managing supply chain logistics; and driving store trucks to keep our community safe and healthy.

High School Relations Manager Erin Cherney (far right) shared a photo during a virtual “Proud to be MATC” day.

Proud to be MATC!
Around Campus, In the Community

Mequon Campus

The Mequon Campus in partnership with Bridge the Divide hosted the presentation “Paradox of a Black Police Officer” in February. Guest speaker Corey Saffold (shown with Mequon Campus Executive Director Dr. Wilma L. Bonaparte) shared his experiences and a historical perspective.

Earlier this year, ESL and sociology students regularly came together at International Coffee Hours held on campus, to “drink coffee, share cultures, change the world,” and discuss important topics such as living in a diverse society.

In March the campus provided a program focused on employee wellness in partnership with Ozaukee Economic Development and local chambers of commerce. Speakers from Ascension Wisconsin and Advocate Aurora Health discussed how local employers can boost productivity and create a positive work environment.

To lighten up the middle of the week while employees work remotely, the campus hosted a virtual Fun Sock Day every Wednesday in April and Fun Hat Day in May.

West Allis

West Allis ESL students visited the Downtown Milwaukee Campus in early March to learn about the culinary program from instructors John Reiss and Andy Schneider, and automotive and technology programs from John Lopez. They also walked over to the Milwaukee Public Museum to see an IMAX movie.

The West Allis Campus hosted Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) March 4 for a program designed to inspire undergraduate and technical school students to pursue local government careers. West Allis Mayor Dan Devine (shown right) attended the event. Half-day workshops educated young people about the many opportunities available.

Dietetic Technician students and their instructor Heidi Katte (far right) shared their talents with residents and their families at Kathy’s House, a hospital guest house, in February. They prepared and served about 30 meals as part of a team project.
Stay Connected — Keep Reading The Week Ahead

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has made communication even more important. The Week Ahead reaches all employees via email at 10:30 a.m. each Monday and will continue to help you stay up to date on important issues.

Last month, students began receiving a similar weekly email each Monday afternoon from the college's Marketing and Communications department. It connects students to the college and community resources, and streamlines the communications reaching students. Each issue receives 17,000 to 20,000 opens, making it an effective way to reach large numbers of current students.

- View the content each Monday on the Student tab of myMATC. Look in the Announcements section each Monday by 5 p.m.
- To contribute a topic, work with the person in your area who submits articles for the employee version of The Week Ahead, or email communications@matc.edu.

Recruiting Team Reaches the Community via MATC Live!

In April, the recruiting team launched a new series called MATC Live! The virtual events are targeted to undecided students, dual enrollment students, interested applicants, career/program changers and high school partners. The team quickly launched the series during Gov. Tony Evers’ Safer-At-Home order as a strategic way to continue recruitment. Each session lasts 30 minutes and is focused on a topic such as the Promise for Adults, Nursing, and High School Partners.

Sessions are promoted on the college Facebook account and through targeted online advertising. Refer potential students to matc.edu.


Milwaukee PBS, along with PBS Wisconsin, partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to provide content for students working remotely that align with the state’s education standards. At-Home Learning provides content to enrich student’s learning from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday on Milwaukee PBS Channel 36.1, providing an equitable education solution for students who do not have easy access to the internet.
Dates to Remember

Through May 30: Virtual MATC Car Show at matccarshow.com

Sunday, June 7: Summer Session Begins, All Courses Online

Monday, June 8: Limited In-Person Spring Completion Sessions Begin

Friday, July 17: Application deadline to start in Fall 2020 for both the MATC Promise for New High School Grads (Class of 2020) and the MATC Promise for Adults

MISSION
As a public, two-year comprehensive technical college, MATC offers exceptional educational and training opportunities and services to our diverse metropolitan area by engaging with partners to advance the quality of life for our students and community.

VISION
MATC is the premier comprehensive technical college that provides excellence in education to enrich, empower and transform lives.

VALUES
Student Success
Accountability
Collaboration
Customer Focus
Diversity
Excellence
Innovation
Integrity

Have a suggestion for On Campus? Contact Jill Maher, maherjr@matc.edu, 414-297-6493.

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