

Inside **MATC** *Transformations*



MATC alumna Stephanie Christian-Lobley shares her story. PAGE 6



MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College*



MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College*



MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College*



MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College*

2016-17

MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD

Kurt D. Wachholz, Chairperson

*School District Administrator
Retired Superintendent, School District of West Allis-West Milwaukee*

David A. Dull, Vice Chairperson

*Employer (15+ employees)
President/CEO, Allis Roller, LLC*

Graciela Maizonet, Secretary

*Employer/Manufacturer (100+ employees)
Machine Builder and Repairer, Master Lock Company*

Abdulhamid Ali, Treasurer

*Employer (15+ employees)
Chairman/CEO, DAAR Engineering, Inc.*

Mark Foley

*Employer (100+ employees)
Shareholder/Attorney, von Briesen & Roper, s.c.*

Ashanti Hamilton

*Elected Official
President, Milwaukee Common Council*

Mary Isbister

*Additional Member
President, GenMet*

Mary Scheibel

*Employer (15+ employees)
Principal/Owner, Trefoil Group, Inc.*

Ann Wilson

*Additional Member
Retired Manager, Hillside Family Resource Center*



Inside **MATC** *Transformations*

Welcome to the second issue of **Inside MATC Transformations**, which has been designed as an electronic publication. Links in the articles provide more information; we hope you take the opportunity to learn more about the people and programs featured in this edition.

The articles center around MATC students, faculty, staff and alumni; the college's initiatives; and how these are working together to transform lives, industry and community.

The transformations achieved by the people connected to MATC are compelling and inspiring stories. Three times a year, those stories will be told within the pages of **Inside MATC Transformations**.

matc.edu/discover_matc/transformations

Inside MATC Transformations is published by
Milwaukee Area Technical College,
700 West State Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1443.

<i>Communications and Events Director</i>	Kathleen Hohl
<i>Strategic Marketing Manager</i>	Kevin Carboni
<i>Copy Editor/Writer</i>	Maryann Bouche
<i>Writer</i>	Ginny Gnad
<i>Creative Direction/Designer</i>	Kathryn Kaesermann
<i>Photography</i>	Sefton Ipock
<i>Web Services</i>	Greg Lopez

Communications and Events Office 414-297-6365

Inside **MATC** *Transformations*

FALL ISSUE 2016

Features

3. 2016-17 MATC District Board

5. From the President

6. Nurse Practitioner's Commitment to Lifelong Learning Began at MATC

8. Tarek Teber Demonstrates the Chemistry to Succeed

10. The Promise of Fall

12. Instructor Cultivates Community Partnerships

16. Perseverance Rewards MATC Adult High School Graduate

18. The Ambassador of Transformation: Student Develops Inner Strength

21. MATC Attracts National Attention



Page 6



Page 8



Page 12



Page 16



Page 18



From the President

Completing an academic program at Milwaukee Area Technical College establishes the strong foundation from which our graduates can further pursue their dreams. Their next steps, whether to continue their education or to enter the workforce, are significant to their careers and also to our community.

This edition of *Inside MATC Transformations* shares the stories of individuals who transform lives, industry and community through their workplace and volunteer activities. The articles profile alumni, current students and faculty; you will read how their experiences off campus were fostered by the important work that occurs on campus. These stories remind us that the daily efforts of MATC students, faculty and staff are the starting points for transformations that ripple throughout the community.

The influence of our college is far-reaching. The events highlighted on page 21 demonstrate that MATC’s work is attracting national attention. For example, two members of President Barack Obama’s cabinet visited MATC, and Tavis Smiley recorded his national PBS program on the Downtown Milwaukee Campus to detail the MATC Promise and our innovative approaches to providing a high-quality college education.

For more than a century, the contributions of our graduates have proven essential to the region’s economic vitality. The college continues to provide clear paths to family-sustaining employment. With an emphasis on meeting our district’s current and projected employment needs, MATC’s affordable education prepares students today for the careers of tomorrow.

Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D.
MATC President

-  facebook.com/MilwAreaTechCollege
-  twitter.com/discoverMATC
-  instagram.com/discovermatc
-  youtube.com/user/InsideMATC
-  snapchat.com/add/Discover_matc
-  linkedin.com/edu/milwaukee-area-technical-college-20155

Nurse Practitioner's Commitment to Lifelong Learning Began at MATC

When Stephanie Christian-Lobley earned her associate degree in nursing in 1994, her instructors at MATC encouraged her to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing. "They saw my potential and motivated me to continue my education," she said.

Christian-Lobley enrolled at Concordia University in Mequon in 1998 while working full time at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee as a neuro-intensive care nurse. Through Concordia, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1999, and her Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner degree in 2002.

"I could not have foreseen being a nurse practitioner when I started at MATC," Christian-Lobley said. Her instructors Maxine Mann, Wendy Manor and Jean Dilworth, now retired from the college, were instrumental in mentoring, encouraging and welcoming her to the nursing profession.

Christian-Lobley currently is an advanced practice nurse prescriber for the Medical College of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital in the neurosurgery department. She sees patients at Town Hall Health Center and Froedtert's Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls. Although neurosurgery covers a broad range of neurosurgical conditions, patients with spine disorders are a majority of the practice. She is classified a surgical nurse practitioner and is able to assist neurosurgeons in the operating room. She has been a co-investigator in research related to stroke and traumatic brain injury; she published an article and presented at advance practice conferences.

Nurse practitioners' academic preparation builds upon the nursing knowledge and skills which include evaluating and treating patients,

prescribing and managing medications, ordering and interpreting diagnostic studies and labs, conducting research and promoting nursing as a profession. This advanced level of nursing is challenging and rewarding for her.

Her workday can involve "rounding on neurosurgical hospital patients at Community Memorial Hospital, seeing patients in clinic, seeing new patients in consultation with neurosurgical conditions or facilitating the post-operative course for neurosurgical patients," she explained. "A majority of patients who undergo spine surgery realize a return of mobility and are able to resume activities within weeks of surgery."

Christian-Lobley also continues to work at Froedtert Hospital as a neuro-intensive care staff ICU nurse. Her career at Froedtert spans 26 years, where she began as a certified nursing assistant in 1989. She has earned several recognitions and certifications including Trauma Nurse Specialist (TNS), Critical Care RN (CCRN), the 2006 Black Excellence Award, and in 2013, MATC's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Aware of Christian-Lobley's professional and academic achievements, Josie Veal, Ph.D., associate dean for MATC's School of Health Sciences, nominated her for the Distinguished Alumnus honor. Dr. Veal, who also is an advanced practice nurse prescriber, met Christian-Lobley while enrolled at Concordia University's graduate program. "In the community, Stephanie is a highly regarded nursing clinician with superior expertise in the fields of trauma and neurological sciences," Dr. Veal said. "As a MATC alumna, she embodies a core principle that each nurse is taught – dedication to lifelong learning to ensure the highest quality of care."

For more information about MATC's Registered Nursing associate degree program:
www.matc.edu/health_sciences

Town Hall Health Center

Pharmacy

W180 N8000 TOWN HALL RD.

“*I could not have foreseen being a nurse practitioner when I started at MATC.*”

STEPHANIE CHRISTIAN-LOBLEY, FNP-BC, APNP, TNS, CCRN



Christian-Lobley serves as a member of MATC’s advisory committee for the college’s nursing programs. All MATC occupational programs are advised by external committees; the professionals who volunteer share their expertise to help ensure that programs meet current and future workforce needs.

Active in several nursing organizations, Christian-Lobley spreads the word about the success of MATC students. Graduates of MATC’s Registered Nursing associate degree program have clinically outperformed other nursing program graduates, including graduates of four-year programs, and MATC graduates have had higher first-time success rates on the NCLEX-RN exam.

Her daughter, Leoshay Lobley, RN, BSN, also is a registered nurse who completed a bachelor’s degree in community health from Howard University in Washington, D.C.; and a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She works at a children’s hospital in Washington, D.C., as a cardiac ICU nurse. “I know she will be a lifetime learner,” Christian-Lobley said. “In my career, if I have influenced or made an impact on anyone in the nursing profession, I am blessed to say it’s my daughter.”

Tarek Teber Demonstrates the Chemistry to Succeed

In its simplest form, a progression is a continuous and connected series of actions and events that develop over a period of time to achieve a specific result.



Tarek Teber has been a study in progression since he first arrived at MATC. His journey here has been a climb of steady and connected steps leading to a transformation.

“In 2009, I came to MATC to further my chemical technology education,” said Teber. “In my country of Tunisia, I worked in chemistry and physics. The hands-on experience at MATC offered a little bit of what I had done, a little bit of what I wanted to do and a lot of what I was looking for.”

The first time Teber walked into the chemical technology lab on MATC’s Downtown Milwaukee Campus, he was impressed by the equipment. But, it was more than the technology that made him feel at home. The people he was working with, and for, have made the biggest impact.

“From day one, as a student, I had great mentors here. Physics instructor, Zack Shana; and the instructional chair of the Chemistry department, Scott Schlipp, were two of the best,” Teber said. “They prepared me to get to where I am today. I trusted them both and they guided me in what I was doing, and here I am today.”

In 2011, Teber finished his Chemical Technology associate degree in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and was hired immediately by MATC as an educational assistant. This was a significant achievement. But, his MATC supervisors and colleagues recognized his advanced skills and they encouraged Teber to test his knowledge in the field.

This was the second part of Teber’s progression. He accepted an internship at Molded Dimensions in Port Washington. The company manufactures precision-molded rubber and cast polyurethane materials used in various industries, including waste management, automotive, construction and mining. Teber was responsible for evaluating polyurethane prepolymers for potential replacements and cost savings, and he conducted laboratory trials.

“I worked about a year there and it was an amazing experience in the field,” Teber explained. “It connected with what I do here at MATC and it was a great eye-opener.”

But, it was not long before the third event of the progression would be added to the mix. While he was working at Molded Dimensions, and while maintaining his position as an educational assistant, Teber’s mentors convinced him that the next step he needed was a bachelor’s degree in chemistry with biochemical emphasis. In May 2013,



Tarek Teber (center) instructs high school students attending the Biochemical Excellence in Science and Technology (BEST) summer program at MATC.

Teber earned that degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

There was more work to be done, however.

In 2013, with guidance and advice from Shana, Teber began his master's degree in water chemistry research at UW-Milwaukee through Milwaukee's Great Lakes Research Facility.

Shana, who died in 2015, "was very passionate when he explained to me that the chem tech program needs people that know about water chemistry," Teber said. "He showed me why water is going to be big in Milwaukee and why MATC needs its students to know about it."

Teber agreed to the challenge and he is now close to finishing his master's

degree. "My head was spinning for about five years because there was so much going on," Teber expressed. "But looking back, it could not have gone any other way. People I work with are impressed with the skills I gained here, they notice that I have the technology background. I keep growing and MATC gave me the foundation for what I want to do."

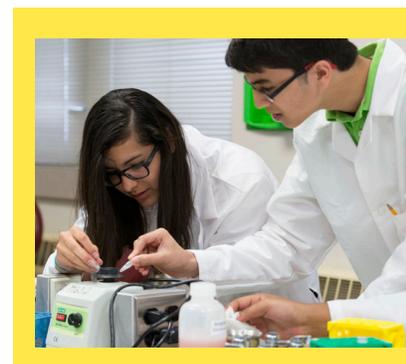
Now, it seems, the progression is coming full circle.

"My focus is discovering how I can bring everything I learned back to the students at MATC," Teber explained. "If I share that knowledge, students can go out and help transform the community."

"Tarek relates well with the students," said Schlipp. "He helps them 'see the big picture' and enjoy the experience."

Teber is a firm believer that MATC transformed his life because of the skills and the mentoring he received. He feels strongly about helping to transform others.

"I understand how to help others because I was a student here, and I know what students go through," Teber said. "They know I have worked in the industry and that I have been rewarded for going above and beyond."



Two BEST program students practice laboratory techniques.

MATC's first class of Promise program
students start this semester

The Promise of Fall



Many students began their college education this fall with help from the MATC Promise. Launched in 2015, the transformative Promise program will pay tuition and fees, after federal and state financial grant aid has been applied, for eligible 2016 high school graduates to attend four consecutive semesters at MATC.

The eligibility criteria included being an on-time Class of 2016 graduate, earning a 2.0 grade-point average or higher, earning a composite ACT score of 16 or higher, and recording at least a 90% attendance rate during the senior year of high school.

While continuing their education at MATC as full-time students, they must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average and complete a minimum eight hours of engaged service-learning projects each semester. They will be required to participate in academic success and career planning workshops and will be offered assistance with internships and job placement services.

MATC currently has 576 employees volunteering to serve as Promise mentors and helping students on their paths to success.

Through the generosity of donors and foundations, fundraising for the MATC Promise has surpassed the \$1 million mark.

In April, MATC announced that high school students who will graduate in 2017 and 2018 are eligible to apply for the Promise program.



**NEARLY
3,000
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS**
APPLIED FOR THE PROMISE
PROGRAM IN 2015

576
MATC EMPLOYEES SERVING
AS PROMISE MENTORS

\$1,000,000
FUNDRAISING
GOAL FOR MATC PROMISE HAS BEEN SURPASSED



Dr. Mohammad Dakwar, MATC provost, discusses college success tips with Promise program applicants.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
MATC PROMISE:
matc.edu/promise**



Instructor
Cultivates
Community Partner



Partnerships

“

Over the years, more than \$100,000 of tree work was done without charge.”

MIKE WENDT, MATC's Landscape Horticulture Department Instructional Chair

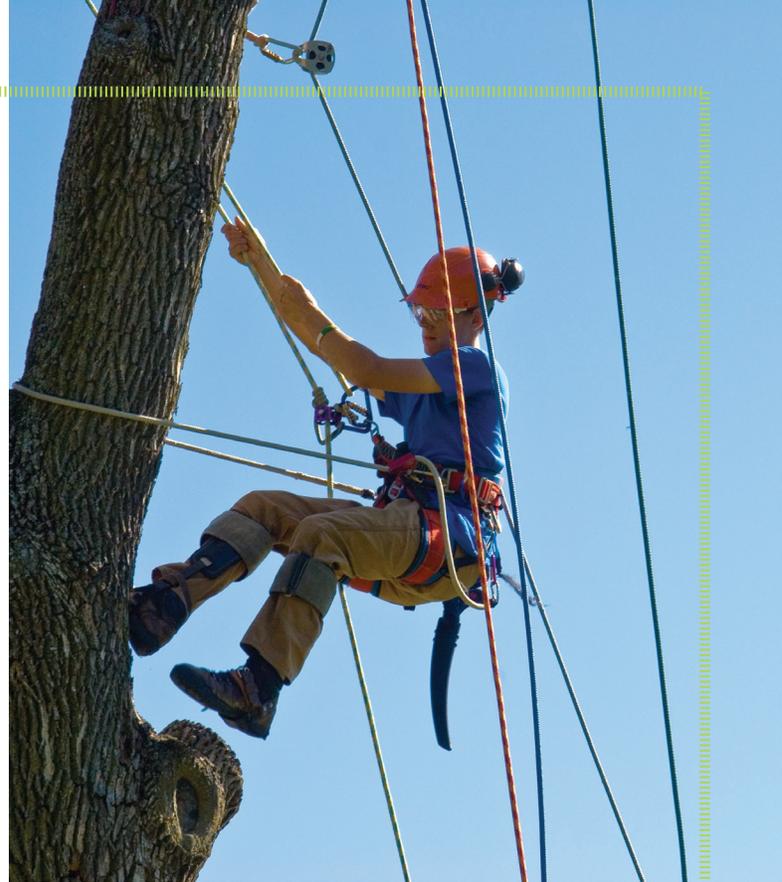
At the Fondy Farmers Market in Milwaukee, you can find enticing peaches harvested from local, small orchards. In spring, the orchard's blossoms brighten the Lindsay Heights neighborhood on the city's near north side. The trees are cared for by individuals committed to turning this neighborhood away from the crime that, in the past, often kept the residents indoors.

Mike Wendt, MATC's Landscape Horticulture department instructional chair, has helped tend these trees. "About four years ago, I volunteered to offer pruning advice and have consulted on-site about tree care and horticulture," he explained. "I gave a pruning seminar for residents who had small orchards or were planning to plant one."

Through the collaboration with Wendt, employees of Blue Skies Landscaping, which is associated with the neighborhood's nonprofit Walnut Way Conservation Corp., became interested in taking MATC's horticulture courses to expand and develop their skills. Blue Skies is an initiative to advance urban environmental sustainability, as well as provide employment pathways.

In January 2016, Dr. Wilma Bonaparte, Mequon Campus vice president, and Wendt met with employees to describe the college's horticulture programs. Soon after, a team from the college's Student Services department provided a registration session at Walnut Way to enroll students in Spring semester courses.

Three of the employees attended the landscape construction course taught by Joe Dietz. "Some projects we worked on included installing permeable pavers, rain garden maintenance and rainwater harvesting. The Blue Skies students said that, through the class, they learned additional solutions for their work projects," Dietz said.



Hands-on learning is a vital component of MATC's Landscape Horticulture associate degree program in the School of Technology and Applied Sciences. The coursework prepares students for a range of employment opportunities; students select from three emphasis areas: Design, Landscape Construction, and Landscape Maintenance and Arboriculture. The college also offers five certificates in horticulture and tree care. The grounds of the Mequon Campus provide many learning resources, such as its recently constructed greenhouses.

Since 1997, Wendt, a certified master arborist, also has led his students in providing tree care on public sites and at nonprofit organizations throughout the college's district. This work helped foster students' skills and also benefited the community. "Over the years, more than \$100,000 of tree work was done without charge," estimated Wendt. Citing this community work and Wendt's leadership in arboriculture education, the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council presented him with the Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

MATC's unique community partnerships related to its horticulture programs both bolster career opportunities and beautify neighborhoods. Like nature's transformations from seed to tree to fruit, they continue to evolve.

(Above) Tree-climbing skills are taught in MATC's arboriculture courses. New greenhouses (left) on the Mequon Campus provide hands-on learning opportunities.

For more information about the Landscape Horticulture associate degree:
www.matc.edu/tas

Arborist Apprenticeship Program Is First in U.S.

An innovative arboriculture program will bring apprentices to the MATC Mequon Campus this fall. Announced in March 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) described the Arborist Registered Apprenticeship program as “the first of its kind in the nation” because it adds plant health care to the tree care duties.

The apprenticeship was created in response to employer demand. “Working closely with industry leaders to develop and offer

standardized training will be important for future professionals in this fast-growing career,” said Dorothy Walker, interim dean of MATC’s School of Technology and Applied Sciences.

The program combines on-the-job learning with related classroom instruction and is offered in collaboration with Mid-State Technical College. For apprentices in the district, the required classroom instruction will be provided at MATC’s Mequon Campus. The first

courses, planned to begin in October, tie into the International Society of Arboriculture certification requirements. The apprenticeship program will take three and a half years to complete.

Apprentices are paid by their sponsoring employers. The DWD provides additional information about the Arborist Registered Apprenticeship program at www.WisconsinApprenticeship.org.



Mike Wendt explains the classroom instruction related to the Arborist Registered Apprenticeship at an informational meeting held July 21 at MATC’s Mequon Campus.

See what it’s like to be an arborist:
<http://tinyurl.com/MATCarboristvideo>

Perseverance Rewards MATC Adult High School Graduate

We are all familiar with the old adage, “If at first you don’t

succeed; TRY, TRY AGAIN.”

But what happens to those who try, and try again, and still don’t succeed? If you are Danny Gonzalez, you try once more. Then you succeed by achieving things beyond your wildest expectations.

In May 2016, Gonzalez received MATC’s Outstanding Adult High School Graduate Award. To earn an accolade like that is an impressive accomplishment. To obtain it the way he did is inspirational.

Gonzalez’s path to this honor begins in 2000. He was 14 years old and

a high school freshman when his mother died of cancer. Gonzalez grew up as the middle child in a family of nine children. He felt sure about what he had to do.

“I knew I had to find a job to support myself,” he said. “My father was busy working, doing his best to support all his children. Plus, he had just lost his wife. So I took it upon myself to drop out of high school and look for a job.”

Although Gonzalez soon found work at a laundromat, he knew it was not what he wanted to do on a long-term basis. He changed jobs frequently, looking for what would challenge him and pay a good wage. In 2005, he was hired at Patrick Cudahy in Cudahy.

“I got hired without a high school diploma, which is a blessing.”

Gonzalez stated. “I was surprised that I got the position, but they were willing to give me a try.”

He worked on the production line for three months. Upon learning he had been studying independently to become an accounting clerk, a supervisor asked if he would be interested in an accounting clerk job with the company. Gonzalez accepted the offer and has been working that position ever since.

He soon realized, however, that the various manager positions he was most interested in at the

company would never be obtainable without a high school diploma.

In 2010, Gonzalez made up his mind to earn his high school diploma through the School of Pre-College Education’s Adult High School program at MATC. Just before he enrolled, one of his older sisters was killed in a car accident. Brokenhearted, Gonzalez resumed his work at Patrick Cudahy and dealt with the grief of losing a sibling. He again shelved his goal of earning a high school diploma.

“The story Danny Gonzalez lived is too common and mirrors what so many of our students experience, because in many cases, life happens,” said Dr. Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas, former dean of MATC’s School of Pre-College Education, who retired in July. “When life happens, and you really are devastated by an event, it totally changes what you had anticipated would be your pathway. In many cases, that pathway would be the one needed to complete one’s high school education.”

Oftentimes individuals will find unfulfilling employment with jobs that are never going to pay a family-supporting wage. “Most figure out that a high school diploma is really their ticket to all of the dreams and goals they set for themselves,” Dr. Pitchford-Nicholas added. “The whole ticket to the rest of their lives is in completing and receiving that high school diploma. They become more marketable and employable.”



As an Outstanding Graduate Award recipient, Danny Gonzalez (right) sat on the stage during MATC’s commencement ceremony.



I had been trying to get my high school diploma for a very long time, but there was always something there to interrupt my plan. This time, I knew I was going to give it all I had.”

DANNY GONZALEZ, MATC Adult High School Graduate

This was true for Gonzalez. In 2014, he decided it was time to “make a stand.”

“I had been trying to get my high school diploma for a very long time, but there was always something there to interrupt my plan,” Gonzalez stated. “This time, I knew I was going to give it all I had.”

He enrolled in MATC’s Adult High School program and took classes at night and online while still working full time at Patrick Cudahy.

“It was super hard. Many times I felt like I was not going to be able to do this,” Gonzalez said. “I would work a full day. I would go home and do my homework and there were nights I did not even sleep. Sometimes I would get one or two hours, tops. But I told myself giving up was not an option and I just kept going and believed that God will help me get through this.”

The hard work began to pay off.

His first grade report recorded a grade-point average of 3.5. Gonzalez used that as motivation and constantly strove for, and achieved, GPAs above 3.0 in every term. Gonzalez had just about reached

his goal when he received an email.

“When I first read the email, I believed I was selected for the honors academic program,” he said. “That would have been fine with me.”

When Gonzalez called to confirm the email message, he was informed he was selected to be the Outstanding Adult High School Graduate at the May commencement. “There were 45 candidates and I was the one that was chosen,” he explained. “I was excited. My wife and daughter and friends were all excited too. With that award, I was motivated to go to college. I figured, if I can do that, I can do anything.”

Gonzalez plans to enroll in the Business Management associate degree program at MATC in 2017. With his full-time job, he understands that he will again encounter many of the same challenges he faced earning his high school diploma. “Now that I have been through getting my high school diploma here, I know what to expect and I am not scared,” Gonzalez said. “I already know how it is and I already know what I am going to get out of it.”



Dr. Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas presented the Outstanding Adult High School Graduate Award to Danny Gonzalez in May.

Gonzalez will be the first of his family to attend college. He speaks often with his nieces and nephews and encourages them to stay in school. He tells them that if they think it is hard now, just try to make it without a high school diploma. His words keep them motivated; his story has helped transform their lives.

Going for it once, then again, and reaching the end on the third attempt was not easy for Gonzalez. But things worth doing seldom are. He is proof of the philosophy that he relied on throughout his educational journey: “No matter how far off you think you are, you can always turn things around.”



Learn more about the School of Pre-College Education’s Adult High School program:
www.matc.edu/student/offerings/precollege/

The Ambassador of Transformation:

Student Develops Inner Strength



*One of the things
you need to make it in this
world is confidence. I got it
here when I connected with
the counselors and instructors
who helped me come out of the
depressing zone and into my
own comfortable zone."*

INDERJIT KAUR, MATC's State Ambassador



ALBERT
SCHWEITZER,
A 20TH
CENTURY
PHILOSOPHER,
ONCE SAID,

“One who gains strength by overcoming obstacles, possesses the only strength which can overcome adversity.”

Inderjit Kaur knows adversity. She gained immense inner strength by overcoming difficult circumstances. Getting beyond those challenges helped to transform her life.

As a teenager living in Punjab, India, Kaur experienced a tragic loss. She was 15 years old when her mother passed away suddenly.

“Losing my mother was one of the biggest shocks to me ever,” Kaur said. “My parents had actually pampered me because I am the youngest one in my family. Until I was 15, I had never suffered anything. After my mother passed away, I could not really handle myself.”

The trauma of her mother’s passing led to a struggle in Kaur’s life that turned her spirit into something unfamiliar to her family and friends.

“I was depressed. I wanted to stay alone. I did not want to talk to anyone, literally,” Kaur explained. “I wanted to stay in my own zone. My family was trying to get in, to figure out what’s going on. I just did not let them in.”

At one time a top-performing student, Kaur found herself failing in her academics. Her grades dropped significantly; she missed many days of school. She was not eating or taking care of herself. The downward spiral showed little signs of improving.

WHAT IS A STATE AMBASSADOR?

The state ambassador program is coordinated by the Wisconsin Technical College System. All 16 technical colleges have a state ambassador and each one has their own duties as defined by their college. In addition to recognizing and rewarding students for academic excellence, professionalism and leadership qualities, the state ambassador program develops greater public awareness of the technical college system through interaction with leaders of businesses and community organizations.

To become a state ambassador, Wisconsin technical college students submit an application and an essay.



Dr. Trevor Kubatzke, MATC vice president of Student Services, congratulates Inderjit Kaur.

Inderjit Kaur will be the MATC state ambassador for the 2016-17 academic year. Primarily she will be speaking at the college's Phi Theta Kappa, National Technical Honor Society and the Academic Honor Recognition events. She will share her story and describe her experiences at MATC.

Students interested in learning more about the state ambassador position should visit www.matc.edu/student/studentlife/ or contact Jody Burdick at burdickj@matc.edu.

In 2012, she moved to the United States with her family. As a high school senior in Lansing, Mich., things began to change for the positive with the assistance of her school guidance counselor. "She helped me in school to pass classes," Kaur said. "She was there to listen to me and support me to do well. She put me in the online schooling instead of in person. I completed 11 grades in India and just one grade here. That one grade, to be honest, took me about two years."

Getting through high school was an important first obstacle to be conquered. But it led to other challenges, including deciding what her next step should be.

"I was not sure if I wanted to go to college, exactly," Kaur stated. "If I did go, I wondered what would be my career. I had no idea about that. I still preferred to be in my own zone."

That summer, Kaur's sister got married in Milwaukee. Her new brother-in-law suggested she attend MATC. He had attended English classes at the Oak Creek Campus, and believed that the energy of the college and the courses it offered would be good for Kaur.

She enrolled in MATC's Business Management associate degree program in August 2014, but some of the insecurities she felt in high school were still intact.

"I did not talk to anyone in the building my whole first semester," Kaur noted. "But I did observe. I observed everyone. They knew I was new to the whole scenario and they just let me be in my zone. Many people tried to talk to me so that I could begin to get engaged with them, and that worked in my favor. The small class sizes at MATC also worked for me."

Then the transformation began to take hold.

"In the first semester, I was sitting quietly in the corner," Kaur said. "By next semester, I was raising my hand and saying, 'I want to answer.' So that was a huge change for me because up until then, I did not have the courage."

But something else that MATC offers its students interested her and further ignited her transformation.

"I love to be part of clubs and organizations," she said. "By getting involved in Student Government, I got to know Ernesto Gonzalez. He had received an outstanding graduate award. I admired that. When I went on the MATC website, I learned about becoming a state ambassador."

Kaur applied in February 2016 and learned she was selected to be the MATC state ambassador in April. She is excited to be representing MATC and advocating for technical colleges and their students.

"We are all excited to have Inderjit as the college's state ambassador," said Jody Burdick, transcription technician in the MATC Office of Student Life. "Her essay explained how she would represent MATC in the best of all ways. She is one of a kind because of her community service, the organizations she belongs to, her involvement in the college and, mostly, because she is willing to step up and do whatever is asked of her in terms of helping out students."

In addition to the rewards of participating in student organizations, there was one other change that Kaur experienced along the way.

"Besides learning, one thing I love is helping my peers in my classes," she explained. "Since last year, I have been studying accounting with one of my classmates. She told me she did not know if she would pass the class. She earned a B. We studied together and I was very proud of her. I also help students with math and computers."

As a student, as a state ambassador and as an individual, Kaur has taken each challenge in her life and used it as an opportunity for self-transformation. No longer the young woman who wanted to remain alone in her shell, Kaur is now sharing the knowledge she gained to help others achieve a transformation of their own.

"One of the things you need to make it in this world is confidence. I got it here when I connected with the counselors and instructors who helped me come out of the depressing zone and into my own comfortable zone," Kaur said. "Now I don't want to be alone any more – I want to be the influencer. I love it that people say I am inspiring them. I could not have done that if I didn't choose MATC. I have confidence, but I want to make sure I have it in a good and positive manner."



“The President believes that community college can be a path to greater opportunity ... We’re also inspired by the example MATC is setting,” said Dr. John B. King Jr., U.S. Secretary of Education, (left) in reference to the MATC Promise program. The remarks were made during his speech at the college’s spring commencement held May 13.

Good work gets noticed. Dr. King’s selection of MATC as the first two-year college graduation he addressed after being named secretary is one example.



MATC Attracts National Attention

Between March and June 2016, the Downtown Milwaukee Campus was visited by several nationally prominent guests, including two members of President Obama’s cabinet, Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. and Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez; Tavis Smiley, the host of a national PBS talk show; and Bryan Stevenson, a best-selling author named to *Time* magazine’s list of 100 most influential people.



On June 2, MATC President Dr. Vicki J. Martin (far right) welcomed U.S. Representative Gwen Moore, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and Secretary Perez (above, left to right). A roundtable discussion led by Dr. Martin, which included legislators, local business leaders and MATC apprentice graduates, focused on the importance of apprenticeship programs.



Bryan Stevenson, a social justice activist and the author of “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption,” spoke to a near-capacity crowd in Cooley Auditorium on March 9. The event, sponsored by MATC and the YWCA Southeast Wisconsin, included a panel discussion to present local perspectives on the issues he addressed, such as poverty and current incarceration rates.



Also seeking to inspire solutions for the country’s challenges, Tavis Smiley presented a “One Great Idea Tour” on his talk show in April. Smiley selected Milwaukee as one of five tour stops. Coordinated through Milwaukee Public Television and taped April 19 in Cooley Auditorium, Smiley (right) interviewed (left to right) MATC alumni El-Amin Abdullah and Kristin Gies, and Dr. Martin for a discussion about technical college education, its role in building bridges out of poverty and the MATC Promise.



Transforming the Community Through Partnerships

These examples of national recognition indicate that MATC is building a reputation as the premier technical college, not only in the region, but also around the country. Two federal grant programs announced this summer present additional opportunities to work with community partners and prepare individuals for family-sustaining careers:

MATC is one of 67 colleges/universities in the nation selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's new Second Chance Pell Pilot Program. The program, announced June 24, will allow eligible incarcerated individuals to receive Pell grants and pursue postsecondary education with the goal of helping them attain jobs when they are released.

On June 27, Employ Milwaukee (the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board) received a \$4 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to launch programs to develop talent for technology-related occupations. MATC will be an education and training partner. Classes will be offered at the newly opened TechForce Training Center.



MATC has been a vital community partner for more than 100 years.



Dr. Martin (third from right) and other community leaders participate in the May 24 digital ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Milwaukee TechForce Training Center, 1916 North Fourth Street.

Stay current with MATC news

To keep you informed about college activities, MATC posts its media releases and links to media coverage on www.matc.edu/matc-news/

The information is updated frequently and is a great resource for reading more about events on campus.

The Communications and Events department also invites you to see the online gallery of photos at <http://marketing.matc.edu/web/photos/>

We serve those who served their country

The Military Education Support Office (MESO) supports and guides the educational success of all student veterans enrolled at MATC.

MESO provides educational services, career counseling, program advising and retention services. MESO also connects

student veterans and members of military families with federal and state resources, services and organizations.

They were there when their country needed them; MESO is there for them now.



For more information on MESO and the services offered:
414-297-8363 | Wisconsin Relay System 711 | meso@matc.edu





 **MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College***
Transforming Lives, Industry & Community

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

-  facebook.com/MilwAreaTechCollege
-  instagram.com/discovermatc
-  snapchat.com/add/Discover_matc
-  twitter.com/discoverMATC
-  youtube.com/user/InsideMATC
-  linkedin.com/edu/milwaukee-area-technical-college-20155

For more information:
matc.edu
414-297-MATC
Wisconsin Relay System 711

Downtown Milwaukee Campus
700 West State Street

Mequon Campus
5555 West Highland Road

Oak Creek Campus
6665 South Howell Avenue

West Allis Campus
1200 South 71st Street

