

Transformations



Healthcare Heroes

Responding to COVID-19

Key Roles for IT Alumni During Pandemic

MATC DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-21

CHAIRPERSON

Mark F. Foley - *Attorney, von Briesen & Roper s.c.*

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Lisa Olson - *Superintendent, Whitnall School District*

TREASURER

Kahri Phelps Okoro - *Operations Manager, Equity Supply Group*

SECRETARY

Citlali Mendieta-Ramos - *Owner/Special Events Director, Antigua Latin Restaurant LLC*

DIRECTORS

Erica L. Case - *Director HR Business Services - Wisconsin Operations, Harley-Davidson Motor Company*

Ashanti Hamilton - *City of Milwaukee Alderman, 1st District*

David Mitchell - *President, Lift Products Inc.*

Nikki Moews - *Human Resources Director, Pioneer Transformers/ Pioneer Power Solutions Inc.*

Ann Wilson - *Manager, Hillside Family Resource Center*

MISSION

Education that transforms lives, industry and community

VISION

The best choice in education, where everyone can succeed

VALUES

Empowerment: We support our students and employees with the skills, tools and autonomy to succeed

Inclusion: We provide a fair and welcoming environment where all voices are heard and where all students and employees feel a sense of belonging

Innovation: We are agile and responsive to changing conditions, while anticipating future needs to best serve our students and communities

Integrity: We demonstrate honesty, professionalism and accountability in all interactions with our students, each other and our community partners

Respect: We approach all interactions with openness and empathy, value different perspectives, and treat each other with civility and kindness

Dr. Vicki J. Martin is the 10th president of MATC. She has served in higher education for nearly four decades, at MATC for three decades and has led the college since 2014. In 2015, Dr. Martin launched the MATC Promise, a public-private partnership that provides free tuition for eligible new high school graduates, and in 2018, she announced the MATC Promise for Adults, which provides free tuition for eligible students to finish their degree. Dr. Martin has attracted growing private-sector and foundation support to the MATC Foundation, serves on the steering committee 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.





MATC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-21

PRESIDENT

Julie Ebert - *Retired Partner, Quarles & Brady LLP*

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Eugene A. Gilchrist - *CEO, Stay Clean*

TREASURER AND IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Nelson, CFA - *Vice President, CTC / myCFO Consulting*

SECRETARY

David B. Bishop - *Director, Service Operations, Johnson Controls Inc.*

DIRECTOR

Jamie Berger - *Owner, The Box*

DIRECTOR

Kevin A. Joy - *Senior Vice President, Callan LLC*

DIRECTOR

Susan Lubar - *Founder and President, Growing Minds Inc.*

DIRECTOR

Tracy Luber - *Regional Economic Development Director, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation*

DIRECTOR

Matthew Partridge - *Vice President of Finance, Ambulatory and Ancillary Services, Froedtert Health*

DIRECTOR

Angela Rester - *Principal, Rester & Associates*

DIRECTOR

Anthony D. Smith - *Director of Community Engagement and Inclusion, Marcus Performing Arts Center*

DIRECTOR

Michael Stull - *Senior Vice President, Manpower, North America*

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR

Dr. Vicki J. Martin - *President, Milwaukee Area Technical College*

MATC DISTRICT BOARD LIAISON

David Mitchell - *President, Lift Products Inc.*

The MATC Foundation 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

414-297-6365

700 West State Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1443

matc.edu



1

On the Cover:

MATC alumna Nou Thao traveled to COVID-19 hot spot Newark, New Jersey, and believes she contracted the virus. Story on page 12.



12

MATC Healthcare Heroes



18

Alumna's Child Care Center Aids Essential Workers



8

Response to COVID-19 Focuses on Adaptability and Commitment to Students and Community



16

IT Alumni Keep Networks Reliable During Pandemic



20

New 'Pathways' Point Students to Success

7

Letter From the President



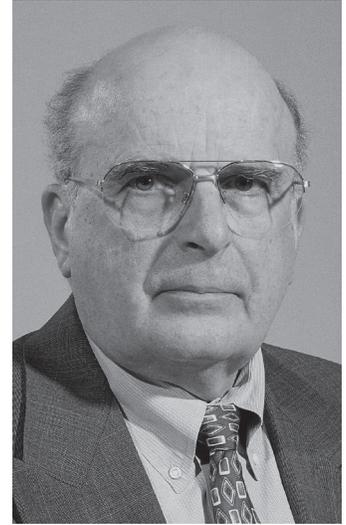
24

Alumnus Gives Back With 'Recipe for Sobriety'



28

Highlights



34

In Memoriam



32

Alumni Accolades

26

No. 1 Ranked Team Scores On and Off the Court

22

MATC and Legislature Remove Barriers to Meet the State's Need for Funeral Directors

Contents



Letter From the President

This is an academic year unlike any in our lifetimes, presenting both remarkable opportunities and profound challenges. At MATC, we have responded by ensuring health and safety is our first priority while continuing to provide career-focused education that connects students with family-sustaining wages and provides the talent pipeline our community urgently needs.

To maintain a safe learning environment, about 60% of our classes are fully online. Another 20% are fully in person, 10% offer a mix of online and in-person instruction, and the remainder are off-site courses such as apprenticeships and clinical experiences.

MATC also has implemented rigorous COVID-19 safety protocols and a contact investigation procedure. Classrooms, labs and offices were evaluated to ensure social distancing. (You can read more about our response to the pandemic on page 8).

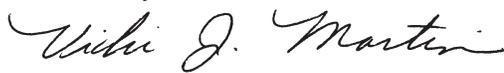
Things may look different, but we remain steadfast in our dedication to transforming lives, industry and community. MATC is continuing to implement the nationally recognized Guided Pathways framework to help more students graduate and achieve their dreams (read more on page 20). MATC's focus on advancing equity is the central reason for adopting this model to bring needed systems change throughout the college.

What makes MATC critical to the success of our community remains our focus. Our classes are still led by industry-expert instructors. Tuition is affordable and even free for eligible MATC Promise students. And our graduates are still ready to enter the workforce on day one, transfer to a four-year institution, or do both.

This edition of *Transformations* presents the remarkable achievements of our alumni. Mike Christman, an MATC graduate and an MATC instructor, and alumna Nou Thao selflessly traveled to early COVID-19 hot spots on the East Coast to put their respiratory therapy knowledge into practice (see page 12). Early Childhood Education graduate Carmen Hernandez helped meet the critical need to care for the children of essential workers (see page 18). Sinisa Derikonja, an IT graduate, is now keeping online systems going for a large, local K-12 district (see page 16).

As we implement the Pathways framework for all students, we will have more stories of student success to share. As our region and the world adapt to the realities of COVID-19, our graduates will be ready to succeed.

Sincerely,



Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D.
MATC President



To apply to MATC, visit matc.edu/apply



Response to COVID-19 Focuses on Adaptability and Commitment to Students and Community

As COVID-19 spread across the globe, MATC faculty and students have been forced to re-examine how they teach and learn.

The college community adjusted to offering primarily online instruction within a matter of weeks. For each student, instructor, dean or staff member, this transition looked a little different.

One thing remains unwavering – MATC’s strong commitment to its students’ success.

Commitment to adaptability

As dean of online learning, Dr. Pam Holt’s job is to help determine best practices related to online coursework. When the pandemic started, Dr. Holt and her team worked urgently to ensure that faculty and students were fully supported when nearly 1,750 sections moved from on-campus to remote instruction.

Critical to online student success is instructor proficiency with the digital platforms, so faculty and staff received training to help foster a smooth transition.

While the majority of the classes could be fully transitioned, some that required hands-on learning had a limited transition to the online environment. “Labs, practicals for health sciences, emergency medical services and police training are some examples,” Dr. Holt noted.

For instructors and students whose courses required in-person labs, the key focus was remaining creative and flexible. Dina Borysenko, a biochemistry instructor, helped facilitate “kitchen labs” for her courses. “I’m doing as much as I can to make it a biochemistry learning experience for them at home. We had isolation of DNA from a strawberry, and the students really liked it,” she said.



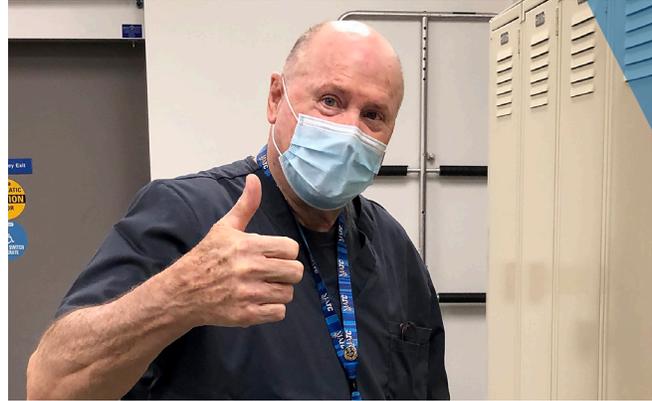
Dr. Pam Holt, Dean of Online Learning at MATC

“Everybody seems to be kind and patient while trying to get through this together. I’ve felt so much unity in my relationships with the faculty and fellow students.”

MATC student Leesa McGhee



MATC instructor Sue Silverstein, shown right, with welding students at the Oak Creek Campus in May 2020



Ralph Haas, MATC part-time embalming and restorative art lab instructor, wears mask while teaching at the West Allis Campus

Eugene Reyes is the director of the police academy at MATC’s Oak Creek Campus. In week eight of the 18-week training, his recruit officer candidates shifted to online courses, such as completing soft-skills training requirements related to domestic violence and sexual assault police work, and constitutional law.

On May 18, the academy restarted face-to-face training, becoming MATC’s first course to resume in a physical capacity. As an essential service, the training met the requirements of Wisconsin’s Safer at Home order. The academy accomplished this by adhering to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Every morning, the students and the staff would get a temperature check using the infrared monitor, as well as being issued masks, gloves and eye protection,” Reyes said. “Instructors made time in their coursework to decontaminate everything after using the equipment.”

Although the shift was unexpected, Reyes has full confidence that the officer recruits will be as well trained as previous cohorts. “They are ready for the real world,” he said. “In regards to the materials, content and instruction, I am 100% confident that they’re going to do just fine.”



MATC installed automatic temperature screening stations

Apprenticeship instructors also found new ways to continue their programs virtually by blending online assignments. “The apprentices are definitely eager to get back to the face-to-face instruction,” said David Polk, director of apprenticeships. “Both the employers and apprentices have been very understanding of the situation and have made the most of the blended learning format.”

Real-world learning and mentoring remained the focus of virtual summer internships for 10 MATC students chosen to join the Milwaukee program, The Commons. During their 10-week paid internships, students helped develop projects with an entrepreneurial theme and technology component, collaborating online with participants from other colleges and universities.

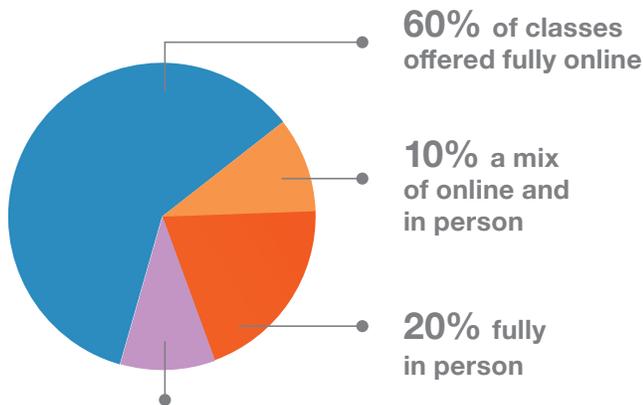


Academic & Career Pathways
MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College*

Commitment to educational success

MATC recently introduced Academic & Career Pathways as a new structure to help more students graduate and connect to a career, a four-year degree or both. Student support is a critical element of the Pathways framework. (See related story on page 20.)

For Fall 2020



Remaining 10% are clinical or apprenticeship-type courses offered off campus, and in person or online depending on need

Pam Schoessling regularly connects with students in her role as manager of Pathways retention coaching, and those communications became more frequent during the pandemic. She and her team “worked with the students by calling them and listening to their stories and the pains of what they were going through,” she said.

When the college announced that in-person classes would be suspended, students who were in the routine of going to campus suddenly had to figure out ways to complete assignments at home. For some, this was no easy task.

“It was a mix of people not having the technology or not having computers,” Schoessling explained.

Commitment to resources – Chromebooks

Donors such as Herb Kohl Philanthropies stepped up with additional support. The MATC Foundation increased the number of students served through emergency grants and technology assistance by nearly 350% compared to the prior academic year. During the crisis, MATC announced it would distribute Chromebook computers to students who needed them to continue their coursework online, at no cost to the student. Leesa McGhee was a student who received one.

“I was offered a Chromebook to help with the transition to online-only classes because I didn’t have the technology. Otherwise I wasn’t going to be able to finish,” she said.

McGhee was just getting comfortable with the routine of being in school after a 30-year hiatus. Before the COVID-19



outbreak, she had a 4.0 grade-point average and was worried that the transition would affect the hard work she had put into her studies.

“The Chromebook has helped me tremendously,” said McGhee. “I feel really good about everything. Everybody seems to be kind and patient while trying to get through this together. I’ve felt so much unity in my relationships with the faculty and fellow students.”

In June, the college offered free Wi-Fi in several campus parking lots so that students could complete coursework in their vehicles. The college also offered IT Helpdesk live chats for assistance with any technology-related questions.

Commitment to relationships

MATC faculty found ways to connect authentically in an online environment. Marianne Bovee, a philosophy and ethics instructor, made sure that her relationships with students remained as close to intact as possible.

For some of her classes, the retention rate – the number of students who complete a course – improved during the crisis.



MATC is distributing Chromebook laptop computers to students who need them to continue their coursework online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bovee believes the increase is because she gave students her cellphone number, something she had not done before.

“Because of the crisis, there’s been more of a concern for others’ lives in a fundamental way,” she said. “Giving out my number helped to have that connection to my students through this pandemic.”

To further build student relationships through class discussions, Bovee used a feature of the learning management tool Blackboard that allowed students to phone in and participate if they did not have computer access at the time. She also recorded the classes so students could access them later.

One student, Nicholas Gill, identifies himself as a hands-on learner but said his experience with the transition, particularly in Bovee’s class, helped him succeed. “I think

she actually did take the best steps in making sure that we had the best experience,” said Gill. “She had live time for questions and to go over the material as if we were in the class. It definitely helped a lot.”

Commitment to the future

“I think that this whole experience has helped instructors with being able to navigate online, which I think is important to meet more students’ needs,” said Bovee. “Necessity is the mother of invention. Sometimes when you’re forced to do something, then you’re going to be able to utilize those skills you learned to make a better future.”

Through the lessons learned from the Spring 2020 semester MATC students, instructors and administrators have a strong framework for responding to changing needs and opportunities in the Fall and future semesters.

To help students during the COVID-19 crisis, visit matc.edu/donate and support the Dreamkeepers Student Emergency Fund

MATC Healthcare Heroes: Respiratory Therapist Instructor and Alumna Answer Calls to Help in Early COVID-19 Hot Spot



Alumnus and current Respiratory Therapist instructor Mike Christman who volunteered at a New York City hospital

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s televised plea in April 2020 begging medical professionals to join New York’s fight against COVID-19 haunted MATC Respiratory Therapist alumnus and instructor Mike Christman. The city and state of New York were under siege and exhausted staff could not care for the flood of patients.

“I’d never seen anything like that before,” he said. “I knew I could help.”

His wife and children urged him to follow his heart. MATC’s Healthcare Pathway Dean Kelly J. Dries, Ph.D., agreed to his request to leave the state if he would continue teaching his MATC courses, which had been moved online because of the pandemic. Christman left the comparative safety of Wisconsin in April to work full time with patients in the intensive care unit at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn.



He arrived at the height of New York’s crisis, ready to use his respiratory therapy skills to help those struggling to breathe. He intubated patients and cared for others already on ventilators or other types of breathing apparatus. Everything seemed to be an uphill battle at the underfunded facility. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was scarce, and ventilators were old and frequently malfunctioned. English was not the first language of most of the physicians, causing communication barriers. Staff in charge of PPE distribution had to be convinced nearly every day that respiratory therapists needed their share of the precious commodity.

Overwhelming and exhausting experience

Wearing the same PPE for 12-hour shifts was a new and overwhelming experience.

“Usually, a respiratory therapist would only wear that much PPE when working with patients who had tuberculosis,” Christman explained. Medical personnel typically wear PPE for 10 to 15 minutes while working with a patient, then remove it and move on to the next patient.

“Wearing PPE all day was exhausting,” he said. “I was sweaty and drained by the end of every shift.”

100%
**OF MATC RESPIRATORY
THERAPIST GRADUATES
WERE EMPLOYED WITHIN SIX
MONTHS OF GRADUATION**

*Source: 2018 MATC
Graduate Career Report*





Working with so many intubated patients was the worst of it, because he knew it was nearly impossible that they would survive. He assisted with countless “codes,” the all-hands-on-deck attempts to save dying patients. They rarely worked. Christman only saw a couple of patients successfully removed from ventilators in the month he worked in Brooklyn.

He was particularly stricken by the loss of young people. “Two men in their 20s came into the ICU walking, talking, alert and oriented,” he said. The virus overtook them rapidly and each died within hours.

MATC grad says she contracted virus while working in New Jersey hospital

Nou Thao, a 2019 Respiratory Therapist graduate, traveled to Newark, New Jersey, in April. She was caring for patients at East Orange General Hospital when she contracted COVID-19. When Thao arrived at her assignment, she expected to be provided with extensive PPE. That wasn’t the case. She learned she could purchase her own respirator mask and Tyvek suit to cover her body, but had to work the first few days with only an ill-fitting mask and gloves while waiting for her specialized equipment.

Thao thinks she contracted COVID-19 due to the lack of proper PPE during those first few days. Following her fifth shift, she collapsed in the elevator of her hotel, later crawling to her room. Numb all over, Thao could not move her fingers to dial her cellphone. She eventually managed to knock the hotel phone off the hook to ask the front desk to call an ambulance.

Thao’s COVID test came back negative, but she believes that many tests are not being administered correctly, leading to false negatives. She explained that some people giving the tests were poorly trained and others didn’t push the nasal



“It was wonderful to see someone you care for walk out and go home. It was very rare. It helps to know you were part of the team to help her get better.”

MATC alumna Nou Thao, respiratory therapist

swab in far enough, fearing it would cause patients to cough on them. Doctors treated her as if she had the virus. After being released from the hospital, she struggled for three hours trying to get an Uber or cab to take her back to her hotel. Eventually, a hospital staff member gave her a ride. “They were all so afraid of the virus,” she said.

Determined to fulfill her commitment

After quarantine, she returned to her work assignment. “Everyone called me crazy, but my job was not done,” Thao said. “I decided I’d go home to my family when they didn’t need me any more at the hospital. If I left to go home after I recovered from the virus, I’d feel I hadn’t done my job.”

Despite feeling overwhelmed by seeing so much death, she persevered.

“The patients were completely alone,” she said. “Most of them were barely alive. But you can get through to some of them. There was one woman whose husband had died of COVID. I prayed for her and she survived. It was wonderful to see someone you care for walk out and go home. It was very rare. It helps to know you were part of the team to help her get better.”

Christman and Thao returned to Wisconsin safely in May and June, respectively. Christman finished teaching his online classes with a great deal of help from other instructors in the program, he said. He believes his students have



MATC alumna Nou Thao, who contracted COVID-19 while caring for patients in Newark, New Jersey

already benefited by learning what it would be like to work in a pandemic and he will be able to share that with future students.

“I hope this helps them if this ever happens again, or if it continues,” he said.

Having seen the worst, both preach the importance of wearing masks, physical distancing and washing hands.

Thao, who continues to travel to multiple places across the country helping coronavirus patients, added a warning to anyone who believes they might have contracted COVID-19. “Listen to your body. If you know you aren’t feeling right, quarantine, regardless of a test result.”

To support the MATC Healthcare Heroes Fund to cover licensing exams, visit matc.edu/foundation/healthcare-heroes-fund.html

IT Alumni Keep Networks Reliable During Pandemic

GRADUATES HELP ENSURE CURRICULUM IS CURRENT

Who keeps Milwaukee networks functioning efficiently for remote workers and virtual classrooms? The answer may surprise you. MATC alumni are key. They play crucial roles as the hardworking, information technology (IT) professionals our community relies on every day.

This reliance is especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. IT experts work diligently to implement and maintain software and networks, and to ensure the uninterrupted digital experience needed by the many adults and children working and learning at home.

MATC's IT Network Specialist program chair and instructor Brian Kirsch knows firsthand what goes into managing networks from his experiences teaching and working in the field. The increased demand for IT services shifted his focus to preparing his students for expectations from employers.

Local IT professionals meet with the college's instructors and other employees each semester to discuss the curriculum and new technology for the IT networking

program. With MATC faculty and staff serving as resources, the professionals provide insight and guidance based on their real-world experience. This approach is replicated for all MATC academic programs through their Advisory Committees to ensure coursework prepares graduates to be job ready on day one.

Alumnus manages large IT network

One of Kirsch's students, Sinisa Derikonja, is now an IT manager responsible for a network infrastructure that serves about 7,000 users in the West Bend School District.

Derikonja, who graduated from MATC's computer networking program in 2014, routinely sees the importance of the topics covered in his coursework. On any given day, he could be juggling a broad range of IT projects simultaneously. One of the most valuable assets IT



MATC's IT Network Specialist program chair and instructor
Brian Kirsch

“We have to adapt quickly.”

MATC alumnus Sinisa Derikonja,
IT manager for West Bend School District

To learn more about IT programs and other programs in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) Pathway, visit matc.edu/course-catalog/stem

MATC SPOTLIGHT

Alumni Share Expertise

Alumni and other professionals in the IT field help shape MATC's curriculum. They are employed by local organizations such as:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
- CDW
- Children's Wisconsin
- Johnson Controls
- Northwestern Mutual
- TEKsystems

Source: MATC Advisory Committee members, April 2020



MATC alumnus Sinisa Derikonja, IT manager for West Bend School District

professionals manage is data from throughout their employer's organization.

"Right now, a significant challenge is cybersecurity. We always have to be concerned with data being compromised or released without our knowledge," said Derikonja.

With the surge of virtual meetings and distance learning, preparing future IT professionals with the latest skills remains essential.

"We have to adapt quickly," Derikonja said. "We must gear up for the future. Those unknowns are what keep us on our toes."



MATC alumnus Matthew Salzer is co-founder of Socialeads Inc., which won the Northwestern Mutual reverse-pitch competition in 2017. Socialeads leverages artificial intelligence to help salespeople learn more about customers.

\$50,000

**AVERAGE STARTING WAGE
FOR MATC'S IT NETWORK
SPECIALIST GRADUATES**

*Source: 2018 MATC
Graduate Career Report*

Alumna's Child Care Center Aids Essential Workers

When Carmen Hernandez started Precious Moments Family Child Care in Milwaukee 13 years ago, she never anticipated working under the circumstances placed by the coronavirus pandemic.

When Wisconsin's Safer at Home order required schools to close in spring but called for essential employees to continue business as usual, many parents were in a frenzy seeking child care.

Hernandez recalls the moment when the virus first reached her community as a moment of panic. "Nobody really knew what was happening. I didn't know. Parents didn't know. The whole community was in shambles," she said.

After the initial shock, she was able to recalibrate and assess the situation. More than ever, children with working parents needed to have reliable support.

"I went through all of the information that the state was sending to the daycare centers," said Hernandez. "Then I started sending out procedures. I wanted to make sure that my staff and I would not contract the virus."

MATC prepared Hernandez to serve and lead

Hernandez's passion for child care started when she looked after her son. She saw how vital extra support was for her son's development and decided she wanted to do the same for other children.

Soon after, she enrolled in MATC's Early Childhood Education program and received her associate degree. Since graduating, she also has earned five additional certifications to serve the children more effectively.

"I am very thankful for the preparation MATC gave me," said Hernandez. "They provided all of the curriculum content in Spanish, which is my primary language. The program also taught me socialization and the importance of networking."

Over the years, Hernandez has positioned herself as a leader in her community, especially among Latino family care providers. She currently serves as one of

the crucial voices of "Provedoras Unidas," which translates to "United Providers." This association of Hispanic family care providers in the Milwaukee area supports women working in the early childhood education field, and offers informational workshops to educate and provide quality services to families.

David Espinoza is a child development instructor at MATC who has been working in child care for more than 40 years.

"I met Carmen at MATC when she was taking classes," Espinoza said. "Since graduating, she has worked with many people in the child care profession. I feel as though she is the leader of the pack here in Milwaukee."

Responding to COVID-19

During the outbreak, Hernandez and her staff went through her facility and made modifications to keep the children as safe as possible. Some of the significant changes were adding daily cleaning checklists and new sanitization stations. Additionally, children's temperatures were taken before and after they left the facility.

"The biggest challenge that I see is the educational piece," said Hernandez. "We need to understand and follow the guidelines because otherwise, we are exposing ourselves and families unnecessarily." Hernandez plans to keep the routine she has created during the pandemic.

"No place was ready for this situation and so it took everyone by surprise," she said. "We must be prepared so that we can prevent things like this from happening. In order for this to work, we must have a clear understanding between the parents and the providers."



500

STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN MATC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COURSES, ON AVERAGE, EACH SEMESTER

Source: MATC Early Childhood Education Program

To learn more about MATC's bilingual programs, visit matc.edu/academics/bilingual-programs

“I am very thankful for the preparation MATC gave me. They provided all of the curriculum content in Spanish, which is my primary language.”

Alumna Carmen Hernandez,
Precious Moments Family Child Care owner



Father and son at MATC's Children's Center at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus. The college offers quality, affordable child care services at each campus.

MATC SPOTLIGHT



Toddler Room of the MATC Children's Center at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus

Bilingual Courses Offered for More Than 20 years

MATC's Early Childhood Education bilingual program provides Spanish-speaking members of the community the opportunity to prepare for this important career in their first language. Each course in this associate degree, and the related Child Care Services technical diploma and Preschool certificate, has a bilingual mode offered.

Several instructors for these courses are bilingual in Spanish and English; one instructor is bilingual in Hmong and English to meet the needs of Hmong students.

The students learn and improve their English-speaking skills through the program, which helps prepare them to continue their education at a four-year school, explained instructor David Espinoza. “There is always a need for bilingual courses. They are in demand, and MATC embraces the diversity of its students,” he said. “We make sure students get the support they need to be successful.”

MATC also provides customized workforce training on site, such as at child care centers and community-based organizations. For example, college instructors taught courses in a bilingual format at the United Community Center in Milwaukee to prepare employees for the UCC's Head Start program.

“There is more attention being given to the need for quality early childhood education and well-trained professionals,” said Espinoza. “Research has shown the importance of early education for young children. It prepares them for future success in school.”

New 'Pathways'

Point Students to Success

Their paths to MATC were different, but Andrea Hamer and Melissa Morris have this much in common: The college's new Academic & Career Pathways helped put them on a track toward success.

"You had assistance offered at every door," Hamer said of the model. "None of the doors were closed."

Compared to attending the college 25 years ago, the Pathways experience was an improvement.

"It was totally different then," she said. "You were really on your own."

Hamer first came to MATC in 1992 to create better career opportunities to support her family. But balancing her responsibilities without much support from the college posed a challenge.

"Between studying and fulfilling my duties as a wife and a mom, it was very difficult. I had to go to work so I had to make a choice," she said. "I chose to work."

While Hamer was away from the college, major changes were underway. Starting in the 2017-18 academic year, the MATC community came together and analyzed success rates. Together faculty, staff and administrators concluded: We can and we will do better for our students.

The Pathways model presented a clear way to do just that, based on the experience of other institutions across the nation. Georgia State University used the framework to increase graduation rates across all student groups and eliminate the gap in rates between white students and students of color.

Early results show similar success at its two-year partner Perimeter College.

At MATC, the approach meant:

- Declaring that most students who come to the college with a high school credential – a traditional diploma, GED or HSED – can be successful in college-level courses with the right support. As was the case at two-year colleges across the country, too many MATC students were spending semesters "swirling" in remedial coursework without seeing the possibility of college-level success.
- Replacing a high-stakes test – the Accuplacer – with a more holistic approach to determine the support students need.



Academic & Career Pathways

MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College*

- Reorganizing the college's 170-plus programs into seven new Academic & Career Pathways that share "gateway" courses so that students who choose a different program within their Pathway can maximize the credits they already earned. The Pathways are:
 - Business & Management
 - Community & Human Services
 - Creative Arts, Design & Media
 - General Education
 - Healthcare
 - Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation
 - Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

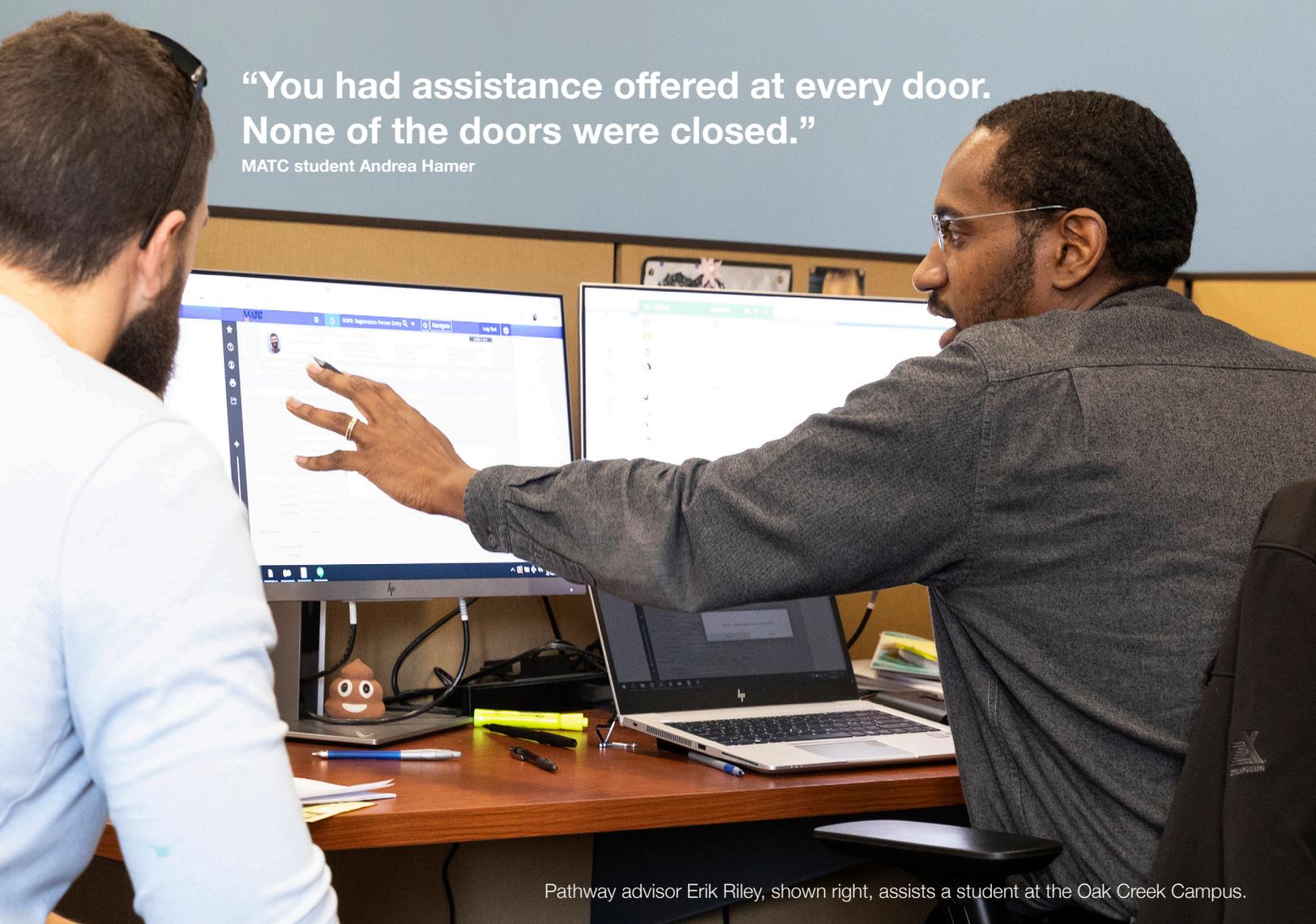
Just as important, each Pathway is led by a team that includes a dean and student-facing support staff, bridging the gap between the two historic "sides of the house" – academics and student services. Pathway offices offer one place for students to get support for advising, course registration, access to tutoring and help with needs such as food, housing and transportation.

MATC opened its first two Pathways and their offices in Fall 2019. More than 1,000 students were served by Pathway advisors and retention coaches in the first month.

1,500+
STUDENTS VISITED
THE FIRST TWO
PATHWAY
OFFICES FROM
NOVEMBER 8 TO
DECEMBER 12, 2019

**“You had assistance offered at every door.
None of the doors were closed.”**

MATC student Andrea Hamer



Pathway advisor Erik Riley, shown right, assists a student at the Oak Creek Campus.

In Spring 2020, the college opened all seven Pathways virtually, and in July, while adhering to health and safety protocols, in-person services were offered in response to students’ requests.

Students benefit from changes

The Pathways model is all that student Melissa Morris has known at MATC.

Looking for a new option after she lost her job amid the COVID-19 pandemic, she honed in on the Dental Technician program.

After applying to MATC, Morris wanted to talk to someone about the next steps. She called the college and was connected to Pathway advisor Erik Riley.

“I had so many questions – and he would respond to me, sometimes immediately,” Morris said.

The advisor helped her feel like she wasn’t “just a number.” Instead, his presence felt “like somebody actually cared to help someone continue their education,” Morris said.

Riley’s support is also something Morris and Hamer have in common.

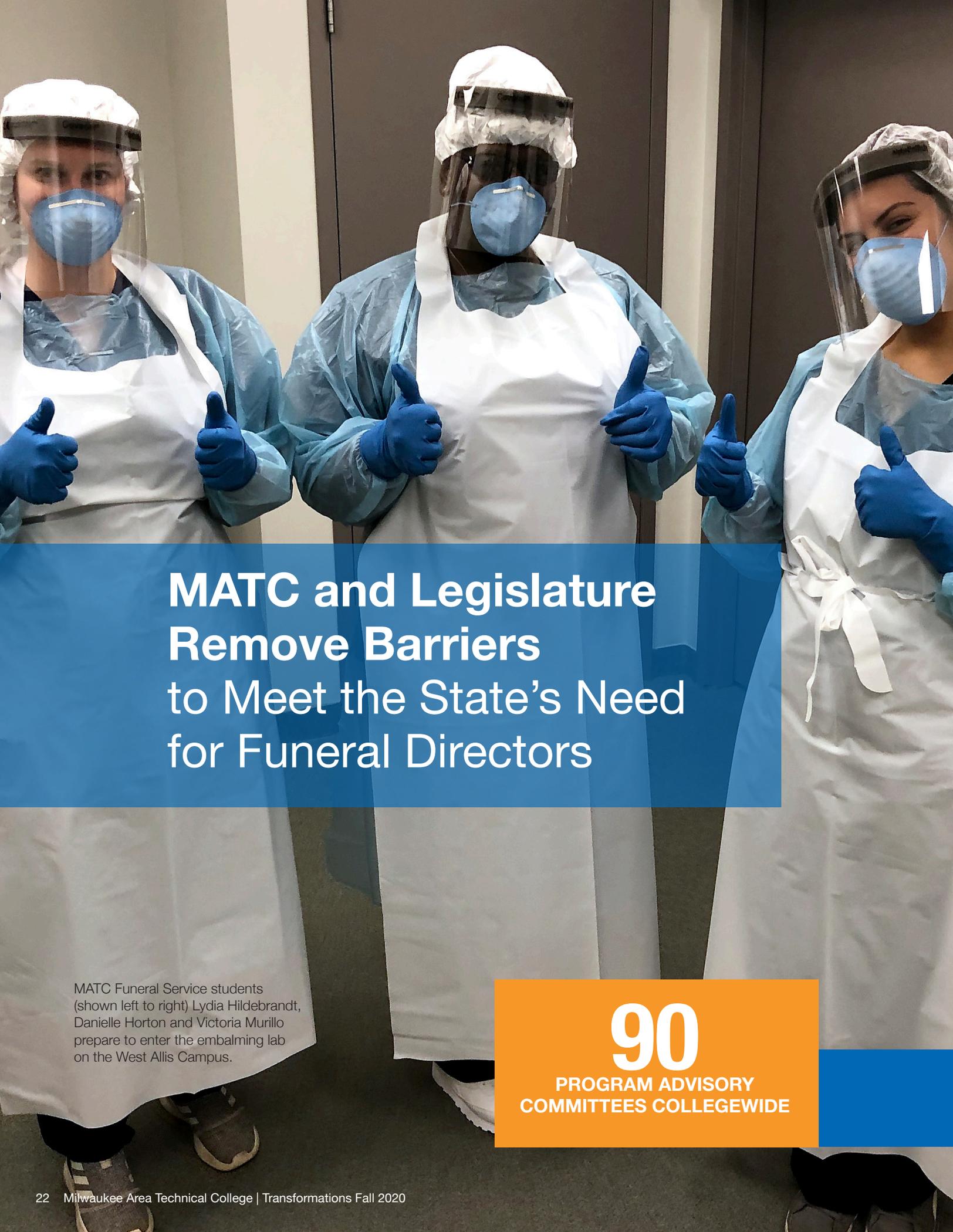
The Pathway advisor helped Hamer finish her last semester. She always struggled with math, but Riley identified a new course option that worked with her schedule.

“He helped me get my schedule set up to the point where I was able to go full time and complete the five classes,” Hamer said.

And as she prepared to finish her program, Riley also made sure that Hamer’s credits from the first time she attended MATC were properly applied so she could graduate. She did just that in Spring 2020, earning a Criminal Justice Studies associate degree. Hamer wants to work as a state of Wisconsin probation and parole officer.

“MATC provides as much assistance as you need – and if they don’t have what you need – they direct you to the proper channels so you can get the assistance you need,” she said. “It’s an awesome program.”

To apply to MATC, visit matc.edu/apply



MATC and Legislature Remove Barriers to Meet the State's Need for Funeral Directors

MATC Funeral Service students (shown left to right) Lydia Hildebrandt, Danielle Horton and Victoria Murillo prepare to enter the embalming lab on the West Allis Campus.

90

PROGRAM ADVISORY
COMMITTEES COLLEGEWIDE

An MATC instructor found himself advocating for his program far beyond the classroom last year, regularly traveling to Madison to push for new state legislation.

Program coordinator and instructor Gabriel Schauf was a key driver in the legislature's approval of an improved set of requirements for students entering the college's Funeral Service program.

MATC's Funeral Service program only one in state

MATC offers Wisconsin's only associate degree program that prepares individuals for a mortuary career. The new requirements mean students need fewer credits to start the program and will ensure graduates have the classes they truly need to succeed in the field. Graduates also will be able to enter the workforce more quickly, ultimately meeting the need for qualified individuals to fill open positions.

Prior to this change, a student who wanted to earn MATC's Funeral Service degree needed over 60 prerequisite credits, and approximately 30 additional credits to complete the program. This previous state requirement forced students to complete more credits than most programs at the college; associate degree programs generally require 60 to 64 total credits.

"The average amount of credits that students were walking out with was about 93 to 94 by the time it was all said and done," Schauf said. "That's a hard thing to sell when a student comes in and says that they want to be a funeral director. They say, well, I can be a nurse or a dental technician with a lot less credits."

Schauf and other mortuary science professionals statewide identified the deterrence of requiring students to enroll in so many electives. The goal was to remove barriers of entry without compromising the integrity of the program. This would help attract prospective students across the region.

Faculty, Advisory Committee members and alumni collaborate

To ensure that all of MATC's career-preparation programs meet industry needs, the college has established Advisory Committees that include local employers as members. Each semester, more than 900 business and community representatives volunteer to serve on these committees to share their insights regarding education, job-readiness skills and industry trends.

For the Funeral Service program, the need for change voiced by funeral directors and other professionals led to a team of

MATC faculty and Advisory Committee members collaborating to form a strategic plan.

By the spring of 2019, the group began drafting amendments to the state statutes. From October until December 2019, Schauf traveled to Madison, where he spoke with a multitude of politicians to explain the goals for MATC's Funeral Service program.

"It was a lot of knocking on doors and talking to state legislators about what we're trying to do and looking for their support on it," Schauf said.



Todd Michael, funeral director for Cornerstone Funeral & Cremation Services

"We wanted to help fast track this process without losing sight of the integrity of the program."

MATC alumnus Todd Michael, funeral director for Cornerstone Funeral & Cremation Services

MATC graduate Todd Michael, funeral director for Cornerstone Funeral & Cremation Services, was one of the Advisory Committee members who testified in support of the legislation.

"Fewer people have been choosing to go into mortuary sciences due to the extensive requirements," Michael said. "We wanted to help fast track this process without losing sight of the integrity of the program."

The legislation passed unanimously and garnered bipartisan support. Most importantly, for Schauf, Michael and others involved, there were no compromises to the program's curriculum. The credit reduction officially went into effect this Fall semester.

Funeral service apprenticeship program

Michael and Schauf became acquainted years prior through their work on a funeral service apprenticeship program, a 16-credit two-day course that MATC offers for people to get a certification to be an apprentice.

"Gabe has been a tremendous asset for us for the funeral service program," Michael said. "We couldn't have done these things without him."

To learn more about how MATC's Advisory Committees help ensure the college has the most up-to-date curricula that match skills employers seek, visit matc.edu/advisory

Alumnus Gives Back With ‘Recipe for Sobriety’

Joe Moeller credits good nutrition for putting him on the path to sobriety four years ago.

While living in an addiction treatment center in Milwaukee, Moeller focused on forming healthy habits. “I found if I ate poorly, I felt poorly. So I did my own nutrition planning,” he said. “I started gym workouts – I looked better, I felt better. I saw it working and the desire to use drugs or alcohol slipped away.”

Determined to help others in their recovery, he enrolled in MATC’s Dietetic Technician degree program (now Nutrition and Dietetic Technician) in August 2018 and graduated in May 2020.

Why did you choose MATC’s dietetics program?

Through good nutrition, I found a successful recipe for sobriety. I want to give back to others through nutrition counseling. MATC had exactly what I was looking for to do this work in a group counseling setting.

What are some examples of the new eating habits you adopted?

It was about being more disciplined and planning what I’d eat. I would make sure I had a healthy breakfast and I packed a healthy lunch. I ate more fruits and vegetables. Stayed away from fast food and sugar.

How are you using your knowledge of nutrition to help others?

I go back to the place I received treatment – or use Zoom due to COVID-19 – and I do nutrition counseling with the guys there. I answer their questions about nutrition planning; the why and why not to eat things.

What are your career plans?

I plan to continue doing group counseling. I don’t need education beyond my associate degree to do that as a Nutrition and Dietetic Technician Registered (NDTR). Also I’m interested in a food service management career. I work at a restaurant now. To broaden my skills I may take a culinary class.

What was your experience like as an MATC student?

I couldn’t ask for a better experience. MATC’s instructors are fantastic. They email us job opportunities and we learn about all the career opportunities out there. The program is well thought out. It’s fast paced so gets a little stressful at times, but the instructors are always available to you.



To learn more about all programs in MATC’s Healthcare Academic & Career Pathway, visit matc.edu/course-catalog/healthcare

“MATC’s instructors are fantastic. They email us job opportunities and we learn about all the career opportunities out there. The program is well thought out.”

MATC alumnus Joe Moeller, dietetic technician

Joe Moeller and LaDonna Gladney in the updated lab space for nutrition courses at the West Allis Campus

MATC SPOTLIGHT



Hanife Thomas (left) and Hataya Johnson in MATC’s upgraded lab at the West Allis Campus

Unique Program, Updated Labs Teach Nutrition

MATC is Wisconsin’s only technical college to offer an associate degree dietetics program. It is taught at the West Allis Campus, where renovated instructional spaces opened in August 2019.

The state-of-the-art labs have several student work stations featuring an industry-standard design, including food preparation equipment found in the workplace. Large ceiling-mounted television screens offer excellent views of instructor demonstrations and the students’ work.

“Our students learn to prepare healthy recipes in the lab, and through our service learning projects they give food demonstrations in the community using our mobile classroom,” said Heidi Katte, dietetics program chair and instructor. “The degree program includes field experience too with many sites available – about 35 sites want our students.”

Graduates of the 62-credit program have myriad career options, from providing community nutrition education to working in food service management in a variety of settings; another option is transferring eligible MATC credits to a four-year school to continue their education.

The upgraded labs also are used by students completing the college’s Dietary Manager 10-credit certificate program. In August 2020, MATC began offering the program in a bilingual mode to serve Spanish speakers.

100%
**OF MATC’S DIETETIC
TECHNICIAN
GRADUATES WERE
EMPLOYED WITHIN
SIX MONTHS AFTER
GRADUATION**

Source: 2018 MATC Graduate Career Report



No. 1 Ranked Team Scores On and Off the Court

Consistently ranked No. 1 in the nation in their division, the MATC Stormers men's basketball team achieved excellence on and off the court in the 2019-20 season. The team was undefeated in its conference and lost only one game all season. Their fast-paced style led the nation in scoring (103 points per game), rebounding and steals.

Thanks to a substantial emphasis on academics and student support, the team had eight players with a grade-point average of 3.0 or above and boasted an overall 2.9 grade-point average in the first semester. Three players qualified for the North Central Community College Conference (N4C) Academic All-Conference Team list and two made the prestigious Academic All-American Team.

Athletic Director and Men's Head Basketball Coach Randy Casey emphasized both the education student-athletes receive in the classroom and the lessons learned on the court. He regularly held a Friday night study hall to keep players focused. The players learned traits that will serve them well in their future educational and career pursuits.

"The team was great on and off the court – every coach's and school's dream. We also had overwhelming support from our fans," said Casey.

Even with the shortened season due to COVID-19, the team racked up accolades including:

- 14-0 record in conference matchups, earning the conference championship
- 12-0 record home games
- Yuri Swinford named Conference Player of the Year, All-Region, NJCAA Division II Second Team All-American
- Justin Briley named Region Tourney most valuable player plus All-Conference and All-Region
- Steven Ross Jr. named All-Conference, Second Team and All-Region, All-Tournament Team
- Athletic Director and Men's Head Basketball Coach Randy Casey won his 400th career game and was awarded the 2019-20 NJCAA Division II Men's Basketball Coach of the Year presented by TicketSmarter, the HoopDirt.com junior college Coach of the Year presented by Just Play Solutions, and Junior College Men's Basketball Coach of the Year by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association



MATC SPOTLIGHT

MATC Sports Provide Path to 4-Year Transfer

MATC has transfer agreements that enable students to transfer credits to four-year colleges and universities. Several MATC athletes are benefiting from these credit-transfer opportunities to pursue bachelor's degrees at these four-year institutions:

Baseball

- Zach Brandenburg – University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Brandon LaRue – Finlandia University
- Christian McKelvey – Western Illinois University

Basketball

- Ayomide Ajiboye – Roosevelt University
- Justin Briley – Arkansas Tech University
- Taejuan Johnson – Bethany College
- Keyara Joy – Alverno College
- Melvin Lee III – Mount Mercy University
- Anthony Martinez – Roosevelt University
- Kennedy Perry – Alverno College
- Steven Ross Jr. – Minot State University
- Yuri Swinford – Henderson State University
- Jason Webb Jr. – Bethany College

Volleyball

- Zoe Jordan – Trinity International University

MATC's women's and men's tennis teams play in Division I of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).



MATC's Men's Head Basketball Coach Randy Casey (shown center) was named 2019-20 coach of the year by several organizations.

“The team was great on and off the court – every coach’s and school’s dream.”

Athletic Director and Men’s Head Basketball Coach Randy Casey

Scholarships available for men and women

MATC advanced from the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III to Division II in 2018, which allows the college to award athletic scholarships for the men’s and women’s basketball programs. Partners were critical in making the move happen. They include Kristin and Brian Kellerman, the parents of MATC basketball player Will Kellerman, who was killed in a car accident in November 2017. The Kellermans donated \$40,000 through the Opportunity 34 Foundation, which was formed to support student-athletes as a tribute to their son.



Associate Head Men's Basketball Coach Travis Mrozek with the 2019-20 team

MATC's athletic program

In addition to men’s and women’s basketball, MATC offers varsity baseball, men’s and women’s soccer, softball, and women’s volleyball, as well as recently established men’s and women’s tennis teams that play in Division I.

Last academic year, 32 MATC athletes in eight sports qualified for the N4C Academic All-Conference team. Conference honors are awarded to student-athletes who achieve a 3.0 or better grade-point average with a minimum of 12 credits passed.

MATC athletic schedules are available at matcstormers.com.

To give to student athletic or academic scholarships, contact Development Director Monika Walloch at wallocms@matc.edu or visit matc.edu/donate

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

MATC Launches ReStart Program

Lack of funds and past student debt prevent many students from finishing their college degrees. Lack of a degree can stand in the way of students earning family-supporting wages. MATC took another step to help students get out of the cycle of poverty by announcing MATC ReStart – a debt scholarship program – in June to help eligible returning students repay up to \$1,500 of past-due balances owed the college.



Newest Alumni Celebrate During Virtual Commencement

MATC graduated approximately 1,000 students in our first-ever virtual commencement. The Spring and Summer graduates uploaded photos and video messages for the ceremony, which streamed online and was broadcast on Milwaukee PBS. Keynote speakers were Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes and ManpowerGroup Executive Michelle Nettles.



Dr. Vicki J. Martin, MATC president, presents her remarks virtually during the commencement ceremony that streamed online July 24, 2020.



Donors Support New Healthcare Heroes Fund

A new fund established by the MATC Foundation Inc. covers the cost of exams and fees needed for MATC healthcare graduates to obtain a license to practice. Licensure fees can be as much as \$1,490. United Health Foundation is the largest private donor to date, underwriting \$19,000 to help cover professional licensing exams as part of a \$2.3 million partnership to address the nursing shortage.

MATC Responds to Digital Divide; American Family Insurance Donates \$40,000

Laptop and Wi-Fi needs spotlight a serious equity gap in Wisconsin. Statewide, 13.6% of Black residents and 11% of Hispanic/Latino residents lack broadband access. For white residents, the statewide average is 5.8%. Knowing technology access is a lifeline to education during this pandemic, MATC has supplied more than 1,300 students with Chromebooks to participate in distance learning. The MATC Foundation established the Digital Divide Fund, with American Family Insurance providing the largest gift to date of \$40,000 to support student technology and emergency needs.



Milwaukee PBS Tells YOUR Stories During COVID-19 Pandemic

In this unprecedented and extraordinary time, Milwaukee PBS focused on telling the personal stories of health, help and hope from throughout southeastern Wisconsin. Three of

our local programs, "10thirtysix," "Black Nouveau" and "Adelante," created a special series – "Stories of Our Pandemic." The impact of COVID-19 on our communities was explored through the specific storytelling lens of each program. To view these episodes, visit milwaukeepbs.org and search "Pandemic Stories."

College Joins Achieving the Dream

MATC joined the Achieving the Dream (ATD) National Network, which includes 250 community and technical colleges “focused on helping their students, particularly low-income students and students of color, achieve their goals for academic success, personal growth and economic opportunity.”



Foundation Board Announces New Members

The MATC Foundation Inc. Board appointed to its Board of Directors Jamie Berger, owner, The Box; Kevin A. Joy, senior vice president, Callan LLC; and Matthew Partridge, CPA, MBA, vice president of Froedtert Health Finance, Ambulatory and Ancillary Services.

MILWAUKEE AREA *Technical College*
 **Foundation**
Investing in Student Success

‘Training the Trades’ Wins MANDI Award

In collaboration with the City of Milwaukee, JCP Construction and the Social Development Commission, the college’s “Training the Trades” project was awarded the Northwestern Mutual Collaboration MANDI award. MANDI is an abbreviation for Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation and honors successful efforts to revitalize neighborhoods and strengthen the community. In 2019, MATC’s Promise program won two MANDI awards.

MATC to Create 'Pocket Park' at Northern End of Downtown Milwaukee Campus

Two grants — one from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and another from the Fund for Lake Michigan — will help MATC transform a small, aging office building and parking lot on the Downtown Milwaukee Campus into a new “pocket park” near North Eighth Street and West Juneau Avenue. The half-acre park will become a rain garden; be available as open space with seating for residents, students and visitors; and help connect the campus to the Brewery District redevelopment to the west and the rapidly developing Deer District to the east.

Grasses, trees and shrubs will naturally treat the stormwater falling on this site, which will remind visitors of the connection between rainfall and the Milwaukee River watershed.

The rain garden can help keep 17,000 gallons of rainwater out of local sewers. Grants will help cover about \$80,000 of the project's \$300,000 cost. The site's current building once housed American Federation of Teachers Local 212, which worked with the college to identify an alternative office location on campus. This project is specified within MATC's Integrated Energy Master Plan, which is the college's roadmap for going carbon neutral by 2030.



Lakeland University President David Black and MATC President Vicki J. Martin sign an agreement making Lakeland University MATC's first partner in the new MATC Center for University Partnerships and Studies.

MATC Creates New Educational Access Program With Lakeland University

An innovative, educational access program through MATC's new Center for University Partnerships and Studies will offer discounted Lakeland University tuition and convenience for MATC graduates. After earning an MATC associate degree, students can seamlessly pursue a Lakeland bachelor's degree by continuing to work with many of their MATC instructors in a format that is familiar and flexible. Lakeland will give MATC students pursuing a bachelor's degree through MATC's Center a 20% discount on Lakeland tuition and fees, and will extend the Promise program to any qualified MATC Promise student.

Alumni Accolades

It is our privilege to recognize our talented alumni and their inspirational accomplishments. These updates are gathered from news outlets and from notes sent by graduates themselves. You can be proud that tens of thousands of MATC alumni are transforming our region, state and world.

We'd love to hear your stories! Call MATC Alumni Coordinator Bob Holland, 414-297-6825. And follow us at [Facebook.com/MATCalumni](https://www.facebook.com/MATCalumni).

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

William Coffey Jr., Accounting, received the Congressional Gold Medal in August 2019 for his service as one of the first African Americans in the Marine Corps.

Brandon Hayes, Marketing and Advertising, became owner of the Milwaukee Cavaliers in August 2019, a new American Basketball Association team in the North Central Division.

Maryann Kmet, Marketing, owns The Ladle Lady and was spotlighted in *Small Business Milwaukee* in November 2019.

Johanna Ortiz, Business, opened Johanna's Cakes & Desserts Café in Milwaukee in October 2019 and was spotlighted in the *Shepherd Express* in January 2020.

Timothy Wagner, Hotel Management, was noted in *Boutique Hotel News* in February as the new director of food and beverage at the Carte Hotel San Diego Downtown.

Kendrick Watkins, Marketing, is the publisher of books released in April that Ajamou Butler wrote to provide inspirational messages for children 4-10 years old.

Lavelle Young, founder and CEO of Young Development Group, was featured in the *Milwaukee Business*

Journal in December for his redevelopment vision and plans.

COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES

Tamara Cheek was sworn in as a West Bend police officer in August 2019.

Jim Jacobs, Environmental Pollution Control, earned the 2020 District 2 Operator of the Year Award in June from the Wisconsin Rural Water Association. He is the lead water operator for the water utility serving Ripon, Wisconsin.

Sue Krier, Early Childhood Education, retired from St. John XXIII School in Port Washington, Wisconsin, after 42 years serving schools in that area. Her retirement was covered by the *Ozaukee Press* in May.

Daniel Lendma, Funeral Service, expanded services by acquiring Legacy Care Partners - Kuehl Funeral Home in Gillett, Wisconsin, in December 2019.

Peter Sorenson, Barber, retired in December 2019 as owner of Pete's Main Street Headliners in Menomonee Falls. His retirement was noted in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article.

Ann McClain Terrell, Early Childhood Education, was named president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children based in Washington, D.C., in May.

CREATIVE ARTS, DESIGN & MEDIA

Jason Alston, Culinary, was featured in the *Milwaukee Business Journal* in October 2019 regarding his business Heavens Table Catering and BBQ LLC at the Crossroads Collective.

Cindy Barber, Culinary, received Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Ag in the Classroom program's "Outstanding Teacher Award" in November 2019.

Allison Beilke, Interior Design, created custom-designed textiles inspired by Bay View architecture and was featured in *The Bay View Compass* in December 2019.

Karen Bell, Culinary, and her Bavette restaurant were highlighted in the *Milwaukee Business Journal* in November 2019.

Hector Borges and Jeff Fleetwood, Computer Simulation and Gaming, launched Foresight, an augmented and virtual reality business solutions company, which was featured by *Wisconsin Inno* in December 2019.

Patrick Chaves, Photography, photographed what he called "the faces of COVID-19" for his final class project in May and was featured on Milwaukee's TMJ4 News (WTMJ-TV).

Chef Al, Culinary, was recognized for providing

free lunches during the COVID-19 pandemic for the Open Door Cafe at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. He was one of Natalie's Everyday Heroes on Milwaukee's CBS-58 (WDJT-TV).

Dandin, Music Occupations, had his new song "World of Angels" streamed on 88Nine in Milwaukee in December 2019. He wrote it while an MATC student.

Mario Diaz, Culinary, opened his new Milwaukee restaurant in December 2019, Triciclo Perú MKE, specializing in empanadas and other Peruvian offerings.

A.J. Dixon, Culinary, was featured in the *Milwaukee Business Journal* in November 2019. She is the chef/owner of Lazy Susan.

M.K. Drayna, Baking & Pastry Arts, was noted via the OnMilwaukee website for her creative gingerbread house designs made for North Shore Boulangerie in December 2019. In April, her business, Whisk Chick, was spotlighted by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Kevin Johnson, TV/Video Production, was named Hearst TV's director of veteran recruiting in May.

Lisa McKay, Culinary, was featured in the *Milwaukee Business Journal* in January and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in February.

Rosemarie Patterson, Culinary, opened the Hillside Coffee House in Oak Creek in March.

Karen Perry, Photography, now living in Arkansas, had artwork selected for the January Small Works on Paper Exhibit by the Arkansas Arts Council.

Tia Richardson, Graphic Design, was part of "A Community of Voices" exhibition at the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend in July. She is a full-time community muralist working with community centers, schools, businesses and local government. To date, she has completed more than 50 collaborative murals and other creative projects with youth around Milwaukee.

Jon Rieman, Television & Video Production, was spotlighted by the *Green Bay Press Gazette* in March for writing clever messages for Wisconsin Department of Transportation freeway signs.

Glenn Riley, TV/Video, retired as a Milwaukee PBS director/producer and MATC instructor in June after almost four decades of working for the PBS station.

Julie Tucker-Voeller, Interior Design, was named a vice president at Mequon-based Ruvin Bros. Artisans & Trades Inc. in January.

Brian Ward, Culinary, owner of Ward's House of Prime, was featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in April for donating four days' worth of profits to feed the hungry.

GENERAL EDUCATION

James E. Watkins, Associate of Arts, began a co-facilitator role for a Marquette University philosophy course in January.

HEALTHCARE

Jeffrey Couillard, Surgical Technology and Nursing, received a 2019 Health Care Hero award from *Milwaukee BizTimes Media*.

Mandy Macachor, Dental Hygiene, received *Today's RDH* 2019 Honor Award in September.

MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION & TRANSPORTATION

Daniel O'Grady, Woodworking, opened his own custom woodworking company, O'Grady Custom, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Hannah Paulson, Landscape Horticulture, was interviewed in October 2019 for *Total Landscape Care* articles about work she does for the Cedarburg landscape company owned by her former MATC instructor, Jim Drzewiecki.

Jim Stingl, Automotive, announced his retirement as columnist from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in January.

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH)

Reid Petges, Mechanical Design, was listed in *Pumps & Systems Magazine* in August 2019 for his new foundry engineer role at Badger Alloys in Milwaukee.

Welcome all new Alumni from the Class of 2020! Join the MATC Alumni Network. It's free!

Email MATCalumni@matc.edu to update your contact information or sign up at matc.edu/alumni

- Special alumni-only discounts
- Unlimited access to MATC's Employment, Career and Transfer Center 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

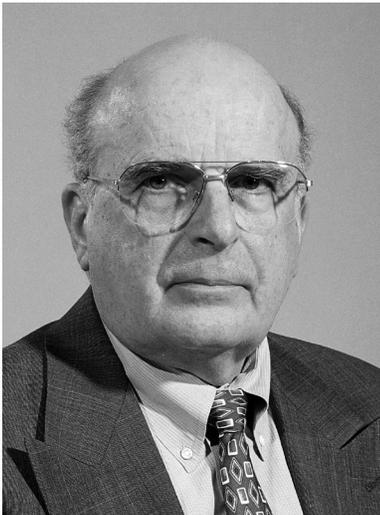


In Memoriam

To learn more about creating a memorial scholarship, contact Development Director [Monika Walloch at wallocms@matc.edu](mailto:wallocms@matc.edu)

Heidi Peterson, instructional chair for MATC's Electricity programs and an Electrical Apprenticeship alumna, age 56, passed away on October 15, 2019. Her career included pioneering and championing women's roles in the electrical trade, and supporting apprentices and students as an MATC instructor and leader. She started her electrical apprenticeship in 1984 and began her teaching career in the 1990s. Her work ethic, unique sense of humor and especially her deep concern for others made her a colleague and instructor that will not be forgotten. In 2007, she became MATC's department chair for the electricity program and was named instructional chair in 2015. She had the rare talent and skill to keep her students engaged in their work and was devoted to their success. Her compassion extended beyond the classroom, from providing mentorship to finding resources for students needing funds and bringing food to students in need. She also offered support and mentorship to fellow members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 494.

Her dedication to the future of the electrical trade has led to significant contributions in apprenticeship programs and MATC instructional programs. To continue supporting students and honoring Heidi Peterson's legacy, her colleagues are setting up an endowed scholarship fund in her name.



Former MATC President John Robert Birkholz, Ph.D., age 87, passed away on July 9, 2020. He was born in Antigo, Wisconsin, and grew up in Minocqua. He earned a bachelor's degree from Whitewater State University and later, while working full time and attending night school, he earned a master's degree and a doctorate in economics from Northeastern University in DeKalb, Illinois. In his later years, John and his wife, Maryann, settled in Cedarburg, where he was an active member of the community. He was a visionary leader and educator, and over his almost 50-year career he served as president for Harper College, Erie Community College, Gateway Technical College and MATC, where he retired in 2001.

Current MATC President Vicki J. Martin sent this message to college employees: "John served as my mentor when I was selected for the first class of the Wisconsin Leadership Development Institute and was exceedingly generous with

his time and feedback. He also supported me in completing my doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison when he offered me a new position at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus. He was an outstanding supervisor for me and president for MATC from 1992 through 2001."

Jennifer Ann DeVerney, Marketing, age 38, passed away in June 2019. She earned her marketing degree at MATC in 2007 and continued her education at Concordia University, earning a bachelor's degree in business in 2013.

Timothy T. "Duck" Duckart, Funeral Service, age 51, passed away in November 2019. He graduated from MATC in 1998 as valedictorian and served as a funeral director in Manitowoc for more than 20 years.

Scott M. Garland, Aviation Technician Airframe and Powerplant, age 63, passed away in August 2019. He graduated from MATC in 1975, then returned in 1986 to teach aviation technician courses and coach baseball, taking the MATC Stormers to a NJCAA Region 4 Championship.

Mary Anne Gross, Associate of Arts, age 88, passed away in December 2019. Mary Anne worked at MATC for 35 years with roles in the Print Shop and as the college's editor. She continued her editing role by overseeing the MATC Retirees Association newsletter for 19 years.

Robert "Bob" C. Haines, Electrician Apprenticeship, age 75, passed away in October 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1966 and then attended MATC to become a journeyman electrician.

Dale Hudson, Industrial Electrical Apprenticeship, age 60, passed away in February 2020. He was one of the victims of the Milwaukee Molson Coors mass shooting tragedy. He graduated from MATC in 2001 and had worked at the brewery since 2008.

Dolores W. Johnson, age 98, passed away in December 2019. She attended Miss Brown's Business School in Milwaukee and MATC in Oak Creek. She worked as an accountant/secretary for Milwaukee County.

Carol Jean "CJ" Knight, Nursing, age 79, passed away in January 2020. She became a registered nurse after graduating from MATC and then earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Alverno College.

Patrick Jason Mayo, Funeral Service, age 46, passed away in September 2019. During his career as a funeral director, he worked in Antigo, Madison and Wausau, and felt it was a great honor and privilege to be entrusted by families with the care of their loved ones.

James Michalkiewicz, age 70, passed away in April 2020. He wrestled for MATC's team and continued his education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, earning a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering.

Brett Marlow Wise, Criminal Justice, age 34, passed away in August 2019. He entered the United States Army following his high school graduation, then attended MATC after leaving the service. He also earned a degree in electrical engineering technology from Madison College.



MATC



700 West State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1443

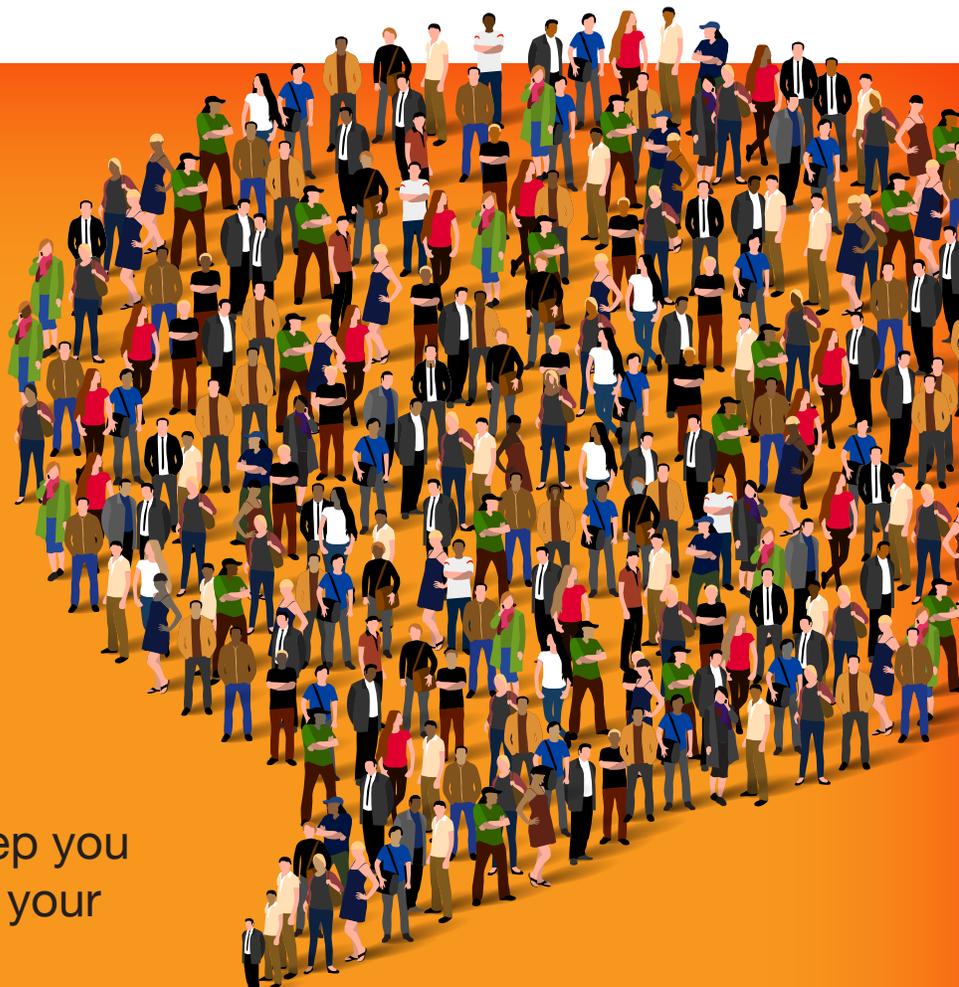
MATC Alumni

Are YOU a subscriber
to the free MATC
alumni newsletter?

Subscribe NOW! We'll keep you
posted monthly and send your
Alumni Network card.

How? Simply sign up here:
matc.edu/alumni

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date on alumni
news at [Facebook.com/MATCalumni](https://www.facebook.com/MATCalumni)



DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE
700 West State Street

MEQUON
5555 West Highland Road

OAK CREEK
6665 South Howell Avenue

WEST ALLIS
1200 South 71st Street

414-297-MATC
Wisconsin Relay System 711



MATC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, the national standard in accrediting colleges and schools for distinction in academics and student services. MATC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and complies with all requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.