

**AFT Local 212 Executive Board Statement on the decision to terminate the college President  
February 24, 2009**

My name is Michael Rosen. I am President of the American Federation of Teachers Local 212 and I am speaking on behalf of the Local 212 Executive Board. Several leaders of our 1500 member professional union have joined me at the table, and I would like to introduce them:

Edelmiro Dominguez, Bargaining Committee member for 25 years, Linda Baehr, Chair of the Bargaining Committee, Marietta Love, MATC Adult High School graduate and Vice President of the professional staff, Marlene Dombrowski, Chair of the Grievance Committee, Retired Colonel Steve Holloway, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Marwill Santiago, Chair Committee on Political Education, Charlie Dee, Executive VP, Phyllis Holder, Education Research and Development, Maria Castro, Grievance Committee, Melba Redmond, Education Research and Development, Larry Domine, Executive Board, John Riess, Bargaining Committee, and Jason Matthews, Bargaining Committee.

MATC is the largest college in the state; the 4th largest public institution in southeastern Wisconsin.

55,000 students attend our college.

For these students, for the citizens who pay the taxes that our support our college, and for the elected officials who decide on our level of funding, the MATC President is the public face of the college. He is the prism through which these stakeholders perceive the institution.

As a result, our President is one of the highest paid public officials in the state. But with that responsibility and salary comes accountability. The President is rightly held to a higher standard than others. The unfortunate events on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> and morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> have had a negative impact on the public's perception of MATC at the very time that this college is facing serious challenges from an increasingly skeptical and financially stressed public.

For these reasons, Local 212 supports the very difficult decision made by MATC's Board of Directors on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our mission continues -- to provide our students with state-of-the-art technical education and training, and provide business and industry with the skilled workforce needed to compete in this economy. We provide hope and opportunity to those for whom hope and opportunity are scarce commodities. **MATC provides people with a second chance.**

**But that doesn't mean we have lower standards than other colleges.**

Thousands of working class people, former Harley machinists, Midwest airline attendants, Heinemann's clerks, and Saint Mary's CNAs are losing their jobs. These dislocated workers as well as Latino, Hmong and African immigrants, marginalized

youth, displaced homemakers, and former inmates, depend on MATC for training or retraining so that when the economy recovers, their families will recover as well.

MATC's mission has endured since the college was established in 1911 as a creative effort to stop widespread and exploitive child labor. For almost 100 years, through wars and depression, the college and its employees have maintained our student-centered focus.

**Clearly, MATC is bigger and more important than any individual. We cannot and will not allow ourselves to be distracted from this mission.**

This Board has decided it is best for the college to move on to new leadership, and we support that decision.

We are committed to working with Dr. Martin, the administration, the board and the entire community to do what we do best- provide our students with the technical education they want and deserve.

Thank you.