



NEWSLETTER

**SUPPORT YOUR BARGAINING TEAMS!!!
MATC BOARD MEETING,
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 3:30 PM
DOWNTOWN, 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY**

The Cole Administration wants to gut your contract, yet the MATC Board seems unconcerned. **LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE CONCERNED!**

AND IN THIS CORNER...

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Many have you have asked what you can do to let the Cole Administration know how low morale is among the faculty and how disgusted you are with the pace and content of contract negotiations.

Well, here's your chance. We want to line the halls of the downtown campus outside the board room before the MATC Board meeting on Tuesday, March 28. See you there.

AAS DEGREE

It now appears that the WTCS office will not try to limit the number of courses added to the General Education list of approved courses. At this time, there is one course that has been added, Principles of Animal Biology, and six others that are in Stage 3 of the process, which means they are awaiting completion of paperwork from the colleges sponsoring them. This list includes a number of courses essential to MATC's curriculum.

In addition, there are thirteen courses posted on the WTCS website for comments from stakeholders (<http://systematic.wtcsystem.edu/Instruction/>). This list includes the new math course proposed by MATC for some of our occupational programs.

If you're concerned about a particular course, please visit the website and post a comment. Also, since it is the job of Associate Deans to complete the necessary paperwork to finalize approval of courses, check with your dean to make sure that is getting done.

UNDERPREPARED LEARNER INITIATIVE

The WTCS is forging ahead with the Underprepared Learner Initiative. This is a thin layer of courses to be called "General College" for students whose skill levels fall between Adult Basic Ed and General Education.

There is not yet a target date for implementation, and there are many details to be worked out, especially the crucial and expensive details of assessment and advising.

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FINANCIAL APPEASEMENT?

The administration responded to Local 212's survey evaluating Dr. Cole's performance by telling the media that we were angry that the college had not "taxed to the max."

While it is obvious that taxes had nothing to do with the survey results and this is Cole's attempt to avoid responsibility for his "D," the tax levy is something the MATC community needs to talk about since property taxes have been MATC's only source of new revenue for a decade.

Here are the facts. Tech colleges have received no new funding from the state of Wisconsin since the mid 1990's. As a result, the state's contribution to our budget has dropped from over 33% to 15%. That's a cut of more than 50%. MATC currently receives \$5 million less from the state than we did in 1999.

When our union's leaders lobbied the legislature to increase our funding, Republican legislators would tell them that resources were scarce and that we should use our property taxing authority. This shifted the burden for funding tech colleges from the state to the homeowner. In 1970 homeowners paid 50% of Wisconsin's property taxes. Today we pay 70%. So the only new revenue MATC gets are increases in property revenue.

When property values stagnated in the mid 1990's, MATC struggled financially. Sections and programs were eliminated, tuition grew and pupil-teacher ratios increased.

Since 2000, property values in our district have increased significantly. Yet, in two of the last three years the Cole administration has chosen to leave property tax money (\$2.8 million) on the table. Their rationale was that if the college demonstrated restraint, the legislature would not impose a property tax freeze.

But the Republican controlled legislature is hell bent on implementing a property tax freeze. They are now pursuing a constitutional amendment, the Taxpayer Protection Amendment, which would undermine technical college funding and could become law by 2008.

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AND IN THIS CORNER...CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

So far the initiative has been driven by administrators with extremely limited faculty involvement. Only two faculty members were included in the work group. More information can be found at:

http://systematic.wtcsystem.edu/system_initiatives/underprepared_Learners/default.htm

The work group did reach agreement that, "Certification to teach the General College courses should be broad enough to allow flexibility at different institutions." However, this will need to be monitored.

I plan to meet with MATC faculty groups that could be affected in the near future.

MPS LAWSUIT

We've had limited success even before the judge has heard our case. Remember that Local 212 and a group of citizens filed suit against MPS Board Chair Ken Johnson because he had illegally appointed people to the MATC Board Selection Committee who were not MPS Board members and who did not represent the racial and gender diversity of Milwaukee.

Two of the appointees resigned last week in response to our suit, Tim Sheehy and Bruce Thompson. Neither of the people replacing them is on the MPS Board, so our suit remains in effect and will be heard by a judge on March 21.

CHARLIE DEE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**FINANCIAL APPEASEMENT CONT. FROM PAGE ONE**

MATC's restraint has not convinced the tax freeze fanatics to be reasonable. That is because they aren't reasonable. They don't care about adequately funding tech colleges. Nor do they care about solving the state's labor shortage problem.

This is a political issue, pure and simple. They think that freezing property taxes will generate votes. So they will ride the issue as far as they think it will take them.

If they were honest they would have to admit that home owner's property taxes have increased for two reasons. 1) The state has failed to keep its commitment to provide the WTCS with 1/3 of its funding just as it has failed to increase shared revenue for local governments! 2) The property tax burden has shifted from Wisconsin's corporations to homeowners. This is a classic case of bait and switch.

With no new dollars the funds to operate this center will have to be diverted from other areas! Will they come from the health occupations budget, the under-funded culinary arts budget, or will the administration continue to squeeze the T and I budgets, slash academically needed release time, cut capital requests, defer maintenance or increase the number of students in labs and classrooms?

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Clearly, the decision has contributed to the administration's decision to attack our jobs, wages and benefits in contract negotiations.

After five years of robust growth, the housing market is slowing. This is probably the last year MATC will be able to capture significant increases in revenue from increased equalized value.

The implications of this are staggering. If the property tax freeze amendment is passed, our tax base will be substantially lower than it could have been had we taken the dollars available. The result will be smaller future increases since the base will be smaller. In other words, the decisions being made by Mike Sargent and Dr. Cole will cost MATC revenue forever.

Cole's decision to not tax to the levy limit has cost MATC millions of dollars, yet it saved the average Milwaukee County property tax owner only \$3 a year!

In light of the recent Interact Communications Survey that found that 9 out of 10 Wisconsin residents said that Wisconsin Technical Colleges are a good value for their tax dollars, who is he trying to appease by undermining the college's revenues?

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's recent freedom of information request for our Board's evaluation of Dr. Cole's performance showed concerns from the board members about Dr. Cole's financial management of our school. When Dr. Cole could have stepped up and strengthened our school financially he instead squirmed and attempted to buy off our critics, who were not impressed and remained critical of our school's mission.

Governor Doyle has exempted the Wisconsin Technical College System from his property tax freeze because he knows that the state will not be able to train the skilled workers business and industry so desperately need if we don't invest in our technical colleges. It's time that the leaders of this college stand up for the college and its students!

**ROGER SANDS, ACCOUNTING INSTRUCTOR
212 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**PART-TIME FACULTY
AVAILABILITY FORM DEADLINE**

If you wish to teach in the Summer or Fall, remember to submit the Letter of Availability Form for Summer and Fall Classes. If you did not receive one, contact Mary Warner in Labor Relations at 297-7672. **Deadline for availability forms to be returned to Labor Relations is March 31st.** This is the communication to your supervisor to assign you classes. If you receive an assignment requested on your availability form, MATC has met its obligation to you under our contract.

MARY KAY FLYNN, 6TH VP - PT FACULTY

ONE MEMBERS RESPONSE TO BRUCE MURPHY

The following letter by an MATC Nursing instructor was sent to Bruce Murphy following his one sided website article on MATC faculty salaries. It was so eloquent that we have reprinted it with her permission.

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I read with interest your recent website article regarding MATC faculty salaries. I am a full-time nursing instructor at MATC and was shocked to learn that I am making a great deal less than everyone else at the college. My salary is no where near the jaw-dropping average salary you cited of \$91,000 per annum. Wow, hook me up!

All kidding aside, I agree with you when you characterized the salaries of MATC faculty as irrational. Consider this: my annual salary is comparable to that of a staff nurse in a hospital a position that requires only a two year degree. And with my Masters degree, I could work as a family nurse practitioner and make a considerable amount more than I am currently. Yet I chose to return to MATC and teach. (Yes, I am a proud graduate of MATC's nursing program this after receiving a useless degree from UW-M in the 1980s the education I received at MATC was worth every penny.) With my degree, experience and credentials, I deserve a decent salary and thankfully, MATC recognizes this. Yet, my salary is not outlandish or exorbitant. I live in a modest home and can't afford subscriptions to fancy magazines. Irrational, indeed.

I would also like to counter the notion that MATC faculty members only teach fifteen hours a week. I work every day of the week, either at home, at the office or at the hospital/nursing home - preparing lectures and examinations, teaching students in the clinical setting and advising students (I have over 50 advisees). On the days of the week when I teach students in the clinical setting, I am on my feet from 2 pm until midnight. This involves caring for very ill, complex patients and supervising eight or nine students at once. Moreover, all of my colleagues have their Masters degrees and a number of them hold Doctorates. Your article implied otherwise.

It is rather unfortunate that your article was brimming with inaccuracies and misrepresentations. I'm sure that MATC offers courses in journalism; perhaps you might consider giving the Admissions Office a call. We would love to have you as a student!

Sincerely,

Allison A. Nicol, RN, MSN
Clinical Nursing Instructor

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3/06

KATRINA'S NOT THE ONLY DISASTER TO HIT NEW ORLEANS

"I told my daughter, 'Pack light—we'll be back in three days.' Three weeks later, she couldn't find her bedroom." That's what Elsie Burkhalter told me. She's a teacher from Slidell, Louisiana, who returned to find her home destroyed and an oak tree in her kitchen.

Joe DeRose is a teacher from New Orleans who lost his home and all his possessions. What he found when he returned was devastating. *"I didn't expect the street to look like this...I've never seen anything like this."*

Elsie and Joe are just two of hundreds of thousands whose lives were turned upside down by Katrina. Elsie is president of the St. Tammany Federation of Teachers. Joe is communications director of the United Teachers of New Orleans (UTNO). Both have relocated to Baton Rouge, where UTNO is now headquartered, and where the Louisiana Federation of Teachers has opened its doors to serve as a relief and organizing center.

Katrina may have wiped out New Orleans, but the man-made disaster following in its wake is just as devastating. There are powerful forces at work, taking advantage of the catastrophe to push their own narrow corporate agenda.

In November, the Louisiana State Legislature voted to take over the public schools in New Orleans, and reopen them as charter schools. That move put 4500 public school teachers and 3500 school employees out of work and stripped them of their rights under the union contract.

Eight thousand members of the United Teachers of New Orleans, many of whom lost their homes in the hurricane, have no paycheck, no benefits, no seniority, and no recall rights.

"This is a sad day for the teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, and other employees of New Orleans Public Schools and for the city of New Orleans," said UTNO President Brenda Mitchell.

Teachers found out about the layoffs on the news and didn't even get a letter thanking them for their service, according to Mitchell. She pledged to fight for the rights of union members under the contract and the law.

As of January 31, all New Orleans Public Schools employees not working in the few schools that are open will be "terminated." Lisa Keeling, an UTNO member and elementary school teacher for 21 years, said it best when she told Louisiana legislators:

"We who live or work in New Orleans have already suffered one tragedy. Only you can prevent us from suffering another. Help me and my fellow teachers who want New Orleans schools to reopen so we can teach again."

Now more than ever, we must send a message to our union colleagues in the Gulf Coast region that they have not been forgotten.

Please contribute to the AFT Disaster Relief Fund, which is providing grants to AFT members who have suffered losses due to Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

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"Thanks to our union brothers and sisters across this nation for their prayers and support," says Elsie Burkhalter. "Knowing they're out there gives me courage to be a fighter and a survivor."

To make your tax-deductible donation, go to: <http://www.aft.org/katrina>.

SUE RUGGLES**ER&D PEER SUPPORT SURVEY
CONFIRMS EXCELLENCE**

As part of a Quality Review Program a survey was conducted last November concerning ER&D offerings and particularly Peer Support. Because almost half of the current faculty, as well as many non-represented staff employees, have taken such courses, it is not surprising that several hundred responded with overwhelming support and glowing comments. Over 96% of those surveyed said that ER&D courses and Peer Support had empowered them as instructors, improved instruction and benefited students. Almost 90% reported having referred a colleague to ER&D or Peer Support. Even more telling were the many positive comments offered such as:

- Peer support and many of the ER&D courses provide new and tenured instructors with the opportunity to enhance their skills which benefits the students. It also helps foster collegiality which the MATC environment is unable to do because of the size and scheduling of classes. Each opportunity to participate in Peer Support and/or ER&D helps the instructor continue to develop professionally. Most of these opportunities are more cost effective than attending outside seminars and courses. They should be continued.
- Peer Support is the best preparation I could have had to be an MATC instructor - thank you!
- I have recommended Peer Support to several new instructors and they have thanked me numerous times. It is the best orientation to MATC that we have. It was informative and meaningful.
- I am constantly using techniques and expertise that I have acquired through ER&D courses. ER&D courses are a special connection with my personal teaching and I am for every grateful for the experiences and friends that I have made in the courses. The courses teach specifics that can readily be applied to enhance the learning in the classroom. My students and I thank you.

Peer Support is off to a great start with nine participants this Spring. Needless to say, MATC administrators continue to suggest ways of "adjusting" ER&D offerings, especially Peer Support, in an effort to save money even though it is clear that there is no better investment that MATC can make if it is truly concerned with "teaching and learning." We will continue to spread our good news in order to insure our survival and the success of students!

KEVIN MULVENNA, PEER SUPPORT**LEWINSKI LEGACY, A GREAT LISTENER**

Recently the MATC community was saddened by the sudden death of colleague and friend John Lewinski. John left a teaching position at his alma mater, Marquette University, to join the MATC community as a fulltime instructor in 1972, retiring from that position in 2004. John frequently said his decision to join the faculty at MATC was one of the best decisions he ever made. He continued as a part time instructor in the English department until his death.

John's most recognizable position at MATC was as coordinator of the College of the Air program. During his tenure in that position, the college expanded the number of College of the Air course offerings until an entire degree could be earned through that mode of delivery. MATC's College of the Air became one of the largest and most successful programs of that type in the nation. Later John developed the College by Cassette program and served on the distance learning team which initiated online courses at the college.

In addition to his work with the TV College, John was deeply involved with Wisconsin's high school and college debating competitions as a coach and highly regarded debating competition judge.

John was a strong supporter of Local 212, attending meetings, contacting legislators, carrying picket signs when necessary, speaking out when needed. He also participated with gusto and good humor in department meetings.

John will be remembered by colleagues and students for his open-door policy. He always had time for anyone who needed an ear. Although he taught Communication Skills and Speech, his true gift was that he was an exceptional listener. He eagerly offered his time and talents to anyone who asked.

John Lewinski loved MATC. His legacy is his dedication to helping others which, in the final analysis, is the only true measure of a man.

JOHN WIELICHOWSKI, INSTRUCTOR**CONDOLENCES TO...**

The family and friends of **John Lewinski**, Part-Time English Instructor, who recently passed away.

Beverly Johnson, Hotel and Hospitality Instructor, whose mother passed away.

Ann Burbach, Counselor, on the passing of her father.

Rita Czukas, Part Time Social Science Instructor, on the loss of her husband.

Mary Tate Smith, Student Services Specialist, whose mother passed away earlier this month.

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