



NEWSLETTER

Volume 33, No. 4

Deanna Durham, Editor

February 09, 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT

More than a million workers have lost jobs in the last two months, three million in the last year.

Locally companies like Harley Davidson, Delphi, Boston Store, Starbucks, Midwest Express and GE Medical are laying off employees as if they are in a race with Usain Bolt.

Thousands of dislocated workers are enrolling at Wisconsin's tech colleges.

FTEs have increased 26% at Blackhawk which is located in the Janesville area where GM and four other factories have closed their doors. In response, Blackhawk has hired 7 additional basic skills instructors, built a new parking lot and rented additional classrooms. At Midstate enrollment is up 14% and at Gateway 9%. MATC's enrollment is up 5%.

At the very time that more and more workers are turning to us for assistance, our revenue is declining.

State aid has not increased in almost 10 years. It is now at an all time low of only 13%. Plus MATC's portion of state aid has declined because other colleges are growing at a faster pace than we are.

Property taxes, our only source of revenue for the past decade, may actually decline next year as home values plummet and foreclosures soar.

We should be proud that when times are tough, the citizens of this state turn to the technical colleges. And I know that all of you are doing everything you can to respond to the increased workloads and needs of our new and returning students.

The Governor and state policy makers also need to help by investing stimulus dollars in tech colleges... After all, many of the areas targeted by the House's stimulus bill, (training additional first responders and healthcare professionals, investing in green manufacturing, and investing in the infrastructure which will require more civil engineers and construction workers) are areas where we already have capacity that needs to be brought to scale.

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ERNIE SCHNOOK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

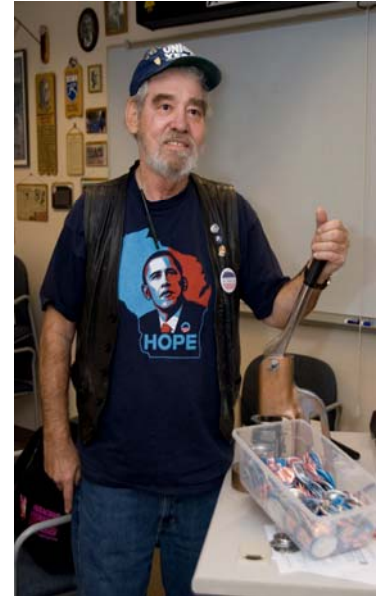
President Ernie Schnook's family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Ernie Schnook scholarship fund.

We are urging all 212 members to help reach the funds goal of \$10,000 by contributing.

Please make checks payable to:

MATC Foundation -
Ernie Schnook
Scholarship Fund.

Please send your donations to the Local 212 office or directly to the MATC Foundation office.



SAVE THE DATES!!!

WISCONSIN RENEWABLE ENERGY SUMMIT

Wednesday March 25 - Friday, March 27

Milwaukee Area Technical College will host the sixth annual Wisconsin Renewable Energy Summit (WRES) at the Midwest Airlines Center Wednesday through Friday, March 25 through 27. This year's theme, Green Business – Unlimited Economic Opportunity, highlights how the growth of renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability will generate new economic opportunities in Wisconsin. The 35,000-plus new positions predicted for the next decade will include manufacturers, installers, consultants, engineers and all associated and supporting professions.

All students may register free of charge, and registration scholarships will be available for MATC faculty and staff! Plan now to attend and to encourage/arrange for students to attend! See the Summit website at renewableenergysummit.org for more information or contact George Stone at 297 7430.

GEORGE STONE

FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

Next year's budget at the college will be a tough one in recognition of that we have met with the administration and have proposed that we work together to save money now. This will help us avoid an acrimonious budget in May.

All vacant positions that do not work with or directly assist students, including top administrative positions, need to be analyzed. They should remain vacant if they are not essential to serving our students. The dollars we save should be placed in the college's reserve fund which can be used to avoid serious cuts in the spring.

The administration also needs to stop hiring Vice Presidents who have retired. These golden parachutes were wrong and a public relations nightmare during more prosperous times. They are simply unacceptable now.

All consulting contracts and travel should also be reviewed.

MATC has a responsibility to this community and the working people who have supported us to make sure that we meet their educational needs. The further an activity is from the classroom, clinical and lab, the more it should be scrutinized. We cannot and should not wait for this economic crisis to blindside MATC. We need to be proactive now!

All of us are feeling the pressure as we try and cram more students into already crowded classrooms. .

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT

TAX NOTICE REGARDING PORTION OF 2008 DUES THAT ARE DEDUCTIBLE

Local 212 **does not** have the ability to keep track of the total dues paid by each of our more than 1400 members. The total dues paid during 2008 should appear on your final check stub for the year. Please save that for your income tax filing purposes.

In accordance with Internal Revenue Service code section 633 (e)(1)(A) we are required to report the amount of dues paid by members that relate to lobbying and certain political expenditures. Please be advised that 16.98% of the dues paid by you during 2008 related to lobbying and certain political expenditures and are non-deductible pursuant to Internal Revenue Service code section 162(e)(1). Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual reporting requirements.

JIM BENEDEUM, 2ND V.P. – FINANCIAL

This article was written prior to the US Congress agreeing on a package...

STIMULUS PACKAGE FALLS SHORT

The Senate's "compromise" on the federal stimulus plan is a betrayal of the nation's commitment to its people. If it is left in tact 600,000 teachers could lose their jobs!

The deal slashes job creating investments in the nation's economy by \$140 billion. But it leaves in tact between \$300 and \$350 billion in ineffective tax cuts.

This plan is irresponsible because we know that tax cuts create many fewer jobs than direct government investment.

The multiplier for stimulus spending generally ranges between 1 and 2.5, meaning for every \$1 spent between \$1 and \$2.50 in additional GDP is generated. In contrast, the multiplier for tax cuts for the wealthy is 0.5 -- or less.

This means that the Senate's "compromise" plan will generate between 1 million and 2.5 million fewer jobs than the House's original proposal. It will delay the renovation and modernization, including technology upgrades and energy efficiency improvements, of the nation's deteriorating public schools, colleges and universities. It cuts funds for Wisconsin's technical colleges whose current capacities are strained by the large number of dislocated workers and veterans who are enrolling for retraining. It shortchanges special education students by failing to fund their educations. It will deprive millions of already struggling American families of health care and nutrition.

The nation has lost 3.6 million jobs since the recession began. A record number of Americans are now collecting unemployment compensation. We should not allow the very supply side ideologues whose economic policies created this recession, the most severe since the Great depression, to play politics with the nation's economy and the health and well-being of its people.

Congress should restore the \$40 billion federal investment in reeling state governments that the Senate cut. If it does not, and state and local governments are forced to slash their budgets to balance them, the recession will turn into a full fledged depression as government employees, teachers and health care providers get laid off.

If the \$40 billion reduction is not restored, other states will follow California which is furloughing 200,000 state employees for two days a month. Such cuts will only exacerbate the recession,

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PART-TIME FACULTY CORNER

Greetings, fellow part-time faculty,



This semester started off with the usual assignment issues. Some of you were bumped by a more senior instructor, others had their classes cancelled because of low enrollment, or a less senior faculty member was assigned a class that you had requested and were qualified to teach. Please remember that you must notify your supervisor (your associate dean and cc me as well please) of any assignment issues as soon as possible. The time you notify your supervisor will dictate the remedy (see your Part-time Contract Article 3, Section 9b). If you fail to do this, you are foreclosed from seeking any remedy.

We also had problems with full-time instructors wanting part-time overloads, all of whom with less seniority than part-time instructors. The contract is very clear on this: A part-time instructor who has more part-time seniority than does a full-time instructor shall have priority to the assignment. Note: In some departments, it seems that administration plays “games” these days by switching the part-time overload of full-time instructors to their full-time load which we part-time instructors cannot bump. Pity that administration does not understand our contractual rights!



And in some cases, administrators do not assign anyone to a class even though it is filled and at the very last moment assign themselves as the course instructor. This isn't just wrong; it is unethical! The recognition clause in the contract defines the work of the bargaining unit. An administrator cannot be a member of our bargaining unit. Remember that you can bump any administrator out of a class provided you are qualified to teach the class yourself. Further, at the beginning of every semester, please check to see whether your associate dean and dean have assigned themselves classes.



In a recent issue of *The Chronicles of Higher Education*, one of our part-time colleagues at Madison Area Tech College was quoted as saying that when you take into account all the time her college expects her to spend preparing for class, grading papers, and meeting students, the money she gets per course “comes out to a minimum wage.” Going on in the same article, a full-time researcher at the Higher Education Research Institute at the U of California

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

PART-TIME FACULTY CORNER...CONT.

noted that he was “sympathetic to part-timers” who he said “are treated like crap.”

It is true that here at MATC we part-time instructors are limited by contract from working more than a 49.9% load. It is also true that we receive but 60% of what a full-time instructor earns even though we teach the same course(s) and are required to have the same credentials. To give you but one example, a full time instructor at class 5 and step 14 (a master's degree + 32 credits and 14 years) would be paid \$93,278 for teaching the fall and spring semesters. A part-time instructor, at the same class and step, teaching a 49.9% load (half of what the full time instructor would teach) is paid but \$27,927.43. Equity? NO!

Even though part-time equity for technical and community colleges has never been achieved at a state level, inroads have been made by individual colleges across the US and Canada. Many representatives of part-time faculty members point to the Vancouver Community College system as a model for colleges in the US. The college prorates its compensation for part-time instructors so that their earnings are 100% comparable to those of full-time instructors with similar levels of experience.



Parking is still a perennial problem. You must have a MATC hang tag to park in any MATC lot. Parking lots are available at all campuses for part-time faculty. Be certain that you know the location of the lot(s) in which you may park.



As you know, I advocate open channels of communication as does Vivian Beckley, who like me, is a part-time grievance representative. Are you having contractual problems; email (lindners@matc.edu and beckleyv@matc.edu) or phone (414-774-0740) please. Further if you need assistance in course planning, instructional methods, learning styles, evaluating and grading, motivating students, student legal rights, maintaining discipline in the classroom, instructional technology, classroom assessment, special needs students, interactive and cooperative teaching and learning, and/or meeting the needs of MATC's diverse student body, email or phone please.

**SALLY A. LINDNER
6TH VICE-PRESIDENT**

ZEIDLER COMMITTEE

Local 212 retired president Philip Blank has announced that the 2nd Annual Frank P. Zeidler lecture will be held on March 24th, 2009 at the Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Zeidler was a friend of labor and was honored by our local at least once, the last time, within a few years of his death at age 93. He was instrumental in securing what is now Milwaukee Public TV for MATC. That story alone could be an entire lecture...In the spirit of our former mayor; the committee asserts that there will be no admission charge to the lecture.

John Gurda, Milwaukee historian and close associate of the late Frank Zeidler will be the speaker and has named his talk "Public Enterprise, How the Socialists saved Milwaukee." Blank who is completing his second term at the Milwaukee Public Enterprise (co-founded by Zeidler) states that he had nothing to do with the title of Gurda's talk.

Zeidler was a strong advocate of MATC. Blank is the founding chair of the Frank P. Zeidler Memorial lecture committee. Blank can be reached on his cell phone 414-828-7723 if you have any questions.

NOTE: Two opportunities for tax exempt donations
**Checks can be sent to the International Institute of WI and indicate in the left hand corner "Zeidler Committee.

**In addition, Mr. Ellis Bromberg, General Manager of MPTV and also a member of the Zeidler Committee, facilitated the taping and televising of the first Zeidler lecture featuring Jeremy Scahill, who broke the news about the Blackwater scandal in Iraq. Bromberg's mother Edith passed away in November. She and Bromberg's father both escaped the Nazi holocaust. Anyone interested in making a donation in Edith's memory as well as for the Zeidler Committee simply should write above the Zeidler Committee notation on their check, "Memorial for Edith Bromberg."

STIMULUS PACKAGE CONT. FROM PAGE 2

increasing unemployment and reducing wages and consumption. Under these conditions even well-designed business tax cuts have little impact because firms do not invest when no one is buying their goods or services

Congress should also restore the \$19.5 billion investment in higher and public education that the Senate cut. If it does not, other colleges and universities will be forced to layoff personnel like Louisiana State University which is planning to furlough 2,000 employees, eliminate dozens of courses and shut down research programs.

This isn't a compromise. It is a recipe for disaster.

In his address on Saturday, President Obama criticized the failed approach of his opponents when he said:

Let's be clear: We can't expect relief from the tired old theories that, in eight short years, doubled the national debt, threw our economy into a tailspin, and led us into this mess in the first place. We can't rely on a losing formula that offers only tax cuts as the answer to all our problems while ignoring our fundamental economic challenges – the crushing cost of health care or the inadequate state of so many schools; our addiction to foreign oil or our crumbling roads, bridges, and levees.

Congress should follow the President's lead -- this is a time to be bold, not cautious. This is a time to invest in America's people and future. This is the time to do something that works, not cave in to the failed ideas of the past.

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT

CONDOLENCES TO...

Friends and family of **Ernie Schnook**, past Local 212 President and retired Foundry and Liberal Arts Instructor who passed away in December.

Friends and family of **Mary Anne Wissmueller**, retired Liberal Arts and Sciences Instructor who passed away last month

Friends and family of **Catherine Trottier**, retired Liberal Arts and Sciences Instructor who passed away last month.

Friends and family of **Gloria Villanueva**, retired Financial Aid Specialist who passed away in December.

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