

Celebrate Your New Center for Innovation

By Michelle Felix, ER&D Coordinator



Louise Gorenc, Michael Rosen, Barb Cannell and Brian Carlson at the FIC Grand Opening celebration. Photo by Sue Ruggles.

The Faculty Innovation Center, Room M201 at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus, held its Grand Opening on October 5. This state-of-the-art space is your resource center for workshops, training sessions, peer-to-peer support and the newest teaching technologies for your classrooms.

We recognize that faculty at the Mequon, West Allis and Oak Creek campuses will not benefit from the space as much as Milwaukee campus faculty. This semester I am touring all of the FRCs at the regional campuses and hope to enhance the materials and resources available to you. Contact me with your ideas.

ER&D has rights to several teaching and learning resources that you can access free of charge. The newest is *The Teaching*

Professor Online Seminar Series. We have full access to their live, interactive seminars plus unlimited on-demand access for the following week. After that, we receive CDs of the program. Past seminars include "Classroom Management 101: Dealing with Difficult Students," "What Faculty Members Need to Know about Retention," "10 Ways to Improve Blended Learning Course Design," and "Rubrics: Save Time, Engage Students and Foster Deep Learning."

We also have a subscription to *The Teaching Professor* newsletter. Recent articles include "A Look at Makeup Exams," "An Innovative Quiz Strategy," "Teachable Moments: The Grading Conference," and "The Elusive Benefits of Study Groups." To access *The Teaching Professor* online, contact felixm@matc.edu or newsomr@matc.edu. After you create an account, each month you will receive an email alerting you to the new edition.

Another free resource is on-demand webinars through Innovative Educators. Categories include Assessment, Developmental Education, Faculty Development, First-Year Experience, Online Learning, and Retention. Go to innovativeeducators.org and select On-Demand Training for a list of titles. Contact me or Rita Newsom for instructions about how to access the webinars you are interested in.

New at the FIC: You can now view an exhibit of books selected by Michael Rosen, Michael Burke, Charlie Dee and Vicki Martin. I asked each one to select books that have mattered to them. Their selections are provocative, entertaining, and speak to the issues that face MATC.

Why We're Recalling Walker

By Dr. Michael Rosen
Local 212 President



Labor Fest 2011 photo by Sue Ruggles.

The petition drive to recall Governor Scott Walker begins November 15, when we will begin to collect 500,000 signatures

in 60 days. The only reason we have waited so long is because state law says an elected official cannot be recalled until he or she has served for a year.

Walker was elected last November because voters were upset with the unacceptably high rates of unemployment. Since Doyle, a Democrat, had served as governor for eight years, they voted for change by electing Walker.

Rather than doing anything about jobs other than forfeiting over 6,000 construction jobs and driving Talgo out of town by rejecting high-speed rail federal dollars, Walker immediately moved to eliminate the union rights of public employees. Walker did not campaign on this attack on our democratic rights and would not have been elected if he had.

For those who still are confused about why Local 212 gets involved in politics, let's review the facts.

Walker proposed, and the Republican-dominated Legislature passed, Act 10 that takes away our rights to bargain over pen-

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Plan B for American Jobs Act

On October 12, the U.S. Senate failed to attain the 60 votes necessary to formally consider President Obama's American Jobs Act. The bill fell far short, by a vote of 50-49. Included in the \$447 billion package was the \$5 billion community college modernization fund.

Both the President and the Senate indicated they plan to move forward with the proposal, considering it in pieces. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) have each introduced bills that encompass solely the community college modernization funding, along with K-12 construction funds.

The \$5 billion two-year college facilities modernization would ensure these local, bedrock education institutions have the facilities and equipment to address current workforce demands, especially when employers are experiencing skilled worker shortages. Wisconsin would then receive \$79,900,000 in funding in the next fiscal year for its community colleges.

Another piece of the Job Act had slated \$50 billion in immediate investments for highways, transit, rail and aviation, helping to modernize an infrastructure that now receives a grade of "D" from the American Society of Civil Engineers and putting hundreds of thousands of con-

struction workers back on the job. If this proposal were to become law, it would make immediate investments of at least \$575,400,000 in Wisconsin that could support a minimum of approximately 7,500 local jobs in highway and public transit modernization.

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Fall Social

**Save the date:
Saturday, November 12**

Our Fall Social will be held at the Miller Room at O'Donnell Park, 910 E. Michigan Ave. Watch for details. The Miller Room at O'Donnell Park, 910 E. Michigan Ave. Watch for details.

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sion, healthcare, grievance procedure and virtually everything that makes MATC a decent place to work. They also slashed MATC's funding by 30%, the largest cut in tech college history. As a result, the state contributes only 7% of MATC funding, a drop from 30% in 1990. The state now contributes less than students or the federal government.

At the federal level, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives has proposed cutting \$2.3 billion from Pell Grants, which the majority of MATC students receive, and the GOP would make students who attend college part-time – the majority of our students – ineligible for Pell grants.

The *Washington Post* noted: "The eligibility changes would hit particularly hard at community colleges, where many students take longer to graduate (especially if they transfer to pursue bachelor's degrees) and where many are enrolled less than half-time. 'It's really a body blow, at least as proposed,' said David Baime, senior vice president of government relations and research of the American Association of Community Colleges."

Walker and his political allies have passed legislation that threatens the very existence of Local 212 and MATC.

Contrast that with our political friends like Democratic Rep. Cory Mason and Sen. Chris Larson, who have proposed legislation that will restore MATC's funding so we can solve the skilled worker shortage by taxing the state's millionaires.

Or compare Walker's action to President Obama's proposal for a \$5 billion modernization fund for two-year colleges and discretionary funding to the Pell Grant program by providing \$50 billion over the next decade to retain the current maximum award of \$5,500.

Obama's proposal to invest in modernizing community colleges fills a key resource gap, and ensures that these local, bedrock institutions have the facilities and equipment to address current workforce demands in the economy's highly technical and growing fields. Wisconsin two-year colleges would receive nearly \$80 million in funding in the next fiscal year through this program.

Or check out your own paychecks. We didn't get a raise this year, but your take-home pay is more because Obama reduced your Social Security tax by 50% in an effort to revive the economy. This targeted tax cut saves \$1,589 for the typical Wisconsin household with a median income of \$51,000. If you make more, your tax cut is more.

Unlike Walker who has lavished tax cuts on corporations with no job creation requirements, or Republican Rep. Paul Ryan who wants to cut Social Security and Medicare while preserving every corporate tax loophole and low tax rates on millionaires and billionaires, Obama realizes that tax cuts are effective economic policy only when they are targeted to working and middle-class people because we will spend it, in contrast to the wealthy who save it.

Local 212 supports politicians who support MATC, our students and our members. And we have endorsed Republicans like Mike Ellis, Dan Kapanke and Dean Kaufert in the past, before they rolled over for Walker by voting to eliminate Local 212.

MATC is a public institution. It owes its existence to courageous politicians who 100 years ago understood that every citizen in the state had a right to a decent and affordable education. Local 212 supports those who promote that vision, and we will work to defeat those who oppose it.

Local 212 is engaged in politics because politicians control MATC's future. So that's why we will work to recall the governor, who has not only declared war on our union, but on the college we love and the students we serve.

Part of the Jobs Act, again which could be taken up as a separate measure, called for an investment of \$35 billion to prevent layoffs of up to 280,000 teachers, while supporting the hiring of tens of thousands more and keeping cops and firefighters on the job.

These funds would help states and localities avoid and reverse layoffs now, and provide \$536,000,000 in funds to Wisconsin to support up to 7,400 educator jobs.

The Act also included a \$25 billion investment in school infrastructure that would modernize at least 35,000 public schools – investments that create jobs while improving classrooms and upgrading our schools to meet 21st century needs. Wisconsin would receive \$368,700,000 in

funding to support as many as 4,800 jobs.

Yet another part of the Act, which would also be introduced as a separate measure, extends unemployment insurance. This would prevent 58,100 people looking for work in Wisconsin from losing their benefits in just the first six weeks. And, across the country, the number saved from losing benefits would triple by the end of the year.

And let's hope legislators will reintroduce the Pathways Back to Work Fund to provide hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and adults with opportunities to work and to achieve needed training in growth industries. Pathways Back to Work could place 2,000 adults and 7,100 youths in jobs in Wisconsin.

Hiring Committees Need Your Input

By Steven P. Holloway, 1st V.P., Committees

Full-time faculty and counselors from all departments are invited to join an academic hiring committee. The recruitment process has already begun for new faculty hires, and we plan to conduct interviews starting in October (for spring 2012 semester faculty) and April 2012 (for fall semester new hires).

We need your participation in employment interviews. Please step up to be one of three volunteers or three alternates from your department. Small departments will require at least two volunteers plus two alternates. This one year-commitment is a volunteer opportunity, but you can earn credit toward certification.

We will identify specific days and times well in advance so you may reserve time on your calendar.

Ready to volunteer? Local 212 members can contact Pam Bautch at pbautch@local212.org or me at hollowas@matc.edu with the following: name, Cosmo ID, primary bargaining unit, division, department, email address, and your preferred phone number.

Retirees Take on Tutoring Project

By Phyllis Holder, L212 Retiree Chapter

We want to connect with the classroom even after retirement. A recent survey revealed that Local 212 retiree chapter members want to serve as volunteer tutors for elementary school-aged children, so we decided to do this through a community service project.

The AFT, Local 212 Retiree Chapter Elementary Reading and Math Enrichment Project will be developed in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools.

The plan calls for the implementation of supplemental reading and math instruction by an organized group of Local 212 retirees. Two Milwaukee elementary schools, Hopkins Lloyd Community School and Escuela Vineau School, have been selected as project sites.

The project will supplement early reading and math instruction during classroom time. After-school contact will be explored if requested by our volunteers.

Helping struggling elementary school students make dramatic improvements in reading and math skills can be deeply gratifying. Building and running this project, from memorandum of understanding and orientation to scheduling pairs for as little as one hour a day, requires a core group of volunteers.

Please consider committing to this community service project. We'll discuss this and other topics at our October 21 meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Historic Pabst Best Place. RSVP by calling 414-765-0910.

Sabbatical Leave

All full-time faculty members and paraprofessionals who have worked at MATC for six of the last eight years, including the year preceding the leave, are eligible to apply for sabbatical leave.

Applications are available from Margie Kleineider, Milwaukee Campus, Room M270. Or email Margie to obtain an electronic file of the application. All applications must be received with proper signatures **no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2011.**

Questions? Contact Dr. Terry Firkins, firkinst@matc.edu (77613), or Margie Kleineider, kleineim@matc.edu (78606).

Part-Time Faculty Corner

It's Time to Turn in Letters of Availability

By Sally A. Lindner (SAL)
6th VP – Part-Time Faculty

It's time to turn in your Letter of Availability teaching preferences for the spring semester. Don't be late, or you may not be assigned spring semester classes!

You must be certified and qualified for all assigned classes. Qualified teachers who submit a Letter of Availability will be assigned classes based on seniority.

Take some thought and time when compiling this important form. Fill it out completely, legibly and according to directions.

Question 1: Indicate whether or not you are interested in teaching during the second semester.

Question 2: Do not check all of the load percentages. Check only the range you want. You may teach up to 49.9%, but any load assigned within your load preference

is contractually legal. Your load will be filled to the range you specify based on seniority and course availability.

Question 3: Indicate whether or not you prefer a schedule consistent with your last schedule (within the last two semesters).

Question 4: List in priority order all of the courses that you are qualified to teach. Check that the classes are offered this spring and have not already been assigned to full-time instructors for their full-time loads. To do this, go to INFOnline at matc.edu for the list of spring semester classes. Please list only specific classes, not "All the classes in Marketing," for instance. Do not list section numbers.

If the class is taught in a traditional and online format, and you are qualified to teach online (by having taken a Blackboard class), you might want to list traditional and online format after the class. You may also include an attachment of additional classes.

Question 5: Number in priority order the sites at which you are willing to teach. Number them as 1, 2, 3, 4. Do not simply place an "X" on the locations. If you want to teach at only one campus and no others, check only that campus (obviously it will limit your options).

Question 6: Check only the days and times you are available to teach.

Sign and date the form. Include your Social Security or COSMO number and make sure you have a copy for your own records. Turn the form in on time to Labor Relations.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like me to check your Letter of Availability before you turn it in, email me at lindners@matc.edu or call 414-774-0740.