

# FAST Fund

*Believe in Students!*

FAST Fund is an economic emergency fund for MATC students

## MEDIA RELEASE

September 24, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Milwaukee County Partners with Local 212/MATC FAST Fund to Fight Student Homelessness and Evictions

On Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> the Milwaukee County Board unanimously approved a resolution that provides financial assistance to Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) students experiencing housing insecurity.

Barbara Toles, President of the Local 212/MATC FAST Fund Board of Directors, thanked the County Board noting, "Twenty percent of MATC's students are homeless during the year. The County Board's support will enable the FAST Fund to help these students secure housing, pay past debts to landlords, and avoid eviction."

The resolution that provides the FAST Fund with \$35,000 for housing assistance was sponsored by County Board Chairwoman, Marcelia Nicholson. "I am extremely proud that Milwaukee County is partnering with the Local 212/MATC FAST Fund to provide critical resources to MATC's students. I hope this is the beginning of a long and productive relationship," said Nicholson following the vote.

"The FAST Fund is grateful to County Board Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson for recognizing that housing insecurity prevents many students from completing their degrees, said FAST Fund Director Dr. Michael Rosen. "Students who are living in their cars or couch-surfing won't succeed."

Rosen added, "We are grateful that Milwaukee County's leadership recognizes the important role that MATC plays in this community in combating poverty and training the area's skilled and technical workforce."

MATC is the state's largest two-year college with an enrollment of 35,000. It is the state's only majority minority institution of higher learning, educating more students of color than all other Wisconsin colleges and universities combined. Taxpayers realize an average rate of return of 7.5% on their investment in MATC.

Bria Burris, a recent MATC graduate, was homeless with her two daughters when she turned to the FAST Fund for help. She explained, "The Fast Fund came to my aid on multiple occasions during my educational journey, from temporary housing, legal support, employment, along with student and community advocacy both on and off-campus. This support was not only helpful to my education, it changed the trajectory of my life."



739 W Juneau Ave Milwaukee, WI 53233 (414) 765-0910  
All Contributions are Tax Deductible



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Last year the FAST Fund provided assistance to 298 MATC students, a 94.7% increase over the previous year. Thirty-five percent of these students were either homeless or facing eviction.

The Local 212/MATC Believe in Students FAST Fund is a non-profit organization founded and supported by Local 212 that provides quick, financial assistance to MATC students experiencing economic emergencies so that they can stay enrolled in school and graduate.



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