ANNUAL REPORT



2020-21

FAST Fund
Faculty and Students Together

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Mission Statement
- 2 Board of Directors and Staff Members
- 3 Letter from Board President and Executive Director
- 4 Mary Anne Gross Endowment
- 5 Donor Profile: Perry Nigh
- **6** Donor Profile: Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty
- **7** FAST Fund Student Survey
- 8 Student Profile: Sommer Hoskins
- 9 Student Profile: Angel Vega
- **10** Student Testimonials and Photos
- 11 Financial Reporting

MISSION STATEMENT

The Local 212/MATC Believe in Students FAST Fund mission: To provide Milwaukee Area Technical College students experiencing economic emergencies with rapid financial support and to promote public and MATC policies on issues impacting MATC students so they remain enrolled and achieve academic success.

^{*}After this report was compiled but before it was printed, the FAST Fund hired Liz Franczyk as Executive Director.

FA\$TFund

BELIEVE IN STUDENTS FAST FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OFFICERS

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George Stone, PhD, MATC faculty and Wisconsin Institute for Torah Study (retired)

Latoya Sykes, CEO, Our Next Generation

Ann Wilson, MATC District Board and Manager, Hillside Family Resource Center

*Organizations listed for identification purposes only

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Ann Burbach, Coordinator

Bria Burris, Coordinator

Linda Baehr, Coordinator

Liz Franczyk, Director of Finance

Richard Harris, Coordinator

Carol Holley, Coordinator

C J Igilski, Coordinator

Michael Rosen, Director

Bob Transon, Coordinator





This has been a year of challenges and growth for the FAST Fund and the MATC students that we serve.

The pandemic continued to wreak havoc on our students' lives and their educational pursuits. Many students experienced losses as family members succumbed to COVID and others became ill themselves. A number of students lost jobs, had work hours reduced, or were forced to quit their jobs because their children's schools/daycare centers were closed. Most MATC classes continued online.

All of this increased the stress experienced by MATC students, most of whom are pursuing higher education to escape poverty.

In the shadow of this pandemic, the FAST Fund provided financial assistance to a record 443 students, a 26% increase over the previous year. Once again, housing insecurity was the single largest area of need at 22% of total allocations, a reflection of Milwaukee's lack of affordable housing. There was a significant increase in requests for laptops and reliable home internet access, especially for students with children whose schools also resorted to distance learning.

Despite these challenges a survey (https://tinyurl.com/naz3s3ak) found that 93% of FAST Fund students either graduated or were continuing their education. That is a remarkable record of success that we are very proud of.

In a new initiative, the FAST Fund partnered with MATC's English as a Second Language faculty to help over 100 immigrant students register for classes and secure textbooks. Among them were refugees from Maynmar, Syria and 61 other countries.

The FAST Fund was recognized for its efforts by increased contributions. Educators Credit Union, the United Community Center, La Casa de Esperanza, Herb Kohl Philanthropies, the American Federation of Teachers Local 212, Pete's Fruit Market, the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee County, all supported our work. We were proud to be awarded the Pastor Joe and Joyce Ellwanger scholarship for 2021 from Cross Lutheran Church. Community donors, including MATC faculty, staff, and retirees were especially generous. Our major donors were the

children of MATC retiree, Mary Anne Gross, who established an endowment in their late mother's name that allows the FAST Fund to help even more students. (see page 5)

The FAST Fund achieved some success in promoting public policy changes that benefited MATC's students. For example, when MATC received its first allocation of federal emergency dollars, the college began awarding eligible students \$500. However, it then made the decision to deduct the cost of the Chromebooks it had distributed, as well as the Dreamkeepers' funding students had received from the \$500 student emergency allocation. The FAST fund was successful in getting this harmful decision reversed.

We also partnered with the Wisconsin Technical College System and other national organizations to successfully lobby Congress to change the formula used to distribute federal emergency funds that disproportionately awarded funds to elite universities, while disadvantaging working class colleges with large minority student populations like MATC. Finally, we were excited to see MATC move its Student Resources Center from an isolated corner of the campus to the second floor of the Student Center, a more accessible location for which we had long advocated.

The success of the FAST Fund is driven by the efforts of our volunteer staff, one part-time MATC instructor, and six retirees. The FAST Fund's work would not be possible without the tremendous support of our community donors whose contributions are the fuel that makes the FAST Fund possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Michael Rosen, Ph.D.

Director, Local 212 MATC FAST Fund



MARY ANNE GROSS Memorial Endowment Fund

Last summer the FAST Fund received a gift of \$2,000,000 from Mary Anne Gross' children to establish a permanent endowment in their mother's name.

Mary Anne was an MATC graduate who served as an editor at MATC, an advisor to the International Students Organization, a mentor to many of its members, an active member in Local 212 and an enthusiastic supporter of the FAST Fund. When she passed away in 2019, she had requested contributions go to the FAST Fund.

Mary Anne loved MATC students, and thanks to her children, her legacy will continue to express that love in the form of emergency assistance to MATC students in financial crisis.

"My mom's entire life was about helping others and especially the students she knew at MATC. The FAST Fund is all about helping MATC students succeed at the school, and it is an honor for my sisters and me to make this support permanent in her honor," said Mary Anne's son Phill Gross.

This endowment will generate between \$60,000 and \$80,000 per year, providing a solid foundation for the FAST Fund to continue aiding Milwaukee Area Technical College students.







MATC Spanish Instructor Perry Nigh in front of the Mayan ruins at Tikal during a student trip to Guatemala in 2014 where he was one of the leaders.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Perry Nigh

Nobody understands MATC's student body better than Perry Nigh.

For 27 years he worked closely with students. He was hired in 1988 as a bilingual counselor for MATC's Project Second Chance, where he helped high school dropouts get into the Adult High School. Once there, they could get diplomas and move on to college courses. Then Perry transitioned to the college faculty where he taught in the Spanish Department for 17 years.

In both positions Perry was blown away by students suddenly disappearing from class, even ones who were doing really well. Many he would never see again, but some would reappear a year or two later. "When I'd ask them 'what happened,' the answer was always some version of hardship: they were a few dollars short for rent so they had to get another low-paying job, the battery went out in their car, and they didn't have the money to get a new one," Perry explained.

"None of these things would have been an obstacle for a middle-class student whose family had the resources to weather a crisis," Perry added, "but these problems were educational deal-breakers for our MATC students."

Perry first heard about the FAST Fund from a retiring colleague who explained that the FAST Fund had just been started and asked that people make contributions to it. "I wrote a check right away because it seemed to address the very problems that had burdened so many of my students."

Perry keeps increasing his annual contributions as he sees the way the FAST Fund functions.

"So many of our students are embarrassed by the stigma of needing to ask for help," he explains. "If they get over that hump, then often the college's bureaucratic system makes them jump through so many hoops that it drives many away."

"The FAST Fund has created an emotionally safer and more approachable space that gets them immediate help," he adds. "Instead of being constrained by rules that often discourage students, the FAST Fund is innovative and gets them help immediately. Plus, since Local 212 provides office space and almost all the staff are volunteers, I know my contribution is going directly to students, not to overhead."



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty

When Christine Symchych needed an advanced skill for her career as an architect and urban planner, she came to MATC to fulfill that need.

When she and her husband, Jim McNulty, realized the obstacles so many college students must overcome just to survive week to week and stay in school, they donated generously to the FAST Fund to help MATC students.

"When I was completing my Masters in Architecture and Planning at UW-Milwaukee," Christine explains, "almost everybody was making drawings by hand. However, a few were drawing on computers with a new, sexy tool called Autocad. Realizing I needed that skill," she continues, "I took the Autocad course in MATC's Computer and Mechanical Drawing Department. All my fellow students were studying to be Autocad Engineers. The instructors and students really helped me gain this skill set that helped my career."

When she and Jim, an engineer who designs software for industries, were told by a friend about the FAST Fund helping MATC students stay in school, they realized they wanted to help.

"Students have so many hurdles: family issues, homelessness, late buses, hunger, needing to work several low-paying jobs just to survive," Christine realizes. "So many of their challenges are significant but solvable, yet some students simply didn't have the resources to solve them, so they got derailed."

Jim continues, "What we love about the FAST Fund is not only that it addresses the students' specific emergencies, but it is also so nimble: if they need something today, they can get it tomorrow, whether a pair of glasses or a computer. It gives students the opportunity to plug the hole that's sinking their ship, so they can sail again!"

Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty are donors who believe in what MATC adds to our community as well as in the FAST Fund's work that enables students to complete their education.

Recipient Survey to Evaluate FAST Fund Effectiveness

On July 26, 2021 a survey of all 2020-2021 FAST Fund students was launched to help evaluate the FAST Fund's effectiveness. The survey was conducted online by Dr. Gina Rosen, a Social Science Senior Research Manager at the non-profit, Opportunity@Work.

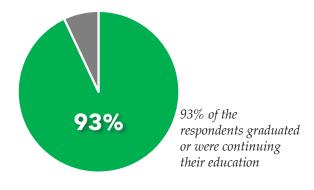
KEY RESPONSES:

- 93% of the respondents reported they had graduated or were continuing their education.
- 62% reported that the process of applying to the FAST Fund was easy.
- Rent was the area of highest need, identified by 47% of the students, reflecting Milwaukee's shortage of low-income and worker housing.
- Other high need areas were tuition-debt, textbooks and utilities.
- 80% of the students were African American, but the FAST Fund provided assistance to students of all ethnic backgrounds.

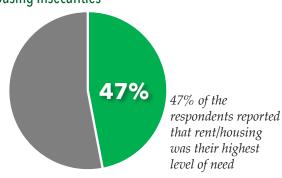
The FAST Fund Survey Report includes policy suggestions for the college, state government and federal government. We are happy to report that Milwaukee Area Technical College has already reversed course and implemented our suggestion that continuing students should be eligible for Dreamkeepers' support during the winter semester break.

You can read the entire report here https://tinyurl.com/naz3s3ak or request a hard copy by calling or emailing the FAST Fund: director@matcfastfund.org or 414-765-0910 ex 14.

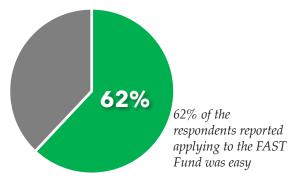
Percentage of Graduating Students



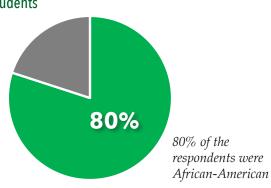
Percentage of Students Facing Housing Insecurities



Ease of Applying to the FAST Fund



Percentage of African-American Students



FAST FUND SUCCESS STORY

Sommer Hoskins

Sommer Hoskins had a 3.5 grade point average and was only one semester away from completing her nursing degree at MATC when her boyfriend hit and kicked her.

As she later explained, "I learned in class that most abused women don't try to move out until they've been assaulted seven times, so I decided once was enough for me. I left that night with the few possessions I could take while he was asleep."

With no place to turn, Sommer's car became her home.



And homelessness was not her only challenge. Like so many other MATC students, Sommer had exhausted her federal financial aid, so she had to pay full tuition at MATC. This came about because following high school, she had enrolled in UW- Whitewater, completing three years toward a biomedical degree. However, after working in a hospital, she realized she wanted to become a nurse, so she transferred to Gateway Technical College and completed her prerequisites, then was accepted by MATC's nursing program.

She soon discovered that federal college aid programs are not designed for students who change majors and take more classes than the absolute minimum. While a Pell Grant and Wisconsin Covenant Scholars Grant had helped her pay for her first few years at Whitewater, she still needed loans to cover her tuition, books, and living expenses.

By the time she left her abusive boyfriend and was living in her car, she had accumulated \$40,000 in debt with her only option being to acquire more debt.

Hearing of her plight, Sommer's nursing instructor advised her to contact the FAST Fund, then explained to us that she was a fantastic student. We wrote a check to cover the security deposit on a modest apartment in the suburban community of her required nursing clinical placement.

She graduated as a Registered Nurse in December 2018, passed her state boards the following month, and is now employed as a nurse making \$30 an hour. Sommer recently gave birth to her second child.

Sommer, her daughter and son are FAST Fund success stories.

With no place to turn, Sommer's car became her home."



FAST FUND SUCCESS STORY

Angel Vega

Students at the Doefler School in Milwaukee love Angel Vega. And there's a good reason for that. Almost twenty years ago Angel sat in the very seats they now occupy and walked the same hallways as a student.

For four years Angel Vega, a graduate of the MATC Urban Teacher Education Program, was a para-professional and substitute teacher at the very school he attended as a child. He also ran Doefler's Children's Outing Association after-school program. This year he transferred to Escuela Fratney.

Prior to graduating from MATC, Angel, like many MATC students, was struggling financially. After his mother was deported to Mexico, Angel and his three younger sisters were forced to move into his grandmother's house. With so many mouths to feed, the household fell behind on their electricity bill. WE Energies threatened to cut off their service and access to the internet Angel needed for his homework assignments.

Angel contacted the FAST Fund. We helped pay the bill. The lights and internet service stayed on. Angel graduated in the spring and was offered employment by the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) system. But Angel owed MATC tuition money. As a result, the college would not give him a copy of his official transcript that MPS required for employment.

Angel again contacted the FAST Fund. We contacted the Vice President of Student Affairs and explained that MATC policy was a classic Catch 22. Angel had secured a job that would allow him to pay the debt, but he could not secure the position to pay the debt because of MATC's policy of not providing transcripts to students who owe the college money. The Vice President agreed to provide Angel with one copy of his official transcript for \$15. The FAST Fund paid it, and Angel was hired.

But there is more. Angel has been such a valued employee that MPS is now paying for him to pursue his bachelor's degree.

Angel's current supervisor recently sent him the following note: "I want to thank you for your excellent work. I really, really appreciate your work. You are extremely calm, patient and hard working. You make our day run well from busses to recess to classroom instruction. You connect with students on such a personal level, and it makes a huge difference. Thanks so much for all you do and for who you are."

Angel Vega is a FAST Fund success story.



LUNETTA HELM

Being a single parent, working, and attending school full-time can be challenging. But it's not impossible. I recently was on maternity leave and my income changed making it harder for me to meet all the needs for my household. I felt like less of a mother. When I was losing hope the MATC FAST Fund helped me keep my faith. I need to finish my program at MATC so that I can be a better provider for my children. When that became challenging the FAST Fund helped. That made it easier to focus on my current goals so I can be successful and gain stability. The MATC FAST Fund helped me do just that. With their help I am able to stay focused in school and be the best parent for my children. I am able to do all this with less worries and stresses. I appreciate the support that came along with MATC FAST Fund.



NALEE XIONG

When it comes to financial or any help, I thought "There are people out there who are in dire situations and need help more than me." Once Covid came, it hit hard. I ended up losing my job during quarantine and slowly our savings started depleting. I heard about he FAST Fund from a classmate. I decided it wouldn't hurt to apply. I'll get either a "yes" or "no." Not only did I receive a "yes" but I also received other resources for more assistance.

There are not enough words that can express just how much I appreciate your kindness and generosity. You are such a wonderful blessing. I cannot wait to graduate from the respiratory therapy program so I may one day give back. May your kindness and generosity return to you a hundredfold.



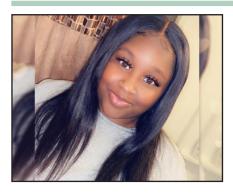
VERONICA JIMENEZ

I truly believe that good people still exist and confirmed that when speaking with Dr. Michael Rosen. I explained my situation and goal of graduating as a Respiratory Therapist. School is expensive and I have been paying out of pocket because I no longer qualify for financial aid. When you are a mother and student you prioritize and sacrifice for a better future. Thank you for making this future RT that much closer to reaching her goal! I promise to pay it forward one day! Thank you so much!!!!!!



ERICA SWAN

Thanks to the Fast Fund for their continued support. I don't know if I would have been successful in my journey to become a Nurse without the FAST Fund. Their support allows me to be able to study and not worry about how I'm going to pay for books, I completed last semester with a 3.1 GPA using my brains and with the support of the FAST Fund. I am so very grateful. Once I graduate I will give back to the community as the Fast Fund has done for me.



TAKERIA ADAMS

Thank you! Thank you! I am so grateful for the funding I received. I do not know what I would have done without Fast Fund. The Fast Fund is a great resource for low-income mothers who are trying to pursue an education. I am a single mother pursuing a nursing career and a batter future. Resources like this help when times are hard. Thank you Carol Holley, for contacting me and helping me out. Thank you Michael Rosen for your help as well.



My name is Zach Liu. Over the past year I made the decision to turn my life around, and I needed to start somewhere. As a former college dropout, I knew that if I was going to get back into school, it would have to be in an area which I was passionate about. Enter in Milwaukee Area Technical College and their audio production program. I have always loved the prospect of making music but have never really pursued it. What better way than to surround my-



self with other individuals who have similar ambitions, and also work toward a degree. I relocated to Milwaukee from Kenosha to start my dream with very little money or idea of how I would support myself financially.

I was able to use most of my money to secure housing for the first month of the semester. I was able to get a job, but with a few weeks until next month's rent was due, I was starting to panic about how I could come up with the rent money. After reaching out to the services of MATC, I was led to the Fast Fund program. I spoke with CJ and told her about my background. She shared her mental support and guidance with me. She offered possible options that could help me find a solution to my problem. But when that didn't work out, the Fast Fund was able to pay my first month's rent at my new apartment. This act of goodness will enable me to stay in school, stay focused on a positive path, and allow me to become fully independent, I am forever indebted to the Fast Fund and everyone involved in helping students reach their goals.

INCOME STATEMENT

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Income		
4000	Contributions Income	\$2,223,240.52
4100	Interest Earned	\$29.00
Total Income	_	\$2,223,269.52
Expense		
5000	Salaries	\$7,530.00
5100	Bank Fees	\$1,093.30
5300	Office Expense	\$1,494.93
6000	Student Housing Insecurity	\$40,480.95
6001	Student Utilities	\$8,937.21
6002	Student Computer	\$1,821.05
6003	Student Books	\$7,262.37
6004	Student Transportation	\$8,424.77
6005	Student Medical	\$1,592.58
6006	Student Food	\$1,278.07
6007	Student Tuition	\$16,897.97
6009	ESL Enrollment	\$1,051.53
Total Expense	_	\$97,864.73
Net Income (Loss)	_	\$2,125,404.79

CORPORATE DONORS

Believe in **Students** \$4,162.00

Educators Credit Union \$5,000.00

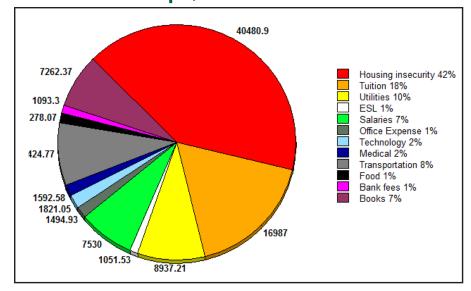
Waukesha County Community **Foundation** \$1,000.00

La Casa De Esperanza, Inc \$2,000.00

United Community Center Inc. \$3,039.55

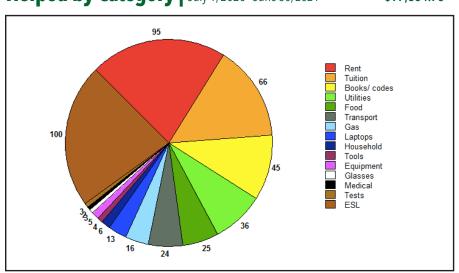
TOTAL SPENDING July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

\$97,864.73



Number of Students Helped by Category | July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

\$97,864.73



DONORS BY DOLLAR AMOUNT

The FAST Fund gratefully appreciates all donations no matter how large or small! Together we make a difference!

\$1-100

Toshiba Adams Robin Ahrens Bernard Allen Richard Boldt

Joanne & Lawrence Borek Alex Brower Jane Chester Danielle Christel Levi Cook Sarah Dahl Rohan de Silva Anne DeLeo Michael Dougherty Michael Eisman Venancia Gamazon Marie Garnhart Michael Garvin Eric Gesell Rita Hale Phyllis Holder Shelly Hope Alan Jaberg

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\$200-499

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Martin Liddy John Mikich Nancy Moews Dean Muller Peter Musante Janet Nortrom Kenneth O'Reilly Toby Recht

Carole & Darryl Shammas & Holter

Jody Stolldorf Michael Wendt Bill Werner

\$1000-4,999

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Barry Mandel Network For Good Perry Nigh Barbara Rasman Michael Rosen Sue Silverstein Judy Springer

United Community Ctr Inc. Waukesha Co. Comm. Foundation

\$10,000+

Christine Symchych and James McNulty

