



American Federation of Teachers, Local 212

Milwaukee Area Technical College

Affiliated with AFT, AFT-WI, AFL-CIO & MALC

MEDIA RELEASE

April 24, 2018

Contact: Dr. Lisa Conley
(414) 429-7883

AFT Local212 Opposes Ascension Wisconsin Closing St. Joseph Hospital in Milwaukee

The American Federation of Teachers Local 212 calls on Ascension Wisconsin to continue providing comprehensive healthcare services at St. Joseph Hospital in Milwaukee. Local 212 represents the faculty and professional staff at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Dr. Lisa Conley, President of AFT Local 212 and a former healthcare professional noted, "Several of MATC's health occupation programs and their students rely on St. Joe's for their clinical training, without which they cannot complete requirements needed to work as clinicians in their chosen specialty." Conley explained that students from MATC's Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, and Radiography programs complete their training by working on-site under supervision of clinical instructors at St. Joseph's and other area hospitals.

"When Milwaukeeans face medical challenges, they deserve well-trained, competent healthcare providers," Conley stated. "St. Joe's plays a crucial role in preparing those providers to deliver high-quality care."

Local 212's Executive Vice President, Kevin Mulvenna, explained, "Losing clinical sites creates real problems for properly educating healthcare professionals at the very time that Wisconsin has a shortage of nurses and other healthcare specialists."

Conley described the status of other hospitals such as Aurora and Froedtert as being either at or close to capacity for patients and, therefore, unable to adequately care for the additional patients that the proposed downsizing at St. Joseph's would produce.

"Ascension needs to rescind permanently its plans to downsize St. Joseph's to ensure continued and convenient access to healthcare in Milwaukee," Conley stated.

MATC Nursing Instructor Melba Redmond, RN MSN added, "MATC's nursing students are very disturbed by Ascension's announcement to cut back services to the community. They are asking how, if Ascension's mission is to serve everyone, can Ascension abandon serving families on the northside of Milwaukee? "