



## American Federation of Teachers, Local 212

Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Affiliated with AFT, AFT-WI, AFL-CIO & MALC

### For Immediate Release

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### **State Representative Greta Neubauer, UW, and Tech College faculty rally against efforts to dismantle higher education**

State Representative Greta Neubauer (D Racine) will join University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Technical College faculty members from across the state in a press conference at 10:30 am on Thursday, September 13 at Gateway Technical College's iMET Center (Room 225) in response to the Department of Education's rulemaking hearing.

Ms. Neubauer said, "I strongly support our tech and university students and the state's educational professionals in opposing federal changes that will undermine the quality of Wisconsin high education."

Dr. Lisa Conley, Natural Sciences instructor and president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 212, agreed, "Higher Ed faculty are opposed to the proposed rule changes. The DeVos administration has already voided the gainful employment standard that protected students from predatory institutions like ITT Tech and Everest College. This hearing is designed to eliminate quality standards on faculty student contact, accreditation, and subcontracting. The changes would open wide the door to Trump University-like diploma mills that game the federal financial system for huge profits, while leaving students deeply in debt with worthless credits. Our students deserve better."

The hearing at Gateway is one of three being held across the country.

Dr. Jon Shelton, a UW Green Bay professor of history, noted, "American graduates of higher education have helped make the American economy a world powerhouse. That's why so many young people seek higher education here. Unfortunately, without safeguards, predatory institutions like ITT Tech exploit this thirst for higher education. Betsy DeVos and the Education Department have already reinstated the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), which allowed for-profits to misrepresent the kind of education students were getting, while raking in federal dollars that students were supposed to pay back. We should be skeptical of any new "rulemaking" by an Education Department that moves to allow the ACICS to once again monitor for-profit colleges."

Student debt is now more than \$1.5 trillion. It is the nation's second largest form of debt.

"The proliferation of for-profit diploma mills under the auspices of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, a creation of the for-profit sector, is one of the major reasons that student debt has soared," according to Jay Johnson, president of the Gateway Technical Education Association. "These are colleges in name only. They are predatory institutions. Outsourcing higher education will only exacerbate this problem. For the sake of students and taxpayers we need more standards and higher expectations of quality, not less."

Faculty from the Gateway Technical Education Association, AFT Local 212/Milwaukee Area Technical College, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee AAUP, the AFT Higher Ed Council and students will speak at the press conference.

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