

FAST Fund

Believe in Students!

FAST Fund is an economic emergency fund for MATC students

For Immediate Release

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LOCAL 212 MATC FAST FUND ANNOUNCES \$20,000 INVESTMENT FROM AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

MILWAUKEE, WI -- The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has awarded the [Local 212 MATC FAST Fund](#) a \$20,000 grant to help Milwaukee Area Technical College students continue their education by paying down debts they had accrued.

Randi Weingarten, AFT president explained that the FAST Fund earned the grant by responding so quickly to student needs.

“College students are consistently burdened by the financial needs required to keep up with their studies—and COVID-19 has only increased those stressors. All too often, students have to give up on their dreams of a better future simply because they can’t afford it,” Weingarten said

“The FAST Fund gives students peace of mind by providing cash to those who can’t afford gas to get to campus, the textbooks necessary to keep up in class, or even to keep the lights on in their homes,” she continued. “It’s crucial we invest in the future of our country by providing students with the support and resources to thrive.”

In the past three months the FAST Fund has used the grant to help 31 students enroll for the fall semester by paying \$11,358.39 worth of debt and past tuition bills that were preventing them from registering for classes.

In addition, the FAST Fund has helped another 155 students with over \$42,000 in grants for rent, gas, laptops, medical or utility bills, groceries, and child care so they can stay in school.

The FAST Fund quickly identifies students struggling to meet their basic needs and provides the support they need to focus on school. “College students have been hit especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 3 in 5 reporting they struggle to meet their basic needs over the past year,” said FAST Fund Director, Dr. Michael Rosen.

An alarming 20% of MATC’s students are homeless during the year, and close to 50% are food insecure. While most MATC students work, most are employed in low-wage, part-time occupations that fail to pay a living wage.



700 W State Street Milwaukee, WI 53233 (414) 765-0910
All Contributions are Tax Deductible



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The FAST Fund was created in 2016 by Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, a professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology and a member of the AFT's Temple Association of University Professionals. MATC is one chapter of the FAST Fund; there are about 30 nation-wide.

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