

FAST Fund

Believe in Students!

FAST Fund is an economic emergency fund for MATC students

For Immediate Release

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MATC FAST Fund Appoints New Members to Board

The Local 212 MATC FAST FUND recently appointed to its Board of Directors Abdulhamid Ali, Chairman and CEO, DAAR Engineering Inc., Nicole Christian, student, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Lynda Conyers, President of the Milwaukee Times Newspaper, and Charlie Dee, retired English and History faculty, Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Abdulhamid Ali is the CEO of DAAR Engineering Inc., an award-winning firm located in Milwaukee. Ali has managed multi-million-dollar transportation improvement programs, supervised and mentored engineers and technicians, and served on multiple administrative, technical, and management committees. Ali graduated from Marquette University- Milwaukee in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He previously served on the MATC District Board.

Nicole Christian is a current student who is on the staff of the Local 212 MATC Fast Fund. She studies Human Service at Milwaukee Area Technical College, in order to become a Substance Abuse Counselor.

Lynda Jackson Conyers is the former president and publisher of the *Milwaukee Times* newspaper. With a masters degree in teaching from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, Conyers began her teaching career at a junior high in her hometown. She eventually entered into the world of business, assisting her husband in the publishing of the *Milwaukee Times*, a newspaper that serves the Black community. Conyers has been a tireless and effective advocate for people of color. In 1988, she assisted in establishing a journalism scholarship for minority students, with over \$550,000 awarded to date. In 1992, she launched the largest black owned printing, sign, and banner shop in the city of Milwaukee. In 1995, Conyers initiated the Black Excellence Awards Ceremony that has honored nearly 1,1000 individuals to date.

Charlie Dee taught in the English and History Departments for 33 years at Milwaukee Area Technical College. During that time, he was a leader of the faculty union, AFT Local 212, and a Fulbright Guest Lecturer in American Studies in Denmark 1992-1993 and Norway, 2003-2004. An activist with many different talents, Dee has served on several non-profit boards, published numerous articles on both politics and sports, was a political pundit on local radio

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and television and wrote a monthly columnist for the *Milwaukee Journal*. Dee earned his Bachelors Degree in History from Denison University and a Masters in American Studies from the University of Iowa.

The Local 212 MATC FAST Fund is a five-year-old, non-profit organization that provides quick financial assistance to Milwaukee Area Technical College students experiencing economic emergencies. Initiated by the American Federation of Teachers Local 212 in 2016, it helped 433 students last year.

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