



American Federation of Teachers, Local 212

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

MEDIA RELEASE

April 26, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Milwaukee Area Technical College's education professionals voted overwhelmingly to recertify their union, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Local 212 for the ninth consecutive year.

97 % of the 415 full-time faculty, counselors and accountants who voted, voted "Yes" for Local 212 representation (80% of all eligible).

99 % of the 199 professional staff, full and part-time, who voted, voted "Yes" for Local 212 representation (68% of all eligible).

97 % of the 353 part-time faculty who voted, voted "Yes" for Local 212 representation (64% of all eligible).

90 % of the 20 Milwaukee Public television engineers and production staff who voted, voted "Yes" for Local 212 representation (86% of all eligible).

The decisive vote took place in the context of growing national support for unions. 68% of Americans now support labor unions, the highest number since 1965. Amazon workers in Staten Island just won an unprecedented victory against the nation's second largest private employer. Twenty Starbucks have also organized. Closer to home, Local 212 successfully organized the Milwaukee Public Television engineers and production staff, and Colectivo coffee workers won their recent union recognition election.

Dr. Lisa Conley, President of Local 212 and a biological sciences instructor, said, "This is a victory for MATC, our students, faculty, and staff. Despite former Governor Walker's anti-union election rules designed to strip educators of their voice and rights, MATC's educators value their union and remain committed to the democratic practices of collective bargaining and shared decision-making. Local 212 will continue to meet and confer with MATC's leadership to ensure that our students receive the state-of-the-market technical education that they need and deserve, and that MATC's employees are treated and compensated fairly."

Act 10, Governor Walker's legislation that was designed to destroy public sector unions, requires a "Yes" vote from 51% of all eligible voters to win a union certification election.

Kevin Mulvenna, Local 212 Executive Vice President stated, "Governor Walker and others who crafted the legislation would never have been elected under these rules. This vote is a message to state policy makers and the community that Wisconsin's educators will not be silenced."

Conley further noted that "Act 10's provisions, taken with the Republican Party's continued cuts in education funding, are having increasingly negative effects. Teachers are leaving the profession in record numbers and enrollment in schools of education has plummeted, creating teacher shortages and larger class sizes. Schools at all levels have been forced to cut programs and services. The overwhelming vote in support of Local 212 is a repudiation of the anti-education policies of the Wisconsin Republican Party."



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Local 212 is active on and off campus. From initiating the MATC FAST Fund that provides financial assistance to MATC students experiencing economic emergencies, to active involvement with the MATC antiracism coalition, to advocating for fair elections and just immigration reform, to distributing free children's books to encourage reading through book ownership, Local 212 gives back to not only MATC's students, but also the communities from which they come.

AFT Local 212 was organized in 1930. It was the first higher education union in the state to negotiate a contract. The Local represents over 1300 MATC faculty, counselors, and professional staff.