

M³ CONNECTIONS



Transforming the future of Milwaukee through Education

Winter 2019

Welcome to M-cubed Connections!

As Milwaukee's three largest education institutions serving more than 130,000 students combined, we have the power to transform the future of our community through education.

That is the heart of the mission for M³ (pronounced M-cubed), which Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee launched publicly two years ago.


In only 24 months, this collaborative effort to create a better K-through-16 education system is already yielding results. **More MPS students are graduating, more MPS seniors are completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and more MPS graduates are enrolling in postsecondary education.**


As you will read in this inaugural edition of M³ *Connections*, **we are committed to accelerating this growth and to ensuring MPS graduates are successful students at MATC and UWM.**


At our recent two-year impact event, we shared strategies for advancing this important work. Attendees identified tactics they believe have the **greatest potential to accelerate progress**. Their input -- along with ways for **you** to get involved in this important collaboration -- can be found in this newsletter.

We all thank you for your partnership as we develop students into the critical thinkers, strong leaders and innovators who will help Milwaukee thrive for decades to come.

Respectfully,


Keith P. Posley, Ed.D.
Superintendent, MPS


Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D.
President, MATC


Mark A. Mone, Ph.D.
Chancellor, UWM

Two-Year Impact Update Reveals

Progress Toward Goals

The results are in: Over the past two years, the MPS graduation rate and the percentage of MPS graduates attending college have increased. Results of M³ initiatives were shared during the M³ Two-Year Impact Update held at MATC on January 9. More than 100 local educators and community leaders were in attendance to hear about progress made, efforts underway, and upcoming goals.



The M³ team reiterated its goals of increasing high school graduation and college enrollment; increasing applications for federal student aid; supporting parents in navigating their child's journey to college; providing collaborative professional development for instructors from MPS, MATC, and UWM; and more. Attendees took advantage of a rare opportunity to offer input directly to MATC President Vicki J. Martin, UWM Chancellor Mark A. Mone, and MPS Superintendent Keith P. Posley.

[Read more about the results of the Impact Update and future plans for M³.](#)

Impact Update Will Inform Next Steps

More than 100 local educators and community members took part in the M³ Two-Year Impact Update held at MATC on January 9, 2019. MATC President Vicki J. Martin, UWM Chancellor Mark A. Mone, and MPS Superintendent Keith P. Posley shared a progress report, discussed the direction of M³, and invited attendees to share thoughts that would help shape upcoming goals.

Comments from participants have been grouped into five main themes that will serve as focus areas as the initiative moves forward. Find out more about areas that participants identified as critical topics demanding attention.

Accountability Will Help M³ Move Forward: Only through analysis of student outcomes will M³ continue to adapt and increase student progress.

Check in With Students: The journey to a career is a continuum with many possible changes in direction. Regular check-ins with students will provide individualized responses to changing needs.

Innovate for Greater Learning: Student achievement will rise when we pay attention to school culture and climate, respond to social and emotional needs of students, and engage students with trust, respect, and high expectations.

Invest in Students: As our greatest resource and the workforce and leaders of tomorrow, M³ will continue to seek scholarships, paid internships, leadership opportunities and recognition for academic achievement.

Develop the Mindset of a Community of Co-educators: Our students will succeed when parents, families, educators, counselors, advisors, employers, civic leaders and community partners accept a shared responsibility for helping every child reach their full



potential.

[Read the full article detailing future focus areas.](#)

Upcoming M³ Events

March 12, 21, 28 Academic and Career Plan Exploration: Ninth-grade MPS students visit the UWM campus to gain a taste of the college experience. Students tour campus and listen to panel discussions.

March 13 MPS Student Job Fair in the UWM Student Union: More than 50 employers will be on hand to recruit for summer and year-round employment. MATC and UWM students are welcome.



March 21 Academic and Career Plan Exploration: Tenth-grade MPS students visit one of four MATC campuses to sample the college experience and take part in activities with current MATC students.

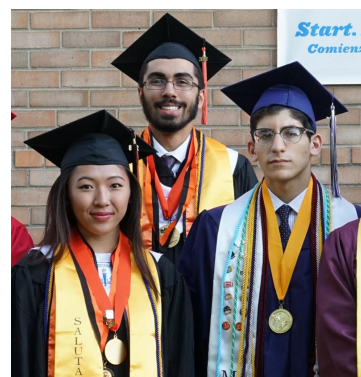
March 24-25 Convening on College Readiness: At the joint meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges and the American Association of School Administrators in Washington, D.C., MPS, MATC, and UWM will present on the M³ partnership and accomplishments so far.

Get Involved - or Get in Touch!

As we move forward, M³ will have many opportunities for community members to engage with students, offer resources, and support college and career pathways. Watch for future newsletters and [visit the M-cubed website](#) for exciting progress!

Here are five target areas that will be expanding as M³ continues to gather community recognition and support.

- **Register your company** to offer information and mentors to students in grades 6-12. John Hill hilljr@milwaukee.k12.wi.us
- **Volunteer** at M³ Parent Institutes to support families navigating their child's journey to higher education. Ophelia King kingot@milwaukee.k12.wi.us
- **Assemble classroom packages** that enhance hands-on learning and connect to practices used in K-12 and college level education. Anja Blecking blecking@uwm.edu
- **Expand internships** and summer employment for college students in your industry to help students become career ready. Jonathan Feld feldj@matc.edu
- **Mentor young people** at extracurricular activities and events -- this area has a high need for men of color. Walter Lanier lanierw@matc.edu



To become involved or for specific questions, contact [Vicki Turner](#), Project Manager, M³.



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