



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBERT BROOKS

60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



September 28, 2015

A Note from Rep. Brooks

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Vicki Martin, President of Milwaukee Area Technical College, and other members of this first-rate institution of higher learning, to discuss the myriad ways they are working to make college more affordable. Last month, MATC launched their Promise Program, designed to provide college students with the skills necessary to thrive in our technology-driven, twenty-first century workforce.

The exponential increase in college costs over the past decade, coupled with ineffectual public policy as it relates to higher education, has precipitated increases in student borrowing. At this writing, our nation is riddled with more than \$1 trillion in student loan debt. Student debt is especially burdensome, as it cannot be discharged in bankruptcy and must be paid back by cosigners, if the borrower were to perish. Exorbitant student loan debt and the inability for these loans to be discharged in bankruptcy, has led to fewer young people starting businesses, pursuing higher education, buying homes or starting families.

In September 2015, Milwaukee Area Technical College introduced the MATC Promise, designed to provide free college education for area high school students who meet eligibility requirements. The MATC Promise will help area high school students realize their dream of attending college and preparing for a career--at NO COST to the student.

Businesses in the Sixtieth Assembly district will benefit from more residents who have received the education and training necessary for success in today's technology-driven economy.

MATC, as part of this program, will pay the tuition and fees, after state financial aid has been applied, for eligible students, for four consecutive semesters (up to fifteen credits each semester). While enrolled at MATC, students must maintain full-time status (twelve or more credits), and a 2.0 GPA, and participate in service-learning projects and academic success and career planning workshops.

MATC recently issued a challenge to the Milwaukee community. The MATC Promise Program makes tremendous sense and represents a real solution to increasing the number of students pursuing higher education, our community can support. MATC's Promise Program was designed to help high school graduates acquire the skills needed to thrive in our innovative, twenty-first century workforce.

This initiative, the MATC Promise, is privately funded so as to ensure that the funding stakeholders are committed to ensuring that the cost of this exceptional program remain affordable.

My office is providing information about this program in today's e-update to promote the program so that you or a loved one do not miss out on the opportunity. If you have an eligible child, grandchild or acquaintance who might benefit from this program, be cognizant of the deadlines for applying--we do not want anyone to be left out.

Who is eligible for the MATC Promise?

- 2016 on-time high school graduates
- An individual who graduates from a high school in the MATC service district
- Apply for admission to MATC by December 1, 2015
- Complete FAFSA by March 2016
- Achieve a minimum score of 16 on the ACT (test must be completed by March 2016)
- Possess a ninety percent attendance rate during the 2015-2016 academic year
- Achieve a minimum 2.0 GPA during the 2015-2016 academic year
- Student and academic program must meet eligibility requirements for federal and state financial aid
- Have an Expected Family Contribution of \$3,000 or lower (This is a measure of how much financial aid the student will be eligible to receive; it is not the amount of money a student will have to pay for their college education, nor is it the amount of federal student aid a student will receive)
- Enroll as a full-time student at MATC for the Fall 2016 semester

I am a strong supporter of MATC's Promise Program, as it provides educational opportunities to individuals who might not otherwise have been able to afford a college education. If you wish to apply for the MATC Promise Program, [click here](#).



Have a great week.

This week in Madison

Governor Walker's suspension of his presidential campaign and return to Wisconsin; and the tragic passing of Supreme Court Justice Patrick Crooks, a first-rate jurist and all-around wonderful man, in his chambers, made this an eventful week at

the capitol. My condolences go out to the family and friends of Justice Patrick Crooks. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

In a speech to our caucus, this week, Governor Walker pledged to continue working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to create jobs, grow our economy, reduce the tax and regulatory burdens that are crippling small businesses, and providing a better quality of life for all Wisconsinites. I very much look forward to working with him during the remainder of this term on legislation designed to strengthen Wisconsin's middle-class and bringing more good-paying jobs to the Badger State.



Conversing with Governor Scott Walker at the Wisconsin State Capitol

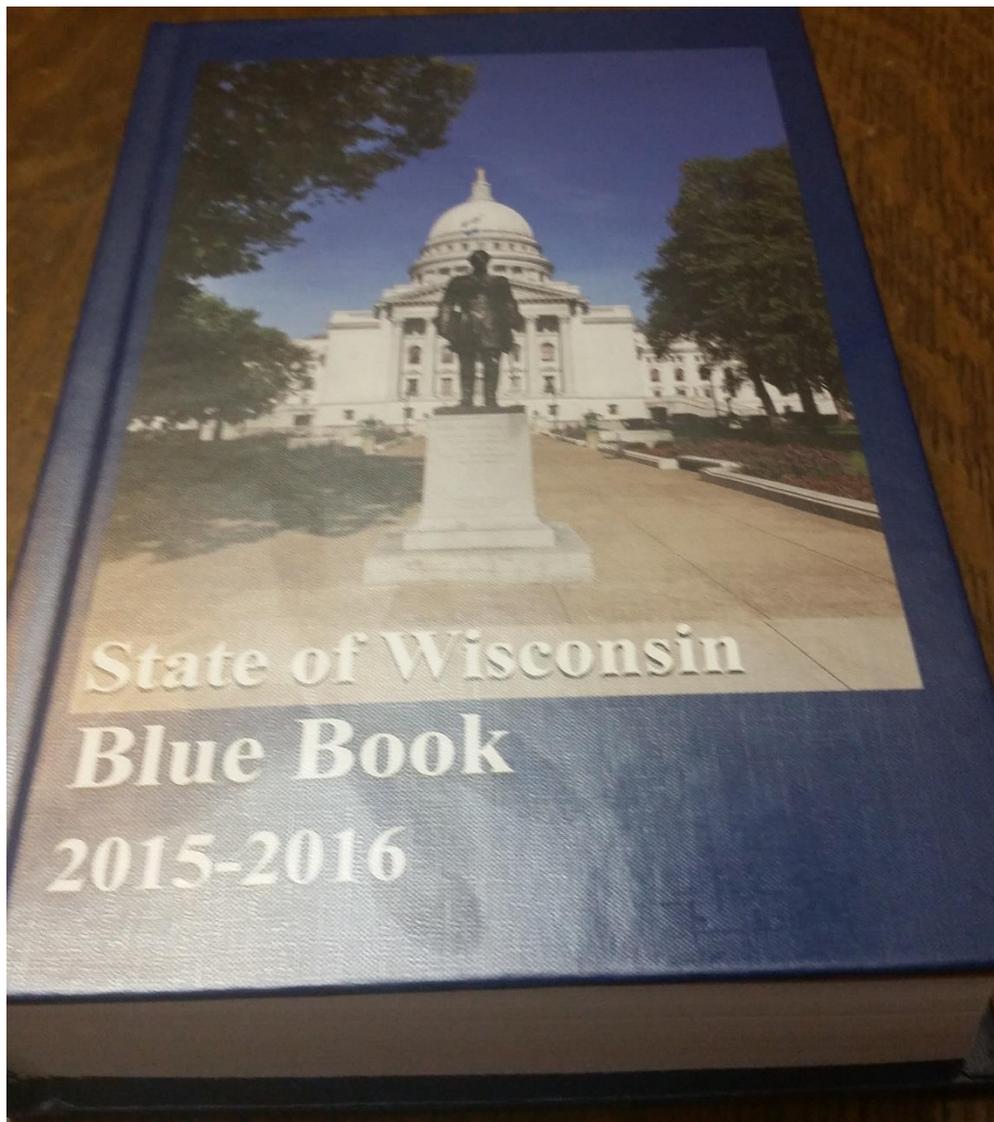
Since our last e-update, I had the opportunity to meet with members of the Wisconsin Literacy Council, Wisconsin Counties Association, Apartment Owners Association and Grocers Association, to discuss issues of importance to their respective organizations and institutions.

Last week, the Wisconsin State Senate, in a unanimous voice vote, approved SB 229, a bill I authored with Senator Mary Lazich's office, relating to columbaria. This legislation is expected to be voted on by the Wisconsin State Assembly, in late October.



Testifying with Senator Mary Lazich on SB 229, before the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection.

As noted in our previous E-update, 2015-2016 Wisconsin Blue Books are now available. Blue Books are free of charge and can be obtained by contacting my office. To get your 2015-2016 Wisconsin Blue Book, please send an e-mail with your name and address to my office. My staff and I will work diligently to ensure that your Blue Book arrives in a timely fashion.



2015-2016 Wisconsin State Blue Book

Have a great week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subject of this E-update, please feel free to contact me.

If you would like to be removed from future mailings, email me and ask to unsubscribe.

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