

The Madison College Foundation Insider



Summer is a time of transition here at the Madison College community. We cheer on the students who are graduating and transferring to other institutions continuing to pursue dreams and chase a stronger future. We congratulate the staff and faculty who have worked to make this academic year a success. We are thankful for all those who invest in our work to ensure that financial barriers don't stop these deserving local students from accomplishing their goals.

During this time, we prepare for new students, create new and strengthen educational pathways, and say goodbye to those who are ready for the next chapter of their journey. This newsletter highlights a few of the changes here on campus.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Thayer".

Tammy Thayer
Foundation CEO
tthayer2@madisoncollege.edu

Dr. Turina Bakken Honored with Resolution

The Madison College Foundation honored someone very special to the Madison College community. Dr. Turina Bakken has had an over 25 year tenure at the college. Dr. Bakken is retiring from the college on June 30, 2023, and she will be missed by all! A resolution was adopted by the Madison College Foundation Board of Directors. [Read the resolution here.](#)





Recipients of the Scholarship for Women of Color Returning to School in Honor of Breonna Taylor at the Scholarship Breakfast, with fund establishers Terri and Dave Beck-Engel.

"We believe that the community is made stronger through education. When one person is lifted up, the community is lifted up."

2023 Annual Scholarship Breakfast

Each academic year the Scholarship Awards Breakfast is held to bring scholarship recipients and donors together to celebrate. This year, on April 27th nearly 300 donors, students and community members gathered together. The program featured four inspiring presentations from scholarship recipients, as well as remarks from the Madison College president and Madison College Foundation CEO, and a segment honoring retiring provost, Dr. Turina Bakken.

[Watch the 2023 breakfast program here.](#)

Madison College Alumnus Establishes Scholarship for EET Students

There's something especially special about a scholarship established by a MATC alumnus. They know first hand the value of community and technical college and the incredible life change that happens here. Eric Bjornsen has recently set up a scholarship for Electric Engineering Technician students who plan to transfer to UW-Platteville, paralleling a new articulation agreement between our two institutions, shared below. Eric shared, "I have chosen to support this partnership in the form of a shared scholarship between both institutions. Students with similar backgrounds and academic commitments as I shouldn't be limited in their pursuits by financial limitations. I look forward to assisting in the administration of this scholarship and encourage others to do the same."

[Read more about Eric and his scholarship here.](#)



Eric and Susan Bjornsen at the Articulation Ceremony



Strengthening Opportunities for Students

Madison College is always working to create smooth pathways for our students as they transition to other institutions or to the workforce. Here are two recent examples:

[The four articulation agreements signed with UW-Platteville in early May](#)



[The new registered apprenticeship program, a partnership with UW Health and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.](#)

The Madison College Foundation supports these efforts with scholarships like the one established by Eric Bjornsen, detailed above.

Gifts Matched for Social Justice

In solidarity with the nation's colleges and universities coming together to support the Black community and racial equity, the Madison College Foundation in collaboration with Madison College established the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship with an inaugural gift from President, Dr. Jack E. Daniels, III in 2020. Paul Patenaude and Peter Hoff established an endowed scholarship to ensure this work continues into perpetuity.

The needs for racial justice continue to exist in our country and Madison College's commitment to diversity includes a particular commitment to returning students of color.

To amplify this mission, Paul is offering to match gifts through this summer, up to \$10,000, to this important fund.

[Make a gift today.](#)



Madison College Foundation Honors Former Board Member Ashok Bhargava

We are saddened by the passing of a former board member, Ashok Bhargava. Ashok passionately advocated for our students and established two endowed funds during his tenure. These funds, named in honor of his late wife, Devi Bhargava, support students with disabilities and international students.

[Read more about his legacy here.](#)

Foundation Board of Directors member, Gordon Derzon, recognized for his profound impact on Madison

His name does not adorn any building in town, but for half a century Gordon Derzon’s impact on this city has been historic. Derzon arrived in 1974, driving in from Brooklyn, New York, through a November snowstorm in a car that he recalls having to start with a screwdriver. He and his wife, Gail, chose Madison in part for the high-quality schools for their two children, as well as its natural beauty and recreational opportunities.



[Read full article here.](#)

Help Give a Second Chance



"As a single father any kind of help that I can get is very beneficial to not only me but my children as well."

Madison College is a place where everyone belongs. Many students, like Jared, come with complicated lives and more on their plates than traditional college students. Like Jared, they are often responsible financially for others and are juggling “real life” situations alongside their intense coursework. Madison College Foundation works to provide scholarships, knowing that for many of our students the relief it brings has a ripple effect across their lives.

[Make a gift today.](#)

Madison College Foundation and Destination Madison Scholarship Drive

The Madison College Foundation and Destination Madison are both celebrating 50 years of impact in our community! We both support the hospitality and tourism industry, and by default, our entire community. We are teaming up to raise awareness of the continued challenges the hospitality industry has faced post-Covid and the opportunities for vibrant, well-paying careers. At the same time, we are raising funds to provide scholarships to Madison College’s related programs.

[Find out more here.](#)



Donate now