



MEDIA ALERT

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Breaking the Silence: Gynecologic and Breast Cancer Awareness

A panel discussion and resource fair highlighting gynecologic and breast cancer detection and treatment options.

MILWAUKEE (October 12, 2026) – On **Wednesday, October 14, 11:30 a.m.**, Milwaukee Area Technical College, the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Ovarian Cancer Alliance and the Community & Cancer Science Network will present “Breaking the Silence,” a panel discussion and resource fair.

Nearly 100 community members, MATC students, faculty and staff are anticipated to attend this event to learn about breast cancer, converse with and learn from others and share their stories, concerns and wisdom about their health challenge.

Dr. Valencia Brown-Allen, dean of the Community and Human Services Academic and Career Pathway at MATC, said she never thought about cancer 12 years ago. Then she had a chance to earn a \$25 gift card if she had a mammogram. That procedure turned into a call from a doctor, another exam, a biopsy, an MRI and then a diagnosis: Stage 1 cancer.

She had two surgeries and underwent six weeks of radiation treatment. She took various medications for five years and had checkups every month. In September 2024, she was informed she was cancer free.

Dr. Brown-Allen urges individuals whenever she can, “don’t let it take a gift card to save your life.”

Dr. James Wu, a hematology and oncology fellow at the Medical College of Wisconsin, will be one of the speakers. He will share his experiences seeing cancer patients and his passion for cancer education, cancer screening and research focused on cancer disparities.

Led by MATC’s Healthcare Pathway, participants will be encouraged to openly talk about testing and treating gynecological and breast cancer.



WHO: Breast cancer survivors, medical professionals and affected individuals learning, encouraging, sharing about breast cancer

WHAT: Breaking the Silence,

WHEN: Wednesday, October 14, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: MATC Downtown Campus, 700 W. State Street, Room M605

VISUALS: Attendees sharing about the disease. *See last year's photos attached.*

About MATC: Wisconsin's largest technical college and one of the most diverse two-year institutions in the Midwest, [Milwaukee Area Technical College](#) is a key driver of southeastern Wisconsin's economy and has provided innovative education in the region since 1912. More than 35,000 students per year attend the college's four campuses and community-based sites or learn online. MATC offers affordable and accessible education and training opportunities that empower and transform lives in the community. The college offers more than 180 academic programs — many that prepare students for jobs immediately upon completion and others that provide transfer options leading to bachelor's degrees with more than 45 four-year colleges and universities. Overwhelmingly, MATC graduates build careers and businesses in southeastern Wisconsin. The college is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

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