

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FaB Wisconsin Awarded Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) Grant to Support Industry Workforce Development

Milwaukee, WI – February 18, 2025 – FaB Wisconsin, in collaboration with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), has been awarded the prestigious Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) Grant. The \$198,593 grant will provide FaB members who applied with significant cost savings on employee training, allowing participating companies to receive training with a 65% discount. This initiative reinforces FaB Wisconsin's commitment to strengthening workforce development within the state's food and beverage industry.

Through this grant, participating members will gain access to a variety of industry-relevant courses, including the FaBsafe Certificate®, an annual online training course designed to educate participants in Good Manufacturing Practices and other essential food safety knowledge. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate, ensuring they stay compliant with the annual training requirements outlined by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This program serves as an accessible and cost-effective solution for businesses looking to enhance their workforce's food safety expertise.

"We are fortunate at Palermo's to partner with FaB in many areas, and specifically in having the opportunity to be a part of the recent grant to continue offering cost-effective development and compliance requirements to our employees," said Wendy Bushell, Chief People Officer of Palermo's Pizza. "Not only does this provide further education, but also allows employees to readily access the FaBsafe Certificate® program."

Participating members will also benefit from MATC-led training in key areas such as Food Quality Management, Food Manufacturing Processes, Manufacturing Maintenance, Emotional Intelligence, Leadership Principles, Effective Communication, Excel, and Command Spanish for Supervisors, among others.

"At Milwaukee Area Technical College, we are excited to partner with FaB Wisconsin to provide vital training opportunities for local businesses through the Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grant. This collaboration underscores our commitment to supporting the growth and success of Wisconsin industries, including food and beverage. By offering targeted training to incumbent workers, we are addressing the evolving challenges businesses face while strengthening their workforce," said Dr. Anthony Cruz, President of MATC. "This partnership represents the power of collaboration—leveraging industry expertise, educational resources, and a shared dedication to fostering a skilled and resilient workforce that drives both local businesses and the state's economy forward."

The Workforce Advancement Training Grant is a critical investment in the future of Wisconsin's workforce, helping businesses upskill their employees while supporting innovation and operational excellence across the sector.

“The WAT Grant has allowed us to provide specialized training to upskill our team to be better leaders and increase their technical aptitude,” said Skyler Pyzynski, HR Manager at General Mills – Milwaukee Plant. “In return, we expect this to lead to a more highly skilled workforce, increased employee engagement and retention, and ultimately, improved organizational performance.”

About FaB Wisconsin

FaB Wisconsin is the state's food and beverage network. From bakers to banks, we're here to support and advocate for your business. We're optimizing Wisconsin's industry ecosystem and its workforce for industry innovation and growth, connecting you with best practices, know-how, and resources to assist with growth plans and goal achievement. Our state's industry know-how, expertise, and experience are reflected in our member companies and organizations and in the thousands of those who bring the world Wisconsin's food and drink. Local and global. Big and small. Nutrient-dense and decadent. We're here for the food and beverage makers, manufacturers, distributors, and all those who support and supply the industry. Learn more at fabwisconsin.com.

About MATC

As 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 30,000 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 40 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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