Dear Friends of Bradley Tech,

Earlier this summer, Bradley Tech’s graduating class, dressed proudly in Trojan purple, earned their high school diplomas. For many, the journey wasn’t always easy. Yet because of their hard work, coupled with the support of their families and the school’s team of dedicated educators, they achieved their goal.

Seeing these young scholars succeed, reaffirms why M3, the Bradley Tech Commission, school leaders and teachers, and our partners remain so committed to the revitalization of Bradley Tech. This focused work is driving improvements in meaningful ways. This year, for example,

- Bradley Tech saw the highest increase in attendance and one of the largest decreases in suspensions of any school in the district.
- More than 175 students earned college credit this year, compared to 20 students last year.
- Ninety-eight businesses are partnering with Tech, with a total of 725 combined student-participants engaged in career-based learning experiences with organizations such as the Milwaukee Bucks, the Milwaukee Streetcar Project, Present Music, Arts@Large and ReFlo Sustainable Water Solutions.
- And, as Tech enters its third year as a community school, students and staff continue to build strong, mutually-beneficial relationships with neighbors in Walker’s Point through various programs. One of these, community conversations, gives community members an outlet to voice their needs so that staff can determine how the school can help.

While I could share countless other examples, the bottom line is that Bradley Tech grows stronger every day. This is vital as we continue to tackle the difficult work to improve the academic achievements of our scholars.

Since we began Bradley Tech’s turnaround, one of our primary goals has been to improve the school’s high-quality math, literacy, and career technical programs, curriculum and applied experiences in order to graduate productive, life-long learners who are college, career, and job ready.

While data and experience tell us that achieving the kind of results we expect from our students will take time, we are seeing positive results. Compared to the same time period last year, Bradley Tech saw:

- A 51 percent increase in ninth graders passing English/language arts
- A 14 percent increase in ninth graders passing math
- A 47 percent increase in ninth graders passing social studies
- Double digit increases in students passing their courses throughout the rest of the school

Our efforts are making an impact.
In addition to these increases in academic success, we are seeing a profound shift in one area data doesn’t truly capture. It’s culture. You almost have to experience it, but Tech’s school culture gives us tremendous hope.

- We see this in how quickly Tech scholars embraced the opportunity to literally wear their “Tech Pride” on their sleeves as part of a new school uniform policy.
- It’s the more than 300 students who chose to participate in Tech’s second Life Mentor Career Day last fall in order to learn about and connect with 12 Milwaukee-area trade associations.
- It’s when Bradley Tech athletes achieve record GPAs. For instance, Bradley Tech’s girls’ basketball team achieved the highest team GPA in years.
- It’s the increase in qualifications in debate and forensics competitions – during the 2016-17 school year, more Tech students qualified for the Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association State Tournament than the past four years combined.
- It’s the increase in the number of students participating in Bradley Tech’s award-winning Motorcycle BUILD Club, which has more than doubled in size since the club began five years ago.
- And, it’s the productive way in which student leaders responded when mocked by a local bar owner.

“Tech Pride” is starting to gain notice outside of our school, as well. Governor Scott Walker, Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and former second lady Dr. Jill Biden toured Bradley Tech this past school year, reaffirming their support of our students and the importance of a strong tech and trade education. And, future scholars are noticing as well, with our ninth-grade enrollment pipeline continuing to bring in more than 200 students during the early enrollment period.

On behalf of the entire M3 and Bradley Tech teams, thank you for your continued support. If you’re interested in being more involved with the school as a business or community partner, as a volunteer, or simply as an advocate, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or a staff member. The success of Bradley Tech depends on the support of our entire community.

Best regards,

Dr. Vicki J. Martin
President, Milwaukee Area Technical College
Executive Leader, M3 Partnership
Chairperson, Bradley Tech Commission