



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2019

UNITED FOR CHANGE

MTI membership stands with our students, families, and community in supporting the work on anti-racism within our school district and the entire Madison community. We know that we all must unite and change the reality that exists and work to fulfil the promise of public education for all of our students. A promise that as stated in MTI's Belief Statements is a "moral responsibility to provide a broad education to all students with no exceptions, exclusions, or disparities." An education that occurs in a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment that supports the entirety of the school community.

We recognize the traumatic nature of recent events and also the institutional racism and historical barriers that are a part of the reality that those who learn and work in our schools experience. Barriers that all of us are committed to breaking down.

While this is the work of everyone in Madison, MTI has a pivotal role to play in making positive change happen. To this end, we are working as an organization to support our members as they engage in their daily work with students and families. We have written mission and belief statements that call out our goals of being member led, advocating for our members our students and our community, and advancing quality public education for all.

We have formed a Diversity and Equity Committee specifically charged with moving this work forward. These efforts have included MTI led equity sessions, which over 250 educators attended on their own time. MTI members, through their Union, took the lead in organizing the Black Lives Matter Week of Action which took place in early February. Well over 1000 staff members and administrators participated in this week. Participation included professional learning, curriculum development, attending events, visibly supporting the week through t-shirts and displays in schools and more. It is important to realize that these have all been initial steps and we recognize that more needs to be, and will be, done.

At the most recent Faculty Representative Council elected MTI member leaders discussed additional steps that our Union can take. The MTI Board of Directors and the Diversity and Equity Committee have been directed to take these ideas and identify ways to move them into action.

These efforts go beyond words and focused events. The most critical work happens every day across our district as staff, students and families work together and build relationships. MTI is committed to raising the voices of educators, our students, families and community members. We are also committed to listening, and we acknowledge that there is much that we need to hear.

There is no single solution to the challenges we face. Instead, there is a need for us to join around the common vision that we all share. That vision is a public school system that lifts up every individual and unites us in making our community stronger through education and Solidarity.