

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**St. Norbert College and Milwaukee Area Technical College Community Partnerships Receive Award for Civic Engagement**

Every year, Wisconsin Campus Compact (WiCC) recognizes outstanding community partnerships WiCC with the Esther Letven Community-Campus Partnership Award. This year, two projects will be recognized: St. Norbert College’s Community Gardens Writing Partnership and Milwaukee Area Technical College’s (MATC) Community Connections & Conversations. WiCC will present the awards at the Annual Civic Engagement Institute Awards Banquet at UW Whitewater on March 8, 2018.

“These award recipients show us a vision of a community-connected institution. We hope to inspire other post-secondary institutions to roll up their sleeves and do work that responds to critical community issues,” says WiCC Executive Director Gavin Luter. “In awarding this honor, WiCC hopes to promote cooperation among education, community, government, and business leaders on critical community issues, as well as increase public awareness of and support for campus-community partnerships.”

Community Connections and Conversations is a collaboration between MATC and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County began in 2014 as a workplace giving campaign. It has matured into much more that includes student work-study placements, internship opportunities, job mentoring, service-learning experiences, volunteer fairs, a shared Community Connection web platform, and, most recently, Community Conversations.

Community Gardens Writing Partnership, a collaboration of St. Norbert College and the Brown County UW-Extension Community Gardens Program (BCCG), has raised the local profile of food security and campus-community partnerships, giving students and faculty opportunities to contribute meaningfully.

**About Campus Compact**

Campus Compact is a national coalition of nearly 1,100 colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. In 2002, Wisconsin joined National Campus Compact’s movement toward an institutionalized commitment of civic engagement and service-learning. Learn more about the Wisconsin Campus Compact at <http://www.wicampuscompact.org/>. Awards were selected by a committee of community partners. This award honors Esther Letven, former UW-Parkside employee who helped to build infrastructure to support and promote community engagement there. She is also a founding member of WiCC.

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