



GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN *Access • Affordability • Growth*

UW-River Falls: Excellence in First Year Experience and Students in Transition

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls requests funding to become an “Institution of Excellence” in programming for the first-year experience and students in transition (FYE/ST).

What is the “Institution of Excellence” Initiative?

The institution will strive to challenge and support students new to the institution in their first college year through a comprehensive program grounded in their core values of integrity, academic excellence, inclusiveness, community and continuous improvement. Funding will allow the institution to develop a coordinated, integrated and comprehensive first-year experience for all students new to the institution. UW-River Falls will create a centralized office to manage FYE/ST programs, assess the impact of those programs to ensure efficient use of resources, and will increase the interaction between faculty, staff, and students throughout the first year.

What are the benefits of the “Institution of Excellence” Initiative?

Programs supported with this funding will include a year-long transitioning student workshop series, first-year curriculum development and implementation, emerging leaders program for first-year students, and parent communication tools. In addition, programming will include diversity awareness and community-building for all new students.

What would the “Institution of Excellence” Initiative mean for Wisconsin?

A better coordinated and integrated program will allow the institution to improve retention rates for first year and transfer students, including students of color. This request will help the institution reach its goal of 80%.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$325,000 (\$211,300 GPR / \$113,700 Fees)

For more information: Contact Chancellor Don Betz, 715-425-3201