

A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

Growth Agenda Action Step #3:

Transform Research into Leading-Edge Jobs and Economic Vitality for Wisconsin

Brief summary: Wisconsin lags in business start-ups and workers in high-tech, fast-growing industries. The UW System will step up efforts to connect academic research with the private sector to transform ideas into new jobs and new businesses that will attract and employ college-educated workers. UW institutions will encourage experiences with undergraduate research and entrepreneurship for all students. The UW System is committed to forging campus-industry collaborations to develop next-generation technologies and products, provide needed resources and student training, and accelerate technology transfer that will drive innovation and position the UW campuses and Wisconsin as leaders for generations to come.

Progress to date:

- The WiSys Technology Foundation – an affiliate of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation – and UW System staff are working with UW comprehensive institutions to support more opportunities to conduct research, train students, jointly attract research funding, and spur technology transfer. Included in these activities is an effort to study cluster hiring and infrastructure barriers and incentives.
- The UW System hosted *Posters in the Rotunda: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research* at the Wisconsin State Capitol on April 22, 2009. In total, 137 students and 33 faculty advisors from each UW System institution participated in the event. For more information, see the UW System [press release](#) and the legislative [joint resolution](#) in honor of the event.
- A National Science Foundation Day Workshop was held on March 6, 2009. The workshop was sponsored by the UW System and UW-Milwaukee. More than 300 faculty members attended from across the UW System.
- UW System President Kevin Reilly has asked a team to study the research, patent, and commercialization process to determine points of drop-off, identify best practices, and make recommendations. The team, chaired by Carl Gulbrandsen, has created three subcommittees: Growth of Mature Business; Job Creation through Startups; and Communications. Their report will be presented at the July 2009 Regents' meeting.
- UW-Platteville officially opened the Nanotechnology Center for Collaborative Research & Development in December 2008, with Regent President Mark Bradley as the keynote speaker. The center will foster systemwide collaboration resulting in innovation in nanotechnology science and engineering, student education, entrepreneurship, and new knowledge for highly skilled jobs.
- UW-Madison is the recipient of a \$4-million Kauffman Foundation grant to foster entrepreneurship. UW-Madison partnered with other UW System institutions and UW System Administration to organize a UW System entrepreneurship summit on April 2, 2009. The event was held on the UW-Stevens Point campus, with more than 80 participants in attendance. Held to share best practices and enhance the entrepreneurship spirit of faculty and

students, the event was vigorous and productive.

- UW-River Falls officially inaugurated the Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center on March 9. The Center will be a nationally recognized center of excellence for research and training in tissue engineering and stem cell biology. Wisconsin Secretary of Commerce Dick Leinenkugel was the keynote speaker who praised the vision and strategy of the campus in moving forward with the initiative.

Related Funding:

- \$4-million Kauffman Foundation grant to UW-Madison to foster entrepreneurship

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