

## A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

### GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

## UW-Milwaukee: Powering Southeastern Wisconsin's Knowledge-Based Economy – Phase II

**Brief summary:** This initiative will fund Phase II of a three-biennia Research Initiative. Phase II funding will support important faculty research, secure additional grant and corporate partnership funding, make cluster hires in advanced manufacturing, biomedical engineering and science, public health, and freshwater sciences.

### Why is it needed?

Since 2000, Milwaukee has lost 3,000 jobs, experienced a 15% drop in household income, and a 5% increase in poverty. In addition, Milwaukee ranked 48<sup>th</sup> among 50 metro areas in the Innovation Commercialization Index, which measures new entrepreneurial activity. Since 1990, employment growth in metro Milwaukee has averaged half the national rate. Milwaukee has a shortage of college-educated residents, and it continues to fall farther behind other cities in attracting college-educated people. This has led to a shortage of workers to supply the needs of high-end manufacturing where there is significant growth and income potential. This initiative is envisioned to address those challenges.

### How does this proposal meet the need?

- Leverage the public's investment by securing additional federal and private funding to support competitively selected research projects in emerging fields.
- Support graduate and undergraduate students in their research efforts.
- Further enhance research through faculty cluster hires in fields such as advanced manufacturing and biomedical engineering and science, including health care informatics and neurosciences.
- Create a new School of Public Health that will enhance the community and strengthen partnerships in public health research, teaching, and service.
- Create the nation's first School of Freshwater Sciences, which will undertake cutting-edge research into sustainable and equitable management of freshwater systems.

### What are the outcomes/benefits?

- Help UW-Milwaukee produce graduates who are prepared to be part of an advanced, highly skilled and diverse workforce that is prepared for the innovation economy.
- Emphasize research in emerging fields to attract federal and private research funding to create new intellectual property and work with existing businesses to spur economic development and job creation through technology transfer and new business start-ups.
- Encourage research collaborations to create an innovation hub in areas such as biomedical sciences and engineering, which will attract additional private investment in these areas.
- Employ technology transfers and collaborations to boost economic development and job creation in Southeastern Wisconsin, as the majority of business start-ups based on university research locate within 50 miles of the institution.
- Make 76 FTE hires, including 49 faculty, 17 graduate assistants and 10 support staff. Faculty hires include cluster hires in advanced manufacturing, biomedical sciences and engineering; faculty for the schools of Public Health and Freshwater Sciences; and faculty support for 100 undergraduate research internships.

**Estimated ongoing cost:** \$10 million (\$8.425 million GPR/\$1.575 million Fees)

**For more information:** Contact Chancellor Carlos E. Santiago, 414-229-4331