



## A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

### GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

## UW-Parkside: Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates by Improving Basic Math Skills

**Brief summary:** UW-Parkside's initiative seeks to improve remedial math education and better prepare students for college success.

### Why is it needed?

As a campus of opportunity, UW-Parkside faces unique challenges to student success. One challenge is that incoming students lack adequate math skills to succeed in college. Of the 906 freshmen in fall 2006, over half placed into remedial math. One in five new students was found to have math skills at only the addition and multiplication skill level. Successful completion of the remedial course is required before students can enroll in College Algebra I, which is a graduation requirement and major stepping-stone course for upper-level education in a number of disciplines. Only half of the students who placed into remedial math returned the second year.

UW-Parkside enrolls over 70% of its students from Racine and Kenosha Counties. Educational attainment in Racine County has been identified as a weakness in attracting and retaining business and industry. In Kenosha County, improved educational attainment is important to support knowledge industries. While Kenosha County shows positive educational trends, the percentage of adults holding a bachelor's degree is lower than the state and national averages.

### How does this proposal meet the need?

This initiative expands promising programs that improve both the quality and quantity of remedial math instruction. UW-Parkside will double the amount of class time for all remedial math courses, double the amount of class time for one quarter of the College Algebra I courses, reduce the class size of all extended courses, introduce math learning software, and increase the number of permanent faculty and staff class-time hours. Additionally, new peer tutors will support the improved courses. The existing Teaching and Learning Center will provide instruction to faculty and staff on working with high-risk students, students with math deficiencies, diverse learning styles, and the new math software.

### What are the outcomes/benefits?

With stronger math skills, students can be more successful in higher-level courses and at reaching graduation. The median salary of a high school graduate in Kenosha County was \$26,999; the median salary of a bachelor's degree holder was \$45,288. Over a lifetime, the increased earning potential of each student made possible by an investment in education will benefit the student, region, and state. Of the university's 16,000 alumni, 85% live and work in the region.

**Estimated ongoing cost:** \$584,500 (\$379,900 GPR/\$204,600 Fees)

**For more information:** Contact Interim Chancellor Dr. Lane Earns, 262-595-2368