



## A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

### GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

## UW-Platteville and UW Colleges: Access to Undergraduate Engineering Education in the West Bend/Sheboygan Region

**Brief summary:** This initiative will implement the fourth phase of a collaborative accredited undergraduate engineering degree program to place-bound, non-traditional students in eastern Wisconsin.

### Why is it needed?

Growing Wisconsin's economy requires support for the manufacturing industries that have been the traditional backbone of the state's economy – and still account for over 20% of the state's gross domestic product -- as well as investing in emerging industries, including those in the technology sector. However, Wisconsin currently ranks 30<sup>th</sup> nationwide in the percent of its population with baccalaureate degrees. Increasing the number of individuals with engineering degrees has been identified as an important component of economic development efforts in the West Bend/Sheboygan region. While students in these areas have access to a two-year education through UW-Washington County and UW-Sheboygan, many place-bound students do not have access to a UW campus where they can complete an undergraduate degree. The State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development estimates that the number of engineering jobs in Wisconsin will increase by 8.3% from 2006 to 2016. Expanding access to baccalaureate degrees and increasing the trained engineering workforce in Wisconsin is therefore essential to filling these high-paying jobs.

### How does this proposal meet the need?

This initiative will expand an accredited collaborative engineering undergraduate degree program between the UW Colleges and UW-Platteville to the West Bend/Sheboygan region through face-to-face programs at the two-year campuses in West Bend and Sheboygan. Students will receive their non-engineering undergraduate education from faculty at UW-Washington County and UW-Sheboygan. The engineering coursework will be provided by UW-Platteville faculty who are hired and placed at the participating UW Colleges. Laboratory work will be conducted in facilities provided by local funding. Additional coursework will be provided through the use of streaming video.

### What are the outcomes/benefits?

Increasing access to undergraduate engineering coursework and degrees will provide a skilled, high-tech workforce in one of Wisconsin's core industrial regions. It is estimated that upon full implementation, 200 non-traditional, place-bound students will be taking courses toward an engineering degree. The collaborative delivery method is a cost-effective means of providing educational opportunities and increasing access to baccalaureate degrees, and can serve as a model to develop additional collaborative programs in the future. This initiative will provide a source of additional training and skill development for current employees and place-bound students – those citizens who are most likely to remain in their communities after graduation.

**Estimated ongoing cost:** \$780,500 (\$507,400 GPR/\$237,100 Fees)

**For more information:** Contact Chancellor David Markee, 608-342-1234