



A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

UW-River Falls: Growing a Sustainable Wisconsin

Brief summary: UW-River Falls' initiative is directed at increasing sustainability in Wisconsin, defining it as meeting "the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs." This initiative is comprised of several components including research, faculty development, and creating a dual enrollment degree program in Agriculture.

Why is it needed?

The income disparity between Wisconsin and neighboring states is growing. Sustainability is about making pathways for long-term economic growth and a stable labor market, a crucial issue in troubling economic times. It is also about creating lasting solutions to the current food, energy, and environmental crises that top the agendas of global policy makers.

How does this proposal meet the need?

UW-River Falls houses a Masters program in Sustainable Community Development, and seeks to infuse sustainability principles into the curriculum and increase research on sustainability issues throughout the region and state by carrying out economic development activities and collaborations with other institutions. Vital components of the initiative include:

1. *Research:* The Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center will develop innovative, cutting-edge technologies, train students for high-paying jobs in the biotech industry, and encourage growth of new biotech businesses in Wisconsin. The Center for Economic Research will expand its services to existing and potential businesses in the region.
2. *The Northern Wisconsin Alliance for Agriculture:* This alliance will create seamless, dual enrollment degree programs that will ease the transition from two- to four-year institutions and make degrees in the agricultural sciences more attractive and affordable to students.
3. *Faculty Development:* Funds will be used to hire new faculty and encourage existing faculty to convey a firm understanding of sustainability problems and the skills to solve them.

What are the outcomes/benefits?

- Increase access by growing enrollment by 500 students by 2011;
- Promote sustainable development from multiple angles in the region, and throughout Wisconsin;
- Assist in increasing state incomes and revitalizing Wisconsin's economy;
- Increase the number of attractive jobs for well-trained, highly qualified graduates;
- Expand and improve infrastructure while preserving natural resources;
- Attract federal grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, as well as licenses for patented technologies that will provide substantial funding for the Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center in the future, helping to make it self-supporting within five years.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$1,705,900 (\$1,267,900 GPR/\$438,000 Fees)

For more information: Contact Interim Chancellor Connie Foster, 715-425-3201