



A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

UW-Stevens Point: Leading Wisconsin from the Center

Brief summary: This initiative seeks to increase the number of graduates while improving the home-grown business and industry environment of Central Wisconsin.

Why is it needed?

There is a need to increase graduates in a variety of fields in order to meet the growing needs of central Wisconsin. The regional economic development group Centergy indicated a pressing need to diversify the use of natural resources in central Wisconsin to extend beyond the paper industry into other more sustainable fields. Centergy also identified growth in business-related graduates as one of the greatest needs in central Wisconsin. This initiative will help to expand Business and Economics program offerings and achieve national accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Furthermore, area medical providers have expressed difficulty attracting the qualified professionals who understand both the computer information systems and the medical terminology needed to support their clinics and hospitals. This initiative offers concrete solutions for these areas of need.

How does this proposal meet the need?

This initiative will span three biennia, beginning with the 2009-2011 biennium. It includes:

- *The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST):* A collaborative research, teaching and outreach center that builds on UWSP's strengths in Forestry, Paper Science and Engineering, Waste Management, Soils, Water Resources, Biology, and Outreach Education. WIST will act as an economic development center to the region.
- *The Division of Business and Economics:* Seeks national accreditation of all its programs through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. New faculty positions will help to build these areas and strengthen core programs in Business Management and Accounting.
- *Informatics and New Media:* Marshfield Clinics and UWSP have partnered to develop a Masters degree in Medical Informatics and Software Development, a growing field that involves the electronic handling, processing, and safeguarding of medical records and information.
- *The Health Sciences Program.* Student demand is more than three times the initial enrollment projections. Two new faculty will support increased capacity while maintaining high-quality programming.

What are the outcomes/benefits?

Over the next three biennia, UWSP will expand existing programs to meet both student and regional demand, develop new academic programs to serve the needs of Central Wisconsin's economic development, and create an economic development center focused on green energy and related products. This initiative will allow UWSP to grow by 333 FTE students by 2011. Additionally, external funding support in Science and Technology will increase by 10%.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$1,702,800 (\$1,106,800 GPR/\$596,000 Fees)

For more information: Contact Chancellor Linda Bunnell, 715-346-2123