

A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

UW-Superior: Building Excellence

Brief summary: Through this initiative, UW-Superior seeks to expand support services to students and enhance its foreign language program.

Why is it needed?

Over 35% of UW-Superior's students are over the age of 24, compared to an average of only 19% across the other UW comprehensives. These adult students are critical to establishing an educated Wisconsin workforce. However, these students have advising and support needs beyond those of traditional students.

As Wisconsin's public liberal arts college, UW-Superior provides a rigorous and challenging education while focusing on small classes, one-on-one contact with professors, and active learning. To ensure the success of its students in the job market and graduate schools, UW-Superior must provide essential programming. Currently, there is no one on campus to provide American Sign Language (ASL) captioning services for students with disabilities. Career Services, which is essential to preparing students for workforce placement, is understaffed for a campus of nearly 3,000 students. The foreign language program, which is a hallmark of a liberal education, also must be expanded to meet the recommendations of the Higher Learning Commission.

How does this proposal meet the need?

Building Excellence has four key parts:

1. *One-Stop Adult Center.* UW-Superior will establish a single location where adult students can find pre-admissions counseling, registration, educational planning, and financial aid services to promote the recruitment and retention of these critical students.
2. *Disability Services.* A permanent ASL interpreter on staff will provide reliable, high-quality, cost-effective services to deaf and hard-of-hearing students working to complete their degrees.
3. *Career Services.* Career services will hire one additional advisor and student help. With more staff, career services will provide employer outreach, individual student consultations, résumé development, job search training, and mock interviews to smooth the transition between education and employment.
4. *Foreign Language Expansion.* UW-Superior will add a Japanese language program.

What are the outcomes/benefits?

These fundamental services add critical support infrastructure and prepare students for academic and professional success. As a result of this initiative, UW-Superior will:

- Increase second-year retention rates from 67.3% to 79.5% by retaining 40 additional students per year;
- Double the Latin American and Asian student population from 29 students to between 60 and 70 students by fall 2012.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$789,900 (\$513,435 GPR/\$276,465 Fees)

For more information: Contact Chancellor Julius Erlenbach, 715-394-8221