



# GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

*Access • Affordability • Growth*

## Teacher Education

### What is the Teacher Education Initiative?

The University of Wisconsin System is working to address the teacher education needs of the State of Wisconsin through:

- Enhancement of cultural and social competencies for Teacher Education students;
- Recruitment and Retention of a diverse student body and enhanced program capacity to meet the needs of the state; and
- Assessment and evaluation of Teacher Education programs.

### What are the benefits of the Teacher Education Initiative?

This initiative will improve the preparation of students to work in both urban and/or rural educational settings. It will also enhance campus efforts to recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds in the field of teacher education while also addressing the supply and demand issues for teachers across the State. Finally, it will improve the ability of the University of Wisconsin System to assess the effectiveness of its programs and the proficiency of its graduates in meeting the needs of the state and its regions.

### What would the Teacher Education Initiative mean for Wisconsin?

This initiative will improve the cultural and social competency of Wisconsin teachers. This will be accomplished through enhanced training for education students who want to be prepared to work in urban and/or rural education. The presence of additional qualified teachers who can serve the needs of culturally diverse youth in the classroom is essential to decreasing the student achievement gap present in both urban and rural settings.

Enhanced campus efforts to recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds into teacher education, as well as to recruit students to meet the state's K-12 educator needs, will result in approximately 200 additional students from diverse backgrounds and, additionally, approximately 180 additional students into high-demand areas.

In addition, the development of a systemwide database and common processes for collecting data will permit the University of Wisconsin System to assess both how well these teacher education programs are meeting the needs of the state and the impact of quality teachers on student learning.

**Estimated ongoing cost:** \$2.76 million (\$1.7 million GPR / \$946,000 Fees)

**For more information:** Contact UW System Communications and External Relations, 608-263-5512