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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2004

**STATEMENT BY SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MARY PANZER:
Retirement of University of Wisconsin System President Katharine Lyall**

I wish to extend my deepest and heartfelt congratulations to University of Wisconsin System President Katharine Lyall on her outstanding career and for her many years of dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin.

President Lyall leaves the University of Wisconsin System as one of the most highly regarded institutions of higher learning in the entire country. As the system's very first female president, she has been an incredible role model for women all across the state. Her long list of accomplishments is a testimony to the tremendous job she has performed at the University of Wisconsin System.

Under President Lyall's strong leadership, graduation and retention rates for students are at an all-time high. One out of three high school graduates in Wisconsin attend a University of Wisconsin System school, making the system's accessibility rate one of the highest in the nation. She has ensured that the system maintains a quality of excellence, by issuing a first of its kind in the nation yearly accountability report, which has consistently demonstrated the system meets or achieves most of its targets.

While other systems around the country have seen administrative costs go up, under Lyall's tenure they've gone down. Grants and contracts to University of Wisconsin faculty and staff have almost doubled since Lyall became president, and private contributions to the system have nearly tripled.

The success of this great university system can be directly attributed to Katharine Lyall's undying love, passion, and dedication for the University of Wisconsin.

All of Wisconsin owes a huge debt of gratitude to Katharine Lyall, whose legacy will never be forgotten.

I wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement!

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