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September 1, 2021

To: Senator Roger Roth
Senate Chair, Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges

Representative David Murphy
Assembly Chair, Committee on Colleges and Universities

State Superintendent Jill Underly
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Fr: Tommy Thompson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Thompson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Re: Legislated Remedial Course Report (2015 WI ACT 28)

In accordance with Chapter 36.65(5)(b)(2) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, accompanying this letter is the 2020 UW System Remedial Courses Report. The referenced statute requires the UW System to “determine the high schools with more than 6 students who, based on their performance on placement tests in the preceding 12 months, are required to take remedial courses in English or mathematics” and to submit a report to the legislature and state superintendent. Please find the report attached.

The UW System historically has provided feedback to Wisconsin high schools on graduates who entered UW System institutions. In collaboration with ACT, Inc, the UW System and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) provided the ACT High-School-to-College Success Reports to high schools every three years. Currently, UW System is working with the Wisconsin DPI to expand data exchange to include information on student preparation and college outcome, which will be available on DPI’s WiseDash Portal or another DPI reporting platform.

Information provided to Wisconsin high schools on the readiness and progress of their graduates at the post-secondary level is intended to help administrator evaluate and strengthen their efforts in preparing student for success. This type of feedback to the Wisconsin education partners help foster communications, align the curriculum, and reduce the need for remedial education. We are pleased to be engaged with our secondary education partners in these efforts.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

c: UW Board of Regents
UW Chancellors
UW System President’s Cabinet
Ben Passmore, Associate Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research, UW System