UW System
Federal Priorities for 2017

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Federal Priorities for 2017

UW System’s annual report outlines the agenda of federal priorities for the coming year:

• Articulates UW System’s strategies and positions on key issues facing higher education

• Provides a roadmap for proactive, issue-driven, effective advocacy

• Fosters collaboration between Wisconsin’s federal delegation and UW System and its institutions
UW System’s Activity in 2016 Priority Areas

- Supporting the Federal Pell Grant and other student financial aid programs
- Protecting research and development funding
- Enacting legislation that bolsters the workforce, including:
  - Undergraduate research in STEM fields
  - Entrepreneurial activity
  - Advanced manufacturing
- Reducing regulatory barriers
Looking ahead at the federal landscape

Anticipated federal priorities may compete for attention and funding:

- Health care reform
- Tax reform
- Defense spending
- Infrastructure
- Federal budget and national debt
UW System’s 2017 Priorities

• Prioritizing funding of federal financial aid for students
• Sustained federal funding for research and development
• Relief from burdensome regulations on higher education
Federal Financial Aid

UW SYSTEM RECOMMENDS:

Sustained funding for Federal Pell Grant program
- In 2015-16, almost 37,000 Wisconsin resident undergraduates received a Pell Grant with an average award of $3,800
- UW System supports year-round Pell Grants

Extension of Federal Perkins Loan program
- Current program expires in September 2017
- More than 13,500 UW System students benefit from current Perkins Loan program annually
Federal Funding for Research and Development

UW SYSTEM RECOMMENDS:

Protecting and prioritizing research and development

• UW System faculty engages in ground-breaking, life-changing research
• UW System students are better prepared for the workforce by participating in hands-on research endeavors
• University research and development gives Wisconsin and the nation a competitive edge in the global economy
• UW System’s federal expenditures, including direct student loans, were $1.68 billion in 2015-16
• In 2016, UW System ranked #13 among the world’s most innovative universities by Reuters
Regulatory Reform

UW SYSTEM RECOMMENDS:

Streamlining, consolidating, and/or eliminating federal reporting and regulatory requirements

• UW System has reviewed and provided a comprehensive series of recommendations for regulatory reforms

• Burdensome and costly regulatory requirements hinder innovation in higher education and hurt the bottom line
UW System’s 2017 Federal Priorities

MOVING WISCONSIN AND
THE WORLD FORWARD