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May 11, 2011

An Open Letter to All Wisconsin State Legislators

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We shared with you a detailed plan in March to help all University of Wisconsin institutions lessen the impact of significant financial challenges. Since that time, we have worked hard to reach out to you personally, to provide more details and answer questions. That plan – the *Wisconsin Idea Partnership* – would give new leadership flexibilities to all UW institutions at a time when we must find creative new ways to stretch every dollar. Built upon the proposal offered by Governor Walker for UW-Madison, this plan advances our flagship UW campus while simultaneously benefitting all UW campuses and sustaining unity among our colleges and universities.

The need for these flexibilities is urgent. With the new budget set to take effect on July 1, any delay in providing these flexibilities would undermine our ability to serve 182,000 students. Moreover, our UW institutions are ready now to accept these new responsibilities, and we are equally ready to embrace new accountability measures that will let you track our performance.

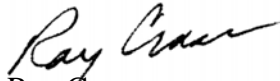
In the face of new challenges, our public universities and colleges need a new way of doing business. The *Wisconsin Idea Partnership* provides all UW chancellors with new tools to manage our institutions efficiently. Because all institutions face significant budget cuts, all need the flexibilities to manage more efficiently in the interest of students, families, and taxpayers in your districts. The Wisconsin Idea Partnership also sustains the Wisconsin Idea, which has immeasurably improved Wisconsin's economy and communities, and together we can continue this tradition into the future.

We send this message with one voice to underscore our shared desire to address the state's evolving needs as **one unified system of higher education that includes UW-Madison**. We believe that separating UW-Madison out into an independent public authority will lead to wasteful competition, unnecessary duplication, and frustrating barriers for Wisconsin students.

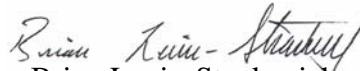
If you have questions or concerns about how the flexibilities that we all seek might be implemented, please contact any of us directly so we can explain how these statutory changes will benefit not only our local campuses, but also the communities and citizens we serve across the State of Wisconsin.

Your timely support is vital. We understand that you have many pressing issues to address in the 2011-13 State Budget, thus we appreciate your willingness to consider the *Wisconsin Idea Partnership* proposal. Most of all, we greatly look forward to working with you to craft a brighter tomorrow for Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted,



Ray Cross
Chancellor, UW Colleges/Extension



Brian Levin-Stankevich
Chancellor, UW- Eau Claire



Thomas Harden
Chancellor, UW-Green Bay



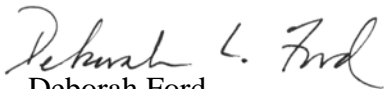
Joe Gow
Chancellor, UW-La Crosse



Mike Lovell
Chancellor, UW-Milwaukee



Richard Wells
Chancellor, UW-Oshkosh



Deborah Ford
Chancellor, UW-Parkside



Dennis Shields
Chancellor, UW-Platteville



Dean Van Galen
Chancellor, UW-River Falls



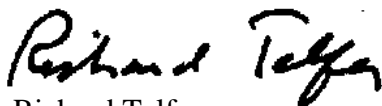
Bernie Patterson
Chancellor, UW-Stevens Point



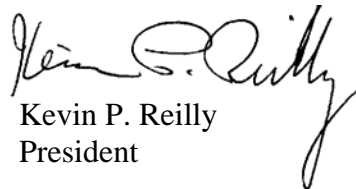
Charles Sorensen
Chancellor, UW-Stout



Julius Erlenbach
Interim Chancellor, UW-Superior



Richard Telfer
Chancellor, UW-Whitewater



Kevin P. Reilly
President



Thomas Pleger
Campus Executive Officer/Dean
UW-Baraboo/Sauk County



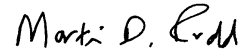
Paul Chase
Campus Executive Officer/Dean
UW-Barron County



John Short
Campus Executive Officer/Dean
UW-Fond du Lac



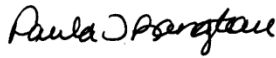
Andrew Keogh
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Keith Montgomery
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