

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Research, Economic Development, & Innovation Committee

Thursday, December 5, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

James R. Connor University Center
UC 261
228 Wyman Mall
Whitewater, Wisconsin

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the October 10, 2019 Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- B. “Inspire, Engage, Transform” – Transforming Communities through Data
- C. Regent Scholar Grant Program Preview
- D. Challenges and Opportunities in High-Tech Food Production and Lessons Learned for Wisconsin

December 5, 2019

**“INSPIRE, ENGAGE, TRANSFORM”—
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH DATA**

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

SUMMARY

The mission of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Fiscal and Economic Research Center (FERC) is to tap into faculty expertise and provide outreach services to members of the regional community. In achieving this mission, FERC provides high-caliber students with the opportunity to work closely with faculty experts in applying concepts and theories to practical, real-world cases. This project-based work not only enhances student educational experiences, but it also maximizes values to future employers by providing students with an economic tool-set applicable in a variety of career settings.

Presenters

- Russ Kashian, Professor, Fiscal and Economic Research Center, UW-Whitewater
- FERC Students
 - Casey Russell, senior in Economics
 - Cole Kinson, sophomore Economics
 - Sidak Singh, senior in Economics and Math
 - Miquel Miranda, senior in Finance
 - Logan Obrien, senior in History
 - Hannah Boutelle, senior in Public Policy Administration
 - Pasan Samaranayake, BBA in Economics, 2019 and enrolled in the MBA program
 - Kara Bennett, senior in Economics

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REGENT SCHOLAR GRANT PROGRAM PREVIEW

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

SUMMARY

WiSys President Arjun Sanga will outline UW System Regent Scholar grant program details. This honor is offered to faculty to help recognize and reward the exceptional work with undergraduate students and other collaborative research and industry partners whose activities focus on developing entrepreneurial ideas and innovative project outcomes, with the following criteria in mind:

- Recognizing excellence in research and other high-impact practices;
- Engaging undergraduate students in stellar research experiences, thus preparing a high-quality workforce, ultimately driving economic development; and
- Celebrating undergraduate research and scholarly activity (URSCA) at the UW System Board of Regents level.

UW System Regent Scholar recipients are selected competitively based on recommendations by a selection committee made up of both public and private sector experts. Each year, members include a Regent or Regent Emeritus; one or two UW System Administration and/or UW institution representatives; and several non-UW System representatives from Wisconsin businesses and organizations experiences in economic development, workforce development, STEM, and arts and humanities education.

The UW System Board of Regents will formally recognize faculty and students involved in the project as “Regent Scholars” in April 2020. Regent Scholars will be encouraged to disseminate the results of their work in other local, national, and international venues.

Presenter

- Arjun Sanga, WiSys President

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the REDI Committee endorsed the newly developed Regent Scholar program to recognize faculty excellence in the areas of collaborative research initiatives, industry partnerships, entrepreneurialism, and innovation. The program continues this year, with three recipients to be honored as Regent Scholars. Each recipient will receive a faculty/student award of up to \$50,000 each to be granted in early 2020 in order to continue their exceptional work.

Through a systemwide competitive process, Regent Scholar Grants are available for faculty to explore entrepreneurial ideas and innovative projects with undergraduate students and other collaborative partners. The goal is to expand the boundaries of knowledge, enhance research, stimulate new technologies, inspire start-up activity, fuel product development, better prepare the future workforce, and support the creation or retention of jobs in Wisconsin.

December 5, 2019

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH-TECH FOOD
PRODUCTION AND LESSONS LEARNED FOR WISCONSIN**

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

SUMMARY

Wisconsin researcher, innovator and business leader Christopher Salm will discuss the challenges as well as the opportunities in high-tech food production. Mr. Salm is a successful academic and industry collaborator who will share his insights and lessons learned relative to entrepreneurship and innovation in the highly competitive global food processing technology sector.

Presenter

- Christopher Salm, co-founder of Salm Partners and CEO & co-founder of Ab E Discovery

BACKGROUND

Throughout his career, Mr. Salm has focused on building trusted relationships while finding and proving new technologies to better feed the world. He has nearly 30 years of experience at the forefront of innovation in the meat industry and held leadership positions at Oscar Mayer, Johnsonville Sausage, and ConAgra Foods. Mr. Salm has also founded Salm Partners, a co-pack manufacturer of ready-to-eat sausages and hot dogs that focuses on implementing new technologies in the packaged foods industry. More recently, Mr. Salm has co-founded Ab E Discovery, Ab E Manufacturing and Ovation Foods - all dedicated to commercializing entrepreneurial science discoveries (WARF- licensed technologies).