

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Research, Economic Development, & Innovation Committee

Thursday, October 10, 2019
10:45 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.

UW-Superior Yellowjacket Union
Great Room
1605 Catlin Avenue
Superior, Wisconsin

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the July 11, 2019 Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- B. Small but Mighty: Influence with Industry, Research and Workforce Development
- C. Challenges and Opportunities in High-Tech Agriculture
- D. UWIN – Northwest Wisconsin Regional Internship Initiative for Students at UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, and UW-Stout

October 10, 2019

**SMALL BUT MIGHTY: INFLUENCE WITH INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

SUMMARY

The University of Wisconsin-Superior is known for its longstanding, embedded, and influential commitment to industry, research, and workforce needs. Dr. Richard Stewart and Dr. Matt TenEyck will highlight two examples from the university. Dr. Stewart will discuss the rationale for required internships for Transportation and Logistics majors, the positive results from 20 years of internships and lessons learned. He will talk about how a quality innovative internship program is developed and the value added for students, faculty and companies. Dr. TenEyck will share how the Great Waters Research Collaborative (GWRC), a project of UW-Superior's Lake Superior Research Institute, offers testing services to developers of novel technologies and tools for ballast water treatment (BWT), compliance, and monitoring. GWRC is committed to research, including freshwater validation of alternative methods that may be used to analyze ballast water samples and commercial port monitoring to define Laurentian Great Lakes challenge conditions for BWT technology developers and regulators alike.

Presenters

- Chancellor Renée Wachter, UW-Superior
- Dr. Richard Stewart, Professor, Transportation and Logistics Management and Director, Transportation and Logistics Research Center
- Dr. Matt TenEyck, Director of Lake Superior Research Institute

BACKGROUND

The University of Wisconsin-Superior is committed to improving the lives and livelihoods of people in northwestern Wisconsin and beyond by seeking knowledge and spreading it to all who may benefit. Researchers at four institutes study Lake Superior's ecosystem and work

to improve the transport and shipping industries in sustainable ways. More than 130 UW-Superior students have been hired by the Lake Superior Research Institute during the past decade. UW-Superior's graduates are regional and national leaders in government, education, business, the arts and the professions including transportation and logistics.

October 10, 2019

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH-TECH AGRICULTURE

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

SUMMARY

Regent Cris Peterson will provide a first-hand narrative on the challenges and successes of owning and operating a dairy farming operation in the 21st Century. She will highlight what it takes to survive in this most “Wisconsin” of businesses for more than 100 years in the face of financial headwinds, a disastrous farm fire, and the challenge of ever-changing expectations and markets for dairy products. Today, her farm represents one of the most technologically advanced milking operations anywhere in the world.

Presenter(s)

- Regent Cris Peterson

BACKGROUND

In an era when family farms face increased challenges related to production and revenue, successful farm operators adapting technology that helps create pathways to sustainable, profitable operations. At Four Cubs Farm in Grantsburg, UW System Regent Cris Peterson and her family have updated their multigenerational agricultural operation to compete in today's difficult commercial conditions. Following a catastrophic fire in November 2017 that destroyed their milking facility, Four Cubs Farm installed 16 robotic milkers that have transformed their herd and helped them be competitive in the 21st Century. Robotic milking operations improve efficiency, promote healthy herds, and allow farms to successfully adapt to unforgiving market conditions. Four Cubs Farm currently has the largest robotically milked herd in Wisconsin.

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**UWIN - NORTHWEST WISCONSIN REGIONAL INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE
FOR STUDENTS AT UW-EAU CLAIRE, UW-RIVER FALLS, AND UW-
STOUT**

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

SUMMARY

The University of Wisconsin Internship Network (UWIN) is a collaboration formed by regional economic development organization Momentum West with three UW institutions: UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, and UW-Stout. This region-wide initiative was designed to increase the number of internships available to students in western Wisconsin. The innovative UWIN program primarily focuses on connecting students with small- and mid-sized organizations across the region to gain professional experience. Momentum West Executive Director Steve Jahn and UW System & WEDC Talent Development Liaison Rebecca Deschane will describe the value in building robust, regional partnerships such as UWIN, lessons learned since its launch, and future plans to foster new opportunities for both students and their prospective employers who are seeking to build strong career partnerships in Western Wisconsin.

Presenter(s)

- Rebecca Deschane, UW System & WEDC Talent Development Liaison
- Steve Jahn, Momentum West Executive Director

BACKGROUND

During a time of full employment and declining numbers of new employees entering the workforce, a top priority for employers in Wisconsin and across the U.S. includes a focus on talent development, attraction, and retention. Increasingly, internships are viewed as offering a proven means of pre-testing and securing new employees. Today, university

students in greater numbers are seeking opportunities to develop initial work experiences while completing their educational coursework. Programs already exist to support these efforts on every UW campus, and more than 60 percent of UW System students currently report the personal benefit of having such an internship or business experience before graduation. Programs which increase access to internships are highly desirable, and those efforts which reach across regional boundaries offer greater opportunities for students.