



Office of the President

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August 8, 2023

Melissa Hughes, Secretary and CEO  
Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 1687  
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Secretary Hughes:

The University of Wisconsin (UW) System values its partnership with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in advancing economic and talent development statewide. This strong collaboration is reflected in WEDC's section of the Annual Report on Economic Development (ARED), in which award and outcomes data are noted for initiatives enabled by WEDC funding, including those of UW System's Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship and other UW-led projects.

While the remaining UW System activity falls outside the scope of ARED, we appreciate the opportunity to highlight just a few of our additional contributions to economic development in Wisconsin.

In the most recent academic year, UW System institutions awarded over 36,000 degrees to graduates. With the average lifetime earnings of a bachelor's degree holder exceeding those of a high school graduate by \$1 million, a UW System education directly promotes an increase in household incomes and community prosperity. Nearly 90 percent of in-state UW System graduates stay in Wisconsin for at least five years after earning a degree, with a median salary of more than \$66,000.

UW System universities also contribute to the richness of Wisconsin's culture and economy with groundbreaking research, new companies and patents, and boundless creative intellectual energy. Overall, UW System research in FY22 totaled \$1.32 billion. Additionally, 40% of UW degrees are conferred in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health disciplines.

Furthermore, UW System is committed to connecting business and industry with university faculty, staff, and students to foster internships, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and to build stronger, more resilient communities. Information on UW System efforts in support of its mission of outreach and community service are highlighted in the [UW System Accountability Dashboard](#) and through the [UW System Office of Corporate Relations and Economic Engagement](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Rothman".

Jay Rothman  
President, UW System