



# UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN

Jay Rothman  
President  
[jrothman@uwsa.edu](mailto:jrothman@uwsa.edu)

## SYSTEM CONTACT

Idella Kangas  
Director of Economic and Employer  
Engagement  
[idella.kangas@wisconsin.edu](mailto:idella.kangas@wisconsin.edu)



## Office of the President

1720 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706

[www.wisconsin.edu](http://www.wisconsin.edu)

[jrothman@uwsa.edu](mailto:jrothman@uwsa.edu) or 608-262-2321

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

Dear Secretary Hughes,

The Universities of Wisconsin value our 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 UW-led programs such as the Office for Business & Entrepreneurship.

While the remaining Universities of Wisconsin 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 2023-24 academic year, UW universities awarded over 35,600 degrees to graduates. With the average lifetime earnings of a bachelor's degree holder exceeding those of a high school graduate by \$1.2 million, a Universities of Wisconsin education directly promotes an increase in household incomes and community prosperity. Over 90 percent of in-state UW graduates stay in Wisconsin for at least five years after earning a degree, with a median salary of more than \$71,500.

The Universities of Wisconsin also contribute to the richness of Wisconsin's culture and economy with groundbreaking research, new companies and patents, and boundless creative intellectual energy. Overall, research at the Universities of Wisconsin in FY24 totaled nearly \$1.6 billion. Additionally, nearly one in three UW degrees are conferred in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health disciplines.

Furthermore, the UWs are 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 UWs efforts in support of its mission of outreach and community service are highlighted in the [UW System Accountability Dashboard](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Rothman', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jay Rothman  
President