



UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN

Renée Wachter
Interim President
renee.wachter@wisconsin.edu

SYSTEM CONTACT

Idella Kangas, Ph.D.
Director of Economic and Employer Engagement
idella.kangas@wisconsin.edu



Office of the President
1720 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706
www.wisconsin.edu
renee.wachter@wisconsin.edu or 608-262-2321

July 17, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Miller,

The Universities of Wisconsin 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 UW-led programs offered through 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 most recent academic year, UW institutions awarded over 37,300 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 three years after earning a degree.

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 expenditures at the Universities of Wisconsin in FY25 totaled \$1.65 billion. Additionally, over 40% of UW degrees at the bachelor's and graduate/professional levels 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 [Universities of Wisconsin Accountability Dashboard](#).

Sincerely,

Renee Wachter
Interim President, Universities of Wisconsin