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### **UW-Milwaukee Research Earns National Recognition Again**

Nearly \$60 million spent on research ranging from the health of our Great Lakes to the well-being of low-income adults. Nearly 250 research and professional practice doctoral degrees in biology, education, engineering, computer science and history -- and everything in between. Incredible impact on Milwaukee, southeast Wisconsin, the region and the nation. That's what it means to be one of the country's top research universities. And we're proud to report that [UW-Milwaukee has once again been named a Research I](#) institution under the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

We join our state's other public university, UW-Madison, in charting the future of innovation and discovery in Wisconsin. We're also excited to continue our investment in Milwaukee through the groundbreaking research and development occurring on our campus. We know that our education ecosystem in Wisconsin is extraordinarily valuable, and what UW-Milwaukee provides is key to the whole state's success.

Research I means an institution that is among the few with ["very high research activity."](#) Just 130 U.S. colleges and universities out of 4,338 evaluated were granted such a designation. Minnesota can't brag that it has two public Research I institutions. Neither can Maryland, Missouri, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey or more than two dozen other states. UW-Milwaukee has worked hard to achieve Research I status, first granted in 2015, while maintaining a strong emphasis on undergraduate education and access. Our faculty are advancing knowledge, helping grow our economy and improving our community.

For example, our [Catalyst Grants](#) spur early-stage research in hopes of helping the regional economy through commercialization of new technology. Our 2018 winners, funded through the UW-Milwaukee Foundation, are studying development of a lightweight hand-rehabilitation glove, a hybrid breeding system for the versatile crop sorghum, a new method for purifying antibodies that protect our physical health and creation of an online mental health tool. This grants program is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year and has awarded more than \$4.5 million for 89 projects. This research has led to 25 patents and more than \$19 million in additional investments in UW-Milwaukee technologies.

The UW System's 2019-21 budget request for \$25 million for Capacity-Building Initiatives would allow UW-Milwaukee to enhance its freshwater science research; create programs in artificial intelligence, business intelligence and data analytics; and expand math, science and technology research for undergraduates.

So, what does being a Research I institution mean for Milwaukee and the rest of Wisconsin? First, it means that more and more federal research dollars are likely to flow into our university. Those dollars will help our faculty make discoveries that affect people's lives and lead to new companies and new jobs. Those dollars will also attract external research funding, including from industry partners seeking joint research-and-development initiatives. Naturally, it also means UW-Milwaukee will be better positioned to attract and retain high-quality faculty while the graduates in our talent pipeline will be even more attractive to employers.

Second, it provides a boost to the already established benefit that urban universities provide to their communities. A [2016 study](#) from the National Bureau of Economic Research (and conducted by researchers from the London School of Economics and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School for Management) found "positive spillover effects from universities to geographically close neighboring regions." The report highlights that universities raise GDP per capita while leading to greater innovation and supply of human capital.

A vibrant UW-Milwaukee makes for a vibrant Milwaukee. And a vibrant Milwaukee helps make Wisconsin vibrant as well. Investing in the University of Wisconsin System is an investment in Wisconsin. UW-Milwaukee's Research I status is another reason we can be proud of the higher education ecosystem in Wisconsin.

Ray W. Cross, President, University of Wisconsin System

Mark A. Mone, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee