

February 19, 2023

Mark A. Mone, PhD
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Chapman Hall 202
PO Box 413
Milwaukee, WI. 53201

Dear Chancellor Mone and Elected Officials,

I am writing to convey my strong support for UW-Milwaukee's 2023-25 Capital Budget request for \$181M for the Health Science building renovation. This project, which is a top priority identified in the UW System Capital Budget request, is a strategic consolidation and build-out of lab, classroom, and simulation space. It utilizes existing resources to create a state-of-the-art education space within the former Columbia St. Mary's complex acquired by UWM in 2010. It builds on more than a decade of work that has already received two rounds of funding from the State Legislature. This investment is critical as it will help produce the healthcare professionals needed to begin to address Wisconsin's workforce shortage. By investing in the Health Sciences renovation, UWM can educate and graduate more nurses and healthcare workers to meet the needs of our patients and their families.

UWM offers the most healthcare degrees in Wisconsin, and in 2021-22, UWM granted degrees to 2,093 students in the health and human services fields. But the healthcare field is growing at a rate of 7-25% in the next decade. To catch up and keep pace, the state must invest in UWM and the Health Sciences renovation.

UWM's capital budget request will renovate space that is currently inadequate and unusable for academic uses. It will allow UWM's College of Health Sciences to consolidate its five current program locations into one modern facility, which in turn will have at least two important payoffs: 1) increase enrollment capacity by 15%, which would yield 3,000 more graduates in a 10-year period, and 2) offer a faster and more efficient path to graduation.

Consistent with the proposed new integrated space, UWM has led transforming its College of Health Sciences structure to bring together leadership in nursing, bioengineering, and all associated health care degrees into one college recognizing the critical future need for integrated healthcare practice. This will be a national model for health care higher education in our country.

I applaud UWM's work to implement new programs within the proposed space and improve existing programs, including Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Athletic Training, Applied Gerontology, Health Care Administration, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Radiologic Technology and Communication Sciences and Disorders, and better support interdisciplinary education and training. Having a single space to educate and train health sciences professionals will create efficiencies and streamline the preparation of students who will work in hospitals, clinics, and home care. Renovated during the second phase of funding, the [James and Yvonne Ziemer Clinical Simulation Center](#) which opened in the space in the fall of 2022, provides patient models and medical equipment for students to practice "hands-on" simulated care. I have personally visited this new space, spoken with the health care professionals teaching in this interactive environment and met with the Dean and three Associate Deans that have transformed the environment. This is an innovative departure from traditional classroom teaching to ensure students are ready to work on day one and can complete much needed clinical hours and training on-campus. With this training, UWM students can support community healthcare efforts, as UWM nursing students did at COVID clinics in recent years.

Without the requested capital investment, UW-Milwaukee will not be able to complete the renovation started six years ago when the Legislature approved funding to replace and upgrade the aging

infrastructure and renovate 132,000 square feet (of the total 1 million square foot complex). The building will continue to include empty space which must be heated, cooled, maintained and secured, and Wisconsin will lose the opportunity to attract new talent and enroll and graduate more students in healthcare fields.

Healthcare delivery in Wisconsin is a partnership among many, and UW-Milwaukee provides highly skilled professionals that serve all our organizations. I support UWM's request to complete its Health Sciences Renovation and ask you to do the same. Moving forward with the Health Sciences Renovation in the Northwest Quadrant at UW-Milwaukee will contribute to improved healthcare quality for the people of Wisconsin and increase the state's return on investment. Each of us, our family and our friends are or will be patients in need of excellent care provided by our health care professionals.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Fredrick
Retired Health Care CEO and Proud UWM Graduate