

# UW Colleges and Extension Restructuring - Talking Points and Background

Updated February 14, 2018

## ACCESS. AFFORDABILITY. OPPORTUNITY.

### ACCESS

- **All UW Colleges two-year campuses will remain open.**
  - Our two-year campuses are important access points for students, particularly those at greater risk of not being able to afford college: first generation, low income, and underserved communities.
- **Students should continue to apply to the two or four-year UW campus they wish to attend.**
  - Apply now! All two-year UW Colleges campuses and many UW four-year institutions are accepting applications now.
- **A key goal of joining our two-year campuses with our four-year comprehensive and research institutions is to make it *easier* to transfer credits.**
  - Students at two-year campuses now and in the future will be able to transfer their credits to all UW institutions – just as they do now. In the future, we hope to make this process even easier.
- **Joining our two-year campuses with our four-year comprehensive and research institutions improves access to higher education** by getting more students through the educational pipeline to help meet Wisconsin's current and future needs.

### AFFORDABILITY

- **Tuition levels at two-year campuses stay the same.**
  - Post-integration, we will maintain existing tuition levels for classes currently offered at the two-year institutions to keep them affordable for students and families.
- **Internally reorganizing** our two-year campuses to be joined with our four-year comprehensive and research institutions allows us to maintain the affordable tuition at our two-year institutions.
- **Students should continue to apply for financial aid for the institution they are applying to.**
  - UW Colleges will award financial aid. No changes are expected in the financial aid packages currently processed and awarded.

### OPPORTUNITY

- **Our goal is to *expand* the opportunities available to students.** In fact, we want to bring more classes on-site to the two-year campuses, including eventually offering upper-level courses.
- Joining our two-year campuses with our four-year comprehensive and research institutions **allows us to leverage resources and shared talent at all of our institutions**, which will expand the educational, research, and community partnership opportunities available to all students.

## Project Objectives

- Expand access to higher education by offering more courses at the two-year campuses
- Continue to identify and reduce barriers to transferring credits within the UW System
- Maintain affordability by continuing existing tuition levels post-integration for courses currently offered at the two-year institutions
- Further standardize and regionalize administrative operations and services to more efficiently use resources
- Leverage the strength of the four-year institutions to get more students into and through the educational pipeline, better aligning the UW System to meet Wisconsin's projected workforce needs



# Overview

## Proposed Restructuring

Over the last several years, UW Colleges has faced enrollment and financial challenges brought on by Wisconsin's changing population demographics. To ensure the future viability and sustainability of all our campuses, in November 2017, the UW System Board of Regents [passed a resolution](#) approving the restructure of UW Colleges and UW Extension. The resolution allows UW System President Ray Cross to join the 13 two-year UW Colleges with the UW's four-year comprehensive and research institutions. Divisions within UW-Extension will be assigned to UW-Madison and UW System Administration.

- On January 16, 2018, the UW System submitted to the Higher Learning Commission an application to restructure UW Colleges and UW-Extension.
  - **NO CHANGES** to UW Colleges or UW-Extension will occur prior to HLC approval. Pending HLC's approval, UW Colleges' campuses will be joined with four-year UW comprehensive and research institutions beginning July 1, 2018.
    - This includes no changes to current UW Extension Inter-Institutional agreements (IIAs) or contracts with counties or tribes.
- The **internal restructuring** will position the UW System to best meet the needs of students and ensure the UW System's important presence in each community is viable over the long-term.
- We are leveraging the strength of our four-year institutions at a time when overall enrollments at UW Colleges are declining. Wisconsin's demographic challenges are not expected to significantly improve in the years ahead: **95% of total population grown from 2010-2014 will be age 65 and older. Those between the ages 18-64 – Wisconsin's labor force – are only expected to grow about 1% during that same timeframe.**
- Our two-year campuses are a valuable launch pad to the System's four-year comprehensive and research institutions and these changes will help make that transition even smoother for our students.
- We are committed to making the transition as smooth as possible for students, faculty, and staff.

## Challenges:

- **Enrollment:** There has been a 32% decline in the number of full-time equivalent students at UW-Colleges since 2010. This decline combined with the relatively-flat-to-declining projected high school graduation rate projections are major headwinds that need to be comprehensively addressed.
- **Budget:** Restructuring has already occurred at UW Colleges and we thank those who may have been involved or already affected by those efforts. This plan tries to address the longer term financial and enrollment challenges at the two-year institutions.
- **Economy:** There is a need for closer alignment between research and practice as we help the state meet its broader economic needs.

## Proposed Changes

### For Campuses

*Pending approval of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), UW Colleges' campuses will be joined with four-year UW comprehensive and research institutions beginning July 1, 2018.*



## UW COLLEGES PROPOSED CAMPUS STRUCTURE

Effective July 1, 2018\*

UW-Colleges Campus	Four-year Receiving Institution
UW-Barron County	UW-Eau Claire
UW-Manitowoc UW-Marinette UW-Sheboygan	UW-Green Bay
UW-Washington County UW-Waukesha	UW-Milwaukee
UW-Fond du Lac UW-Fox Valley	UW-Oshkosh
UW-Baraboo UW-Richland Center	UW-Platteville
UW-Marathon County UW-Marshfield-Wood County	UW-Stevens Point
UW-Rock County	UW-Whitewater

\*Pending HLC approval

### For UW-Extension:

- Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning (CEOEL) and UW Colleges Online will be aligned with the receiving four-year UW institutions.
- The Division of Business and Entrepreneurship (DBE) and Broadcasting and Media Innovations (BAMI), including Wisconsin Public Television and Wisconsin Public Radio, will be integrated with UW System Administration in order to continue their important statewide roles.
- Cooperative Extension (COOP), including Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development and the UW-Extension Conference Centers, will be aligned with the state's land grant university, UW-Madison.
  - Integrating COOP with UW-Madison is consistent with the practice in many other states, including Illinois, Michigan, and Pennsylvania
  - Joining COOP with UW-Madison will provide more opportunities to strengthen existing partnerships between county-based Extension educators and the research enterprise at UW-Madison. This will allow for improved collaboration to aid Wisconsin residents and address important issues facing communities throughout the state.

### For Faculty, Staff, and Students

- **Faculty will have their tenure protected** during the transfer to a four-year or research institution. They will become tenured in the appropriate department within the comprehensive institution.
- There will be **no immediate changes to the educational offerings** at the integrated campuses. Over time, we hope that students will have access to a greater number of academic courses and programs at the two-year campuses.
- Students who graduate with an associate's degree beginning in fall 2018 would have the affiliated four-year institution's moniker on their diploma.
- Functional teams have been established to conduct implementation planning for functions that have a system-wide impact and are working to identify common and consistent solutions that cross regions.

### For Faculty, Staff, and Students, continued...

- Functional teams are made up of faculty and staff from two-year campuses and receiving four-year institutions.
- Functional teams include student recruitment, financial aid, athletics, immigration, human resources, information technology, student information systems, and other key areas.

