



## A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

### GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

## UW-Oshkosh: Northeastern Wisconsin Growth Agenda – Phase II

**Brief summary:** The Growth Agenda for Northeastern Wisconsin's New North is a three-biennium plan to meet the need for more bachelor's degree holders in some of the fastest growing counties in the state. Phase II of the Growth Agenda will add another 250 students in new and existing high-demand programs.

### Why is it needed?

One of the key initiatives of the New North economy is to encourage educational attainment. Northeastern Wisconsin boasts unique supply, infrastructure, transportation, and economic opportunities, but it must have a workforce that is prepared to act on these opportunities. Unfortunately, the region lags in adult education. Only 19% of residents in northeastern Wisconsin over age 25 hold a bachelor's degree, which is lower than the Wisconsin average of 25% and much lower than the national average of 27%.

### How does this proposal meet the need?

As a partner in the New North economy, UW-Oshkosh will generate more well-prepared graduates in high-demand occupations. Increasing the number of graduates provides the knowledge and skill base that is necessary for entrepreneurship, economic growth, and attracting business. Phase II is comprised of:

- *Program Expansion:* Phase II increases enrollment in high-demand areas such as Biology/Microbiology, Health Care, Nursing, and Environmental Studies. UW-Oshkosh will also increase support for the Graduation Program, which facilitates working adult degree completion.
- *New Programs:* For example, UW-Oshkosh will join the Wisconsin Technical Colleges and UW Colleges to offer a collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program in other areas of the state. Additionally, UW-Oshkosh will work with UW-Platteville and UW-Stevens Point to develop the Nanochemistry Major.
- *Student and Faculty Development:* Funding will also support a wide range of student services and development programs. Funding will advance faculty teaching and research through the Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Program and the Faculty Development Program.

### What are the outcomes/benefits?

- Increase total enrollment by 250 students by 2012. Across all three phases, enrollment is projected to increase by more than 1,200 students.
- Increase the six-year graduation rate at any UW institution by 7% (to 57%) by 2012.
- Decrease credits to degree from 145 to 135 by 2012.

**Estimated ongoing cost:** \$2,300,000 (\$1,495,000 GPR/\$805,000 Fees)

**For more information:** Contact Chancellor Richard Wells, 920-424-0200