



A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

UW-Platteville: Pioneer Engagement Center

Brief summary: The Pioneer Engagement Center will create networks with the community to allow students, community, and faculty partners to Experience → Grow → and Make a Difference through students' applying the knowledge and skills they gain from their classes to real-life situations, with real community partners, and with real consequences all as part of a for-credit academic experience.

Why is it needed?

Students and communities face a world of rapid and exponential change. The amount of new technical information is doubling every two years. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that today's 18-year-olds will have 10 to 14 different jobs in the next 20 years. In addition, most of today's in-demand jobs did not exist a decade ago. Students must be confident that the skills and knowledge they acquire at the UW can be translated to their jobs and communities once they leave school. The UW must also create new links with its surrounding community to both address today's challenges and ensure that students are prepared to be leaders to help communities meet future challenges. Projects with Wisconsin community partners are expected to increase the likelihood that Wisconsin-trained graduates stay in Wisconsin.

How does this proposal meet the need?

The Pioneer Engagement Center will be a portal to match UW-Platteville's scholarly resources with the need for those resources in civic, nonprofit, business, and other community ventures to develop solutions to real-world problems. The Center will allow students to be engaged in community-based experiential learning – preparing them for the sometimes difficult transition from the campus to the workforce. Students also will be able to pursue community-based projects as a way to encourage and foster entrepreneurial skills. Finally, the Center will provide an access point into the campus and its resources, which will allow businesses, local governments, and community organizations to connect with the right campus resources to develop innovative and customized solutions to problems.

What are the outcomes/benefits?

Through experiential learning, UW-Platteville graduates will have the ability to transform knowledge into practice and adapt to the changing circumstances they will confront in the workplace. The Center will also create strong, more vibrant communities by creating a more engaged group of citizens who understand how to meet community needs. Finally, the Center will ensure that UW-Platteville can meet the demand and need for academic resources and research in the community and contribute to the economic development of the region in a visible and measurable way. Specifically, this proposal will:

- Provide opportunities for applied experiential learning experiences for 200 students in 2009-10 and 400 students in 2010-11;
- At full implementation in 2011-12, provide opportunities for applied experiential learning programs for 900 students annually.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$509,400 (\$331,200 GPR/\$178,200 Fees)

For more information: Contact Chancellor David Markee, 608-342-1234