

## **WISCONSIN'S WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE AND THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**

### **BACKGROUND**

One-day meetings provide a forum for the Board of Regents to assess important policy issues that they may not otherwise have an opportunity to address at length during regular business meetings. These sessions customarily focus on one or two issues, providing the Board of Regents an opportunity to explore selected topics in order to consider strategies, directions, and actions that may be pursued later.

### **DISCUSSION**

As part of the University of Wisconsin's efforts to more closely align the resources of the university with the needs of the state, the day's agenda focuses on current and future state workforce needs. It will include four main segments, with ample time for questions and discussion.

#### **1. Demographics and Wisconsin's Workforce of the Future**

Todd Berry, President, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, will speak about demographic trends and the future of the workforce in the state of Wisconsin. Mr. Berry also will address the implications of the flattening of the workforce on growing the state's economy and on the tax base of the state.

#### **2. Wisconsin's Workforce Needs**

Reggie Newson, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, will speak about workforce needs resulting from growth in key occupational areas and from the aging of the state's population. Mr. Newson is also expected to discuss regional needs in the next five to ten years.

#### **3. Panel Discussion – Regional Business Leaders**

A panel of business leaders will provide their perspectives on Mr. Berry's and Secretary Newson's presentations, discuss the changing needs of companies in their regions, and suggest ways in which the UW can better respond to changing workforce needs.

Panel members:

- Todd Battle, President, Kenosha Area Business Alliance
- Kathi Seifert, Retired Executive Vice President, Kimberly-Clark; Co-Chair, New North
- Mark Tyler, President, OEM Fabricators, Inc., Woodville, Wisconsin

#### **4. Panel Discussion – University Chancellors**

A panel of UW chancellors representing different geographic areas of the state will be asked to react to the discussions of demographics and workforce needs, to describe current actions UW System institutions are taking to address the changing needs, and to suggest ways in which the university can respond to future workforce needs.

Panel members:

- Rebecca Blank, Chancellor, UW-Madison
- Gary Miller, Chancellor, UW-Green Bay
- Bob Meyer, Chancellor, UW-Stout
- Dennis Shields, Chancellor, UW-Platteville

#### **REQUESTED ACTION**

While one-day meetings are not designed to lead to immediate action by the Board of Regents, the discussions will serve to identify issues and inform future decision-making.

#### **RELATED REGENT POLICIES**

None.