

Chancellor's message regarding Advantage Wisconsin Initiative

Feb. 1, 2008, message from Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich to UW-Eau Claire faculty, staff and student leaders

I invite you to read a recent letter from UW System President Kevin Reilly regarding the Advantage Wisconsin initiative, a planning process that began last summer. The letter can be found online at http://www.uwec.edu/chancellor/reillyletter_0108.pdf.

The goal of the initiative is to create a strategic framework through which the UW System and all its institutions can contribute to the development and competitiveness of Wisconsin. It furthers the work and attempts to clarify the ongoing UW Growth Agenda initiative that was the context in which UW-Eau Claire received targeted funding in the last budget cycle for NanoSTEM, education and nursing.

The Web site referenced in President Reilly's letter contains the reports of various think tanks. Two UW-Eau Claire deans contributed significantly to the work of these groups. Donald Christian, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chaired Think Tank No. 1: Preparing Students. Thomas Dock, dean of the College of Business, was a member of Think Tank No. 6: Operational Excellence.

At this point, the ideas generated in these think tanks are being sifted and tested, largely through feedback from university and non-university audiences. This feedback is important in shaping the direction of the final recommendations that will be reviewed by the UW System Board of Regents. The recommendations could be adopted in whole or in part.

I strongly encourage you to look at the ideas generated in these think tanks. There are many ideas that provide opportunities for UW-Eau Claire by moving in the directions already forecast in our own strategic planning conversations. There are ideas that could result in considerable change to the configurations of program and service delivery across the UW System. Many ideas potentially touch on the roles of the comprehensive universities. There also are many ideas that affect current and future curricular decisions, including general education.

Additional information is available at <http://advantage.wisconsin.edu>.