

March 30, 2021

Badger Boys State
P.O. Box 388
Portage, WI 53901

Dear Badger Boys State Selection Committee Members:

I am writing you to provide my unequivocal and enthusiastic support for the effort to relocate your annual program to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. As the department chair for the Department of Political Science and a specialist in American electoral processes, I am quite confident we have much to offer your program and we would welcome the opportunity to partner with you.

The Department of Political Science consists of 13 full-time faculty (including 4 faculty who teach in the criminal justice program), and we have recently hired two additional faculty members who will be joining us in the fall of 2021. Two of our faculty, Dr. Rodd Freitag and Dr. Michael Fine, are specialists in Wisconsin politics. Both Dr. Fine and Dr. Freitag are contributors to multiple editions of Crane & Hagensick's *Wisconsin Government and Politics*, long-considered to be the gold standard for Wisconsin state politics texts.

We in political science can offer a wide range of educational and interactive events for your participants should you choose to relocate your program here. Our department has already developed and implemented curriculum for our Young Candidates Academy, a two-day boot camp for young people interested in running for office. We could easily adapt portions of that program to meet the needs of your participants. Given our large and successful alumni network, we can also bring in guest speakers to discuss various aspects of Wisconsin politics. Our alums work in all areas of Wisconsin politics across a wide range of partisan and policy areas.

We have been in contact with our Foundation and the Chancellor's office, and we have been informed that a significant portion of the revenue generated, should you choose to relocate, will be dedicated to scholarships on our campus. The Chancellor has agreed that if we become the host campus, he will guarantee, at a minimum, a renewable \$2000 per year scholarship for a participant from Badger Boys State that chooses to attend UW-Eau Claire in political science, and that scholarship will be offered every year to a participant from BBS. Given the increasing costs in higher education across the country, the opportunity to help a talented participant from your program gain access to a college education is extremely appealing and, I believe, demonstrates our commitment to doing all we can to broaden access to higher education for those who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

