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**RESOLUTION #       - 2024**

**Resolution Supporting Two-Year Campuses**

**Resolution offered by the Executive & Legislative Committee**

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Sauk County, Wisconsin:

**BACKGROUND:** The State of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Counties have had a long and strong history of supporting two-year campuses throughout Wisconsin. Financial feasibility has put a financial burden on the UW-system due to declining enrollments and has forced the closure of campuses in Richland Center, Washington, Fond du Lac, Marinette, and Waukesha Counties. In 2018 Northstar Analytics reported the UW System and related organizations “produce and annual economic impact of over \$24 billion” while generating nearly 167,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes. A 2024 report written by James R. Johnson in research with the Berkley Center for Studies in Higher Education and Greenwood Asher & Associates reported America’s university systems need to adapt to changing conditions and determine how to attain their educational goals through adaptive leadership who can leverage adaptive conditions to scale initiatives across systems. The Wisconsin Legislature earlier this year passed Senate Bill 518, which received bipartisan support in both chambers, to set aside \$20 million in state funds to provide up to \$2 million in grants to communities affected by UW system branch campus closures. The success of the remaining two-year campuses is vital to the economies of our local communities. Campuses similar to the UW-Platteville Baraboo/Sauk County have been working closely with their local partners to target educational programs that best serve the community and has had success turning around enrollment. Opportunities exist to diversify educational opportunities on these campuses through new four-year programs and/or strategic partnerships.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Sauk County requests that the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor develop a comparable grant program to assist in the retooling of the remaining two-year campuses for educational and diversifying the use of buildings that are presently not needed by the university system.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the grant program be used for the development of educational, recreational, governmental uses, or attracting private entities that serve the city, county, university, staff, and/or students (such as a daycare center as one example), or other purposes the Legislature may deem fit for the campus.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) at the Annual Meeting in order to be considered for the 2025 WCA lobbying efforts.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive & Legislative Committee, this 18th day of June, 2024

Consent Agenda Item: [ ] YES [ X ] NO

Fiscal Impact: [ ] None [ ] Budgeted Expenditure [ ] Not Budgeted

Vote Required: Majority = \_\_\_\_\_ 2/3 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_ 3/4 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ as reviewed  
by the Corporation Counsel, \_\_\_\_\_, Date:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Offered and passage moved by:

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Chair, Timothy McCumber

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Vice-Chair, John Deitrich

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Supervisor, Dennis Polivka

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Supervisor, Mark "Smooth" Detter

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Supervisor, Lynn Eberl

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Supervisor, Patricia Rego

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Supervisor, Marty Krueger

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Supervisor, Sheila Carver

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent  
Supervisor, Brian Peper

Fiscal Note: None

MIS Note: None