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7/9/01

TO: Editors, news directors

FROM: UW-Madison University Communications, (608) 262-3571

RE: UW SYSTEM TUITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The UW System announced tuition increases for UW-Madison and other campuses today, July 9. All UW campuses face a 7 percent increase. UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee each expect an additional 1.4 increase to help pay for the Madison Initiative and Milwaukee Idea. Despite the increases, the cost of an education at UW-Madison continues to be one of the lowest in the Big Ten.

For insights into budgeting at the UW System's largest and most complex campus, contact John Torphy, vice chancellor for administration, (608) 263-2509, who is available until 4 p.m.

For additional background on the Madison Initiative public-private partnership, visit:
<http://www.news.wisc.edu/mi/>

For additional information needs, contact Kent Barrett at University Communications, (608) 262-0930.

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TOMMY G. THOMPSON

Governor
State of Wisconsin

Tuition

For Immediate Release – Oct. 25, 1999

Contact: Kevin Keane (608) 266-8110

GOVERNOR SUPPORTS BUDGET INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION

Document secures, builds upon his efforts to strengthen schools, universities, colleges

MADISON – Gov. Tommy G. Thompson said today the biennial budget he will sign Wednesday represents one of the most sweeping investments in education in Wisconsin, strengthening the K-12, University of Wisconsin and technical college systems.

Gov. Thompson said he will leave largely intact the budget's education initiatives, which build upon the investments he proposed earlier this year. Highlights include the Madison Initiative for the University of Wisconsin, \$500 tuition grants for students attending a technical college, and higher standards and lower class sizes for K-12 schools.

"The big winners in this budget are our children and schools as we make sweeping investments in education from early childhood through college," Gov. Thompson said. "We're clearly making education the foundation for the future strength of Wisconsin as we enter a new millennium. It's the wisest investment we can make."

While Gov. Thompson will sign the vast majority of education initiatives in the budget, the most substantive vetoes come in the proposal to use busing money to create neighborhood schools in low-income Milwaukee neighborhoods. The governor will veto most of the strings attached to this program, giving the Milwaukee Public School Board greater flexibility to manage it. Also, the governor will make a technical veto that will allow the money for lowering class sizes throughout the state to be distributed.

Gov. Thompson also will make strong investments in public libraries and UW System libraries throughout Wisconsin. Here is a list of some of the major education decisions made in the budget broken down by K-12, UW, technical colleges and libraries.

Kindergarten-12 Public Schools

Graduation Test: Gov. Thompson will sign most of this provision, reinstating a mandatory graduation test in Wisconsin but allowing schools to also consider academic performance and teacher recommendations in determining graduation.

(MORE)

The governor will make a partial veto to eliminate the use of "other criteria" because he does not want school boards to use non-academic criteria in determining graduation. The budget includes \$4 million to start development of a model statewide graduation test.

School Start Date: Gov. Thompson will sign language requiring Wisconsin schools to start Sept. 1 or later unless school boards vote to opt out of this provision and start earlier. Gov. Thompson believes this provision is necessary to help the tourism industry, which is the economic core for many Wisconsin communities.

The governor, however, believes this opt-out provision is too broad and holds too great a potential to undermine efforts to help tourism-dependent communities. Thus, he will be seeking future compromise in this issue.

Milwaukee Neighborhood Schools: Gov. Thompson heartily supports this provision, which he first proposed in his State of the State address two years ago. This program would allow Milwaukee Public Schools to use intradistrict Chapter 220 money to support \$170 million in bonding for construction of new schools and renovation or expansion of existing schools in low-income Milwaukee neighborhoods. Gov. Thompson believes it makes more sense to take money used to bus students across town and build neighborhood schools students can walk to from home.

The governor is vetoing several provisions that he believes would unnecessarily tie the hands of MPS to implement and operate this program. These include provisions: creating a Milwaukee school construction board to oversee decisions made by the school board; allowing the Assembly and Senate education committees to review construction decisions; mandating how MPS holds its public hearings on construction plans; requiring MPS to develop a plan for complying with current 220 programs; dictating what types of schools can be constructed; providing that at least 50 percent of construction contracts go to minority contractors, which the governor believes is a laudable but unattainable standard that could prevent school construction from proceeding. The governor wants MPS to meet the strong minority hiring standards comparable to other area publicly funded construction projects.

The governor said the school board is willing will be responsive to the concerns and desires of the public regarding construction and the vetoed issues mentioned above.

"We need to start building schools in low-income neighborhoods rather than busing our children all across town, so I'm thankful the Legislature has heeded my call in this regard," Gov. Thompson said. "Now, we must give the Milwaukee Public School Board the flexibility it needs to make this building program successful. We need to empower families with a neighborhood school they can call their own. I'm confident stronger academic performance will follow once we accomplish this initiative."

(MORE)

Lower Class Sizes: The governor will support \$46.9 million over the biennium for the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education program designed to lower class sizes. This includes \$3 million to reimburse school districts for up to 20 percent of debt service costs for SAGE-related building projects.

The governor is making a technical veto that will allow all schools to participate in the SAGE program as intended by the Legislature.

Gov. Thompson believes the state should reduce class sizes, particularly for low-income students who may need more help in the classroom.

"If lowering class sizes helps underachieving students succeed in school, it's a worthwhile investment," Gov. Thompson said. "We're continuing to strengthen the classroom so our students can achieve success."

Two-Thirds Commitment: This budget not only meets the state's commitment to fund two-thirds of local school costs, but also two-thirds of school construction costs. Gov. Thompson supports the construction investment, which is helping many schools make badly needed capital investments.

The two-thirds commitment represents an investment of \$4.6 billion the first year and \$4.9 billion the second year to pay for local school costs and help offset property taxes for communities.

The budget also provides \$13.3 million in the second year of the biennium to support local school construction projects that were passed by referendum.

TEACH: The governor will approve \$152.5 million over the biennium for his TEACH program, which invests in educational technology for our schools. This includes \$70 million for educational technology block grants, \$50 million for wiring loans, \$24.5 million for data and video links, and \$8 million in training and technical assistance grants.

Special Education: Gov. Thompson will support an additional \$32.6 million in special education funding for local school districts, which represents a 14.5 percent increase over 1999 spending levels. The budget also provides \$82,000 to cover special education costs of Milwaukee charter schools.

While special education is a federal mandate underfunded by Washington, the governor is agreeing to additional state money to help local school districts meet the needs of these students.

Alternative Education: The governor will sign \$5 million in grants to school districts for alternative education programs for at-risk students.

Foreign Language: The governor is vetoing a provision that would no longer require school districts to offer foreign language instruction in 7th and 8th grades. Gov. Thompson believes foreign language should be offered at these grade levels as well as lower grade levels. "The earlier we can expose children to foreign languages, the better off they will be in preparing for the global workplace as adults," he said.

School Breakfast Program: Gov. Thompson will support \$742,000 to increase funding for school breakfast programs for low-income students.

Summer School Enrollment: The governor will support counting 40 percent of summer school enrollments in the calculation of revenue limits and school aids, which is an increase from 20 percent. This will be phased in over three years beginning in the 2000-01 school year.

Declining Enrollment: The governor will provide \$23.9 million to help school districts with declining enrollments fare better in the school aids formula.

Increasing Enrollment: The governor will support \$14.4 million to eliminate the proposed penalty for school districts with increasing enrollments under the school aid formula.

Qualified Economic Offer: The governor will sign a change that removes salary increases for teachers who achieve advanced degrees from calculation of the QEO. This will reward teachers for improving their skills. The provision was agreed to with the understanding that the state teacher's union would work with the governor when he forwards a pay-for-performance initiative for the winter legislative session.

University of Wisconsin System

Madison Initiative: Gov. Thompson proposed funding for this initiative and will sign the \$30 million in this budget for it. The Madison Initiative is a high-priority program designed to help the university with targeted hiring and academic program expansion.

Gov. Thompson believes this investment is crucial to keeping UW-Madison on the cutting edge as one of the world's greatest universities. The UW is the best value for an education in America with world-class academics and tuition that ranks 10th lowest in the Big Ten, the governor said.

"There's no better place for a world-class education than the University of Wisconsin," Gov. Thompson said. "We making a major investment to keep all UW System schools on the cutting edge and at the forefront of higher education."

(MORE)

UW System: The governor makes a total \$79 million investment in the University of Wisconsin System over the biennium. This largely encompasses the major investments Gov. Thompson proposed in his budget to help the UW System remain a world leader in higher education. Some of this investment is reflected in the programs below.

Flexibility: Gov. Thompson will sign his proposal to grant the Board of Regents greater flexibility to manage the UW System. This will allow the board to take necessary steps to keep the state's universities strong and successful.

Tuition Freeze: Gov. Thompson will support a tuition freeze for the 2000-01 academic year at a cost of \$28 million. The governor said this freeze will help keep a UW System education one of the most affordable in the nation.

Access Expansion: Gov. Thompson will sign \$3.8 million to allow the UW System to enroll 1,000 additional students, including through the use of distance learning technology.

Plan 2008 Diversity: The governor will support \$1 million to recruit and retain more qualified minority students and faculty in the UW System.

Pre-College Programs: Gov. Thompson will invest \$732,000 for pre-college programming at UW campuses to introduce minority and low-income students to college life and help prepare them for the academic rigors of college. He also will support \$1.5 million for pre-college scholarships.

International Education: The governor will support \$850,000 for a new bachelor's of arts program in global studies at UW-Milwaukee as well as \$1 million for scholarships for UW students to study abroad.

The governor believes it is increasingly important for the UW to invest in international education to adequately prepare its graduates for competing in the global economy.

Student Workers: The governor will support \$3.8 million to hire and train student informational technology workers at UW campuses to help maintain these systems.

Advising: The governor will invest nearly \$2.4 million to expand undergraduate academic and career advising at all UW campuses.

UW Libraries: The governor will sign \$7.4 million for acquisitions and electronic information resources at UW campus libraries.

(MORE)

2+2+2: Gov. Thompson will provide \$805,000 for UW-Stout and \$50,000 to the program for continued collaboration efforts with Waukesha County Technical College and local schools in the 2+2+2 program. This program creates a seamless system for a student to move from high school to technical college to UW-Stout while still gaining real-world work experience.

Wisconsin Technical College System

Academic Grants: The governor will invest \$6.6 million to provide students who attend a Wisconsin Technical College System school with a \$500 grant. The governor proposed this in his budget to help encourage more students to pursue a technical college education right out of high school, which is helping to address the skilled-worker shortage the economy is experiencing.

The \$500 grants would go to students age 18-21 who maintained a 2.0 grade point average in high school.

"We want more students to pursue technical college right out of high school as an entry point to higher education," Gov. Thompson said. "Technical colleges are a great place for students to start their college careers, gain high-skill training, and create greater options to enter the workforce or pursue further education. These schools prepare students for high-paying jobs in high-demand fields."

Course Expansion: The governor will support \$7.2 million to develop and expand course offerings in high-demand occupational areas. The governor wants WTCS to work closely with the private sector to develop programs to help meet the needs of the private industries that are experiencing worker shortages.

Work-Based Learning Board: The governor will sign this new board, which he proposed and will chair, to help develop educational programming to meet the needs of the private sector. The board will look at work-based education programs at all levels - K-12, technical colleges and UW. The goal is to make sure all our schools are better preparing students for the workforce as adults.

General Aid: The budget provides \$7.3 million in general aid to the state's technical colleges, which represents a 2.2 percent increase over base the first year and 6.4 percent increase over base the second year.

(MORE)

Public Libraries

Public Library System: Gov. Thompson will sign a \$2 million increase in aid over the biennium to the state's library system. This will help libraries meet costs and provide valued services to their customers.

Common School Fund: The governor will support removing the existing cap on this fund for school libraries. Funding for this program will increase from \$14.3 million to \$28.2 million the first year and \$21.7 million the second year, which will significantly help school libraries.

BadgerLink: The governor will sign full state funding for this popular and free database service provided to library and internet users throughout the state. The \$2.5 million cost will come from the telecommunications access fund.

TEACH: Gov. Thompson will invest \$10 million in wiring loans to libraries across this state as distance technology becomes increasingly utilized at libraries.

Literacy Programs: Gov. Thompson will continue his support of literacy programs for low-income families by spending \$2.8 million over the biennium for these efforts.

"Our libraries are a great community resource for people of all ages who love to read and learn," Gov. Thompson said. "The investments this budget makes shows how valued libraries are to the people of Wisconsin. And it reflects our commitment to equip our libraries with the information technology of the next century."



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NEWS

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EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS UW QUALITY, URGES MORE FUNDING

MADISON -- The University of Wisconsin-Madison has substantially enhanced undergraduate education in the past decade, but a lack of state funding is jeopardizing the institution's long-term future, according to an independent review of the university.

The review, from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, says the university's improvements in undergraduate education, particularly in advising and the development of residential learning communities, are "among the university's major achievements of the past decade."

The NCA evaluation team, which visited the campus in April as part of UW-Madison's reaccreditation process, expressed praise – and surprise – in its 31-page report that a state such as Wisconsin has been able to support one of the nation's and world's best public research universities.

"It is rather remarkable – and a bit of a puzzle, actually – that a state of such modest size and wealth has managed to build and to maintain for so long such a truly world class institution," the report says. "As one of the team members observed, 'This is a state and a university that delivers far beyond its resources.' "

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In addition to the improvements in undergraduate education, the evaluation team cited as achievements the university's gains in assessing how students learn; increased campus diversity; success in attracting private support; attention to strategic planning; and improvements in international education.

But those achievements are shaded by several concerns, the report says. Those concerns are a continued lack of adequate state funding for the university; a high level of state regulation and bureaucratic constraints coupled with administrative inflexibility; and some negative aspects of the university's decentralized structure, including faculty and departmental autonomy.

The evaluation team reported that these concerns are fostering in the university community "a muted but widespread angst and uncertainty about whether the principles and practices that have made the university great can continue to keep it great in a changing local, state, and global competitive environment."

Chancellor David Ward says the evaluation team's report is an instructive reflection of the current state of affairs at the university, and will serve as an important document for future strategic planning.

"We are grateful for the evaluation team's acknowledgement of our efforts to improve undergraduate education, attract private support and plan for the future, along with other key areas at UW-Madison, over the past 10 years," Ward says.

"At the same time, we are extremely mindful of the concerns raised by the evaluation team, and we want to work with state officials, faculty, staff and students to address those concerns."

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The evaluation team recommends that NCA extend UW-Madison's accreditation to 2008. The formal reaccreditation is expected later this year. The team's visit is a requirement for reaccreditation, which occurs every 10 years. UW-Madison has been continuously accredited since 1913.

After outlining the university's strengths and concerns in its report, the evaluation team suggests several ways to strengthen UW-Madison, none of which are a requirement for reaccreditation:

- Improve state funding. The evaluation team says the state must redouble its effort to support its flagship university, as other states have done in recent years. "Wisconsin's leaders may not fully appreciate and understand that their university has made their state a luminous feature on the global map of academic excellence, that is to say, the state's premier asset in the new and very competitive global knowledge-based economy."

- Explore the possibility of increasing tuition. Suggestions include differential tuitions for high-cost programs or increases in tuition coupled with more financial aid for needy students. "In business terms, the university is offering a premium product at bargain-basement prices," the report says. Any tuition proposal should be designed to bring UW-Madison's tuition to a level close to the median of its peers, Ward says.

- Increase management flexibility. Work to eliminate bureaucratic and policy constraints "wholesale," consistent with national deregulation trends in public and private sectors.

- Expand current levels of strategic leadership and planning.

- Involve academic staff more in the university's shared governance system.

- Remove UW-Madison from the state civil service system, and institute a campuswide initiative to revitalize human resources with staff development.

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-- Implement more interdisciplinary programs and foster more collaboration among faculty, similar to the university's cluster hiring program. The Graduate School plays a key role in this but should not bear the total responsibility, the report says.

-- Pursue a reinvigorated graduate student council.

-- Expand the residential learning communities, reduce class sizes for freshmen and sophomores and more fully coordinate and organize student services to further strengthen undergraduate education.

-- Keep diversity high on the university's priority list.

-- Develop a strategic plan for the campus' information technology infrastructure.

-- Collaborate with the City of Madison to enhance the new \$100 million arts district.

-- Continue to partner with the state on international initiatives.

The evaluation team concludes its report by stating that UW-Madison is "one of the nation's finest land-grant research universities," but at the same time, along with most great universities, "is also an institution at risk."

"The University of Wisconsin-Madison is wearing some heavy weights, but somehow it manages to perform impressively nonetheless," the review ends. "What might it do without the weights? The (evaluation team) fervently hopes the university and its state can join forces to find out."

The evaluation team report can be viewed by visiting:

<http://www.wisc.edu/newdirections/public/reports/teamreport.pdf>.

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-Erik Christianson, (608) 262-0930; echristi@facstaff.wisc.edu.

ABOUT THE NCA REPORT AND UW-MADISON'S ACCREDITATION

-- The report is based on the visit to UW-Madison April 12-14 by the evaluation team from the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

-- The evaluation team recommends continued accreditation until 2008-09. NCA is expected to grant the official reaccreditation later this year. The university was last accredited in 1989 and has been continuously accredited since 1913.

-- The report states that UW-Madison has met the 24 general institutional requirements and five criteria for accreditation. It outlines strengths, concerns, observations and suggestions for improvement from the evaluation team.

-- The evaluation team consisted of 14 faculty members and administrators from some of North America's largest universities, including five Big Ten institutions (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan State and Northwestern).

-- Donald N. Langenberg, chancellor of the University System of Maryland, chaired the evaluation team and led the site visit.

-- The evaluation team met with more than 100 administrators, faculty, staff, students, members of the UW System Board of Regents and state legislators during its visit.

-- The key document upon which the evaluation team based its review was the university's 1999 self study, undertaken as part of the reaccreditation process. To review the self study, visit: <http://www.wisc.edu/newdirections/>.

-- The 1989 reaccreditation and university self study led to the "Future Directions" report, which Chancellor David Ward used in part to formulate "A Vision for the Future," an updated strategic plan, in 1995. The 1999 self study, along with the evaluation team's report and the "Vision" document, will form the basis for future strategic planning at the university.

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Fact Sheet

Badger Action Network

March 1999

FAQ's About Tuition and the State Budget Proposal

Q: Will tuition at UW-Madison increase by a whopping 23 percent over the next two years?

A: No, according to UW System Board of Regents President San Orr, Jr. The suggestion that tuition will rise to such levels is merely a worst-case scenario cited by some opposed to the continuing appropriation for tuition, a measure included in Governor Thompson's 1999-2001 biennial budget proposal.

Q: What exactly is the continuing appropriation for tuition?

A: It is a measure that allows state agencies — in this case the University of Wisconsin System — to “spend revenues as received” rather than being limited to spending only as much revenue as the legislature approves in the biennial budget. This will give the university the management flexibility to spend as much tuition revenue as it earns — just like every other university in the Big Ten.

Q: What is the process without the continuing appropriation?

A: Under current legislation, the university operates with a specific tuition appropriation that effectively caps the amount of tuition revenue that can be spent in a given year. If actual tuition revenue received exceeds the cap set by the legislature, revenue received above the cap cannot be spent without going through a time-consuming legislative hearing process.

Q: Why is the continuing appropriation necessary?

A: A continuing appropriation for tuition will allow the university to more quickly respond to the needs of its customers.

For example, the School of Business recently created an evening MBA program to meet the needs of the business community in Wisconsin. With a continuing appropriation, the university would know that the program would be paid for by the tuition revenue generated. However, because the tuition revenue collected exceeded the “tuition spending cap” that currently exists, the university was required to fund the operational costs of the program until the legislature approved the additional spending necessary to create the program. In this instance, a new program was created by using existing resources. Unfortunately, the university may not always be able to fully fund the creation of a new program without the tuition revenue generated by that program.