

BARABOO/SAUK COUNTY

A Campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges

March 13, 2009

U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
2446 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin:

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County, I am writing to support our application for federal appropriation funding for the proposed Living and Learning Center (LLC) project on the UW-B/SC campus.

UW-B/SC is a freshman-sophomore liberal arts campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges. It represents a unique partnership between the City of Baraboo, Sauk County, and the UW Colleges (the thirteen two-year colleges of the UW System). In this partnership, the facilities are owned by the City of Baraboo and Sauk County. The programming and moveable equipment are provided by the UW Colleges, one of the 15 institutions of the University of Wisconsin System. Because of this partnership, our buildings are not constructed by the State of Wisconsin. Rather, new construction on the campus is funded either by the city and the county, private fundraising, and/or federal support. Due to the current economic conditions, we see minimal opportunities to secure local funding in the immediate future for this project and are therefore requesting federal assistance to build the LLC.

UW-B/SC is a campus of access and over our 40 year history we have provided opportunities for nearly 12,000 local students to begin a University of Wisconsin education. UW-B/SC has just completed its first master plan. This plan has identified the need for a number of enhancement, renovation, and new projects. The Living and Learning Center has emerged as a top priority for the campus and our communities. As conceived, the LLC will add housing for approximately 100 students. Additionally, the facility will provide a much-needed community conference space for students, faculty and staff, and the Sauk County community.

The LLC is currently in design-ready status. This means that conceptual designs have been completed and a site has been identified for the building. Our architectural firm has indicated that the project could be ready to go to fast-track construction within 90 days of notice. The LLC is designed to be constructed to exceed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum standards. The goal for the LLC is to achieve a

Thomas C. Pleger, Ph.D., Campus Executive Officer and Dean

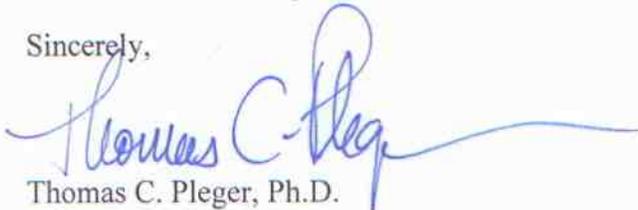
zero net energy status. It will include such innovative features as a green roof and a living machine.

The LLC will provide students with affordable housing that enhances their social and educational growth. Programmatic highlights will include: principles of environmental stewardship, preserving beauty and natural resources, and bringing global concepts to our region. The LLC will be a landmark of sustainability, making the campus and surrounding community a regional "hub" for innovation, education, and sustainability; and will be used by the campus as a space for community and campus events such as lectures, colloquia, workshops, conferences and seminars. Businesses, civic groups, and people of all ages will be able to come to an innovative facility that demonstrates alternative and sustainable energy programs. The project also will enhance the local economy by generating economic growth associated with the construction, the staffing of the facility, and the economic impact of having approximately 100 students living on campus and in Baraboo.

The project has already gained support from the University of Wisconsin Colleges, the City of Baraboo, Sauk County, the Friends Of The Campus (the UW-B/SC Foundation), Sauk County Development Corporation, and the Sauk Prairie Chamber. Letters of support from these organizations and additional information can be found on the UW-B/SC Living and Learning Center web site at: <http://www.baraboo.uwc.edu/?pid=174>

I ask that you please contact me at your earliest convenience should you require additional information or have questions about the LLC and our request for funding.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Pleger, Ph.D.
Campus Executive Officer and Dean

CC: David Wilson, Chancellor
Steve Wildeck, Vice Chancellor
Greg Lampe, Interim Provost