

March 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

The La Crosse Area Development Corporation (LADCO) is proud to endorse funding for the Prairie Springs Science Center Completion Project at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse (UWL). LADCO is a member driven, non-profit corporation dedicated to facilitating and promoting industrial and economic development and small business startups in the greater La Crosse area. We focus our efforts on business retention, expansion, and attraction in La Crosse County and in supporting workforce development. To grow and flourish, our businesses and startups need a talented, trained workforce.

Completing the Prairie Springs Science Center – and replacing a 50-year-old plus science building that leaks when it rains, lacks fire suppression and ADA accessibility – will increase UWL's capacity for educating top-flight science students. That means our region can better attract and retain businesses and industry in an increasingly science-based economy that includes all types of manufacturing, health care, and food production and processing.

Health care and education are major industries in the La Crosse region, and UWL has forged impressive research and employment partnerships with the Mayo Clinic Health System and Emplify Health by Gundersen. In fact, UWL science graduates work in health-care fields throughout Wisconsin. In addition, UWL science-education graduates teach science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in schools throughout our state. UWL science graduates are not limited to health care. They also work at Trane Technologies, Chart Energy and Chemicals, Kwik Trip, City Brewing, J.F. Brennan Marine in the La Crosse area and beyond and you will find UWL science graduates working at growing Wisconsin companies like Epic and Exact Sciences.

Science professors at UW-La Crosse have won state and national awards for educational excellence, and they regularly partner with area businesses on research projects and internship programs. Completing the Prairie Springs Science Center will provide more modern space to better train our workforce of tomorrow and enhance opportunities for research and development of innovative technologies.

LADCO believes that funding the Prairie Springs Science Center Completion Project is crucial to growing the science-based economy of the La Crosse area and in helping our businesses and industries find the talented workers they need now and in the future. We strongly urge support for the Prairie Springs Science Center at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joe Zoellner, Board President  
La Crosse Area Development Corporation