



August 10, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is proud to endorse funding for the Prairie Springs Science Center II at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse (UWL). The Chamber is a member driven, non-profit dedicated to elevating and strengthening the business community to enhance the La Crosse area's quality of life. We focus our efforts on talent attraction and retention, professional education, providing small business resources, and collaborating with local and state legislators. For our area to grow and flourish, our businesses need a talented, trained workforce.

Building Prairie Springs II – 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 Mayo Clinic and Gundersen Health System. 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.

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 complex will provide more modern space to better train our workforce of tomorrow and enhance opportunities for research and development of innovative technologies.

The La Crosse Chamber and its area businesses believe that funding the Prairie Springs Science Center II 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 II at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Neal Zygarlicke, CEO