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## **DE VRY CAMPUS CLOSING SHOWS NEED FOR STATE WATCHDOG, REPS SAY**

MADISON – The shutdown of DeVry University’s Milwaukee campus shows the need for the state to retain its for-profit college watchdog, two state representatives said today.

DeVry on Thursday announced it would close 14 campuses nationwide effective Dec. 31, including the downtown Milwaukee campus at 411 E. Wisconsin Ave. DeVry has had a presence in Milwaukee since 1983. A total of 247 undergraduate and graduate students will be affected, including 111 in the popular Keller Graduate School of Management.

“This is exactly the kind of event in the for-profit education world that shows the need to keep the Wisconsin Educational Approval Board,” said Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) and Rep. Jonathan Brostoff (D-Milwaukee), whose district includes the campus. “These students need to have their interests protected. With the crushing levels of debt load they carry, they need to have a watchdog to look out for them.”

Gov. Scott Walker is seeking to eliminate the board, which oversees more than 174 for-profit institutions and 78 out-of-state nonprofit schools, with a total enrollment of 60,000.

DeVry said Thursday it will offer students the options of completing their programs using DeVry’s online courses, transferring to a DeVry campus outside Wisconsin, or transferring to a local college or university with a comparable program. David Dies, the chief of the Educational Approval Board, was quoted in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel as saying his agency would work to make sure that students could get refunds if DeVry’s options didn’t suit them.

Hesselbein, a member of the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee, urged the preservation of the EAB last week in a newspaper column. The legislative Joint Finance Committee pulled the EAB elimination from its agenda on April 17 and held it for later consideration.

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