



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LORI PALMERI

54TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 13th, 2024

Contact: Rep. Lori Palmeri, 608-237-9154

Rep. Palmeri's Statement on the June 2025 Closing of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh -
Fox Cities Campus

OSHKOSH, WI - Representative Lori Palmeri (D-Oshkosh) released the following statement on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt's announcement of the future closure of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh-Fox Cities Campus.

"As an alumna of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh-Fox Cities, I am saddened to hear of the decision to close the campus. This campus created a pathway that made secondary education attainable for me as a non-traditional student. It is unfortunate that next year will be the last time this pathway will be open for others," stated Rep. Palmeri.

"I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the fantastic staff, faculty, and students of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh-Fox Cities Campus. This news will take time to digest and I want to reiterate that my office is open and available to assist any campus members impacted by today's news. Our office will continue to be in touch with the Chancellor's Office as details of transition plans for faculty and students takes shape in the months ahead.

"Lastly, I want to acknowledge the financial analysis done by the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and that these numbers showed the Fox Cities Campus did not have a sustainable path forward. With an enrollment decline of nearly 67% over the past decade, decline in high school graduates seeking secondary education, and a concentration of 11 public, private, and technical college sites within 50 miles of the campus, UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities will likely be unable to cover their costs moving forward.

"While I believe that many factors have impacted this decision today, I also want to acknowledge the state bears responsibility in the tough decisions being made across UW-System branches. Legislative Republicans have habitually eroded funding of higher education in this state and we are seeing the consequences of this underfunding coming to a head. As we look toward the next state budget I know where my priorities lie."

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