



For Immediate Release
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Rep. Shankland: Statement on Governor Walker's Cuts to UW System

MADISON – Today, Governor Walker announced his budget proposal for the University of Wisconsin System, which will include a drastic \$300 million funding cut over the next biennium. In response, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement:

“The UW System has already suffered \$250 million in funding cuts over the last two years, and now the Governor is proposing another \$300 million in cuts. There is simply nothing left to cut that will not severely compromise the quality of a UW education.

“Wisconsin families are proud to send their children to our public universities because they know that a UW degree represents a quality education and a pathway to success in their career and life. Business owners and middle class families rely on our UW System to educate our future workforce and strengthen our local economy. With an additional \$300 million in cuts, the universities will lose their ability to recruit and retain talented faculty and staff. These cuts will disproportionately affect UW-Stevens Point, which does not have the same competitive advantage of differential tuition as 10 of the 13 four-year universities.

“These cuts will result in longer waiting periods for bottlenecked courses in high-demand fields, and students will bear the cost of having to wait for the class they need to graduate. Tuition costs will climb beginning in 2017. This is a no-win situation: faculty, staff, students, parents, business owners, and community members will all feel these devastating cuts to the cornerstone of our community.

“It’s time to strengthen our communities by making public education a priority. I urge Governor Walker to reconsider his approach to the UW System before his plan causes long-lasting damage to our state’s workforce and economy. I stand with the faculty, staff, and students at UW-Stevens Point and across the system, and thank them for the important work they’re doing to strengthen our community and make Wisconsin a great place to live.”

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