



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rep. Steve Doyle

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MADISON – Rep. Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska) was nominated by Minority Leader Peter Barca as the ranking Democratic member on the Colleges and University Committee in a letter sent today to Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald.

The Colleges and Universities Committee focuses on higher education, including legislative oversight of the UW System and Wisconsin’s technical colleges. In the current economy it is vital in making sure the skills gap between available jobs and workers is bridge to help put Wisconsinites to work.

“A strong public education system, at all levels, is not only crucial to the future of young people in Wisconsin -- it is also one of our best economic development tools for attracting new businesses to our state,” Rep. Doyle said. “I am honored by this important appointment and committed to working diligently to protect and improve higher education and job training in Wisconsin.”

Rep. Doyle brings expertise in higher education from his service on the UW Task Force, where he focused on (1) whether there is a need to restructure the UW System; (2) how UW-Madison employees and all other UW System employees would transition from the state personnel system to the new personnel systems; (3) whether tuition flexibility can be extended to the UW System while ensuring access and affordability and what role the Legislature should have in establishing tuition rates; (4) how compensation plans for UW System employees should be determined in future biennia; (5) additional operational flexibilities that could be provided to UW System institutions; and (6) how the transfer of credits between UW institutions could be improved. Rep. Doyle will be keeping in close contact with Sen. Kathleen Vinehout the new Senate chair of Agriculture, Elections, and UW System, as well as Sen. Jessica King, the new chair of the Senate Job Training, Technical Colleges, and Workforce Development. Rep. Doyle plans to work with them on higher education and job training issues which are likely to arise even before the next session commences.

“Education and jobs are two top priorities for working Wisconsin families,” Rep. Barca said. “We need a strong university and technical college system to make sure our workers are ready to join and re-enter the workforce and Steve Doyle understands the importance of that link. I chose him for this important committee assignment because I know he will work hard to protect and improve education and job training for Wisconsin.”