



**BRAD PFAFF**  
**STATE SENATOR**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ensuring Education is Accessible**

Applying to college can be daunting and confusing. As a farm boy who was a first-generation college student from rural Melrose-Mindoro High School, I recognize how many students from that background feel that attending a university or school of higher education may be out of reach. I was one of them, as the first in my family to leave home and go to school. It was life-changing. At first I was nervous, but in the end it opened many doors for me that are not usually available to those who come from similar backgrounds.

I want to ensure that no Wisconsin student ever feels that attending a UW school is not possible for them. Our universities are an economic driver, a research destination, and a hub for community support. They are a source of great pride for our state and provide tremendous opportunities for personal growth for all students who attend.

That is why I was proud to vote for legislation to give high-achieving Wisconsin high school students opportunities to further their education at Wisconsin universities. I'm glad that this common sense measure was signed into law. Under this law, Wisconsin high school students ranked in the top 5% of their class will receive automatic admission to UW-Madison, and students in the top 10% will receive automatic admission to all other UW schools.

This law ensures that if you work hard, you can attend one of the terrific schools in the UW system, no matter your background. It ensures that our state universities are available to all of us, and shows working families across Wisconsin that their kids have the option to learn and grow in their home state.

We need to keep our best and brightest in Wisconsin and show them the opportunities they have here. Giving our students the option to stay in the state to get their education makes it more likely they will find employment here after graduation and continue to support our economy. This will help us grow a robust, highly-skilled workforce here in Wisconsin by educating Wisconsin students at Wisconsin schools.

While this is a good first step, we still have more work to do. High school students face many challenges, and we should work to make it a little easier for them. I'm proud of my work to support Wisconsin's public schools and universities, and will continue to fight to make sure education is more accessible and affordable for all.

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*Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.*