

# MEETING THE ENGINEERING NEEDS IN NORTHWEST WISCONSIN

UW-Stout Chancellor Bob Meyer



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
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# OVERVIEW: HOW WE GOT TO TODAY

- **Due to strong demand for additional engineers from northwest Wisconsin employers**, UW-Stout, UW-River Falls and UW-Eau Claire commissioned studies and conducted analyses to determine need for more engineering programs.
- Campuses submitted notices of intent for six new engineering programs at the three institutions.
- UW System commissioned its own study of engineering needs in all of Wisconsin.
- The three universities formed the **Northwest Wisconsin Engineering Consortium** to efficiently and effectively increase the engineering capacity in northwest Wisconsin.

# NORTHWEST WISCONSIN ENGINEERING CONSORTIUM

**UW-STOUT**  
**Wisconsin's Polytechnic University**

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**  
**River Falls**

University of Wisconsin  
**Eau Claire**

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONSORTIUM

- Applied Data Consultants
- Stratasys
- Parker Hannifin
- Fiberstart Bio — Ingredient Technologies
- The Greenheck Group
- Heart & Home Technologies
- OEM Fabricators
- Prent Corp
- Manufacturing Works Inc.
- West Central Regional Planning Commission
- Pierce County Economic Development Corp.
- Polk County Economic Development Corp.
- St. Croix County Economic Development Corp.
- Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
- River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

# OUR REQUESTS

- **Short-term:** We are asking for permission to proceed with mechanical engineering at UW-Stout; materials science and engineering at UW-Eau Claire; and agricultural and environmental engineering at UW-River Falls
- **Long-term:** We are asking for permission to proceed with a phased-in approach that eventually would result in six new engineering programs at the three institutions

# MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NEEDS

- UW System NCHEMS report: In three northwest Wisconsin districts, 597 mechanical engineers were needed and supply was 97.
- UW-Stout commissioned Education Advisory Board report: A 91 percent increase in job postings for employees with mechanical engineering skills from January 2010 – December 2013 in 31 northern and western Wisconsin counties.
- In *Be Bold 2: Growing Wisconsin's Talent Pool*, Mechanical engineer demand is expected to rise 43 percent over the next decade. Supply of engineers is aging and expected to decline 44 percent.

# WHAT OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS SAY

“I am particularly delighted that you are considering adding Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering programs. We have a particularly difficult time filling those positions. ... The success of our company is based on the availability of a skilled workforce. In the past several years, hiring qualified, degreed engineers has become progressively more difficult in our region. ... UW Stout has already demonstrated excellence in its engineering and technical programs, so Wisconsin’s reputation for producing high quality graduates will only be enhanced.”

**Dan Conroy**

Vice President of Human Resources

Nexen Group in Webster

**nexen**<sup>®</sup>



# WHAT OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS SAY

“With our rapid growth over the past few years, our need for highly skilled professionals, including engineers, has surpassed Wisconsin’s ability to attract and train these individuals. With half of our manufacturing locations in northwestern Wisconsin, we believe the lack of skilled engineers interested in working in this region impacts our ability to continue to grow in this region. ... Please consider our regional needs when making decisions about future engineering program development at UW-Stout.”

**William P. Welch**

Vice President and Chief Technology Officer  
Phillips-Medisize

**Phillips  
Medisize**

Partnerships Built on Innovation





# CHRIS CONGER

**Director of Technology Development**, Phillips-Medsize Corp.  
*Responsible for the engineer-in-training program and the internship program*



Partnerships Built on Innovation

# STEVE JAHN

President and CEO, Momentum West



- Chippewa County
- Barron County
- Clark County
- Dunn County
- Eau Claire County
- Pepin County
- Pierce County
- Polk County
- Rusk County
- St Croix County

# NEXT STEPS

- UW-Stout wants to start offering mechanical engineering in fall 2015, so a Board of Regents decision at the February 2015 meeting is crucial.
- UW-Stout has three ABET-accredited engineering programs, as well as an ABET-accredited engineering technology program. We have over 50 faculty in our engineering and technology department, five with mechanical engineering doctorates. **Adding mechanical engineering is not a stretch for us.**
- UW-Stout is committed to making this addition to its program array as revenue-neutral as possible.
- UW-Stout has a donor who has made a multi-million dollar pledge to help us get mechanical engineering off the ground ... and only if the Regents approve the program.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

- Happy to take questions