



**Carol Roessler**  
STATE SENATOR

August 22, 2007

Speaker Mike Huebsch Co-Chairmen of the Conference Committee  
211 West State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Speaker Huebsch:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike'.

I fully appreciate the difficulty of reconciling the very different budget proposals you have under deliberation, and I wish to thank you in advance for your attention to one aspect of this budget that is important to the citizens and the economy of Northeast Wisconsin's New North. I am writing to help ensure that you consider the effect of your work on UW Oshkosh's role in the Wisconsin growth agenda and costs to continue as they prepare to serve hundreds of additional Northeast Wisconsin citizens.

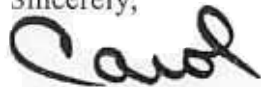
UW Oshkosh is the state's third largest university, and it has increased its enrollment by approximately 900 students over the past seven years and most recently graduated the two largest classes (over 4,000 students) in its 135-year history despite increased tuition costs and reduced state support. There is clearly a demand for affordable access to quality degree programs that UW Oshkosh is serving. It is also clear that the University is one of the nation's most efficient, but it cannot meet Northeast Wisconsin's growth needs if it continues to be under-funded.

The University is working in collaboration with all 13 public universities in Northeast Wisconsin through NEW ERA to increase the number of adults with baccalaureate degrees (fewer than one in five Northeast Wisconsin residents hold bachelor degrees), by offering high-demand, off-campus programs such as organizational administration, accelerated nursing and fire and emergency response management. The NEW ERA higher education institutions are founding members of the New North, a consortium of collaborative organizations of northeastern Wisconsin chambers of commerce, workforce development boards, economic development professionals and CEOs of major corporations.

The Growth Agenda provides UW Oshkosh with funding for new faculty positions to grow its enrollment by several hundred more students during the next two years by providing more access to high-demand fields such as biology/microbiology, medical technology, psychology, nursing, business and math-science teacher education. The cost to continue funding is necessary to serve all of the 12,500 students.

It is imperative that student access be increased to these programs targeted by UW Oshkosh's Growth Agenda proposal for the citizens of Northeast Wisconsin's New North. To this end, I ask you to fully fund the UW Universities' cost to continue as well as the requested funding to better serve even more Wisconsin citizens.

Sincerely,



CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Cc: Republican Conference Committee Members