

Paper Council chair calls for more funding for paper science programs

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The chair of the Wisconsin Paper Council is calling for increased state funding for UW-Stevens Point's paper science and chemical engineering programs.

Craig Timm says those programs are vital to the state's paper industry.

Wisconsin papermakers are facing a serious workforce shortage, as many industry veterans are retiring while paper mills become more reliant on new technology. Those factors are driving more demand for young engineers.

In a recent interview, Timm said the Paper Council is pushing for more funding for UW-Stevens Point in the upcoming biennial budget.

"There are several paper science schools throughout the country, but UW-Stevens Point is really our primary focus," he said. "We're looking at supporting some budget dollars that would help hire two new professors for that program."

Other top policy priorities for the council relate to transportation and taxation. He said the group is always looking for more favorable business taxes, and supports "any programs the state can do to assist business — in our case specifically pulp and paper."



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