

# Marquette University, Kohler Co.: Establish formal research partnership

Posted on Tuesday, Nov 16, 2021

**>> WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

MILWAUKEE — Marquette University has signed a first-of-its-kind partnership agreement with Kohler Co. that paves the way to greatly enable collaborative research, talent development and more partnership opportunities.

The formal agreement builds upon a working relationship that spans more than 102 years, creating additional research and internship opportunities for the Marquette community by establishing a mutual agreement around intellectual property, licensing and other partnership terms.

“We are incredibly excited and honored to finalize this partnership with Kohler,” said Dr. Carmel Ruffolo, associate vice president for corporate engagement at Marquette. “This is a unique opportunity that not many universities have with companies, especially those with Kohler’s size and reputation. With a lot of the legal and business interests squared away, this allows our faculty who want to work with Kohler to agree on scope of work and their budget, and away they go.”

The partnership also expands opportunities outside of research, opening a wide range of other activities, including internships in areas such as engineering, supply chain management, law, and sustainability, as well as continuing and executive education.

“This agreement is significant for both Marquette and Kohler, and removes a hurdle for our business teams with the amount of negotiating that goes into each and every project,” said Tanya Lulloff, director of human resources – power systems at Kohler Co. “This opens the door for our teams to identify partners at Marquette and

for the engagement to be streamlined and mutually beneficial.”

In 2019, Marquette and Kohler celebrated 100 years of working together with a [design competition](#) open to interdisciplinary teams of students to redesign a bathroom at the 707 Hub in the Kohler Center for Entrepreneurship. The teams selected for the competition worked with professional mentors from Kohler, toured its facilities and utilized the company’s line of products in their design entries.