

# Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce: Statement from chamber president on legislative inaction on UW-Madison College of Engineering building

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MADISON – Yesterday, the state legislative Joint Finance Committee completed its work on the 2023-25 capital budget without approving a new College of Engineering for UW-Madison. In response, Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce President Zach Brandon released the following statement:

“This is beyond disappointing news. In Greater Madison, and across the state, we have historically low levels of unemployment and increased demand for advanced industry talent. UW-Madison has a significant role in developing that talent, which supports a wide array of businesses in Wisconsin. These are not just the jobs of the future; they are the jobs of today.

“Wisconsin has faced a workforce shortage largely driven by demographics. Now, for the first time, Wisconsin leads the Midwest in net migration of Gen Z (18-26) adults. They are attracted to our quality of life, global innovation and higher-education institutions. There is opportunity, but it will be missed without making the critical investments necessary to sustain this generational momentum.”

## ***About the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce:***

The Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business with more than 1,200 organizations – ranging from one-person shops to corporations with more than 10,000 employees – working to bring the Greater Madison area to its full

potential. The Greater Madison region is a leader in innovation. From cutting-edge technologies to distinctive retail shops to inventive services and products, our members vary greatly but are united by the region's entrepreneurial spirit. More information can be found at [madisonbiz.com](http://madisonbiz.com).