Milwaukee Idea initiatives gain new ground

A message from Stephen Percy, Chancellor’s Deputy for The Milwaukee Idea

With the launch of The Milwaukee Idea in 1998, UWM embarked on an exciting journey to strengthen the university and rekindle its urban mission. Today, the Milwaukee Idea is leaving its mark through a rich array of partnerships and other collaborative efforts—all aimed at making our lives and our community better.

During the past year, Milwaukee Idea initiatives attracted substantial extramural support and recognition for a wealth of achievements in education, economic development and environmental and community health. Those achievements include:

• Innovative academic programs with an emphasis on understanding diverse cultures and global issues—along with more opportunities than ever for real-world learning—that are preparing students to be better citizens of the world.

• Important partnerships that are bringing UWM together with city neighborhoods to boost urban economic development.

• New programs for professionals working in the nonprofit field that are strengthening our community’s nonprofit organizations and the services they provide.

• Critical research that continues at UWM’s Great Lakes WATER Institute to preserve and protect our precious freshwater resources.

• Important collaborations like the Milwaukee Partnership Academy that bring UWM to the table as a leader in a community-wide campaign to improve teaching and learning in our urban schools.

These are impressive accomplishments, and we’re proud of the collective energy and expertise of the hundreds of faculty, staff and students and community members who are making them a reality. But this is still just the beginning of our journey. We will continue to make good on The Milwaukee Idea—to build strong ties to the community that enrich scholarship and learning, expand our role as Wisconsin’s urban research university and make UWM a force for long-lasting economic, social and educational change in the region and throughout the state.

Alive, well and progressing

A message from Bob Greenstreet, Interim Chancellor

Last summer, it was easy to become nervous about the future of The Milwaukee Idea. Our high-profile chancellor had accepted the top job at the University of Cincinnati and it was easy to think that UWM was in trouble, that those left behind weren’t up to the task.

Comments from around the area weren’t exactly encouraging:

“This’ll be a traumatic loss to the community,” said one.

“There’s a big unfinished agenda here,” was another.

And also, “These are very big shoes to fill.” (Although I think the fashion-conscious former chancellor might have taken offense to that one.)

I hope anyone who made similar predictions back then has been pleasantly surprised.

Not only has UWM not devolved into warring factions, we have not fallen off the face of the Earth. In fact, we’ve made a lot of progress and demonstrated convincingly that UWM and The Milwaukee Idea are much bigger than any one person. This spring bulletin highlights many areas of growth and shows this transitional year between permanent chancellors has not been one in which the campus has been on automatic pilot.

Given my continuing affiliation with UWM’s School of Architecture and Urban Planning, I’m especially happy with the further progress made by the Campus Design Solutions initiative and the involvement of hundreds of students in campus and community projects. And it’s satisfying to note that the other deans could make similar comments about initiatives particular to their schools or colleges if they were given the privilege of writing this column.

My thanks go out to everyone who has continued their commitment to our Milwaukee Idea and proven the breadth and depth of our devotion to this university and community.
Campus Design Solutions (CDS) connects experts from UWM’s School of Architecture and Urban Planning with municipalities, nonprofits and neighborhood and business associations to bring new vitality to the metropolitan landscape. CDS is involved in a variety of activities from hosting a conference on the sustainable campus to operating a “Quick Response Team” of students, who with faculty input, share their expertise with nonprofit organizations and neighborhood groups seeking design help. CDS also funds faculty research, instruction and community service projects ranging from developing a course on design and disability, to evaluating the safety and accessibility of the physical design of college campuses, to creating an energy simulation model for the new Schlitz Audubon Center.

In 2003, Campus Design Solutions’s Quick Response program was named a finalist in the “MANDI” awards. The awards are presented by the Milwaukee Area Neighborhood Development Initiative and honor organizations and individuals who are working to improve city neighborhoods.

• Stimulated community development by partnering with the city of Milwaukee to provide facade and streetscape designs in several commercial areas.

• Completed 22 community projects for twelve different neighborhood groups, groups through the initiative’s Quick Response Team. Among the groups the team has worked with are the Walnut Way Conservation Corporation, Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Washington Heights Neighborhood Association and Lincoln Village Business Association.

• Involved more than 200 students in projects supported by CDS which addressed real community issues.

• Constructed The Milwaukee Idea Home, a prototype for low-cost, energy efficient urban housing. Independence First will operate the home as a transitional residence for people moving from nursing home care to independent living.

• Broadened the scope of design services offered by CDS on the UWM campus and worked with a number of groups, including the UWM Alumni Association, the Center on Age and Community, Cultures and Communities, the Great Lakes Water Institute and the Film department.

Center on Age and Community

The Center on Age and Community connects UWM with a network of community partners and the Helen Bader Foundation to find innovative ways to improve the lives of seniors in metropolitan Milwaukee and throughout the state. With the number of people over age 60 expected to double in the next 25 years, the Center is creating new degree and non-degree programs in gerontology, expanding research and scholarship on gerontology and training practitioners in the latest techniques for working with older adults.

• Graduated 43 new professionals from a training program offered in partnership with the Milwaukee Aging Consortium. The program provides a comprehensive overview of gerontology basics and the systems that serve older adults in Milwaukee.

• Continued development of a graduate certificate in applied gerontology.

Highlights:

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Developing an outreach campaign in partnership with Wisconsin Public Television for a documentary expected to air nationally on a year in the life of a continuing care facility.

Hosted a presentation by Gail Hunt, Executive Director of the National Alliance for Caregiving, as part of the Center’s Distinguished Speaker Series.

Convened a work group focused on technology and aging. The group represented a variety of disciplines, including architecture, nursing and engineering as well as the private sector.

Hosted the Wisconsin Caregivers Town Hall Meeting that aired on public television. More than 100 national and local experts, caregivers and community members participated in the meeting.

Forged new community partnerships with the Guild for Learning in Retirement, Bethesda Senior Center Prescription Drug Assistance Program, St. Anne’s Center for Intergenerational Care and the United Community Center.

Consortium for Economic Opportunity

In 2003, the Consortium for Economic Opportunity (CEO) continued to support and strengthen economic development agencies, small businesses, entrepreneurs and community groups with the goal of spurring business and job growth in metropolitan Milwaukee, particularly in low-income neighborhoods. CEO helped community partners obtain funding to stimulate business and job creation and produced strategic plans to aid them in increasing their economic development capacity. In addition, research conducted by Consortium expanded the knowledge base for economic development policymaking in Greater Milwaukee.

• Worked on 42 major economic development projects with community organizations, local governments and economic development agencies. These included consultation on best practices for redeveloping the Park East freeway land, strategic planning and resource development for the Milwaukee Industrial Development Corporation, a neighborhood marketing analysis for the North Avenue Community Development Corporation, and a market analysis and assistance in strategic planning for the Southside Community Organization.

• CEO also conducted an economic impact study for the Wisconsin State Fair and provided baseline economic data for the Burleigh Street Community Development Initiative, assistance in the development of a workforce needs survey for the Waukesha County Economic Development Corporation and baseline data for the Menomonee Valley partners.

• Offered small business counseling and training to 142 clients and conducted 19 training sessions run by the Consortium’s Small Development Center for 169 clients.

• Provided $400,000 worth of in-kind technical assistance to more than 40 community partners, among them the Hunger Task Force of Greater Milwaukee, Brewers Hill Neighborhood Working Group, National Association of Child Advocates, Wisconsin Legal Action, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Milwaukee Urban League, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and the Wauwatosa Economic Development Corporation.

• Increased knowledge of economic development issues in the metropolitan area with research on joblessness in Milwaukee, the effect of welfare reform on people of color and the economic impact of the childcare industry in Milwaukee County.

• Expanded the consortium’s entrepreneurial training program, which gives emerging entrepreneurs a chance to gain critical business skills, write business plans and attract financing. In 2002-03, the program more than doubled its number of graduates to 134, achieved an 83% business plan completion rate—the highest since its inception—and began offering the entrepreneur certificate program three times a year rather than two.

• Placed four Milwaukee Idea Economic Development Fellows in community organizations. The Fellows program offers returning Peace Corps and Americorps volunteers a chance to combine graduate study at
UWM with work on economic development projects in the community.

- Forged linkages with several local lenders to facilitate lending for small businesses development.
- Launched the new Hispanic Entrepreneurial Center to provide training, technical assistance and networking activities for emerging Hispanic entrepreneurs and business owners.

Cultures and Communities

The Cultures and Communities (CC) Program promotes multicultural awareness and civic engagement by sponsoring undergraduate classes, community partnership grants, faculty research and special events. The emphases of CC’s classes and projects include diversity and cross-cultural literacy, community-based learning, multicultural arts, global studies, and the cultural contexts of science and health care. In fall 2003, UWM’s Institute for Service Learning became part of the CC team, strengthening the effort to grow the number of community service experiences for students.

CC offers a certificate program that gives students a chance to put multicultural understanding and community involvement at the heart of their studies. Since its inception in 2000, more than 6,500 students have completed one or more Cultures and Communities courses.

Highlights:

- Greatly expanded UWM’s ties to the community through its mini-grant program, which supports joint educational and cultural projects and includes a course development component. Forty-five grants totaling more than $70,000 have been made to community organizations and university groups in the last four years.

- Won approval for the CC core course "Multicultural America" to be permanently added to the curriculums of English, History, Anthropology, and Sociology.

- Developed 11 new courses for Cultures and Communities in disciplines ranging from anthropology and visual art to sociology and dance. Another 95 courses from 33 UWM departments have been designated as Cultures and Communities affiliate courses. The first Cultures and Communities student, an Education major, graduated in December 2003 and there are 47 students enrolled in the Certificate program.

- Provided funding for three major community partnerships: an oral history project in the Walnut Street neighborhood, a collaboration with Riverside University High School that is helping students acquire critical computer skills and a Hmong American Studies Initiative, which strengthens and expands educational partnerships between UWM and the Hmong American community.

- Expanded UWM-community partnerships with the awarding of ten new mini-grants and two Community Scholar in Residence awards.

- Continued notable work with UWM’s School of Education involving veteran Milwaukee Public School teachers in designing and teaching courses for future teachers.

- Joined UWM’s Office of Partnerships and Innovation to establish “Knowledgefest Community Scholars in Residence” awards to bring community expertise to curriculum development efforts.

- Awarded over 47 co-sponsorship grants in the past four years for educational and cultural projects of UWM faculty, staff, student groups and community partners. Recent grants supported Black History Month by helping to bring several major speakers to UWM, including such prominent authors and activists as bell hooks, Nellie McKay, Angela Davis and Cornel West.
The Freshwater initiative focuses on the preservation and sustainability of local and global freshwater resources. With its Great Lakes WATER Institute, its location on the world’s largest system of freshwater lakes and rivers and a new “freshwater action agenda,” UWM is poised to become an international leader in expanding knowledge and learning about critical freshwater issues.

Highlights:

- Launched the Global Freshwater Initiative Action Agenda to create new graduate and undergraduate programs in freshwater studies, greatly expand research in freshwater and develop new laboratories and on hands-on teaching facilities. The initiative will focus on several areas, including freshwater security, sustainability, technology and environmental health.

- Continued work on a multi-year $2 million grant from the United States Department of Defense to create a Center for Water Security for extensive study on safeguarding the nation’s drinking water supply systems.

- Partnered with several municipalities to support stream restoration strategies that protect the health of fish and invertebrates.

- Created a partnership between UWM and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewage District that provides $250,000 to support a new research scientist position and expands knowledge of environmental health and aquatic resources. The partnership also provides $500,000 for a major research effort on how waterborne pathogens are transported throughout the watersheds, beaches and waters of Lake Michigan.

- Received $1 million in matching support from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s James D. and Dorothy Shaw Fund to spur cutting edge research in biotechnology and freshwater resources. The grant will support three new scientists and 20 graduate student research fellowships for study of problems relating to freshwater supplies, security and human and environmental health.

- Continued planning for a new graduate program in freshwater sciences designed to meet growing demands for broadly trained freshwater scientists, managers and policymakers.

The Global Passport initiative makes UWM a gateway to the world, offering the state’s only undergraduate degree in global studies, bringing more international students and faculty to campus and greatly increasing the number of opportunities for study abroad. The initiative hosts an array of events on international issues that showcase UWM faculty and reach thousands, including members of the community at large as well as educators across the country. The Global Studies degree program prepares students to become “global citizens” with a dual focus on pre-professional training and global issues.

Highlights:

- Completed development of 18 new courses and five overseas programs for the Bachelor’s degree in Global Studies, including courses related to globalization and information technology, urban studies, international business, foreign languages and culture, people and politics and economics and the environment.

- Filled the first Global Studies core courses, People and Politics and Economics and Environmental Change, and expect to enroll 15 students in the Global Management track of the new degree program.

- Continued to increase study abroad participation, posting a gain of over 70% in the past three years. Students enrolled in overseas academic programs in more than 27 countries and in more diverse disciplines than ever before, including engineering, biological sciences and geosciences.
- Maintained 63 exchange agreements with universities around the world and developed five new ones with partner institutions in Scotland, Australia/New Zealand, France, Great Britain and Germany. These agreements create expanded opportunities for UWM students and faculty to study abroad and for international students to enroll at UWM.

- Co-sponsored a variety of conferences, international film festivals, lectures and other scholarly public events with a total attendance estimated at over 3,000.

- Expanded outreach to K-12 teachers across the upper Midwest with programs and Internet resources ranging from a global studies summer institute to a major conference on K-16 global education to workshops for teachers attending a model United Nations program for high school students.

Healthy Choices

The Healthy Choices Initiative addresses issues and solutions related to substance use problems (alcohol and other drugs) and such other behavioral health concerns as intimate partner violence, mental illness, HIV/AIDS risk and child welfare. Healthy Choices works with a wide variety of community partners and funding agencies to conduct research, education, and professional training about these topics, as well as about strategies and responses to successfully address them. Housed at UWM’s nationally recognized Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research, Healthy Choices continues to be a force for helping individuals make positive health/mental health decisions and positive life choices.

Highlights:

- Collaborating with the Milwaukee Public Schools in a research effort called “Scenes for Teens,” to determine how students’ misperceptions about drug use among other teens affects their own behavior.

- Launched a study on the UWM campus to gauge whether giving students accurate information about alcohol use among their peers can lead to a decrease in misperceptions and high-risk alcohol consumption.

- Contracted by the federal government to help develop a new social work curriculum on alcohol use disorders that will be distributed across the country.

- Collaborating with a variety of community and research partners in studies testing the effectiveness of various intervention strategies and approaches with individuals experiencing problems with alcohol or other substances.

- Partnering with the Milwaukee Women’s Center to help women seeking treatment for alcohol problems reduce their risk of contracting HIV.

- Created and delivered a new course on healthy choices. Called, “From Personal Health to Community Action,” the course focuses on issues facing young adults and the importance of service to the community.

- Hosted several conferences and workshops on best practices for professionals who treat people with addictions.
The Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management (HBI) is a multi-disciplinary, university-wide, academic center launched in 2001 with a generous lead grant from the Helen Bader Foundation. Its goal is to strengthen nonprofits through a variety of activities, which include creating degree and non-degree educational opportunities in nonprofit management and leadership, conducting applied research on the nonprofit sector, expanding the capacity of nonprofits in metro Milwaukee and promoting diversity in nonprofit organizations, both locally and nationally.

Highlights:

• Launched the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, an academic credit program offering graduate level courses on such topics as nonprofit management, accounting, marketing and fundraising. Enrollment has exceeded expectations with 35 students participating in the program during its first year.

• Expanded enrollment in the Professional Certificate in Nonprofit Management, which is offered in collaboration with UWM’s School of Continuing Education. More than 344 professionals working in nonprofit organizations have attended over 17 workshops. Seventy-two students have declared their intention to complete either the entire certificate or a mini-certificate program. As of February 2004, 28 mini-certificates and three comprehensive certificates have been awarded to students.

• Expanded the work of Empowering Nonprofits in Technology (ENTECH), which helps nonprofit organizations effectively use information technology. ENTECH has conducted technology assessments for nearly 100 nonprofits, distributed 120 computers to local nonprofits free of charge, developed software programs and technology instruments specifically designed for nonprofits, and is publishing the “Knowledge Guide to Nonprofit Technology,” a guide to ENTECH’s innovative software products and services.

• Sponsored the Second Annual Greater Milwaukee Nonprofit Management Excellence Awards, an event recognizing management and leadership of nonprofit organizations in the areas of strategic alliance, board governance, management innovation, diversity, emerging organization and overcoming adversity. The event drew well over 300 participants with proceeds supporting the general scholarship fund for students enrolled in the educational programs of the Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management.

Institute for Urban Health Partnerships

Founded in 1996, the Institute for Urban Health Partnerships was expanded in Spring 2001 with Milwaukee Idea funding. This interdisciplinary, collaborative effort brings together professionals, community residents, and policymakers to enhance health and the quality of life in urban communities. The Institute draws on the resources of UWM’s College of Nursing and College of Health Science, which partner with a wide variety of community agencies and institutions in the greater Milwaukee area. The Institute was built on a strong record of successful collaborations, among them UWM’s nationally recognized community nursing centers, adolescent pregnancy programs, school-based health programs and community wellness programs for elders.

Highlights:

• Provided primary health care and health education to over 3,000 uninsured, high-risk Milwaukee residents at community nursing centers located at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, House of Peace and Riverwest/Pierce School.
Recognized and funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as one of only two non-physician, practice-based research networks in the nation.

Co-sponsored with United Way, Milwaukee County and the Milwaukee Health Department a conference called “Partnerships for Healthy Milwaukee: Mobilizing Resources in the Greater Milwaukee Community to Address and Eliminate Health Disparities.”

Co-founded Wisconsin Nursing Redesign Consortium, a statewide public-private partnership, to address the nursing workforce shortage.

Selected and funded by the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation to test a community prevention model for diabetes and cardiovascular disease in urban populations. The model is based on UWM’s “Give It Up to Live It Up” program for American women.

Founded the Midwest Nursing Center Consortium, with membership from colleges of nursing in 17 Midwestern states, to support the education, research and practice innovations developed in academic nursing centers.

Provided consultation to the Milwaukee Public School System on the “Nurse in Every School” initiative.

Institute of Environmental Health

The Institute of Environmental Health targets threats to our health from environmental sources such as air and water pollution and occupational toxins. With its pioneering research on zebrafish, the Institute is bringing UWM to the forefront in the study of the developmental and neurological effects of environmental toxins and the relationship between genetic variability and susceptibility to toxic chemicals. Other areas of concentration include creating public information programs on environmental hazards, environmental health problems in children and strengthening public school science curriculums.

Highlights:

• Establishing UWM as an international leader in the use of zebrafish to study environmental health. The Institute continues to work in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences on research that will greatly expand understanding of how the genetic variability of humans and other mammals contributes to sensitivity or resistance to toxic chemicals.

• Constructed one of the largest zebrafish animal facilities in the United States to support the initiative’s research efforts.

• Expanding the knowledge and leadership skills of middle school science teachers and enriching middle school science curriculum with the support of a $750,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health. Partners include the Milwaukee Public Schools, Carroll College and UWM’s Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Curriculum and Instruction, Film and the Great Lakes WATER Institute. The project has worked with over 30 middle school science teachers from metropolitan and regional schools, nine of whom have introduced new science instruction in their classrooms.

• Continued work on a project supported by an $800,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to provide critical public information about the risks of eating contaminated fish from local and regional waters. Partners in this effort are Milwaukee’s 16th Street Community Health Center, the Hmong American Friendship Association and several UWM departments.

• Began work on a public information effort, in partnership with La Causa, on the problem of childhood obesity among Latino children.

• In partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin, began planning for a joint Center for Children’s Environmental Health. The Center would be recognized and funded by the National Institute for Health Sciences.

• Surveyed environmental health specialists and other health professionals in Wisconsin to determine the need for a digital library in environmental and public health.

• Worked closely with the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Environmental Health on building environmental health capacity and with the state’s on-line Health Action Network for health care workers to introduce on-line curriculum and research to the Network.
KnowledgeFest

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the state's urban research university, takes center stage in this Milwaukee Idea initiative showcasing research and scholarship at UWM. KnowledgeFest offers the community a lively opportunity to learn about the full breadth of UWM research and the many ways the university is working to improve the quality of our lives - be it with studies on preserving freshwater, creating "smart" machines for industry, preventing drug abuse or finding ways to improve teaching and learning in our urban schools.

Highlights:

• Showcasing a variety of community-university projects and partnerships at summer ethnic festivals that annually reach over 50,000 attendees. Exhibits and displays are staffed by UWM faculty and teaching scholars, and provide a direct connection to information about how research at UWM positively transforms quality of life in Milwaukee and beyond.

• Launched the “Knowledgefest Community Scholars in Residence” (CSR) awards. The fellowship stipend supports a scholar who can bring community expertise to UWM courses and projects.

• Created the Chancellor’s Research Fellow, a new award recognizing faculty or teaching staff for state of the art research projects that are being applied in the community.

• Finalized plans for the Chancellor’s Community Roundtable. This advisory council, composed of community members, will have direct access to the chancellor to advocate for community issues.

Milwaukee Industrial Innovation Center

The Milwaukee Industrial Innovation Center (MIIC) draws on the substantial research capability of UWM to foster the development of new technology in partnership with state and local industry. The Center expects to have a substantial impact on economic development in the state, as it expands opportunities to connect university expertise to the technology needs of Wisconsin companies.

A key component of the MIIC is its Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems (IMS). The Center researches and develops Internet-based predictive tools to forecast performance problems in machines, processes and systems. UWM’s work on intelligent maintenance systems is distinguishing the Milwaukee Industrial Innovation Center and the university as an international leader in the field.

Highlights:

• Continued notable research in partnership with the University of Michigan on “tether-free” technologies through the Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems (IMS), a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative.

• Received National Science Foundation grants totaling more then $1 million for research on intelligent maintenance systems.

• Partnering with several universities around the world, including the University of Toronto and Technical University of Berlin to enhance the effectiveness of predictive techniques and strategies.

• Forged partnerships with diversified industries including automotive, software, automation, precision machinery, power generation, semiconductor, building systems and medical services. More than 40 leading industries are represented in the Center’s membership and sponsorship, among them Rockwell Automation, Intel, General Motors, Ford, Harley-Davidson and We Energies.
• Collaborating with the U.S. Postal Service and the Intel Corporation on application of intelligent maintenance technology.

• Launched planning for the UWM Energy Research Center which will develop new technology and approaches to meet future energy needs.

• Participating in the Wisconsin Cyber Security Collaboration, a partnership representing six University of Wisconsin campuses that aims to increase the number of professionals in the field.

Partnerships for Education

Partnerships for Education is a community-wide effort to revitalize our urban schools through quality teaching and learning. UWM, the Milwaukee Public Schools and other educational institutions throughout southeastern Wisconsin are joining forces to prepare more students for college, particularly those from culturally and linguistically diverse families, create a strong teacher workforce ready for the challenges of urban schools and integrate information technology into teacher education programs. Partnerships for Education consults with schools in the metropolitan area on curriculum and teaching strategies and expands opportunities for research and professional development for UWM faculty.

Highlights:

• Taking a lead role in the Milwaukee Partnership Academy, a powerful and unprecedented alliance of community partners working to insure that all children in Milwaukee Public Schools perform at or above grade level in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Partners in the Academy include the Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association, Milwaukee Board of School Directors, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Private Industry Council, State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Lt. Governor’s Office, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and other partners.

• Connected several schools in the metropolitan area to innovative curriculum approaches and teaching strategies and made mini-grants to those schools totaling $7,000. School partners include Riverside University High School, Harry Bradley School of Technology and Trade, Cass Street School and Shorewood High School.

• Partnering with the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to recruit and train a total of 105,000 tutors with the goal of providing a tutor for every MPS student who needs one.

• Published a Family Literacy and Tutorial Sites Directory in cooperation with the Milwaukee Partnership Academy that guides users to tutoring and family resources located throughout Milwaukee.

• Partnering with Milwaukee Catalyst, a nonprofit organization that trains parents and other community members to become successfully involved in improving Milwaukee’s public schools.

• Collaborating with One-on-One/Milwaukee Mentors to improve achievement in literacy and mathematics.

Women’s Health Research Collaborative

The Women’s Health Research Collaborative aims to substantially advance research and expand community partnerships in the study of women’s health as well as increase educational opportunities in the field. The initiative builds on research now being done at UWM in such areas as the impact of welfare reform on the health of low-income women, promoting healthy lifestyles, cardiovascular disease, adolescent pregnancy prevention and exercise physiology. The Collaborative encourages research efforts that incorporate all aspects of women’s lives and seeks ways to decrease health disparities and improve the health and health care of all women.

Highlights:

• Sponsored a conference for the community and campus to raise awareness of the need for women’s health research.

• Pilot-tested a survey with individuals in the community and on campus to identify areas of interest in women’s health research.

• Hosted a community seminar on women’s reproductive health with noted author bell hooks.
“With The Milwaukee Idea, UWM has taken seriously the challenges of community engagement, enhanced research and student learning to find a meaningful path to concrete action”

- Katherine C. Lyall, President
University of Wisconsin System

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