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Wis. Gov Evers Visits UWS; Focus On Wisconsin's Workforce Needs

Drew Kerner
akerner@uwsuper.edu

Wis. Gov. Tony Evers visited the University of Wisconsin-Superior on Nov. 16, to converse with high schoolers and UWS education majors highlighting Wisconsin's workforce needs. This visit follows Gov. Evers' visit to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

"This is a really important campus, it's not the largest in the system, they play a huge role just because of their location," said Wis. Gov. Tony Evers.

A group of high schoolers here for career experience day were in the middle of eating lunch when Gov. Evers dropped by. The students conversed with the governor about their plan to pursue

college, future jobs, and explained what qualities they thought made for the ideal teacher.

Meanwhile upstairs, ten upperclassmen education majors and professors spoke to Gov. Evers in a roundtable discussion. Each student shared what inspired them to pursue teaching and what classroom they hope to one day teach in.

"They're going to be great teachers. It isn't always the love of the content, or discipline, things like that, it's about kids. Caring for kids, understanding where they come from, tender difficulties. That's what they talked about," said Gov. Evers in a press conference after the event. "They talked about how they wanted to change kids' lives. They get good preparation here,

they're doing their jobs, any person would love to have them teach their children."

"With the amount of teachers dropping out of the profession within the first five-years of being in the teaching industry, it's important for our government officials to come out and show their support," said UWS Junior and Music Education Major Seth Gudmundsen. "At the bottom line our government is what makes up the basis of our education."

Gudmundsen explained that he wants his future classroom to be a safe space for students who experience mental health crisis'. Over the course of summer, he had the opportunity to participate in a SURF project. One which research shows a correlation between music and



Back (Left to Right): Dean Nick Danz, Mitchell Hammer, Seth Gudmundsen, Lucy Landwehr, Emily Dahler. Front (Left to Right): Dillion Krisik, Sami Keller, Assistant Professor Dr. Megan Anderson, UWS Chancellor Renee Wachter, Superior Mayor Jim Paine, Cooperative Educational Program Coordinator Angela Radzak, Wis. Gov. Tony Evers, Becca Rainey, Adalia Ortiz, Alaina Lind. Photo by Drew Kerner

self-regulation during stressful times.

"I am going to be a choir teacher, that is my end goal. I don't just want to be a choir teacher, because when I'm at a public school I'm not just a teacher in my own separate department. I am a teacher of all of the students," concluded Gudmundsen.

In August, the governor called for Wisconsin State Legislature into a special session to address the state's workforce challenges. Gov. Evers proposed investing over \$100 million into direct support for higher education, more than \$66 million reserved for UW System for general operations. provides for all UW System's thirteen campuses.

Student Loan Debt Forgiveness Update

Jen Shuster-Dahlin
jshuster@uwsuper.edu

One of President Joe Biden's campaign promises was canceling student loan debt, a financial burden for many Americans. In March 2020, Biden tweeted, "We should forgive a minimum of \$10,000/person of federal student loans, as proposed by Senator Warren and colleagues."

In August 2022, the Biden-Harris administration announced their student loan forgiveness program, urging Americans with student loan debt to apply online with a quick application. Depending on the amount

of debt and the need of the applicant, a borrower could have up to \$20,000 in loans canceled. As of 2022, loan payments had paused for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then-Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos put payments on hold in March 2022 using the HEROES Act in response to the pandemic, as reported by SCOTUSblog an independent news organization which specializes in covering the U.S. Supreme Court.

Biden's program was put on hold after being challenged by six states and two individuals arguing that it does not comply

with the HEROES Act or other federal laws, leading to a review by the United States Supreme Court, SCOUTblog reported.

The Supreme Court spent months reviewing the plan, determining whether it was Constitutional and if the Biden Administration had overstepped its authority when launching this program. After months of deliberation, the Supreme Court struck down the loan forgiveness plan 6-3 in June 2023.

Although this disappointed many Americans, the Biden administration has continued efforts to find ways for borrowers to have loans discharged or canceled by negotiating with regulations under the Higher Education Act, as noted from the U.S. Department of Education.

While payments and interest on student loans were on hold for the past three years, payments resumed for those not cur-

rently enrolled in higher education as of October of this year. Interest rates have resumed as well, so those in repayment need to understand who their loan servicer is and apply for an Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plan.

IDR plans base payments based on income and family size, keeping payments reasonable for low-income borrowers, explained by Federal Student Aid, the same entity which the FASEA is completed through. SAVE is the newest IDR plan and is the revised REPAYE (Revised Pay as You Earn) plan. Just like other IDR plans, it takes your income and family size into consideration.

However, SAVE has an interest benefit: the federal government will cover your interest payment if your monthly payment is not enough to cover the interest charge. This prevents any interest from growing on your account balance. Borrowers with incomes low enough to qualify can have payments as little as \$0.

The average student graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Superior graduates with \$27,932.00 See STUDENT LOANS on Page 2

Winter Break Alert

The University of Wisconsin-Superior looks to save on utility costs and conserve energy while most students enjoy their winter break.

In an email sent to all students, staff, and faculty Old Main, Erlanson, and Jim Dan Hill Library will be shutting down after finals, starting Dec. 22.

Both Erlanson and Jim Dan Hill Library will be closed through Jan. 15, set to reopen to students, staff, and faculty on Tues, Jan. 16, 2024. Old Main is set to reopen on Mon, Jan. 8, 2024.

Water and electricity will still be available for use.

During the shut down, building's temperatures will be turned down to 50°F (10°C).

Staff are still allowed to work in the closed buildings if needed. To gain access, the university suggests calling University Police.

Space heaters cannot be used unless they are provided by Facilities Management. University Police will monitor the officers where heaters are permitted, ensuring they're shut off when not in use.

Snow removal will continue for all buildings on campus during the shut down timeframe.



The Financial Aid Office in Old Main 110 can also help students understand their loans, grants, and any remaining outstanding balance. They can also be reached at finaid@uwsuper.edu.

Photo by Drew Kerner

If you're interested in joining the Promethean, members meet every Tuesday at noon. For other inquiry, email promethean@uwsuper.edu

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