Madison College Reacts to Governor’s Budget Proposal

Madison Area Technical College officials say Governor Scott Walker’s budget proposal could have a significant negative effect on the College’s ability to meet its core mission. Under Governor Walker’s proposal the College would lose 30 percent of its state aid.

Vice President of Infrastructure Services Roger Price says it would be very difficult for the College to absorb the proposed financial hits.

“The Governor’s plan for the College to recover costs with increased employee contributions to health care and pensions are greatly overstated, because 90 percent of full-time employees at the College work under contracts that were negotiated a year ago and are in effect until 2013,” says Price.

“In addition, the Governor’s plan proposes a freeze in the operating tax levy that will penalize the College for being prudent in its use of resources during the past several decades,” added Price. “The College has consistently stayed significantly under the tax limits mandated by state law.”

Madison College President Bettsey Barhorst says she is concerned about the College’s ability to reduce class waiting lists and operate new facilities that were approved by nearly 60 percent of the voters in this past November’s referendum.

“As we analyze details of the Governor’s budget proposal we remain hopeful that he and our state legislators will remember that the College plays a central role in job creation,” said Barhorst.

Madison College has seen historic enrollment growth of more than 22 percent during the past five years. Voters gave the College a mandate in the referendum to quickly improve training for workers, particularly in the fields of health care, protective services and advanced green manufacturing.

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Madison Area Technical College serves approximately 40,000 individuals annually, providing “real world smart” education through a comprehensive curriculum of technical, liberal arts and sciences, adult basic education and continuing education, as well as customized training for employers.