MADISON COLLEGE SURVEYS FACULTY AND STAFF ABOUT COLLEGE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

On Thursday, July 22, all Madison College faculty and staff will receive an email invitation from the College’s Master Plan Steering Committee—a group of faculty, staff, administrators and union leaders—to participate in an online survey designed to solicit feedback on the College’s Facilities Master Plan.

“We’re trying to figure out how to best meet the needs of our students and the communities we serve,” says Madison College President Bettsey Barhorst. “The College is reaching capacity with historic enrollment increases. We’re responding to the unique and immediate needs of displaced workers and we need to provide the space and updated facilities at all of our campuses across the district that will serve our community for the next century. We know these are tough times so it’s really important that we’re able to meet the needs of our students.”

The anonymous survey, which takes about five minutes to complete, was created by the independent firm School Perceptions. The firm will collect all data and compile the results for Madison College. The survey engages the faculty and staff to seek their input on project phasing, timing for a possible referendum, the impact on taxpayers and communication strategies.

“We’ve been working on this master planning process continuously since 2005, and we’re thick in the process of evaluating our options right now,” says District Board Chair Jon Bales. “Dr. Barhorst is doing everything she can to get the valuable information she needs to make a sound recommendation to the Board and for the Board to make a prudent and reasonable decision.”

“We’re asking “if and when” about a possible referendum and we’re laying out various options for how we can get our students the hands-on training they need for 21st Century jobs,” adds Dr. Barhorst. “An impressive 96 percent of our graduates stay in Wisconsin and 81 percent of them work right here in the district. For our local employers to get the caliber of worker they need, we have to update our labs, shops and classrooms.”

State statute requires colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System to go to referendum for capital expenditures in excess of $1.5 million.

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.