

UW SYSTEM PRESIDENT

The times they are a-changing.

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside is about to embark on a new era, after more than a decade of wise and inspired leadership from Chancellor Jack Keating. As the university moves forward in its renewed search for Jack's permanent successor, UW-Parkside is in the very capable hands of Dr. Lane Earns, who will serve as interim chancellor for this academic year, by the end of which we intend to have a new chancellor.

I know that Lane, who's spent 21 years at UW-Oshkosh, has a deep understanding of the unique role UW System campuses play within their regions. During this transition period, I am confident that Lane's collaborative leadership style will keep the campus focused appropriately on its core educational mission.



Interim Chancellor Dr. Lane Earns

Now, more than ever, the path to economic security and prosperity for Wisconsin citizens runs through fine campuses like UW-Parkside. Listening to people around the state, I hear a growing consensus that a renewed commitment to higher education is critical to Wisconsin's future vitality. That commitment is evident at UW-Parkside, where faculty and staff embrace inclusive excellence and continue to serve a growing number of first-generation students. Along with efforts to help adult students complete their college degree and improve undergraduate retention, UW-Parkside is making significant contributions to the health of our entire state.

UW-Parkside boasts the most diverse student body in the System, enrolling more than 5,000 students from 55 Wisconsin counties. At a time when there is booming demand in the world marketplace for professionals, executives, and community leaders who thrive within a mosaic of different cultural backgrounds and viewpoints, UW-Parkside is situated to produce knowledge-economy workers who will help Wisconsin businesses compete and win, and good citizen alumni who will advance our multicultural democracy.

In the nearly 12 years I have been associated with the UW System, I have seen UW-Parkside grow both physically and academically to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing world around us. It is attracting top-notch talent in its



UW System President Dr. Kevin Reilly

faculty, staff, and students. The university has also become a vital engine of economic development in the southeast region of the state, and has forged strong and important links with its neighbors and businesses in the surrounding communities that work to our mutual benefit. That kind of university-community engagement is one way that we can provide the kind of strong communities where educated workers and high-growth businesses will flourish.

All in all, this is an exciting time for UW-Parkside. With change comes opportunity. With success comes confidence. With vision comes drive. I'm confident that UW-Parkside is ready to embrace its next chapter.