

## **Board of Regents Presentation**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, our forward focus, and our legacy of impact.

## **Parkside Makes a Difference**

At the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, we make a difference. That's not just a statement; it's a reflection of our commitment and our actions. Our dedication to delivering high-value, impactful experiences is evident across all facets of our university. Our programs and services provide practical, real-world experiences with meaningful real-world outcomes. From our Theatre Arts professional training company model, to our Sales Center Lab in our Innovation Corridor, to our competency-based accredited Business programs, to our Applied Health Science Programs, where our students achieve an impressive 89.9% medical school acceptance rate—more than double the national average. Just this past August in Forbes, Parkside was highlighted for its collaborative work with Higher Expectations for Racine County, as an example of a place where colleges, companies, and communities are working together to improve higher education outcomes. Outcomes, particularly for those who have been left on the sidelines for far too long.

## **Parkside is Distinctive**

At Parkside, we are proud to serve the highest percentage of low-income and first-generation college students among the Universities of Wisconsin. Our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity is evident in the 38% of our students who receive

Pell Grants, far surpassing the 23% average across the system. We also enroll the second-highest percentage of first-generation students, with 47% of our students being the first in their families to attend college. Our commitment to underrepresented students is equally strong, with over 31% of our students coming from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

At Parkside, we are a part of the fabric of our community. A remarkable 62% of our students are from the counties of Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth. An incredible 95% of our students are from the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor, and over 89% of our alumni live in Wisconsin and Illinois. It could not be more clear, our students enroll from here, they live here, and they stay to work here. This connection to our region is a cornerstone of our identity and our mission. Parkside is firmly rooted (tree pun intended) in the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor.

Seriously, the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor represents a vital and economically important region. This corridor, where we are meeting today, is significant due to its dynamic economic activity, with both Milwaukee and Chicago serving as major hubs driving a diverse mix of industries and economic activity. This corridor is well-connected by major transportation routes, and recent urban development and revitalization efforts have further enhanced connectivity and appeal, making it a key area for business growth and regional synergy.

## **Forward Focus**

Within this active region, Parkside is at a pivotal moment of transformation and forward focus. Our goal is clear: to build a sustainable, vibrant future for Parkside that will serve our community and our students for decades to come. We have a distinctive region to serve and a foundation of engagement, partnership, and community that support our pursuit of three strategic directions with a forward focus:

**First-Choice University in the Milwaukee-Chicago Corridor Proudly Serving Students Who Live, Learn, and Work.**

Parkside is moving beyond its “hidden gem” status. It is time for Parkside to be known for proudly serving the students of our region—students who live, learn, and work. Our students are exceptional—diverse, driven, and deeply connected to their communities. They balance learning with work and personal commitments, and they bring unique perspectives and experiences to our campus.

**Partner with Business and Industry in Regional Economic and Cultural Vitality.**

It is time for a shift. Parkside is shifting from a provider to a true partner. We are exploring new structures and mechanisms to establish deeper partnerships with businesses and industries to offer new academic opportunities, high-impact career-ready experiences, and workforce development.

**Transform Structures for Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness.**

Parkside is organizing for greater efficiency advancing our core mission of educating and supporting students. Our current

organizational structure mirrors that of much larger institutions. Those structures have served the institution, but it is time to consider alternate structures that make sense for Parkside.

## **Legacy of Impact**

As we focus on the future, Parkside is supported by its legacy of impact; impact in our region and impact in the lives of our students.

## **Learning in Action - Community and Business Engagement**

Parkside has a legacy of "learning in action" through community and business engagement. Parkside was the first of the Universities of Wisconsin to be recognized for community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation. I'm pleased to introduce members of our Alan E. Guskin Center for Community and Business Engagement, Debra Karp, Amy Garrigan, Kaila Bingen, and Professor Carey Watters.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Community Partnership with Snap-on Incorporated**

Parkside works with regional businesses and industries to provide a talent pipeline of career-ready graduates. These partners are right here in our backyard, such as Haribo, Ascension, Froedtert's, Uline, AbbVie, etc. I'm thrilled to highlight today the University's longstanding partnership with Snap-on Incorporated. This partnership exemplifies the power of internships to mentor students into achieving more than they thought possible. Thank you, Michael Bond, Director of

Community Relations from Snap-on Incorporated, for joining us today.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **If Not for Parkside**

It's difficult to fully comprehend or grasp Parkside's impact. Rarely do I engage with one of our over 30,000 alumni and not hear, "If not for Parkside." To help share our legacy of impact in the lives of students, Dr. Bryan Lewis.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Conclusion**

At Parkside, we may be small in size, but our achievements are big. Our achievements go well beyond a set of statistics and facts—they are a testament to the significant, positive changes we are making in the lives of individuals across our region. They are a testament to the dedication and commitment of every faculty, staff, and community member here at Parkside. Every program we develop, every student we support, and every partnership we build contributes to a brighter future for our community.