




Jack E. Daniels, III, Ph.D., President

Date: January 2, 2024

Re: Support for LRB23-5188-1 (Technology and Innovation Hub Grant to BioForward, Inc.)

To: Legislative Members of the Madison College District

From: Dr. Jack E. Daniels, III, President, Madison College 

Background: On Oct. 23, 2023, the WI Biohealth Tech Hub Consortium¹, comprised of 15 private and public entities received federal designation as a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub). The consortium is focused on growing the existing personalized medicine and biohealth technology industries in Wisconsin.

Madison College has delivered programs to train workers in the biohealth industry. Working with consortium members, Madison College will identify new, emerging training needs in program areas to support Wisconsin's growth as a Regional Tech Hub. This includes developing targeted short-term credentials, as well as technical degrees, diplomas, and related apprentice programs, that lead directly to employability in Wisconsin's biohealth workforce.

Job opportunities in these industries are well-paying. Madison College and consortium partners will collaborate to ensure a trained, ready, and expanded talent pool to meet expected industry growth.

Next Steps: The consortium is submitting a grant request to the federal government for support with workforce development, construction of labs, and development of clinical work-flow and development of a supply chain support center for image-guided therapies and theranostics.

WI Legislative Proposal: Senator Stroebel and Representatives Nedweski, Zimmerman, and Gustafson are circulating legislation (LRB23-5188-1) to provide \$7.5 million in matching funds if the federal government awards the grant to the consortium. The state funds would support advancing the activities referenced in the federal grant.

On behalf of Madison College, we urge you to support this proposal by becoming a co-sponsor. If you want to learn more about the effort, please contact Dr. Mark Thomas, Chief of Staff, at mthomasjr@madisoncollege.edu or 608-246-6301.

¹ Members of the consortium include: BioForward WI, Madison College, the University of Wisconsin System, University of Wisconsin-Madison, GE HealthCare, Rockwell Automation, Exact Sciences Corp., Employ Milwaukee, Accuray, Plexus, WRTP Big Step, Milwaukee Area Technical College, the Madison Regional Economic Partnership (MadREP), Milwaukee7, and WI Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).