

## **WISCONSIN TUITION GRANT**

### **WHITE PAPER FOR 2013-2015 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST**

The Higher Educational Aids Board would like to request an increase of \$4,682,040 in FY 2013-2014 and an additional \$6,417,468 million in FY 2014-15; a total increase in GPR of \$11,099,508; as was approved by the Board in its August 3, 2012 Board meeting. This request was arrived at by applying the recommended UW tuition increase of 5.5 percent and also including the same methodology by the UW system and passed by the UW Board of Regents to incorporate a catch up provision. State funding for the Tuition Grant Private non-profit College students has not met demand in several years. In the 2011-12 academic year the Tuition Grant had 31,963 applicants but only 11,438 students received awards because of lack of funding. On April 28, 2011 funds for the Tuition Grant were fully committed and we created wait lists for students. Additional funds were released to students who had filed their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), by May 31 because of students dropping out or a change in their status.

Because of the economic downturn there are more students and they are applying for financial aid earlier. As stated by Dr. Rolf Wegenke in his letter of June 29<sup>th</sup>, "In a single year 2009-2010, Wisconsin population of students whose parents can effectively pay nothing – zero – toward the cost of their education grew by 50 percent." The students consist of not only high school graduates but also individuals that have lost their jobs and are looking for another occupation so that they can return to work and have the additional skills that they may need.

In addition, WAICU recommends a statutory change that links WTG funding increases to UW tuition increases.

We are including additional documents that provide the Tuition Grant committed and spent reports that we use in our office to monitor our committed and spent levels.

Also included is the GPR funding request for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant colleges appropriation.