



**Resolution of Support
for UW-Eau Claire
Science and Health Sciences
Building Project**

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has a significant impact on the recruitment and retention of high-talent students to northwestern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and health sciences graduates possess crucial skillsets that meet talent needs for this region; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's current science building, Phillips Hall, was constructed in 1963 and 1966 and was not designed to accommodate modern scientific instruction and inquiry; and

WHEREAS, Phillips Hall's teaching and research spaces are inflexible and do not allow for the interdisciplinary collaboration with outside industries that typify a modern STEM education; and

WHEREAS, the inability to meet the existing demand for academic research and laboratory spaces is a challenge for industry innovation and student recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, students from the Eau Claire Area School District have participated in STEM events at UW-Eau Claire, including summer camp opportunities like Robotics Day, STEM Day Camp, and the Biomedical and Kinesiology Overnight Camp; and

WHEREAS, programs like Blugold Beginnings welcome underrepresented students, including students of color and low-income students, to visit UW-Eau Claire's campus during their middle and high school years to expose them to the possibilities offered beyond high school; and

WHEREAS, the antiquated facilities PreK-12 students may see when visiting UW-Eau Claire's science building are in desperate need of replacement, making them less inspiring and useful to potential first-generation students with an interest in STEM fields; and

WHEREAS, the UW System Board of Regents has approved a plan to replace Phillips Hall with a new UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences building; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building project requires \$109 million in the 2019-21 state budget, including approval for \$13.7 million in private philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, this building project requires advanced enumeration of \$147 million in the 2021-23 budget, bringing the project's total budget to \$256 million; and

WHEREAS, providing state funding for a new Science and Health Sciences building at UW-Eau Claire would allow for the construction of critical economic infrastructure to support northwestern Wisconsin's talent recruitment and retention needs in STEM and health sciences fields;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Eau Claire School Board supports the inclusion of UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building in the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget as recommended by the UW System Board of Regents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that advanced enumeration for funding in the 2021-23 Wisconsin State Budget is essential to ensure this project is completed without additional inflation and that Phillips Hall can be demolished in a timely manner to eliminate ongoing maintenance and operational expenses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the School Board of the Eau Claire Area School District has executed this resolution this 8th day of October 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Luginbill", is written over a horizontal line.

Joe Luginbill, President