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AFT-WISCONSIN COUNCILS
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AFT-WISCONSIN WELCOMES RAY CROSS AS UW SYSTEM PRESIDENT

Union Leadership Urges Advocacy for State Funding, Shared Governance

Madison, WI: AFT-Wisconsin welcomed Ray Cross as the next president of the University of Wisconsin System following today's hiring announcement by the UW Board of Regents. "I would like to congratulate Dr. Cross on being named the next president of the University of Wisconsin System," said AFT-Wisconsin President Kim Kohlhaas. "The UW System is a treasure of our state, and we call upon its next president to work with UW System faculty, academic staff, classified staff, and graduate employees to uphold the Wisconsin Idea, the tradition that 'the boundaries of the university are the boundaries of the state.' The work that UW System employees do benefits all Wisconsinites, through unparalleled education of students, cutting-edge research that benefits the public, and numerous community services provided by each UW campus and the UW-Extension. We call on President Cross to champion this work and to press the Wisconsin legislature to restore much-needed state funding of higher education."

AFT-Wisconsin leaders particularly urged the new president to fight to protect the principle of shared governance, enshrined in state law, through which UW System employees and students participate in the administration of UW System institutions. "As he takes the reins of the UW System, we urge President Cross to fight for the preservation of shared governance in our educational institutions and to ensure that university employees have a genuine voice in their workplaces," said Douglas Savage, AFT-Wisconsin Higher Education Council co-chair and UW-Milwaukee academic staff member. "Shared governance lets educational professionals work with their administrations to set the direction for higher education in Wisconsin. President Cross will find in AFT-Wisconsin a willing partner in efforts to apply the enormous creative energy of the UW System to the needs of our state in the 21st century."

About AFT-Wisconsin: AFT-Wisconsin is a labor organization of professional public employees in the state of Wisconsin. Formerly called the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers (WFT), AFT-Wisconsin is a Wisconsin chapter of the American Federation of Teachers. Started primarily as a teachers' union in 1931, AFT-Wisconsin today is comprised of many diverse professionals with over 500 job classifications, including members in the state PK-12 school system, the Wisconsin Technical College System, numerous state agencies, and the University of Wisconsin System.

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