

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P-C missed chance to show UW Colleges' low cost

I read with great interest *The Post-Crescent's* 2007 Editorial Agenda Fourth-Quarter Update on Dec. 30 and its 2008 Editorial Agenda on Jan. 6. The 2007 Education agenda pointed out that, "In higher education, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents approved a \$500-a-year tuition increase at UW-La Crosse to pay for a campus expansion. And a UW-Madison official said tuition at that school needs to be raised from the current \$7,188 a year to keep it 'competitive.'"

While *The Post-Crescent* chose to

focus on these tuition increases, it failed to point out that in mid-August 2007, UW System President Kevin Reilly and the UW System Regents endorsed a plan submitted by UW Colleges Chancellor David Wilson that "froze" the 2007-2008 tuition at the 2006-2007 level for the more 13,000 students enrolled at the 13 UW Colleges campuses for the fall semester 2007.

According to President Reilly, "The UW Colleges have long been the UW System's most affordable choice for incoming students who can then complete their baccalaureate degree at any four-year UW campus."

The UW Colleges model seems to fit very well into *The Post-Crescent's* 2008 higher education agenda that states, "More than ever, access to higher education is vital, not just to students but to our area and state. A college education can't be priced out of reach for any student. Tuition can't be excessive and must be matched by means to help students afford the education they need."

It's too bad that *The Post-Cres-*

cent's 2007 Education agenda summary relating to higher education didn't mention the significance of the UW Colleges tuition freeze to balance its presentation of the tuition hikes. The University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, as well as the other 12 UW Colleges campuses, provides the kind of access to higher education that *The Post-Crescent* advocates.

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