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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Letter to the Editor:

**Open Letter to John and Tashia Morgridge**

Thank you for your extraordinary gift of \$175 million to help low-income Wisconsin students achieve access to higher education at a UW institution or a Wisconsin technical college. What joy and hope you brought to thousands of parents, students, and others across the state with your announcement! As chancellor of two statewide UW institutions devoted to providing access to higher education in Wisconsin, I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your incomparable gift. This gift will reap benefits for years to come for both the state and individuals and their families.

Please know that nearly one-half of the 13,000 students enrolled at the UW Colleges, the 13 freshman/sophomore campuses, come from families making less than \$50,000 per year. Also, more than half of those same students have to burden themselves with loans to make their way to a baccalaureate degree. Your endowment will make it easier for students to achieve their degree and graduate with less debt and more choices.

Our vision at the UW Colleges and UW-Extension is to be the premier access institutions in the UW System. The major impediment toward realizing that goal has been cost. Your contribution will greatly enable us to make the maximum access vision a reality for Wisconsin citizens.

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