

UW-Richland remains most affordable UW entry point

Posted: Dec 4, 2008 09:14 AM

Richland Center (WKOW) -- In these challenging economic times, UW-Richland continues to maintain its long-held reputation as the UW System's most affordable entry point for incoming college students.

UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor David Wilson said that with the UW Colleges tuition rates frozen at 2006 levels, attending UW-Richland can save them thousands of dollars annually.

UW-Richland is part of the UW Colleges, the 13 freshman/sophomore campuses of the UW.

"By living at home and attending our campuses, students can save up to \$10,000 a year in tuition and room and board costs," Wilson said. "Whether students start, continue or complete a degree with us or transfer on to complete a baccalaureate degree, our low tuition and high quality academic instruction allow students to graduate with less debt."

Tuition and fees at UW-Richland is \$4,701 for 2008-09.

This is \$2,863 less than the tuition/fees at UW-Madison, \$2,604 less than UW-Milwaukee and \$1,426 less than the other four-year UW campuses.

Tuition/fees at UW-Richland include text rental, which saves a student hundreds of dollars a year.

Wilson also plans to forward a request to the Board of Regents to keep tuition for the 2009-10 academic year frozen at the 2006 and current rate.

"Our goal is make our campuses even more affordable," he said. "While the current economic climate presents challenges, I am still hopeful that I can present a convincing argument to the Board to keep our campuses moving forward with affordable tuition."

In addition to its low tuition, over 60% of UW-Richland students receive some form of financial aid in the way of scholarships and grants that do not require repayment.

The UW Colleges' emphasis on its affordability comes in light of a report released December 3 from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education entitled "Measuring Up 2008."

That report measured the affordability of public four-year universities nationwide and gave Wisconsin and 48 other states a low grade on affordability.

The report did not analyze the affordability of public two-year universities like UW-Richland.

"While we pride ourselves on our affordability and access to college, we are equally pleased with the quality of the academic preparation our students receive," said UW-Richland Campus Executive Officer and Dean Lyn Brodersen.

UW Colleges students who transfer go on to graduate with baccalaureate degrees at higher rates (70%) than all other transfer students.