

Wilson talks up UW Colleges

■ Chancellor addresses county board

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MARINETTE — An education at a two-year college like UW-Marquette is a sound investment, according to the man who heads the system.

UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor David Wilson had an opportunity to share information Tuesday with the Marinette County Board.

Wilson, who was introduced by UW-Marquette Dean Paula Langteau, oversees the 13 two-year UW Colleges and the UW-Extension program that reaches all 72 counties.

He said tuition rates at

the two-year schools has been frozen at 2006 levels.

"(A student) can save \$6,000 per year by attending UW-Marquette (as opposed to starting at a four-year school)," Wilson said, adding that the savings come from lower tuition, room and board.

Wilson said if a student took the \$6,000 he or she saved in the first two years of college and applied the combined \$12,000 to the cost when transferring to a four-year school, they would have minimal debt to repay.

And graduates of two-year UW schools are successful later at four-year institutions.

"About 80 percent of our two-year graduates graduate from four-year schools," Wilson said.

The chancellor, who spent time at Rutgers University (N.J.) and Auburn (Ala.), said



Wilson

or adults continuing their education, he wants to make it easy and affordable.

To that end, UW-Marquette offers nearly 20 bachelor degrees students can earn by not even leaving Marinette. The college has on-line programs set up with four-year schools in Milwaukee, Green Bay, Stevens Point, Superior, Platteville, Oshkosh and Whitewater.

Wilson said about one-third of UW-Marquette students are age 22 or older.

He said another goal is to

increase the number of bachelor degrees earned by Wisconsin residents. Currently, it's about 25 percent, which is below neighboring Minnesota (about 30 percent) and the national average (about 27 percent).

The UW Colleges currently has an all-time high enrollment of 13,200.

"My goal is 15,000 over the next couple of years," Wilson said.

The UW-Extension has office in all 72 counties and on three tribal nations. It offers cooperative education, outreach and E-learning with a growing number of on-line courses and degree programs.

It also has programs for small businesses and has the statewide broadcast networks of Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television.

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