

WHEREAS; regardless of age, background, income, or ZIP code, every Wisconsinite deserves access to a high-quality and affordable education, from early childhood to the state’s public, private, and technical college and university systems; and

WHEREAS; boasting 13 public universities with campuses across the state and a total enrollment of over 160,000 students, the UW System, also known as the Universities of Wisconsin, is one of the largest public higher education systems in the United States; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin was also the first state in the nation to establish a state-supported system of technical education institutions—the Wisconsin Technical College System—which now encompasses 16 colleges and 52 campuses with approximately 290,000 students enrolling each year; and

WHEREAS; thousands of students are enrolled in one of Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges or universities, and each year, these institutions award approximately a quarter of the state’s bachelor’s degrees; and

WHEREAS; higher education informs innovation and self-actualization, equips individuals with the skills they need to realize their dreams, creates a more skilled, educated, and informed workforce, and helps to equalize resources in communities; and

WHEREAS; ensuring access to high-quality and affordable education requires meaningful investment in the state’s higher education systems, which includes removing financial barriers to accessing higher education for all those who choose to pursue it and addressing the student debt crisis, ensuring that facilities are safe and meet 21st-century needs, and making sure that institutions have the resources they need to support staff and provide the highest quality education possible to students; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin honors students, faculty, and staff at higher education institutions across the state, recognizes the state’s history of support for higher education and the long-standing guiding philosophy of the Wisconsin Idea, and reaffirms its commitment to prioritizing higher education in Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 6 2026 as

NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 29th day of May 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State