



# DAVE MURPHY

State Representative • 56th Assembly District

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges  
RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 593  
DATE: February 17, 2016

Members of the Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges, thank you for hearing my testimony in support of Senate Bill 593.

This bill partners with the UW's efforts to increase internship opportunities by providing funding to the UW to hire internship coordinators that connect local businesses with UW institutions. Specifically, this bill provides \$500,000 to the UW to hire the internship coordinators.

We hear from businesses and our partners in higher education that many small-medium size companies, in particular, do not have the ability to have an internship program. These coordinators will be able to serve as liaisons between the businesses and UW institutions and improve the pipeline from graduation to employment.

According to Nancy O'Neil from the Association of American College & Universities, internships are a proven practice that connects students with employers, improves learning outcomes, and allows students to hone skills outside of the classroom to lead to employment post-graduation. Interns also benefit the business community because they are eager to learn, can be trained by the business, and provide a talented pool of potential employees.

Internships also help keep students in Wisconsin after graduation when they lead to employment, which will help reduce the brain-drain. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports from a national survey that, "overall, employers reported (July 2015) converting an average of 51.7 percent of their eligible interns into full-time hires, in line with the 51.2 percent conversion rate reported in the 2014 iteration of the survey."

This proposal will make a dent in student loans because we know from research that students who have difficulty paying back student loans are the ones who don't complete their degree or have gainful employment after graduation. The more internship opportunities available will connect more students with Wisconsin employers and help students succeed in their college career.

I hope that you support this bill that will increase internship opportunities for UW students. Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.