



Media Release

*For Immediate Release*  
January 24, 2017

Contact: Rep. Katrina Shankland  
office: (608) 267-9649

**Rep. Shankland Joins Students in Signing Pledge to Support the UW System**

STEVENS POINT – Representative Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) signed a pledge at UW-Stevens Point today calling on Governor Walker and the Wisconsin Legislature to fund the UW System’s four-year tuition freeze and any future tuition cut. The event was hosted by the UW-Stevens Point faculty and academic staff union (Stevens Point Academic Representational Council – SPARC, AFT #6505) and the UW-Stevens Point Student Government Association (SGA). SGA President John Peralta and SPARC President Andy Felt joined Rep. Shankland in signing the pledge.

Following the event, Rep. Shankland released the following statement:

“Higher education isn’t just important for our workforce and our economy – it is the pathway for many of Wisconsin’s hard-working men and women to achieve the American Dream. Investing in our UW System is critical to ensuring that we are training for jobs of the future and ensuring our students’ future success.

“Yet higher education in Wisconsin is woefully underfunded. While most states are reinvesting in colleges and universities, the UW System has lost over \$750 million in state aid under Governor Walker’s last three budgets. UW-Stevens Point has been hit especially hard, with programs like WEEB, WCEE, and WIST slashed in the last budget. UWSP students are experiencing course bottlenecks and some are unable to graduate on time due to these budget cuts. It’s time to reinvest in higher education and ensure that everyone who works hard can achieve the American Dream.

“As a member of the legislature’s Joint Finance Committee, I am proud to support funding the tuition freeze and providing state support for the proposed tuition cuts, and I look forward to advocating for our students and universities in the budget.”

###