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## Boo U offers new degree



UW-Baraboo/Sauk County Dean Tom Pleger, right, signs an agreement Monday with UW-Oshkosh to offer a four-year bachelor's degree at the Baraboo campus. Also pictured from left, are UW Colleges Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Greg Lampe and UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor David Wilson.

By Tim Damos/News Republic

Sauk County area residents interested in leadership positions within government, business or non-profit institutions will have more educational opportunities come fall.

UW-Baraboo/Sauk County will offer a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree from UW-Oshkosh as part of an agreement between the two schools signed Monday.

The program will let UWBSA students work toward the four-year degree by taking online, face-to-face and distance learning courses.

And they won't have to leave the area.

"This will really help people who maybe haven't earned their bachelor's degree and are looking to come back to school and find something marketable, but are place-bound," said Matt Jurvelin, assistant dean for student services at UWBSA.

Jurvelin said he expects the program to benefit people who can't leave the area because of their family situations, significant others or job responsibilities.

UWBSA specializes in offering students a two-year associate degree so they can transfer to a four-year school.

But the university's leadership is pushing to offer greater local access to baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

"We are committed to increasing access for Sauk County area residents to UW System resources... because we know that by producing more degree holders in Wisconsin we produce stronger communities," said Dean Tom Pleger.

Pleger and UW-Oshkosh leaders formalized the agreement during a ceremony Monday at the UWBSC campus.

UW-Oshkosh Interim Provost E. Alan Hartman said higher education can be a path to better living for those struggling to make ends meet.

"It is especially important in our current economic times to encourage students to go on to obtain their four-year degree," he said.

Fall enrollment for the bachelor's degree program — which emphasizes leadership, communication and problem solving — is now open.

UWBSC recently entered a partnership with UW-La Crosse to offer a Master of Education - Professional Development program.

The university offers other bachelor's degree programs through UW-Green Bay, UW-Platteville and UW-Superior. It also provides guaranteed transfer programs through UW-Milwaukee and UW-Madison.