

## **Dr. James C. Schmidt, Chancellor University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**

A champion of American public higher education, Dr. James C. Schmidt has served as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire since July 2013. During his tenure, UW-Eau Claire has been ranked among the top 10 regional public universities in the Midwest by U.S. News. It was named the top masters-level university for excellence in undergraduate research by the Council for Undergraduate Research in 2016 and is currently the only master's-level university in Wisconsin among the top 20 nationally for student participation in study abroad. UW-Eau Claire has produced two Rhodes scholars since 2005 and leads master's level institutions in Wisconsin and Minnesota in the number of Fulbright students.



Previous tenures included service as vice president for university advancement at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota, and vice president for student affairs at Riverland Community College in Austin, Minnesota. He holds a doctorate in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in business administration from the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Winona State University.

### **Creative Collaboration**

The ground-breaking research collaboration with The Mayo Clinic—only the second of its kind in the world when launched in 2017—brings physicians, faculty and students together in joint research projects to address rural and national health challenges. The new 10-year agreement, signed this year, expands the collaboration to include shared educational programs and joint appointments, collaborative DEI initiatives, recruitment of talent for both institutions, development of a sports medicine facility, and embedded research space in the new Science and Health Science Building, slated to break ground in 2023-24.

Mayo Clinic Health System is a primary partner in the \$9.4 million workforce innovation grant awarded last year to UW-Eau Claire by Wisconsin Governor Evers. The grant will produce more nurses for Wisconsin, add six new health programs and pilot an innovative rural-health initiative to place care coaches in northwest Wisconsin counties to improve patient care. The grant also partners with 13 rural school districts and seven counties to support rural teachers and social work placements.

### **Community Transformation**

During Chancellor Schmidt's tenure he has led the University and the UW-Eau Claire Foundation to forge creative collaborations that are transforming both the campus and the community. In the past decade Chancellor Schmidt has led the development and funding of 12 major facilities projects, totaling investments of almost \$700 million and spurring more than \$200 million in philanthropic and public/private sector facilities:

- Two off-campus apartment complexes developed with the UW-Eau Claire Foundation just across the river from Mayo Clinic's Eau Claire campus, providing residences for Mayo Clinic medical students, residents and visitors.
- A new arts complex, the Pablo Center at the Confluence, built in collaboration with the city, county and philanthropic supporters, opened in 2018 in downtown Eau Claire.
- An event and sports complex, The County Materials Complex, was funded by a \$70 million gift from John and Carolyn Sonnentag in 2021. When completed, the development will include a sports medicine center for Mayo Clinic Health System and represent an investment of nearly \$125 million in improvements to benefit both the university and Eau Claire community.
- Redevelopment of Garfield Avenue on campus, using state, institutional and private funding provided riverfront improvements. More than \$1 million in private funds enhanced UW-Eau Claire's status as Wisconsin's "Most Beautiful Campus."
- The Flesch Family Welcome Center, funded entirely with private dollars, opened in 2021 to welcome prospective students and alumni.