



## Feedback from Idea Lounge (Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>)



### **Question 1: What are some of the positives things UWEC is already doing?**

- The School of Music
- Accessibility of university facilities to the community – free resources
- The intellectual discourse the university provides
- Forums, such as Bill Cosby and Ralph Nader
- The physical setting and beauty of the campus
- Relationship between business owners and the university
- Opportunity for residents to further their professional credentials

### **Question 2: What can UWEC do to further build the relationship with the community?**

- Open air festivals, co-sponsored
- Encourage more student attendance of off campus events
- Offer students free passes to some events
- Utilize personal connections
- Joint facilities for off campus classes, continuing education, performing arts
- “Downtown Thursday Nights” – night of classes and education in the downtown area. Shops open doors; workshops; lectures; lessons, professors volunteer time
- Branch of WARF in Eau Claire, encourage nanotechnology, intellectual property, professors could utilize WARF funds to start own businesses
- They should create a system to measure performance and awards
- Build a dormitory downtown
- Availability of busses to transport students to businesses...tours
- Summer concerts
- CUBEFEST – get attention of freshmen and sophomores early, before they discover the mall
- WISYS – more faculty
- Encourage businesses to seek out college students
- A night of interaction between local businesses and students
- Students and faculty could form shadow committees for shadow city council; draw on the university’s expertise on city council issues
- Public transportation, get students out to the community and off campus

### **Question 3: What resources are available?**

- UWEC’s design department
- Artists, have art shows for students to showcase work

- But how do we create the pairing? Whose responsibility is it to seek who out?
- The new inventory database is a great resource for businesses looking for resources at the university

**Question 4: How do we get students to stay in the area?**

- Civic engagement, student's responsibility to the community
- Once involved in the community, students are likely to remain involved, may create emotional ties and want to stay
- Connections between small business owners and students/volunteers
- Get a hold of the students early so their interest in the city develops
- Faculty advising student organizations are a great way to encourage employment
- What do students look for in a community? Progressive thinking community, COOL
- Utilize the resources at Career Services, internships
- 65% of students are willing to stay if the opportunity is available – we need to make the opportunity available
- Create a vibrant and artsy community
- Study abroad programs – involve the community
- Students come here for the university, not the city...we need to get them interested in the City of Eau Claire
- Citywide wireless internet

**Question 5: What sets Eau Claire apart?**

- The arts and music scene, technology, resources
- UWEC's reputation

**Further thoughts:**

- Individuals need to be proactive
- How can we improve communications?
- Encourage the strive for a creative economy