



## On The Prowl: The Research Review

December 2022

### Congratulations Brian Thompson & Jessica Silvaggi

#### UWMRF Leadership

Chancellor Mone recently announced that Jennifer Abele, Chief Partnership Officer (CPO), will be leaving UWM to lead a new venture capital enterprise. The Chancellor has asked Brian Thompson to take an interim role as Director of Strategic Partnerships until they initiate a search for the CPO position in the summer.

Effective January 1, Brian will take a leave of absence from his role as President of the UWM Research Foundation and assume a position as Director of Strategic Partnerships along with his role as Director of the Lubar Entrepreneurship Center. Jessica Silvaggi will assume a broader leadership role of the UWM Research Foundation as Interim President.

"We have known that there was a possibility for change in the broader UWM landscape and are positioned very well. We are confident Brian and Jessica will continue to help UWM Research Foundation and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee achieve mutual success," states Mike Anderes, the UWMRF Chair.



Brian Thompson, UWM Research Foundation President and Director of the Lubar Entrepreneurship Center



Jessica Silvaggi, UWM Research Foundation Vice President

### UWMRF Welcomes Dennis Webb

#### New Board Member

Dennis Webb President and Engineer at Sage Water



Dennis Webb

A special shout out to the UWMRF Board member Dennis Webb, President at Sage Water, recipient of the **EXEMPLARY ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD!**

The 2023 honorees are an accomplished group of thirteen individuals and one organization who will be officially recognized during a ceremony at Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel on Friday, Feb. 24, 2023.

[More Information](#)

Since 1978, Dennis has delivered proven and measurable technical, marketing, and sales management successes to utility and aerospace organizations. Currently, Dennis provides water positive outcomes for large utilities requiring multiple technologies and on international projects. Specifically, Dennis specializes in water management in Latin American sales and operations. His expertise in flow measurement and similar experience in Aerospace electromechanical equipment gives Dennis the unique perspective to produce brilliant results.

Since 2014, Dennis has focused on Sage Water, a Water-based consulting company created to assist start-up companies in the creation of viable business models and located at the Global Water Center in Milwaukee. He retired in 2014 after 29 years at Badger Meter where he was a quality assurance manager, VP of Quality, VP of Sales, Marketing and Engineering, VP of sales for North America, Mexico, Caribbean, and Latin America, and finally Vice President of Customer Solutions with a focus on international water projects. He received degrees from UWM in Materials Engineering and Applied Science and Engineering. Prior to Badger Meter he held positions at Lockheed Martin, Gould Inc., and Eaton Corporation.

Dennis is currently a board member of the UWM Foundation and has joined the UWMRF Board of Directors as the UWMF Liaison to the UWMRF.

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## **New to UWMRF: IN-PART** (Worldwide Technology Marketing Platform)

### **ATTENTION: UW-MILWAUKEE RESEARCHERS**

#### **The Research Foundation has joined IN-PART**

IN-PART is a matchmaking platform that enables university technology transfer teams to have access to a global network of research and development decision makers, who are ideally placed to commercialize university research and if not, feedback as to market viability.

What does this mean for our researchers?

One of the features and capabilities of this platform is the ability for researchers to submit to campaigns listed by innovation-driven companies. This can be done for free by any researcher.

The Research Foundation will be sending out opportunities in this newsletter that we think may be relevant, but no one knows better than you. Please feel free to take a look anytime. If you have any questions about this please reach out to any of our team members.

[Discover Campaigns HERE](#)

## New: SBIR/STTR Monthly Office Hours

Each year, the Federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program provides more than \$4 billion in funding to develop early-stage technological innovations that have commercial potential in a wide range of industries. To help UWM researchers and entrepreneurs explore opportunities to tap into these funds, SBIR office hours are now offered by Brian Walsh, Senior Technology Commercialization Manager.



Brian Walsh

While the days may vary slightly and the location as well, you can easily find more information on the UWM Research Foundation Website for specific details.

[More Information](#)



Brian Thompson, President UWMRF and Mike Andrew, UWM, CEAS

### Dr. Jessica Silvaggi joins panel at Wisconsin Tech Council Networking Luncheon

The UW-Milwaukee Research Foundation has launched "[Panther Partnering](#)."

This is a new opportunity for companies to explore research with the university that may lead to new IP. It is available for upfront licensing at better rates than with a more traditional licensing path, which is, of course, still available also. The goal of this new program is to **foster (#uwm2030actionplan)** more sponsored research with the university and avoid lengthy negotiations that may get in the way of efficient technology transfer.

The panel discussion was held on Thursday, December 1st, at the Tech Council Innovation Network luncheon in Wauwatosa.



Erin Puro, UWMRF; Landon Olp, MCW; Russ Johnson, UW-Madison

## Events and Deadlines

## SBIR/STTR Office Hours

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) & Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Office Hours



UWMRF's Brian Walsh  
✉ BrianW@UWMRF.org

In a typical session, topics covered include the amount of funding available, key criteria for SBIR-worthy projects, and finding the best match between funding agencies and your technology idea, and actionable next steps for getting started.

 SBIR/STTR Office Hours



Join us January 24<sup>th</sup>, 12-1pm,  
for a Webinar Event

**UWM PANTHER PARTNERING:**

**MAKING INDUSTRY  
COLLABORATION EASY**

Your Presenters:



Michael Andrew  
Director of Corporate Relations,  
Engineering & Applied Science  
Office of the Dean



Jessica Silvaggi  
Vice President, UWM  
Research Foundation



SBIR/STTR Office Hours

**January 6 | 8:30-10:30am**

LECWC Staff Conference Room

**For 1-on-1 appointments:  
[brianw@uwmrf.org](mailto:brianw@uwmrf.org)**

**[More Information & Registration](#)**

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