

## **Tier 1 Engineering Narrative**

Good Afternoon, I am introducing this topic in the absence of interim provost Alexander. The Tier 1 Engineering Initiative has delivered meaningful progress while also revealing structural gaps we must address. Since 2011, the College has significantly increased research productivity—nearly doubling research expenditures per faculty—and our graduates per faculty member have grown at both the bachelor's and Ph.D. levels

They are now looking to invest strategically in fast-growing fields like computational science and materials science to align with state and national priorities. Tier 1 scholarships are yielding exceptional results, with 98% freshman-to-sophomore retention and timely graduation above UW averages, underscoring the impact of focused state support.

At the same time, the report is candid about areas requiring attention and correction. Our graduate program remains unranked due to past non-reporting after a decade of not advancing, master's degree production has declined, internship participation is inconsistent, and our FE exam pass rate, while at the national average, falls short of the 90% aspiration.

Data collection needs stronger, systematic processes to meet both internal expectations and external accountability requirements, including those relevant to legislative review.

Overall, this initiative shows clear value: strong returns in research, student success, and statewide engagement. But it also makes evident the work ahead—tightening data reporting, improving graduate research and education outcomes and rankings, strengthening industry integration, advancing innovation and entrepreneurship and ensuring we can demonstrate impact with rigor and transparency to our faculty, our elected officials, and our governing board.

Thank you for allowing interim Dean Danny Dale to proceed with his presentation.