UW System President Tommy Thompson provided additional details of a program to incentivize UW students who have nursing skills and backgrounds to work on the front lines of Wisconsin’s fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

A $500 tuition refund will be provided to students who meet the following criteria:

- Must be enrolled at a University of Wisconsin campus during the spring 2021 semester.
- Must work a minimum of 50 hours in a Wisconsin clinical or health care setting, such as a hospital, clinic, nursing home, long-term care facility, state or local health care facility, or state veterans home, between December 1, 2020, and February 1, 2021.
- Must meet health care licensure and certification requirements, such as a Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Certified Medical Assistant (CMA), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (CEMT), or Nurse Aid. Students who also qualify as a CNA under the emergency rule currently in place can participate as well.

Interested students and employers will connect via Handshake, an online job listing and candidate management system. The UW System will promote the use of Handshake to potential health care employers, and UW campus career services administrators will help students identify job eligible opportunities.

Students must present documentation from their employer verifying the type of work and the hours worked by the student to their campus Bursar’s Office no later than March 31, 2021. Qualifying students will receive a $500 tuition refund at the end of the spring 2021 semester. Bursars reserve the right to apply the tuition refund to a student’s past due obligations to the campus.

The program is open to students currently employed or who become employed in a Wisconsin clinical or health care setting. Students may receive only one $500 tuition refund regardless of number of hours worked beyond the 50-hour minimum. Additional spring semester incentives for student health care work, including clinical support for vaccinations, beyond February 1, 2021, are under consideration.