

Kevin P. Reilly

**President Emeritus and Regent Professor
University of Wisconsin System**



Dr. Kevin Reilly is President Emeritus and Regent Professor with the 26-campus University of Wisconsin (UW) System, having served as president from 2004–2013. In collaboration with the UW Board of Regents and the Chancellors, he developed the "Growth Agenda for Wisconsin," a long-term vision and strategic framework for what the university needed to do to help Wisconsin and the nation be more competitive in the global knowledge economy. Under his leadership, enrollment grew to 182,000—an all-time high—and sponsored research continued to expand beyond \$1 billion annually.

Dr. Reilly served as Chancellor of UW-Extension from 2000 to 2004 and as Provost and Vice Chancellor of Extension from 1996 to 2000. A native of New York City, he came to Wisconsin from the State University of New York (SUNY) System, where he was Associate Provost for Academic Programs and then Secretary of the University. In the latter role, he was the corporate officer staffing the SUNY Board of Trustees.

He is currently a member of the Higher Education Working Group on Global Issues for the Council on Foreign Relations and the Steering Committee for the Celtic Studies Program at UW-Madison. He has also served as the President of the National Association of System Heads.

He is author and editor of books and articles on higher education leadership, policy, and accreditation, among other topics in literature and Irish studies. Among his awards and honors are the Signature of Excellence Award from the University Professional & Continuing Education Association, the Chancellor's Medallion from UW-Oshkosh, and a commendation from the Senate of Wisconsin for his contributions to the state.

Dr. Reilly earned his B.A. at the University of Notre Dame and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

Sheila Stearns

**Commissioner Emerita
Montana University System**



Dr. Sheila Stearns is a native Montanan who has served in a variety of senior administrative positions in higher education, including vice president of the University of Montana, chancellor of UM-Western, president of Wayne State College in Nebraska, and commissioner of higher education in Montana.

Stearns served as commissioner of higher education in Montana for nine years, the hallmark of which was her vision to expand educational opportunities for Montanans through programs grounded in institutional research and diligent communication with board members college presidents. She was Montana's longest-serving commissioner and a highly respected statewide advocate for educational opportunity. She was named commissioner emerita by the board of regents on March 1, 2012.

As vice president of the University of Montana, she led external relations of the university, including legislative, alumni, and foundation divisions. As chancellor of UM-Western, she fostered the early stages of an innovative transformation of the curriculum from the typical semester to four blocks per semester of one class at a time. A leading faculty advocate for the change was eventually named the national CASE professor of the year for the significance of this innovation. As resident of Wayne State College in Nebraska, Stearns guided the college through economic turbulence following in the wake of the dot-com bubble, keeping morale strong, core programs stronger, and increasing investment in the institution by donors and the state.

Stearns holds bachelor's degrees in English in history, a master's in history, and a doctorate in educational administration and supervision, all from the University of Montana.