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**Green County Extension Office**  
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## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Chancellor Wilson Visits Green County**

Monroe – UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor, David Wilson visited Green County on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The visit was part of his commitment to meet with people across the State of Wisconsin who benefit from the community outreach of UW Colleges and UW-Extension. Coordinated by the UW-Extension office, Chancellor Wilson's visit found him talking with a number of stakeholders, including Chair of the Green County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee, Cathy Cryor-Burgweger, and State Representative Brett Davis.

Representative Davis shared with Wilson how he has called upon the knowledge and expertise of the UW System by working directly with faculty in the Green County UW-Extension office. "I recently contacted Agriculture Agent Mark Mayer to assist me as I worked with an area farm business" stated Davis. Chancellor Wilson explained how it is important for elected officials to understand, as Davis and Cryor-Burgweger do, how the local UW-Extension office can link them to resources and research across the state.

During his time in Green County, Chancellor Wilson also toured the Voegeli Farm outside of Monticello to see the work Mayer and Agricultural Engineer Specialist Dave Kammel have done with the Voegeli's related to modernization of their dairy operation. Wilson also spoke with Sinem Bertling, Coordinator of the Green County Youth Suicide Prevention Grant who talked about the role 4-H Youth Development Agent Alissa Grenawalt has played in helping to survey youth on risky behaviours and secure the youth suicide prevention grant. Patty James, Director of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Industry, spoke about being an advisor to the 4-H

Junior Leaders and the innovative new 4-H project on entrepreneurship that Community Resource Development Educator Sarah Burgert has taken the lead on implementing. Additionally, Ellen Hossman, Director of the Literacy Council of Green County and Barbara Brewer, Director of the Monroe Public Library talked to Chancellor Wilson about programs addressing diversity, the growing Latino immigrant population, and strategic planning for their organizations. They highlighted the Latino's in the U.S. Book Discussion series which Family Living Agent Bridget Mouchon is facilitating. John Waelti, Professor Emeritus with New Mexico State University also spoke to the Chancellor, stating "I have worked with and evaluated county extension offices in a number of places and I am very impressed with the quality of Green County's staff and their programs".

The Chancellor's visit concluded with an opportunity to view two large and freshly painted quilt blocks ready for installation on local barns as part of the "Barn Quilts of Green County" project. Project co-chairs Lynn Lokken and Kris Winkler, along with Green County Tourism Coordinator Noreen Rueckert discussed how the Barn Quilts project brings together culture, history and agriculture as a community and economic development strategy. Chancellor Wilson expressed interest in returning to the county to see the quilts once they are installed on local barns.

"We were delighted to host Chancellor Wilson" said Burgert. "It is not often we get the opportunity to showcase the work of our Family Living, 4-H and Youth Development, Agriculture, and Community Development educational programs for individuals such as the Chancellor." Mayer, who is also the UW-Extension Department Head in Green County, added "we were pleased to have our partners and stakeholders talk about how the programs of the UW-Extension office are improving the lives of individuals, families and youth; enhancing organizations; developing leaders; and strengthening our local economy".

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Photo Caption:

(L-R) Bridget Mouchon, Family Living; Alissa Grenawalt, 4-H & Youth Development; Chancellor Wilson; Sarah Burgert, Community Resource Development; Mark Mayer, Agriculture, standing in front of recently painted barn quilts.