An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meeting to present the proposed UW-La Crosse New Student Center project will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, in the Ward Room located on the first floor of the Cartwright Center, on the UW-La Crosse campus. Parking is available free of charge in nearby Commuter Lot C2, located adjacent to the UW-L stadium at the intersection of East Avenue and Pine Street. A description of the project will be presented, and all persons will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to identify both orally and in writing any support, issues, or concerns they believe should be addressed during the EIS process for this proposed project. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), Wisconsin Statutes 1.11, and University of Wisconsin System Administration (UWSA) guidelines. The project manager is the state Department of Administration’s Division of State Facilities (DSF). Ayres Associates has been retained to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on behalf of the UWSA.

The New Student Center project includes construction of a new 204,787 gross square feet (GSF), multi-story facility to be located on an existing surface parking lot immediately east of Wimberly Hall. This location is centrally located on campus and provides adjacencies to the main public entrance to campus, the new stadium and fields complex and the new DFD# 10J2S UW-L Parking Ramp and Police Services Building. The existing Police and Parking Services building on this site will be demolished prior to construction, and the Cartwright Center will remain in use until project completion. The center will be designed to provide student gathering and social areas, study areas, offices for student organization and Student Centers Administration and Admissions, general use meeting rooms, performance venues, large meeting rooms, food service kitchens and dining areas, various retail spaces, textbook rental area. The total project cost, including construction costs, is estimated at $53,300,000 and will be funded using $50,966,000 in Program Revenue Supported Borrowing and $2,334,000 Program Revenue Cash. Construction is projected to begin in June 2014 with substantial completion by the fall of 2016.

An initial requirement of the EIS is the scoping process, with the intent of identifying at an early stage any potential impacts of the project on the physical, biological, social, historic, and economic environments. Impacts that are identified during this process will be incorporated into a Draft EIS which will be made available to the public for a 45-day review period and circulated to appropriate federal, state, local agencies and interested parties.

If you are interested in this project or have any information relevant to it, we welcome your comments, suggestions, or other input. For consideration in the Draft EIS, please submit your comments at the meeting or in writing by November 5, 2013 to:

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Eau Claire, WI 54701
johnsond@ayresassociates.com

Comment forms can also be obtained via the project website at:

http://www.ayresprojectinfo.com/UWL-NewStudentCenter-EIS