



**Department of Economics**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

February 20, 2023

The Department of Economics is sad to announce the death of Rebecca Blank, Chancellor Emerita of the University of Wisconsin as well as emerita faculty member of our department.

Becky excelled in three entirely different areas with her contributions to research, policy, and academic administration. She was one of the leading poverty scholars in the world, having written more than 100 published papers and 10 books including [\*It Takes a Nation: A New Agenda for Fighting Poverty\*](#).

Her scholarship led to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and selection as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association. She had three stints in Washington including as a member of the Council of Economic Advisors from 1997-1999 under Bill Clinton and as Deputy and then Acting Secretary of Commerce from 2010-2013.

Immediately after that she became Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, leading the university through challenging times, leaving it on a sounder financial footing than she found it, and establishing Bucky's Tuition Promise, which provides a full tuition scholarship for students from low-income families.

We are deeply grateful to her for her decade of leadership of the university. The Economics and University of Wisconsin communities will miss her dearly.

[Remembering Rebecca Blank](#) – UW-Madison

[Rebecca Blank, Distinguished Fellow 2021](#) – American Economic Association

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