



March 2017

Teaching and Learning Together: Early Childhood Conference

UW-Whitewater's 39th annual [Early Childhood Conference](#) returns to campus April 7 and 8, and will explore the theme "We Teach Them...They Teach Us." Featured presenters include [Dr. Jean Feldman](#), who will lead a full day workshop on STEAM and early childhood education, and Grammy award winning musician [Dan Zanes](#) who will perform at the children's [concert](#). Nearly 90 [sessions](#) on topics such as developing independent learners and outdoor classrooms to reader's workshops for English language learners and creating inclusive and safe spaces in schools will be offered throughout the two-day event.



Approximately 700 educators from a 200 mile radius travel to Whitewater for this popular conference, co-sponsored by [Continuing Education Services](#) and the [College of Education and Professional Studies](#). In December, [Early Childhood Education Zone](#) ranked the event number two in the nation for conferences in this field, calling it a "must attend event for professionals who are looking to expand their network and develop insights on early childhood education."



Save the Date: Veteran Education Fair

UW-Whitewater is hosting an educational event for regional veterans. Multiple institutions will

participate, including Blackhawk and Waukesha County Technical College, UW-Rock County, UW-Waukesha, and UW-Whitewater. Faculty and staff members from Admissions, Career Services, and Benefits will be representing these institutions to work with veterans on their educational and career plans. Along with representatives from the participating institutions, there will also be mentors from regional employers and outside service providers.

At this event, professionals will provide veterans with career information on job opportunities, levels of demand and salaries in their field, and skills employers look for and value. The information shared will hopefully allow veterans to explore the most beneficial career path for their individual interests, as well as the fields of study that would best help them reach their goals. The fair will offer veterans an opportunity to develop their academic and professional plan in one day and location.

The Veteran Education Fair will be held on campus on June 5th. For more information regarding this event, contact Dr. Lauren Smith at smithlb@uww.edu.



Welcome New Staff: Susie Feuerstein

We are pleased to welcome Susie Feuerstein to the Graduate Studies and Continuing Education team! Susie comes to us from the Town of Vernon, where she previously worked as Deputy Clerk. She also worked in the Christian Formation Ministry program at St. Joseph's in Big Bend, as a stay-at-home mom, and in the human resources department at UW-Milwaukee. Susie works as a student status examiner associate and assists graduate students and credit outreach participants. Welcome, Susie!



Grant-Funded Research Leads to Publications, Awards

In 2014-15, Matthew Vick (Curriculum and Instruction) was awarded an Educational Outreach Grant to expand the partnership between UW-Whitewater and the Mukwonago Area School District. The project put pre-service and in-service teachers together to develop new methods and approaches to teaching science. Since 2014, the project has experienced growth and success for the students and teachers involved, as well as its developer.

Vick's innovative collaboration lead to recognition from his colleagues in the field and on campus. His article "Integrating Science Methods with Professional Development: How Third Space Science Methods Courses Benefit Pre-Service and In-Service Teachers" was accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal, *Science and Children* and he was invited to include a chapter on the collaboration in the upcoming book *Exploring the Community Impact of Research-Based Partnership in Education*. In addition, Vick was awarded the Innovation Award in 2016 by the College of Education and Professional Studies and the College's Outstanding Research Award in 2016 and 2017.

Would you like to hear more about Vick's collaboration and partnership? He will be talking about the project on Wednesday, April 5 at 3:00 p.m. as part of the spring [Fairhaven Lecture Series](#). Join us!



Access and the "Traditional" Student of the 21st Century: An Imperative for Universities

In a recent newsletter published by [The Evollution](#), an online newspaper about higher education, Vistasp Karbhari, President of the University of Texas at Arlington wrote:

A large percentage of our students today are faced with the pressure of balancing academics with the realities of life. A degree is then, not just the next step in life but, one of the goals that has to be balanced with other competing, and at times more important, priorities. Often the demands of work, domestic and family responsibilities have to be shouldered side-by-side with academics. Many of these students already work full time or at multiple jobs side-by-side with their academic pursuits and even full scholarships cannot cover the financial realities of being the breadwinner and primary caregiver.

For these and other returning adult students a degree means more than the mastery of knowledge. It comes with a distinct focus on talent and skills development bringing a vocational emphasis on the end goal which is one of rapid entry to, or progression in, the workforce. For these and other students who are already members of a highly skilled workforce there is an inherent competition between personal and professional priorities that result in the need for rapid impact of higher education and the maximization of outcomes. Modes and mechanisms of access as well as support to ensure success are inherently different for these students from the more "traditional" students who start as "first time in college" freshmen.

A person with a family, perhaps also serving as caregiver to elderly parents, does want to complete a degree but progress will be predicated on balancing responsibilities. Unless we are prepared to support their families and completely address all their responsibilities the time period that we expect for completion is unrealistic. We need to remember that paying tuition alone, or even the full cost of attendance, could be a small percentage of the overall need. Metrics matter but selecting ones appropriate to our mission and to reality matters even more.

Enhancing mechanisms of access, enabling integration of effort across the pathways taken by students to gain a degree, re-envisioning metrics of comparison as measures of success to actually represent reality, all these and many more aspects need to be addressed with a new view of the actual population we serve today. In doing so we need to remember that traditions are wonderful, and to be cherished, but should not be allowed to become constraints to progress in serving our students.

To read more of Karbhari's article, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

- From baseball to percussion: Registration is now open for summer athletic, music, and other youth [camps](#).
- Kids and their grandparents learn together this summer at [Grandchildren's University](#), June 24 and 25.

- Campus garden, landscape and prairie [tours](#) coming soon! Stay tuned for dates and registration info.
- Visit our [website](#) for more!

Stay connected with us on Facebook!

