



May 2018

## English Language Academy Serves International Students and Community

On the fourth floor of Heide Hall, students from around the globe study together with a common goal in mind: improving their English skills. The [English Language Academy](#) (ELA) helps international students with their language skills through typical classroom curricula and activities, but also through outreach programs in the community. [Brianna Deering](#) and [Anjie Kokan](#) serve as primary instructors for the ELA program, where learning a second language is an active process. “We have a mix of students in our classes – different generations, degree seeking students, and those just taking a class or two,” Deering says. All of them benefit from the authentic experiences that are the cornerstone of the ELA program.

**Since 2014, the ELA has been developing partnerships with campus and community groups** that give students the opportunity to practice their language skills while giving American participants the chance to learn more about the countries ELA students hail from, their traditions and customs. ELA students have intergenerational experiences by reading to kids at the Children’s Center and through cultural conversations with older adults at Fairhaven Senior Services. A current ELA student who is a nurse from China was paired with a senior citizen who had been a physician in China years ago. “It was amazing to sit back and watch the two of them communicate,” Kokan said. Students also research the Whitewater Innovation Center, simulating the research job seekers do when applying for employment. Students then meet with executives at the Center and ask questions of each other.

Other campus and community partners and experiential learning opportunities have included the Whitewater Chamber of Commerce, Generac, Whitewater Historical Society, Studio 84, Career and Leadership Development, Sustainability Office, and the Whitewater City Market. “We love working with students and giving them the support and tools to move on to degree programs, employment or reach other goals they have,” Deering says. “We are here to serve any English language learners with whatever their needs may be and invite the campus and community to visit us and consider us for future partnerships.”



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## Explore Campus Landscapes and Gardens This Summer!

Summer is the most beautiful time of year at UW-Whitewater! Did you know that within the few acres that make up the campus, there is a restored prairie, a micro prairie, a daylily nursery, and a hill full of hostas? Do you know the landscapes are managed using sustainability practices that save water, gas, and money? Learn more about our prairie, landscapes, gardens and greenhouse during our [summer tours](#). Continuing Education partners with UW-Whitewater's [Office of Sustainability](#) to offer three different tours on several dates throughout the summer. We'll kick off the season with a summer solstice walk through the Prairie and Nature Preserve on June 21 at 6:00 p.m. Register for this or any tour at our [website](#). All tours are free with registration and all ages and abilities are welcome.



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## K-12 and Postsecondary Educators Examine Regional Workforce Trends

On April 2, UW-Whitewater hosted a [career readiness workshop](#) to explore workforce projections and identify skills needed by workers. Bill Brockmiller from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) presented on economic trends in Rock, Walworth, and Jefferson counties as well as the state as a whole. Participants for the lunch conversation came from UW-W faculty, current UW-Rock

County faculty and staff, Waukesha County Technical College, and a number of K-12 school districts, including Elkhorn Area, Janesville, Lake Geneva, Mukwonago Area, Muskego-Norway, and Whitewater Unified.

Bill shared data indicating that **southeastern Wisconsin's population will continue to grow while northern Wisconsin will face an aging population and a falling population.** OEA performed a detailed analysis on the nursing profession. The analysis revealed that a large portion of Wisconsin nurses, for example, are nearing retirement, thus confirming concerns about working shortages due to demographic changes and lower participation rates by young people in the nursing field.

The county level data shared allowed participants to look at data about employment projections by industry and by occupation. Breakdowns of age distributions by industry as of 2016 were also available. This guided table-top discussions about trends requiring attention by educational institutions in our region of Southeastern Wisconsin. The county profiles are available for free download from the OEA [website](#).



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## New Camps on Tap for Summer

In addition to dozens of returning music, academic and athletic camps, [Continuing Education Services](#) will be hosting two new youth camps on campus this summer. Aspiring teachers can engage with current UW-W education students and faculty and get first-hand experience participating in education courses during the new [Want to be a Teacher Camp](#). Scheduled for June 24 to 27 and led by Ozalle Toms (Special Education), this camp will also include a technology workshop and fun activities, like bowling and swimming. From July 5 to 8, kids entering grades 7-12 can learn songwriting, audio recording techniques, live sound engineering and more in the [Rock Band Camp](#). Campers will have the opportunity to form a band, write a song, and perform for family and friends during this fun and intense four-day camp, led by Alena Holmes (Music).

[UW-Rock County Continuing Education](#) also offers a wide variety of programming for youth in the summer. From College for Kids and STEM Camp, to MineCraft, Lego Challenge and Robotics, to Ukulele to Orchestra, the [catalog](#) is full of options for kids ages 8 to 14. Check it out!



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## More News & Upcoming Events

- Learn tips and tricks for getting grant funds for the organizations you work with during the [Grants 101](#) class, May 30 at UW-Rock County.
- Archaeology, Genetics and Dance are just a few of the “majors” for kids and their grandparents to explore at [Grandchildren’s University](#), June 22-23.
- UW-Whitewater LIFE (Learning is for Everyone) will launch this fall and will provide a complete college experience for young adults between the ages of 18-25 who have an intellectual disability. Learn more at the LIFE [website](#).
- [Volleyball](#) and [Wrestling](#) offering returning and new camps, clinics and tournaments for individual youth athletes and teams this June and July.
- The [Certificate in Heritage Language Education](#) examine social justice topics, community-based learning for growing heritage language, and authentic assessments for heritage language development, June 18-July 28.

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