Counselor Education Program Partners with Beloit School District

One in five children has a mental health problem that creates difficulties in their life. The recommended counselor to student ratio is one to two hundred and fifty, yet school counselors are often responsible for far more students. Counselors have many responsibilities in addition to the mental health of their students, and unfortunately mental health needs are often left underserved as a result. Through an Education Outreach Grant, UW-Whitewater is partnering with the School District of Beloit to help create and sustain collaborative relationships between pre-service counselor students and practicing counselors to help meet these important needs.

"The need is twofold from our perspective," explains Stacy Struessel, Mental Health Specialist at the School District of Beloit. Struessel stresses that there are "significant mental health needs in the District, and that "the ability to have more people serving those needs is a real gift. To bring students in from UW-Whitewater is incredible." UW-Whitewater pre-service students will assist the District in supporting the social, emotional, and academic development of its students, as well as provide direct intervention services.

Jennifer Betters-Bubon, professor and program coordinator of the UW-Whitewater Counselor Education program, served as a school counselor for 11 years, witnessing firsthand the increasing mental health needs of kids in schools. She explains that "school counselors often have 400 or 500 kids on their caseload," stressing the importance of such collaborations between university programs and school districts. "It makes such sense," she says: "The schools show us what they need us to do: what programs to develop, groups to form, and training to offer."

This partnership creates a positive model of collaboration and best practices for schools that is "mutually beneficial and fun," according to Jennifer. In short: "We're really excited about it!"

-- written by Missy Kennedy

Zombies and Jazz Added to Summer Camp Lineup

This summer, high school students will explore the nature of government in a new camp at UW-Whitewater. The setting is the year 2115 after a zombie apocalypse has wiped out much of the U.S. Participants will explore the role of constitutions as instruments for political institutions and actors in UW-Whitewater's first ever Zombie Camp. This unique learning experience will be led by political science professors, Jolly Emrey and Ted Gimbel in July. Music faculty Michael Dugan, Matt Sintchak, and Bradley Townsend will be leading Jazz Camp in July. After a ten year hiatus, Jazz Camp returns in 2015 to enhance high school musicians' knowledge and understanding of jazz through large ensembles and small groups. Classes and rehearsals will enhance musicians' abilities on instruments, improvisation, and jazz styles.
These two camps join a roster of over 50 music, athletic, and academic camps for youth and adults at UW-Whitewater this summer. Perennial favorites tennis and gymnastic camps are already full and registrations are still being accepted for such camps as bowling, band, theatre, basketball, and Grandchildren's University. For a full listing of camps, go to http://www.uww.edu/ce/camps/all.

Conferences for Educators to Focus on Technology and Writing

Educators are invited to UW-Whitewater to build their classroom toolkits through two unique conferences. For the 3rd year, UW-Whitewater is hosting the InterActiv Technology Conference. Over 300 educators will come to campus for a wide variety of sessions on the application of technology to improve student learning. This conference is ideal for education majors, and UW-Whitewater faculty and staff are encouraged to interact with attendees.

In July, UW-Whitewater will be partnering with Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA) and CESA 2 to present a different kind of conference. A Writing Institute will bring teams together to dig deeper into writing instruction to improve K-12 students’ writing with local and state-wide experts serving as team advisors.
If you would like to be a part of this ‘adventure in conferencing’ or have questions about either learning opportunity, please contact Linda Nortier, Education Outreach Coordinator, at nortierl@uww.edu.

Book Groups Offer Something for Everyone

Faculty and staff are invited to join a reading discussion group hosted by the LEARN Center. Five books have been selected to spark conversations and discussions on topics from stereotypes, the humanities, gender balance, and the heart of higher education. Shotgun Lovesongs, the winner of the 2015 Chancellor’s Regional Literary Award, will also be discussed and participants will have the opportunity to meet the author. Those who are interested in general education, the LEAP initiative, and the role of education in our changing global reality, are encouraged to read and discuss The Value of the Humanities by Helen H. Small with facilitator Elena Levy-Navarro (Languages and Literatures). Discussions on this book will include timely topics such as democracy, education, and the future of the university.

For the first time this fall, all the LEARN Center reading discussion groups will be open to all campus employees regardless of classification. Groups meet on several dates throughout the semester and are led by faculty from across campus. To register, go to my.uww.edu.