



November 2014

UWW and MASD Collaborate for Inquiry-Based Learning and Professional Development

The already fruitful educational partnership between UW-Whitewater and the Mukwonago Area School District (MASD) has been granted a new opportunity for collaboration-and further development. Development is at the core of the [Education Outreach Grant](#) awarded to Matthew Vick (Curriculum and Instruction) and Nicholas Reichhoff, principal of Rolling Hills Elementary in the MASD for their commitment to the guided implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards at Rolling Hills.

These new standards seek to empower teachers to build student knowledge and experience through presenting questions and problems rather than information alone. Not only will the students of Rolling Hills and the MASD benefit from these practices, but the teachers of Rolling Hills and the participating pre-service teachers will gain valuable coaching experience and professional development. "Each of the teachers will become coaches who will work with pre-service teachers at UWW and their grade level colleagues at Rolling Hills," explains Reichhoff, principal of Rolling Hills Elementary School. "In that role, they will help expand the use of inquiry-based science instruction and improve student achievement."

The smooth collaboration between these Mukwonago teachers-particularly "the sixth grade teachers," who "have been especially active in opening their classrooms," adds Vick-and pre-service teachers has created "a wonderful opportunity for pre-service teachers interested in upper elementary/middle school grades to have this early field experience."

Vick and Reichhoff are both enthusiastic about this "growing partnership" between the schools and the University. "Both Nick and I are looking forward to the results of this project and future partnership work between UWW and the Mukwonago Area School District," Dr. Vick expresses warmly. Undoubtedly, Vick, Reichhoff, and the teachers at Rolling Hills Elementary will serve as an example of excellence to the MASD, the University, and others.



- written by Missy Kennedy

Upcoming Events

[Registration for Winterim Now Open](#)

[Creative Writing Festival, November 19](#)

[Civil Rights History: Traveling Freedom's Main Line](#)

Related Links

[Adult Student](#)

[Outreach](#)

[Camps and Conferences](#)

[Credit Outreach](#)

[Domestic Travel Study](#)

[Education Outreach](#)

[Fairhaven Lecture](#)

[Series](#)

[Graduate Studies](#)

[Partners in Education](#)

[Summer Session](#)

[Winterim](#)

[Workshops and](#)

[Training](#)



New Leader for LEARN Center

This fall, Dr. Barbara Beaver (Psychology) was named director of the Learning Enhancement, Assessment and Research Network (LEARN) Center, taking the reins from Dr. Greg Valde (Curriculum and Instruction). Beaver worked with the [LEARN Center](#) in the past, particularly with academic department chairs, but will expand her work to helping to meet the teaching and teaching-based research needs of faculty and instructional staff across campus. "My goal this year is to get a better sense of where the needs may be, and to build on the foundation that Greg Valde and John Stone have built," Beaver notes. Though much of her work will focus on the transition in leadership and the upcoming Higher Learning Commission visit, Beaver also wants to build awareness of UW System Office for Professional and Instructional Development ([OPID](#)), including the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows program, the Faculty College, and the OPID Spring Conference. "I would like to reach out to new faculty in particular to get them involved with all OPID has to offer."



The goal of the LEARN Center is to support instructors and enhance the teaching and learning process at UW-Whitewater. This is accomplished

through workshops, speakers, book discussions, peer coaching, resource sharing, and the Chairs Council. Last year, nearly 700 faculty participants engaged in LEARN Center events, totaling over 1,700 faculty development hours. Beaver says that LEARN Center events have been well-attended so far this year, and would like to see that continue. Upcoming workshops include "It Takes a Community to Build a Book," "Sharing our Vision for the University Honors Program," and

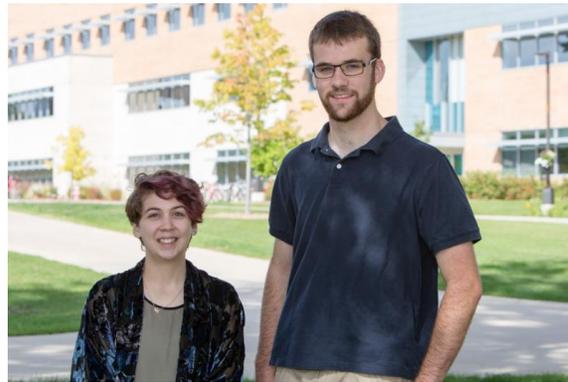
LEARN
center

"Veterans in Higher Education." Books that have been selected for Spring reading groups are *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, by Rob Nixon and *Undocumented and Unwanted: Attending College Against the Odds*, by Lisa D. Garcia. Beaver notes that the LEARN Center's website is in the process of being redesigned, and invites all instructors to visit the new site in the upcoming months.



Professional Writing and Publishing Students Bring Services to Campus and Community

In UW-Whitewater's [Professional Writing and Publishing Program](#) (PWP), the emphasis on narrative from a technical perspective prepares students to help communicators tell their stories. As avenues of technical communication continue to expand, this capacity becomes increasingly important to both individuals and organizations. This summer, the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education provided funding for program students Missy Kennedy and Grant Francis to begin laying the groundwork for offering professional writing services for campus and regional clients through the creation of a student service group.



"Everyone has a story to tell, and students in PWP study ways to help people tell them," explains Janine Tobeck (Languages and Literatures), program director and mentor of the group. "We know we have a lot to offer to people both on and off campus." The students are now working with their first clients and projects. "While doing it on a case-by-case basis is interesting and exciting, we want to create a more systematic and sustainable way to connect people to projects and to facilitate the kind of training that peers can do for each other," adds Tobeck.

The Professional Writing Core student group offers the potential for just that. The fusion of student apprenticeships and service creates exciting opportunities for sharing and communicating across campus and the community. These students look forward to helping their clients create meaningful communication and professional stories. Kennedy and Francis are joined by their peers, Ashley Harlan, Hannah Lee, April Soller, and Shawna Webster in their first semester in operation. To learn more about the writing, editing and communication planning they can do for you, contact Janine Tobeck at tobeckj@uww.edu.

- written by Missy Kennedy



College and Career Readiness: Building a Stronger Bridge

As freshmen enter our university, their high school counselors, teachers and administrators wish them the best. Some of these students will do just fine, others may experience great difficulty. PK-12 faculty and administrators would like to send students off with more confidence that they have truly prepared them well to succeed in their post-secondary pursuits.

Recently, UW-Whitewater hosted presentations on PK-12 and university partnerships and held sessions to identify how we could build stronger ties. Overwhelmingly, conversations about student work and expectations topped the list how we can collaborate.

Would you or your department like to have an informational discussion with faculty in the school districts about student work and instructional strategies? Contact Linda Nortier, [education outreach](#) coordinator with the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education. Linda encourages faculty to call her (608-751-3612), email (nortierl@uww.edu), or stop by her office in 4032 Winther Hall. "District folks are excited to get these conversations going!"

