Welcome Back SDES!

Message from the Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor Dr. Ozalle Toms:

Good Day Warhawk Family!

Welcome back all! I am so excited to be a part of the Student Diversity, Engagement and Success (SDES) family. Although I am new to SDES, I am not new to campus. I arrived in fall 2012 as a faculty member in the College of Education and Professional Studies. My home department is special education. In addition to teaching in the college, I am also responsible for the diversity and inclusion initiatives.

A little about me, I am a native of Detroit, MI, so the Midwest is home for me. Prior to my transition to UW-Whitewater I was a high school special education teacher in Charlotte, NC. I mainly supported students with learning disabilities, behavioral disorders and cognitive disabilities. My family is extremely important to me. I have three sons, my oldest is serving in the military (Army), my middle son is a senior at UW-Milwaukee and my youngest son is starting his second year of high school. I have to be honest, my two-year-old granddaughter is my favorite.

This past summer I accepted the interim position as Assistant Vice Chancellor for SDES. In just a few months I have learned a lot about this amazing unit and all that it has to offer. SDES supports the mission and core values of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (UW-W) by providing programs that enhance, engage, and support students for success in their academic programs and beyond. SDES programs encompass curricular and co-curricular experiences that champion student diversity, engagement, educational achievement and success. Several high impact programs are housed in our unit to aid in student engagement and success.

If you are interested in identity based programs, please get involved in our Postsecondary Engagement Programs. These programs include African American Network, Latino Student Programs, Native American Support Services and Southeast Asian Support Services.

Those interested in undergraduate research opportunities should consider participating in undergraduate research which includes our RAP program and McNair Scholars Research Program. Our research opportunities range from assisting a faculty member with their research to conducting your own research with support. Many of which pays a stipend.

Several of you took advanced courses in high school and enjoyed the rigor and challenge they had to offer. Our University Honors Program can be a natural extension of the challenges you are accustomed to. We offer many pathways to graduating with honors.

My advice to every student is to take advantage of traveling abroad before graduating. We offer faculty lead travel studies (2-3 weeks) and semester long study abroad experiences. Please visit our Office of Global Experiences to inquire about the program that’s best for you. Some scholarship opportunities are available.
Message Continued...

To our students at the UW-Rock campus, student support services are available to you for academic advising, writing support, math support, and wellness. You also have access to all of the SDES programs on our Whitewater campus.

Let’s make this a great year! Live, Learn, Laugh, Engage and take advantage of all the things this campus and unit has to offer.

For more information on upcoming events check us out on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram!

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**Upcoming Events!**

**SDES Alumni Homecoming Tailgate:**

Come out and celebrate with us on October 12 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm as we cheer on the UW-Whitewater football team as they take on rival UW-Platteville! We will be located in the UW-Whitewater Perkins Stadium Lot 11.

**Green Card Voices Exhibit:**

Learn more about the book “Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from a Minneapolis High School.” It won a Gold Medal Award for Best Multicultural Non-fiction Chapter Book in the Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards.

**First Generation Day:**

All Warhawks are welcome to celebrate First Generation College Students on Tuesday, November 5th.
Meet Our New SDES Staff!

Krystal deLeón Judah
Interim Associate Director of Upward Bound
As the Associate Director of Upward Bound, one of Krystal’s favorite responsibilities include curriculum development and program planning geared toward academic success and college readiness. Krystal earned a B.A. in Communication from UW-Oshkosh and an M.S. in Counselor Education from UWW.

Nicole Jenks May
Office Operations Associate for Honors & Undergraduate Research Programs
Nicole serves as an Office Operations Associate for Student Diversity, Engagement and Success. Her responsibilities include administrative, managerial, and event planning duties. She attended Mount Mary University in Milwaukee. She holds a B.A. in English/Theatre Arts as well as a Master’s degree in English, a Master’s in Education and a Master’s of Library and Information Science. Additionally, she also has a J.D. from the University of St. Thomas.

Dr. Julie Janiak
Trio SSS Director at UW-Rock County
As the Trio SSS Director, Dr. Janiak oversees services for 450 students who are first generation, low income or have a disability. She earned her B.S. in Communication Disorders from UW-Oshkosh before going on to earn a M.S. in College Student Personnel and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration and Leadership from Indiana State University. The Trio SSS program has been in existence for 40 years!

UW-Rock County

Through the merger with UW-Rock County we have gained a very important program we’d like to share with you!

TRIO Student Support Program: A federally funded program that provides supportive services to disadvantaged college students to enhance their potential for successfully completing the post-secondary program in which they are enrolled. All participants must be either low-income, first-generation post-secondary students, or students with physical disabilities.

Services Offered Include:
- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and mathematics as necessary for success beyond high school
- Tutorial services
- Academic, financial, career and personal counseling
- Exposure to cultural events
- Assistance in obtaining financial aid
- Information about further educational opportunities
- Assistance in securing admission and financial assistance for enrollment in baccalaureate programs

Multicultural Student Enrollment: Enrollment of students of color in the University of Wisconsin Colleges has increased since the inception of Design for Diversity in 1988, and has continued to grow with the implementation of Plan 2008: Educational Quality Through Racial and Ethnic Diversity!
Summer Highlights

King/Chávez Annual Golf Outing

The UW-Whitewater King/Chávez program hosted another successful golf outing this summer, marking the 12th year of this highly-anticipated fundraising event. Sunshine was abundant the entire day! It was a perfect and sunny afternoon for golfing. Dinner, awards, and raffles followed in the grand banquet room.

Additionally, a Warhawk Weekend Dinner and Reception was hosted on Saturday, June 15th. The dinner and silent auction benefitted the UW-Whitewater Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee Scholarship.

Cocktail attire was required and the evening started off with a cocktail reception at 5:30pm followed by the dinner and program. To conclude, there was dancing with DJ DeJota!

Undergraduate Research & RAP

Connor Yass, a SURF recipient mentored by Lynn Gilbertson, was selected for a software engineering internship at NASA this fall. He will be working at the Langley Research Center in Virginia. Connor was part of an undergraduate research team investigating how a 3D printed model of the human larynx might improve student learning. Congratulations Connor!

If you would like to get involved or make a donation to the King/Chávez program, please visit: https://www.uww.edu/sdes/diversity-programs/king-chavez-scholars, call (262) 472-1643, or stop by McCutchan Hall 118.
McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Symposium showed the work of our scholars who continued to do their research on campus as well as 9 new scholars who were developing their proposals during the 7 week summer research seminar. In addition to campus partners, the pre-college camps also had the opportunity to attend and see the kind of research that they might be able to do when they go to college.

Office of Global Experiences

Many things happened this summer including: hosting visitors and traveling abroad! Check it out below...

A faculty led trip to Ireland and the United Kingdom occurred over this past summer. Check out these amazing photos taken by Strahinja Pantelic.

Additionally, the Office of Global Experiences hosted two visitors from two different places! On July 15th, Ms. Yoojin Lee, an exchange coordinator came to visit. She is from Kyungpook National University in Daegu, Korea. Then, on July 29th, Dr. Ramona Mihaila visited. She is from Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University in Bucharest, Romania.

The Office of Global Experiences is considering developing exchange programs with each!
Dr. Vandyck answers our questions about her time as a McNair Scholar and Inclusive Excellence Fellow. Dr. Vandyck earned her bachelor’s degree at UW-Whitewater and her Master’s degree at Georgia Southern University. Additionally, she holds a PhD in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service in Higher Education from Cardinal Stritch University.

Can you tell us about your time with the McNair Scholars Program? How did it impact your education?

“The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program was my first experience into formal research – both the concept of it and the process of conducting it. Being a brand new scholar was both wonderful and eye opening my first summer in the program as it became very apparent very quickly that I had a limited view of the world. I was surrounded by scholars researching topics such as “drosophila oocytes developing in individual egg chambers supported by nurse cells and somatic follicle cells” and felt so out of my element. Thanks to the outstanding McNair staff, I survived and have used the research skills and lessons learned through the program in all aspects of my life, personal, professional, and as a recent PhD graduate.”

What will be your role or responsibilities on campus as an inclusive excellence fellow? Why did you decide to return to UWW?

“As an inclusive excellence fellow I will be teaching in the Higher Education Leadership graduate program and in the department of Curriculum and Instruction. Additionally, I will be serving on the inclusive excellence committee within the College of Education & Professional Studies and conducting research and writing.”

“I applied for the fellowship/lecturer role as it is a unique and exciting opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways to my UWW family and alma mater while at the same time receiving quality professional development for the professoriate in an intentionally supportive setting surrounded by friends.”

What inspired you to work towards your PhD in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service in Higher Education?

“As an educator whose professional and research experiences and interests fall within both K-12 education and higher education, I looked for a doctoral program that would prepare me for actively leading change and transformation in the educational settings I work in. It was important for me to find a program that builds on theory but that would also increase my levels of knowledge and skill as a future professor and practitioner. I pride myself on being able to create positive changes for students and the organizations that serve them so this PhD was a great fit in that direction.”

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What are some of your proudest accomplishments?

“My proudest accomplishment is my sixteen-year old son Isaac. He is the greatest gift I have ever received and he makes me proud daily to call myself his mother. I’m proud of the life my husband Fredrick and I have built for all of our children on our small hobby farm that enables them to see, touch, and experience where the food we eat comes from. I’m humbled, not proud, to be able to give back to low income students through the Marijuana Pepsi Scholarship, a longtime dream of mine. Lastly, I’m proud to be a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. This institution has helped shape my life and the lives of countless others. UW-W was where I learned and developed into the wife, mother, scholar and multi-faceted professional I am today.

Don’t Forget…

The Annual SDES homecoming tailgate cookout is happening on Saturday, October 12th from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.!

Bring your appetite and school spirit!

Contact Us

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