Combating Suicide among Student Veterans

Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide. For veterans who are also students, the suicide rate is nearly four times that of their civilian counterparts. Wisconsin's veteran suicide rate is in the top ten in the country. These heat breaking statistics led UW-Whitewater to develop a comprehensive action plan, "22 For 22," to prevent suicide among student veterans.

The plan includes recommendations to address issues, evidence-based programming, and outreach activities in collaboration with campus departments, community partners, and veterans organizations. Spearheaded by Richard Harris, coordinator of student veterans and military services, the plan includes awareness events and visual reminders on campus of the impact of suicide among veterans. During the week of March 14th, events during "The War at Home" programs included pledge signing to speak out and reach out to end suicide and a display of 22 pairs of combat boots, representing the veterans lost every day to suicide. On April 4th, the first "Going the Distance for Veterans" program was held on campus, which included speakers and panels on suicide among veterans and a march consisting of 22 laps around campus to memorialize suicide victims. The march was a collaboration between Harris, the Student Veterans Service Organization and the non-profit group, Trails to Tomorrow.

While the 22 For 22 plan focuses on preventing suicide among UW-Whitewater's 300 student veterans, the work isn't limited to this campus. On May 5th, Harris and several of UW-Whitewater's student veterans will be meeting with Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor.
UW-Whitewater Hosts Conference for Emerging Athletic Administrators

On April 30 and May 1, the Emerging Administrators Academy (Emerging AD) was held on campus in partnership with UW-Whitewater’s graduate program in Higher Education Athletic Administration. The conference brought together 75 graduate students, faculty, and administrators from across the nation to enhance best practices in athletic administration. Emerging AD was developed to fill a gap in the professional development lifecycle of intercollegiate athletic administrators. It provided hands-on training by athletic directors with experience and insight helps college athletic administrators advance in the field. Kristina Navarro (Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Coaching) is the Director of Student-Athlete Engagement and Coordinator of the Higher Education Athletic Administration program and was the campus coordinator of Emerging AD. “This event and partnership is rooted in the scholar-practitioner mindset our program embodies,” Navarro says. “The Emerging AD conference provides an excellent learning opportunity for current graduate students who aspire to work in intercollegiate athletics as well as current athletics professionals who aspire to advance in the field.”

Twelve Students Awarded Hunziker Scholarship

On April 5th, an awards ceremony was held to honor this year’s recipients of the Ernella Hunziker Scholarship for Returning Women. The scholarship was established in 1991 by Dr. Ernella Hunziker who taught Art at UW-Whitewater for 26 years. This year, $19,000 dollars was awarded to twelve women. Since this scholarship was established, one hundred and twenty three women have received over $339,000 through her generosity.

Congratulations to this year’s recipients: Casey Dezwijeher(Early Childhood Education), Samantha Franzen (Media Arts and Game Development), Raquel Huppert (Supply Chain &
New Grant Program to Address Critical Needs of Southeastern Wisconsin

The School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education is pleased to announce the winners of the Engaged Scholarship pilot grant program. These grants support UW-Whitewater collaborations with community partners for addressing critical regional needs. The funded projects for 2016 are:

Dr. Matthew Winden (Economics) is partnering with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Vegetal i.D., and UW-Whitewater to study the value of using green roofs to reduce stormwater runoff and reduce urban heat island effects. Dr. Leda Nath (Sociology) is working with Dr. Yeongmin Kim (Social Work) and two underrepresented UW-Whitewater students to serve the Community Action Coalition of Dane County by assisting in the analysis of recently collected needs assessment data and quantitative data, and reporting and presenting the findings. Dr. Eric Compas and Dr. Anna Coutier (Geography and Geology) are collaborating with the Rock River Coalition, Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension, and Rock River Trail initiative increase awareness of water quality and the impacts of local decisions on water quality. Dr. Jonah Ralston (Political Science) will work with Nate Kelty, a political science major and a graduate of Fort Atkinson High School, to address a concern about the significant attrition rate of student participation in that district's free and reduced-price lunch program as students transition from middle to high school.

Continuing Education Staff Wins Award, New Staff Joins Team
Tapan (Taps) Shah has been selected as a co-recipient of the 2016 Excellence Award for Non-Instructional Academic Staff at UW-Whitewater. Taps is the information technology specialist for the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education, and oversees all web applications, online marketing, and camp registrations for the unit. He is also an IT entrepreneur and a talented photographer, whose work is on display in the second floor of the Roseman building. Congratulations, Taps!

This month, Continuing Education Services (CES) welcomes two new staff members to their Camps & Conferences team. Marianne Wolc is a graduate of UW-Whitewater and is returning to campus from Savannah, Georgia. She will be managing the registration system and website development for CES. Marianne is very talented and we are excited for her to join CES. Amanda Aegerter is from Janesville and will be the conference coordinator, a new position for the unit. Amanda will be working with current and new clients on coordinating events both large and small. She has an extensive background in event planning and her expertise will be put to good use on the team. Contact Marianne and Amanda to help plan your next campus meeting or event at 262-472-3165 and cesevents@uww.edu.

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