

KATHERINE BANNA

Stationed in a cozy office on the second floor of the Health Center, Katherine has a great view of Winther and Upham Halls, with the tops of the University Center and Hyer Hall peeking through in the background. She has been working at UW-Whitewater for eight years and enjoys the busy environment of the University Health & Counseling Services.

Prior to UW-W, Katherine worked almost ten years at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, in Educational Opportunities. Along with business management duties, she also worked with students in grade school and high school settings in the Early Identification Program. This program served to identify at-risk students (low income, minority, etc.) through a network of seven state offices. Once identified, these students participated in a program which helped them through school so they could continue on to college. Katherine also worked several years at UW-Milwaukee, beginning in the Chemistry Department and transferring to Printing Services when an opportunity became available.

Katherine and her husband, Lee, live in Wind lake (near Muskego), about a 45 minutes away. Lee does inventory control for a custom food manufacturer in Waukesha. Katherine hails from a large family (six sisters) scattered throughout the country. At home, her pet cat, Skeezecks, holds down the fort while she and Lee are at work. Skeezecks is a little lady of eleven years and the only household pet. In the past, Katherine spent a few years breeding Dobermans, but now her interests are focused on a large home remodeling project and gardening. She and Lee also have a small lawn care and landscape management business. She thoroughly enjoys her flowers and has fun constantly testing new plants in her yard, especially perennials. She says they are a great source of happiness for her.

Katherine's job duties in UHCS include: budgets, reconciliation, purchasing, contract bidding, fielding many phone calls and resolving various issues that arise. She has monthly budget meetings with the UHCS Executive Director and Health Services Director, manages the EMR (electronic medical records) System which incorporates all patient medical records, tracks student appointments, keeps records on providers, and exports data for student billing. Katherine's previous IT network administrator experience has been very beneficial to her in this position, especially when the office installed the medical scheduling software system. This required training of staff on software use and collaboration with iCIT on server support and maintenance. She also reviews daily patient encounter forms, supervises the Medicaid Family Planning Waiver Program, provides year-end reporting statistics, and acts as backup for the student payroll.

It's very obvious that Katherine enjoys her job and her surroundings. She likes the variety in her work and the different types of individuals with whom she comes in contact throughout the course of the day. She has the opportunity to interact with students and parents, educating them regarding insurance policies, billing, and other programs. She also feels very fortunate to be working with a great staff at UHCS. What she likes about UW-Whitewater is that it is very accessible for all students and provides a nice environment for learning. There are a lot of good activities offered – programs for faculty and staff through Cultural Affairs, and there is a good professional development program for staff.

Regarding the many changes that have occurred on campus lately, Katherine is quite pleased. "The grounds crew does a phenomenal job!" she declares, noting all of the plants and flowers coming up around campus. She also found the construction of Hyland Hall interesting, and thinks it's great that the buildings appear to be more visually coordinated with the new construction. The dynamic of a growing campus seems to match the energy of this busy lady, and it is a comfortable fit for her.