

November 2021

Super Science Saturday Returned for In-Person STEM Fun

The Janesville campus was once again buzzing with families learning about everything from anthropology to zoology, and lots in between.

On October 23, kids, parents, faculty and staff came together, safely, at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at Rock County campus to explore science in person and hands on. Now in its fifth year on this campus, [Super Science Saturday](#) offered booths on trebuchets, holograms, genetics, solar and wind energy, insects and Wisconsin waterways, among others. This free program was an opportunity for people of all ages to have fun learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines.

“It is always a pleasure to offer events promoting science and education in our community,” said Molly Cook, Continuing Education Program Manager. “I am deeply grateful for our staff that generously donates their time each year to make this festival a success, and love having young people experience a slice of college life.”

This annual event is one of hundreds of events held across the state as part of the [Wisconsin Science Festival](#). Join us next October for more science fun!





Grants Help Build Behavioral Health Provider Workforce

Partnership seeks to expand capacity to recruit and retain clinicians, invest in their supervision and support

With a goal of building the behavioral health provider workforce of the future, [The Center for Inclusive Transition, Education & Employment](#) (CITEE) has just begun the second year of the [Qualified Treatment Trainee \(QTT\) Grants Program](#). This program is a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services (DHS/DCTS) in response to a new provision in the 2019-2021 Wisconsin State Budget. This program's aim is to grow the mental health workforce by increasing and improving pre- and post-graduate placement and employment opportunities for counselors, social workers, and marriage/family therapists. Last year, CITEE was able to award grants to more than 20 statewide agencies providing mental health services in high-needs areas. This fall, CITEE is working to award nearly 100 grants of \$20,000 each, with even more to come. Four different types of grants are available to agencies, each with unique opportunities to support supervisors and trainees in professional development and continuous growth. Agencies from urban and rural areas, from Milwaukee to Superior have benefited from QTT grants.

As a part of the Expanding Agencies Grants, CITEE, the UW-Whitewater Department of Social Work, and content experts from DHS have created a virtual Community of Practice (CoP). This continuing education opportunity allows supervisors to collaboratively focus on the process of quality supervision as they work with the next generation of our mental health workforce. Participants of the first CoP cohort found the experience so valuable that they requested and formed an alumni cohort, allowing them to continue their collaboration beyond the limits of the first grant period.

Melanie Heindl, Clinical Services Supervisor at SaintA in Milwaukee reflected on the outcomes of being a 2021 and 2022 recipient of the Expanding Agency Award. “SaintA was fortunate to have participated in the UW-W QTT Grants Program and gained immensely. The training and Community of Practice led to more fully developed and formalized onboarding, training, and shadowing experiences,” Heindl noted. “The CoP created a space for collaboration and exchange with external supervisors from a wide array of backgrounds and service areas.”

CITEE is supported by [the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs](#) and the [Division of Student Affairs](#). It works to develop and implement high quality programs for businesses, institutions, partners and communities to increase and retain individuals with disabilities in the workforce and community involvement.



News from the Early Child Care and Education Program

Both students and faculty recognized for their achievements.

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater offers several programs for adults seeking to complete or stack credits toward a degree, including the [Early Child Care and Education](#) (ECCE) program. Students in this program are working in the field while working towards credentials, and the caring faculty are committed to their success.



Earlier this month, ECCE student, Patricia Rodriguez, was one of 8 students to receive the Outstanding Adult Student Award during the National Nontraditional Student Week at UW-Whitewater. Rodriguez enrolled in the ECCE program not for professional advancement, but for personal achievement. She was nominated for her ability to juggle many responsibilities, while being persistent, self-reflective, and an outspoken advocate for herself. She was selected for her dedication to academics and the positive influence she has on the college classroom.



Carmen Rivers, ECCE Program Coordinator was also recognized for her work in the field. Rivers was part of a panel for the annual conference of the [National Association of Young Children](#), where she spoke on “The ECE Higher Education Landscape: Managing Current Realities and Preparing for the Future.” Her work on creating the ECCE program and the pipeline to a bachelor’s degree for early childhood professionals was an important topic in this year’s lineup of conference sessions and to all those working in the field.

Tis the Season of Giving and Creating

Events on the Rock County campus spread goodwill and crafty cheer!

Kids in grades 1 through 8 are invited to a [Winter Wonderland DIY Holiday Gift Workshop](#) on Saturday, December 11. Four sessions are offered by grade level. Projects will vary by age and will include painting with different mediums, mixed media art, and DIY bath luxuries. A wide variety of materials, equipment, and methods will be used by all groups to make gifts for family and friends. Advance registration is required and space is limited.

Also on the Rock County campus is the return of the Rockin’ Rudolph’s Secret Shop. The purpose of this event is to help UW-W Rock student parents with donated educational gifts. Puzzles, art supplies, science kits, games and more are all welcome additions to this holiday gifting event. If you would like to participate as a student parent or as a donator, please contact Molly Cook at cookmj24@uww.edu or Ashley Mallu at mallua15@uww.edu. Happy holidays!



News and Upcoming Events:

The 37th Annual UW-Whitewater High School [Creative Writing Festival](#) is back in person and on campus next month! Aspiring young writers will submit their materials in categories from children's literature, poetry, song lyrics, personal essay, and much more. Peers and writing professionals will provide feedback, and prizes are awarded for best submissions. Support these budding writers if you see them on campus on December 1!



Are you looking to support the Warhawk football team in their journey through the playoffs? Be prepared by purchasing your home [game day parking](#) pass in advance. Go Warhawks!

Baseball in the winter? You bet! Youth athletes can better prepare for the upcoming spring season with [winter baseball clinics](#). Clinics are scheduled for Thanksgiving and holiday breaks, with specialization in pitching, hitting, fielding and catching. Join coaches and athletes from the Warhawk Baseball team for one of these popular events.





Help students graduate sooner! [Winterim](#) is right around the corner. Students can take up to one course during this three-week term. Classes are fully online, registration is now open. Hurry, classes fill quickly!

Continuing Education offers [advanced career training programs](#) that lead to professional positions in high demand fields like [clinical dental assistant](#) and [HVAC/R technician](#). We have individual classes too. Hundreds of flexible, affordable [online classes](#) with start dates each month, with titles like [Project Management Fundamentals](#) and [Genealogy Basics](#) will help you develop your skills and learn something new!



UW-Whitewater cares deeply about the health and safety of our community. For information on COVID-19 testing and vaccination, reported cases, submitting vaccination records, and more, please visit the [Warhawks Are Back](#) webpage. Stay informed and stay safe!



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

School of Graduate Studies
and Continuing Education
