Celebrating Adult and Nontraditional Student

Nontraditional students balance many roles - some are parents, while others are caring for aging parents. Most are over 25 years old. Some are veterans, while some have delayed entering college after high school for other reasons. All bring valuable life experiences to UW-Whitewater's classrooms, organizations, and community.

During the week of November 7-11, join us in recognizing and celebrating our 850+ adult students on campus during National Nontraditional Student Week. The week is filled with events each day, including lunch box series in the Non Trad Pad (UC 133), free fitness classes, pool and bowling all week, and a chili cook off.

On Wednesday, November 9 the Nontraditional Student Recognition Reception will be held at the Fern Young Terrace. Five adult students will be recognized with the Outstanding Adult Student award. They are: Brianna Beals (Social Work major, nominated by Jeannine Rowe), Craig Cross (Chemistry major, nominated by Steven Girard), Malinda Friske (Biology major, nominated by Baocheng Han and Heather Pelzel), Kimberly Neville (Communication Sciences and Disorders major, nominated by Lynn Gilbertson) and Maria Warren (Psychology major, nominated by Rachelle Yankelevitz). The CARE (Concern for Adults Returning to Education) Award this year will be given to the Department of Physics, nominated by Marion Titze, an adult student majoring in Physics.

"She shares her wisdom and life experience with others in class in a very open and gentle way." "It's amazing to think that she can do so much as a student, even while balancing other aspects of her life outside the University." "He has overcome significant obstacles and demonstrated considerable personal growth - he is a role model." This small selection of statements are the sentiments of dozens of faculty and staff who nominated many adult students for recognition this year. Thanks, nontrads, for all you contribute to our campus community!
National Black Student Union Returns for Annual Conference

For the second year in a row, the National Black Student Union will hold its annual conference on the UW-Whitewater campus. The 19th Annual Conference will take place on November 18 through 20, and will focus on the theme "Leading to a Legacy." Sessions in the conference will highlight model programs and practices that attendees can take back to their campuses, with emphasis placed on ensuring faculty, staff and administration are addressing challenges and meeting students' educational needs. This year's conference will encourage participants to pursue graduate and professional study, and will include networking sessions and a graduate fair.

"Last year's event was a huge success, minus the 11 inches of snow that fell during the conference," says Ryan Callahan, Director of Continuing Education Services. "We have students flying in from all over the country, including Florida, Oregon and the East Coast. Last year, we had 200 students at the conference from 35 colleges and universities, and our preliminary numbers look like the event will draw even more this year."
Professional Development Opportunities

In October, two workshops were presented that helped area non-profit organizations learn more about researching grants and strategies for writing better grant proposals. Representatives from organizations that serve senior citizens, school districts, health care, the arts, and more, learned about the foundations that give and how to propose their ideas to get funded. In February, Continuing Education will offer additional professional development opportunities for people working and volunteering with non-profit organizations, as well as small business. Digital and Social Media Marketing workshops will help smaller organizations increase and leverage their online presence using sites like Facebook, Twitter and Google. Do you work or volunteer with a non-profit organization? Perhaps your church, youth organization, or interest group could use more help in increasing membership, donations, and awareness. If there is a topic you would like to explore, send suggestions for future workshops to ceoutreach@uww.edu.

Veterans Week, November 7-11

The Veterans and Military Service Members Recognition and Celebration Week will be held on campus November 7 through November 11. Events are open to faculty, staff, students and community members, and include an exhibit at Roberta's Art Gallery in the University Center on "The Vietnam War: Faces and Places," an open house at the Student Veterans & Military Service Members Lounge in Andersen Library, and will culminate with a Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the Hamilton Room in the University Center. For more information, contact Richard Harris, Coordinator of Student Veterans & Military Services at harrisr05@uww.edu or 262-472-5236.
Continuing Education as a Strategic Asset

In a recent newsletter published by The Evollution, an online newspaper about higher education, Jason Lemon, Dean of Professional and Continuing Education, University of San Diego wrote:

Institutions of higher education seeking to compete in the 21st century will need to reimagine their professional and continuing education units as something more than just an extension of the university, an outreach effort, or revenue stream. They need to leverage these assets more broadly to create strategic advantages for the entire university.

In recent years professional and continuing education units at universities have developed and refined numerous higher education strategies, services and approaches. They have learned how to attract and serve non-traditional students and in the 21st century most learners now fit the non-traditional profile.

Continuing education units have developed systems to offer and support schedule flexibility—evening, weekend and accelerated options are now expected by working professional students.

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To read more, click here.

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