DHS

# **Grant/Proposal Writing**

## Complexity Engaged

VW-W students

Project
GREY

Fairhaven Senior Services

Wisconsin

Fall 2019

#### **Impact**

- Students worked with all stakeholders, witnessing the commitments of all the people who would be affected by their work and motivating them to design complex and responsive solutions to the project's challenges.
- Students took their genre training into a community setting with real constraints, reinforcing course principles that emphasize contexts and practices over rules and procedures.
- Students explored how the lessons of a local intervention could potentially benefit communities across the state.
- Student work will ideally contribute to funding for ongoing, impactful CBL collaborations with our partners.

### **PURPOSE**

Students in English 435: Grant/Proposal Writing participated in a 3-way CBL partnership with Fairhaven Senior Services and UW-Whitewater's Social Work program, drafting proposals for a Wisconsin Department of Health Services Nursing Home Grant. This grant program funds innovative interventions for improving quality of life for Wisconsin's nursing home residents. Our community partners found it a promising prospect for continued funding of Project GREY—a campus initiative to combat shortages in the geriatric workforce and reduce social isolation among nursing home residents by structuring meaningful intergenerational interactions between Whitewater students and Fairhaven residents.

While Project GREY's initial grant focused primarily on student outcomes, the Nursing Home Grant required our grant writers-intraining to highlight outcomes for residents and imagine solutions for the scalability of the project across greater Wisconsin.

Students' work was integrated into the final grant submission, the success of which would help extend Project GREY by reducing financial barriers to student engagement and funding additional community collaborations.

#### **Course Offering Information**

Currently running every fall semester, English 435 serves the campus community at large.

Housed in the Professional Writing and Publishing major, it is also a General Education Humanities course and is included in a variety of other programs as an elective. Its focus on stakeholder needs and transferable writing practices make it a valuable option for students with wide-ranging career goals.