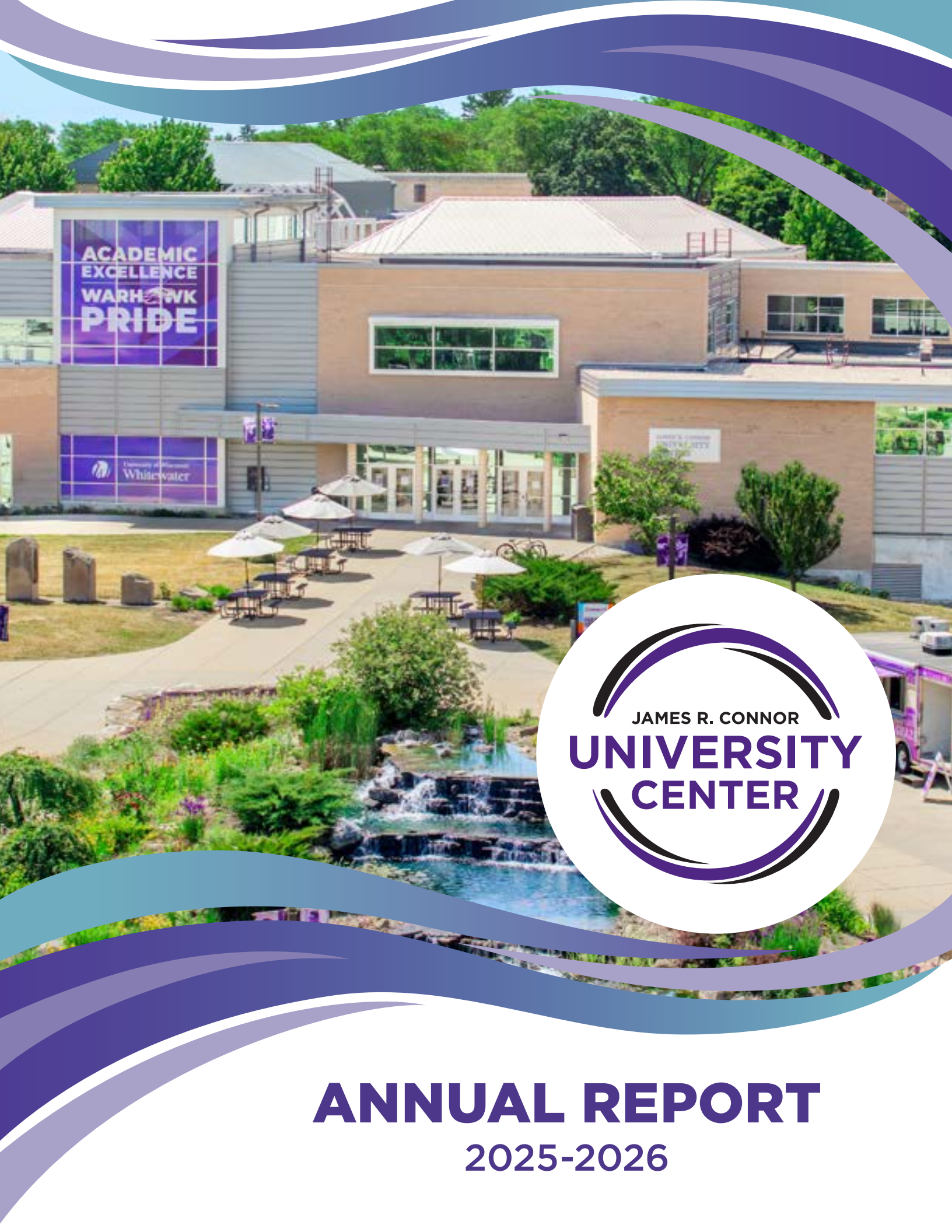




# ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



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## KEY OF ACRONYMS

- ACUI** - Association of College Unions International
- EBI** - Employment Background Investigations
- MAGD** - Media Arts and Game Development
- NACAS** - National Association of College Auxiliary Services
- SAI** - Student Activities & Involvement
- S.A.G.E.** - Student Allied for a Green Earth
- UC** - University Center
- UHCS** - University Health & Counseling Services
- UWW** - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

## UC Mission

As the **HEART OF THE CAMPUS** experience, the University Center contributes to each Warhawk's unique educational journey through student-centered environments, programs, events, and services.

### Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Angela Meldonian*



Each year presents new opportunities to strengthen our impact and deepen our service to the campus community. This year, our theme—**COMMIT TO**—served as both a guiding principle and a call to action. It challenged us to commit to excellence, commit to innovation, and most importantly, commit to creating meaningful experiences for every student and guest who walks through our doors.

At the University Center, commitment is reflected in the choices we make every day. We committed to listening to student voices, fostering collaboration, and creating spaces and programs that build connection and belonging. We committed to enhancing our facilities, elevating campus traditions, and expanding opportunities that enrich the student experience. Through these efforts, we continue to strengthen our role as the heart of campus life.

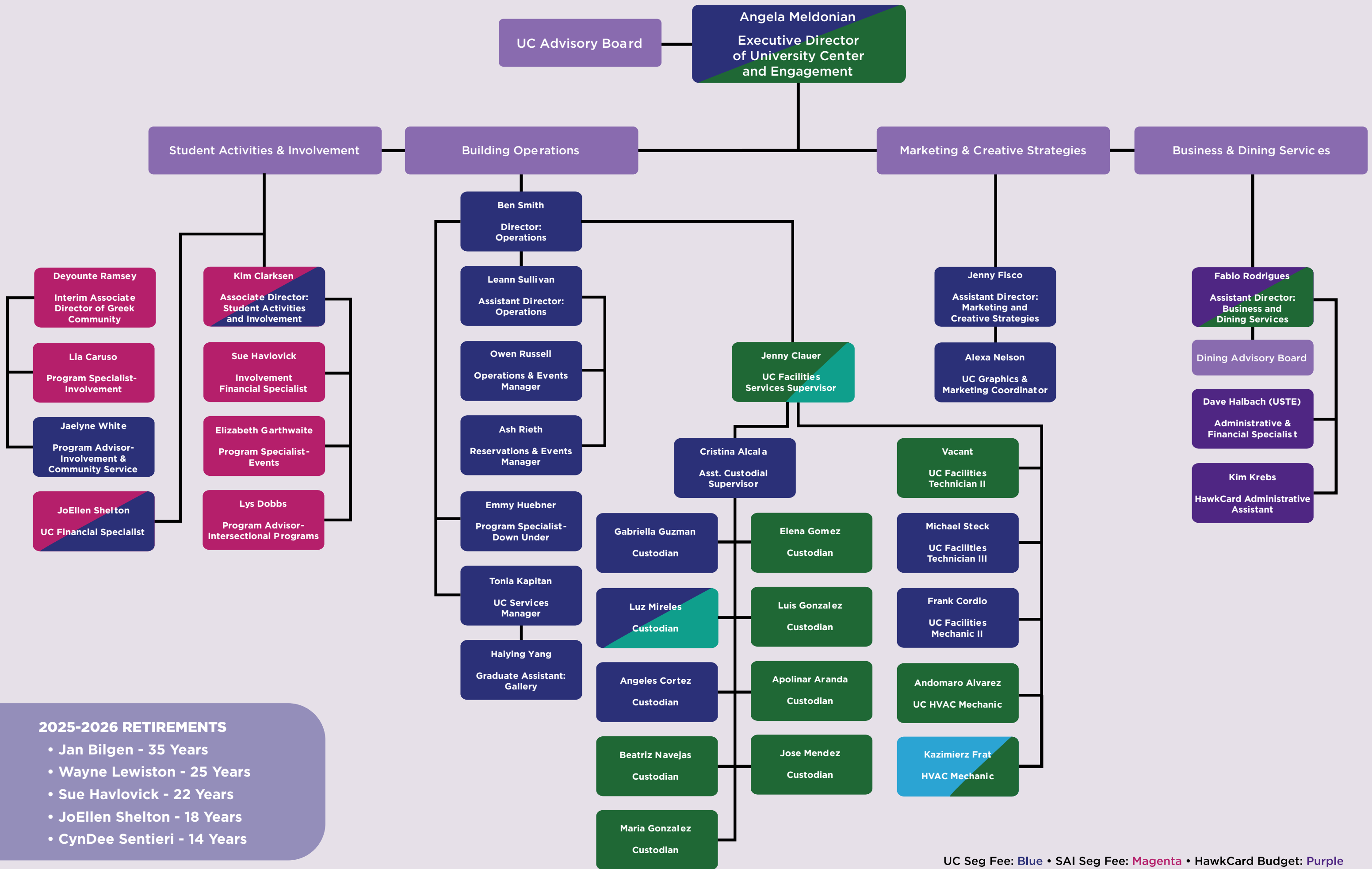
This year's University Center Annual Report highlights the many ways we have aligned our work with the 2023–2030 Strategic Plan, reinforcing our commitment to student success, campus engagement, and inclusive excellence.

The University Center and Warhawk Dining remain central pillars of the student experience, providing essential services, welcoming environments, and opportunities for growth, learning, and leadership. Through innovative programming, strategic partnerships, facility enhancements, and exceptional service, we remain committed to meeting the evolving needs of our students and campus community.

As you explore this report, you will discover stories of commitment in action—commitment to service, commitment to community, and commitment to creating experiences that leave a lasting impact. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our staff, student employees, campus partners, and community who help bring our mission to life every day.

We are proud of what we have achieved together and energized by the opportunities ahead. Thank you for being part of our journey as we continue to commit to building community, fostering belonging, and creating exceptional experiences for all.

See you **#intheUC!**



### 2025-2026 RETIREMENTS

- Jan Bilgen - 35 Years
- Wayne Lewiston - 25 Years
- Sue Havlovick - 22 Years
- JoEllen Shelton - 18 Years
- CynDee Sentieri - 14 Years

UC Seg Fee: Blue • SAI Seg Fee: Magenta • HawkCard Budget: Purple  
Dining Budget: Green • Bookstore Budget: Teal • FP&M Budget: Light Blue

# Strategic Plan Themes

2023-2028

**THEME 1:**

ENHANCE THE VALUE OF A  
UW-Whitewater EDUCATION

**THEME 2:**

CREATE AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT  
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**THEME 3:**

ADVANCE CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

**THEME 4:**

DEEPEN A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

# Student Affairs Priorities



**PRIORITY 1:**

STUDENT SUCCESS AND  
CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT



**PRIORITY 2:**

FOSTERING HOLISTIC STUDENT  
WELLBEING



**PRIORITY 3:**

BUILDING BELONGING TO STRENGTHEN  
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION



**PRIORITY 4:**

EXPANDING ACCESS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



**PRIORITY 5:**

ELEVATING THE NARRATIVE THROUGH  
STRATEGIC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION



**PRIORITY 6:**

INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO BUDGET,  
OPERATIONS, AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

# Strategic Plan Themes

## THEME 1:

## ENHANCE THE VALUE OF A UW-Whitewater EDUCATION

### Business & Dining Services

- The **HawkCard Office** printed **6,457** HawkCards for the Main Campus and **489** HawkCards for the Rock County Campus.
- **Purple Plate Catering** served more than **72,900** guests across **1,000** events, a **7.5%** increase over the previous year, bringing additional commissions back to the University.



Student engagement with Warhawk Dining increased, with visits to dining locations growing 19% and more than 1.6 million transactions.

### Building Operations

- **Information Services** returned **44%** of lost items to their rightful owners, a **4%** increase from the previous year.



During Earth Month, Roberta's Art Gallery partnered with UW-Whitewater Sustainability, S.A.G.E., and UHCS to host 74 attendees across five interactive pop-up events featuring artist Beth Racette and the Gaia series.



### Student Activities & Involvement



The Greek Community achieved an all-Greek cumulative grade point average of 3.05.

#### STUDENT AFFAIRS PRIORITIES

- STUDENT SUCCESS AND CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT
- INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO BUDGET, OPERATIONS, AND CAPITAL PROJECTS
- BUILDING BELONGING TO STRENGTHEN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
- EXPANDING ACCESS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
- ELEVATING THE NARRATIVE THROUGH STRATEGIC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION
- FOSTERING HOLISTIC STUDENT WELLBEING

## THEME 2:

## CREATE AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

### Business & Dining Services

- Warhawk Dining's Meal Recovery Program stocked the Warhawk Pantry with more than **1,500** frozen meals, an **80%** increase over the previous year, while diverting **1,400** pounds of food waste from landfills.



Warhawk Dining's Campus Dietitian met with 90 students through 200 one-on-one consultations, helping students achieve their nutritional goals.

### Building Operations

- Information Services answered more than **5,000** student, faculty, staff, and guest questions across multiple communication channels, a **24%** increase over FY25.
- Information Services sold more than **1,200** mail items and made **400** résumé copies, supporting the campus community.
- The Warhawk Pantry expanded support for students' basic needs with **3,833** pantry visits, serving **749** unique users and distributing more than **26,000** pounds of food and personal care items, a **12%** increase over the previous year.
- The UC Custodial and Maintenance team completed over **1,318** work orders to enhance and improve the UC for the student experience.



The Warhawk Pantry raised more than \$6,200 in support, including a \$1,000 Culver's fundraiser, more than \$2,000 in faculty and staff payroll donations, and a \$5,000 in-kind freezer donation from campus partner Boelter.



### Student Activities & Involvement

- The Greek Community welcomed **278** new members during the 2025-26 academic year.
- The Warhawk Connection Center hosted **14** enrichment events, including the Discover Whitewater Resource Fair and Purposeful Paint & Sip, while welcoming more than **990** students across **24** intersectional and enrichment programs throughout the academic year.



UC Live and Homecoming welcomed a combined total of more than 10,000 students to events throughout the year.

### PB Poorman Pride Center



The Pride Center sponsored six signature events and nine community-building and educational programs, welcoming 919 attendees throughout the year.

#### STUDENT AFFAIRS PRIORITIES

- STUDENT SUCCESS AND CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT
- INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO BUDGET, OPERATIONS, AND CAPITAL PROJECTS
- BUILDING BELONGING TO STRENGTHEN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
- EXPANDING ACCESS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
- ELEVATING THE NARRATIVE THROUGH STRATEGIC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION
- FOSTERING HOLISTIC STUDENT WELLBEING

THEME 3:  
ADVANCE CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

Business & Dining Services



Warhawk Dining hosted more than 45 events, including themed dining experiences, educational tablings, station takeovers, and Teaching Kitchens that engaged students throughout the year.

Building Operations

- **UC Reservations** supported thousands of meetings, events, and campus activities by coordinating spaces across the University Center, classrooms, and outdoor venues: **2,501** total reservations across the University Center, campus classrooms, and outdoor spaces, **1,808** University Center reservations managed, **116** revenue-generating reservations hosted, **4,053** total bookings coordinated.
- The **Building Operations Assistants** (Formerly Set-Up Crew) worked **3,164** hours to curate event spaces.
- **Information Services** student staff contributed more than **3,400** hours assisting students, faculty, staff, and guests while gaining valuable hands-on learning experience.
- In October 2025, **Roberta's Art Gallery** and **UC Live** collaborated to host **87** students for a hands-on watercolor workshop led by local artist and UW-Whitewater alum Woody Olsen.
- **Warhawk Alley** recorded **22,242** student visits, a **13%** increase over the previous year.



Roberta's Art Gallery welcomed 3,310 visitors and nearly 500 reception attendees through 10 interactive exhibits, two artist workshops, and 17 special events.

Marketing & Creative Strategies

- **UC Graphics & Marketing** grew the University Center's digital presence, with Facebook surpassing **5,000** followers and gaining **265%** more followers than the previous year, while Instagram following increased by **15%** and generated nearly **1.2 million** views.
- Student designers in **UC Graphics & Marketing** created more than **2,300** unique graphic design projects, supporting University Center events, services, and outreach initiatives.



The University Center website attracted 170,391 page views and 62,980 active users while launching a comprehensive website redesign in October 2025 to enhance the online user experience and outreach across the University Center.



Student Activities & Involvement

- **Student Activities & Involvement** engaged **16,068** attendees across **115** sponsored events, a **15%** increase over the previous year.
- **Student Activities & Involvement** supported **199** student organizations with more than **5,500** members, including **1,025** students serving in leadership roles.



Connect2 promoted 4,956 campus events, increased unique user logins by 18%, and reached 6,402 app downloads.

PB Poorman Pride Center



The Pride Center provided co-curricular learning opportunities through the employment of seven undergraduate student interns and peer educators, one graduate assistant, and one social work graduate intern.

STUDENT AFFAIRS PRIORITIES

- STUDENT SUCCESS AND CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT
- INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO BUDGET, OPERATIONS, AND CAPITAL PROJECTS
- BUILDING BELONGING TO STRENGTHEN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
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# Strategic Plan Themes

## THEME 4:

## DEEPEN A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

### Business & Dining Services



The HawkCard Office partnered with University Housing to redesign the meal plan sign-up process, streamlining administrative workflows and creating a more seamless experience for incoming and returning students.

### Building Operations

- The **A/V Assistants** (formerly Tech Crew) supported **324** events with dedicated in-person tech assistance.
- **Building Operations** generated a **13%** year-over-year revenue increase in FY26, driven by growth in external reservations and demand for campus event spaces.
- **Roberta's Art Gallery** increased its Instagram following by **37%**, growing from 667 to 911 followers, while generating **126,107** views and **1,970** interactions.
- The **Warhawk Pantry** strengthened campus partnerships by collaborating with **27** campus departments and student organizations through events and initiatives.



Warhawk Alley hosted **55** reservations and events for student organizations and campus departments.

### Student Activities & Involvement



The Greek Community contributed more than **11,000** service hours through campus and community programs.



### Marketing & Creative Strategies

- **UC Graphics & Marketing** completed **724** large-format print jobs, producing **48,580** inches of printed media for the University Center and campus partners, a **52%** increase over the previous year. **Vinyl** projects accounted for **31%** of all requests, totaling **15,130** inches of production.



UC Graphics & Marketing partnered with UW-Whitewater departments to expand the UC Blog, resulting in 26,627 views, a 92.7% increase over the previous year.

#### STUDENT AFFAIRS PRIORITIES

- STUDENT SUCCESS AND CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT
- INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO BUDGET, OPERATIONS, AND CAPITAL PROJECTS
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# Building Updates

## DOWN UNDER REMODEL

The University Center completed a comprehensive renovation of the Down Under, transforming the space into a modern, multifunctional destination that supports student engagement, dining, studying, and campus programming. The project included a complete interior renovation featuring new parquet flooring, carpeting, a redesigned lighting system, and contemporary furnishings intentionally selected to accommodate a variety of learning, dining, and social experiences.

The renovation also included a state-of-the-art audio, video, and theatrical lighting system within the stage area, significantly enhancing the venue's capacity to host student events, performances, and campus programming. New soft seating lounges and collaborative gathering spaces were thoughtfully integrated throughout the facility to foster connection, collaboration, and a greater sense of belonging.

The completed renovation reflects the University Center's ongoing commitment to providing welcoming, adaptable spaces that enhance the student experience and strengthen campus community.



## HOMECOMING ROOM - UC 264

During summer and fall 2025, UC 264 was reimagined as a Homecoming-themed space celebrating one of UW-Whitewater's longest-standing traditions. Student designer **Kaelen Smith** created a custom wall graphic showcasing Homecoming photos from throughout the years.

The space also features historic Homecoming posters and buttons, information about the Homecoming Steering Committee, and other displays highlighting the tradition's history and impact. Annual updates will ensure the space remains current by featuring each year's Homecoming theme, Steering Committee members, and Spirit Cup winners.



# Student Employment

## RECRUITMENT & HIRING

411

applications received across the 2025-2026 academic year, a 13% increase year-over-year  
Fall 2025: 179 • Spring 2026: 232

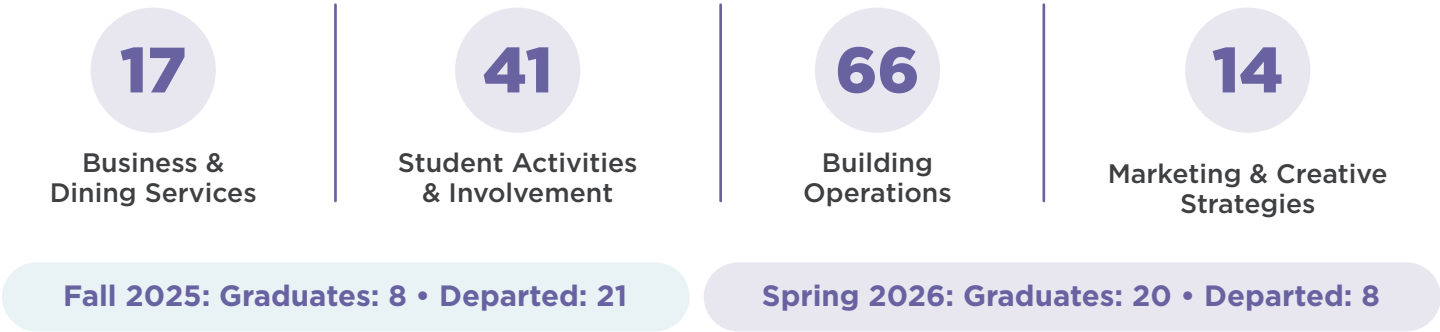
70

students hired across the 2025-2026 academic year  
Spring 2026: 36 • Fall 2026: 34

## UC STUDENT EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

140 STUDENT EMPLOYEES worked across University Center units in 2025-2026

As of May 1, 2026:



## STUDENT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK

In recognition of National Student Employment Appreciation Week (April 12-18), the UC celebrated the invaluable contributions of student employees across the University Center under the theme “You Make the UC Cheddar Everyday.” The week featured a variety of appreciation efforts designed to recognize students for their dedication, teamwork, and positive impact on the campus community. Through intentional recognition and engagement activities, the celebration highlighted the essential role student employees play in creating a welcoming, vibrant, and successful UC experience each day.

## STUDENT SUCCESS FRAMEWORK

- Build transferable knowledge and professional competencies.
- Increase engagement and sense of belonging on campus.
- Prepare for future careers through meaningful work experiences.
- Support academic success and persistence by connecting students with staff and campus resources.

Rather than being viewed only as a source of income, UC student employment is intentionally designed as a high-impact practice (HIP) that complements students’ academic learning and contributes to their overall success at UW-Whitewater.

## STUDENT SUCCESS FRAMEWORK COMPONENTS:

### 1. Attainment of Learning Outcomes, Skills, and Competencies

Each Spring the UC hosts a UC Student Employment Professional Development Day that is designed to invest in the growth and success of our student employees by providing opportunities to build professional skills, strengthen leadership abilities, and foster connections across the University Center team. Through interactive sessions and shared learning experiences, students develop competencies that support their success in their current roles, future careers, and overall journey at UW-Whitewater.

After the completion of the Spring 2026 UC Student Professional Development Day UC student employees indicated:

- 92% can identify communication barriers and propose solutions or felt they have a good start
- 78% are ready to apply recognition of different learning styles to their work and life
- 98% are ready to apply the concept of Unreasonable Hospitality to create positive experiences within their work and life or feel they have a good start

### 2. Engagement and Belonging

After the completion of the Fall 2025 UC Student Employment Orientation:

- 94% indicated that the training positively impacted their sense of belonging
- 91.76% felt more confident about applying the provided content knowledge in everyday life

### 3. Career Preparation

ConnectED is the University Center’s student employment development program, designed to help students connect their campus employment experience with their personal, academic, and professional goals. Through ongoing learning opportunities, reflection, and skill development, ConnectED empowers student employees to build career-ready competencies, strengthen their sense of belonging, and recognize the valuable knowledge and experiences they gain while working in the UC.

Fall 2025: 23 completed • Spring 2026: 29 completed (14 who completed multiple semesters of the program)

### 4. Academic Achievement and Persistence

Hired Before Graduation:

Congratulations to **Logan Mangan**, a first-generation college student from Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, who earned a BBA in accounting and finance and was hired as an assurance associate with Baker Tilly in Janesville, Wisconsin. Logan says, “I’m most proud of growing into being confident enough to get out and give tours of campus, graduating with honors, and being hired before graduation! I’d like to thank Allison Annala and the entire Admissions office staff for being so supportive and helpful throughout my time working in the office! I’d also like to thank Jan Bilgen, Joellen Shelton, and the entire Student Activities and Involvement staff for helping me grow professionally and giving me many great opportunities. Lastly, thank you to Amy Zelinger for supporting me academically and making sure I stayed on the track to graduation!”

Logan served as a Student Activities & Involvement and UC Human Resources Student Lead



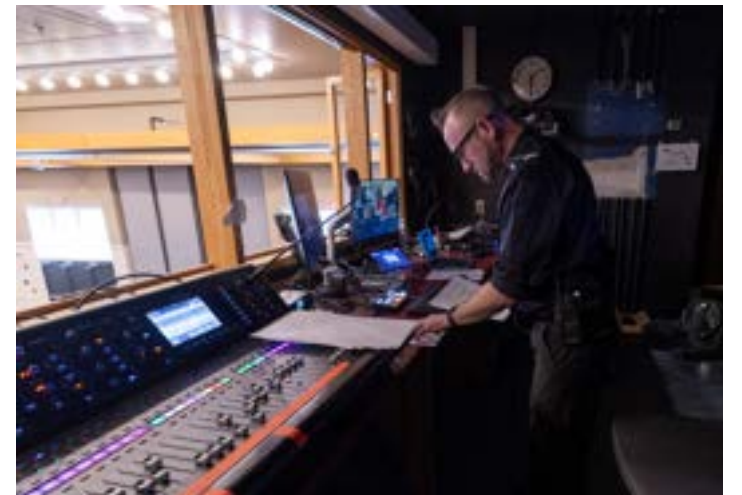
# Board of Regents Meeting

In December 2025, UW-Whitewater welcomed the Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents to campus for its December meeting, marking an important opportunity to showcase the university's commitment to student success, academic excellence, and community engagement. The James R. Connor University Center served as the primary venue for the multi-day event, providing the welcoming environment and operational support necessary to host university leaders, Regents, state officials, faculty, staff, students, and guests from across Wisconsin.

University Center staff played a pivotal role in the event's success by coordinating facility operations, event logistics, room setups, technology, guest services, catering coordination, and hospitality. A highlight of the visit was the Board of Regents reception, thoughtfully designed around the theme **"The Journey of a Warhawk."** The reception immersed guests in the UW-Whitewater student experience, highlighting the milestones, traditions, and transformational opportunities that define a Warhawk's journey—from recruitment and enrollment to engagement, leadership, learning, and alumni success. Warhawk Dining's Purple Plate Catering deepened the connection to the theme with an interactive menu paired to each moment. Through creative storytelling, campus partnerships, and exceptional hospitality, the reception reflected the university's mission and celebrated the experiences that shape student success.



Through extensive collaboration with campus partners, the University Center helped create a seamless experience that highlighted UW-Whitewater's strengths as a destination for statewide events. The successful hosting of the Board of Regents meeting demonstrated the University Center's essential role as the heart of campus—bringing people together, supporting institutional priorities, and creating spaces where meaningful conversations, memorable experiences, and university governance can thrive.



# Special Recognition

## Best College for Student Life Article

For the second consecutive year, the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater earned the No. 1 ranking among Wisconsin public universities for student experience and social mobility in The Wall Street Journal's 2026 College Pulse rankings. The University Center plays a key role in creating that exceptional student experience by supporting nearly 200 student organizations, 26 Greek organizations, and hundreds of campus events and programs each year.

## ACUI Steal This Idea Graphics Competition

UC Graphics & Marketing placed and took honorable mention in the 2025 ACUI Steal This Idea Graphics Competition.

- 2nd place in the Professional Multi-Page Publication category for the UC's 2024–2025 Annual Report (Alexa Nelson)
- 2nd place in the Professional Website category for the University Center website redesign (Jenny Fisco & Kevin Behringer)
- Honorable Mention in the student video category for Building Operations Hiring Video (Eydie Furnett)

## Chancellor's Leadership Academy

Angela Meldonian had the honor of being selected as a member of the inaugural cohort of the Chancellor's Leadership Academy. The year-long professional development experience provided the opportunity to engage with university leaders, strengthen leadership competencies, and collaborate with colleagues from across campus to explore innovative approaches that advance the university's mission and strategic priorities.



## 2026 & BEYOND

# Student Engagement

Beginning in Spring 2026, the University Center broadened its scope to strengthen the Student Engagement unit within the Division of Student Affairs, marking a new chapter in supporting the student experience at UW–Whitewater. This transition represents a broader vision for creating a vibrant and connected campus experience by bringing together programs, services, and spaces that encourage involvement, collaboration, and community. As a central hub for student life, Student Engagement is committed to fostering meaningful connections, enhancing campus traditions, and creating opportunities for every student to engage, belong, and thrive.

For 2027 and beyond, Student Engagement will focus on several key priorities to enhance the student experience. This includes analyzing emerging student engagement trends to better understand how students connect, participate, and build community across campus. Efforts will also prioritize identifying opportunities and barriers to engagement in order to remove obstacles and expand access to involvement. Strengthening belonging, connection, and campus community will remain central, ensuring all students feel valued and supported in their co-curricular experience. Finally, ongoing assessment of impact will guide continuous improvement, using data and feedback to refine programs, services, and spaces that foster meaningful engagement and student success.

THEME FOR NEXT YEAR: **ROOTED IN COMMUNITY**





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**Whitewater**

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