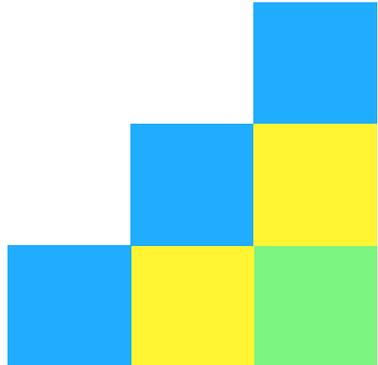




3rd Annual

Recognition of Outstanding Early Career Educators and Pre-Service Educator Mentors

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Madison, Wisconsin
Sunday, March 13, 2016
Reception 2:00 pm
Keynote address 2:30 pm
Awards presentation 3:30 pm



Wisconsin Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Outstanding Educator Awards Program

Introduction and Welcome

Dr. Melanie Agnew, University of Wisconsin—Whitewater
WACTE President

Presentation of Awards

Dr. Jeanne Williams, Ripon College
Communications Committee Chair

Early Career Educator Award

This award is presented to an outstanding educator within the first three years of her/his professional career. The award recipient will be selected based on any combination of the following: positive impact individual has on schools or communities; innovation in designing learning experiences, and advocacy for students. An individual is eligible to receive this award one time only.

Early Career Educator Award Spokesperson

Ms. Kevyn Webb
Platteville Public Schools
Platteville, Wisconsin
Sponsored by University of Wisconsin—Platteville

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award

This award is presented to an outstanding educator who has demonstrated a sustained pattern of mentoring pre-service educators for at least five years. The award recipient will be selected based on attributes such as: the ability to model professional responsibility, evidentiary assessment, effective classroom management, the ability to mentor pre-service teacher candidates in developing their capacity to be a leader; and the ability to nurture candidates as they face a wide range of issues. The nominee cannot have received this award in the past five years.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award Spokesperson

Ms. Dawn Betler
Princeton Elementary School
Princeton, Wisconsin
Sponsored by Ripon College

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Melanie Agnew, University of Wisconsin—Whitewater

The keynote address, *Teaching and Leading to Eliminate Inequalities*, by Colleen A. Capper and Elise Frattura is supported by the Meemic Foundation.



Communications Committee
Jeanne Williams, Chair, Ripon College
Annette Nelson, Northland College
Brian McAlister, University of Wisconsin—Stout
Hope Longwell-Grice, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee
Deb Watry, Marian University
Suzanne Griffith, University of Wisconsin—Superior

Teaching and Leading to Eliminate Inequities

Colleen A. Capper is a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, co-founder of Integrated Comprehensive Systems for Equity, and co-director of the National Leadership for Social Justice Institute and Academy. With expertise in equity and social justice, her research and teaching focus on systems change in educator preparation and in schools and districts that advance the learning of all students and eliminate opportunity and achievement gaps. She has published extensively on leadership for social justice and equity, including three books: *Leading for Social Justice: Transforming Schools for All Learners*; *Meeting the Needs of Students of All Abilities: Leading Beyond Inclusion* (2nd edition) (both with Elise Frattura), and *Educational Administration in a Pluralistic Society*.

Professor Capper is editor of the Routledge series: *Leadership for Equity and Diversity*. After completing her undergraduate work in special education at Indiana University, Bloomington, Dr. Capper spent five years as a United Methodist missionary in the Appalachian Mountain region of southeastern, Kentucky where she served as a special education teacher, administrator of special programs, and founding director of a nonprofit agency for preschool children and adults with disabilities. She then completed her masters and doctorate at Vanderbilt University. In 2007, she received the University Council for Educational Administration Master Professor of the Year. She works with universities, schools, and districts across the country on redesigning service delivery and maximizing achievement for all students in integrated ways.

Elise Frattura is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Education since 2001 and co-founder of Integrated Comprehensive Systems of Equity as well as co-director of the National Leadership for Social Justice Institute and Academy. From 2003-2013, Dr. Frattura served as an Associate Dean and Department Chairperson for the School of Education. Prior to her role at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. Frattura was a high school teacher and a central office administrator from 1983-2001, during which time she also served as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Milwaukee.

Dr. Frattura currently teaches graduate courses for principals and district office administrators in the areas of Diversity in Elementary and Secondary Education, Advanced Analysis and Design of School Systems, and Nondiscrimination Law. Dr. Frattura researches and has published largely in the area of Integrated Comprehensive Systems. *Leading for Social Justice: Transforming Schools for All Learners* (with Colleen Capper) and *Meeting the Needs of Students of All Abilities: Leading Beyond Inclusion* (2nd edition) (with Colleen Capper) have become best sellers.

Early Career Educator Award



Lindsey Alger **Northstar Middle School** **Eau Claire, Wisconsin**

Principal: Tim Skutley
District Administrator: Mary Ann Hardebeck
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire

Lindsey Alger is an exemplary educator! Lindsey teaches mathematics to a diverse population of middle school students primarily in grades 7 and 8. Her classes include SPED, EL and GT, students as well as students from low SES backgrounds and diverse ethnicities. In addition, Ms. Alger teaches our Title 1 math class with some of our most struggling math students. Ms. Alger's classes are engaging, student centered, and appropriately challenging. She understands and employs many high impact teaching strategies including regularly using formative assessments, asking open questions, and providing students with opportunities to collaborate together. She regularly collaborates with her math teaching colleagues and engages in reciprocal learning that ultimately benefits all students. Ms. Alger is instrumental in planning and attending Title 1 events that bring together families and the school community to partner together to help students succeed. Ms. Alger also assists in the grant writing process necessary to secure Title 1 funding for our school. She is a strong advocate for all her students, but particularly her most reluctant and struggling learners. In addition to teaching, Lindsey also contributes to our total school program through coaching middle school volleyball as well as serving as a mathcounts coach (competitive middle school math team). Her willingness to contribute beyond the regular school day is greatly appreciated.

Early Career Educator Award



Kaari Ashland
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School
Ashland, Wisconsin

Principal: Betty Swiston
District Administrator: Peggy Schoenfuss
Sponsor: Northland College

Kaari develops meaningful lessons for her multi-graded classroom of 3rd and 4th graders. She has implemented both the reading and writing workshop format that our school uses and students have demonstrated both in observation and assessment that they are achieving beyond their predicted performance levels in the core subjects.

Kaari works well with the teaching staff at OLL School. She contributes at faculty meetings and willingly does tasks that are assigned to her or volunteers. She attends our parent organization meetings and volunteers for different social events that they plan. Kaari seeks out other staff members or myself for classroom advice and willingly accepts help. Kaari has grown in the past three years and shows a willingness to continue to improve both in her instructional methods and her classroom environment. She is on her way to being one of those teachers who will touch lives and hearts for years to come.

Early Career Educator Award



Laura Blanco
Lane Intermediate School
West Allis, Wisconsin

Principal: Del Henry
District Administrator: Marty Lexmond
Sponsor: Cardinal Stritch University

Laura has a positive impact on the growth of the choral program and the spike in concert attendance to over 800-1,000 guests. Laura creates a positive learning environment reflected in the December 2015 Lane Intermediate School first Band, Orchestra, Choir concert attended by more than 800 guests and aired on local channel. For innovation, Laura developed after-school programs, recorder ensemble, led performances, developed classes, and conducted piano recitals. Laura taught, choreographed, and directed "Pirates! The Musical" with 4th and 5th graders. She developed and approved courses such as "Music Innovations" for 7th grade, "World Drumming" will be an 8th grade elective.

Early Career Educator Award



Theresa Dobbs
Milwaukee School of Languages
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Principal: Yvette Martel
District Administrator: Dr. Darienne Driver
Sponsor: Marquette University

A graduate from Marquette University with a B.S. degree in Math and Secondary Education, Theresa Dobbs is beginning her third year as a secondary math teacher at Milwaukee School of Languages in the Milwaukee Public Schools. She is currently teaching pre-calculus and Algebra 2/Trig and has also taught middle school math, Algebra, Algebra Support, and Math Intervention. She started the Middle School Math Club and a chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, a mathematics honor society for secondary students, which now has over 50 members. She is also the founder and current advisor of Mathletes, which has become one of her school's most popular clubs. Mathletes provides students the opportunity to be challenged by problems that go beyond the traditional curriculum and foster creativity and problem-solving skills. Her Mathletes participate in over 20 math competitions each school year and have quickly become one of the most active and successful math clubs in the city of Milwaukee.

Early Career Educator Award



Lisa Hilker
Northside Elementary School
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Principal: Laura Huber
District Administrator: Randy Nelson
Sponsor: Viterbo University

Lisa Hilker is an outstanding third year, kindergarten teacher at Northside Elementary in La Crosse. In addition to duties as a kindergarten teacher, she has taken an active role in our PBIS committee and has also received a grant from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Her lesson planning shows great creativity and is informed by tremendous insight into child development. Lisa has the ability to mesh a lifetime of experiences with enthusiasm of a new graduate. Colleagues have remarked that she teaches like an accomplished professional educator. Lisa sets high standards for herself and her students--and reaches them.

Early Career Educator Award

Lumei Huang Verona Area International School Fitchburg, Wisconsin

**Principal: Barbara Drake
District Administrator: Dean Gorrell
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Madison**

Ms. Lumei Huang is one of three native speakers of Chinese currently teaching at the Verona Area International School (VAIS) in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. VAIS is a 50% immersion school for students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Ms. Huang has been teaching at VAIS for three years and just recently earned her teaching license from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. She has received praise from her colleagues, affection from the parents of her students, and love from her students. I have seen her teach a number of times. She is always well prepared, but also highly alert to the immediate needs and long-term interests of her students. Having worked with Ms. Huang for the past three years, I can wholeheartedly support her for the WACTE Award.

Early Career Educator Award



Emily Kelly Superior High School Superior, Wisconsin

**Principal: Kent Bergum
District Administrator: Janna Stevens
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Superior**

Emily Kelly teaches Technical Writing, English 9, and English 10 at Superior High School. As a UW-Superior student, Emily was a GEARS mentor and continues to work with GEARS students. She volunteers with the Gay-Straight-Alliance at SHS and coordinates support activities throughout the school. Emily has intentionally designed a course for special 10th grade students to be engaging by incorporating literature circles and hands-on activities. She worked extensively with another teacher on the Technical Writing/Business English class to recreate the curriculum to make the class more directly relatable to seniors who choose to take it as their English credit.

Early Career Educator Award



Sara L'Allier
Glenwood City Elementary School
Glenwood City, Wisconsin

Principal: Betsy Haltinner
District Administrator: Tim Johnson
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—River Falls

Sara L'Allier is solution-focused and responsive to meeting her students' individual and collective needs. She develops skill-specific interventions for her students that have proven to be successful at remediation. She is an advocate for students needing extra intervention. To personalize learning for her students, she has implemented a variety of innovative strategies that have resulted in high levels of student engagement. She models learning through inquiry, setting high expectations for learning and behavior. She is focused on continuous improvement, jumping at opportunities to build her instructional practice. Sara is driven to help students find success.

Early Career Educator Award

Bethany Ledgerwood
Central Intermediate School
Rhineland, Wisconsin

Principal: Paul Johnson
District Administrator: Kelli Jacobi
Sponsor: Maranatha Baptist University

Bethany has taken great initiative in her first years of teaching. She has worked diligently with the school in arranging curriculum to align with state standards and has taken leadership in the PBIS program. Her knowledge of technology has been highly beneficial to her classroom. Bethany takes extra time out of her days to help out in the after-school program and tutoring. Her dedication and hard work have been noted by her administrator and coworkers.

Early Career Educator Award



Britta J. Luteyn
Carl Sandburg Elementary School
Madison, Wisconsin

Principal: Brett Wilfrid
District Administrator: Jennifer Cheatham
Sponsor: Lawrence University

A graduate of Lawrence University, Britta Luteyn is a 4th grade Bilingual Dual-Language Immersion teacher at Carl Sandburg Elementary School in Madison. Britta's principal writes that her intelligence and instructional skill, along with her kind, positive nature make her an "excellent educator" and notes she is a "consummate teammate" with whom colleagues request to work. Knowing this, we are confident that in the years to come her demonstrated enthusiasm for multicultural teaching and her passionate commitment to her students' academic and emotional growth will make her a teacher children adore and parents seek out. Many years ago the pioneer educator Maria Montessori wrote that within the child lies the fate of the future. Believing this to be so, on behalf of Lawrence University we are honored to give this award to Britta Luteyn who, by touching the lives of the children under her care, creates a better future for all.

Early Career Educator Award



Chelsea Marin
Dickenson Elementary
De Pere, Wisconsin

Principal: Luke Herlache
District Administrator: Ben Villarruel
Sponsor: St. Norbert College

Chelsea Marin is an excellent new teacher! Her classroom is organized, engaging, warm, and a fun place to be. She is a team player. She has the teacher presence of a well-seasoned teacher and she is only in the field two years! Her management is loving and her children care deeply about her. She communicates with parents and other personnel in their building regularly for she believes it takes a village to raise a child.

Early Career Educator Award

Kayla Oliver
Menomonie High School
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Principal: David Munoz
District Administrator: Joe Zydowsky
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Stout

Kayla Oliver is a committed, passionate, and innovative marketing and business educator in her second year at the Menomonie High School. Through Kayla's leadership as an advisor for the co-curricular DECA organization her students are engaged in leadership, civic, and vocational activities. Examples include Miracle Minutes for MDA, visiting elementary classrooms to write letters to Santa, and hosting Mr. Menomonie. Kayla leads her students in planning, implementing, and evaluating several school-based enterprises as forms of work-based learning and a successful school store. Kayla has co-partnered with another Menomonie teacher to design and implement the innovative Mustang Manufacturing school-based enterprise.

Early Career Educator Award



Jaime Parrish
Oaklawn Elementary School
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Principal: Scott Johanknecht
District Administrator: Stan Mack
Sponsor: Marian University

Jaime Parrish, a Marian University School of Education graduate, is in her third year of teaching at Oaklawn Elementary in the Oshkosh Area School District. She is an invaluable asset to the teaching staff at Oaklawn. Each year, the principal receives feedback from parents wishing to share their gratitude for a teacher who develops rapport with each student and strives to challenge their child to give their best effort. Furthermore, Jaime promotes honesty and integrity amongst the staff and continually seeks out professional development opportunities.

Early Career Educator Award

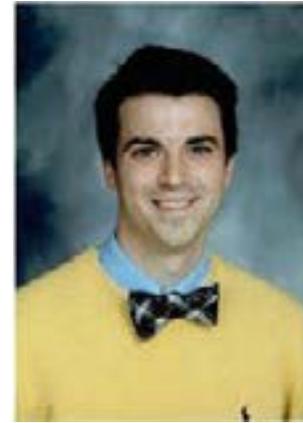


Matthew Pautz
Fox River Middle School
Waterford, Wisconsin

Principal: Darlene Markle
District Administrator: Ed Brzinski
Sponsor: Wisconsin Lutheran College

Matt Pautz, a Wisconsin Lutheran College secondary math education major, is a standout educator who is willing to jump into any educational endeavor he encounters. His most recent leap is developing a framework for math in a blended learning environment Fox River Middle School. He is an excellent model of a 21st century educator with flipped learning in his classroom. Colleagues enjoy his global thinking. Matt's humor, self-reflection, and thirst for feedback has allowed him to grow exponentially as a professional and serve as an EE coach. He always has students' best interests in mind. Matt's moral character and positive attitude allow others to be inspired by his collaborative spirit.

Early Career Educator Award



Nathan Penn
Greenfield Middle School
Greenfield, Wisconsin

Principal: Brad Iding
District Administrator: Lisa Elliott
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

Nathan Penn is in his second year of teaching at Greenfield Middle School. Nathan challenges his students daily to engage in deep mathematical thinking and reasoning, connects with and learns from his colleagues, and mentors pre-service teachers in the mathematics education program at UWM. He regularly participates in regional and statewide professional development, such as the Wisconsin Mathematics Council annual meeting and the Mathematical Proficiency for Every Student fall conference. He is a model of an ambitious young teacher engaged in continual learning about his teaching practice, applying cutting edge research-based practices in his classroom.

Early Career Educator Award



Emily Quinlan
Ozaukee Elementary School
Fredonia, Wisconsin

Principal: Cynthia Dallman
District Administrator: David Karrels
Sponsor: Concordia University—Wisconsin

Ms. Emily Quinlan is in her third year of her professional career as a special educator. In the first two years of her career, she revamped an elementary school special education program in a rural district to align it with 21st century best practices. During this time she also enrolled in graduate school to further her own knowledge and skills. She uses technology-rich instructional approaches and assistive technology to help all children learn, and she freely shares her knowledge with others. She is a proactive and life-long learner who is willing to try new strategies and approaches to help her students succeed.

Early Career Educator Award



Marco Rhein
Markesan Middle/High School
Markesan, Wisconsin

Principal: John Koopman
District Administrator: Duane Bark
Sponsor: Ripon College

Our Science Department curriculum was in need of revamping. Marco provided the leadership to develop a plan to correct the problems. He puts students first. Marco uses test data, student needs, and college and career skills when developing his lessons. During our daily RtI hour, he met with his students to explain their ACT Aspire scores, what they meant, and their importance. As a lunch supervisor, Marco makes a point to go to each table, every day, and have conversations with the students. Every table – every day! He is very deserving of this award!

Early Career Educator Award



Kelsey Riesterer
Prairie View Elementary School
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

Principal: Jesse Peters
District Administrator: Stephen Vessey
Sponsor: Silver Lake College of the Holly Family

Kelsey is a first year teacher in early childhood education. As a student, she did an excellent job in the teacher education program at Silver Lake College, as well as during her student teaching placements. She was hired after graduation by the Beaver Dam Unified School District as an Early Childhood/EEN Teacher at Prairie View Elementary. Kelsey's principal reports that she is doing a "phenomenal" job. He feels that it was evident from day one that Kelsey is "meant to be a teacher of young children." Her teaching knowledge and skills as well as her exceptional rapport and advocacy for early childhood special needs students makes Kelsey a truly outstanding early career educator.

Early Career Educator Award



Alessandra Ruffolo
Jefferson Elementary School
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Principal: Kathy Walsh
District Administrator: Susan Savaglio-Jarvis
Sponsor: Carthage College

Alessandra Ruffolo is a special education teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Kenosha. She is certified in both elementary and special education. Alessandra works with a wide variety of students, across all grade levels. The students' needs range from mild to severe. The administrative officials of KUSD have noted Alessandra's dedication to her students, and her principal has described her as an exceptional member of the faculty. She works closely with all faculty members and regularly collaborates with the general education teachers. Alessandra has developed a rapport of mutual respect with her students, which has led to their academic success. Her dedication goes beyond the classroom to a variety of committees at her school. Alessandra is an alum of Carthage College and has returned to campus during the past year to lead discussions during the student teacher seminars. During these discussions, she shared her experiences as a first-year teacher and answered the student teachers' questions with professionalism and expertise. Through these experiences, Alessandra has demonstrated that she is a very mature, professional, and effective early career educator.

Early Career Educator Award



Amy Sroka
Waukesha North High School
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Principal: Rebecca Newcomer
District Administrator: Todd Gray
Sponsor: Carroll University

Amy Sroka is in her second year of being a Health and Physical Education Teacher at Waukesha North. Amy is an energetic, dedicated, risk taker who is innovative, and a positive role model for both her students and the rest of the faculty. Despite her content background, she is one of the strongest literacy teachers in our building. Her classroom management is fantastic, and most of that has to do with the high expectations and wonderful relationships she has with her students. Amy has a true growth mindset and we are proud to have her coaching and teaching our Northstars!

Early Career Educator Award



Tori Suhs
McDill Academies
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Principal: Jean Koepke
District Administrator: Lee Bush
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point

Tori Suhs made an immediate impact at McDill Academies with her hire in the Stevens Point School District. Tori's background in special education and elementary education along with her ability collaborate well with her fellow teachers has allowed her to provide relevant accommodations for students who are struggling with academic skills. Tori uses her strengths to for the benefit of her students and exemplifies a caring, competent early educator.

Early Career Educator Award



Kevyn Webb
Platteville Public Schools
Platteville, Wisconsin

Principal: Lisa Finnegan
District Administrator: Connie Valenza
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Platteville

Kevyn Webb completed a bachelor of science in elementary and art education in 2015 and now teaches elementary art. She has made a positive impact in the district by becoming a Class Dojo mentor, assisting with the groundbreaking ceremony, and refreshing the school's logo. She has been innovative in designing learning experiences by facilitating a "Mystery Bag Challenge", incorporating problem solving, planning strategies, life skills into learning, and presenting a series of growth-mindset videos. In order to advocate for her students, she has begun planning for a community art boosters and an art newsletter that emphasizes the importance of art education.

Early Career Educator Award



Andrea Weber
Hortonville High School
Hortonville, Wisconsin

Principal: Todd Timm
District Administrator: Kristin Mueller
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh

Andrea Weber's passion and advocacy for her Hortonville High School special needs students is making a significant impact, not only on her students but on the entire school community. In the first months of her career, Ms. Weber created a "Donor's Choose" account to provide her students with laptops and headphones and is piloting various technologies to improve data collection and learning outcomes. Andrea has creatively developed outside-of-classroom experiences that require use of communication, math, and independent living skills in "real world" scenarios. Andrea constantly nurtures her students' confidence and motivation and raises the expectations that they place upon themselves.

Early Career Educator Award



Shelly Weber
Wisconsin Hills Middle School
Elmbrook, Wisconsin

Principal: Lisa Rettler
District Administrator: Mark Hansen
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Whitewater

While Shelly Weber was at Oregon School District, she assisted in developing a scholarship program to sponsor participation for students with financial need.

Now in her position at Elmbrook School District, Weber has assisted in the Music Department's transition to the National Standards for Music, including development of the middle-level curriculum, learning targets, and associated assessments. Weber is an advocate for her students' participation in a well-rounded music curriculum that includes performance, composition, theory, improvisation, and more. She works toward including burgeoning music pedagogy techniques to personalize the educational experience for all of her students. My joy, having Shelly as "my colleague" in the string education profession!

Early Career Educator Award

Austin Wersal
John Long Middle School
Grafton, Wisconsin

Principal: Liz Kayzar
District Administrator: Mel Lightner
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—La Crosse

Austin Wersal is in his first year of teaching at John Long Middle School where he is a 6th grade science teacher. The growth and maturity I have seen in Austin during his time at UWL has been tremendous, and it has only made him a better teacher. He has a wonderful sense of humor and down to earth personality that resonates with his students. I am excited to see what Austin will do in the next five to ten years as I anticipate he will become a leader in the teacher community setting the example for upcoming educators in a multitude of areas.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Sherie Amling
Donges Bay Elementary School
Mequon, Wisconsin

Principal: Allison Rudich
District Administrator: Demond Means
Sponsor: Concordia University—Wisconsin

Sherie Amling has been an outstanding and long-term supporter of Concordia's pre-service teachers. For the past 15 years, she has opened her classroom doors to an ongoing pen-pal project with pre-service language arts students as they learn and grow in their knowledge of young children's writing skills and abilities. She has also hosted numerous Concordia students in one to two week long teaching experiences in the writing/reading workshop format, providing them with the opportunity to plan and implement lessons appropriate for student learning. Her feedback and evaluations have been invaluable to student growth in the profession, and her impact has been very broad and deeply impactful.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Khyl Berndt
Sand Lake Elementary School
Holmen, Wisconsin

Principal: Brian Oberweiser
District Administrator: Kristin Mueller
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—La Crosse

Khyl Berndt has served in the capacity as a site for PETE TC'S over the past several years. She provides high-quality feedback that aligns to UWL PETE expectations. She is always willing to take our students and has been willing to take both student teachers and PDS students during the same semester. She provides TC's with a great deal of support through structure, concrete examples of quality teaching, curricular guidance, and high expectations. Most importantly, Khyl creates environments in which our students feel welcome and valued.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Dawn Betler
Princeton Elementary School
Princeton, Wisconsin

Principal: Sam Santacroce
District Administrator: Sam Santacroce
Sponsor: Ripon College

Our students appreciate Dawn's knowledge base, her classroom management skills, and her caring personality. She gives excellent feedback and provides them with a safe, nurturing environment to hone their teaching skills. Dawn models effective lesson planning, teaching strategies, and communication skills. Her kindergarten classroom has appropriate routines for students as she uses a variety of instructional strategies to keep her students engaged. One student describes her placement with Dawn as "phenomenal" and another student stated, "I don't think I could have asked for a better placement!"

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award

Debra Braatz
Waterloo High School
Waterloo, Wisconsin

Principal: Brad Donner
District Administrator: Brian Henning
Sponsor: Maranatha Baptist University

Debra Braatz has mentored 12 student teachers from Maranatha Baptist University in Physical Education and Health, and they have experienced a blend of guidance and freedom to teach all grade levels. She is well versed in the content and strategies of her field and very willing to take the time to share her knowledge with student teachers. Deb models as well as instructs. Her student teachers observe how she instructs, councils, coaches, cares for, and leads her K-12 students. She is a positive role model.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award

Cecelia Carse
Wisconsin Hills Middle School
Brookfield, Wisconsin

Principal: Lisa Rettler
District Administrator: Mark Hansen
Sponsor: Carroll University

Cecelia Carse has served as an instructor and mentor teacher in the Teacher Education Program at Carroll University for over ten years. Ceil is a knowledgeable, talented educator whose passion for education is evident in her teaching and her professional interactions in and out of the classroom. Ceil's classes are consistently engaging and valuable to pre-service teachers. She is able to draw on her own classroom experience as a special education teacher to provide a context for understanding. Ceil Carse leads by example, exhibits enthusiasm for lifelong learning, and strives to meet the needs of those with whom she works.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Kristin Franzini
Summit Elementary School
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Principal: Dirk Hunter
District Administrator: Randy Nelson
Sponsor: Viterbo University

Kris Franzini is a graduate of Onalaska High School and completed her degree in elementary education at UW-La Crosse in 1990 and her MEPD in 1995. In the past twenty-four years, Kris has taught fourth grade, second grade, and Title I. She has worked at Hamilton Elementary and Summit Environmental School in La Crosse. Kris has collaborated with Viterbo University as a cooperating teacher for numerous field experience students and student teachers. Kris' passion for teaching is evident in the joy and creativity that she brings to her classroom. These traits inspire her students as well as aspiring teachers.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Lynn Grimm
Menomonee Falls North Middle School
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Principal: Lynn Grimm
District Administrator: Patricia Greco
Sponsor: Cardinal Stritch University

It is with great pleasure that the faculty and staff at Cardinal Stritch University nominate Lynn Grimm, principal of North Middle School in Menomonee Falls for this award. As principal, Lynn has made outstanding contributions to teacher education at Stritch through her overall support of our programs and her willingness to support our teacher candidates. Stritch's Teacher Education Division has adopted a partnership model approach to best support its teacher candidates in the field. We are thrilled to count Lynn and North Middle School as one of our most valued partners in teacher preparation. Candidates enjoy and greatly benefit from the learning experiences they receive in the field from Lynn and her corps of teachers.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Paul Haugland
River Falls High School
River Falls, Wisconsin

Principal: Kit Luedtke
District Administrator: Jamie Benson
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Stout

Paul Haugland started teaching Technology Education in 1981. During his past 35 years teaching, all of which have been in River Falls, he has hosted countless UW-Stout candidates completing clinical hours in pre-student teaching and student teaching experiences. Paul has witnessed a lot of change. His students and Stout's aspiring teachers have benefited from his commitment to upgrade his classroom as technology has evolved. For example, Paul completed professional development and implemented Project Lead the Way at River Falls High School recently. This proves he is as dedicated to staying up to date in the field today as he was the day he entered the profession.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Nance Hluchnik
Walker Elementary School
West Allis, Wisconsin

Principal: Tracy Fischer-Tubbs
District Administrator: Marty Lexmond
Sponsor: Wisconsin Lutheran College

Nance Hluchnik exemplifies the main characteristic the WLC School of Education seeks in those who mentor our students -- a servant attitude. Her tireless efforts for students through research-based interventions, collaboration, and co-teaching ensure that IEP goals are implemented and met. She is a role model for WLC students in clinical, practicum, and teacher-candidate settings. Nance embraces each day as a learning opportunity for her students, herself, and our pre-service teachers. WLC welcomes this opportunity to recognize a quality cooperating teacher who gives back to the profession by providing future teachers with exemplary and meaningful learning experiences.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Jessica Hughes
Woodworth Middle School
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Principal: Steven Hill
District Administrator: James Sebert
Sponsor: Marian University

Jessica Hughes, 7th grade science teacher at Woodworth Middle School in Fond du Lac, exudes enthusiasm and passion in her teaching. Students are engaged and challenged in numerous hands-on science activities in her class. Jessica brings that same enthusiasm and passion to mentoring pre-service teachers. Whether mentoring a first field experience student or a student teacher, Jessica excels in teaching classroom management, effective instructional strategies, and models exceptional rapport with middle school students. Jessica prepares pre-service teachers to be leaders in their future schools.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Diane Johnson
H.W. Longfellow School
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Principal: Wendell Smith
District Administrator: Darienne Driver
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

Diane Johnson has been teaching art for 28 years and mentoring student teachers for 23. Given her dedication and experience, Diane has developed wide-ranging expertise that our teacher candidates find invaluable to their learning and growth. Diane indicates that mentoring has been a rich opportunity to connect with those who share her passion for teaching art, gain new knowledge and insights from her mentees, and provide quality educational experiences for her own students. Diane's capacity as an educator and mentor are valuable assets to the continual growth of our profession, and it is a privilege to nominate her for this award.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Michael Joosten
Cameron High School
Cameron, Wisconsin

Principal: John Meznarich
District Administrator: Joe Leschisin
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire

Michael Joosten has always been willing to host student teachers during my time here in Cameron. In my third year, I believe that he has hosted a student teacher every semester I have been here. The student teachers get a great experience. Mike not only directs our band, he is very active in having students participate at solo and ensemble classes, pep bands, and several concerts throughout the year. He also directs jazz band at both the middle and high school levels. Our music program is outstanding and has tremendous participation for a small school. Mike also chaperones a major band trip every three years, he has taken our bands to band day at UW-Madison, and also actively recruits guest clinicians to come in and work with the band and play concerts for the community. The band also marches at several of the area parades. In a time when music programs are in decline, Mike puts in countless outside hours making sure our students and student teachers get a quality experience and fosters a genuine love of music.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Tina Keefer
Monroe Elementary School
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Principal: William Bertsche
District Administrator: Mark Holzman
Sponsor: Silver Lake College of the Holy Family

Over the past five years Tina Keefer has mentored two student teachers, a clinical student, and served as an observation room for our first-year students. She is open and willing to share her experiences with our teacher candidates and provides them with feedback that prepares them for their own classrooms. She nurtures the candidates and allows them to grow as they complete the program.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Greg Kier
Starr Elementary School
New Richmond, Wisconsin

Principal: Dan McGuire
District Administrator: Patrick Olson
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—River Falls

Greg Kier has been an elementary teacher in the New Richmond School District for over 20 years. During that time, he has had the opportunity to teach a variety of grade levels, lead a number of initiatives, and mentor many new teachers. Over the past three years, he has hosted teacher candidates who have had difficulty acclimating to specific school environments. He has welcomed them and provided the support the candidates truly needed. The University supervisor has seen tremendous growth in the teacher candidates under Greg's mentoring. Candidates have commented and provided written comments about the strong experience they received with Greg's classroom practices.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Amanda LaRose
Mellen Elementary School
Mellen, Wisconsin

Principal: Maija Alexandrou
District Administrator: Michael Cox
Sponsor: Northland College

Amanda LaRose has successfully guided many pre-service teachers through the student teaching experience. Amanda develops a schedule and program for each student teacher that fits his or her individual needs while in her classroom. Amanda also opens up her classroom to Northland students who are still in their coursework. She has allowed them to sit in and observe her in action teaching her students. She has modeled for them what exceptional teaching should look like in the elementary setting. Pre-service students are able to watch her positively interact with each student, provide her pupils with the tools to develop higher level thinking skills, and teach the curriculum in a unique and engaging way. Amanda's classroom is a collaborative environment where pupils are engaged with each other and the content they are studying. She works hard to be sure all succeed!

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Jill McGuire
Mineral Point Elementary School
Mineral Point, Wisconsin

Principal: Brad Brogley
District Administrator: Luke Francois
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Platteville

Jill McGuire has been an excellent mentor for UW-Platteville student teachers and practicum students. Since 2011, Jill has mentored six student teachers and has helped provide practicum students with a glimpse of life in an outstanding elementary school and classroom. Jill said she thoroughly enjoys having student teachers and pre-student teachers! I feel I learn as much from the experiences as they do. Students are my joy, no matter what age!

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Cheryl Meyer
Jefferson Elementary School
Appleton, Wisconsin

Principal: Lori Leschisin
District Administrator: Lee Allinger
Sponsor: Lawrence University

Cheryl Meyer, a music teacher at Jefferson Elementary School and the Fox River Academy, has served in the Appleton Area School District for 31 years. She has been a conductor of the Lawrence University Girl Choir for the past 24 years and mentored 31 student teachers. Her principal says, "Cheryl is the most caring music teacher that I have ever had the honor of working with." Students at Lawrence cite Cheryl as their top preference for a cooperating teacher— they recognize her character and admire the unconditional respect she consistently offers to children and adults. On behalf of Lawrence, we cannot think of a more deserving recipient of this award. Cheryl Meyer truly models the change we wish to see in this world.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Stephanie Polak
Oshkosh West High School
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Principal: Erin Kohl
District Administrator: Stan Mack, II
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh

Stephanie Polak is an outstanding special education professional and mentor. She is a committed cooperating teacher who mentors initial and advanced practicum students and/or student teachers almost every semester. Ms. Polak provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about their craft and to perfect individual styles of teaching. She frequently presents in university classrooms on innovative practices and the importance of having a strong understanding of families - substantiated by her experiences as a parent of a child with special needs. Additionally, Ms. Polak is a life-long learner, who has energized, motivated, informed, and supported fellow colleagues to become better teachers.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Ruth Regent-Smith
Pius XI Catholic High School
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Principal: Paul Geise
District Administrator: Kathleen Cepelka
Sponsor: Marquette University

Ruth Regent-Smith holds a B.S. in Biology from St. Norbert College and an M.Ed from Marquette University and has been teaching psychology and science at Pius XI High School for the past 40 years. During that time, she has mentored numerous student teachers and field students from Marquette University, Alverno College, and Mount Mary University as well as many new teachers at her school. They regard her as an exemplary instructional leader and educational model of best practices for classroom and course instruction. One of her recent student teachers found her to be “inspiring and uplifting” particularly because “she was so dedicated to her students’ success.” One of her colleagues said about her, “In my own early naïve teaching, I viewed myself as a teacher of history; Ruth made it clear to me that if a student does not know you care and respect who they are as a student, the history will not matter much to them.” She has been honored by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association as Woman of the Year and the Herb Kohl Foundation with an Outstanding Teacher Award.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Lauri Jo Schneider
Westwood Elementary
DePere, Wisconsin

Principal: Jason Lau
District Administrator: John Zegers
Sponsor: St. Norbert College

Lauri Jo Schneider is a very effective cooperating teacher. She has mentored student teachers for over 25 years on a consistent yearly basis with St. Norbert College. She gives student teachers freedom to try new approaches after they have had a reasonable amount of time to understand her procedures and have made connections with the students. Her classroom is really a community, where expectations are clear and practiced, even retaught if needed, and students feel valued. Student teachers appreciate being in this environment and will try to replicate this environment when they have their own classroom. Lauri Jo has also always given credit to student teachers’ innovations and reminds them frequently of their strengths. Lauri Jo has always said that she learns so much from student teachers. She is supportive and empowers student teachers to become good problem solvers with behavior, instruction, and classroom management.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Jay Spoerl
Rosholt Elementary School
Rosholt, Wisconsin

Principal: John Parks
District Administrator: Marc Christianson
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point

Jay Spoerl has demonstrated himself to be a fine example of a cooperating teacher. He has mentored numerous UWSP student teachers over the years. He is a patient and kind man who goes above and beyond his duty to help the teacher candidates he works with to be successful.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Rebecca Stokes
Indian Mound Middle School
McFarland, Wisconsin

Principal: Aaron Tarnutzer
District Administrator: Andrew Briddell
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Madison

For over a decade Rebecca Stokes has consistently offered our students a safe, yet challenging environment in both health and physical education in which to hone their teaching skills. When we are considering placements, we occasionally have students who need an extra boost of confidence as they face the challenge of the student teaching experience. When we see the name of a student like that on the list, we think of Becky. We know that any student who goes to Indian Mound Middle School will come away with improved teaching skills and the confidence to continue to grow as a teacher.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Nancy Padden Venuta
John Muir Elementary School
Madison, Wisconsin

Principal: Andrea Kreft
District Administrator: Jennifer Cheatham
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Whitewater

Nancy Padden Venuta has been a dedicated classroom teacher for 31 years, most recently in a racially, linguistically, economically, and developmentally diverse 5K classroom. Nancy's ability to connect with children and adults was evident in her mentoring. As one UWW ECE student suggests, "She made a genuine connection with each person she worked with and all of her students. She was a huge role model for me." Our college students are multi-faceted but one common thread is how they rave about Nancy and how she supports each child. In Ms. Padden Venuta's kindergarten children receive a positive start in school with hands-on, real-life experiences setting them up for success! This approach supports each child and mirrors the philosophy of our ECE program. Nancy is the model of compassionate caring for both her kindergarten children and our college students.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award



Jori Walt
Great Lakes Elementary School
Superior, Wisconsin

Principal: Ryan Haroldson
District Administrator: Janna Stevens
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Superior

Jori Walt has often served UW Superior as a cooperating educator for our choral-general music education student teachers during the past seven years. She has also partnered with us each year for MUSED 383, and for MUSED 382 and MUSED 386 on alternate years, for our Academic Service-Learning experiential learning in the schools. In the capacity of management skills and organization of her classes, Jori's work as a music educator has been an especially excellent model for our students. Our students have loved working with her and greatly value their experience at GLE and the Middle School with Jori.

Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award

Notes



Norah Zilisch
The New School for Community Service
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Principal: Hector Rosales
District Administrator: Darienne Driver
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

Norah Zilisch is a mentor teacher all-star! She has hosted over 20 students in the past 16 years in both history and English. As a teacher at an innovative school, Mrs. Zilisch exposes her mentees to diverse, individualized, and inventive pedagogy while also guiding and directing them to facilitate growth and best practices. She encourages her mentees to be independent by capitalizing on their strengths and allowing them to explore all the facets of being an educator. The mentoring Mrs. Zilisch provides does not end with graduation; she continues to support and mentor her prior student teachers throughout their careers.

Notes

