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The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, founded in 1868, is known for its award-winning programs, students organizations, and athletic achievements, including national championship football, men’s basketball, men’s wheelchair basketball, and rugby teams.

UW-Whitewater provides 50 undergraduate programs and 15 graduate programs to a campus of more than 12,500 students. The campus, voted one of the Top 100 Workplaces in southeastern Wisconsin, is on 404 rolling acres with 40 major buildings, a nature preserve, and an arboretum.

The university maintains institutional accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission and holds a variety of specialized accreditations at academic college and program levels. The institution’s teacher education programs are also approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is recognized by Colleges of Distinction for its business, education, and career development program. The national honor recognizes campuses for exceptional teaching and dedication to student success.

Colleges of Distinction’s selection process consists of a review of each institution’s freshman experience and retention efforts alongside its general education programs, alumni success, strategic plan, student satisfaction, and more. Schools are accepted on the basis that they adhere to the four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community, and successful outcomes.

Promoting diversity

The Division of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Support Programs at the university were created to provide efficiency by bringing together resources, talents, and opportunities of diversity units that were housed in student affairs and academic affairs to report to one cabinet-level member.

The division provides greater voice for those who have been historically most marginalized and disenfranchised. The division is comprised of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as well as Student Diversity, Engagement and Success, Adult Learning, Adult Student Services, Center for Students with Disabilities, International Education (International Recruitment, International Student Services, and the Office of Global Engagement), the Pride Center and the LGBTQ+ coordinator, and Veteran Services.

Volunteering

The university serves the community and region through various cultural events and volunteer efforts. These events include theatrical and musical productions, art and cultural exhibits, visiting artists, speakers, and lecturers.

On and off campus, students have donated thousands of hours of volunteer time to help improve the lives of others in Whitewater and its surrounding communities.

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The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has earned five more years of business and accounting education accreditation from the AACSB. **above:** Timothy J. Hyland Hall is the university’s home to the College of Business and Economics.

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTO/NICK POOK UW-W Welcome Students

UW-Whitewater celebrates 50 years of AACSB accreditation

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International announced that the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has earned five more years of business and accounting education accreditation. This marks the 50th year of consecutive AACSB business accreditation for the university and its College of Business and Economics.

The organization has 1,026 accredited institutions in over 65 countries and territories and 194 institutions with AACSB accreditation for accounting programs. Achieving this milestone ensures greater access to high-quality business education for learners and for businesses seeking top talent.

“AACSB congratulates the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on achieving AACSB

accreditation,” said Stephanie Bryant, executive vice president and global chief accreditation officer for the organization. “The commitment to earning accreditation is a true reflection of the school’s dedication – not only to its students, alumni network, and greater business community, but to society as a whole.”

Achieving AACSB accreditation is a mission-driven, rigorous process that includes an in-depth assessment of internal activities. It is a peer-reviewed evaluation focused on continuous improvement.

During this multiyear path, schools focus on developing and implementing a plan

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2024-2025 UW-Whitewater Welcome Students

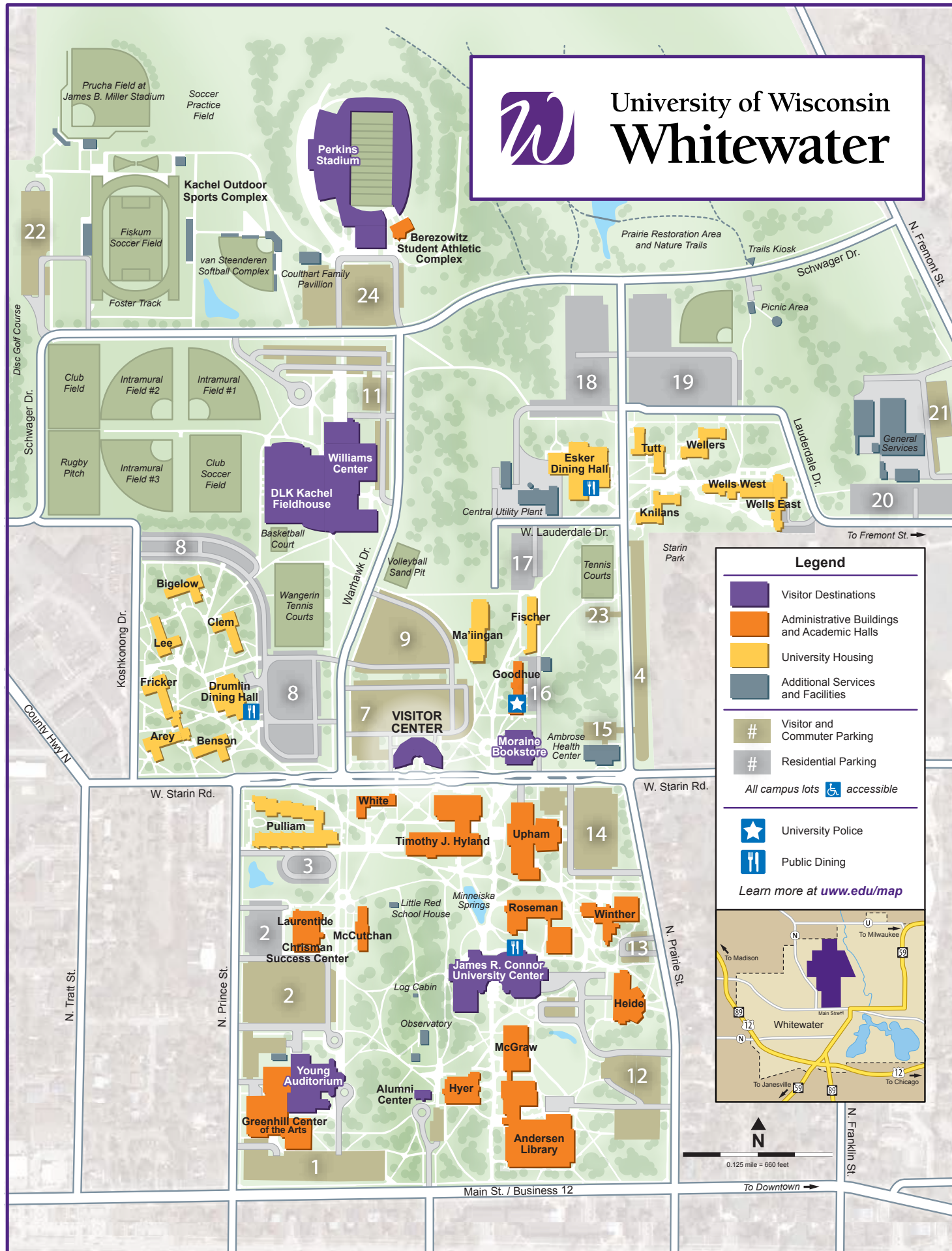
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on the cover: Willie Warhawk has fun interacting with students; the UW-Whitewater Baseball team celebrates; visitors walk between buildings on the campus.

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTOS/CRAIG SCHREINER UW-W Welcome Students



50 YEARS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

to achieve their mission and align with the organization’s accreditation standards. These principles-based standards require excellence in areas relating to strategic management and innovation, research, teaching, and learning, and making the region better through business education.

“This year UW-Whitewater’s College of Business and Economics is celebrating 110 years of business education, 25 years of online education, and now 50 years of continuous AACSB business accreditation. Whether online or on-campus, freshman to doctoral students, the College of Business and Economics helps students achieve their dreams for a better future,” said Dean Paul Ambrose.

“Being Wisconsin’s largest business school is no coincidence. With AACSB accreditation in both business and accounting, College of Business and Economics ranks in the top 2% of business schools globally for program quality. Whitewater proudly accept 97% of applicants, and College of Business and Economics graduates boast a 99% job placement rate,” Ambrose added.

“It’s been an incredible year of milestones for our College of Business and Economics,” said UW-Whitewater Chancellor Corey A. King. “Dean Ambrose and the faculty and staff work hard to create a world-class experience for our students, and our 50 years of AACSB accreditation are proof of the college’s continued culture of transformative education. I’d like to congratulate our business school students, faculty, and staff – past and present – who made this achievement possible. We see you, and we thank you.”

Per 2022 data, of all Wisconsin public comprehensive universities, UW-Whitewater has the largest population of underrepresented minority students, is number one in total aid, and graduates the greatest percent of students in six years or less (Universities of Wisconsin standard graduation measure).

The College of Business and Economics ranked No. 1 in the state in the 2024 U.S. News and World Report review of online programs. UW-Whitewater is home to Wisconsin’s top-ranked single school in: Best Online MBA, Best Online Business Graduate Program, Best Online Business Undergraduate Program, Best Online MBA Program for Veterans, Best Online Business Graduate Program for Veterans.

For more information, visit uw.edu/cobe or email cobe@uw.edu.



The University of Wisconsin-Whitwater marching band, comprised of members from all over the state and beyond, performed at halftime of the Green Bay Packers' game when they hosted the Los Angeles Chargers last fall. **below:** The group performs its halftime show, with the scoreboard showing video of the performance in the background. **above:** Katie Zarling sports a "Hi, Mom" message in face paint for the game. **at left:** The group celebrates a successful performance.

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTOS/CRAIG SCHREINER UW-W Welcome Students



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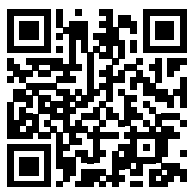
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Keeping safety a top priority

UW-Whitewater students build prototype for moving exercise equipment

For many students, college turns into an opportunity to learn the theory needed to make a career in any given field.

BY Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

For the students of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater occupational safety major, though, a real-world problem gave them a chance to come up with a real-world solution.

UW-Whitewater's Safety 481 – which focuses on analysis and design for safety in industrial operations – most often gives students a mix of real-world problem and simulation. Students use the school's Safety Lab, located in the old Sentry grocery store.

“Just to give the students experience,” said professor Todd Loushine, who oversees the course. He stressed that students need the experience heading into the working world, especially with occupational safety.

“It's essential because safety doesn't just happen. A lot of companies get very lucky, in that something just missed happening or that the severity was low to nothing,” Loushine explained. “Therefore, safety professionals are needed to assess the physical and the social work systems within an organization to identify risks and discrepancies.”

He and his students, after a project was suggested to the class, have created a prototype that might have a chance to become an industry standard.

The problem presented was how to move fully assembled exercise equipment – often unwieldy and awkward – into a home.

Working with an alum

Loushine said that part of the success of the class is Eric Olson, an alumni of the program. He said he met Olson at a professional event several years ago, and now Olson provides tours, projects and mock interviews for his students.

“He's been essential to this course,” said Loushine, explaining that Olson works as environment, health and safety director for Johnson Health Tech.

Johnson Health Tech, headquartered in Cottage Grove, is a global leader in high-quality exercise equipment. One of the services the group provides is a white-glove delivery of its exercise equipment, with no damage to property.

Enter the problem. With the awkward nature of the equipment, delivery workers often struggle to move the equipment effectively, resulting in injuries and pain.

Loushine said this issue set a task for the students – a real-world issue without an apparent solution.

“We weren't sure what was going to work,” Loushine said.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater enrolled in Safety 481 had a chance to work on a real-world safety project last year. It featured students and professor Todd Loushine putting together a prototype to safely lift exercise equipment.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS UW-W Welcome Students

New online degrees offered at UW-Whitewater

Human resources, international business programs fully online

As the world has slowly transitioned out of the COVID-19 pandemic and back into its new normal, one thing has remained – the prevalence of online options.

BY Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

For the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, that is none more evident than now, with two new, 100% online degree offerings. The university recently announced that both the human resources and international business degrees are now fully online as undergraduate options.

The HR program is designed to give students a comprehensive overview of the field as well as real-world experience with training and developing employees,

managing benefits and compensation, and handling employee relations.

The international business degree works to provide an in-depth understanding of global economics, finance, management, marketing, and the supply chain.

Joshua Knapp, a professor of management/HR at UW-Whitewater, said the human resources field remains one of the most in demand for qualified applicants.

“HR is always at the center of the organization and is intimately involved with managing its most important asset: people,” he said.

Andy Ciganek, coordinator for the international business course, said online degrees are offering the kind of flexibility both students as well as businesses crave.

“Online learning allows students to study at their own pace and on their own



While in-person education remains a popular option for college students, two new programs – international business and human resources – are being added fully online at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. **above:** Professors and students still interact during online classes, just in different ways.

PHOTO COURTESY UW-WHITEWATER UW-W Welcome Students

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'Philosophy based around compassion'

The University of Wisconsin – Whitewater Police Department proudly, professionally and proactively assists in our mutual pursuit of the safety and security of our students, staff, faculty, and community.

As the Chief of Police, I believe in a philosophy based around compassion. I want our officers and staff to consider each individual with the same empathy they would want for their own family members and people they care about.

I don't believe in or like the term "law enforcement" being applied to our profession. I think it was an unfortunate belittling of what we should truly be doing.

We are here to assist our communities, not simply enforce laws upon them. It sells short what we really do, and definitely isn't what any individual wants. Our



BY Matthew Kiederlen

UW-WHITEWATER
POLICE CHIEF

goals should be to educate, encourage, and inform; we can not compel individual change through strictly enforcement.

We live in a country founded upon the desire for liberty and freedom. Police officers are entrusted with the authority to infringe upon the freedom of the individual based upon their own observation, evidence, and belief of

what occurred within any given situation.

That authority requires the diligent, respectful, and compassionate application

of the law, the protection of society, and the weighing of individual rights and potential effects during every action. Our officers have dedicated themselves and their lives to the upholding of the rights given to all of us and holding accountable, where necessary, those willing to inappropriately deny those rights to others.

Our department mission and values statement outlines the P.A.C.T. we have with our community. Yes, maybe a little corny, but I believe in its premise and what we are striving to achieve:

- **Problem-solvers** – We will seek to solve issues in ways that are desirable to our community.
- **Accountable** – We will hold ourselves responsible to our community through transparency and professionally based standards.

• **Compassion** – We will see others through their experiences and situation.

• **Thoughtful** – We will always consider the potential life-changing affect our actions can have, both positive and negative, short- and long-term.

I truly believe in an officer's ability to create positive change and outcomes for individuals, to provide the opportunity for personal growth.

I welcome your input, your thoughts and your involvement in the policing of our community. Our unified commitment and trust of each other is the greatest assurance of safety our community can have.

Please never hesitate to reach out with a question, comment or concern. I want your involvement, and we need and desire your faith and trust.



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PROTOTYPE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7**Studying the problem**

Chris Gomez, a non-traditional student who recently came to UW-Whitewater after two years in the military, said the students ran into numerous roadblocks just trying to research what was currently being done.

After discovering that the initial assumption – the use of a dolly – wouldn't work, Gomez said he and other students reached out to 19 different moving companies.

"We wanted to see ... is anyone out there doing anything?" he said. "Out of the 19 companies, only nine of them agreed to have a conversation."

What Gomez found was even more discouraging.

Seven of the nine companies responded to moving the equipment by using more manpower, and providing hazard pay to employees to encourage them to take the job.

"It's an industry-wide struggle," Gomez said. "From a safety point, it's even worse."

Five of the companies provided equipment, but students had already tested most of it. Medical equipment like back braces, Gomez said, often have the opposite effect, encouraging people to lift more without proper support.

"What I'm seeing is these workers are hurting, and they're desperate," Gomez said. "I'm glad we covered our bases, but we didn't get anything out of it, except that people were struggling."

Enter the lab – and networking

Loushine said the Safety Lab was critical to helping solve the issue. It uses the full space of the former grocery store and gives students a chance to work through a variety of different environments, including modules that

allow students to work on everything from industrial safety to fall prevention from roofs.

"Having this lab, the support of Johnson Health Tech, Eric (Olson), and everybody else who contributes to our program, our students are prepared to make an immediate impact after graduation," Loushine said.

Or in this case, experiment to make an immediate impact, well, immediately.

When contacting moving companies failed, Loushine reached out to Jay Kapellusch in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology at UW-Milwaukee.

Kapellusch had a simple solution, recommending a device that allowed the mover to go straight up and down instead of moving forward. With a straight up and down movement, most of the strain would be removed from the shoulders and lower back.

A light bulb went off, and the students

began working with Loushine to build a prototype out of two-by-fours, using shoulder straps to lift the platform while leaving the hands free to steady the exercise equipment.

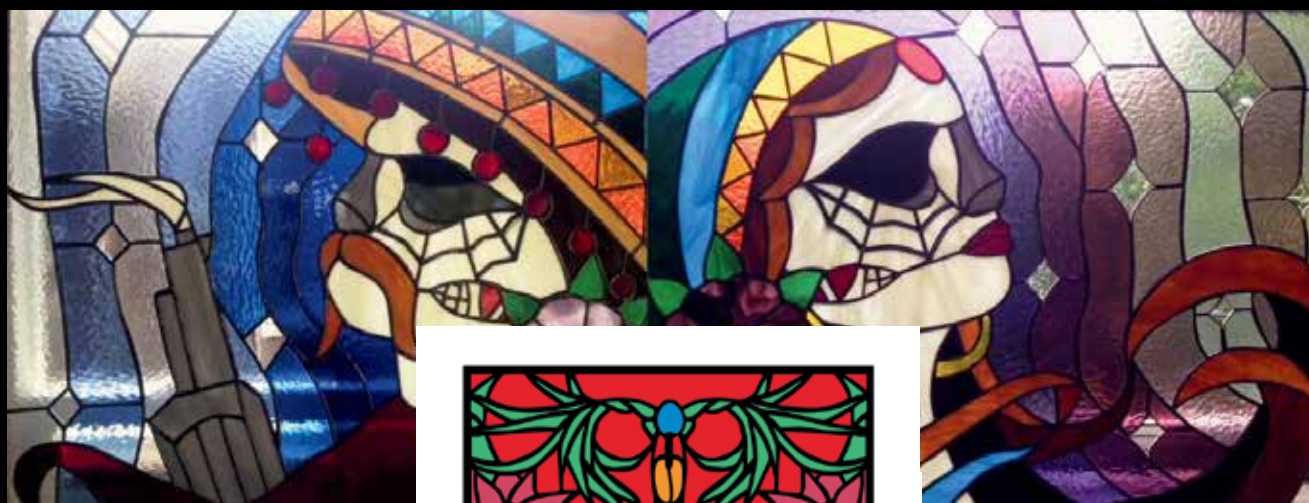
"Lo and behold, it worked," Loushine said.

Students made the presentation to Johnson Health Tech before the end of the semester, and it appeared to have some support moving forward.

While he's hesitant to say that what they developed will change the world, he is optimistic as further development is coming in future semesters of the class.

"I think what we're doing is that we're introducing something that could change the industry standard," he said. "(Johnson Health Tech) really appreciated it.

"They didn't expect us to come up with something completely new. Now we need to test it in the field."



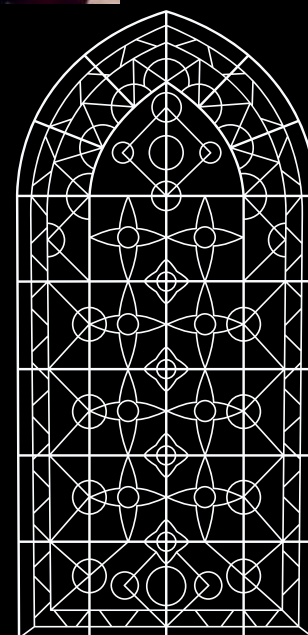
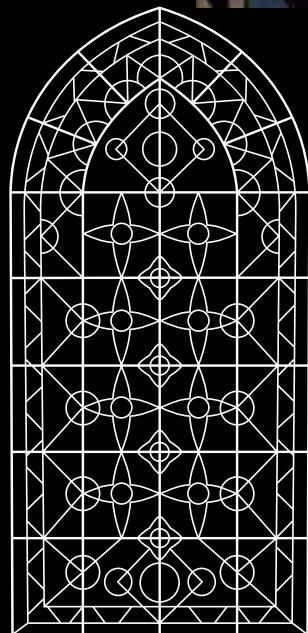
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Where Paralympians are made

Warhawks ready to compete at Paris in 2024 games

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater men's and women's wheelchair basketball

BY Chris Lindeke

UW-WHITEWATER

teams will be well represented this summer at the Paralympic Games of Paris 2024.

Eight current or former Warhawks — including six men and two women — have been selected to Team USA for the Games, which are scheduled to take place from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8 in Paris, France. Both teams qualified for the Paralympic Games by winning the 2023 Parapan American Games in Santiago, Chile, in November.

Members of the Team USA men with

ties to UW-Whitewater include:

- Jake Williams, head coach of the Warhawks, a former student-athlete who earned a BSE in physical education with a minor in recreation and leisure studies in 2015
- AJ Fitzpatrick, a current Warhawk and human performance major from Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Talen Jourdan, a current Warhawk and general business major from Deerfield
- John Boie, a current academic advisor at UW-Whitewater and former student-athlete who earned a BBA in human resources in 2014 and an MBA in 2019
- Nate Hinze, a former Warhawk who earned a BSE in physical education in 2011
- Jeromie Meyer, a current graduate student in the higher education leadership program at UW-Whitewater and former

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Becca Murray, center, participates in a practice session at UW-Whitewater.

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Occupational safety major and peer mentor Christopher Gomez, right, helps David Blankenburg, a freshman media arts and game development student, on the UW-Whitewater campus in the fall of 2022.

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTO/CRAIG SCHREINER UW-W Welcome Students

UW-W safety students earn national scholarship

Two students from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's

BY Chris Lindeke

UW-WHITEWATER

occupational and environmental safety and health (OESH) major were named recipients of the 2023 Qualified Academic Program Scholarship by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP).

Christopher Gomez of Reeseville and James Groehler of Oconomowoc were among the 40 students nationwide to earn the scholarship, which was awarded to students at larger institutions including Michigan, Purdue, Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, and others.

"I am very proud of Chris and James for winning this prestigious scholarship,"

said Alvaro Taveira, professor of OESH in the university's College of Business and Economics. "I have enjoyed working with them in class and know their work ethic and passion for the profession.

"These jobs are in high demand, and our program has an excellent placement rate, so I see a bright future ahead."

The BCSP is an accrediting body for the occupational safety profession, helping members earn credentials to help them advance their careers and protect the workplace.

"You get their certification, and you're acknowledged by them," Groehler said. "It means the difference between a safety professional and someone who goes

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College students learning while helping others

VITA program offers free tax work, real world experience

Call it a combination of a twist on a needed program, a bit of on-the-job training, and an apprenticeship all rolled into one.

BY Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, or VITA for short, is an IRS-sponsored program to help qualified people get their income tax return filed, for free. Normally, that involves retired accountants and tax preparers volunteering for a few weeks each year.

At the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, however, the VITA program is staffed by accounting students who are properly certified by the IRS to prepare tax returns. These students, in addition to getting class credit, also find themselves getting real-world experience.

The program is held for several weeks during tax season on a first-come, first-serve basis. The UW-Whitewater Community Engagement Center, 1260 W. Main St., Whitewater, serves as the host.

"It's hands-on, community-based learning," said Brian Huels, an assistant professor of accounting at UW-Whitewater and also the co-coordinator of the VITA program at the school along with Bob Meyers (a UW-W accounting lecturer).

Huels called the work the students do as part of the class an interesting dynamic.

"Taxpayers are coming in because they just want free tax work," Huels explained earlier this year. "On our side, there's also a student learning component. This class kind of bridges the gap between 'I can pass the test' to 'I can really do it.'"



The UW-Whitewater College of Business and Economics participated in the VITA Tax Preparation program again this year. It features certified student volunteers preparing tax returns for free for those who meet a certain income threshold.

SUBMITTED PHOTO UW-W Welcome Students

Those with a household income of under \$80,000 are generally eligible to have their taxes prepared through VITA. But rather than a short session at a tax preparer or a "drop off your paperwork, we'll get it done" scenario, those who choose to use the VITA services are told to expect a two-hour wait.

The students then work to not only prepare the tax return, but interview those

participating to learn more about the return they will be doing.

After the tax return is finished, it's reviewed by a faculty member and then by another student, before taking it back to review with the customer.

Huels, a UW-Whitewater graduate, participated in the school's VITA program himself while he was a student.

The program started at the school in

1971, and "it's run pretty consistently since then," he explained, adding, "We're very thorough."

About VITA

Qualifying taxpayers are invited to receive free tax preparation and electronic filing of their federal and state income tax returns at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Volunteer Income Tax Assistance clinic.

This IRS-sponsored program is available for low and moderate-income taxpayers at no cost, and no appointments are needed.

The VITA clinic is staffed by certified student preparers and supervised by faculty in the College of Business and Economics Department of Accounting.

In addition to providing hands-on experience for graduate and undergraduate accounting students, the free VITA clinic helps residents of Whitewater and surrounding communities.

"We have many long-time clients who return for assistance each spring," said Robert Meyers, accounting department lecturer and VITA program co-director.

"The opportunity to apply training while working with real people is an invaluable experience for our students," Meyers added.

Important information - including a location map, program limitations, and required supporting documentation - can be found at www.uww.edu/cobe/vita.

For additional information, contact the VITA Site Coordinator by leaving a message at 262-472-5452 or emailing vita@uww.edu.

UW-W business school celebrates professor

Distinguished research of Dr. Praveen Parboteeah reaches milestone

Dr. K. Praveen Parboteeah, an esteemed professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater College of Business and Economics and chair for the Department of Management, is celebrated not only for his exceptional teaching prowess, but also for his significant scholarly contributions and reaching a remarkable new milestone of 10,000 Google citations.

A Google citation indicates an instance where a researcher's work is used by a different scholar in another study. The frequency of citations points to the practical or adaptable value of the research or the unique character of the findings.

The 10,000 Google citations milestone demonstrates that Parboteeah is not only making a profound impact within UW-Whitewater, but he is also contributing to original scholarly research worldwide.

Like all professors at the College of Business and Economics, Parboteeah's primary responsibility is providing a rich course experience for learners. Celebrated among his students, he leveraged his classroom experience to play a pivotal role in crafting a strong curriculum that enables learners to explore more advanced research for solving real-world challenges.

This step was crucial to developing, and now leading, the only Doctorate of Business Administration in Wisconsin that is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business - the world's foremost business school accreditation body. Recent graduate, Dr. Tim Hagar described Parboteeah's program as a ticket to his "dream career."

Parboteeah's research journey began at California State University - Chico in 1992 as a Teaching

Associate and Research Assistant. Since then, he has published extensively in renowned journals such as the Academy of Management Journal, Organization Science, and the Journal of International Business Studies.

Additionally, he serves as a regular reviewer for numerous prestigious journals and has held editorial positions at key publications in international management, including the Journal of International Business Studies, Journal of World Business, International Journal of Cross-Cultural Management, and the Management International Review.

Parboteeah is also currently a senior editor and associate editor at the Journal of Business Ethics and

SCHOLARSHIP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

above and beyond just being a safety professional.”

James Groehler follows a familiar path

As the third of three brothers who studied occupational and environmental safety and health at UW-Whitewater, Groehler was already familiar with the program.

Groehler’s older brothers, Matthew and Luke, graduated in 2016 and 2021, respectively.

“They talked for miles about how much fun they had, how great the safety department was, and how good the college is,” Groehler said.

As a 2020 graduate from Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha, Groehler’s first experience on campus was during the height of the COVID pandemic.

Despite having remote classes and limited interaction with peer groups due to safety regulations, Groehler said he felt at home.

“Even though all that stuff was going on, you could see the politeness in people, and everyone was just excited to see each other,” he said.

He’s been a part of the Student Safety Organization at UW-Whitewater and has been a research assistant in the Undergraduate Research Program. He’s spent each of the last three summers — one in Iowa, one in Oregon, and one in Arizona — working for two renewable energy construction companies.

Groehler is currently in Texas working on a solar project for Blattner Energy, where he’ll have a full-time role following his graduation this May. He is also completing his safety capstone project, which includes weekly reflections, project notes, and two case studies.

He was excited to get the news of receiving the scholarship.

“It’s nice getting the recognition of the hard work and dedication I put in through both my internships and my schoolwork to where I am now,” he said. “I’m getting acknowledgement that it was more than enough.”

Christopher Gomez finds his fit

A first-generation college student, Gomez started at UW-Whitewater with the intention of studying music education. He soon discovered that music was more of a hobby for him and not an area that he wanted to pursue professionally.

After entering the business school, Gomez came to a “fork in the road.” After attending a Student Safety Organization meeting, he decided to pursue occupational safety.

“I found good success in it, it made sense to me, and it just clicked,” he said.

Prior to the 2022-23 academic year, Gomez was approached by faculty about running the Student Safety Organization. As president that year, he reimagined the group to build participation, focusing on creating monthly site visits around the region for members to gain exposure to different industries outside of the classroom.

Gomez is very active on campus. He is currently a resident assistant in Knilans Hall and a member of Lambda Alpha Upsilon, a Latino identity-focused fraternity, and the student organization Latinos Unidos. He remains a member of the Student Safety Organization and is a strong proponent of the major for students who may be undecided.

“I like how interdisciplinary it is — it’s got a big science base to it, it’s got a good side of communication, and there’s a lot of law and regulation in it,” Gomez said. “You learn from it the whole way. You never just stop. You’re constantly working to be better, and it’s doing better for other people,



Occupational safety major James Groehler poses at a construction site for his current employer, Blattner Energy.

SUBMITTED PHOTO UW-W Welcome Students

even if you don’t see it.”

In the past, Gomez has been a member of the men’s rugby club team, a peer mentor, and a panelist at the university’s Admitted Warhawk Days.

He was hoping to do his safety capstone project this summer as an intern with the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee. After earning his BBA, he plans to pursue an MBA at UW-Whitewater.

The BCSP scholarship will help Gomez get a head start on his career path.

“It gets me in the network and connecting with people more now that I don’t have to spend as much time of my week working to pay for school,” Gomez said.

“It doesn’t just help me cover my financial bases — it helps me be able to put myself out there more,” he added.

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University's Children's Center honored by Board of Regents

A staple of campus and the local community for nearly half a century, the Children's Center

BY Chris Lindeke

UW-WHITEWATER

at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has been named as a 2024 recipient of the Academic Staff Excellence Award from the Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

UW-Whitewater's Children's Center addresses a critical need in the area as Whitewater is considered a childcare desert — the city does not have enough local, accredited childcare to accommodate working families. It offers year-round, full-day care for children aged 3 months to 6 years and provides a learner-centered, collaborative early care and educational environment for children, families, educators, and pre-service teachers, working with numerous departments on campus to provide a high level of care.

"The Children's Center's commitment to academic partnerships goes beyond traditional disciplines, with collaborations in sustainability, nutrition education, music, art, and library services," Chancellor Corey A. King said. "This multifaceted approach enhances the educational experience for university students while addressing the diverse needs of the community."

In the announcement released by the Board of Regents, the board echoed the center's benefit to UW-Whitewater, which produces the most licensed teachers in the state and offers respected programs in related disciplines such as school counseling and literacy.

"The program has built and strengthened partnerships across campus since its opening in 1974. A longstanding partnership with the communication sciences and disorders program involves graduate students providing services that include screening, prevention, assessment, and treatment for speech, literacy, and language needs. This collaboration not only benefits the children at the center but also offers vital clinical experiences for speech-language pathology graduate students."

Following a Reggio-Emilia-inspired practice, which emphasizes learning by teachers alongside their students with a focus on experiential learning in relationship-driven environments, the Children's Center also holds itself to the state's highest standards as a Department of Children and Families (DCF) license holder and a YoungStar accredited school.

The center employs a looping model, where teachers stay with the same group of children for multiple grade levels to build strong relationships, bonds, and continuity.

The Children's Center has built and sustained mutually beneficial partnerships with the university's early childhood education, communication sciences and disorders, special education, and kinesiology programs, and with the sustainability and camps and conferences offices. Students within those programs receive hands-on learning experiences that are critical for their development in their major and for pinpointing what they want to do after graduation.

Chelsea Newman, director and lead teacher at the Children's Center, places a high value on the relationships built between teachers and children as well as the collaborations between the center and these campus groups.

"It really enriches the environment that we're able to provide here at the center not only for our kids, but also for the students," Newman said.

The center continues to build on those campus partnerships, recently working with Warhawk Athletics to have student-athletes play with the children on the playground just outside of the Roseman Building, where the classrooms are located. Newman and



above: UW-Whitewater Sustainability Program intern Julia Schultz, right, an environmental science major, distributes bean seeds to children at the Children's Center for planting in garden boxes that were designed and maintained by sustainability interns. **below:** Children's Center staff members, from left, Haley Westhouse, Katherine Reddeman, Jennalee Johnson, Katie Check, Lindsey Nelson, Chelsea Newman, Ellie Bader, Peggy Lean, and Jake Pierce pose for a photo on the playground at the Roseman Building on in May 2024.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTOS/CRAIG SCHREINER UW-W Welcome Students



PROFESSOR • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Business & Society respectively, two of the leading journals in the business ethics field. His extensive publication portfolio and editorial engagements with prestigious journals not only demonstrate his scholarly rigor, but also signify his unwavering commitment to advancing research and encouraging intellectual conversation.

As the university celebrates the remarkable milestone of 10,000 Google citations, his scholarly impact is undeniable, officials said.

“Dr. Parboteeah’s active involvement on campus, leadership, and pivotal role in shaping the DBA program underscore his commitment to fostering academic excellence and advancing knowledge in his field,” said Dr. Paul Ambrose, Dean of the UW-Whitewater College of Business and Economics.

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater College of Business and

Economics, is home to the No. 1 ranked online Masters of Business Administration program in the State, of single schools.

The College of Business and Economics offers a rich breadth of co-curricular activities to enhance student development and learning outcomes, including award-winning student organizations and applied learning experiences. It’s in the top 2% of the world’s business schools, earning both AACSB and AACSB Accounting Accreditation.

For more information, visit uw.edu/cobe or email cobe@uw.edu.

Dr. K. Praveen Parboteeah serves as one of the marshals during the spring 2023 UW-Whitewater College of Business and Economics master’s degree hooding ceremony for candidates in six different programs from the college.

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UW-Whitewater partner Mercyhealth earns award

Mercyhealth, a collaborative partner of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for more than 20 years, has been recognized with the Universities of Wisconsin Regents Business Partnership Award for its role in ensuring the health and safety of Warhawk student-athletes and expanding the opportunities for staff and students within the campus community and throughout southern Wisconsin.

“Mercyhealth’s impact on the experiences of UW-Whitewater students cannot be understated,” UW-Whitewater Chancellor Corey A. King said. “This partnership strengthens student and team success and inspires our more than 600 student-athletes on campus each year to pursue peak performance. We are able to partner with Mercyhealth in innovative ways to have a positive effect on the community and the region by addressing the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and residents.”

The award was presented to Mercyhealth at UW-Whitewater in October 2023, by Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman and Board of Regents Vice President Amy Bogost.

“The long-standing relationship between Mercyhealth and UW-Whitewater is exceptional,” Rothman said. “Between the partnership with Warhawk Athletics and the many other activities the two organizations collaborate on, Mercyhealth and UW-Whitewater are working together to make a strong impact in the community, the region and our state.”

Regent Bogost said, “Mercyhealth and UW-Whitewater are two committed community stewards joining forces to make



Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman and Board of Regents Vice President Amy Bogost present the Regents Business Partnership Award to Mercyhealth at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in October 2023. Joining them for the presentation are UW-Whitewater and Mercyhealth representatives.

CRAIG SCHREINER/UW-WHITEWATER UW-W Welcome Students

our region stronger, a perfect embodiment of the Regents Business Partnership Award.”

“We are honored to accept the Universities of Wisconsin Regents Business Partnership Award on behalf of Mercyhealth,” Mercyhealth Vice President Jeni Hallatt said. “We’re grateful for our long-standing partnership with UW-Whitewater. Together, we continue to create positive health outcomes for student athletes, as well as the greater community. Mercyhealth’s mission is to provide exceptional health care services with a passion for making lives better, and our

partnership with UW-Whitewater is a strong illustration of that.”

The collaboration between UW-Whitewater and Mercyhealth dates to the 2001-02 academic year. The current agreement extends through 2027-28.

As the exclusive health care provider for Warhawk Athletics, Mercyhealth provides two full-time certified athletic trainers from its staff to work at the university. In addition, Bradley Fiderler, an orthopedic surgeon with more than 20 years of experience, and Dennys Maldonado, a primary care sports

medicine physician who has worked with UW-Whitewater student-athletes since 2009, hold regular office hours on campus and make themselves available well beyond the scheduled hours.

UW-Whitewater is annually recognized as a “College of Distinction for Affordability” thanks in part to Mercyhealth’s dedication to the care of Warhawk student-athletes that goes well beyond what the university budget allows.

Mercyhealth’s commitment to advanced medicine and the student experience has played an integral role in the Warhawks’ success at the NCAA Division III level. UW-Whitewater has ranked among the top 20 in Division III in the National Association of College Directors of Athletics Learfield Directors’ Cup, a holistic measurement of the athletic success at the division’s 450-plus institutions.

In addition, Mercyhealth augments on-site health care coverage for UW-Whitewater Camps and Conferences each summer, working camps in athletics, music, theater, STEM, and more. Last summer, UW-Whitewater hosted more than 6,740 people at camps and conferences, the most since the university began hosting campers in 1973. Mercyhealth doctors also volunteered to provide coverage at the Wisconsin Special Olympics 2023 State Summer Games, which were held at UW-Whitewater in June.

Mercyhealth is also a regular participant in the university’s Wellness Fairs, educating students, faculty and staff about health and wellbeing while gaining valuable brand exposure to the university’s audience.

ONLINE DEGREES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

schedule, making it easier to balance their education with work, family, and other commitments,” Ciganek explained.

“Students are increasingly seeking specialized skills, which is why there is an increase in online degree opportunities,” he added.

UW-Whitewater, Ciganek said, can appeal for a number of reasons.

The international business program has a strong reputation – Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation and more than 25 years of online education experience – plus the competitive cost compared to other programs.

Ciganek, who is also the chair of the IT and Supply Chain Management department, said he is routinely working with local and regional employers to find out what kind of skills are in demand.

“Beyond critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving, these employers have regularly mentioned ‘global’ or ‘international’ as essential skills since the pandemic,” Ciganek said,

going on to explain that the university’s international business programs directly addresses this need and complements UW-Whitewater’s other well-known majors.

“For example, marketing or supply chain students may open up new and more diverse career possibilities by majoring or minoring in international business,” he added.

According to Ciganek, UW-Whitewater offering the international business program fully online gives students flexibility, especially if they can’t be on campus for classes or are enrolling from a distance.

For more on the human resources degree, go to uww.edu/online/bachelors/human-resource-management.

For more on the international business program, go to uww.edu/online/bachelors/international-business.

UW-Whitewater offers the state’s largest College of Business and Economics and is home to the No. 1-ranked online MBA program in the state.

In addition, the College of Business and Economics is in the top 2% of world business schools.



College students work through an exercise in a classroom on campus.

PHOTO COURTESY UW-WHITEWATER UW-W Welcome Students

CHILDREN'S CENTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

her team, working with the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, have also reinstated literacy groups in the 4K classroom for the first time since the onset of the COVID pandemic.

A total of 64 percent of Children's Center enrollees are children of university employees, and more than 6,000 placement hours are provided annually for students completing fieldwork and in student teaching in the early childhood program.

"It means the world to myself and our family that our son can be on campus with me," said Nicole Weber, academic advisor in the College of Education and Professional Studies. "The development and growth opportunities that are awarded to the kiddos in the center are beyond what I imagined. The teachers in our classrooms have assisted our son in building his confidence, imaginative nature, and, of course, his adventurous side. None of this would be possible without having a center like this one in my workplace."

The center's impact extends beyond campus. Students from Whitewater High School fulfill their child development course requirements at the site. Graduate students from other institutions seeking an early childhood license are placed at the center.

During the 2023-24 academic year, the center addressed family needs by adding school-age childcare when Whitewater schools are not in-session and a drop-in site in the University Center for children ages 2-12.

The drop-in site is supported by the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant. Newman said grants and state funding have been critical in supporting the center's initiatives and staff, some of whom don't receive enough compensation to send their own children to the center, as well as the families who utilize the center's services.

"I feel like funding has to be given in order to make it more feasible for families to afford," Newman said. "Otherwise, it's just that never-ending cycle of 'how are we going

to afford this?' I know we have a family here who pays almost \$30,000 for three kids. If we want people to stay in the workforce, something's got to give for our families."

Newman and her team are hopeful that future funding can support other opportunities, including expanding infant and toddler spaces to meet high demand and working with the library on campus to create family study rooms with toys and other furnishings provided by the Children's Center.

"We're really trying to think outside of the box of what more we can do for the greater campus community who maybe doesn't necessarily utilize us – thinking about how else we could help them succeed," she said.

The Children's Center will celebrate its 50th anniversary this fall. For Newman this milestone is a testament to the value it holds both on campus and in the local community.

"By doing more research on all the things we've accomplished in the last 50 years, we've continued to grow not only within

the center and what we offer here, but grow within our partnerships with campus and the community," Newman said.

The relationships she's built throughout her time at UW-Whitewater – and those her department continues to build – become apparent each time she leaves the Roseman Building.

"We're able to collaborate and meet different professors or academic staff and build on those connections," Newman said. "I feel like whenever we go for walks, every year, it's more people that I'm able to say hi to."

The Board of Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award recognizes the excellent and invaluable service provided by non-instructional administrative and professional academic staff throughout the Universities of Wisconsin.

The Children's Center received \$7,500 for professional and/or program development activities and was recognized at the Board of Regents meeting at UW-Milwaukee.

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WARHAWKS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Warhawk, who earned a BSE in physical education with minors in recreation and leisure studies and athletic coaching in 2022

Williams, Fitzpatrick, Jourdan, Boie, and Meyer were part of Team USA's first-place showing at Parapan American Games earlier this year. Williams seeks his third Paralympic gold medal, while Boie tries for his second. Fitzpatrick, Jourdan, and Meyer are set to make their Paralympic debuts.

Williams, Fitzpatrick, and Jourdan led the UW-Whitewater men to the program's 14th National Wheelchair Basketball Association national championship last month.

Hinze rejoins Team USA for his fourth Paralympic appearance, looking for his third gold and fourth medal overall.

"You know a lot of guys went to UW-Whitewater and played at UW-Whitewater, but you don't put the pieces together until the team is announced," Williams said. "You look around and six of these guys are here, and it's a mix of veterans and new guys.

"I don't think there's any other school that's had this many at once. It's an amazing accomplishment."

Members of the Team USA women who are former Warhawks include Becca Murray, who earned a BSE in special education with minors in athletic coaching and psychology in 2014, and Lindsey Zurbrugg, who earned a BSE in physical education with a minor in athletic coaching in 2021.

Murray seeks her third Paralympic gold and fourth overall medal, while Zurbrugg hopes to earn her first gold and second

Paralympic medal. Schwab claimed three Paralympic gold medals as an athlete in 2004, 2008, and 2016.

In addition, Christina Schwab, former Warhawk women's wheelchair basketball coach and current First Year Experience office team member who earned an MSE in professional studies in 2021, will serve as head coach of the Team USA women. Former Warhawk Desiree Miller, who earned an M.S. on counseling in 2014, will be an assistant coach on Schwab's staff.

Former Warhawk Josie DeHart, who earned a BSE in physical education with a minor in athletic coaching in 2022, was selected as an alternate for the Team USA women.

All five women were part of Team USA's gold medal performance at the 2023 Parapan American Games.

In addition, four other former Warhawks will represent their respective countries in Paris. Sammy White, who earned a BBA in information technology in 2016 and an MSE in professional studies in 2018, is hoping that, after the country's selection camp takes place in June, he will be selected to represent his native Australia at the games.

Former Warhawks Mareike (Adermann) Miller, who earned a BBA in general management with a minor in coaching in 2013, and Vanessa Erskine, who earned a BSE in physical education in recreation and leisure studies in 2015, are women's national team members for Germany, which looks to qualify for Paris later this month.

Former Warhawk Mariska Beijer, who earned a BBA in marketing in 2017, will

play for the Netherlands.

Schwab, who coached the UW-Whitewater women from 2016-22 and coached Zurbrugg for five years, was an assistant coach for the Team USA men at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. She took over as head coach of the Team USA women in December 2021.

"If I'm ever in Roseman, I love to brag about all the flags hanging in there," Schwab said. "We have all these former student-athletes representing at the international games. I don't know that another school has so much representation.

"It speaks to the development on our campus in wheelchair basketball—we have new people and veterans on both the men's and women's squads."

Both teams will engage in training camps and international "friendlies"—or exhibition games—in the coming months.

More than 4,400 athletes and 3 million spectators are expected to experience the Paralympic Games in Paris this summer.



Christina Schwab is shown with the gold medal she won as a member of the 2016 U.S. Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Schwab has gold medals from two previous Paralympic Games in Athens and Beijing.

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTO/CRAIG SCHREINER
UW-W Welcome Students



Head coach and Paralympian Jake Williams, left, holds the national champion trophy with most of the men's wheelchair basketball team after the Parade of Champions, where UW-Whitewater and the Whitewater Fire Department honored national champion athletes in men's wheelchair basketball, gymnastics and track-and-field on Apr. 3, 2024.

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTO/CRAIG SCHREINER UW-W Welcome Students



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