U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GreenRibbonSchools

Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

☒ Public 4-Year ☐ Public 2-Year ☐ Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: Dr. Dwight C. Watson, Chancellor

Official College or University Name: University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Mailing Address: 800 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI 53190-1790
County: Walworth IPEDS Number*: 240189
Telephone: (262) 472-6709
Web site/URL: https//www.uww.edu E-mail: EnterlinWJ03@uww.edu

*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Date: 1/31/2020

(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: University of Wisconsin System Administration

Name of Nominating Authority: Dr. Raymond Cross, President

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisio

Raymond W. Cross

Date: 2/11/2020

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: March 31, 2021

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

University of Wisconsin Whitewater

Summary

Sustainability at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater addresses numerous outcomes that fit the Pillars of the Green Ribbon Schools recognition in a comprehensive way. Starting with the Chancellor's commitment to address greenhouse gases in 2008, UW-Whitewater has responded with a number of sustainability projects and programs that meet the expectations of this recognition and make our university a leader in campus sustainability. The establishment of the Sustainability Office helps administer the program and direct new initiatives across all three Pillars.

Reduced Environmental Impacts and Costs

Many of the operational excellence projects that fit Pillar 1 help reduce carbon emissions to respond to our climate commitment while lowering cost through greater efficiencies. As the campus size has grown, energy efficiency projects in lighting, building envelope, and HVAC have lowered the overall energy use per gross square foot of space. Alternative transportation projects to improve bicycle and pedestrian access were combined with efforts like carpool matching, shuttles, charging stations, and other amenities to reduce the volume and impact of vehicle traffic. An effort to reduce the campus fleet size helps lower costs by using vehicles with improved efficiency. Efficiency gains were achieved through water conservation practices, particularly in dining halls and the chilled water plant. A stormwater outreach and education campaign allowed the campus and surrounding municipalities to meet permit requirements at low cost and high impact. Solid waste reduction practices include efforts to engage the campus community through programs like RecycleMania and operational changes to streamline bin placement and labeling practices. Many other types of waste have alternative methods to landfills established and programs like student residence hall move-out waste diversion help reduce this impact further.

Improved Health and Wellness

The health and wellness of the campus community is also a priority reflected in efforts to meet Pillar 2. Chemicals and other hazardous waste are properly managed through an inventory for maximum accountability from purchase to disposal. Grounds staff minimized use of pesticides through integrated pest management eliminating use of more concerning herbicide products. University Health and Counseling Services provides a wide range of health offerings that also promote wellness in addition to responding to health needs. Health education offered through the Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health and the Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Coaching Departments train students for various career paths. There are also various training, employee assistance, and worksite wellness programs for all members of the campus community. Involvement in wellness topics extends to the community through support programs connected to local food pantries, garden-based education, and partnership with a community wellness nonprofit. Connecting the campus to its outdoor spaces is also a priority reflected in the Master Plan and a 120-acre nature preserve and recreation area. The trail system in the nature preserve is particularly well-utilized among members of the community. The special designation as an Ice Age Trail Campus connects people to a vast resource with the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit boasting the oldest and one of the best-maintained trail sections throughout the National Scenic Trail.

Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Finally, UW-Whitewater fulfils its mission as an educational institution by offering several environmental and sustainability education programs that fit Pillar 3. The most recent revision of the general education learning outcomes includes a commitment to Personal and Civic Responsibility. Students in the Environmental Science major can choose from several tracks to respond to the challenges of a changing world with a rewarding green career. Several efforts to connect minority students with STEM careers and experiences helped UW-Whitewater receive recognition and a statewide award for successful outreach to K-12 students. The Science Outreach Office also connects K-12 students to STEM fields to help bolster enrollment in these programs by providing experiential or hands-on learning opportunities both in host schools and on the UW-Whitewater campus.

Interdisciplinary learning continues to be a key feature for UW-Whitewater as well, from the Integrated Science-Business major to intentional efforts to include interdisciplinary connections in community-based research. The Sustainability Council keeps a representative group of people engaged across the campus and community in the spirit of collaborative solutions to problems. For several students, their sustainability education culminates in engagement with the Sustainability Office directly, either through one of the many project-based internships, independent study, or capstone courses that use the campus as a living laboratory. Students can also get more marginally involved through volunteer opportunities or class project inquiries and have opportunities to take on leadership roles through sustainability-based student organizations or becoming a peer to peer educator.

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Carbon Commitment: UW-Whitewater is a signatory of the Second Nature Carbon Commitment and was originally a signatory of the American College and University President's Climate Commitment in 2007. In recent years, all historical greenhouse gas emissions inventories transitioned to Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Program (SIMAP) for more transparency and reporting capabilities.

Campus Engagement and Climate Commitment: Additional efforts are underway to engage shared governance groups in climate change action by asking for encouragement to sign the Second Nature Climate Commitment. This will incorporate resiliency planning as a part of the conversation to help our university further mitigate future emissions, while also adapting to changing conditions such as flooding and high-intensity precipitation events.

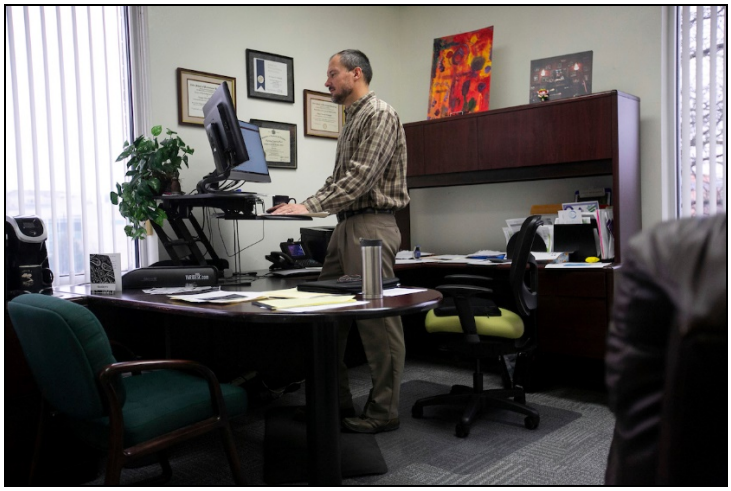
Higher Efficiency: In recent years UW-Whitewater has seen continued campus growth in both physical size as well as overall population. This has led to an overall increase in total emissions since becoming a signatory, however, over the last five years, we've seen a reduction of 7% in total building energy consumption per gross square foot.

Steam Generation: The steam supplied to our campus is provided by a large co-generation plant located a couple miles northeast of campus. The overall higher efficiency of the plant allows the university to purchase steam at a significant discount of approximately 75%. The plant utilizes 100% natural gas, which is less carbon-intensive fuel.

Energy Efficiency

Building Improvements: There are two LEED Certified buildings on campus. Starin Hall is LEED Gold and was completed in 2010. Laurentide Hall is LEED Certified and was completed in 2012. Additionally, Hyland Hall and the University Center were constructed in 2008 to sustainable design standards for energy efficiency and daylighting, with the university's first solar array installed on Hyland Hall in 2010. Residence hall renovation projects have also focused mainly on improving the utility consumption through lighting, HVAC, and building envelope improvements. Additional improvements include variable frequency drives on air handlers, window and vestibules, steam traps, and water circulation pumps.

LED Lighting: An area lighting LED project converted 664 existing high-pressure sodium and metal halide fixtures that cover parking areas, sidewalks and streets. These fixtures consumed 482,622 kWh per year. The LED area lighting consume 208,492.2 kWh per year at a 56.8% energy reduction for an annual savings of $21,930.40 ($0.08 per kWh). LED lighting is currently being implemented for outdoor, building-mounted fixtures, interior common areas, and classroom technology renovations.



Computer Purchasing: The university does not have a stated preference for purchasing in accordance with the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) but is largely compliant with this specification. Of the $1.33 million spent on computing equipment and displays, 91% is certified EPEAT Gold and the rest is certified as EPEAT Silver.

Occupancy Sensors: In order to help manage our overall energy consumption in buildings, occupancy sensors have been installed to better control lighting and HVAC systems in new construction.

Solar Power: A 32.4 kW solar array provides Hyland Hall with approximately 45,000 kWh of electricity each year. There are also ground-mounted solar demonstration projects implemented at the Rock County campus that tie into the Engineering Lab for direct student engagement with the components of this technology.

Utility Data Collection and Reporting: The Sustainability Office aggregates all campus utility data for performance reporting and is currently implementing an energy database with reporting capabilities to provide a more granular look at utility usage. This insight will help facilitate more informed sustainable building management and related budgeting decisions.

Water Quality, Efficiency, and Conservation

Rock River Stormwater Group Leadership: The Sustainability Office participates in the Rock River Stormwater Group, which is a collection of local municipalities that perform outreach and education efforts to comply with requirements for the MS4 stormwater permit. The Sustainability Director has been President of the group for several years and engaged marketing students from the UW-Whitewater campus to inform and educate community groups, K-12 classrooms, and individual homeowners, business owners, and municipal employees how stormwater impacts the local Rock River and provide practical steps individuals can take to reduce this impact. This yields significant cost savings to the university and creates high-impact learning opportunities for the students involved.

Stormwater Best Management Practices: The integrity of natural hydrology is important to help the University mitigate flash flooding events and protect Whitewater Creek, a small, local tributary that ultimately ends up in the Mississippi River. In one parking lot there are extensive bioswales planted primarily with cup plant, a native prairie species with a deep root system to draw water quickly into the soil. Using dry creek beds near storm drains in the most developed areas of campus also help promote infiltration. New construction and parking remodels incorporate modern stormwater best management practices into the design, such as detention ponds and permeable pavers.

Erosion Control Plan: A University sediment and erosion control plan, specific to the site, conforms to the requirements of NR 216 or COMM 61. 115, NR 151 and local construction site erosion control ordinances. The plan aims to meet the following objectives: prevent loss of soil during construction by stormwater runoff and/or wind erosion, protect topsoil by stockpiling for reuse, reduce sedimentation of storm sewer or receiving streams, and prevent polluting the air with dust and particulate matter.

Chiller Plant Improvements: For many years the University used sulfuric acid to reduce alkalinity in cooling tower water, however, in 2019 the University abandoned this practice in favor of soft water which is considerably safer. Soft water continues to provide excellent protection against scaling on heat transfer services along with the additional benefit of reduced water to the sanitary system and reduced risk of exposure to sulfuric acid. Due to the purity of softened water, the cycles of concentration of the water have been greatly increased resulting in less water wasted.

Adapted Plants in New Construction: Efforts have been made on new construction sites to restore or protect a minimum of 50%

of the site area with native or adapted vegetation. Native/adapted plants include any species indigenous to our locality or cultivars of native plants that are adapted to the local climate and are not considered invasive species or noxious weeds.

Dining Improvements: Purchase of high-efficiency dishwashers have allowed considerable reductions in consumption rates in dining facilities. Additionally, trays were removed from dining halls, which saved thousands of gallons in daily water use, reduced chemical use and discharge to wastewater treatment, and reduced food waste from overconsumption practices.

Low-Flow Fixtures: Many new construction and retrofit projects implemented low-flow water fixtures and upgrades to plumbing systems to increase efficiency. Several of the newer campus buildings utilize dual-flush toilets to help reduce the water consumption of those fixtures.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Reduction

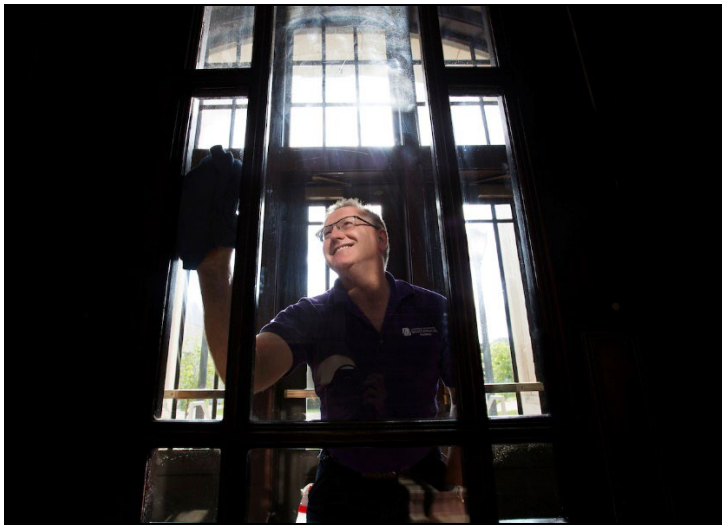
Single-Stream Recycling: UW-Whitewater utilizes a single stream collection process to sort municipal solid waste that is picked up by a local waste hauler with a nearby recycling facility. Communications with this waste hauler helps the Sustainability Office inform the campus on proper recycling procedures. Current recycling rates are near 30% consistently.

RecycleMania: The campus participates in RecycleMania each year and runs a residence hall competition with visual measurement estimates to compare different hall complex performances against each other during the same duration as RecycleMania. Recycling magnets have been provided to all incoming University Housing students to clearly articulate what items are and are not recyclable on campus.

Composting: Food waste diversion experiments have been executed in dining areas to start scaling up a composting program, focusing first on pre-consumer food waste incorporated with extra issues of the student newspaper. Food waste in dining halls is recovered on the pre- and post-consumer side and put into industrial grinders for processing at the wastewater treatment plant, which features methane flaring to reduce atmospheric impact.

Bin Removal and Signage: A waste study investigating the feasibility of classroom bin removal and consolidation showed positive improvements to recycling rates and will be paired with standardized labeling of bins with signage created by Recycle Across America. This program will be coupled with a reduced pickup schedule in office areas to help realize further labor savings and reduce consumption of bin liners.

Recycling in Procurement: The State of Wisconsin's Procurement Manual establishes a policy on recycling-related procurement in accordance with 1989 Wisconsin Act 335. This includes: the purchase of recycled products; the purchase of products with reduced waste; the purchase of products that can be recycled; the choice of durable, multiple-use products; and the use of life cycle costing. Subsequently, all office paper purchased through central stores contains 30% recycled content.



Custodial Green Cleaning Products: The University has adopted a green cleaning policy for several different units on campus and is currently working to consolidate cleaning chemical purchasing under a vendor with a wider variety of Green Seal certified products in a mixing station distribution system that will reduce the impact of shipping diluted product and plastic waste. Additionally, the vast majority of janitorial paper products met a third-party sustainability certification. When it was last evaluated in Fiscal Year 2018, nearly 69% of all janitorial cleaning and paper products were third-party certified to meet recognized sustainability standards.

Move-Out: University Housing has partnered with Goodwill Industries to coordinate a collection event as part of student move-out activities. The value to Goodwill prompted them to place two permanent on-site collection bins near each residence hall area to facilitate year-round collection. For example, from August 2017-May 2018, University Housing collected 11,006 pounds of donations for Goodwill. The collection program was expanded by the Sustainability Office in 2019 to include non-perishable food, toiletries, and school supply donations for the Warhawk Pantry, which is an on-campus food pantry available to all students. Additionally, move out collection for students living off-campus was started with a local resource organization called the Community Space, where items are sorted and offered to anyone in the community for free.

Electronic Waste: Surplus Equipment Processing is managed by the iCIT Department for removing unwanted technology equipment from campus offices, labs, and classrooms. Once removed, iCIT serves as a clearinghouse for the equipment, which is evaluated, and either kept for potential redeployment or recycled as part of the TREE (Technology Repurposing & Electronic E-cycling) program. University Housing allows students to recycle electronic waste at all front desk locations. Additionally, a drop off location in the University Center allows the campus community to recycle batteries, media, small electronics, cables, and printer cartridges.

Bulb and Battery Recycling: The University participates in battery and light bulb recycling. The battery recycling program covers lead-acid batteries used on campus. The light bulb recycling program covers fluorescent, low-pressure sodium, high-intensity discharge such as metal halide and mercury vapor, as well as incandescent bulbs.

Construction Waste: UW-Whitewater participates in the WasteCap program for large construction projects. WasteCap Resource Solutions, Inc. is an industry supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides waste reduction and recycling assistance to businesses. WasteCap assists and encourages organizations to effectively drive costs out of their operations through improved solid waste management practices.

Dining Services: Dining Services has implemented several strategies to help reduce the impact of single-use plastics, including a modified plastic top for drinks to eliminate straws, plant-based plastics and compostable cups, reusable clamshell exchange program, and refillable mug discounts for hot drinks. Used cooking oil is also recycled for use as a biofuel.

Alternative Transportation

Fleet Reduction: A fleet reduction plan was initiated to reduce the total number of state vehicles used on campus and shrink the size of the overall fleet of larger vehicles by implementing smaller, shared, low-speed service vehicles in various applications. This option is more fuel efficient and includes neighborhood electric vehicles that use lithium-ion technology which could be charged overnight by staff at reduced cost and climate impact.

Charging Stations: The campus supports two ChargePoint charging locations on campus, including one that is designed for easy access for fleet vehicles at the General Services (facilities) building.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Access: The City of Whitewater adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which includes recommendations for a Complete Streets ordinance. While there is no specific commitment to following this policy on campus, the general effort to provide connectivity and accommodation to the city efforts (particularly the city streets that intersect the campus) is already underway as the campus has been an active partner in the city's process. Additional infrastructure and education improvements are underway in pursuit of Bicycle Friendly University status.

Shuttles: A free commuter shuttle was implemented in Fall 2018 that connects our students, staff and faculty to the Rock County Campus, Whitewater Main Campus, and Blackhawk Technical College, with an additional stop at Janesville Transit System's Van Galder bus terminal. This service supports students' ease of access and creates community connections for work and social opportunities. Additional investigations into another Whitewater shuttle as well as local bus routes to nearby metropolitan areas of Madison and Milwaukee will help improve connectivity and provide an option to reduce individual carbon footprints by current commuters. An app was developed to consolidate these schedules into a searchable database that will help users connect to additional transportation options serving our region. We also provide a free campus shuttle available for students with disabilities.

Carpool Matching Platform: The campus is a member of Zimride, operated by Enterprise, an online ride sharing user database. Campus users can create profiles using secure campus log-in information and can automatically be matched with other commuters who enter the same schedule. We have also partnered with several other UW System schools who also have Zimride to expand our regional network.

Transportation Clearinghouse: The Sustainability Office maintains an Alternative Transportation page on the university's website that offers direct links or more information to all the transportation service options available in Whitewater and Janesville, the two communities our campuses are located within. Options include personal vehicle, mass transit, bicycle, and electric vehicle options and amenities. The transportation page includes a direct link to current schedules and Sustainability Office staff offer transportation planning assistance for long-distance trips using multiple modes.

Ecological Grounds Practices

Campus Arboretums: The University received Tree Campus USA Certification for the first time in 2019, and later received ArbNet arboretum certification for the specimen collection and management of Chopp and Salisbury Arboretums, which are the two historic arboretums located on the original campus grounds.

Ash Tree Companion Planting: Our main focus in controlling invasive species is the response to the Emerald Ash Borer. Well over 1,000 campus trees, many planted in developed areas of campus as parking islands or along roads, were ash trees. After evidence of the Ash Borer was sighted on campus, a companion planting program was initiated to begin replacing ash trees by planting a similar species of tree nearby.

Native Plants in the Landscape: A centerpiece of our sustainable landscape plan is the use of native species in landscaping beds. Many native species are harvested as seeds from the reconstructed prairie in the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve. For example, many areas of campus feature Little Bluestem grasses, which have a neat, clumping appearance and enjoyable fall colors.

Mowing Reductions: There are several areas on campus with reduced or eliminated mowing schedules, which helps improve outdoor air quality as well as reduce the carbon emissions and labor costs where more intensive management practices would be needed to maintain turf. The campus grounds crew has been able to significantly reduce the amount of push mowing or string trimming done, which is a less efficient use of fuel and is more time-consuming. Perennial plantings of various decorative plants like daylilies are used around poles, and beds are planted in areas that would normally be mowed with a push mower (like parking islands). This allows us to use riding deck mowers to quickly and efficiently take care of lawn areas.

Mulch and Compost: Campus landscaping waste materials are almost exclusively reused. Mulching woody waste from branches or felled trees are reused as landscaping wood chips all over campus. Grass trimmings are never collected and are allowed to mulch in place. Leaves are also mulched in place or vacuumed. Any accumulated yard waste that is collected is left to compost in the nature preserve or in an empty lot near the facilities building.

Winter Maintenance: Impervious services are currently treated with a salt brine solution, which has numerous environmental advantages over traditional road salt since surfaces pre-treated with the brine resist ice formation. Otherwise, the same "less is more" approach has been adopted to only spot-apply products to problem areas, focusing mainly on heavily used sidewalks.

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students, faculty and staff

Integrated Pest Management

Selective Herbicide Bans and Reductions: Our current Integrated Pest Management plan was derived from a campus effort to eliminate the use of broadleaf herbicides on turf by an environmental student organization. While this ban is no longer in place, we still use pesticides minimally for a number of reasons. Choosing less toxic chemical pesticides and minimizing their use is environmentally beneficial, but also is safer for the staff to handle and use. The ban shifted to a significant reduction in the frequency of applications on lawn areas to a single annual application to minimize dandelion spread to respond to voiced concerns over their prevalence.

Glyphosate Elimination Efforts: Due to ongoing health concerns over the use of products containing glyphosate, an herbicide study was conducted in 2019 to test products with different active ingredients. A combination of a non-selective glyphosate alternative mixed with a pre-emergent was discovered as viable alternative that also reduced the application frequency, thereby reducing costs associated with application regardless of product cost.

Non-selective Herbicide Reductions: We only use non-selective herbicides in targeted locations and only for targeted species. These products are used to treat weeds that grow through the cracks of paved surfaces or around tree rings. Occasionally, weeds will be treated in marquee or high-visibility flowerbeds. Insect pests are only treated with chemicals when IPM methods failed to control populations.

Contaminant and Asthma Controls and Ventilation

No Smoking Zone: No smoking areas have been established within 50 feet of any entrance to avoid unintentional introduction of tobacco smoke into buildings.

Anti-Idling Policy: University Center and Dining Services implements a no-idling policy at their receiving docks to avoid carbon monoxide and particulate contamination indoors.

Indoor Air Quality, Moisture Control, and Thermal Comfort

Indoor Air Quality Survey: This survey allows members of the campus community to report concerns they may have related to air quality in our buildings. Our Risk Management and Safety Department monitors these inquiries and assesses any related issues to ensure a safe and comfortable indoor environment.

Building Automation System: Our campus utilizes Johnson Controls Metasys system to help maintain consistent temperature and humidity levels throughout all utility-connected buildings. These controls are supported by a trained technician on staff along with a service contract from the system manufacturer. This contract ensures that the system is up to date with the current version and technology advancements. They also support University staff with technical expertise in programming and sequencing.

Chilled Water Distribution: A trim response system was added to the chilled water controls that allows the ability to monitor and control individual air handling equipment needs. Readings are performed for every chilled water valve on campus and if one is found operating outside of parameters for longer than 15 minutes, pump speed and pressure are adjusted to maintain control of proper discharge temperature, humidity, and indoor air quality with reduced energy use.

Food and Water Quality

Vegan and Vegetarian Audits: Several students worked with campus dining staff to improve vegan and vegetarian signage and communication in the dining halls. They are also working toward a goal of having vegetarian protein options offered during all meal periods at dining halls.

Community Health Intern: The Sustainability Office participated in the Community Health Internship Program by engaging a

student focused on health and wellness topics to use the backdrop of the Campus Garden for creating educational materials in support of healthy eating through basic gardening practices. This support focused on engagement with the Community Food Pantry patrons and Whitewater City Market customers.

A'viands "Naturally" Program: "Naturally" is a program developed by our dining services partners, A'viands, who employ marketing and training materials to educate customers and team members about sustainable practices. This program ensures that our staff is using natural resources in a responsible manner while encouraging guests to do the same with marketing and event support.

Responsible Food Purchasing: Dining Services utilizes vendors certified by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch.

Bottle Filling Stations: The University adopted a building standard to implement filtered bottle filling stations in every new construction or renovation project on campus. Additionally, filling stations were retrofitted in buildings with known water quality issues to ensure every building on campus had at least one filling station available for occupants.

CSA Program: The University has maintained a host site relationship with a local community supported agriculture farm for over ten years with an average membership of at least 12 families. Whitewater piloted a CSA program to serve the campus community additional produce options from the Campus Garden. All produce served by these programs are cultivated using chemical-free methods.

Chemical Management

MSDS Inventory: The campus Hazard Communication Program requires each employing unit of the University that uses or stores hazardous chemicals to obtain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) from the manufacturer or distributor. A copy of each MSDS obtained must be routed to the campus Office of Risk Management and Safety for inclusion in the master MSDS file and entry into the master Chemical Inventory system.

Hazardous Waste Handling: The Hazardous Waste Management Policy has been established to aid the campus in achieving and maintaining compliance with the hazardous waste regulation, NR 661 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The NR 661 requirements include locating the waste sources on campus, evaluating the waste characteristics and controlling the substance from generation to final treatment and disposal.

Access to Outdoors

Master Plan Guiding Principles: The University's Master Plan identifies "Engage with Community" as one of the guiding principles for campus development with a goal to "develop a compact, residential campus with amenities for students, faculty, and staff that promote interaction, enhance quality of life, and accommodate activity seven days a week."

Ice Age Trail Campus: The Ice Age Trail (IAT) Alliance, a 501(c)3 organization, builds and sustains a 1,000-mile footpath that runs throughout Wisconsin and near the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus. The Alliance maintains a designation program for communities that benefit from close proximity to the IAT and this program was extended to our campus as the first recognized Ice Age Trail campus. The IAT offers faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to learn with scientists and multi-generational outdoor enthusiasts as they explore, build, and maintain the trail while restore the surrounding landscape. Further, this partnership provides a campus-wide opportunity for Community-Based Scholarship.

Outdoor Adventure Program: The Outdoor Adventure Club is a student organization associated with Recreation/Club Sports that engages students in a wide variety of outdoor activities including camping, kayaking/canoeing, rock climbing, and field trips to various locations around the country to engage in these activities in nature.

Nature Preserve: The Sustainability Office helps manage the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve, a 100-acre tract of land on the north end of campus that features a 40-acre woodland and 55-acre prairie reconstruction project. Numerous trails exist and are maintained by the Grounds Office for campus and community recreational access. Ongoing projects include improving educational signage, improving research and curriculum access, and establishing a committee or friends group to provide support and guidance for the area.

Health Education

Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health: The Department offers a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Safety, as well as an online Master of Science in Environmental Safety and Health. Graduates from the Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health at UW-Whitewater are concerned with the interaction between people and the physical, chemical, biological and psychological factors which affect safety, health and productivity. These students can foster essential skills that enable them to recognize hazards, and to devise and implement methods to control those risks.

Wellness Peer Educators: Wellness Peer Educators (WPEs) are students who design and implement health education programs and events for the campus community. WPEs are trained to provide presentations and coordinate campus outreach events concerning health topics such as alcohol, drugs, mental health, sexual health and sexual violence prevention.

Dining Services Dietician: Dining Services employs a full-time dietician to consult with students directly, ensure meals provided in dining halls and grab and go retail locations are well-balanced, and provide support for events such as wellness booth tabling activities and "Wellness Wednesdays." The Dietician also helps promote sustainability practices with student clients.

Sexual Assault Prevention Training: All UW-Whitewater students are required to complete training to learn about healthy relationships and tools to help recognize, avoid, and address inappropriate behavior. It also identifies behaviors that violate university rules, state law, and federal law, as well as reporting options so that you can quickly seek help from staff, law enforcement, and/or the community if you or someone you know is a victim of a crime. Student feedback has shown 87% of undergraduates had a fuller understanding of what a healthy relationship looks like after completing the course, and 95% of graduate students stated that the course prepared them to respond to intimate partner violence and sexual assault. This student training is in addition to the employee sexual assault prevention training required by Human Resources for all employees.

Employee Education Programs: The campus Office of Risk Management and Police Services offers educational resources and training for workstation ergonomics, proper utility vehicle use, adult CPR/AED, child/infant CPR, first aid/blood borne pathogens, and emergency care kit training.

Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness (AODA) Peer Educator: The purpose of the AODA Peer Educator Program is to promote healthy choices in the lives of students in the Residence Halls. The program is designed to raise awareness and promote understanding regarding substance use in our community. The program is an integral component of educational programming efforts of University Housing and Residence Life.

University Health and Counseling Services (UHCS)

Counseling Services: UHCS offers a variety of services to support positive mental health outcomes including individuals, couples, and group counseling, workshops, staff consultation, and crisis intervention. There are no fees associated with any counseling services.

TransHealth: UHCS offers support to trans and gender diverse students by striving to provide an inclusive environment through initiatives such as establishing gender neutral restrooms, training staff to work with students who identify across the gender spectrum (including those who are currently transitioning), and developing intake forms that offer an opportunity to identify preferred pronouns. Hormone Replacement Therapy is also available, with counselor support, to help start the transition process, and other campus resources have been developed to support students' transition.

Massage Therapy: UHCS offers on-site therapeutic massage for faculty, staff, and students as a means to promote healthy body functioning, relieve stress and tension, and provide general relaxation.

Sexual Health Services: UHCS offers counseling for birth control methods, and numerous, common types of birth control are available from UHCS at discounted prices for students. Testing, treatment, and counseling for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are available at UHCS. Testing is often available at no-cost for qualifying students.

Health Services: UHCS offers a variety of treatment options for illnesses and minor injuries, including laboratory tests, immunizations, contraceptives, smoking cessation, physicals, travel medicine, allergy injections, and many more. Health concerns are listed in an A-Z guide on the UHCS website so students can explore resources and services for a wide range of health-related concerns.

Mindfulness and Relaxation: Located on the second floor of the Ambrose Health Center, the Relaxation Room is a private, quiet space to develop and practice relaxation skills for enhancing overall well-being using a wide variety of mindfulness resources. This is one space on campus to simply rest, breathe, and relax with no agenda. All UW-Whitewater students and employees are welcome. Additionally, mindfulness group sessions are offered on a weekly basis during the semester.

Staff Health Promotion

Worksite Wellness: The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is partnering with Well Wisconsin to present a worksite wellness program for faculty and staff on campus. Every year employees who receive State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance are

eligible to receive a $150 gift card for completing a biometric screening, an online health assessment, and a well-being activity. The overall goal of this program is to not only bring awareness to personal wellness, but also establish a culture for improving health among employees as a community.

Employee Assistance Program: The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at UW-Whitewater provides employees and their immediate family members with a free and confidential opportunity to address personal and work-related concerns, such as emotional situations, work/life challenges, or legal/financial circumstances. Employees that consult with the EAP staff may do so on work time.

Warhawk Fitness and Aquatics: Warhawk Fitness memberships include access to the Williams Center Weight Room, University Fitness (located in the basement of Wells Hall), and all Group Fitness and Cycling classes. Memberships are available to purchase for UW-Whitewater students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members. Personal training appointments are also available to members.

Family and Community Involvement

Food Pantry Support: The Sustainability Office staff support local food pantries in a variety of ways. A food donation program was started with the Whitewater City Market (farmer's market) where Sustainability Office student staff and volunteers collect donations each week from May through October to donate to the Whitewater Community Food Pantry. The Sustainability Director also serves as co-chair of the Warhawk Pantry Advisory Committee starting with the original effort to create an on-campus food pantry. Campus Garden produce continues to support both food pantries with donations, which totals over 22,000 pounds to date. Sustainability Office students also support both pantries through intern staffing, student project support, and volunteer placements. Additionally, various food donation drives on campus helps divert unwanted food items from the university population to the food pantries to serve people in need.

Working for Whitewater's Wellness: The local non-profit organization Working for Whitewater's Wellness (W3) seeks to increase longevity and quality of life utilizing the Blue Zones Principles by facilitating programs and partnerships to affect sustainable improvements for everyone in our community. The Sustainability Office has maintained ongoing support for garden-related and environmental health initiatives and the Sustainability Director currently serves as President of the W3 Board of Directors.

Garden and Landscape Education: Since 2013, the UW-Whitewater Campus Garden has served as a hub for community education around gardening techniques and support of public gardening efforts. This includes support for a garden at the UW-Whitewater Children's Center, Lincoln Elementary School in Whitewater, and the Whitewater Community Garden. Additionally, the Department of Continuing Education provides an ongoing Garden Workshop series with local Master Gardener Volunteers and partners with the Sustainability Office and Grounds Crew to provide Garden Landscape Tours each summer. These tours highlight the sustainable practices of campus grounds, share garden techniques, and answer horticulture questions.

Nature Preserve Trails: The UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve maintains several miles of trails through 100 acres of prairie and woodland ecosystems that are heavily used by local community members. The trails are open to the public and feature free parking for community members to enjoy. The prairie reconstruction efforts began with assistance from a community friends group and ongoing efforts to seek feedback from community users are part of the management plan.

Pillar 3: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

STEM, Civic Skills, and Green Career Pathways in Curriculum

General Education Learning Outcomes: Beginning in Spring 2016, UW-Whitewater adopted new General Education Learning Outcomes, including Personal and Civic Responsibility. This learning outcome refers to skills and knowledge that help students find their place in a multi-cultural and always-changing world. In order to become informed, engaged, reflective, and responsible citizens, students need to engage with a range of ethical questions, from social issues to environmental concerns.

Environmental Science Major: The Environmental Science major prepares students to face the challenges of a changing world. Courses offer a strong and diverse foundation for a rewarding career in a green future. Three track emphases include Nature Science, Geosciences, and Environmental Resource Management. The major includes a capstone project to work with a team to solve a real environmental problem in our region.

Statewide Diversity Award: A program developed through a partnership with the student organization Enactus and the STEM Training for Early Engagement and Readiness Program connected seventh graders from Escuela Vieau School in South Milwaukee to hands-on exploration in STEM-based workshops at the UW-Whitewater campus. Areas of inquiry include robotics, aquaponics, horticulture, and engineering. The program was the winner of the 2018 Ann Lydecker Educational Diversity Award from the Wisconsin State Council on Affirmative Action.

STEM Boot Camp: This program recruits and serves underrepresented minority students intending to major in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) entering their freshman year at UW-Whitewater. The STEM Boot Camp consists of an intensive two-week summer camp and continued support through the freshman year aimed at improving student performance and creating a support system. The summer camp runs for two weeks every August. Students live on campus and attend daily classes, seminars and discussions aimed at increasing preparedness for college STEM courses and discussing common student concerns and challenges. The students are also matched with peer mentors who are all successful alumni of the program.

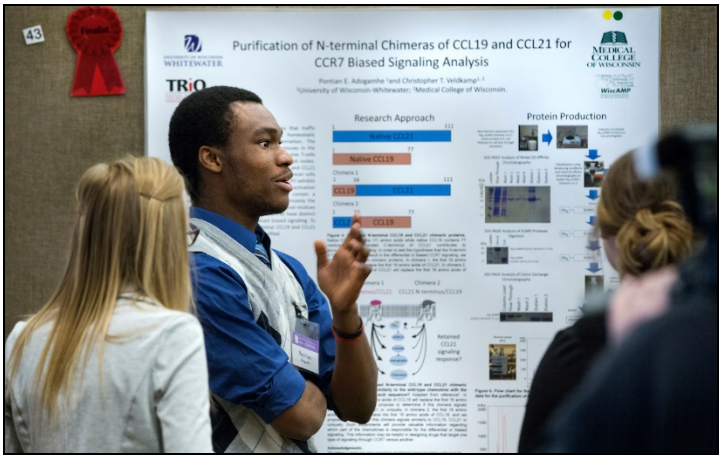
WiscAMP Program: The WiscAMP program specifically targets rising minority seniors at UW-Whitewater and Beloit College, older students who are returning to school, and students who have enrolled with our branch campus at UW-Rock County who are transferring to UW-Whitewater main campus. The program helps raise graduation rates among minorities in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which are areas traditionally under-represented by minorities. Grant funding engages undergraduates in part-time paid research assistantships in their science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors. The research projects range from testing water quality at Whitewater Creek to breeding fish and performing spectroscopy on them to explore how coloration is passed down in certain species of fish.

College Acceleration Program: This program will provide students with intensive foundational instruction in math and laboratory natural science, critical thinking techniques, use of scientific theory, problem-solving skills, and hands-on projects in math and science. Program students will also review academic journals and refine their writing process for critical thinking and analysis. Students will benefit from enrichment components including speakers, workshops, field trips, and career information programs related to STEM fields.

Community Service Requirement: All majors in the College of Business and Economics are required to complete 20 hours of community service prior to registering for the capstone class. The Department of Career and Leadership Development also tracks community service hours engaged through student organizations and helps students connect with volunteer opportunities.

Science Outreach Office: The Science Outreach program develops partnerships to provide high-quality science educational opportunities to area schools, the University, and the community. Science Outreach helps achieve the mission of the University by providing "outreach programs as an integrated institutional activity," providing a "variety of co-curricular activities to enhance out-of-class learning opportunities," and by "serving as a regional science resource center through service initiatives." UW-Whitewater Science Outreach also helps to achieve the mission of the College of Letters and Science by "using the knowledge and expertise of faculty and students to improve society by providing STEM-related programs that meet the needs and engage the interests of the University campus and area community."

Interdisciplinary Learning



Integrated Science-Business Major: The focus of an integrated science-business undergraduate program is to develop integrated thinking from the initial stages of education and produce skilled graduates that are highly effective in entry-level positions requiring skills in both science and business. The curriculum provides a strong foundation in the sciences (32 credits) as well as a basic background in business (33 credits). At the end of the program, three capstone courses serve to link science and business knowledge and prepare students for subsequent employment.

Interdisciplinary Community-Based Research: The School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education supports pilot initiatives that establish or enhance UW-Whitewater relationships with community partners in Southeastern Wisconsin for the purpose of addressing critical regional needs. Special consideration is given to proposals that identify plans for publication of project results, and those that involve faculty from different academic departments.

Collaborative Research Network: This program helps faculty make connections with other faculty across campus, explore the many ideas that unite disciplines, and share progress with the growing number of interdisciplinary outlets.

Sustainability Council: The Sustainability Council is a representative committee that reports to the Provost and pursues cross-departmental sustainability initiatives, encourages sustainability research and teaching, assesses the campus's environmental impact, and supports student sustainability efforts. Past projects include the implementation of a Sustainability Fund grant program for student projects, developing the "Savanna Project" faculty curriculum workshop, planning events such as Earth Week, and coordinating the campus response to climate change.

Sustainability Literacy Standards and Professional Development

Internship Program: Since hiring the first intern in 2014, the Sustainability Office Internship Program has grown exponentially to 11 interns addressing a wide variety of projects focused on sustainability in campus operations or engagement. Paid intern positions employed since the program started include Academics, Climate Action, Data Analytics, Digital Marketing, Dining, Garden and Greenhouse Management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Grounds and Landscaping, Outreach and Events, Transportation, and Waste Management. Unpaid interns are also added for degree credit in needs-based project research of campus sustainability best practices across a wide spectrum of topic areas. Students receive structured professional development exercises, regular assessment, and consistent mentorship meetings throughout the semester.

General Education Learning Outcomes: Starting Spring 2016, UW-Whitewater adopted new General Education Learning Outcomes, including Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World. These learning outcomes focus on a broad knowledge of human cultures and of the natural world which provides students with a solid foundation to be successful in their major, and as informed members of society. In all fields of study, the exposure to multiple perspectives, historical context, and contemporary debates help prepare students to engage with the "big questions" that face our world today.

Hands-On, Place-Based, Authentic Learning - Campus as a Living Laboratory

Community-Based Learning: The program for Community-Based Learning (CBL) supports the mission and core values of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater by providing opportunities to help students succeed in their academic programs and beyond. CBL houses a service-learning High Impact Practice, which complement other student success initiatives and campus programs. CBL and UW-Whitewater collaborators foster a campus community that is characterized by inclusive excellence for all students at UW-Whitewater.

Student Project Inquiry: Through partnerships with faculty across all colleges, an average of 10 individual or group project requests are supported by Sustainability Office data collection and reporting efforts each semester. Projects also focus on conducting best practices research on campus sustainability category areas. Oftentimes students are asked to research implementation plans for new sustainability projects or provide program development for existing efforts.

Eco-Reps Peer to Peer Educators: The Eco-Reps program strives to engage students in peer-to-peer sustainable living tips and techniques through engaging programming and marketing efforts. The Eco-Reps are student volunteers living in the residence halls and serve as representatives for the Leadership Involvement Team (LIT) from which they are selected, as well as the other residence halls that are members of that LIT.

Prairie Seed Collection: The Sustainability Office engages volunteers to collect seeds from native prairie plants in the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve. Seed collection yields an average of 20 pounds of material that is traditionally used to re-seed new areas of prairie in the Nature Preserve or propagate native plants for use in the landscape throughout the rest of campus. New opportunities for seed collection include support for community prairie restoration projects in conjunction with the City of Whitewater and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Expanded citizen science has been added to the prairie seed collection program to monitor pollinators.

Stream Monitoring: The Sustainability Office hosts annual stream cleanup events in our local waterway and participates in the Water Action Volunteers citizen science program. Data is collected for three local streams and reported to a statewide platform for ongoing water quality monitoring. Students from across campus are recruited to participate as volunteers in the program. Additional citizen science programs have been developed to monitor nutrient contamination, salt contamination, and freshwater mussels as components of the stream monitoring program.

Conclusion

As predictions about climate change and ecological collapse demonstrate greater effects on the Earth, we find our way of life approaching a crossroads and higher education institutions play an important role in responding to the challenges of this century. The education of future leaders as our primary mission gives institutions like UW-Whitewater an ethical imperative to respond in the best interests of our students' futures. The importance of these initiatives to our university is found in connections to the Strategic Plan, Master Plan, and other university leadership guidance which is fulfilled through a wide range of impactful programs. Campus sustainability also fits a vision for operational excellence and the integration of the Sustainability Office within Facilities Planning & Management offers a continual pursuit of reduced environmental impact. Some of these initiatives extend to improved health and wellness through buildings and grounds maintenance. Additional health services and education with high-quality outdoor access options makes UW-Whitewater accessible for healthy lifestyles. Despite our reputation for high-caliber business and education programs, sustainability education has found a home in the majority of academic departments, support resources for research and projects, and student-first high-impact practices coordinated with the Sustainability Office to help launch a new wave of green careers. Although the sustainability program at UW-Whitewater has only existed for 11 years, there are a wide variety of projects that fulfill the admirable goals of the Green Ribbon Schools Pillars. This success indicates UW-Whitewater is a state leader in campus sustainability with health and safety at the forefront of attention and the pursuit of environmental education as an interdisciplinary priority for the future.