

College of Science and Health 2019-2020 Annual Report

Summary

Despite much of spring semester focused on a rapid transition to remote learning due to COVID-19, there were still numerous accomplishments during the 2019-2020 academic year to celebrate in the College of Science and Health (CSH). The number of Dean's Distinguished Fellowships increased from 10 in summer 2018 to 17 in summer 2019 as a result of financial support by private donors to the UWL Foundation. Faculty submitted 65 research proposals and were competitively awarded more than \$2.2 million in extramural funding. These activities helped support more than 200 students that were mentored in independent research projects. Responsive to new opportunities for student employment after graduation and changes in student demand, programs in several disciplines were developed or revised. A new undergraduate major in Computer Engineering received approval from the UW-System Board of Regents and the Higher Learning Commission. A new dual degree (bachelor's and master's degree after 5 years) was initiated in Recreation Management in addition to a minor in Tourism Development & Management. Undergraduate and graduate majors in School Health Education were suspended or eliminated and the graduate programs in Human Performance, Public Health, and Community Health Education were suspended. The Physics Department once again was lauded for annually awarding the most bachelor of science degrees from any undergraduate institution across the nation. The First Year Research Exposure (FYRE) program, an academic diversity initiative in CSH, has served 104 first-year students of color since 2012; 79% of the students have graduated or are still enrolled in programs of undergraduate study. College-sponsored seminars, science shows, service programs in physical education and exercise for children and adults, and clinics in adaptive physical education, physical therapy and occupational therapy are examples of the many engagement activities that provided continuing education and service to the La Crosse community. Ten new faculty and instructional staff were recruited for academic year 2020-2021 to replace personnel who retired or resigned.