

College of Science and Health 2021-2022 Annual Report

Summary

Faculty, staff, and students enthusiastically returned to campus in fall 2021 for in-person classes after the previous year of mostly remote instruction due to COVID-19. In addition to teaching, advising and service, faculty continued to provide new and varied experiential learning opportunities for students. More than 30 new external grant proposals were submitted with 19 funded and 8 proposals still pending; approximately \$1.5 million in new and continuing grants was awarded to the College. Twenty-four students received Dean's Distinguished Fellowships for summer 2022 – the largest number of awards since 2004. Notably, 14 of the 24 Fellowships were supported by donor gifts to the UWL Foundation. More than 250 other students participated in faculty-mentored research experiences. The College expanded collaborations with internal and external partners. For example, faculty developed and offered, with UWL Residence Life, a very successful Women in STEM Living Learning Community for first-year students in a residence hall. J.F. Brennan, Inc, a marine construction firm of national renown, will assist in the development of career-relevant coursework for the collection and analysis of geospatial data and also provide maintenance support, a storage location and instrumentation expertise for a new research vessel obtained by the River Studies Center. The \$430,000 research vessel was a gift from Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust and facilitated by the La Crosse Community Foundation. The Mayo-UWL Research Collaborative awarded two new seed grants for health-related projects and the La Crosse Institute of Movement Science (LIMS) researchers in Physical Therapy (PT) maintain active research partnerships with Gundersen Health System Sports PT residency program and the Mayo Clinic Health System. Faculty and staff completed the collaborative design of Phase 2 of the Prairie Springs Science Center, which will provide much-needed classrooms for an active learning environment. The College welcomes new Dean Ju Kim and Associate Dean Tom Kernozek in July 2022.