



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

GRADUATION CEREMONY

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
ADMINISTRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

MAY 17, 2025 • 10 AM

BLUFFS BALLROOM
1725 STATE STREET
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

EVENT PROGRAM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Tori Svoboda

Ed.D. WELCOME

Dr. Becki Elkins

Ed.D. STUDENT SPEAKER

Dr. Lauren "Lo" Moser Klink

PRESENTATION OF Ed.D. CANDIDATES

M.S.Ed. WELCOME

Dr. Jörg Vianden

M.S.Ed. STUDENT SPEAKER

Cole Verbeten

PRESENTATION OF M.S.Ed. CANDIDATES

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Tori Svoboda

Ed.D. GRADUATES

Lauren "Lo" Moser Klink

"Overwhelming": A Case Study Analyzing Scholarship Application Experiences with High School Seniors

Sandra Concetta Picciuca

I wasn't trained for this!: Exploring the lived experiences of academic advisors and secondary traumatic stress

Laura Wilmarth Tyna

Anti-Racist Community Engagement Among White Faculty: An Emergent Model

Kate Demerse

Experiences of Student Affairs Professionals Who Lead Institutional Responses to a Student Death by Suicide

Colin Lewis+

The Challenge of Being First: First-Year First-Generation College Students and their Perceptions of Mental Healthcare on Campus

Linh Kieu Nguyen+

Navigating the Borderlands: Understanding the Lived Experiences of Second-Generation Vietnamese Refugees/Immigrants in Higher Education

Nicolette A. Wells

Gateways: How Pre-Health Advisors Develop Advising Philosophies When Working With FG and BIPOC Students

Kenneth D. Johnson+

"Recognizing Ignorance and Fueling Confidence": African American Men's Sense of Belonging at Predominantly White Institutions in the Mountain West

Cindy Lynn Fendrick+

Women Higher Education Administrators' Experiences with Support for Active Career Advancement: A Phenomenological Study

Ryan Paul Jesberger+

One More Drink: The Impacts of College Student Binge Drinking and the Effectiveness of Alcohol Education and Enforcement

Theresa Martin+

Native Students' Experiences at a Predominantly White Institution

Abby Meddaugh

Navigating Change: Exploring the Professional Quality of Life of Title IX administrators amid federal policy and regulation shifts

M.S.Ed. GRADUATES

Gifty Mawuenam Amedoda

The Importance of Diverse/Specific Services to the Success of International Students in UWL

Taylor Artis

Family Matters: The Impact of Family Support on First Generation Students' Success in Higher Education

Keegan Buscaino

Exploring Interventions to Support STEM Student Self-Efficacy and Belonging at Academically Rigorous and Research Focused Institutions

Ethan Nathanael Cates+

Inclusive Recruitment Practices Through the Lens of Intersectionality

Brianne Coffey

Fostering Inclusive Leadership in Medical Students: Enhancing Well-Being Across Clinical, Classroom, and Extracurricular Spaces

Benjamin Robert Drake VII

Establishing Spiritual Programming and Support for Undergraduates at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

Ignacio Gabbard-Rocha

Proposal for Enhancing Study Abroad for Low Income Students

Miranda L. Hanke

Sexual Misconduct: Addressing the Root Cause

Anna-Marie Heins

Internationalization & International Students: Supporting Student Belonging in a Globalized World

Jacki L. Johnson

Roses and Thorns: Graduate Medical Education Managers and the Great Resignation

Grant Mathu

The Impact of Mental Health and Campus Safety Services on Student Success and Wellbeing - A Case Study of Western's Integrated Approach

Lauren Nash

Enhancing Campus Mental Health Resources

Alexis Owens+

First Generation Students: Sense of Belonging and Retention

Robin L. Schmoldt

A Universal Safety Net: Consistent-Contact Student Affairs Professional Support for Undergraduate Students Experiencing Food Insecurity

Zachary Schueller

Improving Access to Campus Recreation for Students of All Physical Abilities

Jacob Swanson

Continuing Success: A First-Generation Student Intervention Beyond First Year Efforts

Heather Talbot

Fostering Access, Persistence, and Success in Higher Education for Students with Experience in Foster Care

MacKenzie A. Timlin

Combating Resident Assistant Burnout

Hleeda Vang

Post-Graduation Satisfaction & Experiences of Asian American Alumni at Mid-Western Four-Year Institutions

Cole Verbeten

Prescribing a More Diverse Future of Doctors: Supporting Racially Minoritized Students in Pre-Medicine Academic Programs

Recognition

2025 Rosandich Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Award

Dr. Cindy Waldeck

2025 GEL Graduate Student Academic Achievement Award

Hleeda Vang

2025 CASSH Graduate Student Recognition of Excellence

Taylor Artis

Dr. Laura Wilmarth Tyna

2025 CASSH Academic Staff Recognition of Excellence Award for Teaching

Hanna Dovalina

2025 Universities of Wisconsin Regents Diversity Award

Dr. Adele Lozano

A very special thank you to our partners and colleagues for their help with recruiting, retaining, and supporting the students in our program:

PROGRAM PARTNERS & ADVOCATES

Dr. Karl Kunkel	Access, Belonging, & Compliance	Graduate & Extended Learning
Dr. Marie Moeller	Admissions	Institutional Research,
Dr. Meredith Thomsen	Division of Student Affairs	Assessment, and Planning
Dr. Vitaliano Figueroa	Financial Aid	Murphy Library
	GA, GSI, & Practicum Supervisors	Records & Registration

EXTERNAL DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Mesha Garner	Dr. Eran Hanke	Dr. Elizabeth Jach
Dr. Amberly Dziesinski	Dr. Amber Vlasnik	Dr. Wayne Young
Dr. Jason Lynch	Dr. Willie Blackmon	Dr. Brad Duckworth
Dr. Drew Puroway	Dr. Anh Le	Dr. Pilar Gauthier
Dr. Karin Cotterman	Dr. Linda Ho Peché	Dr. Sasanehsaeh Pyawasay
Dr. Tania Mitchell	Dr. Louis Macias	Dr. Elizabeth Brzeski
Dr. Rebecca Freer	Dr. Gina Sandoval	Dr. Charissa Jakusz

SAA DEPARTMENT

FACULTY

Becki Elkins, Ed.D.
Ed.D. Program Director

Adele Lozano, Ph.D.
Faculty Emeritus

Gabriel Pulido, Ph.D.

Tori Svoboda, Ed.D.
Department Chair

Jörg Vianden, Ed.D.
M.S.Ed. Program Director

STAFF

Hanna Dovalina
Sharon Tellier

AD HOC INSTRUCTORS

Kris Anderson, Ed.D.

Ashley Cree, Ed.D.

Charlotte Davidson, Ph.D.

Andrea Domingue, Ed.D.

Grace Engen, M.A.

Tina Garcia, Ph.D.

Andrew Ives, Ed.D.

Charissa Jakusz, Ed.D.

Saby Labor, Ed.D.

Heidi Lang, Ed.D.

Anh Le, Ph.D.

Heidi Levine, Ph.D.

Louis Macias, Ed.D.

Kristen McKinney, Ph.D.

Kara Ostlund, Ed.D.

Paul Shepherd, Ed.D.

Kerri Smith, Ed.D.

Anne Thurmer, Ed.D.

Tawny Townsend, Ed.D.