

UWL Conference on Holistic and Proactive Advising
May 23, 2023
UW-La Crosse Student Union

Schedule:

9:00 am - 9:30 am	Check-in & Refreshments (Bluffs Room, 2 nd Floor Student Union)
9:30 am -10:30 am	Welcome Keynote Speaker- Dr. Kevin Thomas Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management at the University of Central Arkansas (Bluffs Room, 2 nd Floor Student Union)
10:40 am - 11:25 am	Concurrent Sessions 1 (3 rd Floor, Student Union)
11:35 am - 12:20 pm	Concurrent Sessions 2 (Bluffs Room or 3 rd Floor, Student Union)
12:30 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch (Bluffs Room, 2 nd Floor Student Union)
1:40 pm -2:25 pm	Concurrent Sessions 3 (Bluffs Room or 3 rd Floor, Student Union)
2:35 pm - 3:20 pm	Concurrent Sessions 4 (3 rd Floor, Student Union)
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Optional Wrap up & Reflection Round Tables (Bluffs Room, 2 nd Floor Student Union) * Optional* Round tables are available for you to reflect on the day with colleagues if you wish

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS:

Session 1: 10:40 am - 11:25 am:

1A: Topic: Electronic Newsletters

Location: 3110 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenters:

- Katy Morrison, Academic Advisor, UWL
- Hayley Moe, Academic Advisor, UWL

The Academic Advising Center has successfully administered an electronic weekly newsletter to our advisees for the past five years. The purpose of this communication is to provide consistent, ongoing information to students. The newsletter is accessible on computers, phones, and tablets in a simple format that can be read in five minutes or less. We utilize photos, bulleted lists, embedded links and next steps to keep the content straightforward. This presentation will focus on how we identified the need for this tool, how we currently use it and how we plan to adapt for the future.

1B: Topic: The Evolution of Western's Advisor Communication Plan

Location: 3314 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenter: MicahMarie McCann, Western Technical College

Over the last several years, the methods that our team has been using to distribute information to our students have made some swift adaptations as we've gained access to new tools. This presentation will illustrate where we started, our journey as our plan developed, and how our voice to the students has evolved in that time.

1C: Title: Faculty Proactive Advising and Communication

Location: 3310 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenter: Todd Weaver, Ph.D. (Professor & Chair), Chemistry and Biochemistry, UWL

This session aims to outline the development and implementation of proactive advising within an academic department using the strategies emphasized by the UWL Academic Advising Center and Master Advising Program. The proactive advising method is designed to provide students timely messages related to academic advising, career workshops, internship opportunities, on-campus activities, and involvement. A Faculty Advising Resource Center Canvas course has been developed and published to facilitate access to several advising resources. The intentional design of this course provides an efficient manner to share content, while emphasizing a proactive and shared responsibility approach toward student advising.

Session 2: 11:35 am – 12:20 pm:

2A: Flipped Advising

Location: 3110 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenters:

- Josh Bench, Pre-Health Student Resource Center Coordinator, UWL
- Travis Hendrickson, Pre-Health Advisor, UWL

Learn how the UWL Pre-Health Student Resource Center implemented a flipped advising approach and created their “Pre-Health Prep Course” using the Canvas learning management system. The presentation will cover the overall philosophy of flipped advising, the structure behind the course, implementation strategies, resources for attendees, and provide data to prove the success of the “Pre-Health Prep” course.

2B: Title: High, Low, High – Family Style Dinner Conversation about Proactive Advising

Location: 3310 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenters:

- Erin Flottmeyer, College of Business Administration Academic Advising Manager, UWL**
- Nicole Vidden, College of Business Administration Academic Services Director, UWL**

High: High enrollment of students in business majors at UWL

Low: Large advising loads for faculty advisors

High: A Dean who understands the importance of advising for student persistence and retention

Our goal= Solving advising knowledge gaps with few resources: using large-scale proactive advising to work towards better educated and more independent students.

What we’ve done: With the addition of a professional advisor we have approached the CBA systemic advising hurdles with an experimental attitude. We have rapidly innovated our processes through trial and error using technology (Navigate and Canvas) and data. Specific examples of identifying and removing barriers to student success will be shared. We will also describe our approach through trial and error in an attempt to be responsive to our unit’s unique needs, and how we have managed a centralized and decentralized model on one campus.

2C: Title: Fostering Success for Independent Scholars

Location: 3314 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenters:

- Margaret Henning, Advisor, Student Support Services, UWL**
- Tracie Bateman, Math Specialist, Student Support Services, UWL**
- Featuring a panel of Independent Scholars**

Last fall, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse was awarded a UW System Fostering Success for Independent Scholars Grant to provide services and additional resources to students who have aged out of foster care/guardianship or are or have been unhoused. This program runs within the Student Support Services office at UWL which serves First Generation, income eligible, and students with disabilities. At this panel session, you will be able to learn more about this grant, what services and additional resources are offered, and hear first-hand from some of the students who are benefiting from the grant. Along with the benefits of the grant, these scholars will discuss their experiences navigating the system of higher education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with hope to inform our campus partners about this program and how we can best support this population of students.

2D: Title: Faculty Advisor Perspectives – Faculty Panel

Location: Bluffs Room, 2nd Floor, Student Union

Moderator:

Jamie Schweiger, Navigate Functional Lead, UWL

Panelists:

Nick Bakken (Sociology)

Stacy Trisler (Marketing)

Deanna Maynard (Educational Studies)

Jaclyn Wisinski (Biology)

Four faculty advisors talk about and answer questions about their advising experience as faculty members. They will talk about tips, best practices, and examples of how they advise students. Some questions that may be discussed include: How do I fit advising into my already busy schedule? How do I know I'm giving my students correct information? Are there any training opportunities for me so I can be an effective advisor? What topics should I cover in my advising meetings? Who do I contact when I don't know the answer to a student's question? What resources should I be using? Bring your questions for the panelists to discuss.

Session 3: 1:40 pm – 2:25 pm

3A: Title: The International Roll-up: Supporting International & Education Abroad Students

Location: 3110 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenter:

-Karolyn Bald, Director of International Education and Engagement, UWL

-Miranda Panzer, Int'l Education Manager/ Int'l Students & Scholars, International Education and Engagement, UWL

-Deya Ortiz, Int'l Program Manager/ Ed Abroad, International Education and Engagement, UWL

Advisors play a unique and critical role in a student's academic journey including international and education abroad students. Come learn about how advisors can better support students (International & Education abroad) and learn the value of partnering with international education staff.

3B: Topic: Strength in Stories: Narrative Advising in a Nutshell

Location: 3310 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenters:

-Jodi Reider, Transfer Academic Advisor, UWL

-Beck Hawkins, Pre-Health Advisor, UWL

This session will explore advising through the lens of narrative theory and highlight the importance of story in advising interactions (both the students' and advisors' stories). The presenters will review narrative advising practices, as well as facilitate activities that prompt participants to reflect on their own stories. This session is largely based on the book, "The Power of Story: Narrative Theory in Academic Advising" by Peter L. Hagen. Participants will take away strategies, from a narrative advising approach, that contribute to providing students with a holistic advising experience.

3C: Topic: Pearls of Privilege

Location: 3314 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenter: MicahMarie McCann, Western Technical College

In this hands-on workshop, participants will be invited to settle into quiet self-reflection while gently confronting and acknowledging some of the varieties of privilege that they possess. We'll create a crafty visual representation of the privileges we each individually carry and provide an opportunity for safe-space open discussion of the experience.

3D Title: UWL Holistic Advising: Technically speaking

Location: Bluffs Room, 2nd Floor, Student Union

Presenters:

- Amanda Abrahamson, Student Life Specialist, UWL
- Issy Beach, Student Wellness Coordinator, UWL
- Dr. Crystal Champion, Counseling Services Director, UWL
- Darlene Geiger, Advising Manager, Student Support Services, UWL
- Jaime Schweiger, Navigate Functional Lead, UWL

Technically speaking, advising is about humans, but what if the technology is here to stay? Here at UWL we have three platforms for differentiating support needs for our students and connecting our efforts with those of our colleagues for student success. Navigate is our primary tool for documenting and communicating touchpoints among Student Success advisors. YOU@UWL is a new resource platform designed to provide students with additional written and video wellness content, opportunities for counseling and campus resource referrals, and personal goal tracking. Maxient is the primary tool used in Student Life. Join us for a collaborative panel discussion about how users can maximize the technology for holistic support of human connections at UWL.

Session 4: 2:35 pm – 3:20 pm

4A: Title: Universal Design for Advising at UWL

Location: 3310 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenters:

- Dr. Andrew Ives, Director of the ACCESS Center, UWL
- Robyn Beahm, Advisor, Student Support Services, UWL

This session will allow participants to explore ways to incorporate the concepts of Universal Design for Learning in their advising practices to best meet the needs of students with disabilities without requiring disclosure or requesting specific accommodations. Around 8% of students are registered with the ACCESS Center at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL). This number represents only a fraction of students with disabilities at UWL. Many students have invisible disabilities such as psychological conditions, systemic health conditions, learning disabilities, etc. and never register with the ACCESS Center.

[Universal Design for Learning](#) encourages designing interactions and curriculum by recognizing multiple ways to engage, represent, and express learning and should be applied to the practice of advising ([Hurt, 2007](#)). With these concepts in mind Universal Design for Advising at UWL will encourage participants to expand the ways they engage with advisees, represent different information or policies, and set meaningful goals. This session

centers diversity, inclusion, and social justice by recognizing and celebrating the diverse bodies and minds of students at UWL. Additionally, this session recognizes the vital role that accessible advising has in promoting student success.

4B: Topic: Making Effective Referrals for Mental Health Services

Location: 3110 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenters:

- Dr. Crystal Champion, Counseling Services Director, UWL**
- Ashley Jochimsen, LPC, Counselor, UWL**
- Katelyn Longmire, LPC, Counselor and Outreach Coordinator, UWL**

Holistic advisors know that mental health symptoms can interfere with student success, leading to consequences for student retention and timely degree completion. Because of their unique connections with advisees, holistic advisors may find themselves the first person in a student's life to notice wellness concerns. Therefore, they may also be the first to attempt to connect the student with resources.

In this session, expect to learn new strategies (and share your own helpful experiences) in the areas of:

- Normalizing and destigmatizing mental health concerns and mental health treatment,
- Explaining what to expect from a meeting with a mental health provider,
- Exploring the ways to start with mental health services at UWL and in other healthcare systems,
- Following up and troubleshooting a referral, and
- Continuing the conversation or other options if your referral assistance is declined.

4C: Title: Problem Paralysis: Empowering Student Decision Making as Holistic Advising

Location: 3314 Student Union, 3rd Floor

Presenter:

- Darlene Geiger, Advising Manager, Student Support Services, UWL**

Choosing to be a student means choosing to learn but many students face barriers to learning that go beyond the academic challenges of a classroom and the support referrals we can provide as advisors. Identifying barriers to persistence may include some basics, such as those in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, but they almost always include coaching students to make decisions for themselves. In this session, participants will experience a decision-making framework to help students articulate personal and academic barriers when reframing goals and prioritizing criteria for decision-making.