



Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID)  
2023-24 WISCONSIN TEACHING FELLOWS & SCHOLARS

**UWL SPECIFIC GUIDELINES**

**Program Description | Call for Applications**

*"Scholarly teaching is what every one of us should be engaged in every day that we are in a classroom, in our office with students, tutoring, lecturing, conducting discussions, all the roles we play pedagogically... But it is only when we step back and reflect systematically on the teaching we have done, in a form that can be publicly reviewed and built upon by our peers, that we have moved from scholarly teaching to the scholarship of teaching [and learning]."*

- Lee Schulman, President Emeritus  
Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

This quote by Lee Schulman reminds us that our teaching flows into multiple spaces and is rarely absent from our everyday lives. It is through the mindful act of reflecting that we can transform a knot of messy experiences into a stream of clarity, knowing, and understanding. Yet reflecting and reflection do not come easily when one is juggling the teaching of multiple classes, advising, grading assignments, squeezing in research and scholarly work, and providing service to the department, university, community, and discipline. The demands of teaching necessitate a clearing.

UW System's Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars (WTFS) Program is designed to provide the time, space, and support to systematically reflect with UW peers in a stimulating and open-minded community and, ultimately, to move from "scholarly teaching" to the "scholarship of teaching [and learning]." Administered by the UW System's Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID) and directed by UW System faculty, the WTFS Program is grounded in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). We continue our theme of *Equity-Minded SoTL*, an important emerging field of research in teaching and learning.

**This is a call to faculty and instructional academic staff throughout the UW System to submit applications to their Provost's office for the 2023-24 WTFS Program.**

Universities provide a \$4,000 summer stipend, and cover travel, lodging, meals, and incidentals for their WTFS participants. Each participant also receives \$500 in Supplies & Expenses from UW System's OPID. We seek participants who demonstrate a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, as well as an intellectual curiosity, spirit of collegiality, and commitment to the success of all students.

## Who can apply to the WTFS Program?

We are seeking participants to design, develop, and implement an *equity-minded* Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) project. This equity-minded theme threads together OPID's professional development programs and UW System initiatives, such as equity-minded high-impact practices. Participants may be seasoned educators (Scholars) or early in their teaching careers (Fellows). Faculty and instructional academic staff (instructors and lecturers) are welcome. Common characteristics of successful WTFS participants: intellectual curiosity, openness to new ideas, ways of thinking, and problem-solving, collegiality and commitment to a learning community, willingness to engage with an interdisciplinary group of diverse peers, and an underlying commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice.

Your institution will ask you to complete an application which describes your teaching philosophy and why you are interested in engaging with equity-minded SoTL. Participants will conceptualize their SoTL project during Summer Institute informed by their experiences and knowledge gained from Faculty College and Summer Institute. Although you may enter the WTFS Program with a research question in mind, we encourage you to suspend your assumptions until experiencing Faculty College and the WTFS Summer Institute. We have found that engaging in discussions with WTFS participants and guest speakers often generates new questions about your teaching and learning.

## What is SoTL?

The Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) engages in systematic inquiry into student learning in higher education. As scholarship, it is made public for review and critique. The UW System was an early adopter of SoTL, partnering with the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (CASTL) in 2000. Former UW System faculty leaders *Tony Ciccone*, *Lisa Kornetsky*, *Bill Cerbin*, and *Nancy Chick* held (or still hold) prominent positions in the international community of SoTL. Their legacy continues today with UW System's Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars Program. The WTFS Program is a year-long learning community of SoTL practitioners who represent the UW System's 11 comprehensive and two doctoral institutions. Collectively they form a vibrant interdisciplinary community with multi-faceted dynamic discussions and career-enhancing experiences for participants.

## What does it mean to be equity-minded?

The WTFS Program adopts its equity-minded definition from the University of Southern California's [Center for Urban Education](#): "Equity-Minded practitioners question their own assumptions, recognize stereotypes that harm student success, and continually reassess their practices to create change."

## What happens in the WTFS Program?

The WTFS Program models effective teaching and learning, creating a community of learners among participants. Fellows and Scholars are guided through the process of designing a SoTL project with input from participants and the program co-directors through year-long activities at the end of which SoTL projects are made public at OPID's Annual Spring Conference on Teaching & Learning in Madison. While the process of a SoTL project helps participants explore a question about learning in depth, we also spend time together discussing pedagogy, learning science, assessment, alternative grading, and other challenges of teaching and learning.

**Requirements:**

- Willingness to travel to four events throughout the year:
  - Faculty College – May 30-June 2, 2023 – The Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake
  - Summer Institute – June 12-16, 2023– The Pyle Center, Madison, lodging at The Graduate
  - Winter Institute – January 7-9, 2024 – The Fluno Center, Madison
  - Spring Conference on Teaching & Learning – April 18-19, 2024 – Memorial Union, Madison
- Consultation and recording of SoTL project's progress throughout the program year.
- Submission of SoTL project abstract to UW System.

**What's the difference between a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow and Scholar?**

Fellows are typically non-tenured and launching their teaching careers. Teaching Scholars are more seasoned faculty with 10+ years teaching experience and tenure. Instructional academic staff – full-time instructors and/or lecturers - are also welcome to the WTFS Program. Participating in WTFS is an opportunity to reflect and (re)engage with innovative teaching and learning approaches.

**Application Process****Each UW System institution has its own application deadline.**

For additional information, contact your Provost's Office or Director of your institution's [Center for Teaching & Learning](#), Kristin Koepke ([kkoepke@uwlax.edu](mailto:kkoepke@uwlax.edu)). The SoTL work of past participants are available on the [UW System WTFS website](#). You may also want to speak to other faculty or staff who have been past participants in the WTFS Program over recent years. Keep in mind, however, that the slight shifts in this year's WTFS program will differ from what past participants experienced. For assistance, contact the WTFS Co-Directors Valerie Barske, History and International Studies, UW-Stevens Point, Wisconsin Teaching Scholar 2016-17 ([Valerie.Barske@uwsu.edu](mailto:Valerie.Barske@uwsu.edu)); Heather Pelzel, Biology, UW-Whitewater, Wisconsin Teaching Fellow 2014-15 ([pelzelh@uww.edu](mailto:pelzelh@uww.edu)); or Fay Akindes, Director of Systemwide Professional and Instructional Development ([fakindes@uwsa.edu](mailto:fakindes@uwsa.edu)).

**UWL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO [CATL@UWLAX.EDU](mailto:CATL@UWLAX.EDU) by November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.**

**If you are selected, the CATL Director will submit your application to UW System by the Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> deadline.** Applications are due to UW System via the [WTFS 2023-24 Application Form](#) by Tuesday, December 13, 2022, but are due at your institution prior to this. Appointment letters will be sent in January 2023.

**Note:** Components of the WTFS Program are subject to UW System's Office of Professional & Instructional Development (OPID) budget. Dates are subject to change.