

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Release

Universities of Wisconsin 2025-2026 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars announced

MADISON, Wis.— Today, the Universities of Wisconsin announced the selection of the 2025–2026 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars.

This year's Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars (WTFS) participants include 21 faculty and instructors from the Universities of Wisconsin's 11 comprehensive universities, nominated by Provosts for their excellence in teaching and learning.

The WTFS program provides UW faculty and teaching academic staff a unique opportunity to collaborate with other exceptional teachers from across the Universities of Wisconsin and from various disciplines. In addition to discussing effective evidence-based teaching and learning approaches, participants are guided through systematic research focused on improving student learning through a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project. The yearlong program begins in May and will culminate with a research presentation in Spring 2026.

Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars is one of three signature programs offered by the Universities of Wisconsin's Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID). OPID supports the Universities of Wisconsin's 13 Centers for Teaching and Learning in fostering a culture of teaching and learning excellence in Wisconsin. Together they offer professional development programs that seek to enhance student learning in face-to-face, online, and blended learning environments. Fay Akindes is the OPID Director.

The Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars program is directed by two faculty leaders, Valerie Barske, a history professor at UW-Stevens Point, and Heather Pelzel, a biological sciences professor at UW-Whitewater.

The 2025–2026 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars are:

- Joanne Jahnke-Wegner, UW-Eau Claire, History
- Boris Krichevsky, UW-Eau Claire, Teacher Education
- Golam Mushih Tanimul Ahsan, UW-Green Bay, Computer Science
- Alison Jane Martingano, UW-Green Bay, Psychology
- Lisa Kruse, UW-La Crosse, Sociology and Criminal Justice
- Elizabeth Peacock, UW-La Crosse, Archaeology & Anthropology
- Karrie Rukamp, UW-Oshkosh, Chemistry
- Courtney Wirtz, UW-Parkside, Education-Literacy
- Erin Graham, UW-Parkside, Psychology

- Venkata Avinash Paruchuri, UW-Platteville, Mechanical Engineering
- Thomas Pitcher, UW-Platteville, English
- Katherine Bangert, UW-River Falls, Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Bob Zhiwei Zeng, UW-River Falls, Agricultural Engineering
- Karin Bodensteiner, UW-Stevens Point, Biology
- Freesia McKee, UW-Stevens Point, English
- Emma Green, UW-Stout, Developmental Psychology
- Pranabendu Mitra, UW-Stout, Kinesiology, Health, and Food & Nutritional Sciences
- Megan Anderson, UW-Superior, Science Education
- Brittne Peck, UW-Superior, Communication
- Steve Girard, UW-Whitewater, Chemistry
- Lauren Zepp, UW-Whitewater, Special Education

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The Universities of Wisconsin serve approximately 164,400 students. Awarding nearly 36,000 degrees annually, these 13 public universities are Wisconsin's talent pipeline, putting graduates in position to increase their earning power, contribute to their communities, and make Wisconsin a better place to live. Nearly 90 percent of in-state Universities of Wisconsin graduates stay in the state five years after earning a degree. The universities provide a 23:1 return on state investment. The Universities of Wisconsin also contribute to the richness of Wisconsin's culture and economy with groundbreaking research, new companies and patents, and boundless creative intellectual energy. Learn more at wisconsin.edu.

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