



## Specialized Programs and Services for Adult Students

For the past three years, Dr. Lauren Smith has helped nearly 50 adult students earn over 250 credits by demonstrating their learning in a wide range of courses at UW-Whitewater. As the coordinator of the [Credit for Prior Learning Program](#) (CPL), Dr. Smith works with adult students by analyzing their resumes and advising reports and matching up their previous educational and professional experience with the course work they need in their degree programs. Instructors from many different departments review the learning artifacts that students submit in their portfolio to determine whether they meet the objectives for the course. Dr. Smith notes that only about 40-50% of the students seeking credit for prior learning actually have the experiences that match the courses they will need, but those that do will get credit for both the portfolio they create in the CPL course and the course they successfully challenge. Students who are over 25 or veterans can contact Smith to apply to the program that has become a leader in the state. "There is evidence that programs like CPL are correlated with greater success for adult students," Dr. Smith notes. "They feel that their experiences are validated."



This fall, Dr. Smith will use her experiences coordinating the CPL program in her role as interim director of adult learning. In this position, Dr. Smith and a team of staff who focus on non-traditional students will explore programs and delivery methods that can make college-level learning more accessible to adult students. "It is our goal to address both the academic and non-academic factors that impact the college experience for adults," notes Lynn Smith, coordinator of adult student services. "We help provide opportunities and services to build a sense of community for these dedicated students." One of UW-Whitewater's strategic planning goals is to recruit and retain non-traditional students, and Dr. Smith plans to achieve that through enhancing the services that are offered to this population. "We want to ensure that adult students are getting the same quality experiences as traditional age students."



For more information on services for adult and non-traditional students, including CPL, please see the Adult Student Outreach [website](#).

Outreach [website](#).



## Upcoming Events

[National Non-Traditional Student Week, November 4-8](#)

[Veterans and Active Military at UW-Whitewater, November 13](#)

[Playful Learning Summit, November 15-16](#)

[Education Outreach Grants Due November 25](#)

## Related Links

[Graduate School](#)

[Summer Session](#)

[Winterim](#)

[Credit Outreach](#)

[Workshops and Training](#)

[Camps and Conferences](#)

[Fairhaven Lecture Series](#)

[Domestic Travel Study](#)

[Partners in Education](#)

## Green Thumbs Abound

Gardeners of all skill levels are learning how to make their landscapes flourish by attending UW-Whitewater's [gardening workshops](#). Recent workshop series, held in spring and fall, have focused on trees and shrubs and late-season gardening. Michael Jesiolowski, former UW-Whitewater gardener, showed participants how to select plants for different garden areas, suggested various plants for winter interest, and explained the value of native species in Wisconsin landscapes. Participants noted that "the workshops renewed my excitement for gardening" and "the interaction between attendees was great." Look for workshops on new gardening topics this winter!



## Share Your Expertise!

Do you have a special talent, hobby or area of expertise? Would you like to share that with our community of life-long learners? Contact us! We're looking for instructors for our growing catalog of personal enrichment classes. From photography and technology to crafting and personal finance, the topics are limitless. Contact [Kari Borne](#) in Continuing Education to explore ways to share your talents with our eager group of adult learners.

## Faculty and Students Making an Impact

What started as a plan to support the language and literacy needs of children and the professionals who teach them has blossomed into unexpected collaborations and relationships. Dr. Giuliana Miolo (Communication Sciences and Disorders) was awarded an [Education Outreach Grant](#) to help staff implement best practices for dual language learning at the Rock-Walworth Comprehensive Family Services Head Start and Early Head Start agency ([RWCFS](#)). During workshops offered in the spring, Head Start teachers learned ways to enhance their effectiveness with their culturally and linguistically diverse students.



"Since most of our teachers are not fluent in Spanish, we've been challenged to meet school readiness goals for our preschool-age Head Start children whose primary language is Spanish," says Connie Robers, executive director of RWCFS. "Through this collaboration, our teachers are acquiring best-practice strategies for reinforcing children's primary language development as a bridge to success in learning English." Dr. Miolo and senior staff members at RWCFS quickly realized that the sustainability of the program was key, but consistent support and follow-up was a challenge.

UW-Whitewater undergrads and graduate students have been a source of much needed support, and have benefited from the working relationship at RWCFS as well. Dr. Miolo notes that up to thirty Spanish and communication sciences and disorders majors are volunteering in the Head Start classrooms to get experience working with a diverse group of children. In addition, faculty and graduate students have assessed the effectiveness of the spring workshops and have helped analyze data necessary for federal reporting requirements. "The students are providing a learning dimension that we could not offer without them," Ms. Robers says.



Dr. Miolo plans to sustain the project after the grant. "I love the creativity and synergy of connecting with the community and making it work for everyone," she says. "Once you establish that relationship, you want to keep it going."

