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Full Circle Opportunity for Community Based Learning Graduate

Once a student in a service-learning program, now a teacher
and mentor in a classroom of his own.

When Kolden Severson ('23) was a student at UW-Whitewater, one of his most impactful learning experiences was participating in the [Community Based Learning](#) (CBL) program. As



an elementary education major, Spanish education minor, CBL gave Severson the opportunity to learn in a 3rd grade classroom at Washington Elementary School in Whitewater. While there, he was able to observe in-service teachers, and have a safe environment to grow and improve his own Spanish language skills. He made meaningful personal connections with students and families in the community, and professional networks with teachers

throughout the school. "I gained a greater connection with the community in Whitewater," Severson says. By working with students directly in my community, I felt better connected and a part of the community, and not just a person attending college here."

His experience and connections helped Severson get hired before graduation at Washington Elementary. Now with a 3rd grade classroom of his own, he mentors CBL students in the Spanish for Educators course. "As a teacher, I have a million things on my mind all day," he says, "but when I have a CBL student I know that at least my Spanish speaking student is getting support and I can focus on other students. He notes that "CBL students have helped my newcomer students produce high quality work, and be further included in the class."

Severson values the connections he is able to make as a teacher-mentor to 3rd graders and UWW students. "My whole class loves CBL students! They are excited when they come for the day and say goodbye when they leave," he says. "I think it is so important to give kids role models more time to interact with other community members."



Exploring the World of the Arts

Free public lectures offered in Whitewater and Janesville.

For over 40 years, UW-Whitewater has hosted lectures in the [Fairhaven Lecture Series](#) in Whitewater, and began a similar tradition in Janesville in 2020 with the [Cedar Crest Lecture Series](#). This spring, thirteen lectures offered from January through April will focus on The World of the Arts and are open to all.

Lectures will explore themes from art to literature to film and feature faculty from departments across both campuses. Some topics include the art of performing, tragicomedy, Orson Welles, Islamic Textiles, American Literature, Arabic poetry, Broadway musicals and the profession of art therapy.

"These lecture series are a great way to connect our faculty to the community," says Kari Borne, series coordinator. "Faculty get to share their expertise with lifelong learners, showcasing subjects they are really passionate about. It's a nice change of pace from the campus classroom."

Join us at [Fairhaven Senior Services](#) and [Cedar Crest Retirement Community](#) this spring, won't you?



Learn and Play the Warhawk Way

Registration now open for all summer camps and clinics!

For more than 50 years, UW-Whitewater has hosted summer camps for youth. Each year, thousands of kids gather on the Whitewater and Janesville campuses, leaving devices behind to engage with each other in the magic of camp. This summer, nearly 70 camps are scheduled, offering opportunities for everyone to learn and play the Warhawk Way!

After a record-setting camps season in 2023, [Continuing Education Services](#) is prepared to host even more budding athletes, musicians, artists, gamers, and active learners this summer. New offerings this season include

[Sports Performance Camp](#), [College for Teens](#), and [Wrestling](#) programs. At the Rock County campus, [Volleyball Day Camp](#) and [Musical Theatre Magic](#) will make their debuts. For those over 18 looking for a camps experience of their own, Adult [Pickleball](#) will be offered in June. And making its highly-anticipated post-COVID return is [Flute Camp](#) in July.

Inclusivity and belonging are part of the priority mission of UW-Whitewater. Summer camps put the mission into practice by providing events like [Wheelchair Basketball camp](#), hosted by national champion teams, and [Chatter Matters](#), a camp serving individuals who use assistive communication devices and their families. In addition, UWW maintains a 1:10 ratio of camp staff to camper for all youth programming and prides itself in [youth protection training](#) for all faculty, staff, coaches, and volunteers involved in leading programming. Over 500 staff and volunteers are hired, representing a wide range of backgrounds and areas of expertise.



“We are proud the reputation we have built for exceptional programming,” says Morgan Anderson, director of camps and conferences. “Often youth start with a commuter or day camp to learn the ins and outs or attend with a friend or teammate. Most return summer after summer to experience college life,” Anderson shares. Families have many options to fill their summer breaks, and UWW camps should be on the top of the list. “When you choose a summer experience for the youth in your life, we understand the weight of that decision. Safety is our top priority, followed closely by skill development and lots of FUN!”



Parents and Teens Explore Future Careers in STEM Fields

Tech Savvy returns to UW-Whitewater in March.

Teens in grades 6 to 9 and their parents are invited to attend [Tech Savvy](#), a one-day designed to inspire and encourage work in STEM fields. Students who attend Tech Savvy will experience exciting hands-on activities led by professional women in STEM fields, and all will learn more about preparing for higher education in those fields. This year's keynote speaker will be Mindy Becker, Operations Manager for SHINE Technologies of Janesville. She will share her story of breaking boundaries and encourage participants to take chances. Workshop topics include forensic science, veterinary medicine, civil engineering and genetics and will be led by educators and practitioners from UW-Whitewater, Fort HealthCare, Janesville Police Department, Yahara Software, and many more.

Registration closes February 17. See you there!





News and Upcoming Events:

Join us for two new horticulture workshops this spring! Learn how to turn your kitchen scraps into soil in our [Composting Basics](#) workshop on March 19. Come early for a tour of the newly renovated Upham Greenhouse. On April 6, learn more about a newer trend in unmowed lawns in the [What's Up with No Mow May](#) workshop. Think spring!



Collins



Harlan

Members from the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education shared their expertise at a national conference recently. In November, Stacie Collins, graduate recruiter, and Angela Harlan, assistant dean, presented at the [UPCEA Marketing, Enrollment Management, and Student Success Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon. Their presentation examined the performance of a marketing campaign for graduate programs using the platform Slate.



UW-Whitewater's Communication Graduate Programs were a platinum sponsor for the annual [PR Palooza](#), held in Wauwatosa in December. The Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) holiday event was an opportunity for graduate students and faculty to network and reconnect with communications professionals in Southeastern Wisconsin.



Prepare for a comfortable retirement! Several sessions of the [Online Retirement Planning Fundamentals](#) workshops are scheduled for 2024. Topics include taxes and income sources in retirement, social security and investments, and insurance, Medicare and estate planning. Workshops are presented in a friendly, relaxed environment and are designed for adults nearing retirement.

Have you ever stopped and considered the images and pressures we go through every day? We may feel them pressing in, overwhelmed. We can find another way. Forgiveness. We can live a forgiving life, but we have to choose to start. Develop your forgiveness skills in our [Forgiving in an Unforgiving World](#) workshop, beginning April 3.

Are you thinking of a career advancement or change? Continuing Education offers [advanced career training programs](#) that lead to professional positions in high demand fields like [medical billing and coding](#), [veterinary assistant](#), and [HVAC/R technician](#). Looking for individual classes? We have those too. Hundreds of flexible, affordable [online classes](#) with start dates each month, with titles like [Project Management Fundamentals](#), [Discover Sign Language](#), and [Genealogy Basics](#) will help you meet your career, educational, and lifelong learning goals.