

January 2021

Graduate Advocates for Youth, Empowers Young Women of Color

ECE4U graduate reflects on skills she learned in the program and how she's using them personally and professionally.

Ruby Clay started her educational journey in 2008 at Madison College, and as she approached the end of the program, she knew she wasn't done learning. Her advisors recommended UW-Whitewater's Early Childhood Education 4 You ([ECE4U](#)) degree completion program. "The title of the program grabbed my attention," Clay recalls. "I was intrigued and happy that there was a program for non-traditional students." The program is mostly online with limited face-to-face meetings on weekends and students join as a cohort. "At the time, I was a single mom of two beautiful daughters, working a part-time job, and attending college part-time. Going back to school seemed impossible since I was barely doing it at the time. But the ECE4U program made me think that school might work out for me after all." After careful consideration and strategizing, Clay assembled her support team and enrolled at UW-W in 2015.

Clay has since completed the ECE4U program and is currently working as a child and family support advocate in a domestic abuse shelter in Dane County. In this role, she provides trauma-informed direct services including support, advocacy, crisis intervention, safety planning, parenting support, information, and referrals. She implements and facilitates groups and activities for children as well as educational and support groups for parents. "Having the skills on lesson planning and developing lessons based on each child zone of proximal development from the program has gone a long way," Clay says. "I can offer parents insight on child development and what milestones they should expect at each age, and suggest appropriate learning material, games and activities based on kids in our care.

In addition to her work at the shelter, Clay is the founder of a group called Black Girls United. The group is for middle and high school girls and is a space where they can be empowered, motivated, and driven to succeed through the sisterhood of the group. "My philosophy of everything I do is being youth-led and I try to make every moment meaningful and impactful for kids," Clay notes. "I am a teacher by nature, and even when I am outside the classroom I understand how important creating environments are for kids to feel safe and be successful."

Clay is continuing her educational journey at UW-W in the counselor education graduate program, but reflects fondly on her time in the ECE4U program. "This program was perfect for me. I was able to work and take care of my two children and follow my dream. The advisors and teachers work with you and are very compassionate," she says. Her advice to others considering the program is to go for it. "The program is designed for you, so tailor it to fit your life." She urges students to "take your time and enjoy each day you are given as an opportunity

to learn and develop and please take care of yourself along your journey. Listen to your body and take a break when you need to. You are in charge of your pace set it accordingly. Plan wisely and time management is the key.” She offers wise words from Oprah Winfrey: “Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure.”

Learn more about Ruby’s passion for mentoring young women in [this article](#) from the January 2021 issue of *Madison Magazine*.



No Passport Needed: Spring Lecture Series Announced

Stay safe at home while exploring the globe through the experiences of others.

Traveling came to an abrupt halt in 2020, but virtual journeys through time and across the world can take place through the experiences of others. Join us for the [Spring Fairhaven Lecture Series](#) as we visit Louis XIV’s France; travel with students and faculty to Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America; and examine the impact of (and by) those who immigrate to the U.S. Stay safe at home this spring, while exploring our world through the experiences of our fellow global citizens.

Lectures in the Spring 2021 series will be held virtually via WebEx and will be recorded and posted to our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Links to each lecture can be found on our website and videos of lectures can be accessed for free any time after they are posted online.

Check our [website](#) and follow us on [social media](#) for more information and updates. For videos of past series [click here](#). Any other questions, please contact Kari Borne at bornek@uww.edu or 262-472-1003.



Tech Savvy: Exploring Your Future in STEM Careers

Next month, girls in grades 6-10 can learn more about exciting careers in STEM fields from the women who work in them.

Astrophysics? Engineering? Forensic Science? How about plants, animals, people, and computers? [Tech Savvy](#), a workshop exploring a wide range of careers in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, returns next month in an all new virtual format. Girls who attend Tech Savvy will experience inspiring discussions and exciting hands-on activities led by professional women in STEM fields. [Topics](#) include everything from robots and circuits to web design and wolfs. The [women leading](#) the workshop sessions are nuclear engineers, software developers, forensic scientists, biologists and more, and are sure to inspire girls considering careers in STEM fields.

Thanks to the generosity of partners from across STEM industries in the state, the cost for attendees is just \$10, which includes participation in the workshop and a supply bag, which can be picked up at multiple locations throughout Rock and Walworth counties. Bags include materials needed for the workshops, conference t-shirt, a hardcover copy of the book [The Confidence Code for Girls](#), and a door prize, for a few lucky girls.

“We’re pleased to have the Tech Savvy team back at UW-Whitewater in this new format,” says John Fons, interim director of continuing education. “This is an excellent opportunity for young women in our region and perhaps they’ll choose our campus in a few years when they begin their educational journeys in STEM fields.”

Encourage her love of STEM. Workshop will be held Saturday mornings, February 13 and 27. Registration deadline is February 3. You won't want to miss this – [sign up](#) today!



Event Planning Services for Groups Big and Small

Let [Continuing Education Services](#) help you plan and host your next event! Whether your upcoming events will be held virtually in the near future or on campus in the months and years to come, we can help set up registrations, accept payments, respond to inquiries, process invoices, and set up virtual platforms. From enrichment events for kids or your professional organization's annual meeting, we can help make the event a success. We assist groups associated with UW-W and those with no affiliation too. Contact us at cesevents@uww.edu to get started.



News and Upcoming Events:

Join us for the 34th annual MLK Commemorative event on Tuesday, January 26 at 3:30. This virtual event is hosted by UW-W's Student Diversity, Engagement and Success in collaboration with Concordia University, and features a lecture by Rhonda Kelsey, Purchasing Director for the City of Milwaukee and musical performance by Darius Sanders, winner of the National Association of Teachers of Singing-Wisconsin Division. Visit the SDES [website](#) for link to join this free event.



**34TH ANNUAL MLK
COMMEMORATIVE EVENT**

**TUESDAY,
JAN 26TH, 2021
WEBEX EVENT**

<https://www.uww.edu/sdes/lecture-series>

3:30PM

Be yourself; always do your best; seek to give first; and live life to its fullest potential - Rhonda Kelsey

**GUEST SPEAKER:
RHONDA KELSEY,
CITY PURCHASING DIRECTOR,
CITY OF MILWAUKEE**

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:
DARIUS SANDERS,
WINNER OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS
OF SINGING- WISCONSIN DIVISION**

University of Wisconsin Whitewater | Student Diversity, Engagement and Success | in collaboration with | CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN



From Hogwarts to herbology, coming in March is [The History of Magic](#). This new online class is open to anyone with an interest in the topic. Asynchronous lessons in this six week class are complimented by virtual meet ups with the instructor and classmates. Take a deep dive into this magical new course this spring. [Sign up](#) today!

Winter is the perfect time for garden planning and we have [three workshops](#) to wake up your green thumb. Horticulture expert [Mark Dwyer](#) returns to host workshops on landscape design, shrubs and small trees, and container gardening. Each workshop is worth 0.5 master gardener CEUs and there is a multiple registration discount. Start planning for the 2021 gardening season today!



Check out Continuing Education's wide variety of events scheduled for this winter. There's something for everyone. From [Virtual Saxophone Day](#) and [Virtual Piano Day](#) for the musicians in your family, to [Softball Clinic](#) and [GymHawks Gymnastics](#) for the athletes, [Acrylic Experimentation](#) and [Painting Plus](#), [Mixed Media Magic](#) for the artists, to [Virtual Escape Room: Family Edition](#) for everyone, we offer programs for all ages and interests. Check out our [upcoming events](#) to find a program to beat the winter doldrums.

Are you thinking of a career advancement or change? Continuing Education offers flexible, affordable [online classes](#) with start dates each month. Hundreds of classes, including [A to Z Grant Writing](#), [Project Management Fundamentals](#), and [Speed Spanish](#) will help you develop your skills and get ahead. Fun personal enrichment classes are available too! Next start date is February 10.





The past year has been one most of us will never forget. From a global pandemic to political, economic, and social unrest, 2020 was a year like no other. Capture your memories from this unprecedented time for generations to come in our [Life Story Writing](#) classes. Write your life story just two pages at a time, one week at a time with guidance, prompts, and reflection, under the guidance of a personal historian. Classes begin March 15. [Learn more](#) and sign up to get started on writing your life story this spring.

UW-Whitewater cares deeply about the health and safety of our community. [FREE COVID-19 testing](#) is available to anyone over 5 years old. For more information on testing, reported cases, additional resources, and more, please visit the [Warhawks Return](#) webpage. Stay informed and stay safe!

Get tested. Help stop the spread.

Free, fast COVID-19 testing on campus for anyone age 5 or older.

www.uw.edu/warhawks-return/testing



University of Wisconsin
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