

WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT

END OF THE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

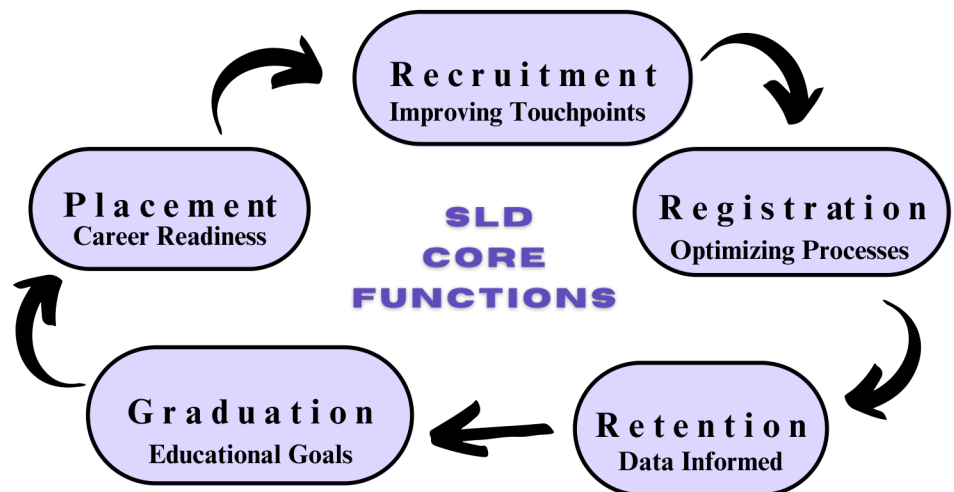
SUMMER
2023

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT LIFE

In 2022-2023, we did not allow what we could not do to interfere with the doable. The Student Life and Development (SLD) teams at Winona State University are among the best in providing meaningful experiences that elevate student success. This year flowed with an energized vibe of engagement and belonging, as observed in impactful action that emerged within the SLD core functions.

The Starfish story is an appropriate backdrop for Student Life and Development departments.

(<https://www.thestarfishchange.org/starfish-tale>) There are numerous examples documenting our work changes lives.



The Office of the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Life co-facilitated the Advising Committee with Heather Dieterman (ACE), the Mental Health Taskforce with Danya Espinosa (Warrior Hub) and Carolyn Ryno (W-Rochester), and was a Student Success Taskforce subgroup leader with (Professor and Chair, Dawnette Cigrand, Counseling Education). We partnered with Darcie Anderson to link Ted Talk Tuesdays with the 2022-2023 University Theme: Purpose, Empowerment and Persistence. Exceptional student interaction was generated by adding TRIO, Housing & Residence Life, and the Athletics Advisory Group as partners.

The Warrior Conversation was coordinated with Associate Professor Adam Gaffey, the advisor to the American Democracy Project and Chair for Communication Studies. The student facilitators engaged attendees in conversation and activities to illustrate the difference in response to argument and dialogue. The topic: Should you win this argument?

The SLD Annual Retreat took place in the Kryzsko Ballroom on June 7. This year's theme, The Power of You, focused on the superhero/shero strengths our teams display to create meaningful connections.

There is evidence of extraordinary determination throughout this Newsletter. Some of the highlights include:

- **Salesforce** - Leveraging cloud-based technology to improve productivity and communication
- **u. Achieve** - Grad Planner workshops coordinated through the Advising Committee
- **Guiding Warriors Student Mentoring Program** - Engaging entering first year and transfer students
- **On Track Tutoring** – Tutor Match program reaching students on academic warning
- **Mental Wellbeing** - Basic Mental Health First Aid training for students and personnel
- **Warrior Cupboard** - Continues to support students who are experiencing food insecurity
- **Student Activities** - Included a sell-out crowd to see Bill Nye, "The Science Guy"

*"I believe success is
achieved by ordinary
people with
extraordinary
determination."
- Zig Ziglar.*

- Dr. Denise Lloyd McDowell

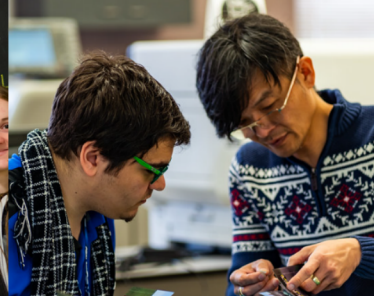


This is your moment.
Own it.

Finding, Keeping
and Living your
purpose



There's more to me
than what you see



PURPOSE

EMPOWERMENT

PERSISTENCE

Office of Admissions

Submitted by Tania Schmidt

Director of Admissions

Fiscal Year 2023

brought about many changes for the Office of Admissions.

- Staffing: We welcomed a new Assistant Director of Admissions, Assistant Director for Transfer, 3 new Admissions Counselors, a Veterans Coordinator and a new Director. With all the staffing updates we are seeing energy and ideas abound.

Our counselors are working on revamping the Organized Group Visit (OGV) Model, laying out a 52 week social media plan, revamping the Road Warriors Program and helping to roll out the new parent portal software CampusESP. Our Assistant Directors are busy reviewing PSEO Coordination, Student Intern Coordination, Marketing for Transfer Students and building bridges with Community and Technical Colleges throughout the state. Our Veterans Coordinator is busy reviewing marketing and assisting with the newest in government compliance.

- Incoming Students: Our team puts in hard work and long hours at home and on the road to share the Winona State message of Success to High School Students.

We attended 87 College Fairs, 2 National Fairs, and a national High School counselor event.

We gave 2782 Campus Visits From July 1-May 24th.

We revamped the tour route to be ADA friendly and focused on areas the families wanted to spend more time on.

We focused on spending more time at local community colleges for Transfer Students

- New Lens: With a new staff often comes a fresh set of eyes. Recruiting in a world of declining high school enrollment, shifting demographics and increasing public scrutiny of higher education, means that WSU needs to be ever so diligent on how it portrays itself. Our recruiting methods must reflect the newest data about our students and their families.

We began offering more dynamic Saturday visits with one convenient time and a brunch. Our numbers have gone up from last year!

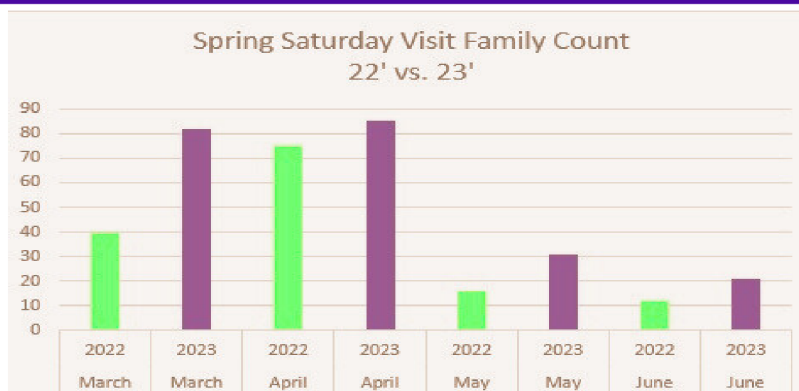
We shifted our tours from 9 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM to 10AM and 2PM and began using staff and Ambassadors for Housing Tours.

We are evaluating every piece of printed material, letters and text we send.

We are watching branding and professional quality in new Viewbooks, Visit Guides, and Request for Information (RFI) Materials!

We started with a database of approx. 1100 Public Schools in MN, IL and WI. We now have **1881 Public Schools across 6 states and 300 Private schools in MN, WI and IL.**

We Love Free Stuff! We are evaluating and investing in giveaways that make sense for the audience and seasons.



June Events

Saturday Visit 6/3/23
WSU Staycation 6/16/23
New Student Registration
6/20/23, 6/21/23 & 6/23/23

Upcoming Events

WSU Staycation 7/21/23
New Student Registration 7/21/23
Saturday Visit 7/22/23
WSU Staycation 8/18/23

Spring 2023 Organized Group Visits:

Admissions opened our doors to
45 Large Group Visits for Spring '23
Approximately 1600 K12 Students

SO/JR Day

80-85 Registered Participants
91 Family Members
3 School Groups

COME FOR A VISIT,



STAY FOR A WHILE!

- Plans are in full swing as we partner with Visit Winona this summer. We are combining our Friday Campus Visit with a Cal Fremling Boat Cruise. We then encourage visitors to stay in our community longer by creating a packet of what's going on in Winona over the weekend.
- Our first joint venture was introducing WSU visitors on June 2-3, to the Remlinger Auto Auction!

Admissions Office March Madness Bracket Winner!



Community Engagement

Submitted by DeAnna Goddard

Associate Director Warrior Success Center - Career Services

With the Director of Student and Community Engagement position vacant, the Learning and Community Engagement (LaCE) committee has stepped up to ensure community engagement has been continuing across the WSU campuses this year. Preparation for the Carnegie Classification was well underway. Thanks to the work of Dr. Elissa Alzate (Political Science), community engagement data has been reported into Collaboratory from faculty and departments. Data collection will continue into 2023-24, including the collection of evidence from Cabinet articulating that WSU holds ongoing practices, institutional structures, and financial support.



Madalyn Peterson

In addition to the Carnegie Classification preparation work, the LaCE committee also collected submissions for and recommended to Cabinet the 2023-24 University Theme: A Culture of Caring, which was approved. The leaders of the 2023-24 theme, Jessica Stoner (TRIO) and PingPing Zhang (Assoc. Prof. Math & Stats), have been diligently preparing for next year.



The LaCE committee also collected and put forward a nomination for the Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellowship. Madalyn Peterson was approved to represent Winona State and was granted the fellowship, becoming the sixth consecutive Newman Fellow from Winona State University.

On March 21st, Kendra Weber and DeAnna Goddard spoke about WSU's best practices around community engagement at a Collaboratory Coffee Break. This was an opportunity for WSU to tell its community engagement story to fellow institutions.

The LaCE committee awarded seven curriculum grants this year. They also recognized the community engagement work of our students, staff, and community partners at the President's Civic Engagement Awards Ceremony which was held on March 28th in the Kryzsko Commons Ballroom and at the MN & IA Campus Compact at St. Catherine's University on April 13th. President Scott Olson and DeAnna Goddard (LaCE Chair) were able to attend the Campus Compact event and support the WSU recipients as they were recognized at the state level.

Overall, we had another successful year.



Counseling Services

Submitted by Kateri Johnson

Director of Counseling and Wellness



Mental Health
FIRST AID

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
MENTAL WELLBEING

MHFA was offered to students and employees on campus through our counselor, Mick, and became a highly sought-after training as our community understands the benefit of having basic mental health training.

After receiving a grant to pilot a peer-to-peer support program, the program launched in October with seven peer counselors. With feedback we received and grant funding the program will continue into a second year with 12 peer counselors in the residence halls. We look forward to the continuation of this program with modifications. Our department will also be participating in events related to the University Theme of “A Culture of Caring” and continuing to provide a presence with the Mental Wellness Task Force, the Green Bandana Project, Active Minds, and Mental Health First Aid trainings while maintaining strong partnerships with Housing, Athletics, Nursing, MSC-Southeast, and other groups/departments on campus.

The 2022-2023 academic year was one of exciting additions to Counseling Services. First, we hired Sierra, a part-time counselor, into one of our vacant positions. She was a welcomed addition with her exceptional clinical work but also her disposition, which integrates well with our entire staff. For the first time, we also had two clinical trainees. Meriel came to us from Counselor Education and provided part-time hours in the fall and full-time in the spring. Sabrina came to us to complete her internship for her master’s degree in social work and was with us part-time all year. With two of our counselors supervising these interns, it did take some time away from those counselors’ clinical work; however, we believe the benefits exceeded the cost because they helped us meet demand for services, and it gave us the opportunity to provide these graduate students with a high-quality training experience.



Dean of Students

Submitted by Dr. Karen Johnson

As a part of the WSU University Policy Committee, I can attest to the incredibly positive progress made this year. After several years of almost stagnant committee organizing and planning, a copy editor position was approved to assist the committee. This person encouraged the committee to tackle the list of old regulations to be converted to the new policy and procedure format. Once the committee protocol was refined, we reviewed and forwarded to Cabinet, 12 sets of policy and procedures for stakeholder review. I personally converted 3 regulations from the Dean of Students office into this format, which are ready for review in Fall 2023. The committee also revised its document flow routines and clarified roles and responsibilities.

The TRIO/Student Support Services programs are essential components of retention and graduation. This team of professionals care deeply about student success. One staff member, partially funded by WSU, functions as the WSU Basic Needs Liaison, and is able to support students in need of food, emergency loans, and housing. WSU is moving forward with plans to build a new, net-zero energy building. Three academic departments and the TRIO programs will occupy the space, hopefully in Fall 2027. TRIO will add a component of student support, as well as contributing to building a climate of diversity and academic excellence.



Although the number of student conduct cases decreased this year, challenges with student mental health seem to have increased, along with the need for campus services. The Behavior Assessment and Intervention Team (BAIT) was busy helping students to overcome difficult situations and to make complex decisions. Health Services revised their process to determine student eligibility for services and Counseling developed a Peer-to-Peer support program to better meet student needs. The Wellness Complex continues to be a place for students to improve their wellbeing and academic success through an active lifestyle.

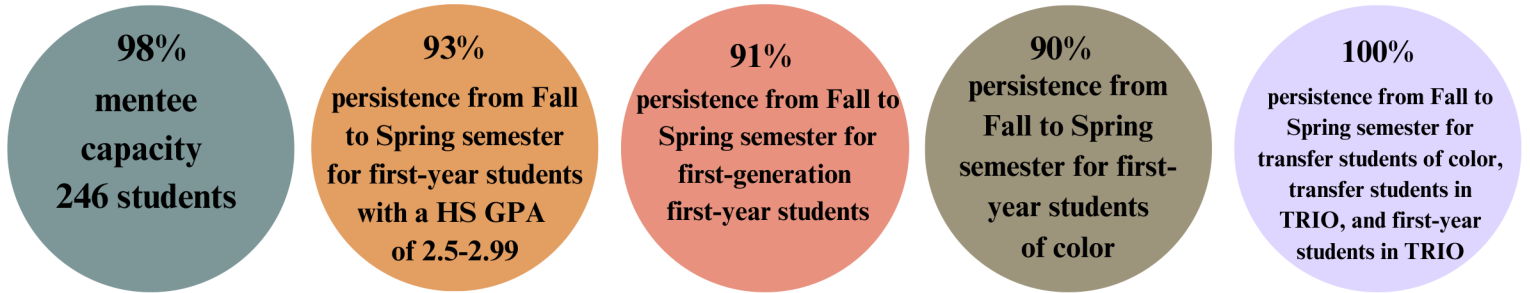
Two posthumous degrees were awarded this year. The family of David Holien (BA, Individualized Studies) was presented with his diploma in the President's office and was honored in the December 9, 2022 commencement ceremony. David lost his battle with schizophrenia in August. The family of Hannah Goman (AA) attended the May 5, 2022 commencement ceremony to receive her diploma. Hannah was killed in a car accident by a drunk driver in Winona in February 2022. WSU is proud to honor these young scholars.

Equity & Inclusive Excellence

Submitted by Dr. Jonathan Locust Jr.
AVP for Equity and Inclusive Excellence

GUIDING WARRIORS MENTORING PROGRAM

This year's program had significant growth, with impressive outcomes:



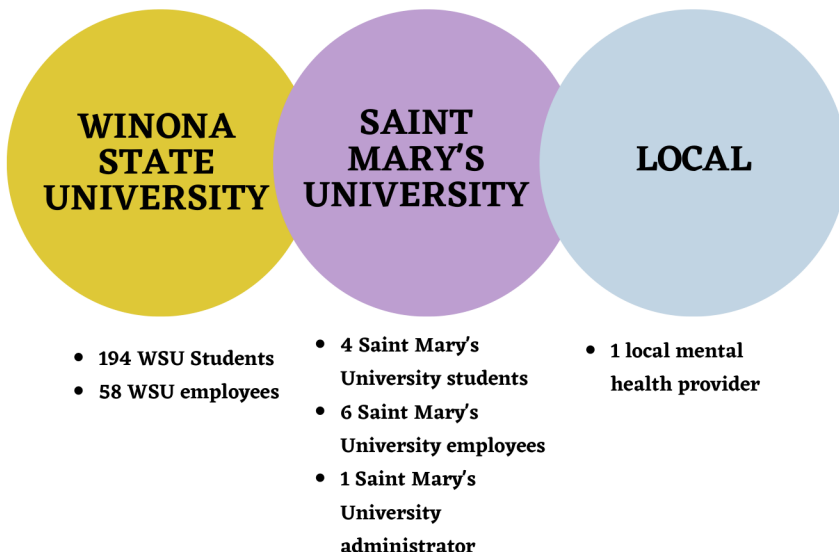
This is achieved through the collaborative efforts of Tyler Treptow-Bowman (EIE), Jessica Stoner (TRIO), Ron Stregge (WSS), Paul Stern (Hub), Dr. Denise McDowell (Administrator), and Javi Navas & Emily Barrett (partners at Mentor Collective).

EXPANDING PERSPECTIVES SERIES

This year, we brought six speakers for the Expanding Perspectives Series: Hayden Kristal, Saul Flores, Tou Ger “Billy” Lor, Dr. Anton Treuer, Melvin Giles, and Kathy Mouacheupao. Topics included a crash course in LGBTQ American Sign Language and intersectionality, walking in the footsteps of immigrants, Hmong shamanism and intersectionality, Ojibwe language and traditional living, community healing through community gardens, and activism through art.

Safe Place

Total of 264 individuals completed the training!

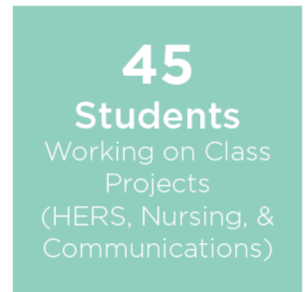
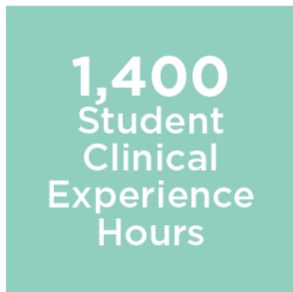
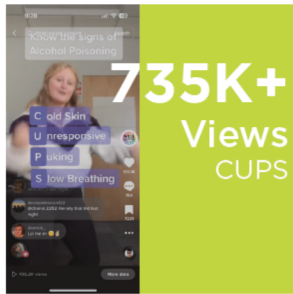


HOPE ACADEMY

After two summers of virtual programming, HOPE Academy returned to in-person in July 2022. There were 13 student participants signed up for July 2023. During their week on campus, the students attend college-level courses such as Ethnic Studies, Biology, Computer Science and College Algebra, and also engage in workshops and presentations that include topics on identity development and happiness, job readiness and resume skills, as well as how to utilize university libraries for research.

Health & Wellness Services

Submitted by **Connie Kamara**
Director of Health Services



“I was a Biology: Allied Health major & I’m starting grad school this summer for my Master’s in Nursing. I was the Health Advocate’s President & clinic student worker. This allowed me to gain hands on experience. I learned the workflow to make the day run smooth, which is essential. I learned how to treat common illnesses. I learned how to give shots & was able to practice giving them. I was given an opportunity that most do not get until they are in grad school. I will take my experiences with me to grad school & my professional career as a Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant. All students who are in undergrad for a health career can benefit from working at Health Services. It has been educational experience & a place where I met lifelong friends.”

Housing & Residence Life

Submitted by Sarah Olcott

Director of Housing and Residence Life

Housing and Residence Life promoted our departmental mission to be a welcoming, inclusive, safe and engaging community through the following strategies. Some of the highlights include our outstanding survey data, revising the cancellation policy and the revitalization of our Residence Housing Association student group.



Survey Highlights

- 1183 residents took the survey in November 2022, which represents 74% of our overall residential population.
- Resident Assistant staff's ability to carry out our mission was assessed with 5 questions in each of the 4 areas of our mission statement: Welcome, Inclusive, Safe and Engaging.
- Overall, students were highly satisfied or satisfied with the RAs ability to carry out our mission. This high rate of approval has been consistently maintained over time. This survey is done yearly.

Residence Housing Association

- Completely overhauled the RHA Constitution to reflect current practices and set a standard for future RHA bodies and aligned all RHA Executive Positions with Hall Council Executive positions.
- Partnered with athletics and the network by participating in Winona State's Homecoming Warrior Gameday Experience as well as the Network's Winterfest.
- Represented Winona State University and Housing & Residence Life at the Regional Leadership Conference at Minnesota State University-Mankato, the Regional Business Conference at Pittsburg State University for the Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (MACURH) and at the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) Annual Conference at Ball State University.

Cancellation Policy

Housing and Residence Life reviewed our cancellation policy this year. We have been operating under the same policy for the last 15 years. The idea to review the policy came from a student who questioned our cancellation policy regarding graduating and leaving East Lake Apartments in December. Under the current policy, the student would have been charged \$400. The following happened:

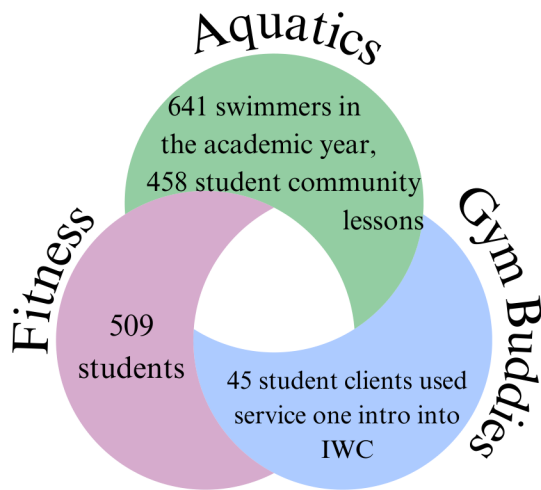
- Consultation meetings with Residence Housing Association and hall councils to discuss the current policy and how it affects students and the budget of the department.
- After gaining feedback from this consultation, reviewing it with staff and looking at other universities, reviewing the budgetary losses from cancellations and fitting the policy against our mission statement, changes were made.
- For Fall 2023, we changed our current policy to only charge \$50 for any student breaking their housing agreement due to educational advancement (study-abroad, student teaching, graduating, etc.).
- For fall 2024, we will further change our policy to charge students breaking their agreement for convenience purposes (moving off campus) to 50% of their remaining commitment with Housing and Residence Life. The current policy charges them \$800. Since the penalty for breaking the agreement will be much higher, we are increasing our educational efforts and formalizing the process for appeal.

Integrated Wellness Complex

Submitted by Jeff Reinardy
Director of Fitness & Wellness

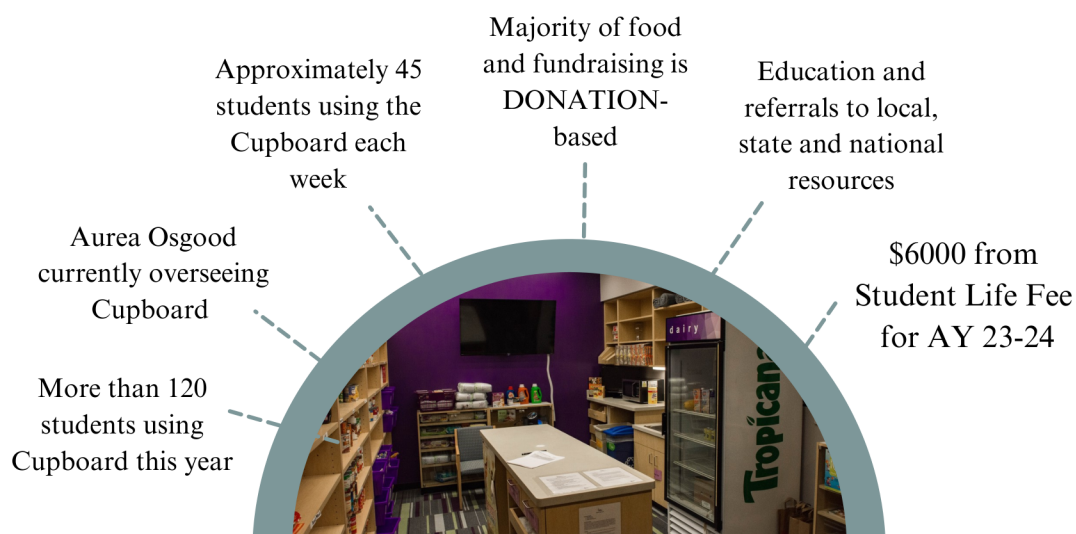
In its twelfth year of operation, the IWC serves as a comprehensive health and wellness education facility engaging, inspiring, and fostering an environment of shared experiences and knowledge for better well-being at WSU. The facility houses multiple departments and programs that work collaboratively across campus, and it provides permanent academic spaces as well as programs focused on an integrated approach to enhancing all students' success and well-being.

INTRAMURALS



FITNESS & WELLNESS

- Experiences an average of 1,500 “swipes” a day
- Employs approximately 50 students a semester
- Oversees 20-30 paid and unpaid internships
- Creates opportunities for hundreds of volunteer opportunities per year
- Provides outreach on campus and in the community engaging students through coursework and practicums throughout the year.
- The IWC Fitness Center was able to re-implement some of our main-stay programs, including a fan favorite, the Wellness Challenge.



WARRIOR CUPBOARD

Student Union & Activities

Submitted by George Micalone

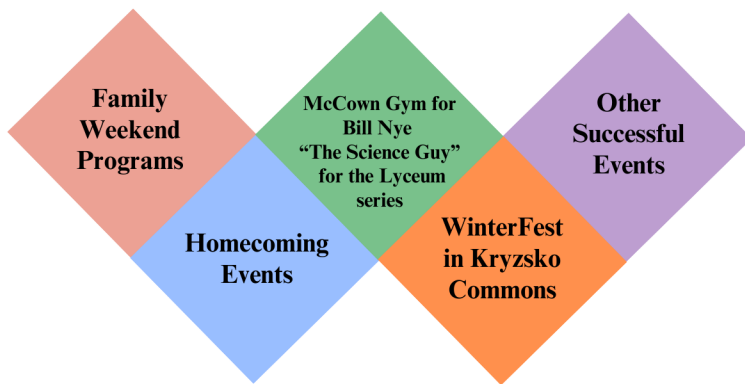
Director of Student Union & Activities

Kryzsko Commons Student Union is a student-centered organization that enhances the student experience and fosters an ongoing connection to the university. We contribute to the educational mission of the institution and development of students by delivering a diverse offering of services, resources, and programs.

This past year more changes and improvements occurred in the student union. Phase 2 of the ballroom renovation was completed with the Solarium holes getting filled in, making that a highly desirable multipurpose room and pre-function space for the ballroom. As part of that project, the Zane's food court seating area was updated with new flooring, paint, ceilings, and decor. On the East side of the building, we built the Fire Feature Patio which includes new landscaping, custom outdoor seating, and a 10' gas fire table. With this new gathering area, we started a weekly tradition of free s'mores which students really enjoy. Lastly, we gutted the old meditation room and remodeled it for flexibility and comfort. This space now includes a proper foot bath and other amenities.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Record numbers!



The Warrior Entertainment Network hosted over 32 events including 6 Kryzsko After Dark nights, well attended comedy shows with Sasheer Zamata (of SNL) and Drew Lynch (of America's Got Talent), 2 concerts in the Kryzsko Ballroom, bingo nights, craft events, and regional trips.

Last fall we hosted another successful I Love WSU Day, and supported Warrior Gameday Experience events. We offered 4 club fairs, another successful Student Leadership & Involvement Awards program, and Warriors LEAD hosted 3 leadership speakers in the Spring.

Overall, the Student Union was active and alive with many successful events including banquets, conferences, concerts, fairs, tradeshow, admissions and registration events, speakers, entertainers, and so much more.



TRIO Student Support Services

Submitted by Nhia Yang

Director of TRIO

TRIO Student Support Services and TRIO Student Ability Services “TRIO” have had a productive and fulfilling year. August 2023 will end the 3rd year of a 5-year US Department of Education funded grant. This year was the first year since the Covid-19 pandemic that we have seen a consistent flow of students utilizing the services and spaces TRIO provides. The services provided help students obtain their goal of graduating with their degree from Winona State University. TRIO successfully served 325 income eligible students, first generation students, and students with disabilities. Also, 43 students who were enrolled in TRIO graduated this year. Ensuring we fulfill TRIO’s mission at WSU, we continue to collaborate with our partners on campus.

TRIO is fully staffed with the hiring of an Advisor for SSS, a Counselor for SAS, and an OAS for both programs. Academic Advising and Tutoring continue to be the key services in TRIO. Students were referred and encouraged to use campus tutoring/writing services, then TRIO would attempt to supplement any unmet needs for participants.

Workshops throughout the year included the

McNair Graduate School conference, scholarships, strengths coaching, FASFA, financial wellness, and Your Future Professional Self. Our new counselor added to this list by hosting wellness workshops throughout the year such as technology for wellness, a yoga session at Infinity Yoga Studio, winter mindfulness, a vision board workshop, and took a group of students to a Mental Health Symposium at Metropolitan State University.

TRIO Student Leaders Club hosted bi-weekly meetings with attendance remaining consistent. Topics for meetings included Community & Citizenship Through Entrepreneurship, Strengths & Personal Awareness, and Diversity & Multiculturalism.

This past year, TRIO also took two groups of students to Chicago and NYC for educational and cultural experiences. Both trips included: visiting graduate schools to speak with representatives from a couple of their graduate programs, a community service project, learning to use public transportation in highly populated cities, and experiencing cultural places and events such as visiting Chicago’s Museum district, visiting China Town, seeing a Broadway musical, and viewing the extraordinary artwork of the Metropolitan Museum. The trips were rare opportunities, and we are grateful we were able to give those opportunities to our TRIO students.



Warrior HUB

Submitted by Paul Stern

Associate Director of Enrollment Services

WARRIOR HUB

The Warrior Hub has developed the reputation over the years of being a space where those we serve can count on being seen first as people and expect to experience a sense of welcoming and a valuing of their humanity. We have worked to educate, empower, and engage our community through systems of support. We enhance the student experience through partnering to resolve barriers students, families and members of our WSU family may encounter in reaching their goals. Our Warrior Hub team is proud that this tradition continues. The Hub remains collaborative, innovative, efficient, compassionate and hardworking as we do our best to serve the communities of Winona State University, the Winona area, and the Minnesota State System.



FINANCIAL AID

- Spring semester has concluded, but the financial aid team is still hard at work finishing off the school year and awarding summer aid. Currently, Financial Aid has disbursed \$63,116,852 to 5571 students.
- We teamed up with several other departments on campus to offer financial wellness programing for students. This programing included understanding financial aid, tuition payment, and FAFSA completion opportunities.
- We began offering two new Minnesota State aid programs; Minnesota Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship and Fostering Independence Higher Education Grant.
- We had our first full year of offering the Minnesota Futures Together Grant. The academic year isn't done yet, but this grant has helped 135 students pay off their tuition bills.

AREA UPDATES

Area environmental upgrades:

- Conference room transformed into a “think space” for students and teams to come together and collaborate.
- New furniture, a “student message” blackboard (and plants) were added to soften our environment and provide students, families, and team members with a more relaxed environment.
- Student images on the wall telling the story of the student experience at Winona State and highlighting the most important population we serve.

Salesforce

- New CRM shared information system implemented in 2 "phases". Assets include: shared contact management space, campaign and individual multi-channel communication, Ask WSU, Case generation/tracking, My Warrior Life, Reporting...and so much more!

Warrior Success Center

Submitted by Ron Strege
Director of the Warrior Success Center

Advising

Darcie Anderson, EdD (Warrior Success Center) and Brooke Boulton (EdD, College of Liberal Arts, English Department) lead the FY23 University Theme: Purpose, Empowerment, and Persistence. Its goal: empower our students to develop the relationships and skills they need to be successful. We utilized OR 100 to help new students feel like they belong here and have the ability to succeed. Dr. Delana Smith spoke to campus and small groups about her journey through education as a woman of color. SLD sponsored TED Talk Tuesdays around the theme: Persistence: TRIO SSS. Purpose: Housing and Residence Life. Empowerment: Student Athletic Advisory Committee



Tutoring

The On Track Program, which provides intrusive intervention, including tutor matches for students on academic warning, continued this year with funding from a System Innovation Grant and has received funding for next year through a WSU Foundation grant. Data indicates that intervention has a lasting positive impact, as a year later the persistence rate for participants is 81%, compared to 42% for non-participants. Participants also continued to use tutoring at a much higher frequency than those not in the program. Furthermore 86% of the enrolled students had reached good standing within three semesters.

Career Services



Access Services

Access Services was very busy this year and it was great to have more students testing in person. We proctored 2520 tests for 2022-2023. This is the most proctoring of tests ever done! This increase caused a need to hire a retired Professor and bring in additional work study for assistance. Our partnership with TRIO has helped provide one-on-one support for classes and personal needs.

Important Fall Dates

Welcome Week (August 17-20)

First Day of Fall Class: (August 21)

Family Weekend (September 22-24)

Homecoming (October 8-14)

All Student Registration for Spring and Summer '24" (October 30)

All Student Registration for Winter Session (October 30)

First Day to Apply for Spring and Summer Graduation (October 30)

Student Fall Break (no classes/offices open November 22)

Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes/offices closed November 23-24)

Final Examinations (December 4-7)

Fall 2023 Commencement Day (December 8)

Winter Break (December 8- January 7)

Dimensions of Wellness



- Where am I overwhelmed?
- Which pillar(s) feels like I am most depleted?
- Who is in my emotional support network?
- What do I do to relax?
- What will it take for me to rebalance?
- What is within my control and what is not?

Creative Design & Editing:
Rachel Volkman, OAS Principal, EMSL
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