

**Profile of  
Dr. Joseph J. Abhold  
Director of University Counseling Center, UW-Oshkosh  
2011 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Recipient**

**Background and Experience (Selected)**

- Joined UW-Oshkosh in 1999 as the Director of the University Counseling Center
- Ph.D. and M.A. in Clinical Psychology, University of Arkansas
- B.S. in Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (Cum Laude)
- Wisconsin Licensed Psychologist
- Interim Dean of Students, August 2010 to present
- Chaired a Systemwide Mental Health task Force that was responsible for modifying the Regents' mental health policy so institutions can better meet the needs of today's students.
- Currently spearheading an initiative to ensure that cutting-edge mental health practices are employed at every campus and to seek funding from the Legislature to provide these services across the System.
- Conducting crisis management, debriefing, and crisis response training for 17 years; participated in the crisis response at Northern Illinois University.
- Designed a multi-level crisis response plan which the Counseling Center executes when a crisis occurs; this plan is scalable to address focused crises involving a small number of people to mass trauma.
- In 2010, the Counseling Center provided 289 outreach and training programs for over 9,200 people on campus and 4,100 therapy hours, which is a 46% increase over 1999 when he first came to the Center.
- After a strategic planning process several years ago, the Counseling center made multicultural competence a strategic priority; the Center increased services to students of color by 35.9% in the past three years.
- Initiated the Campus Violence Prevention program, which includes an on-campus victim advocate employed by an off-campus agency, a recognized student organization (CARE/MenCARE), and prevention initiatives supported by a SAMHSA grant.
- Brought over a million dollars to the Center through three major grants. The tobacco and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) grants brought national attention to the campus, and the Campus Violence Prevention Project is also being used as a national model.

**Professional Development and Recognitions**

- Chair of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Task Force and Safe Campus Committee
- Co-Chair of Students at Risk Response Team (SARRT); team worked with diverse offices to create policies and procedures that were cited as a best practice by the Governor's Task Force on Campus Safety.
- Co-Chair of Victim Services Committee.
- Serve on Campus Pride Task Force, Student Affairs Inclusive Excellence Committee, and Titan Advantage Program Advisory Committee.
- Liaison with community groups, such as Winnebago County Alcohol/Drug Free Coalition and Voices of Men of the Fox Valley.
- Friend of Residence Life Award, UW-Oshkosh, 2007-08.
- Lynn R. Smith Award, awarded to UW-Oshkosh Comprehensive Tobacco Reduction Plan, 2006.
- Outstanding Service Award, UW-Oshkosh, 2006.

**In Dr. Joseph Abhold's own words:**

- “My philosophy of professional service is grounded in taking a long-term approach to creating systems that create and reinforce student success, while maintaining focus on the immediate needs of individuals. Customer service is a core value in all of the areas I supervise. In our interactions with students, staff, faculty and community members, we strive to listen well and respond with sensitivity and professionalism....Exceptional customer service, efficient stewardship of resources and attention to detail are high priorities in my management approach, while empowering staff through inclusion and visionary goals is central to my leadership style....Under my leadership, the Center has become woven into the fabric of the system that creates the supportive and engaging campus climate necessary for students to achieve excellence at UW Oshkosh.”

**In the words of colleagues:**

- “Dr. Abhold is incredibly dedicated, hard working, and student centered. His energy and creativity seems boundless. This allows him to be able to be the consummate problem solver.”

Petra M. Roter, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

- “Joe’s overall transformation of the Counseling Center at UW Oshkosh is one of his most outstanding achievements. When Joe took the position as Director of Counseling Services, the Counseling Center had basically been operating as an island within Student Affairs, and although they offered excellent professional counseling, the Center was not involved in any outreach or collaborative work with other departments. Under his guidance, internal services were expanded, outreach programming was provided, collaborative relationships were formed, and grant funding sources were capitalized, thereby greatly enhancing services for students.”

Diane Zanto, Senior Director, Student Health Services, University of South Florida