



2021 ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION AWARD CEREMONY

Alliant Energy Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Wednesday, October 27, 2021
Pyle Center, Alumni Lounge, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
702 Langdon St, Madison, Wisconsin



Program Highlights

Ceremony 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. | Award Presentation 2:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Julie Bauer, Executive Director, Alliant Energy Foundation

WELCOME

Tommy G. Thompson, President, UW System

ALLIANT ENERGY ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTATION

AWARD HISTORY

Benjamin Bilitz,

Chief Accounting Officer and Controller, Alliant Energy

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS

Tommy G. Thompson,

President, UW System

STUDENT RECIPIENTS

Alfredo Balleno, School of Business, UW-Platteville

Toyoto Alexander Borgmann, School of Business, UW-Madison

Victoria Chanez, College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science,
UW-Platteville

Jazsmin Washington, College of Engineering, UW-Madison

ALLIANT ENERGY JAMES R. UNDERKOFLE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS PRESENTATION

AWARD HISTORY

Benjamin Bilitz, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller, Alliant Energy

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS

Tommy G. Thompson, President, UW System

FACULTY RECIPIENTS

Dr. Holly Attenborough, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics,
UW-Platteville

Dr. Mary E. Fiorenza, Faculty Associate, Department of English, UW-Madison

Dr. Daniel Patrick Thurs, Assistant Faculty Associate, Department of Physics,
UW-Madison

ALLIANT ENERGY ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In 2006, the Alliant Energy Foundation established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy Erroll B. Davis, Jr. Achievement Awards. These awards annually honor outstanding scholarship and community service of undergraduate students from traditionally underrepresented minority groups pursuing a degree in Business or Engineering at UW-Madison or UW-Platteville. The awards are presented annually to up to four students who are selected by their home institutions during the spring semester of their junior year. The students receive the award upon graduation.

Alliant Energy established these awards to recognize and honor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., former CEO of the Alliant Corporation. Mr. Davis was the first African American to head a “Business Week 1000” company. He was also named one of the “50 Most Powerful Black Executives in America” by Fortune magazine in 2002.

From 1987 to 1994, Mr. Davis served as a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Wisconsin System.

ALLIANT ENERGY JAMES R. UNDERKOFLE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

In 1990, the Wisconsin Power and Light Foundation (Alliant Energy's Wisconsin Utility) established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards. These awards honor outstanding faculty and academic staff whose dedication to teaching and ability to inspire students exemplify the best values of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System. The awards are presented annually to up to four recipients who teach at UW System institutions within the company's service area. Candidates are selected by their home institutions.

These awards were established to recognize and honor James R. Underkofler (1923–2015), who served Wisconsin Power and Light for more than 48 years, retiring as CEO and Chairman of the Board in 1990.

Mr. Underkofler was a staunch supporter of teaching excellence and believed in the importance of connecting public and private educational systems to enhance learning and motivate young minds. The James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards reflect Alliant Energy's strong historical dedication to education and support UW System's longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching and providing high-quality education to people from throughout Wisconsin and the world.

2021

Alliant Energy
Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
Achievement Awards

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



ALFREDO BALLENO

Alfredo Balleno graduated in May from the School of Business at UW-Platteville with a degree in business administration, an emphasis in international business, and minors in Spanish and international studies. His career aspirations include running a successful business like his father. For many years, Alfredo helped with his father's business, handling customer questions, assisting with automotive repairs, and communicating with other automotive establishments. He is a Mobile Air Climate Systems Association Air Conditioning certified technician.

Alfredo, who holds a Seal in Biliteracy in Spanish and English, also aspires to work for a company that will provide work-related travel opportunities. He hopes that his minor in Spanish will give him an edge working in Spanish-speaking countries. Beginning in high school, Alfredo took on leadership roles, such as being elected vice president of his school's Spanish National Honor Society, becoming captain of his Varsity soccer team, and serving as a member of Future Latino Leaders. At UW-Platteville, he took advantage of study abroad opportunities, including studying for a semester at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, and at Darmstadt Business School in Darmstadt, Germany. He also participated in UW-Platteville's Men's Soccer Club and held a summer internship with American Income Life Midwest, honing skills in sales and customer relationships.



TOYOTO ALEXANDER BORGMANN

Toyoto Alexander Borgmann graduated in May from the School of Business at UW-Madison with a bachelor's degree in business administration, including a double major in actuarial science and risk management, as well as a certificate in Japanese professional communication. While in college, he passed several professional actuarial examinations of the Society of Actuaries. These exams have a reputation for being extremely difficult with a low national pass rate. Toyoto finished his college career with two internships in the competitive field of actuarial science. Prior to graduation, he accepted a full-time job as an actuarial analyst at Willis Towers Watson in Chicago, where he currently works.

In addition to his academic achievements at UW-Madison, Toyoto served as treasurer and president for the UW Club Tennis Team. One of Toyoto's proudest achievements was planning the 2020 Annual Graham Slam Tennis tournament, which raised a club record of more than \$2,000 for the Kimberly Graham Scholarship Fund. The fund benefits UW students pursuing an education in radiation therapy, ultimately helping to support research in the fight against cancer. As club president, Toyoto helped the club navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, creating a "Return to Play Plan" in Fall 2020 that, after rigorous university review, enabled Club Tennis to be one of the first sports clubs to return to safe play.



VICTORIA CHANEZ

Victoria Chanez is an undergraduate student enrolled in the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at UW-Platteville. She plans to graduate in May 2022 with a degree in environmental engineering and a minor in chemistry.

Because of her passion for the environment, Victoria joined a research team made up of undergraduate and PhD students to learn more about how scientists can create a long-term solution for nuclear waste. She has also volunteered for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, recording data to protect sturgeon and banding wild geese to gather population data—efforts that have helped her learn more about wildlife conservation.

A member of UW-Platteville's Women in STEM Living Learning Community, Victoria has volunteered at the Women in STEM Career Day, serving as a role model to high school girls interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. She is also an active member of the Society of Women Engineers, the Alchemist Club, and the Pioneer Sportsman's Club, where she serves as secretary. In June 2019, Victoria was hired as a summer engineering aide to work on an infrastructure project as a construction inspector for the City of Oshkosh.

Victoria wishes to pursue a career that helps change the ways that humans impact the environment for the better.



JAZSMIN WASHINGTON

Jazmin Washington is an undergraduate student enrolled in the College of Engineering at UW-Madison. She plans to graduate in December 2021 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a certificate in international engineering.

Through her outreach work at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, Jazmin is inspiring a younger generation from all backgrounds to believe that a STEM degree can be attainable and rewarding. She has participated in the UW-Madison chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), serving as social media chair, academic excellence chair, and vice president, in which she participated in listening sessions held monthly with the Dean of Engineering. She was chosen by the Dean to be the only student representative on the College of Engineering's Strategic Planning Committee for Climate, Inclusion and Diversity. This committee was tasked with rewriting the college's Strategic Plan on Climate Goals as well as identifying how the goals would be achieved.

Jazmin volunteers to teach K-12 students about the many aspects of STEM through fun, hands-on activities, ranging from rocks and space to chemistry. She enjoys teaching kids the value of STEM and explaining to them how STEM can be used. Overall, she tries to give these students what her father gave her when she was young—help finding something to be passionate about for the rest of their lives.

2021

Alliant Energy
James R. Underkofler
Excellence in Teaching
Awards

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



HOLLY ATTENBOROUGH

Dr. Holly Attenborough is an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics at UW-Platteville. She earned her PhD in Mathematics from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and both her Master of Arts in Mathematics and Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Statistics from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She has more than 17 years of teaching experience and has been teaching at UW-Platteville since 2013.

Early in her career, Dr. Attenborough discovered teaching was much more enjoyable when students asked questions that she could use to help them learn the material rather than simply memorizing equations and algorithms. She strives to involve students in every class to help students recognize misconceptions and help establish a mathematical foundation on which they can build their future knowledge. During the pandemic, she has continued fostering student engagement, including using discussion boards on Canvas.

Her commitment to teaching, love of mathematics, and search for 'aha' moments have also led her to take advantage of opportunities to engage with learners outside the classroom. To this end, she has been UW-Platteville's Math Club advisor since 2014, one year after she began teaching at UW-Platteville. She has taken students to conferences, advised senior seminar students, led students through independent studies to help with graduate admission, and is involved with numerous outreach programs.

In 2018, she earned UW-Platteville's Early Career Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, and in 2021-21, she earned a Mathematical Association of America Wisconsin Teaching Award.



MARY E. FIORENZA

Dr. Mary E. Fiorenza is a faculty associate in the Department of English at UW-Madison, where she has taught since 2007. She earned a PhD in English from UW-Madison, as well as a Master of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Boston University. She teaches small seminar-style writing classes to a wide range of undergraduates. On the first day of class, she introduces the technique of freewriting, writing for a set time on a regular basis

without worrying about grammar or punctuation. She asks students to keep a writer's notebook and encourages them to stretch their skills and expectations for themselves as writers with practices such as peer response, scaffolding of assignments, one-on-one conferencing, and portfolio assessment. Her goal is to help students discover not only what they can do with writing, but also what writing can do for them.

Dr. Fiorenza has been instrumental in developing the curriculum of the first-year writing course, English 100, which typically serves 2,000 students annually. She designed the curriculum and its delivery to ensure students develop the range of writing practices necessary to meet the demands of their university education. In response to the pandemic, she took the lead in redesigning the course for online instruction for the 2020-21 academic year.

Dr. Fiorenza presents research at local, regional, and national conferences, including the annual convention of the national Conference on College Composition and Communication. She has mentored dozens of instructors, many teaching writing for the first time, and was selected to participate in the TeachOnline@UW Learning Community in 2020 and 2021.



DANIEL PATRICK THURS

Dr. Daniel Patrick Thurs is an assistant faculty associate in the Department of Physics at UW-Madison. He earned a PhD and Master of Arts in the History of Science from UW-Madison, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics.

Dr. Thurs returned to his alma mater in 2014 when he joined the Department of Physics as the course coordinator and an instructor for the department's

two largest courses, Physics 103 and 104, which enroll

about 1,200 students each semester. Dr. Thurs played a principal role in shaping the content and organization of these general physics courses as the lead member of the Physics REACH team, which was tasked with transforming them into “flipped” classes using active learning techniques.

Drawing on his experience teaching the humanities, Dr. Thurs incorporates two pillars of his educational philosophy—making a place for mistakes and encouraging students to ask productive questions. He piques students' interest using real-life applications, such as how cells move, how geckos adhere to a surface, and properties of blood flow. He also co-facilitates the weekly instructors' meeting with the teaching assistants, setting a model for teaching and reflection.

Dr. Thurs contributes to student success with his approachable teaching style, thoughtful course content, and engaging course design. One of Dr. Thurs' students, Kevin Crosby—who went on to become a peer physics tutor as well as a Rhodes Scholarship finalist in 2020—credits Dr. Thurs for being personally invested in the success of his students. Dr. Thurs was selected as an Honored Instructor at UW-Madison in 2015, 2017, and 2020.