



# 2019

## ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION AWARD CEREMONY

**Alliant Energy/Erroll B. Davis, Jr.**  
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Alliant Energy/Underkofler**  
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

*Friday, October 25, 2019  
Pyle Center, Alumni Lounge, 2 - 4 p.m.  
702 Langdon St, Madison, Wisconsin*





# Program Highlights

Ceremony 2 – 4 p.m. | Awards Presentation 2:30 p.m.

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

# WELCOME

## Ray Cross

President, UW System

**ALLIANT ENERGY/ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR.**

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTATION

## AWARD HISTORY

Robert Durian

Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer,  
Alliant Energy

## AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS

## Ray Cross

President, UW System

## STUDENT RECIPIENTS

Luis Balleno

College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science,  
UW-Platteville

Malcolm Clark

College of Engineering,  
UW-Madison

Daniel Gnadt

College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science,  
UW-Platteville

Maura McDonagh

College of Engineering,  
UW-Madison

Julian Rodriguez

UW-Platteville Engineering Partnership Program  
at UW-Oshkosh, Fox Cities campus

## ALLIANT ENERGY/UNDERKOFER

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD PRESENTATION

## AWARD HISTORY

Robert Durian

Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer,  
Alliant Energy

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## Ray Cross

President, UW System

## FACULTY RECIPIENTS

Dr. Jamie Henke

Distinguished Faculty Associate,  
Division of Continuing Studies, UW-Madison

Dr. James Kabrhel

Associate Professor of Chemistry,  
UW-Green Bay, Sheboygan Campus

Dr. Amanda Tucker

Associate Professor of English,  
UW-Platteville

## **ALLIANT ENERGY/ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

In 2006, the Alliant Energy Foundation established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy/Erroll B. Davis, Jr. Academic Achievement Award. This award annually honors 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 award is presented annually to up to four students who are nominated by their home institutions during the fall of their final year. The students receive the award upon graduation.

Alliant Energy established the award 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/UNDERKOFLE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

In 1990, the Wisconsin Power and Light Foundation (Alliant Energy's Wisconsin Utility) established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy/Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award. This award honors 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 award is presented annually to up to four recipients who teach at UW System institutions within the company's service area. Candidates are nominated by their home institutions.

This award was 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 Underkofler Award reflects Alliant Energy's strong historical dedication to education and supports UW System's longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching and providing high-quality education to people from throughout Wisconsin and the world.

**2019**

Alliant Energy/

Erroll B. Davis, Jr.

Academic Achievement Award

## RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



## LUIS BALLENO

Luis Balleno is an undergraduate student enrolled in the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at UW-Platteville. He plans to graduate in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. Luis discovered at a young age an innate curiosity about how things work – from bikes to clocks to cars – and an interest in making them work better. Two summers ago, he was hired as a Quality Engineering intern at Fairbanks Morse Engine, where he created engine records and completed a gauge study to find part interchangeability. He is a member of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE), the world's largest professional society dedicated solely to the support of the industrial engineering profession and improving quality and productivity.

Luis was selected by his peers to be president and co-captain of the Men's Soccer Club at UW-Platteville, and he previously served as a referee for youth soccer teams. He is a past member of Future Latino Leaders, as well as a former council member of STAR Mentoring. He is a member of the National Honor Society and is bilingual, fluent in Spanish and English. He credits his parents for instilling in himself and his siblings a strong work ethic.





## MALCOLM CLARK

Malcolm Clark is an undergraduate student enrolled in the College of Engineering at UW-Madison. He plans to graduate in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering. He hopes to use his degree to earn a job in the energy industry, with a focus on renewable energy. Malcolm joined the Leaders in Engineering Excellence and Diversity (LEED) Scholars at UW-Madison. Beginning in his freshman year, he worked in Professor Paul Voyle's research lab investigating processes of sputtering deposition of thin metallic films using a vacuum system. This experience exposed Malcolm to advanced laboratory procedures and using spectroscopy equipment for quality control. Malcolm has continued his involvement in research on structural materials.

Malcolm is an accomplished student athlete, playing for the UW-Madison Men's Rugby Club. The club competes at Division I and won the Big 10 Championship in Fall 2018. As team captain, Malcolm helps lead practices, raise funds to support club operations, and mentors new team members. Malcolm also volunteers his time as a wrestling coach at Madison West High School where he was formerly a student. He previously worked with Beat the Streets Madison, a nonprofit program aimed at youth empowerment through wrestling.



## DANIEL GNADT

Daniel (Dan) Gnadt graduated in May from the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at UW-Platteville with a degree in electrical engineering and a minor in mathematics. A digital logic class in high school introduced him to the world of electrical engineering and set him on a path to attend UW-Platteville. There, he appreciated the low student-to-professor ratio and range of extracurricular activities. Dan served as a residence assistant and

president of the university's competitive Ultimate Frisbee Club. He was also part of a group aiming to reduce food insecurity on campus, which led to the creation of the Pioneer Pantry with over 100 unique visitors each week. He held the role of treasurer for several years.

Dan has a flair for both electrical engineering as well as teaching and mentoring. He has created YouTube tutorials on photo/video editing and worked as a math/electrical engineering tutor in college. He pursued increasing leadership roles at a summer youth camp in California, culminating in the role of men's head counselor, directly supervising 100 staff members. After graduation, he accepted a position as a design engineer at Electrical Consultants, Inc., in Madison, Wis., where he looks forward to opportunities to work on projects throughout the Midwest.



## MAURA MCDONAGH

Maura McDonagh is an undergraduate student enrolled in the College of Engineering at UW-Madison. She plans to graduate in May 2020 with a double major in biomedical engineering and communication arts. She is passionate about research, communicating effectively, and giving back to the community. She leads weekly calculus study sessions for first-year students in the Leaders in Engineering Excellence and

Diversity (LEED) Scholars program. She is vice president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) at UW-Madison, where she co-led the planning committee for Diversity Spring Welcome, an event for engineering students from historically underrepresented groups. She is also president of BundleUp, a UW-Madison student organization dedicated to collecting and distributing clothing and other items to the homeless in the Madison community.

Maura was selected to participate in an intensive clinical cancer prevention training program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her senior capstone team project involved presenting a prototype for a robot that would perform skin closure following total knee replacement surgery to reduce variability in patient outcomes. As a research assistant at UW-Madison, she investigated the effect of bacterial meningitis on the blood brain barrier. After graduation, she plans to earn a master's degree in public health, followed by medical school.



## JULIAN RODRIGUEZ

Julian Rodriguez graduated in May with an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the UW-Platteville Engineering Partnership Program at the UW-Oshkosh, Fox Cities campus. He appreciated gaining hands-on engineering experience through lab experimentation. His mechanical engineering senior design project involved developing a new lower-cost cart for use in medical environments.

From a young age, Julian has shown interest in how things work, taking things apart and putting them back together again. In high school, he and a group of friends presented a research project based on aerodynamics and Formula One cars at a science exposition fair for high school and college students. Julian later studied engineering in Bogotá, Columbia. While in college, he completed an internship with the Aviation Army group in Bogotá. After finishing his coursework, he came to the United States as an exchange student in Wisconsin where he met his wife and started a family.

He currently works in process engineering at Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac and hopes to one day attain a position in research and development. He plans to pursue a master's degree in mechanical engineering and to be a lifelong learner. He truly enjoys learning new information and applying it to improve processes and products.



**2019**

Alliant Energy/Underkofler  
Excellence in  
Teaching Award

## RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



## JAMIE HENKE

Dr. Jamie Henke is a distinguished faculty associate in the Department of Liberal Arts and Applied Studies within the Division of Continuing Studies at UW-Madison. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance and a Ph.D. in music theory, both from UW-Madison. She teaches face-to-face, online, and honors sections of Basic Concepts of Music Theory for non-majors for the School of

Music. She also teaches online music theory, composition, and music appreciation for the Division of Continuing Studies. Her teaching awards include the Hilldale Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, a Lifetime Achievement Award, University Housing's Honored Instructor award, and induction as a Teaching Fellow in the UW-Madison Teaching Academy.

Dr. Henke published an entirely online music theory textbook entitled "Theory Gizmos: Fundamental Tools to Understand, Analyze and Build Music." She has been awarded various Engage grants to work on podcasting projects, collaborative learning projects, an e-learning video project, and several simulations and games projects with the Division of Information Technology at UW-Madison. She is currently developing a Beat Boxing rhythm activity with support from the Educational Innovation initiative on campus. She also serves as the coordinator for How to Teach Online for the Community Music NACCM project created by Professor Chelcy Bowles. She is the coordinator for Independent Learning in music and Online Continuing Education in music.





## JAMES KABRHEL

Dr. James Kabrhel is an associate professor of chemistry at UW-Green Bay, Sheboygan Campus, where he has taught for more than a decade. Dr. Kabrhel earned his Ph.D. in chemistry with an emphasis in organic chemistry from the University of Minnesota. He currently teaches chemistry and organic chemistry lectures and labs, including a preparatory organic chemistry “boot camp” designed to

facilitate student success.

Dr. Kabrhel is committed to providing students with guidance in understanding the difference between science and pseudoscience. He engages students with hands-on video assignments and new software that helps students gain an understanding of chemical structures and reactions. He turned to an open-source textbook not only to save his students money (\$250 for a typical textbook) but also to show images from the textbook more easily in class through an iPad. He has successfully sought funding to upgrade the laboratory facilities at the Sheboygan campus and is currently engaged in the scholarship of teaching and learning as it applies to chemistry. He organizes “Cool Chemistry” demonstration shows for the campus community – helping students select, practice, and perform chemistry demonstrations for an audience of up to 300.



## AMANDA TUCKER

Dr. Amanda Tucker is associate professor of English at UW-Platteville. She earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Miami and began her faculty career at UW-Platteville in 2008. She teaches courses in writing and research, humanities and literature, gender studies, and international education. These courses are geared toward different student populations, including English majors and minors as well as general education students.

Dr. Tucker incorporates research from the cognitive sciences into her classroom. She introduces findings that show a strong link between reading literary texts and building empathy and social cognition. This link helps students to find literary study valuable, particularly when paired with data that shows employers highly value college graduates' abilities in these areas. At UW-Platteville, she has served on Faculty Senate, University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Dean's Fund Committee, and College of Liberal Arts and Education Awards Selection Committee. She also chaired the Department Assessment Committee. Because of her innovative and dedicated teaching, she was the College of Liberal Arts and Education Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2014, and in 2017-18 she participated in the UW System's Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars program.