

***Liberal Education:
A Unifying Mission for the 21st Century University***

**University of Wisconsin System Conference
November 20-21, 2008
Pyle Center**

Final Agenda

Thursday, November 20

12:00-1:00	Registration	Pyle Main Lobby
1:00-1:45	Welcoming Addresses UW-System President Kevin Reilly UW-System Board of Regents President Mark Bradley	Room 325-326
1:45-3:15	Best Practices—Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statewide Initiatives: Rebecca Martin, Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs, UW-System <i>LEAP Wisconsin</i>▪ Chancellor Initiatives: Richard Wells, Chancellor, UW-Oshkosh <i>Enabling University-wide Reform of Liberal Education: The Chancellor's Conductor Role</i>▪ Dean Initiatives: Don Christian, Dean of A&S, UW-Eau Claire, Chair of UW-System SAGLA Committee <i>Creating a College Agenda in Support of Liberal Education</i>▪ Faculty Development Initiatives: Bill Cerbin, Professor of Psychology and Assistant to the Provost for Academic Affairs, UW-La Crosse <i>Advancing Liberal Learning through Lesson Study</i>▪ Faculty Initiatives: Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor, Professor of German, UW-Madison, and Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, UW-Madison <i>Inviting Participation and Partnerships</i>	Room 325-326
3:15 - 3:30	Break	325-326 Lobby

3:30-4:30 Concurrent Sessions

Rethinking General Education in light of the LEAP Initiative

Room 313

Liz Hachten, Assistant Dean of L&S, UW-Whitewater

The LEAP initiative presents both a challenge and an opportunity for universities to re-examine their general education program. This session will use the LEAP Essential Outcomes and the seven Principles of Excellence to provide a framework for discussion of the past, present and future of general education. Among the topics that attendees will consider in this workshop are learning outcomes, curricular reform, student and faculty engagement, assessment, transfer issues, and connecting general education to majors. The session facilitator will also discuss UW-Whitewater's involvement in the LEAP initiative on "The Educated Citizen and Public Health," which is aimed, in part, at revitalizing general education on that campus.

Supporting a Strong Culture of Liberal Education through Writing across the Curriculum

Room 121

Brad Hughes, Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, UW-Madison

In this session, we will discuss multiple ways in which Writing-Across-the-Curriculum initiatives (WAC) can be a crucial component of a liberal education, and will share information about current WAC efforts on our UW-System campuses—including faculty and TA workshops, faculty consultations and co-teaching, curricular requirements, writing-in-the-major initiatives, writing fellows, assessment, and print and electronic resources for faculty who are teaching with writing. We will also explore ways that we can cooperate across UW-System campuses in the future.

The "Relevance to My Life" Factor: Bringing Liberal Education into the Advising Conversation

Room 213

Helen Reynolds, Director of the Advising Center, UW-Platteville

"Why do I need a Fine Arts class? I'm an Engineering major!" Communicating the value of Liberal Education/General Education/Core Curriculum courses is sometimes difficult for academic advisors. Transferable skills gained from these courses, however, are highly valued by employers. This session will address how advisors can help students make the connection between course content and the world of work.

Beyond the Institution: Working with the Community to Promote Liberal Education

Room DE 335

John Koker, Dean of Letters & Science, UW-Oshkosh

It is important that college educators—faculty and academic leaders alike—take a far more active role in promoting the value of a liberal education outside of the institution. Some ways of doing this will be presented along with ideas for how an institution can partner with the community to achieve desired educational outcomes. Attendees will be encouraged to share ideas and experiences as well.

Campus Common Read: Creating a Community of Literacy and Scholarship

Room DE232

Joseph J. Foy, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UW-Waukesha
Margaret Hankenson, Associate Professor of Political Science, UW-Waukesha

The University is a community of scholars, and for our communities to thrive and flourish, we need a dialogue between and among ourselves. This can be stimulated through a campus common read program. As the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha embarks on the sixth year of its Campus Read Program, Professors Hankenson and Foy provide insights on best-practices, data on student engagement, and overall reflections on strengths and weaknesses from the last five years.

The Challenges of Multiculturalism

Room 111

Fay Akindes, Associate Professor of Communications and Director of Center for Ethnic Studies, UW-Parkside

UW-Parkside is often touted as “the most diverse campus in the UW System,” with 20% students of color. Enrollment figures, however, can be misleading. More revealing are retention and graduation rates. This session addresses the challenges of multiculturalism—race, ethnicity and social class—in the context of UW-Parkside and its efforts to provide a “liberal and liberating education” for all students. This session begins with UW-Parkside then opens up to consider other UW System campuses.

Liberal Education as a Foundation for Professional Education

Room 220

Lois Smith, Dean of the College of Business, UW-Whitewater

While professional education often focuses on specific skill sets, employers emphasize that students with abilities such as critical thinking, creativity, good written and verbal communication, and the ability to interact with diverse cultures are necessities to success. We sometimes hear students say that general studies courses are hurdles they must cross in order to begin taking the courses they “really” need. In this session, we will explore ways to infuse liberal studies into professional curricula to help students value knowledge and abilities beyond the narrow limits of their immediate career choices, whether those choices involve medicine, engineering, business, or other professions.

5:00 Recognition Reception for the Student Winners of the 2007-2008

Liberal Arts Scholarship Essay Competition

Alumni Lounge

Cheryl Davis, UW-Oshkosh
Katie Jo Pockat, UW-Marinette (currently attending UW-Stevens Point)
Vidhya Raju, UW-Madison

6:00 Dinner on your own

Friday, November 21

7:30 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast

Room 325-326 Lobby

8:30 - 9:30 Plenary Speaker: Lee Knefelkamp

Room 325-326

Commitments at the Core of Liberal Education: Building the Capacity for Personal and Social Responsibility

Lee Knefelkamp, Professor of Psychology and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, teaches in the programs of social–organizational psychology and higher education, and has also held administrative posts as program coordinator and department chair. Formerly she directed the student development graduate program at the University of Maryland, served as dean of the school of education at American University, and as academic dean of the faculty at Macalester College. For thirty years, she has researched and written about student intellectual, ethical, intercultural, and identity development; curriculum transformation; issues of race, ethnicity, and gender; campus climate assessment; and the psychology of organizational change and resistance to change. She is a senior fellow with AAC&U and has been a national panel member for the *American Commitments* and *Greater Expectations* initiatives.

9:45-10:45 Breakout Sessions for Institutional Teams:

Institutional teams will be given time to discuss specific actions they are taking or will take to implement LEAP in their classrooms, co-curricular units, and throughout their institutions.

UW-Colleges, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Extension, UW-Green Bay	Room 325-326
UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison	Room 313
UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh	Room 213
UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville	Auditorium 121
UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point	Room DE 232
UW-Stout	Room DE 335
UW-Superior	Room 226
UW-Whitewater	Room 309

11:00 - 11:45 Leadership Plenary: The Honorable Barbara Lawton

Room 325-326

Barbara Lawton is Wisconsin's first woman elected Lieutenant Governor. She took office in 2003, and was re-elected in 2006. As Lieutenant Governor, she focuses her efforts on economic development broadly understood as putting people to work through strategic investments in a creative workforce and a green economy. She serves as Chair of the Wisconsin Arts Board, honorary Chair of the Wisconsin United for Mental Health, and developed the state's groundbreaking *Wisconsin Women = Prosperity* Initiative. A passionate advocate of liberal education, Lawton serves on the National Leadership Council for AAC&U and as the leader of Wisconsin's LEAP pilot to champion the deep public value of higher education for individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity.

12:00-1:30 Lunch and Plenary Address: Carol Geary Schneider Main Dining Room

Overcoming Barriers: Liberal Education and the Challenge of Integrative Learning

Carol Geary Schneider is president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. With more than 1,150 institutional members, AAC&U is the leading national organization devoted to advancing and strengthening undergraduate liberal education. Under her leadership, AAC&U launched Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP), a ten-year public advocacy and campus action initiative designed to engage students and the public with what really matters in a college education for the twenty-first century.