

**Profile of
Denise Olstinske
Administrative Program Manager III, College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies
University of Wisconsin–Parkside
2020 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Develops innovative higher education programs to recruit and support traditional and working adult students.
- Director, Parkside’s Access to College Credit Program; Co-Director, Center for Professional Studies; Certification Officer, Teacher Education program.
- Established a successful dual enrollment program, Parkside Access to College Credit (PACC), which enables area high school students to earn both high school and college credit for certain classes; program has expanded to schools in Racine and Kenosha.
- Campus liaison for the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AROTC), helping students gain college credit for their prior experiences and military service; worked with Marquette University to bring an AROTC presence to UW-Parkside.
- Responding to the need of a Milwaukee high school, developed a summer precollege program for its students, many of whom are underrepresented.
- Significantly contributed to the complete redesign of the Education Preparation Program, re-launched in 2013.
- With the college dean, created two associate degree programs, one in professional studies and another in military and security studies.
- Helped create the Master of Arts in Applied Professional Studies (MAPS) program, an applied master’s degree that meets the needs of many industries; advises and mentors MAPS students and co-directs the program.
- Attained a \$1.4-million U.S. Department of Education grant to create a U.S. history and civics program for 100 high school students and 50 teachers; high school students earn three college credits and teachers six graduate credits.
- One of two staff who made a complete software assessment transition, realigned assessment with Wisconsin’s Department of Public Instruction and Danielson standards, and coached staff on the changes.
- Serves on a variety of campus committees, including the Course and Curriculum Committee and the Adult Education Committee.
- Academic Staff Distinguished Service Award, UW-Parkside (2019).

In Denise Olstinske’s own words:

- “I see service to the University as service to the students who attend, students who are considering attending, students who do not think that they can attend, and to the ‘student’ who never even considered college as an option for them. The work that I do each day is fueled with a passion and commitment to provide every person I meet tools to enhance their future.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “[Denise] has the respect of every person she meets. She is a *champion* of education, not only on our campus, but in our community, and our state.”
—Peggy James, Dean, College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies, UW-Parkside
- “I cannot address all the ways Denise is involved in making our campus better – it would take me all day – but she has been instrumental, if not absolutely essential, to every initiative coming out of the Center [for Professional Studies].”
—Christopher Hudspeth, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Law, UW-Parkside