

**Profile of  
Nicole Owen**  
**Academic Department Associate, Department of Mathematics**  
**University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire**  
**2022 Regents University Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Serves as academic department associate for mathematics department, one of the largest departments on campus. Owen supports approximately 200 student mathematics majors, 150 mathematics minors, 40 full-time faculty and academic staff, as well as more than 100 student employees each year.
- Assists the department chair, faculty, and academic staff to ensure they can be in the classroom, participating in research and serving students; also helps to support students so they feel engaged and connected to campus.
- Actively involved with the many large-scale events the mathematics department sponsors annually, including the Math Meet and Sonia Kovalevsky Day, which are recruitment events. Other events include the Math Retreat, Graduation and Awards Celebration, Math in the Woods, and the Holiday Luncheon, which build community for current students and staff.
- Organizes the annual University Staff Professional Development Conference, which promotes professionalism throughout the university and fosters connections among work units.
- Member of University Staff Council since 2016; council chair since October 2020.
- Passionate about improving campus culture and morale; strives to be an advocate for employees.
- Actively participated in campus deliberations and decisions during COVID-19 pandemic; spent many hours meeting with shared governance, the university's Rapid Response Team, the chancellor's leadership team, and community health leaders to understand the pandemic, debate concerns, and reach consensus on how to create a safe learning environment.
- Member of planning team for 2023 National Conference on Undergraduate Research, which UW-Eau Claire is hosting for 4,000 student researchers from across the country.
- With two other colleagues, in 2016, developed the Administrative Professional Collaboration Group, which currently has about 90 members who regularly attend; group works to enhance training, onboarding, and developing professional relationships across campus.
- Joined the UW-Eau Claire Caregiving Group in 2021, which works with the UW System Caregiving Taskforce; group meets regularly to advocate for caregiving needs for both staff and students on campus.
- University staff liaison to UW-Eau Claire's Commission on the Status of Women.

**In Nicole Owen's own words:**

- "Being the point person for the [mathematics department] is a large responsibility. This department is my home, and I take great pride and ownership in being part of this family."

**In the words of colleagues:**

- "Nicole is driven by her passion for our students, for her colleagues, and for UW-Eau Claire. When she sees a challenge or an opportunity, she doesn't hold back but plunges in to make a difference."  
—James Schmidt, Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire
- "Nicole's warmth, combined with her organization and can-do attitude, have been instrumental in helping new instructors get established in our department."  
—Abra Brisbin, Associate Professor of Mathematics, UW-Eau Claire