

**Profile of
Jonathan Shailor
Professor, Communication Department
University of Wisconsin–Parkside
2023 Regents Teaching Excellence Individual Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Ph.D., University of Massachusetts at Amherst; M.A., University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
- Professor at UW-Parkside for 28 years, has taught 22 different courses, founded and directs the Certificate Program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and founded and directs the Shakespeare Prison Project between UW-Parkside and Racine Correctional Institution, which teaches prisoners how to act in Shakespeare plays, inviting inmates to explore new ways of expressing themselves and productive ways to address conflict.
- Approaches teaching and learning as an activity that involves the full human being, including thoughts, emotions, body, and spirit; in addition to the use of books, articles, films, digital media, and other ‘cerebral’ vehicles for learning, incorporates challenging individual and group activities, including discussions, dialogues, debates, storytelling, student-generated performances, and community-based activities.
- Several aspects of his teaching intersect with UW System initiatives and values, including the Wisconsin Idea, civil dialogue, high-impact practices, and the recent Prison Education initiative – all threaded with an awareness of equity, diversity, and inclusion; several of these practices precede the UW System’s adoption of these initiatives.
- A leader and role model among colleagues for his commitment to community-based learning and has engaged his students in the missions of numerous regional organizations that serve the incarcerated, homeless, substance abusers, and students from elementary and high schools.
- Applies teaching and learning to unconventional spaces beyond the university classroom; his innovative approaches situate students, theories, and concepts in unscripted real-life situations; the power of communication is evidenced in the deeply profound reflections written by his students.
- His teaching and learning approaches are highly sophisticated and the result of more than 30 years of visionary and inspired risk-taking. He writes: “When mind, body, and spirit are engaged, the learning experience can be indelible, and transformative.”
- Has participated in systemwide professional development programs, often as a facilitator and leader.
- Select awards: Sister Joel Read Civic Engagement Practitioners Award from Wisconsin Campus Compact (2017); the Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Educators Award in Racine and Kenosha (2015); and the UW-Parkside Community Engaged Learning and Research Award (2015-16).

In Jonathan Shailor’s own words:

- “My primary commitment as a teacher is to bring students to an understanding of what it means to take a ‘communication perspective,’ and to facilitate their ability to use this orientation as a means not only to generate knowledge, but also to make a positive difference in the world.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “[Dr. Shailor] has exposed students to subjects and people that most of us only learn about in books. He takes the students to the front lines of society and demonstrates the transformative power of education, compassion, and social justice.”—*Adrienne Viramontes, Chair, Communication Department, UW-Parkside*
- “Teaching is not easy. The very best teachers learn and grow along with their students, understanding that teaching is so much more than delivering content. It requires flexibility, strong listening skills, and a commitment to lifelong learning. Professor Jonathan Shailor is one of the very best teachers...”
—*Lisa Kornetsky, Professor Emeritus, Theatre Arts Department, UW-Parkside*