

**Profile of the  
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
UW-Eau Claire  
2015 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Program Award Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Led by Dr. Karen Havholm and staffed primarily by non-instructional academic staff, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is nationally recognized for fostering learning through research, and contributing to the international community of undergraduate research practitioners.
- Excels at developing faculty, staff, and students, helping them to secure grant funding for projects that advance the mission of the institution and UW System; provides students an opportunity to collaborate with faculty on research, a high-impact practice proven to increase academic performance, aid retention, and boost graduations rates.
- More than one in three students on campus participates in paid collaborative research, and many more participate in unpaid research; the office supported 2015 Rhodes Scholar Tayo Sanders II, a UW-Eau Claire senior.
- Conducted a survey in 2014 which revealed 98% of students would recommend student-faculty research collaboration experiences to other undergraduates and identified significant gains in higher-order thinking skills, such as critical thinking and problem solving, and discipline-specific knowledge and skills.
- Recently, ORSP assisted faculty in chemistry, biology, materials science, and mathematics in obtaining five National Science Foundation awards.
- Has organized two ongoing professional development programs: Faculty/Academic Staff Forum Series and Grants Educational Series; an average of 280 people have attended annually for the past five years.
- Played a leading role in identifying ways for UW institutions to work together to develop a collaborative vision for undergraduate research, a stepping-stone to establishing the Wisconsin System Council on Undergraduate Research (WiSCUR) in 2013.
- In 2013, launched a revamped campus research event, in which more than 785 students and 450 faculty mentors shared 390 projects, nearly a 50% increase from four years earlier.
- Selected by the National Council of University Research Administrators to co-author a new edition of a publication, “Establishing and Managing an Office of Sponsored Programs at Non-Research Intensive Colleges and Universities;” ORSP members also serve on UW-Eau Claire’s Council on Internationalization and Global Engagement.

**In the words of colleagues:**

- “For the betterment of UW-Eau Claire students, faculty, and staff, ORSP routinely questions and challenges the status quo. They identify gaps and then they fill needs. Their performance has resulted in prominent distinctions locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.”  
—*James C. Schmidt, Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire*
- “ORSP is not a static entity and herein lies a primary reason for its consistent strength. The program leaders understand that ORP needs to constantly adapt to remain relevant and impactful to students and faculty.”  
—*Tayo Sanders II, 2015 Rhodes Scholar, Senior Materials Science Student, UW-Eau Claire*