

**Profile of
Michael Martin
Senior Advisor/Administrative Specialist,
College of Education and Professional Studies, UW-River Falls
2016 Regents' Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Began his service at UW-River Falls in 1997 as an advisor in the College of Education and Graduate Studies; official advisor to more than 300 elementary education majors; teacher certification officer handling documentation for 500 educator licenses annually; reviewer for about 50 add-on educator licenses annually; recruiter for the university.
- Prepares Title II reports on the quality of teacher preparation and state requirements and assessments for initial credentials.
- Initiated a living-learning community called TEACH for incoming freshmen, which draws interest from about twice as many students as the program can accommodate; the retention rate of participants is higher than those of peers; developed a first-year seminar class for elementary education majors that he teaches; authored advising materials for students in the Educator Preparation Program, such as degree planning worksheet.
- Serves on the University General Education Assessment Committee, the University Parking Appeals Committee, the Educator Preparation Program Council, and the University Calendar Committee; chairs the Admission to the Educator Preparation Program Committee and serves as a UW System Academic Staff Representative; active in both the Wisconsin Academic Advising Association and the National Academic Advising Association.
- Advisor for the local Theta Chi – Zeta Sigma Chapter for 17 years and the Newman Club for 13 years; has accompanied Newman students on two spring break Habitat for Humanity trips.
- Regularly works with faculty to mentor, prepare, and support candidates to teaching positions in the K-12 system so that schools hire highly prepared teaching professionals.

In Michael Martin's own words:

- “Helping students achieve success is the heart of what academic advisors do. Each semester I make every effort to learn about each student's unique history, culture, and experiences they bring to the university community. Every question, concern, or conversation we share is important to me. Knowing and understanding these students helps me to provide them with information and teach them the skills that will empower them to make decisions regarding their future.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “He makes a difference for our students because he knows (and communicates effectively) that they will shape and impact primary and secondary school students for years to come.”
—*Fernando Delgado, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-River Falls*
- “As an advisor to more than 300 students at any one time, he knows what they value about UW-River Falls, and he promotes that with prospective students and their parents.”
—*Larry Solberg, Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies, UW-River Falls*