Profile of
Ellen Latorraca
Associate Academic Librarian, Andersen Library, UW-Whitewater
2017 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

• Has been a member of UW-Whitewater’s staff since 2011; as the education librarian, supports the seven departments and all programs within the College of Education and Professional Studies and maintains the Andersen Library Curriculum Collection.
• Has developed, both independently and in collaboration with her colleagues, an extensive array of informational literacy tutorial materials to support students from the UW-Whitewater colleges participating in the Undergraduate Research Program and the Research Apprenticeship Program.
• Initiates and strengthens partnerships on and off campus to help train teachers and researchers and make the assets of the university library available to everyone.
• Works with library colleagues and faculty members to develop and maintain effective materials and deliver needed services to students in the College of Education and Professional Studies; trains and supervises staff members at the Reference Desk.
• Provides classroom-based and one-on-one instruction in the use of library resources and personally follows up on student questions with additional information.
• Creative initiatives, such as the “Stuffed Animal Sleepover,” a coordinated effort with the UW-Whitewater’s Children’s Center, are becoming regular highlights of the Andersen Library calendar and bring more children, families, students, and teachers to the campus every year.
• Has developed more than 50 online guides that provide basic and advanced tutorials for programs and services, such as EndNote, Badgerlink, and Google Scholar; the most popular guide has been viewed more than 850 times.
• For a variety of departments, has developed detailed research links and tips tied to specific course offerings, including graduate-level coursework.
• Recipient of UW-Whitewater Service Excellence Award (2016).

In Ellen Latorraca’s own words:

• “As a liaison with the College, I have welcomed the opportunity to draw on my experience as a former educator in the K-12 system and in adult education to support the widely ranging programs within the College....”

In the words of colleagues:

• “[Ellen] works tirelessly to educate students, inspire future teachers, and generously share her expertise with colleagues and partners as well as students.”
  —Susan Elrod, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Whitewater

• “Her teaching strategies and application of information literacy concepts have created engaging and dynamic classroom learning experiences for the students she serves.”
  —Paul Waelchli, Director, Andersen Library, UW-Whitewater