

**Profile of
Kimberly Langolf
Director of Risk and Sponsored Programs
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
2021 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Academic staff member at UW Oshkosh (UWO) for more than a decade, consistently playing an important role supporting students, faculty, and staff to help them achieve success; earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at UWO, in biology and microbiology, respectively; after graduating, joined the staff at UWO's Environmental Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) to do research on beach restoration on the Great Lakes; later promoted to ERIC lab manager.
- Core architect of the university's COVID-19 testing program. To accomplish the establishment of the testing site, served as one of the primary points of contact with critical stakeholders, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Public Health, Winnebago County Health, Prevea-Health, and Advocate Aurora Health; this role required Langolf to work with campus and contracting partners to retrofit hiring, procurement, and facility services to operate at "COVID-19 Pace," which translated into managing complex issues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- In October 2020, joined the Mayor of the City of Oshkosh and a disease prevention and control supervisor at the Winnebago County Public Health Department in a community panel presentation; this panel was billed as an event featuring women leading the local pandemic response and working to keep everyone as safe as possible.
- Served as the primary source for information for the CDC, which piloted their research studies on COVID-19 antigen testing through a coordinated effort with UWO; Surgeon General Jerome Adams endorsed community "surge testing," based on modeling that Langolf and the UWO team developed.
- Recognized by the Oshkosh Northwestern newspaper as a 2020 Oshkosh Person of the Year for outstanding impact on the community. The Northwestern noted, "University of Wisconsin Oshkosh microbiologist Kim Langolf helped set up a COVID-19 testing center on campus as students moved into the residence halls. The program now tests up to 600 students and staff members each day. She also helped set up community testing sites, which provide tests for about 800 community residents [per day]."
- Recognized by the U.S. Surgeon General and an Admiral from the CDC for proactive COVID-19 response at UW Oshkosh.
- The center Langolf oversees achieved an average COVID-19 percent positivity of less than 3 percent and has performed over 33,000 antigen tests to date.
- Assisted in securing more than \$17.5 million in COVID-19 CARES funding for UW Oshkosh.
- Served as a co-investigator for multiple COVID-19 antigen validation CDC studies.

In Kimberly Langolf's own words:

- "In 2020, the mission was 'simple,' get our students back in the classroom but put safety measures in place that challenge the limits of in-person learning. Research at its core requires patience, perseverance, problem solving, continuous improvement, high-quality results, and collaboration."

In the words of colleagues:

- "[Kim's] remarkable service to the institution, the UW System, and the state of Wisconsin through the COVID-19 pandemic has been nothing short of groundbreaking." —*John Koker, Provost, UW Oshkosh*
- "The UWO testing model was touted as the best by UW System and attracted the attention of the Centers for Disease Control who came to campus to study the model. Kimberly's ability to take this innovative approach and design a model with flexibility allowed the Emergency Operations team the ability to pivot quickly based on the information presented during the ever-changing environment." —*Kurt Leibold, Chief of Police, UW Oshkosh*