

**Profile of  
Ann Lawton**

**Violence Prevention Coordinator, Lecturer in Art, and Art Therapist  
Student Health and Counseling Services  
University of Wisconsin–River Falls  
2022 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Has served at UW-River Falls since 2011; positions include lecturer in the Art Department; Board-Certified Art Therapist for Student Counseling, and Violence Prevention Coordinator.
- As Violence Prevention Coordinator, plans, implements, and evaluates theory and evidence-informed education and programming to promote healthy relationships and prevent sexual and intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, stalking, and hazing; strives to empower students to be compassionate, proactive, healthy members of the communities they learn, work, and live in.
- Creative methods to connect with and support students include online programming, outreach installations, and a new violence prevention social media account.
- Leads art therapy groups for Student Health and Counseling Services and advises the Art Therapy Club.
- Has taught a variety of foundational level art courses, including design, drawing, and introduction to art therapy.
- As mixed media artist, uses the applications of drawing, painting, and collage to document and process daily life.
- Community art therapy work focuses on populations impacted by high trauma, including incarcerated individuals, trafficked girls, domestic abuse survivors, individuals coping with addiction, and neurodivergent children.
- Examples of her work include a variety of campus community art projects such as the Empty Place at the Table installation in residence halls for domestic violence awareness and Paint Yourself in the Community; training and outreach for student athletes in compliance with National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) requirements; hazing prevention training for student organizations; care and consent take-and-make kits for students; and Falcon Community Foundations, a workshop designed to bring awareness to the connection between individual and communal accountability concerning healthy relationships and bystander intervention.
- Credits success of violence prevention efforts to colleagues' continuous support and encouragement, as well as willingness to try inventive approaches to transform ideas into realities.
- Member of Academic Staff Council
- Select awards: Chancellor's Award for Non-Instructional Academic Staff: Violence Prevention Coordinator (2021); College of Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching (2018).

**In Ann Lawton's own words:**

- "Artmaking alleviates psychological defenses, creates opportunities for verbal discussion, builds self-esteem, and promotes self-awareness and empathy—all attributes necessary in addressing and facilitating change to dismantle the culture of sexual violence and unhealthy relationship behaviors."

**In the words of colleagues:**

- "[Ann] epitomizes excellence and perseverance and is committed to helping students be successful while promoting a caring, healthy campus community....And, as always, she does this in a way that leads people to seek her out. She is approachable, kind, and funny. She has found a way to make the hard work of prevention, with its heavy subject matter and difficult conversations, accessible to all." —*David Travis, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-River Falls*
- "Put simply, Ann lives out her value and ethic of caring for student success and well-being in incredibly concrete ways and with a consistency and efficacy that is notable even within the incredibly student-focused and caring environment of UWRF." —*Cyndi Kernahan, Professor of Psychological Sciences, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW-River Falls*