

**Profile of
Robin Jens**

**Assistant Dean of Student Services, College of Nursing, and
Interim Student Service Director, Zilber School of Public Health
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM)**

2022 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Has worked at UWM for over 16 years. As assistant dean of student services for the College of Nursing, leads Student Affairs staff and manages office. Oversees advising, recruiting, and retaining undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Since November 2020, has worked in a similar role for Zilber School of Public Health.
- Leadership creates bridges between faculty and student affairs to benefit students at all levels, leading to improvements in student services.
- Played a pivotal role in establishing Nursing program at UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha, helping to meet a critical workforce need. Her advocacy of the idea and organizational acumen resulted in expanding the UWM Nursing program by 32 students in 2021, with an additional 45 students taking prerequisite classes.
- Facilitated adoption of nursing-specific classroom technology at UWM at Waukesha.
- Led Student Affairs team at UWM's Zilber School of Public Health through a challenging time of transition, playing a leadership role in the campus 2030 Strategic Plan to merge the university's three health schools/colleges into two colleges. Working collaboratively with College of Health Sciences, facilitating discussions with a combined 24 student affairs professional staff to identify best practices and establish new teams to serve 3,000+ students.
- Has served on and provided a student-centered perspective on UWM's Transfer Pathways Committee, Academic Staff Committee, University Relations Committee, Academic Support and Leadership Committee, Academic Advising Professional Development Workgroup (committee chair), Health Professions Living/Learning Community, Academic Advising Task Force, and Academic Services & Advising Leadership Council.
- At the UW System level, has represented the College of Nursing on the Math Pathways program and a Workforce Development/Department of Public Instruction (DPI) initiative to create professional pathways for high school students. Also represented the Milwaukee campus at the UW System Academic Staff Representatives Committee for 18 months when the Title and Total Compensation initiative was in the design and initial roll-out phase.
- In 2020, organized one of the first learning circles on campus focused on race and racism as a professional development activity for the College of Nursing's student affairs personnel.
- Has served in several capacities with Wisconsin College Personnel Association, with members from all Wisconsin public and private four- and two-year institutions; mentors new professionals and graduate students each year.

In Robin Jens' own words:

- "I believe in the UW System's central mission of helping our communities through our ability to heighten students' intellectual, cultural, and humane sensitivities while guiding them as they develop their purpose."

In the words of colleagues:

- "Robin Jens has had a sustained positive impact on student success at UWM, in the College of Nursing, in the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health, and as a valued campus contributor on far-reaching student success and strategic planning initiatives." — *Johannes Britz, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Milwaukee*
- "Robin has the remarkable ability to connect, influence, and build strong relationships with students, faculty, and staff at UWM, within the UW System, and in the community at large. She has created an environment in which students feel 'heard' and part of the curricular and organizational changes within the College of Nursing." — *College of Nursing Student Services Team, UW-Milwaukee*