

**Profile of
Early College Programs
University of Wisconsin–Green Bay
2023 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Program Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Early College Programs stemmed from the desire to implement programs that could evoke change and address the opportunity gap in Wisconsin; programs focus on providing high-quality and equitable access to higher education for high school students and some middle school students throughout Wisconsin; programs can be divided into three categories: 1) Rising Phoenix, 2) Dual Enrollment Services, and 3) GEAR UP Services.
- Rising Phoenix is a signature dual enrollment program targeting underrepresented high school students (first generation, racial/ethnic minorities, and/or low-income); served 410 students fall 2022 (an increase of 1,540% since inception four years earlier); participating students earn their associate degree while in high school; out of the first class of 25, 20 students earned their associate of applied science (AAS) degree and 21 continued at UWGB or other institution to complete their bachelor's degree; this year, 67 seniors will graduate with their AAS degree; Rising Phoenix program ensures each student has holistic support through work with a designated Student Success coach to provide individualized support and high-touch services.
- Rising Phoenix program uses equity lens to significantly narrow equity gaps for students the program; UWGB staff thought creatively and strategically about student engagement and support to ensure student retention and success; staff collaborate and consult with high school administrators, counselors, etc., to tailor program offerings and student support to address needs; sense of community built through cohort model where students take First Year Seminar course together with Student Success Coach serving as instructor.
- Rising Phoenix program growth demonstrates how an innovative and impactful idea can change life trajectories and impact the greater community. Students enter college more prepared, reduce their time to degree, and enter the workforce sooner, and dramatically decrease or eliminate debt.
- Dual Enrollment Services (College Credit in High School, Early College Credit Program, and Dual Enrollment Access Academy) serve over 3,400 high school students each year, building partnerships with over 80 schools.
- Responding to high school students struggling to get into courses, the Dual Enrollment Access Academy was created with courses open only to high school students and offered exclusively online; Dual Enrollment Access Academy partnered with international high schools to provide online college courses extending impact and possibilities for further internationalization of incoming students.
- UWGB is a partner in the GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant with the Department of Public Instruction to close opportunity gaps in higher education; work with over 40 schools across the state providing over 1,600 services to build college and career awareness and confidence.
- Early College Programs help students see higher education as next step when they may have not considered it previously; they advance the access mission in providing equitable access to higher education; programs have expanded access to college courses and diverse curricula for high schools throughout Wisconsin by offering courses through various modalities, locations, and instructor types.

In the words of colleagues:

- “[T]he Early College Programs team has been hard at work developing groundbreaking, student-centered, and equitable programming to serve the needs of our region and the State of Wisconsin. Their flexible approach meets students where they are and grows them into the college students of tomorrow.”
—*Kate Burns, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UW-Green Bay*
- “It is through this partnership that Green Bay Area Public Schools (GBAPS) students have access to innovative early college programs, affording students opportunities to college credits, campus experiences and skills necessary to succeed post high school graduation.”—*Judy Wiegand, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Green Bay Area Public School District*