

**Profile of  
Kathleen Hunzer  
Director, Chancellor's Scholars, Honors Program, and Falcon Scholars  
University of Wisconsin–River Falls  
2023 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Graduate Certificate, Student Affairs Administration, Colorado State University; Ph.D., English, Lehigh University; M.A., English, West Chester University; B.A., English and Professional Writing, College of New Jersey.
- In two decades of service, has focused on providing opportunity through higher education for underrepresented student groups and motivating students to become civically engaged and socially responsible.
- Led committee to reimagine Honors Program to better serve students and promote more graduates; grew program from 65 active students to more than 600 active students.
- Collaborated to create and launch the Falcon Care Team, a holistic team dedicated to early interventions to proactively address student issues before they impair students' ability to graduate.
- Partnered to create the Striving Toward Academic Recovery (STAR) program that partnered Honors student volunteers with first-year students on academic probation; created a successful Honors learning community; strives to create a community of support within the Honors Program, which has resulted in 89-95% retention.
- Revamped the Bias Incident Response Team to address bias incidents in a timely and appropriate fashion.
- Strong ability to communicate and collaborate with campus partners to evoke change.
- Served on pandemic committees to support students, created a weekly student newsletter for COVID updates, and advised student team using social media to promote COVID protocols.
- Collaborated to launch Freddy's Pantry to meet food insecurity needs, serving 200+ students/month and distributing 600 to 700 pounds a month; helps manage, promote, and fundraise for the pantry.
- Helped create first emergency fund program providing grants to students to address barriers to success.
- Has served on many committees, including Chair of the Academic Staff Council and Inclusion/Anti-Racism Task Force.
- Chaired Autism Spectrum Disorder Transition Program Committee to explore how to support UWRF's strategic goals through programs for students on autism spectrum.
- Chaired the Accessibility and Abilities Committee.
- Select awards: Role Model for Equity Award, American Association of University Women (2018); inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society that recognizes and encourages superior scholarship (2015); UW-River Falls College of Arts and Sciences Advising Award (2014); UW-River Falls Campus Advisor of the Year Award (2013).

**In Kathleen Hunzer's own words:**

- "Since our campus mission is to create ethically engaged citizens with an informed global perspective, I pursue every opportunity I can to help students recognize their value to themselves and society."

**In the words of colleagues:**

- "Throughout her University of Wisconsin–River Falls career, Kathleen Hunzer has established a remarkable history of success and dedication in her enthusiastic and tireless support of students and student-focused initiatives that have made a lasting impact."  
—David Travis, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-River Falls
- "As a supervisor, Kathleen always listened to the needs and perspectives of all of her employees and worked diligently to advocate for the departments she led. Kathleen has a way of promoting each staff [member]'s authentic self, which allows both individuals to create deeper and stronger professional connections."  
—Alicia Reinke-Tuthill, Disability Resource Center Director, UW-River Falls