

**Profile of
Dr. Brett Carlton Woods
Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
2014 Regents' Diversity Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, UW-Whitewater (2008-present); Assistant Professor, Biology, Beloit College (2004-2008). Forged alliances between the private college and several UW institutions to support minority students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
- Since 2005, Dr. Woods has worked directly or indirectly with over 100 underrepresented minority students in STEM fields.
- Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on grants totaling more than \$150,000 in support of students of color in STEM fields.
- Director of the successful Wisconsin Alliance for Minority Participation (WiscAMP) program at UW-Whitewater. Main goal is a committed pipeline approach to recruiting and retaining a more diverse population of students, with an emphasis on recruiting underrepresented students into the university's science programs; as part of WiscAMP, he has worked to pair students with faculty mentors.
- Involved with creating and supporting programs at UW-Whitewater such as part-time research assistantships and summer boot camps to help reduce racial/ethnic disparities in STEM participation, retention, and graduation by providing focused attention on underserved populations, while also evaluating the university's approaches and generating data for best practices.
- Directly recruited and mentored eight students of color into his research lab, of which five graduated with STEM majors, two are currently in PhD programs, and the remaining three are still enrolled in undergraduate studies (one still in STEM).
- Using pipeline approach, has worked with Upward Bound to establish ties with potential future UW-Whitewater students, as well as the campus's McNair program to encourage all WiscAMP students to apply to increase their chances of successful application to PhD programs.

In Dr. Brett Carlton Woods' own words:

- "As an underrepresented minority and first-generation student myself, I remain dedicated to diversity and the support of underrepresented minorities, especially those in the STEM majors."

In the words of colleagues:

- "...Dr. Woods possesses the rare combination of commitment, technical research expertise, and great interpersonal skills. These abilities have allowed him to navigate students through difficult STEM majors while serving as both a fierce student advocate and university resource."
—*Dr. Richard C. McGregory Jr., Assistant Vice Chancellor for Multicultural Affairs and Student Success; Lecturer, Economics; UW-Whitewater*
- "All of [Dr. Woods'] efforts have led to a higher number of minority students being successful at UW-Whitewater, particularly in the sciences. It is no coincidence that the freshman retention rate at UW-Whitewater is currently at an all-time high, exceeding 80%. Efforts like those by Dr. Woods are integral in allowing this to happen." —*David Travis, Dean, College of Letters and Sciences, UW-Whitewater*