

**Profile of
Multicultural Student Services
University of Wisconsin–Stout
2016 Regents’ Diversity Award Institution or Unit Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Led by Barbara Miller, Multicultural Student Services (MSS) has a strong track record of reaching out to underrepresented minority (URM) students at UW-Stout and helping them to succeed by addressing their personal, academic, financial, cultural, and career needs; focused on first-generation students from economically disadvantaged environments, with a strong participation of African American, American Indian, Asian American, and Hispanic/Latino students.
- In 2014-15, MSS had more than 3,700 individual contacts with URM students and over 8,900 student contacts within groups and workshops.
- In the last five years, total enrollment of URM students at UW-Stout has increased by 25 percent, while the number of URM graduates has increased by 30 percent. In the same time period, the six-year graduation gap between URM students and the overall university population decreased by 10.7 percent.
- Through the university’s Stoutward Bound program, a living and learning community dedicated to URM students, MSS regularly collaborates with faculty, university housing, academic advisement, Dean of Students Office, and many other departments to eliminate the equity gap of its participants.
- MSS is also committed to increasing college readiness of young Wisconsin students through innovative precollege programs.
- Graduation rates exceed the university average by at least 20 percent with a range from 75 percent to 100 percent for the 2008, 2009, and 2010 cohorts.
- In 2014, sophomore participants in the Lawton Undergraduate Multicultural Retention Grant program, who are required to meet with MSS staff, had a retention rate into the next year of 100 percent and juniors had a retention rate of 95 percent with a grade point average of 3.1.
- The program has an off-campus partnership with the Life Skills Foundation and Dave Anderson, founder of the Famous Dave’s restaurant franchise, to provide intensive leadership training to participating students.

In the words of colleagues:

- “Multicultural Student Services is the leader on the Stout campus in providing support, programs, and services to students from underrepresented groups. They have done this in a number of ways, but perhaps none has been as impactful as the relationships professional staff have developed with individual students. From the moment a student from an underrepresented group steps foot on the Stout campus, these students know that there is an office on campus that is designed to support them, who understands their needs, their backgrounds and their challenges.”
—*Sandi Scott Duex, Interim Dean of Students, UW-Stout*
- “Barbara (Barb) Miller introduced the campus to the Intercultural Development Inventory framework, which has since been presented to all new students and to hundreds of faculty and staff. Many of the staff in the MSS office have participated in training on this inventory. The evaluation results from this initiative have been overwhelmingly positive, and Barb is now working on a subcommittee to continue to expand the use of this inventory and framework even further. I’m excited to see this initiative continue to expand and significantly impact the campus community.”
—*Bob Meyer, Chancellor, UW-Stout*