Profile of
Angela Miller
Director, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA), University of Wisconsin–Platteville
2017 Regents Diversity Award Individual Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Has provided leadership for the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) over the past five years with demonstrable impact on underrepresented minorities on campus; between 2009 and 2013, the equity gap in cumulative credits between underrepresented minorities and white students declined from greater than 6 credits to less than one credit; the equity gap in grade point average has also declined significantly.
- Implemented several key programs on campus, including 1) SUCCEED, a three-week residential summer program focused on students of color and first-generation college students; 2) the DRIVEN Scholars Program, a comprehensive advising model to monitor academic progress and degree completion; and 3) the Academic Enrichment Program (AEP), a comprehensive approach to supporting students who are first-generation or from at-risk populations through services such as supplemental advising, summer bridge programs, and First-Year Interest Groups.
- Helps underrepresented students successfully navigate higher education, beginning with outreach to middle and high school students; has partnered with the Admissions Office on the Paths to Platteville program, which provides free transportation to campus for high school students who do not have the resources to travel independently for a visit and tour; directs the College Club, a school-based program in Darlington, Wis., that presents students in grades 6-12 with the opportunity to learn about the college process, complete college applications, and learn about financial aid.
- Appointed Chief Diversity Officer in 2016; provides oversight for the Patricia A. Doyle Center for Gender and Sexuality, Wright Center for Non-Traditional and Veteran Students, and International Programs; dedicated to helping faculty and staff across campus to engage in diversity trainings and conversations about diversity and inclusion, including organizing Intergroup Dialogues; fosters collaborations on and off campus.

In Angela Miller’s own words:

- “To track the success of AEP, I was able to develop a multi-tiered assessment in which our student success staff compare AEP students with a historical comparative group. While graduation data is not yet available, as the first cohort is still progressing through its college experience, our initial analysis of benchmark data has been incredibly encouraging in demonstrating how the AEP has impacted retention and academic success. The 2014 AEP cohort experienced a retention rate of nearly 90 percent of students continuing.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “Over the past five years, Ms. Miller has been the crucial catalyst that has allowed UW–Platteville to undergo a significant transformation in academic performance, student retention, and the closing of the equity gap by historically underrepresented students. These successes are a result of the leadership, tenacity, and collaborative skills of Ms. Miller.” —Dennis J. Shields, Chancellor, UW-Platteville

- “At the core of Angela’s leadership is use of strategic decision making—forgoing short-term solutions in favor of initiatives and solutions that consider the bigger, long-term picture and ensure that institutional infrastructure is in place so that initiatives are both achievable and sustainable.”
—Molly M. Gribb, Dean, College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, UW-Platteville; and Tammy J. Salmon-Stephens, Director, College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science Student Success Program, UW-Platteville