

**Profile of  
Dennis K. Beale Jr.  
Assistant Director, Blugold Beginnings, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire  
2019 Regents Diversity Award Individual Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Began his career in the Athletic Department, ensuring student athletes not only developed their talents on the field but also formed strong connections off the field; contributed to UW-Eau Claire’s recruitment efforts by building connections with high schools in major cities to invite students of color to visit the campus; helped support their educational success by creating mentoring programs and opportunities for them to develop their leadership skills.
- As assistant director of the award-winning Blugold Beginnings, provides programs to foster study skills and assists with college planning for students in middle schools throughout northwestern Wisconsin.
- Has developed many programs catered to the needs of students of color, including a “Dress for Success” fashion show, Momentum Mondays (an eight-week program to help students start the semester strong), resumé and cover letter workshops, after-hour tutoring sessions, finals study nights, and events for alumni of color to come back to the university; provides students with a survey to provide feedback on the impact and effectiveness of the events/programs, their likes and dislikes, the quality of the information they receive, the quality of the workshops/activities, and how the services affected their views on the first-year experience at UW-Eau Claire.
- Through his first-year experience course, helps students understand the skills needed to be successful during their college journey, such as study skills, time management, and making use of available resources.
- Helps facilitate modes for students to learn and take advantage of high-impact practices (HIPS), such as study abroad, immersion trips, internships, and leadership positions.
- Created the Black Male Empowerment (BME) group, which helps students develop academically, professionally, and personally; the BME intercultural exchange program to England and France allowed 15 students to conduct research projects with faculty members from Winchester University in England; student findings will be presented this spring at UW-Eau Claire’s annual Celebration of Excellence for Research and Creative Activities.
- Students in his programs have a 98% retention rate after the first semester; on average, 67% of his students maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

**In the words of Dennis K. Beale Jr.:**

- “It is through my service and time spent with students that my impact is being made. Through my lived experiences as a two-time alumnus, I have seen firsthand the increase of diversity across campus. It is even more humbling to know that I have been a key component in this growth.”

**In the words of colleagues:**

- “Dennis is not only an exceptional mentor, he is a role model as well, demonstrating by example the power of inclusivity. His collaboration with community members, businesses, and many departments across campus is a testament to his ability to build relationships that support our students, in particular forming connections with area businesses to provide internships to African-American students.” —*James C. Schmidt, Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire*
- “I’ve been impressed with the fearless nature with which he created an abroad research immersion experience in the UK for students. I’ve heard incredible stories from students that enjoyed themselves and gained invaluable skills from this opportunity.” —*Joseph Abhold, Dean of Students, UW-Eau Claire*