

Profile of
Selika Ducksworth-Lawton
Professor of History
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
2021 Regents Diversity Award Individual Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Ph.D., 20th Century American Military History; Master's degree in European Military History; Bachelor of Arts in History, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.
- Frequently called on to lend her voice to public issues and a highly respected resource on current social justice topics, as well as policing, military history, and African American History.
- Serves as an academic and social mentor to numerous students, faculty, and staff; assists students and employees of color as they navigate a predominately white community.
- Provides professional development in collaboration with the university's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning by designing book groups and focus groups on topics that provide training opportunities for the campus community.
- Cumulative efforts and active participation in shared governance helped accomplish the university's effort to mandate all faculty and staff have an element of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as a consideration within their performance evaluations, including tenure decisions.
- Beyond the university, works with local government and community organizations, participating in regional and national conversations about race and social justice and its effects, including the following:
 - Co-hosting the weekly radio show and podcast, "Conversations of Color," through Converge Radio to hold community conversations around race and what needs to be done to have an inclusive community.
 - Collaborating with local ACLU chapter to present panels on race and policing, immigration issues, etc.
 - Leading a local nonprofit organization, Uniting Bridges, that coordinates Eau Claire's annual Juneteenth celebration commemorating the June 1865 announcement in Texas of slavery's abolition; recruits local leaders to speak at the event.
 - Participating as an active member of St. James Church, organizes the community's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, co-sponsored by St. James, University Lutheran Church, and UW-Eau Claire.
 - Leading and guiding local student activists in last summer's protests that occurred in reaction to the killing of George Floyd; with her calm leadership, Eau Claire efforts resulted in productive dialogue.
 - Commissioner on the Eau Claire Police and Fire Commission since 2019.
- Selected Awards: Recognized by Madison365 as one of the Top 42 Black Leaders in Wisconsin (2018); College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award (2012).

In the words of colleagues:

- "Dr. Ducksworth-Lawton is a respected and tireless advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), on and off campus. So well-known in our community that she is referred to by her first name alone, Selika has helped to create change for our students, our campus, and our region."
—James C. Schmidt, Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire
- "Through her leadership, the campus and community reflect, learn, sing, rejoice, and cry as we thoughtfully engage in the hard work of addressing decades of learned racism. Her attitude and approach are always positive and constructive with a focus on creating a community that is welcoming for all. Her tireless and seemingly endless energy is directed at not only building bridges on campus but across the entire community."
—Dale Peters, City Manager, City of Eau Claire