

**Profile of  
Barbara Stewart  
Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion  
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse  
2022 Regents Diversity Award Individual Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Master of Science in College Student Personnel and Bachelor of Science in Sociology, Iowa State University.
- Throughout 22-plus years at UW-La Crosse, has focused on creating safe spaces for students, growing TRIO programs, supporting and amplifying multicultural student retention, providing better access to students who identify as having a disability, and increasing opportunities to serve LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff on campus.
- As the inaugural Vice Chancellor of the new Division of Diversity and Inclusion, credited with bringing diversity-related offices together to increase student success and retention.
- Has spearheaded many collaborations not only on campus but also in the Greater La Crosse area.
- Co-wrote a Closing the Achievement Gap Grant for \$30,000 that positively impacted the success of students; the grant provided funding for the Eagle Mentoring Program, which has focused on retaining second-year multicultural students.
- Advocated for and received a precollege coordinator position that allowed UW-La Crosse to strengthen its ties with the youth in the community; also applied for and received a precollege grant through the Department of Public Instruction, which allowed precollege services to be free and supported many other after-school programs.
- Has increased participation in faculty development workshops, conferences, teaching and learning research and assessment, and instructional design training; because of the increased participation in training, faculty have been able to develop the skills and training necessary that ultimately aids in increasing retention.
- Continues to lead programs on the retention and success of students, such as Eagle Mentoring, the Self-Sufficiency Program, and the McNair Scholars program. Within the McNair Scholars program, more than 145 students have been mentored, 130 of whom have gone onto graduate studies and 65 who have earned graduate degrees.
- Selected Awards: Madison365 Wisconsin's 51 Most Influential Black Leaders (2020), La Crosse Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Leadership (2015); YWCA Outstanding Woman of the Year, Social Justice Category (2014).

**In the words of Dr. Stewart:**

- “Diversity, inclusion, and equity work is cyclical. We begin with the end in mind. Every accomplishment reveals another void that must be filled. Over my 22-year career at UWL, I have had highs and lows. However, at the center of the work must always remain *our students*. They suffer when we do not do our jobs or try to make their campus environment better. I am encouraged by all the things I have been able to accomplish in my various roles at UWL. I am however reminded how far we need to go to continue to make substantive change.”

**In the words of colleagues:**

- “Under Barbara's leadership, the Diversity and Inclusion Division has seen many accomplishments that continue to sustain lasting progress across the institution. This includes improved recruiting strategies and targeted events, along with a broad and sustained commitment to collaborative approaches to recruiting students, as well as a vast increase in scholarships.”—*Joe Gow, Chancellor, UW-La Crosse*
- “I have known and worked with Barbara for over 20 years and because of her leadership, commitment, and passion, UW-La Crosse has become a forerunner for diversity and inclusion in the University of Wisconsin System and beyond.”—*Willem Van Roosenbeek, Director, LGBTQ+ Programs and Services, UW-La Crosse*