

**Profile of  
Dr. Christine Smith  
Professor of Psychology  
Department of Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
University of Wisconsin–Green Bay  
2024 Regents Diversity Award Individual Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- PhD (Philosophy, Personality, and Social Psychology) and Master of Science (Personality and Social Psychology), University of Pittsburgh; BA, Psychology, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Since 2008, has served in many capacities at UW-Green Bay positively impacting equity and diversity, including co-founding the Pride Center, coordinating Women's History Month events, chairing the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program for six years, and overseeing the creation of the LGBT Certificate.
- In Fall 2020, co-created with UW-Green Bay student Hanette Kamanda the program BIPOC R.I.S.E. (Black and Indigenous People of Color Reaching Intersectional Strength through Engagement), a peer mentoring program for first-generation and/or BIPOC students; the program was originally created to provide Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and multicultural students with academic, emotional, psychosocial, relational, and professional support; it partners incoming BIPOC students with junior and senior BIPOC students for mentoring, including both academic and social support. The BIPOC R.I.S.E. program expanded its focus to serve first-generation students as well and has since been renamed "New Scholars Rising" to indicate this more inclusive focus, particularly important because approximately 50% of UW-Green Bay undergraduates are first-generation college students.
- Has mentored students in over 70 high-impact, independent learning experiences, including internships, research assistantships, independent studies, teaching assistantships, and honors projects; many of the research students have gone on to present at regional and national conferences.
- Facilitated and implemented a well-received installation of the American Psychological Association's "I am Psyched! National Tour" in 2020; this exhibit and surrounding programming explored the history and contemporary contributions of women of color in psychology; included an opening reception, keynote speaker, and four I am Psyched! TED-like talks on women of color in psychology.
- Earned the Lavender Leadership Award for continued contributions to the Pride Center (2019); Univ. of Wisconsin PB Poorman Award for Outstanding Achievement Award on Behalf of LGBTQ People (2021).

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

- "As we think about success for students of color and now first-generation students, this program [New Scholars Rising] has provided opportunities for a number of students to not just develop skills but recognize the strengths that they have to be successful."

**In the words of colleagues:**

- "I am particularly struck by the board of advisors that Dr. Smith has assembled for BIPOC R.I.S.E. She brought together 14 faculty and staff, with representation from across the university to collaborate on this program. This speaks to Dr. Smith's strong ability to build community within her peers just like she does with our students. We would not be the 3rd most diverse university within the UW System without Dr. Smith's hard work. We are very proud that she is growing and mentoring a diverse pipeline of students to positively impact our community."—*Kate Burns, Provost, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UW-Green Bay*
- "Dr. Smith is an inspiring and passionate teacher in Psychology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her courses are rigorous, eye-opening, and enriching to students' lives. She teaches challenging courses such as Psychology of Women and Gender with passion and skill.... Dr. Smith is an unceasing advocate and an inspirational mentor to BIPOC and marginalized members of our community and beyond."—*Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges, Chair of Psychology, UW-Green Bay*