

**Profile of the
Department of Counselor Education
University of Wisconsin–Whitewater
2016 Regents Teaching Excellence Program Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Led by department chair Brenda O’Beirne and recognized as a leader in the Upper Midwest in preparing counselors to serve in school and community settings.
- Established in 1967; the sole graduate-only department at UW-Whitewater.
- Housed in the College of Education and Professional Studies and staffed by seven faculty members, a doctoral teaching intern, a lab manager, and a half-time academic department associate.
- Achieved a perfect score (meeting all 300 standards) during a recent site visit by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.
- Program has produced an estimated 1,370 professionally trained counselors, with the vast majority working within the state of Wisconsin.
- Program recently implemented a state-of-the-art system for scheduling, recording, reviewing, and documenting counseling sessions in its on-campus counseling lab; the on-campus counseling lab allows the program to give back to the campus and community while also providing students with opportunities for real-world clinical experiences.
- Key component of the program is extensive application of knowledge and skills through both a semester-long practicum and year-long internship.
- Students in the program volunteer through counseling groups in the community, work with students in the Beloit School District, and participate in service learning opportunities in Guatemala.

In the words of a colleague:

- “Graduates of this program are not only exceptionally well prepared, they are fiercely loyal. As a regular attendee to the graduation reception held each spring, I can attest to the close relationships that are formed between and among faculty and students – relationships that carry their way into strong relationships with alumni. While it is a relatively ‘small’ department in terms of its number of faculty, it has been a very ‘large’ program relative to its reach, student success and regional impact.”
—*John Stone, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Whitewater*

In the words of a graduate:

- “As an older, non-traditional student who had not been a college student for many years, I wondered about my abilities to perform successfully as a college student again, especially with the technological advances since my undergraduate program. Those concerns were quickly put to rest as I was immediately welcomed into the program, supported, and inspired to reach my greatest potential. I was also at a point in my life where my soul needed ‘re-nourishing’ and I needed a new purpose in my career life. The Counselor Education Program at UWW definitely nourished my soul and provided a new career path that has been beyond rewarding.”—*Tammy Albrecht, School Counselor, Burlington High School*