

**Profile of
William N. Mode
Professor, Department of Geology, University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh
2016 Regents Teaching Excellence Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Ph.D. Geology, University of Colorado, Boulder; M.S. Geology, M.S. Water Resources Management, UW-Madison.
- Faculty member at UW-Oshkosh since 1981; chair of the Department of Geology since 1999; under his leadership, department has established strong rapport with students and alumni.
- Dedicates time and energy to maintaining an open-door policy within the department to advise and mentor students; a running theme in his students' comments is his availability and approachability; sample comments: "Probably the best professor I have had the pleasure of knowing so far in my college career!" "Challenging," "Fair," "Clearly cared about the students."
- Emphasizes research, writing and mathematics in his classes; fine tunes the skills his students will need as graduate students and geologists; takes students on field research trips to other states; has supervised more than 50 research students.
- Regularly involves his students in undergraduate research; his field research in the Arctic is widely respected, as is his local work, a project that involves geologic mapping of the Fox River lowland.
- Recruits earth science secondary education majors and minors for collaboration on research projects; frequently speaks to K-12 schools and community groups.
- Instrumental in developing the UW-Oshkosh Early Alert system to help students who are in jeopardy of failing; participates in 'Conversations with Faculty' component of student orientation.
- Select awards and honors: UW-Oshkosh Distinguished Teaching Award (2007); Outstanding Teaching Award of the UW-Oshkosh Honors Program (2009); Rosebush Professorship, the highest award given at UW-Oshkosh for teaching and scholarship (2013).

In William Mode's own words:

- "Students in these [introductory] classes learn that they will see the world differently after taking a geology class, not only when they visit a national park where geology is prominent, but also when they have a contaminated well on their property. They are also going to be able to visualize the connections between the way an artist or writer looks at the land and what the geology is; and they will recognize that land-use decision making should utilize geological information."

In the words of colleagues:

- "In addition to earning his students' respect, Bill has also earned high praise and respect from his colleagues. They are unequivocal in their admiration for his teaching excellence, as well as for his department leadership and innumerable contributions. They wonder how he does it all. I echo the message in their response: we are most fortunate to have him among us. And our students are most fortunate as well!" —*John Koker, Dean, College of Letters and Science, UW-Oshkosh*
- "Dr. William Mode is an inspiration to everyone he touches – students, colleagues and community members alike. He personifies the definition of teaching excellence and what it means to be a faculty role model to all." —*Lane Earns, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Oshkosh*