

**Profile of
Cassandra Phillips**
Professor, Department of English, University of Wisconsin–Waukesha
2017 Regents Teaching Excellence Individual Award Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

- UW-Waukesha Professor (Fall 2016-present); Associate Professor (Spring 2005-Spring 2016); Assistant Professor, (Fall 2000-2004); Ph.D. Composition and Rhetoric, University of Louisville; M.A. Writing, DePaul University; B.A. English, Creative Writing Concentration, Kenyon College.
- As Writing Program Administrator, works to serve not only her own writing students but also all first-year writing students enrolled at UW Colleges.
- Has played a significant role in creating a cohesive two-year writing program for UW Colleges, designed around instructional strategies that support underprepared students' transition to college-level reading, writing, and research; the resulting learning outcomes and competencies were used as the starting point for developing UW System definitions for college readiness in reading, writing, and research.
- Has served as a key leader in UW Colleges English Department efforts to restructure the writing program to address the needs of a rapidly changing student population of underprepared college learners who need structured support to develop the academic literacy skills required for postsecondary success; the work includes developing a multiple measures placement process, online instructional resources, face-to-face training, and assessment resources.
- Mentors new instructors, assists tenure-stream faculty and instructional academic staff with using the resources she has developed for teaching at a two-year access institution, and provides feedback to tenure-track faculty on their teaching materials.
- Has a growing national reputation as a leader in two-year college English writing program administration; at national conferences, writing program administrators from other institutions seek her guidance on developing multiple measures for placement processes or restructuring placement.
- Select awards and honors: 2016-2017 co-recipient of CCCC (College Conference on Composition and Communication) Writing Program Certificate of Excellence (primary national award for postsecondary writing programs; few two-year colleges have received this award); Arthur M. Kaplan Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education, UW Colleges Online and Distance Education, 2015; Arthur M. Kaplan Award for Innovative Teaching, 2010.

In Cassandra Phillips' own words:

- "If I could sum up my teaching and learning philosophy into one word, it would be *convergence*. It is impossible for me to explain my teaching philosophy without describing how multiple and varying environments, people, and work experiences have come together to inform the way I approach teaching."

In the words of colleagues:

- "Dr. Phillips' teaching career in the UW Colleges has positively impacted more students than perhaps any other instructor in our history due to the influence she has had on the first-year writing curriculum and on the pedagogy of so many of her colleagues."—*Greg Ahrenhoerster, Chair, English Department, UW Colleges*
- "Her students often attest to Dr. Phillips' ability to provide them with the support they need to develop the mechanics of writing, express their ideas clearly, and the motivation to continue to improve upon their writing abilities....Her leadership within the English department to develop a comprehensive approach to first-year writing makes it possible for writing instructors across our institution to address effectively the varying needs of first-year writing students." —*Gregory P. Lampe, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW Colleges*