

**Profile of  
Martina Lindseth**  
**Professor of German, Department of Languages, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire**  
**2018 Regents Teaching Excellence Individual Award Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Ph.D. Indiana University, Bloomington; M.A. Indiana University, Bloomington; B.A. Leipzig University, Germany.
- During 19-year career at UW-Eau Claire, has set the standard for teaching excellence by demonstrating a deep commitment to student learning and the use of innovative pedagogical practices, generously sharing her expertise with her peers, and having a profound impact on students both inside and outside the classroom.
- Moves students through all aspects of the research continuum, from basic skills through presenting at UW-Eau Claire’s Annual Student Research Days.
- Has mentored students in 16 collaborative research projects, including mentoring two Fulbright Scholars and collaborating with students to prepare manuscripts for publication.
- Significant efforts in curriculum design and excellence in language instruction played a key role in UW-Eau Claire’s German program being designated a German Center of Excellence by the American Association of Teachers of German in 2015.
- Selected by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to become an ACTFL Trainer (2011); in this capacity, has trained and mentored educators at different institutions in language proficiency assessment and curriculum development, including many Big 10 universities and private institutions, such as Stanford University, Duke University, and the University of Chicago.
- Regularly provides curriculum design and teaching strategies to language instructors in K-12 school districts across the state, region, and nation.
- Served as a plenary speaker at ACTFL-sponsored events addressing hundreds of attendees.
- Select awards/honors: Distinguished German Educator (Wis. Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, 2017); UW-Eau Claire’s Maxwell Schoenfeld Distinguished Professorship (2014); Wisconsin Teaching Scholar (2005).

**In Martina Lindseth’s own words:**

- “I believe a teacher always needs to *begin anew*, be a *continuous learner*, be willing to *reflect and change*, be ready to *take risks*....Language is at the heart of human experience; it opens unforeseen opportunities. It certainly has done this for me, starting with an unexpected job offer almost 30 years ago continuing to this day. I find it very gratifying to send my students on their own life-long journey of discovery that goes along with learning to communicate in another language. The transformation is striking: we become (inter)culturally competent individuals with new perspectives on our own cultures, and passion and empathy for others.”

**In the words of colleagues:**

- “Dr. Lindseth’s skill at stretching and pushing students beyond their comfort zone leads to students who are adaptable, confident in their abilities, and able to achieve beyond their original aspirations.”  
—*Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Eau Claire*
- “Dr. Lindseth’s classes are dynamic, communicative, and inclusive; students are challenged, engaged, and empowered. She builds a special rapport with all her students....Dr. Lindseth makes each student feel accountable for his or her learning and has a strong impact on students’ learning lives far beyond graduation.”  
—*Matthew Waters, Professor of Classics and Ancient History, Chair of the Department of Languages, UW-Eau Claire*