

**Profile of the
Communication Department
University of Wisconsin–Parkside
2022 Regents Teaching Excellence Program Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Communication Department faculty and staff have redesigned learning goals and instituted high-impact practices (HIPs) that have transformative effects on student learning and benefit historically marginalized student populations. The department's use of community-based learning, capstone projects, and undergraduate research allows students opportunities to gain real-life experiences by collaborating with faculty in departments across campus and organizations in the surrounding communities.
- Department has successfully developed and sustained HIPs at scale at a university with a high percentage of students of color, Pell Grant recipients, and first-generation college students. Communication majors reflect UW-Parkside's overall student demographics. In addition, the Communication Department's retention and graduation rates are higher on average than other majors at UW-Parkside.
- The department's internship program provides experiential learning supported by pre-internship advising through internship portfolio completion. Career exploration courses at the lower and upper division levels help ensure students effectively integrate career planning with their studies. Students are hired by well-known organizations around the country and internationally because of the program's strength.
- The average UW-Parkside undergraduate majoring in Communication experiences five high-impact practices, exceeding UW System's goal of two high-impact practices.
- Prominent recognitions include the National Association of System Heads (NASH) featuring the Communication Department's curriculum-wide implementation of HIPs at scale as a case study in its Educators Guide. Departmental faculty were invited to present at a UW System HIPs workshop and submitted a chapter in an upcoming book, *Delivering on the Promise of High-Impact Practices: Research and Models for Achieving Equity, Fidelity, Impact, and Scale*, published by Stylus in March 2022.
- During the pandemic, the faculty and staff of the Communication Department launched their first master's program, an online M.A. in Professional Communication. A department colleague led a series of community conversations on "Rebuilding Kenosha" in the wake of the shooting of Jacob Blake and the ensuing civil unrest. Another colleague is the principal investigator on a National Science Foundation planning grant to study the necessary skills for smart manufacturing workforce development.
- Since 2019, five Communication Department graduating students won either the Chancellor's Award or Outstanding Graduate, the highest student honors recognized at commencement.

In the words of students in COMM 499 Directed Study: Nonviolent Communication, Inside-Out Prison Exchange Course at Racine Correctional Institution:

- "My thanks go out to the Parkside students who displayed phenomenal courage by walking through the doors of a prison. I admire their willingness to participate in classes with incarcerated men. They have looked beyond the stereotypes associated with incarcerated individuals... Thank you all for a journey grounded in the principles of love and respect for all human beings. Thank you for extraordinary human connections that inspire me to always be the best version of myself."
- "This class has been a total game changer for me. I appreciate being able to take this class because it helped me learn how effective communication is imperative in everyday life."

In the words of colleagues:

- "The Communication Department's efforts reflect their deep commitment to quality, to equity, and to the Wisconsin Idea." —*Deborah L. Ford, Chancellor, and Robert Ducoffe, Provost & Vice Chancellor, UW-Parkside*