

**Profile of  
Rebecca Stephens  
Professor of English and English Department Chair  
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point  
2024 Regents Teaching Excellence Individual Award Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Ph. D., English, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.
- Joined the English faculty at UW-Stevens Point in 1998 and served as its director of composition, supervising the freshman and sophomore composition curriculum, for six years before stepping into the role of department chair in 2018.
- Leads the English Education program, which has a long-standing reputation for excellence; graduates have a 100 percent placement rate, and over the last decade, five have been awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English.
- As a teacher of future secondary English teachers, adds to and refines her understanding of pedagogical thinking to ensure she is not only teaching students the most recent scholarship of teaching and learning to apply in their future classrooms, but also modeling the most effective and innovative teaching methods.
- Teaches a Technologies for English Education class, now part of the senior English Methods course block and to be expanded to also serve History and World Language teaching majors in the School of Humanities and Global Studies; recreates this course every year since technology changes so quickly and because the English Education team implements student feedback to improve courses for the coming year; artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot topics have been helpful to recent English Education graduates now teaching in middle and secondary schools.
- Led effort to transform “Women’s Studies” into “Women’s and Gender Studies” and participated in workshops and conversations concerning key themes and pedagogical strategies for WGS courses; based on this work, reorganized her “Introduction to WGS” course around the threshold concepts of social construction of gender, privilege and oppression, intersectionality, and feminist praxis.
- Last year, led an initiative to encourage incorporating these threshold concepts into all WGS courses and encouraged the Universities of Wisconsin Women’s and Gender Studies Consortium to produce resources to help instructors become more familiar with these concepts.
- Presented to the National Women’s Studies Association Conference on “Threshold Concepts in WGS: A Tool for Teaching and Assessment” (2015).

**In Rebecca Stephens’ own words:**

- “Whether I have been teaching a first-year composition class or a senior English Education Methods course, I want [my students] to know that what we do in class matters, not just to this class, but to your life, and what you are learning today may help you do things in your life that you cannot even imagine as possible in this moment.”

**In the words of colleagues:**

- “Prof. Stephens’ teaching is most impactful in two areas: training of future English teachers in the use of instructional technology and exposing students to the core concepts in the area of Women and Gender Studies. She excels in both and leaves lasting and positive impressions on all students.”—*Tobias Barske, Assistant Dean, School of Humanities and Global Studies, College of Letters & Science, UW-Stevens Point*
- “Her pedagogy is equity-minded, inclusive, and student centered, reflecting the core values within the discipline. She is deeply respected and loved by her students.”  
—*Alice Keefe, Professor of Religious Studies and Past Coordinator of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS); Lauren Gantz, Associate Professor of English, Coordinator of WGS, UW-Stevens Point*