University Staff Professional Development Conference

2023: Navigating Imperfection
Wednesday, June 7th | UWEC Centennial Hall

This year’s Professional Development Conference is an all-day in-person event with the theme “Navigating Imperfection”. Quite often, you can feel like you’re stuck between a rock and a hard place of work doldrums. Join us on an odyssey to explore this state of flux, where we are not striving for perfection, but for excellence instead!

The University Staff Council (USC)’s Professional Development Committee designs this conference specifically to provide professional development opportunities to University Staff, who have limited options to participate and invest in their own improvement and career advancement. As of 2021, this event is also open to external attendees from UW System, Wisconsin Area Technical Colleges, and other local community partners.

The first 50 people to register will get entered into an additional drawing for a special prize!

* To be eligible to win a prize award, you must be registered before the day of the Conference.
FAILING FORWARD:
The Subtle Art of Everyday Success
Each of us is special. We are all completely and totally unique, in our own way. The purpose of this presentation is to help you stay connected to your own value, so that you are able to proceed with confidence, accept (without judgement) that there is always room for improvement, and know that you have done your best; and that your best IS good enough.

ABOUT STEVE | STEVE’S WEBSITE
Steve Hanson is a man on a mission. He is determined to open a dialogue that welcomes candid conversations about the challenges we all face, and how those challenges impact our esteem and abilities at school, in the workplace, and even in the safety of our own homes. Through his relatable and personal stories, he shares the pain, the struggles, and the joy; most importantly, Steve reveals how he's reclaimed his own voice, and learned to embrace clarity, courage, and confidence. Audience members leave his presentations feeling empowered, motivated, and reconnected to their purpose, with fresh tools at their disposal, and a renewed faith in what they can accomplish.

Welcome Reception:
Vice Chancellor Grace Crickette
8:00-8:15 AM | CEN 1614

Keynote: Steve Hanson
8:15-9:15 AM | CEN 1614

Conference Food Drive
This year, the Professional Development Conference is partnering with Campus Harvest Food Pantry at UW-Eau Claire. Support those in need on our campus by bringing non-perishable, non-expired items to donate. There’ll be a collection bin near registration, which will also have a QR code to donate to the Pantry’s Foundation site if you happen to forget. Participation is optional.

Here’s a list of their most needed items:
- Easy meals (Easy Mac, Pasta Cups, Rice-a-Roni cups, Compleats)
- Hearty Soups (e.g. Campbell’s chunky options)
- Oatmeal cups
- Popular cereals
- Pop tarts
- Alfredo sauce
- Rice/microwave rice
- Spices (salt, chili powder, cumin, paprika, onion, etc.)
- Condiments (honey, mayo, soy sauce, sriracha, olive oil)
- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Floss
- Mouth wash
- Paper towel
- Toilet Paper
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Nail clippers
- Kleenex
- Combs/hair brushes

2023: Navigating Imperfection
Jason Soules

Born as “Theresa”, Jason Soules grew up in Menomonie with 9 siblings, two of which were his identical triplet sisters. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire in 2008 with a Bachelor of Music Education–Instrumental and General Music he spent 12 years in the classroom teaching students of all ages, from rural towns and urban cities. He came out as transgender to his students, school community, and the rest of the world on January, 5th 2017 at the age of 31 and began the physical process of transitioning from female to male. Eventually he resigned from teaching full time to allow time to work as an LGBTQ advocate, mentor, and speaker. Jason strives to help bridge the gap between cisgender and transgender people in our area by helping to “trans-late” for each other and has given several local presentations, spoke on several panels and started a podcast called, “Allow Me to Translate.” In the summer of 2021 Jason announced he was founding a new advocacy organization called, “Transforming the Valley”, an umbrella organization with Milkweed Connections, llc. and adults through Milkweed Connections, llc.

Okanagan Charter—An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities

CEN 1920

Higher education has a unique opportunity and responsibility to provide transformative education, engage the student voice, develop new knowledge and understanding, lead by example and advocate to decision-makers for the benefit of society. Higher education institutions are positioned to generate, share and implement knowledge and research findings to enhance health of citizens and communities both now and in the future.

Gregg Heinselman

Gregg Heinselman (he/him) is currently the Dean of Students at UWEC. He holds a M.Ed. in Higher Education and a B.S. in Business Administration. He has worked in Higher Education in Student Affairs for almost 40 years. As a first-generation college student, Gregg is committed to student success and wellbeing. He works directly with Counseling Services, Student Health, Student Activities, Involvement and Leadership, Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault, Campus Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, and Shared Student Governance. His collective focus is centered on Student Advocacy, Accountability, and Wellbeing.

Confronting Problematic Behaviors

CEN 1924

Come learn how to put your knowledge into action! We will be teaching practical strategies for how to confront racism, sexism, and other -isms one might encounter in their work life. Attendees will take concepts from the Microaggressions and Safe Space trainings and apply them to real life scenarios. This is a very interactive training with lots of small group work! Practice confronting someone, receive immediate feedback, and then get a chance to try again. We will also address self-care, motivation, and when to report behavior.

My Imperfect Journey from Woman to Man

CEN 1704

Jason Soules shares the many ups and downs he’s experienced throughout his life as a transgender man. Through his journey, he aims to help others understand not only the struggles that the transgender community faces, but also the fantastic heart-warming moments as well. Jason hopes through sharing vulnerable moments and impactful lessons from his life that others will gain empathy and understanding for the transgender folks in their lives. With a knack for drawing relevant comparisons, using common sense language and humor, and breaking down common myths and stereotypes, he is able to help others as we all learn about this growing topic of gender identity.

Taking Care of Ourselves: Some Ideas to Manage Stress and Enhance Wellbeing

CEN 2614

In this 60-minute presentation, we will review and discuss some ideas to help ourselves feel better physically and emotionally. Some of the ideas come from research in positive psychology.

Ashley Walton-Beal and Ashley Fritz

Ashley Walton-Beal graduated from University of Wisconsin-Stout with her Masters in Mental Health Counseling. Ashley has been at UWEC for five years and is the Equity and Diversity Coordinator. Ashley’s areas of interest include anxiety, depression, gender and sexuality, mindfulness, and underrepresented students.

Ashley Fritz is the Assistant Dean of Students, focusing on student conduct and behavior; she has been with UWEC for four years, and in that time has helped both students and professionals work through conflict and growth opportunities.

Paula Chiara

Paula Chiara has worked at UW-Eau Claire for five years as a mental health counselor in the Counseling Services Office on campus.
An Overview of Workday: Reimagining Disabilities through Challenges & Triumphs
CEN 1704

UW-Eau Claire and all the universities within the UW System are in the process of making significant upgrades to key systems that will include giving employees greater flexibility and self-service options while supplying our teams in finance, human resources, and research administration state-of-the-art reporting tools. The Administrative Transformation Program (ATP) is an enterprise project that will greatly improve functionality and efficiency for our campus.

UWEC Readiness Team Panel
The UW-Eau Claire Campus Readiness Team includes the following members. The panel will consist of various ATP Leadership.
- Readiness Lead | Grace Crickette, VCFA
- Communications Lead | Mike Knuth
- Finance Co-Leads | Jackie Kriesel & Tracy Drier
- HR Lead | Tracy Drier
- IT Lead | Kent Gerberich
- SIS Lead | Kim O’Kelly
- RA Co-Leads | Erica Benson & Heather Johnson-Schmitz
- Lead Support | Shawn Seuffer

Learn and Make with the Blugold MakerSpace
CEN 1920

Come learn about the Blugold MakerSpace. Then join us in making your own buttons, paper bows, and painting cardboard cut-outs.
- Dan's interests revolve around electronics and engineering. Building a trebuchet, robotic arm, or a remote-controlled Nerf dart gun are things he just might do.
- Brad has focused on 3D printing and lasers as a way to express himself creatively, repair equipment to extend its usability, and to show others how versatile these tools can be.
- Jenna's primary mission as an artist is to keep beloved clothing and usable goods out of landfills. Besides sewing and repairs, she also enjoys mixing mediums and incorporating other flexible materials, like plastic, into functional pieces like crocheted rugs and baskets.
- Erin is a frequent paper-crafter, as well as being interested in quilting, laser cutting, and learning digital illustration techniques.

Beyond Workplace Accommodations: Reimagining Disabilities through Challenges & Triumphs
CEN 1204

Throughout our careers, we are all faced with challenges, but for individuals with disabilities, these challenges are often more prevalent and precarious. Workplaces advertise inclusive policies and accommodations to support these individuals. Still, individuals with disabilities have diverse and unique needs not satisfied by a “one-size-fits-all” accommodation model. As a result, advocacy becomes a crucial skill as they navigate challenges in the workplace.

Vicky Thomas, Jenna Jenneman, and Erica Nerbonne

Vicky Thomas (she/her) is a recent UWEC retiree, having worked as the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities. She has a B.S. in Rehabilitation from Montana State University and an M.Ed. in Counseling from Boston University. She is the wife of a 21-year Army veteran, and her career has focused on helping others navigate challenges to achieve their potential.

Jenna Jenneman (she/her) has a Business and Accounting degree from CVTC. She currently works as Customer Service Representative at IFD, Indianhead Foodservice Distributor, Inc. Jenna connected with UWEC Recreation and Disability Services staff when she was organizing a community event focusing on amputees, “The Climb,” held on campus near the hill.

Erica Nerbonne (she/her) is a UWEC alumna with a BA in Spanish Linguistics. She recently finished her MA in English and American Literature at Miami University. She works as an English lecturer and Writing Center Coordinator at a university and is excited to continue her academic work. As an individual with disabilities, inclusivity and advocacy drive her practices.

Microsoft Teams and App Integrations
SSS 204

This session will provide an overview of MS Teams and SharePoint as well as explore other Microsoft apps such as Planner, Whiteboard, and more.

For UW-Eau Claire employees: Bring your DUO security token to this session if you wish to actively participate.

Blugold MakerSpace Team

The Blugold Makerspace is a staff-lead program at McIntyre Library providing the university community with the tools, materials, resources, and expertise to explore a range of creative activities. Dan Hillis, Brad Gehreke, Jenna Vande Zande, and Erin Kriener represent the staff of the Blugold Makerspace and provide their diversified maker interests and skills.

Jacob Stansberry

Jacob was appointed as Training Consultant and Coordinator for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at UW-Eau Claire in June 2022. Prior to that, he served for 14 years in the non-profit sector, working mostly with student populations. Jacob has proven that he is excited to invest in the campus and surrounding community by building relationships, training, and supporting both students and staff alike as they strive to accomplish their goals.
Navigating Your Department Data

Want to know how to access institutional and departmental data on student enrollment and performance? Join us as we review visualizations, data tables, and data request options available to you. Participants will be asked to submit questions or areas of interest prior to the presentation so that materials can be focused on your needs.

This session is targeted for UW-Eau Claire employees.

Mindfulness and Meditation

An overview of mindfulness and meditation practices where participants will learn some useful strategies to decrease stress. Participants will be able to engage during the workshop and take away ideas to adapt if needed.

Annemarie Schwery and Erin Gumm

Annemarie Schwery, MS, LPC-IT

Erin Gumm, MA, LPC

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Introverted Leader? Extroverted Leader? What is Best?

Introverts and extroverts present themselves in different ways, but which are the most effective leaders? This session will explore the differences, assumptions, pros, cons, and ways to adapt efficiently for each.

Connie LeCleir-Meyer

Connie is an experienced leader with over 35 years of experience in the fields of electronics manufacturing, legal, health insurance, healthcare, education, and training. She has held leadership positions in human resources, customer service, production management, corporate training, and project management. Her skills include soft skills training, public speaking, facilitation and coaching, project management, team building, leadership development, and learning management. She has a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and Communication and a master's degree in Adult Education and Distance Learning.
SESSION IV | 2:45-3:45 PM

Navigating Generational Differences in the Workplace
CEN 2917
Connie LeCleir-Meyer
Connie is an experienced leader with over 35 years of experience in the fields of electronics manufacturing, legal, health, insurance, healthcare, education, and training. She has held leadership positions in human resources, customer service, production management, corporate training, and project management. Her skills include soft skills training, public speaking, facilitation and coaching, project management, team building, leadership development, and learning management. She has a bachelor’s degree in Organizational Management and Communication and a master’s degree in Adult Education and Distance Learning.

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Picturing the Past: A History of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
CEN 1204
Greg Kocken
Greg Kocken is the Head of McIntrye Library’s Special Collections and Archives Department. As our University Archivist, Greg collects, preserves, and provides access to historic materials that tell the story of UW-Eau Claire.

Making and Mental Health: Making and Meditation
CEN 2304
Rob Mattison and Team
People have been dealing with mental health through creative outlets for years and today we have a group of people with a wide variety of talents, talking about why they do what they do and maybe can show you a thing or two.

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- Lead Support | Shawn Seuferer

For the first time in our industrial history, the workforce has five different generations working at the same time. This unique and challenging time in our labor market is challenging to navigate. This session will explore the current state of all five generations using both unique anecdotal experiences combined with objective research and data to better understand the state of the existing workforce and how to maximize its output.

Established as a State Normal School in 1916, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has grown to become one of the premier public universities in the Midwest. This presentation will explore the history of the University through photographs and stories preserved in the University Archives. This journey through our institution’s history will be curated by University Archivist Greg Kocken.
Thank you to our event sponsors and prize donors!

Event Sponsors
University Staff Council
UW-Eau Claire Foundation
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
Sodexo and University Centers
Vice Chancellor Grace Crickette

Prize donations for the Conference come from the following community businesses:

- Action City & Metropolis
- Barstow & Grand Literary Journal
- Blugold Roast
- Brent Douglas Floral
- Children’s Museum of Eau Claire
- Culver’s
- Domino’s Pizza
- Down to Earth
- Fazoli’s
- Festival Foods
- Great Harvest Bread Co.
- Grizzly’s
- Jacobson’s Market
- Mancino’s Grinders & Pizza
- Micon Cinemas
- Milwaukee Burger Company
- Olson’s Ice Cream
- Scheels
- Tangled Up in Hue
- Texas Roadhouse
- UWEC Athletics
- UWEC Recreation
- Xcel Energy

Would you like to endorse this annual event?
Donate to the University Staff Council Advancement Fund and indicate “Professional Development Conference” in the comments.

We appreciate your support!
The 2023 University Staff Professional Development Committee has organized this conference. Members of the committee include:

Nancy Amdahl
Kristi Bergstrom, Chair
Megan Clark
Sheryl Gonzales
Dan Hillis
Cindy Nevin
Nicole Owen
Aimee Rehberg
Rhonda Young

And a special thank you to Tami Eisbener for additional assistance!

There are many different committees which promote ongoing education and a positive professional environment for all University Staff. They support professional development activities and encourage informed communication among the University Staff and with the broader university community. If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the following committees or Council itself, please contact any member of the University Staff Council.

UNIVERSITY STAFF COUNCIL COMMITTEES
- Bylaws Committee - Learn More
- Communications Committee - Learn More
- Compensation Committee - Learn More
- Employee Appreciation Committee - Learn More
- Funding Committee - Learn More
- Grievance and Personnel Committee - Learn More
- Nominating Committee - Learn More
- Professional Development Committee - Learn More

UNIVERSITY STAFF REPRESENTATION
University-Wide Committees
- Administrator Review Committee - Learn More
- Excellence in Performance Award Selection Committee - Learn More
- University Planning Committee - Learn More
- University Safety Committee - Learn More

University Senate Committees
- Compensation and Budget Committee - Learn More
- Physical Plant Planning Committee - Learn More
- Technology Committee - Learn More

Other
- Liaison to Commission on the Status of Women

UNIVERSITY STAFF COUNCIL, 2022-23
Skylar Colvin
Tracy Drier
Sally Eckwright
Sheryl Gonzales
Allison Hannah
Emily Herwig
Dan Hillis
Bill Hoepner
Sue Kleusch
Brandon Knuth
Lindsay Kroll
Corry Mahnke
Nicole Owen
Tammy Perzichilli
Aimee Rehberg
Tonya Simpson
Jera Terreng
Terri Thill
Kari Vanden Busch
Rhonda Young

The Professional Development Committee plans a variety of sessions for the Conference to provide a wide breadth of options. Each session falls under the purview of one of the following categories:

GREEN | Cultivating Perspective
Learn various skills and abilities for working in an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment.

LIGHT BLUE | Campus Connections
Explore and engage with campus peers and information leaders to improve network ties and vocational knowledge.

PURPLE | Achieving Balance
Pursue a high quality of life by developing talents and interests to complement campus experiences while valuing personal health and wellbeing.

GREY | Miscellaneous
Collaborate and learn distinctive topics from assorted presenters to enhance your career and personal goals.

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