Re-Thinking Relations Among Writing Centers and Offices for Research and Sponsored Programs:
Assessing the Effectiveness of Writing Center Methods to Integrate High-Impact Practices

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Outline:

• Introductions
• Define the mission at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and its emphasis on high-impact educational practices (HIPs)
• Describe the role of our Center for Writing Excellence (CWE)
• Describe the role of our Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP)
• Speak about our collaboration to offer broader and more holistic services to students
• Present a case study: our active efforts to support students completing research projects and presentations
• Offer a tentative conclusion and suggestions for future directions
Who are we?

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- Background of campus
  - NW corner of WI, 90 miles from MN border
  - Public, regional comprehensive university
  - Undergraduate student population ~ 9,200

- Emphasis on HIPs
  - Campus guidepost of 100% students with at least 1 HIP
  - Mission emphasizes student-faculty research and scholarship that enhance teaching and learning
  - 2020-2025 campus strategic plan includes integrating undergraduate research & creative activities in all disciplines
What is the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE)?

• A university-wide program that supports all writers—students and faculty—with their work at any stage in the creative process

• Non-remedial in approach

• Invested in supporting writers across all disciplines and colleges

• Active in supporting student scholarship and creative activity
What is the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP)?

• Maintains a supportive environment for research, scholarly and creative endeavors of the faculty, academic staff and students

• Assist the University in maintaining the highest level of teaching and scholarship through:
  • support of the Center of Excellence for Faculty and Undergraduate Student Research Collaboration
  • grant programs
  • professional development activities
  • facilitation of extramural proposal preparation and submission
CWE & ORSP Collaboration

What are our motivations for collaborating?

• Connecting HIPs on campus
• Highlighting writing as a HIP and as intimately tied to all other HIPs
• Streamlining efforts to support student research projects and advance their long-term professional success
• Increasing student engagement and success in and out of classrooms
CWE & ORSP Collaboration

Projects beyond traditional coursework (special appointments)
CWE & ORSP Collaboration

Scholarship application: Barry Goldwater Scholarship
https://goldwater.scholarsapply.org/

- Prestigious undergraduate scholarship in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in US
- High-achieving students academically and accomplished in research
- ORSP Executive Director coaches & assists in their applications
- Online application/Personal statement
CWE & ORSP Collaboration

Planned/future work: Support student presenters taking research to local and national conferences

• Provide holistic support from beginning to end – from abstract writing to presentation preparation

• Collaborate to support a culture of undergraduate research at UW-Eau Claire (e.g., Annual Celebration of Excellence in Research and Creative Activity and National Conference on Undergraduate Research).
CWE & ORSP Collaboration

Planned/future work: Working together to support faculty writers

• In the long term, we want to do more to collaborate in our efforts to support not only students, but also faculty writers

  • Scholarly Articles
  • Grant Proposals
Conclusions & Future Directions

• Through these efforts, we strive to foster more holistic support for students, staff and faculty

• We work to reinforce the notion that writing centers are non-remedial and key to producing better student and faculty scholarship

• And we might develop connected goals:
  e.g., An Advisory board to support a Writing Enriched Curriculum at UW-Eau Claire.
Contact us!

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