The Student Life & Development professionals at Winona State University deliver programs, services and activities that support academic achievement, social development and well being of students engaged in the timely pursuit of their academic goals. There were documented moments throughout the year when our mission was in action. The vibrant energy Choose WSU Days brought to campus, PSEO eligibility criteria re-visited, cross-functional teams developing co-curricular transcripts, Resilience Theme Year activities, expanded evening counseling options and enhanced E-Services, just to name a few.

This year affirmed when executing a plan, the 'easy button' may appear elusive but the 'possibility button' restores hope. We are being bold and courageous when imagining options for student success.

Without doubt, plans are merely words on paper until they are powered by action, monitored for progress, agile in delivery and mindful of distractions that hinder forward thinking.

The intersection of imagination and next level thinking requires credible and usable data to optimize the decision-making process regarding programming, services and practices. The regional and national conversations around declining enrollment, budget reductions, industry recognized credentials and program prioritization have prompted the need for agile forward thinking.

For all who "Choose WSU" the possibilities are endless when powered by Meaningful Connections!
Department Highlights

ADMISSIONS

By: Brian Jicinsky

The Office of Admissions oversees the recruitment for domestic undergraduate students at the Winona Campus (new entering first-year students and new entering transfer students). Additionally, the office manages the admission review/decision for all undergraduate students, including transfer students at WSU-Rochester and international students. However, recruitment of WSU-Rochester transfer students and international students is done by other departments. Admissions collaborates with academic and student life departments on programming to promote the wide scope of educational and co-curricular opportunities WSU offers to prospective students.

Admissions implemented new strategies and efforts this year with the intention to grow enrollment of new first-year and new transfer students. There are three areas of new initiatives to highlight:

Collaborated with EAB and the Financial Assistance Office to launch new scholarships including the Access and Achievement Scholarship for Minnesota Residents and expanding the Transfer Resident Tuition Scholarships to non-resident students transferring from a MN Community College. Secondly, took an innovative approach to reimagine and redesign the WSU admitted student program (Choose WSU). There were 7 Choose WSU programs offered and we welcomed 710 accepted students to campus (compared to 340 students at an admitted student program last year). Lastly, we drastically increased communication efforts and methods as a recruitment and yield strategy. We sent over 125,000 text messages this year to prospective students and added a postcard series campaign.

ACCESS SERVICES

By: Nancy Dumke

Access Services for Students with Disabilities is part of the Warrior Success Center. Undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to apply for academic accommodations through Access Services. The most common accommodations are: extended time on exams, a low distraction test location, priority registration, tests in auditory format, and alternative format textbooks. Less common accommodations include: a Smart Pen, recording lectures, enlarged exams, or preferential seating.

Student with disabilities’ needs have changed in recent years. Students with learning disabilities used to represent the largest disability area at WSU. Now the most common type of disability is psychological, such as depression or anxiety. This follows national trends. The second most represented area is students with attentional needs. Nearly 95% of all students with disabilities registered in Access Services have “invisible disabilities.”

Access Services partners with Housing and Residence Life to accommodate students who qualify for an Emotional Support Animal (ESA). Students need to provide documentation of a psychological disability and be under the current care of a mental health provider. ESAs are different than a service animal which is highly trained and provides specific services for a student with mobility, vision, diabetic or other disability needs. Service animals are usually dogs and are allowed to go wherever their handler goes – classes, appointments, dining hall, etc.

Numbers of student enrolling with Access Services continues to rise each year as does the complexity of their needs. Please be sure to welcome the new Associate Director of the Warrior Success Center, Access Services when they arrive on campus this summer!
CAREER SERVICES

By: DeAnna Goddard

Career Services offers resources/services to assist students with career exploration: career assessments (Strong Interest Inventory, CliftonStrengths, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator), online career tools (Occupational Outlook Handbook, ISEEK, etc.), appointments, and a Career and Major Exploration Fair. We offer career management resources/services focused on job search and graduate school application preparation: programs (Mock Interview Mondays, Resume Rush), online tools (Handshake, InterviewStream) and appointments. We incorporate employer and alumni partners into our programming. Both alumni and employer partners have offered workshops at our Warrior Jobs Expo, participated in mock interviews and hosted networking events. All offer an opportunity for students to develop professional career management skills and hear about hiring trends. We offer an on-campus recruiting program to connect students with recruiters for employment and graduate school opportunities. Handshake, our job recruiting system, allows students to apply for positions, research employers, sign up for events, and schedule interviews. We offer two on-campus job fairs (Part-time Job Fair, Warrior Jobs Expo) and collaborate with two off-campus job fairs (MN Government and Nonprofit Career Fair, MN Education Job Fair). We also host employer site visits (on-campus interviews, Meet & Greets or information tables). We manage several social media networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) to connect students with employers and learn about job posting and career readiness opportunities. Our website www.winona.edu provides accessibility to our services/resources on all WSU campuses. We partner with faculty and staff to present in classrooms, offer career-related programming for departments, and connect faculty with employers for potential partnerships.

COUNSELING & WELLNESS

By: Dr. Benedict Ezeoke

The Counseling and Wellness service is located in the Integrated Wellness Complex (IWC), and shares the space with Health Services for efficiency and close collaboration. Our ultimate goal is to render the best services to our students and the University community with our driven and passionate team of experts and professionals. We offer individual and group counseling, crisis management, outreach, psycho-education, advocacy and offer general gift of presence to our students. Our operation is short term in nature, so sometimes referring appropriate cases to the community resources better equipped and structured to handle codified diagnosis that requires a more frequent and elaborate treatment plan to fit the urgency of the situation, while we still give supportive follow up services. We also serve as a resource for consultations for the campus community on issues of mental health. Counseling services retains the services of our two therapy dogs (Winston & Aiden) and engage them in many anxiety, adjustment and home-missing relieving programs like “Drop-in doggy support, Paws to distress, etc.” that impact students’ lives positively.
Counseling & Wellness Continued

The 2018/19 year has been generally successful: greater number of students were seen in individual Counseling, the Group Counseling sessions experienced the height of attendance that extra sessions were created, the wait period significantly reduced, many clinical crisis cases were professionally handled and some cases transported to Winona Health for better and more holistic attention. All these were made possible by the passionate commitments of our outstanding clinicians and professionals Debbie, Lynda, Eunie, Mick, Kateri and our newest member Jamie Sanders who seamlessly fit into the team without qualms. We are grateful to other members of student life division and indeed the entire University community for all their support and collaborations. Let’s keep it going, together we are unstoppable.

DEAN OF STUDENTS

By: Dr. Karen Johnson

The Dean of Students Office continues to advocate for students who are experiencing difficulties and “life events” that interfere with academic progress. We have been assisting students who are sick, hospitalized, injured, grieving, and for many other reasons, not performing academically to their optimal levels. We also work closely with parents and other support people to ensure that students know they have people to assist them.

Our Behavioral Assessment and Intervention Team (BAIT) continues to be an integral warning system which also provides immediate intervention/attention for students in crisis. This team is a valuable resource for faculty and staff (and even students) who express concerns about students. BAIT met 30 times this year.

In order to facilitate communication between WSU and parents, our Parents & Family Facebook page is active! This page currently has 1,282 followers.

Student and Community Engagement serves as a link between Winona State and the city in which we’re located. Students, faculty and staff are involved in improving our world through community service, partnerships, activities and events in and around Winona and the surrounding communities.

During the 2018-19 academic year, processes to gather data on engagement activities were further institutionalized—course designators for Service Learning & Community Engaged classes have been added to the WSU Catalog, and the new Co-Curricular Transcript has been developed as a means for students to track their engagement activities outside of the classroom. Curriculum grants were awarded to encourage faculty to develop community engaged components in their classes, and engaged students, faculty and community partners were recognized with President’s Engagement Awards.

Student Conduct and Citizenship addresses all potential student conduct violations occurring both on and off campus. In some situations, Housing & Residence Life will refer conduct cases to this office. WSU’s program utilizes an educational, rather than punitive, approach which is very effective given the small number of students who return for second violations. The Director of Student Conduct & Citizenship managed a total of 1154 cases in the 2018-19 year.
HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES

By: Connie Kamara

Winona State University’s Health & Wellness Services, located in the Integrated Wellness Complex, provides physical and mental health care to students. The services and programs offered ensure that students are in optimal health, pursuing lifelong wellness, enables their academic success and lays a foundation for positive societal impact. Medical services are provided by a physician, nurse practitioners, a registered nurse, a lab director and licensed practical nurses. In addition, our Health & Wellness Programming offers many educational events, presentations and peer-to-peer interactions through a variety of outreach programs.

Specific highlights from this past academic year (2018-2019) include: three free STI testing clinic days that had an overwhelming response with many students sending roommates and friends after getting tested themselves. We also were able to provide numerous CPR/BLS/First Aid courses with nearly 100 students certified. In addition, an interactive campus health data gallery event was developed and presented. This data is available and has been used by many across campus whom work to address issues of well-being.

Students can engage with Health & Wellness Services by joining our peer education group, the Health & Wellness Advocates, and they can receive general self-care tips by calling our Ask-A-Nurse line at 457-2292. They can also make an appointment by calling 457-5160.

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

By: Paula Scheevel

Housing & Residence Life provides a welcoming, inclusive, safe and engaging community experience for the WSU community of learners improving our world. The HRL department has diverse areas of responsibility. Housing administration has responsibility for housing agreement management, room assignments, department marketing including tour management, budget, facilities and dining services contract administration. Residence Life includes over sight of all residential living environments, learning communities, student support, staff supervision, programming of activities and educational opportunities. While our Camps & Conferences area hosts internal and external groups and individuals as they spend time with us on campus for single day or evening events as well as overnight experiences.

In 2018-2019 we had the opportunity to complete our transition to a new department organizational model. The retirement last year of our long-time office manager (33 years) necessitated an updated staffing plan. As the technology requirements to manage the entire HRL department have increased, we have transitioned from an office manager position (MMA) to an Assistant Director (ASF) position. We have appointed an interim Assistant Director and will conduct a full search process next year. We opened the year with our first ever Playfair event.
All students on campus during welcome week were invited to participate in this interactive icebreaker event designed to help our students meet their new community. It was so well received that we will continue the event next year moving it to our opening day. In our residence halls and apartments, we offered more event opportunities at expanded late night hours for students to connect than ever before. The same was true of our events hosted through Camps & Conferences.

As the 2019-2020 academic year fast approaches, we look forward to several initiatives that have been in the planning phase for long time. To start, we are planning for a Welcome Week unlike any other as we are actively recruiting faculty and staff to partner with our students to welcome our new students to campus. The time has come to expand our successful learning communities on West Campus to main campus. The Residential Learning Communities will include a variety of topics of interest to most residence hall students. The interest has been very positive, and we look forward to an exciting implementation in the fall. Along with our new communities we have shifted residential populations. Sheehan Hall will be co-ed after 50 years as a female hall. We are also excited to host a Gender Inclusive community that has received tremendous interest from new, transfer and returning students. We appreciate the collaboration of all our campus partners as we all strive to support our student’s success.

The Inclusion & Diversity Office (IDO) is committed to cultural diversity and support by building an inclusive community through co-curricular education, community outreach, acceptance, and respect of issues related to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, age, beliefs, ability levels, economic status, sexual identity, gender identity and religion. Our programs and initiatives focus to enhance the recruitment, retention and success of historically marginalized populations. To achieve our goals, we create purposeful campus partnerships and leverage those relationships to address complex social issues through collective impact.

2018-19 was a great year for us. We learned from listening to our students that they wanted more conference opportunities. Following that conversation, we created a process were students can apply for funds and were able to help assist students from Full Spectrum and the Asian American Club attend conferences. With our team serving as liaisons to all five colleges, we feel confident that we have the structures in place to continue creating new relationship and enhancing existing ones. One example would be the joint effort between the IDO and the College of Business to bring the Tazel Institute to campus. The Tazel Institute works to expose African American male students to different business industries. During the visit last fall, all Tazel Institute students applied to WSU. We have also concentrated efforts on new community relationships, such as the Winona Senior High School and Miller Mentoring. Never hesitate to reach out to the IDO as our team is always seeking new partnerships and ideas that lead to a more inclusive and welcoming campus.
INTEGRATIVE WELLNESS

By: Kate Noelke, Jeff Reinardy & Mark Bambenek

Integrative Wellness is a collaboration between the Departments of Integrated Wellness, Intramurals and Fitness & Wellness. We run and maintain the IWC and all related initiatives both on and off campus; provide fitness and strength coaching; oversee and administer all recreational sports including intramurals and sports-related student clubs; and plan, implement and evaluate cross-campus and cross-community health promotion and activities and initiatives aimed at strengthening our culture of wellness and student success. We collaborate extensively with academic departments, WSU Athletics, Health & Wellness Services, Counseling & Wellness, many different student clubs and organizations, and many community-based organizations.

2018-19 was a year of success for ongoing programs, our first year as a JED Campus and a well-attended and impactful Resilience Annual Theme Year. An average of around 2,000 individuals scanned into the IWC Strength and Fitness Center every day this year for strength and fitness training and intramural and sports club play. Over 6,000 separate WSU community members scanned in this year. If you’ve got a great idea for improving the health, fitness and well-being of the Winona State University community, Kate, Mark and Jeff are ready and willing to work with you in partnership to create a well Winona State University.

TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

By: Nhia Yang

It has been an awesome year for TRIO Student Support Services! This academic year (fall ‘18 and spring ’19), TRIO SSS is happy to announce that we served 261 students and have 70 students graduating. We are extremely proud of their achievements and wish them luck on their future endeavors.

Our TRIO program provides required financial literacy education in a variety of ways through a learning community. This year, we collaborated with Ambrosia Harkins, a TRIO alum and Wells Fargo personal banker who sponsored a Lunch and Learn information session, presented information about the tuitionfundingources.com website, and conducted a credit workshop. Due to positive feedback and participation, we will continue to explore ways we can collaborate with Wells Fargo for the benefit of TRIO students.

Tutoring is one of the required services that all TRIO SSS programs provide and we have done an amazing job of coupling the TRIO tutoring program with the general tutoring offerings. We train all new tutors together, so now all tutors can serve all TRIO students. This semester we hired 5 tutors on the request of TRIO students who needed assistance in specific courses.

The TRIO Student Leadership program combines leadership skills training with community service projects designed to provide students with opportunities to share and apply what they learn. Students were challenged to set goals, develop timelines, and network within WSU and the Winona community during the Habitat for Humanity work day and the Students-Helping-Students Project. During the 2018-19 academic year, 64 students participated in leadership programming.
Tutoring Services offers two main types of academic assistance, tutoring and Supplement to Instruction (s2i). In addition to providing approximately 1,600 students over 18,000 hours of academic assistance each year, the program offers sixty students an academically related source of income through positions as peer tutors and s2i leaders. Tutors offer drop-in and one-on-one tutoring for over 100 courses. S2i leaders are assigned to historically difficult courses; they attend the course again and plan and facilitate study sessions focused on utilizing collaborative, active learning strategies to increase student success in the course.

A mini-grant from the system office provided funding this semester to focus on student success in math courses. One aspect of this grant was a pilot of Tutors Linked to Classes (TLC) which involves tutors regularly visiting courses to increase visibility of tutoring and student comfort with the tutors. The Tutor Match program was also expanded. Matched students have on-going tutoring appointments and are frequently contacted as a form of accountability.

Tutor.com is the new vendor for online tutoring selected by the Minnesota State System. Each WSU student has free 24/7 access to 15 hours of professional online tutoring annually which they can access through D2L.

Testing Services proctors exams for WSU students who need to take make-up and other exams, online and distance learners, and community members requiring proctoring for professional development/certification exams. Proctoring is available five days a week, including summers, and over 520 individuals used Testing Services this year.

STUDENT UNION

By: Joe Reed

Kryzsko Commons is a multi-functional building that provides an environment for students to learn, socialize, and develop outside of the classroom; yet concurrently provides a location that suits the diverse needs of the WSU campus and the Winona community. We affectionately call Kryzsko the “heart” of the campus. This past year has seen numerous additions, renovations, and improvements spread throughout the building, even some you can’t see. For example, over the winter break we installed a state-of-the art, German engineered, commercial dishwasher down in Zane’s. Exciting, right? We also improved the signage around the building; added the partition in the East Room; replaced fluorescent lighting with LEDs; and converted the old north entrance to a sustainable, user friendly entryway, just to name a few.

With regard to Student Activities, it was another banner year for Family Weekend and Homecoming, with great turnouts and participation for both events. Student Senate and UPAC continue to make their presence known on campus by keeping our students’ interests and concerns ever-present by supporting & providing initiatives and programming. Another example of student success was our Warriors Lead Series & Summit events. We had hundreds of our student leaders participate in these programs, which tells me our future is looking bright. Numerous clubs, (i.e., our Greeks, Relay For Life & Sports Club Teams) support fundraising events and provide community service projects that enrich Winona and the surrounding area. We have a lot to be proud about, as do our students. And finally, it’s been real, it’s been fun, it’s been real fun! I’m going to miss this place, but I’m really going to miss working with you all. Take care!

In case you didn't know, Joe Reed will be retiring July 9th, after 30 years of dedicated service to Winona State University. We wish him well in his retirement!
WARRIOR HUB

By: Lori Beseler, Mari Livingston, Tania Schmidt, Paul Stern

The Warrior Hub is an integrated enrollment area that offers services regarding records and registration management, transcripts, financial aid and student account services, curriculum management, commencement and degree conferral, catalog and so much more. Our charge is to provide students, families, and WSU community members with an experience that educates and empowers them to seamlessly complete their university business processes and to facilitate putting their energy back into the academic and social space of education.

The Warrior Hub has continued to innovate over the 2018-2019 year with a focus on aligning our individual professional goals, our work group goals, our Hub goals and university goals in a manner that maximizes the impact of our efforts. Examples of initiatives we have worked on in the last year include:

Online forms through Warrior Space, Financial Literacy and Cash Course, meeting student financial needs (new grant/scholarship), re-build of Financial Aid, Warrior Hub and Registrar websites, participants in team launch of university wide Campus Nexus CRM initiative which will increase our ability to work with student information across the full university life cycle, transforming Grad Finale to an innovative Graduation Celebration, online transcript service through partnership with the National Student Clearinghouse, and continued work with our collaborative implementation CAS review across our area.

It has truly been a productive year of growth and innovation at the Warrior Hub. We are more effective when we work together and are focusing on increased intention on shared growth and support will continue to be focus for the Hub as we grow into the 2019-2020 academic year.

WARRIOR SUCCESS CENTER

By: Ron Strege

The Warrior Success Center is made up of five units. Tutoring, Advising, Testing, Career Services and Access Services. Together we provide the WSU student with guidance from registration as a first-year student all the way through and post graduation. I am honored to work with such a committed group of people that put students first.

Each unit did their own newsletter blurb, so I will write a bit about academic advising.

At Advising Services, student success is what we do. Students can take advantage of a variety of academic support services tailored to their individual needs. Faculty and staff can also partner with us to support students in their degree programs and classrooms.

We primarily meet with students who are deciding on a major, but our office is open to any and all students that want advice or need questions answered. In fall semester our advisors met with 1,049 students. The majority of these appointments were for academic advising, but we also met with students for other reasons like academic status, ED115, and PSEO advising to name a few.

We are heavily involved with student success. You will find us coordinating Welcome Week, teaching OR 100, helping first generation students navigate college, helping transfer students acclimate to WSU, reaching out to students with EIPs, etc. Our Advisors and staff are there for our students and making a difference in their lives.
Important Dates

- June Registration (June 17th - June 21st)
- Welcome Week (August 19th - 23rd)
- Move in Day (August 20th - 22nd)
- First Day of Classes (August 26th)
- Family Weekend (September 20)
- Homecoming (October 11th & 12th)
- Spring 2020 Registration (November 4th)
- Winter Break (December 13th - January 12th)

"Possibilities are endless when powered by meaningful connections."
- VP McDowell