

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

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire



We acknowledge that UW-Eau Claire occupies the
sacred and ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples.
We honor the land of the Ojibwe and Dakota Nations.



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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?

Dr. Catherine Chan

Executive Director, Office
of Research and
Sponsored Programs



Dr. Jonathan Rylander

Assistant Professor of
English and Director, Center
for Writing Excellence



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

- 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

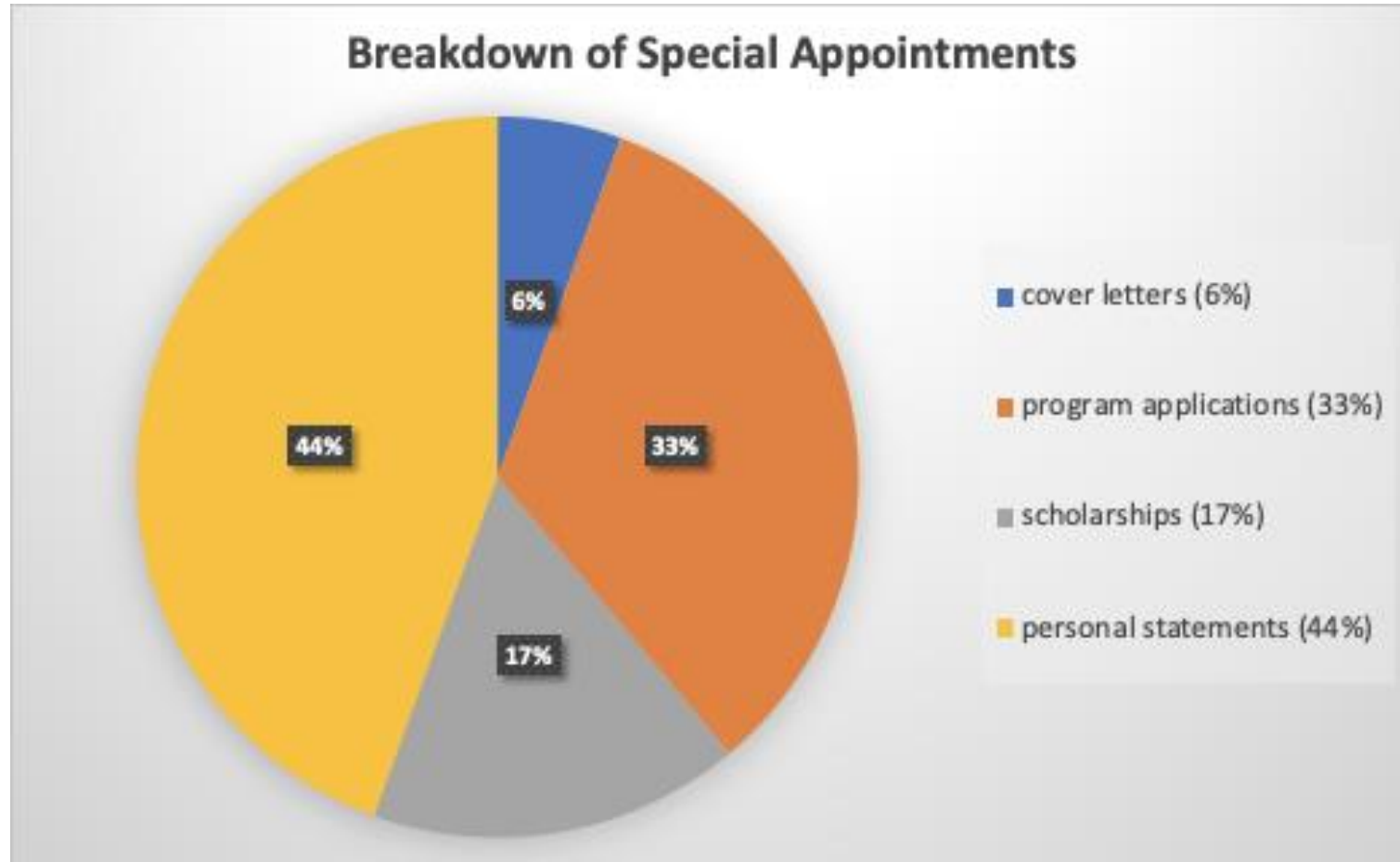
CWE & ORSP Collaboration

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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