



University of Wisconsin  
**Whitewater**

# CONNECTIONS: The Wisconsin Idea

Stories and News from The School  
of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education

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**University of  
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## Inspiring Young Writers Through Poetry, Screenplays, Song Lyrics and More

The 39th annual Creative Writing Festival will bring together high school students, faculty and writing professionals.



Hundreds of high school-age writers will travel to the UW-Whitewater campus to attend workshops, keynote speeches and competitions in a wide range of topics. Led by co-directors Nicholas Gulig and Barrett Swanson, both associate professors in the [Department of Literature, Writing, and Film](#), this year's [Creative Writing Festival](#) is designed to connect students with each other in a college setting and to have the opportunity for their work to be critiqued by professionals in the field. This year, the festival has partnered with other groups on campus to host Erik Larson as the keynote speaker. Larson is a New York Times bestselling author, with works currently being planned for production on the big screen.

[Continuing Education Services](#) (CES) has hosted the Festival for nearly all of its 39 years. "The CES team works hard to make meaningful opportunities for young people on our campus," says Morgan Anderson, director of CES. "Most people know of us through summer camps, but we work year-round to engage with youth in fun, skill-building events. The Creative Writing Festival is a great example of that!"

Please join us in welcoming nearly 200 students from 13 districts to campus on Thursday, November 30.





## Early Childhood Education Students Connect with Educational and Professional Opportunities

Young children's future success depends on the educators dedicated to their care and learning.

The [Wisconsin Early Childhood Education Association](#) (WECA) recently held its annual conference, a key training and professional development opportunity for pre- and in-service early childhood educators. Faculty, students and alumni of UW-Whitewater's [Early Childhood Education bachelor's program](#), including the campus ECE4U cohorts, Early Child Care and Education bachelor's program and [Early Childhood Education Policy master's program](#), attended the conference in-person and virtually. WECA provided funds so that several UWW students could attend cost-free. "I have always wanted to attend, but it was only with WECA's generous scholarship that I was able to," says Christine Grams, a student in the ECE4U online bachelor's program. "I met such wonderful early childhood professionals, networked with others who had a vast wealth of experiences, and attended multiple workshops where I learned about programs and methods I didn't even know existed." Thank you to WECA for supporting early childhood educators at all stages of their careers and helping to develop high-quality practitioners for our state's youngest learners.

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## Take Advantage of the Long Winter Nights with a Short Online Session

Registration for Winterim classes is now open.

Did you know that students who take special session courses are 21% more likely to graduate in four years? Encourage students in your life to consider a UW-Whitewater [Winterim](#) class. The session runs from January 2 to 19 with dozens of classes, all online. Winterim session is not just for UWW students – anyone enrolled in college can take a course and transfer the credits back to their institution. From Cross Cultural Communication to Principles of Marketing to American Indian Literature, there's a course to keep students on track and graduate on time.





## Industry Partners and Research Administrators Gather to Collaborate on Research Advancement

On October 23-24, the [Office of Research and Sponsored Programs](#) hosted the third annual [Wisconsin Research Advancement Network Symposium](#) (WiRAN) in the Wisconsin Dells. Research administrators from the Universities of Wisconsin campuses, the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Department of Public Instruction along with industry partners, gathered to network with each other and learn more about a wide range of topics. Sessions included university-business partnerships, intellectual property, and state and federal funding. The mission of the Symposium is to connect all research stakeholders from agencies across Wisconsin to opportunities for collaboration and economic development.

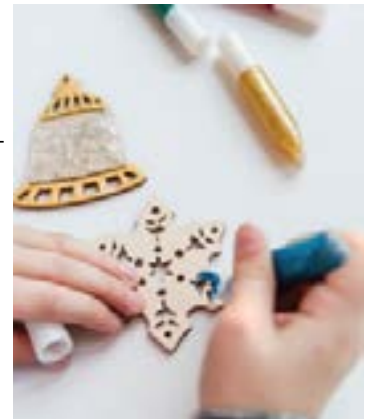
## News and Upcoming Events:

It's beginning to look a lot like a Winter Wonderland! Join us for a [DIY Holiday Gift Workshop](#) on Saturday, December 9th at the Rock County campus in Janesville. Participants in grades 1 – 8 will work with paint, glass and other mediums to create and wrap gifts to bring home for the holidays. Registration now open.



Now offering FREE technology services for eligible individuals! [Intergenerational Technology Services](#) (IGeTS) provides one-on-one technology support, technology training classes and telehealth visit support at their offices in the Community Engagement Center. Learn more about their services and who is eligible [here](#) and be sure to give them a "like" on [Facebook](#).

The [Partners in Education program](#) (PIE) is now offering Personal Finance 101 to high school students for college credit. A required course for many districts, this fully online course is a win-win for many students – fulfilling a graduation requirement while earning college credit at a discounted rate and learning a valuable life skill in a college environment.



Did you know Continuing Education offers [domestic travel study courses](#) for students? Coming up this summer are trips chasing extreme weather and exploring climate change in the National Parks. Learn more about these experiential learning opportunities [here](#).

Are you thinking of a career advancement or change? Continuing Education offers [advanced career training programs](#) that lead to professional positions in high demand fields like [medical billing and coding](#), [veterinary assistant](#), and [HVAC/R technician](#). Looking for individual classes? We have those too. Hundreds of flexible, affordable [online classes](#) with start dates each month, with titles like [Project Management Fundamentals](#), [Discover Sign Language](#), and [Genealogy Basics](#) will help you meet your career, educational, and lifelong learning goals.