Division of Student Life
2015–2016 Report
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It’s hard to believe that this fall’s group of new students will make up the Class of 2020!

This summer I’ve had the opportunity to talk with nearly all of them at the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) sessions. I’ve also shared a message with their parents. SOAR is the campuswide program, coordinated by the Division of Student Life’s Center for the First-Year Experience, which officially introduces students to their Wisconsin Experience.

Why take the time to talk to students before they move in or take their first class?

Reflecting on the past year, we believe that we need to do a better job upfront of setting expectations and outlining the responsibilities that come with joining a new community — the University of Wisconsin–Madison community.

For many of our students, this is the very first time they will be held accountable for their own decisions, both in and outside the classroom and the first time they will interact and learn from someone who has a different religion, skin color, or set of values. Their choices on how to handle campus-life situations will either carry them forward or offer a learning opportunity.

Our division is the one constant in a student’s university life from their arrival until they graduate. We are here to celebrate achievements and to listen and support in trying times. Our doors and hearts are always open.

As I close each SOAR session, I ask our incoming students if they are ready. I encourage them to be open to the people they’ll meet and the experiences they’ll have here. I challenge them to think about their values and what they stand for as individuals.

When I was a new student, a dean’s words left a lasting impression: “What you are to be, you are now becoming,” a quote from Carl Rogers. I try to pay that forward and ask students to think about who they want to be.

I am optimistic about what I’ve seen so far and for the future of our campus community.

On, Wisconsin!
Lori M. Berquam, Vice Provost for Student Life and Dean of Students

Lori Berquam, vice provost for student life and dean of students, makes closing remarks based on the theme “are you ready?” while speaking to incoming first-year undergraduates during a Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) session in a Sterling Hall.
2015–2016 By The Numbers

**$28,000** to student organizations through the **WI EXP GRANTS**

**800** student voters registered by ASM

**$6,000** in scholarships granted by LGBT CC

**56** students served at new food pantry

CFYE Welcomed **7,600** NEW STUDENTS with **219** WISCONSIN WELCOME EVENTS

**224** students bringing MENTAL HEALTH concerns (spring ’16)

**17** powerful performances at Trans Monologues

**70** Social Justice WORKSHOPS GIVEN by the staff at MSC

**67** educational trainings delivered by LGBT CC staff

ASM  Associated Students of Madison  
CfLI  Center for Leadership and Involvement  
CFYE  Center for The First-Year Experience  
LGBT CC  Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Campus Center  
ISS  International Student Services  
MSC  Multicultural Student Center
1,600 students served by McBurney Disability Resource Center

95 students earned Leadership Certificates, a 40% increase

260 more students served (1,457) this year thanks to new McBurney’s online application

18,762 in-person student contacts at ISS

1,001 registered student organizations

31 LGBT programs given community building awareness identity development

178 hours of media captioned for online and classroom use

A record 17,000 students attended the fall and spring student org fairs by CfLI

35 students were helped with CRISIS LOANS (spring ’16)
When it comes down to it, the campus is like a city within a city. And in Wisconsin, it ranks among the top 15 cities by population.

While the Division of Student Life and its nine departments provide support and programming for the 43,000-plus student body, it would not be possible to do the work without incredible campuswide partnerships — from other student affairs-like divisions and departments, to our faculty, staff, and students.

Our departments and programs include: Associated Students of Madison; Center for the First-Year Experience; Center for Leadership & Involvement; Dean of Students Office; International Student Services; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Campus Center; McBurney Disability Resource Center; Multicultural Student Center; the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, and the Veteran-Student Military Assistance Center.

Here’s a look at a few of the key issues and initiatives from 2015–2016 and the partners that helped make them possible.

**Addressing sexual violence**

In September 2015, the Association of American Universities (AAU) released a survey done about Campus Climate on Sexual Assault and Misconduct. More than 22 percent of UW–Madison students participated via email. Fewer than half of AAU’s members chose to take part — UW–Madison is one of 26 that did. We take this issue seriously and have worked hard to eliminate it.

The survey confirmed that sexual violence is a serious problem at UW–Madison and on campuses nationwide, affecting students of all genders and sexual orientations.

- Undergraduate women are most likely to report having been victimized.
- 27.6 percent of female undergraduates reported experiencing sexual assault.
- Alcohol is a common factor in sexual assault, which includes penetration or sexual touching by force or incapacitation.
- 76.1 percent of women who reported penetration by force said that the offender had been drinking alcohol.
In our prevention efforts, we all have a responsibility to be part of the solution. In the past few years, we have developed programs to educate about sexual violence, to increase support for survivors, to add resources and clarity to the structure around how to report and the investigatory and adjudication processes, and have continued to address the use of alcohol.

Our partners are all-in as well: University Health Services, University Police, University Housing, campus leadership, faculty and staff, the new Office of Compliance and Title IX coordinator, and others.

Acknowledging, Working to Change Campus Climate

This year brought about much tension related to racial climate in the U.S., on college campuses, and at UW–Madison.

Students of color faced challenges as numerous national tragedies caused pain, anxiety, and fear. Students also voiced challenges they faced on campus, and UW–Madison responded with spaces to listen and plans to take action. The Hate and Bias Response Team, housed in the Division of Student Life, put more efforts into marketing the reporting system. Moreover, there were increases in reports of bias — not only in regard to race, but sexual orientation and religion as well.

Through the challenges of responding to campus climate, the campus was able to provide ongoing support to historically marginalized racial groups. The Multicultural Student Center created new support groups, programs, and efforts to ensure students were served.

While we have great partners engaged in creating changes in campus climate — particularly the campus administration and the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Educational Achievement — our students have been the real leaders in bringing issues forward. Whether it’s protest, sharing ideas, or presenting before the Board of Regents, students have made a difference.

We’ve listened and addressed many needs: more mental health professionals to help students who have been impacted by local and national events; working to create spaces for cultural centers; and creating an in-person inclusion workshop that will provide students with an understanding about culture, identity, and difference, as well as the skills and commitment to create a community that is inclusive for all people.

We remain committed to making UW–Madison a place where all students can live The Wisconsin Experience.
Improving the Student Veteran Experience at UW–Madison

The Veteran Services and Military Assistance Center (VSMAC) was established in May 2014 as a joint operation between the Office of the Registrar and the Division of Student Life. VSMAC assists U.S. military veterans, current service members, and their dependents regarding benefits, enrollment, and other activities pursuant to higher education. VSMAC proactively engages incoming student veterans, service members, and military dependents to alleviate any additional burdens associated with their military service, foster a supportive environment, and assist in transitioning to gainful employment upon graduation.

VSMAC ensures federal and state compliance concerning benefits and military service. It works to eliminate/neutralize institutionalized and personal bias toward U.S. military service members and veterans. The two staff members educate and advise student-veterans about benefits, educate faculty/staff/students about veteran and military service issues, and serve as a conduit for employers seeking to hire veterans graduating from UW–Madison.

Highlights this year include:

- More than 650 students had one or more federal and state benefits administered by VSMAC during the 2015–16 school year, totaling more than $11 million.
- Two Veteran Networking Receptions were held, with more than 35 employers attending each one, specifically looking to hire UW–Madison veterans.
- Two resume and interview workshops were held with students and local employers. Corporate sponsorships totaling more than $4,000 were secured.

Students do some hands-on work as they learn about Concordia Gardens in Milwaukee, as part of the Wisconsin Experience Bus Trip. The community garden, urban orchard, production farm, and composting site are situated on 1.5 acres of land. This space has been transformed over the past few years and serves as our tangible vision for the future of our food system.
The Open Seat
Food Pantry for UW Students
Associated Students of Madison (ASM)

Professional staff members offer support and expertise for the official body of student government — the Associated Students of Madison.

Our students are extremely active and work tirelessly to advocate for improvements to the student life and educational experiences on campus. They work to provide funding for student organizations, encourage other students to get involved in campus issues and make a difference, and run the Student Activity Center (SAC) that is designed as a place to support the work of student organizations.

Highlights this year include:

- After months of planning, The Open Seat, a food pantry that aims to alleviate the stresses of food insecurity by providing friendly and accessible sources of food for the students at UW–Madison, opened its doors. Since early February, The Open Seat has served 56 individuals during 100 separate visits. Faculty, staff, and students have been supportive of the pantry providing many items for donation. Donations can be placed in bins labeled for ‘The Open Seat’ at any time, or brought to the ASM office, 4th floor of 333 E. Campus Mall from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

- ASM students registered more than 800 students to vote in the spring elections. Partnering with campus departments, student organizations, and community groups, efforts will continue this fall to make sure that every student knows how to get the required forms of ID to vote in the November elections.

- ASM students were at the forefront of new programming that responds to issues of campus climate, including approving funds for new staff at University Health Services (UHS) who will focus on mental health and sexual assault prevention. ASM students have also been involved from the beginning stages of inclusivity training for all of our new students and evaluating proposals for ideas that can improve campus climate.

Last year, The Open Seat has served 56 individuals during 100 separate visits requested by email.
McBurney Disability Resource Center

The center is built around four core program components: classroom accommodations, adaptive technology services, strategic learning services, and transition services.

About 1,600 undergraduate, graduate and professional school students are registered with the center with the majority of our students having non-apparent disabilities such as mental health, learning, or chronic medical disorders.

Highlights this year include:

- Experienced the highest attendance ever for The McBurney Orientation and Services Training (MOST) for incoming freshmen with disabilities — nearly doubling the number of students connected over the last three years, from 35 in 2012–13 to 68 students in 2015–16.
- In 2015–16, Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD), Associated Students of Madison (ASM), and McBurney collaborated to provide full accessibility to WUD’s Distinguished Lecture Series for all Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) attendees by offering sign language interpretation and CART services for each lecture.
- We launched the UW–Madison chapter of the Eye-to-Eye Program that pairs middle school students with disabilities with UW–Madison students who have Learning Disabilities or ADHD, who serve as mentors and role models.
- In collaboration with the Office of Legal Affairs, we now have an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) Disability Accommodation Form. The form allows clinicians to provide us with specific information so that we can make an appropriate and well-informed recommendations to University Housing.
- Peer education on disability issues, identity, and inclusive practices continues to be offered through the McBurney Speaker’s Bureau. The bureau is comprised of students whose lives have been affected by disability. More students have been willing to share their stories, which provides an important window into the daily life experiences of a college student with a disability.
Center for The First-Year Experience (CFYE)

The more we work together, the better we can prepare our students and make sure they have the services they need.

CFYE has primary responsibility for the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration Program (SOAR), which involves many campus departments.

More than 60 campus units are involved in SOAR. They are on hand to provide in-person overviews of important topics, advise students on their academic plans, answer questions, and talk with students and their families separately and together. What is shared is a critical step for students to get started on the right foot.

This year collaborations were especially important for the Center for the First-Year Experience (CFYE). We worked hard to reposition one of the largest all-campus events and started some new initiatives. Special emphasis was placed on safety, campus climate, learning opportunities, and what it is like to join a new community. Divisional administration closed each SOAR session and set expectations for students.

SOAR also provides an opportunity for students to talk in small groups and ask questions of new student leaders about what it’s like on campus or things that might be on their minds.

For the first time, CFYE added a reception for students of color after each session, partnering with the Multicultural Student Center. All families, of course, were welcome to the reception.

While SOAR is a signature activity of CFYE, the work continues with Wisconsin Welcome and the coordination of first-year seminars and the Chancellor’s Convocation.

Highlights this year include:

- Gathered First-Year Seminar coordinators from across campus for the first time to share information, discuss best practices, and create benchmarking strategies.
- Created Transfer Involvement 101, a new initiative, which extends the orientation program for new transfer students.
- Launched the Transfer Transitions Facebook page, and office Snapchat account.
- Successful on-boarding four new professional staff members.

"There is no feeling more rewarding than watching new students who were nervous and apprehensive when starting UW–Madison become confident, motivated, and passionate about their university and their future."

Beth Paradisin, former Transfer Ambassador and Transfer Intern

The Chancellor’s Convocation, held in the Kohl Center each fall, formally welcomes new students to campus.
The Center for Leadership & Involvement (CfLI) recently completed a year-long process to identify departmental strategic priorities for the next three-to-five years. Those priorities include making resources and services more accessible and inclusive. Over the past year, CfLI has developed increasingly stronger partnerships with the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Campus Center (LGBT CC) in its support of all students.

Highlights this year include:

- There is truly something for everyone, as CfLI registered a record 1,001 student organizations during the year.
- Was able to provide nearly $28,000 in grants to student organizations through the Wisconsin Experience Grant application process.
- A record number of more than 17,000 students attended the fall and spring student organization fairs this year, a 13 percent increase from the previous year.
- The Leadership Certificate saw a 40 percent increase in recipients in the first year of the certificate being directly tied to the UW–Madison Leadership Framework. A total of 97 students earned certificates in 2015–2016. That's at least 10,000 hours of volunteer work.
- UW–Madison Leadership Framework continues finding roots across campus. Specifically, the framework is being comprehensively applied in the School of Human Ecology (SoHE) and in the Athletic Department, including curriculum revisions, programming, and staff development.
- After receiving approval from Greek Life students, an additional staff member was hired to bolster support for helping Greek Life improve the community.

The upper and lower concourses of the Kohl Center quickly became packed with students who attended the first of a two-day Fall Student Organization Fair. Sponsored by the Center for Leadership & Involvement (CfLI), the fair is an opportunity for students to learn about special-interest groups, activities, and services offered by student organizations on campus.
Dean of Students Office

Support and assistance for students who are going through a tough time or find themselves in a crisis situation describes the primary work of the Dean of Students Office. Students’ success, in and out of the classroom, is at the forefront.

Essentially, we are the office that is “in the student’s corner” to help them when life isn’t going so well and also serve as the one constant point of contact for the students during their time on campus.

In January, the Dean of Students Office became two distinct offices – The Dean of Students Office and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (read more about it on page 11). This change allows for more concentrated focus in areas of assistance and conduct.

With student success as our goal, we support students as they work to navigate the university and their young adult lives. We work with staff and faculty on anything from classroom management, to their concerns about a student whose grades have fallen. We work with parents and the Parent Program on ways they can assist and support their students.

Through our partnerships with other campus departments, we seamlessly facilitate connections and generate solutions.

With the new departmental structure, we are gathering more data to make sure our efforts are meeting our students’ needs.

“Without the Dean of Students Office, I would have begun my college career feeling vulnerable and victimized, leading to a harmful outcome. In times of personal turmoil, I would have lacked essential support and guidance, with detrimental results.”

UW–Madison student

Highlights:

- Looking at the academic calendar, we proactively worked with faculty and staff to address concerns about students in a way that would lessen the impact on the overall student’s success.
- During the spring semester, we provided assistance and support in the following ways: 2,013 calls; responded to 302 emails; engaged in 64 instant chats; handled 159 walk-in and 356 scheduled appointments. Our front desk students answered 289 questions. Many of these first points of contact result in follow-up visits, referrals, or ongoing conversations.
- Began categorizing the dimensions of assistance and found that 325 contacts were about academic issues, 439 were about personal issues, 224 involved mental health concerns, and 555 were seeking consultation.

“Students and pedestrians walk past a banner featuring a slogan from the “All Ways Forward” campaign on display near Bascom Hall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the first day of Fall-semester classes.”

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Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) was created during a restructuring of the Dean of Students Office. The move allows for more concentrated focus on conduct. The assistance side continues under the name of The Dean of Students Office (read more about it on page 10).

With the September release of the Association of American Universities report, a Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct, much needed attention was placed on topics of sexual violence, an ongoing and critical issue for campuses across the nation.

The report confirmed that one in four students would experience sexual violence during their time on campus. The report also provided information to inform policies in this area. OSCCS is now able to focus on the adjudication of cases that come, and the campus Title IX coordinator handles the investigation piece.

Strong partnerships with University Police and the Office of Legal Affairs make it possible to strengthen the response to conduct aspects of sexual violence cases. Also, partnerships with University Health Services and the Dean of Students Office ensure that survivors have access to and receive the support they need.

web: students.wisc.edu/student-conduct

Highlights:

- Upholds every student’s right to learn in a community that is safe and fosters integrity and accountability.
- Provides leadership in reducing high-risk student drinking.
- Partners with instructors to resolve academic misconduct incidents.
- OSCCS heard approximately 1,000 cases of non-academic misconduct and 128 cases of academic misconduct.
- The gender breakdown for non-academic misconduct cases is 31% female, and 69% male.
- The gender breakdown for academic misconduct cases is 56% female and 70% male.
International Student Services (ISS)

UW–Madison continues to rank in the top 25 of institutions in the country, both public and private, in hosting international students, according to most recent statistics gathered by the Institute of International Education.

International Student Services staff members provide information and programs to international students about the campus and community and offer support and assistance concerning visas and related immigration issues.

The opportunities and support services the department provides for international students have expanded. The number and variety of activities increased and a special emphasis was placed on career services and well-being. Capacity grew in BRIDGE, the popular international and domestic pairing program, to allow more students to participate. More walk-in advising and open office hours were added to increase accessibility for students.

Highlights this year include:

- A 110 percent increase in the number of educational and social programs offered.
- Expanded office hours and added more walk-in student advising, making it available five days per week.
- Met 18,762 in-person student contacts.
- Two new discussion groups formed to support international students and provide opportunities for community building: International Student Discussion Group in partnership with UHS, designed to support students’ mental health and adjustment, and WorldWide Rainbow, a discussion group for students who identify on the LGBTQ spectrum, in partnership with the LGBT Campus Center.

“We get to meet students from all over the world that have grown up in different cultures and with different perspectives than we have. American and international students are able to learn from each other and grow as people.”

Sara Meyer, student mentor in ISS’s Bridge Program

Friends celebrate Chunghwan Oh, from South Korea, who graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree of Arts and participated in UW–Madison’s winter commencement ceremony at the Kohl Center. The indoor graduation was attended by approximately 1,200 Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree candidates, plus their guests.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Campus Center (LGBT CC)

Partnering with more than 30 campus and community partners this year, the division’s smallest center actively made progress towards building LGBT+ equity across campus.

We continue to provide education, outreach, advocacy, and resources for UW–Madison student communities and their allies to improve campus climate and their daily intersectional experiences.

Requests for training by campus partners increased, and LGBT CC staff members delivered 67 educational trainings on various topics related to our work.

Progress continues to be made nationally on issues critical to the LGBT community, bringing additional need for awareness and education. On the other hand, incidents of bias and hate are still present.

Highlights this year include:

- This year, 31 LGBT programs were presented in the areas of community building, awareness, and identity development.
- For the first time, we hosted the Midwest Queer People of Color Conference at UW–Madison. More than 200 people attended.
- We were able to send 21 students to participate and develop leadership skills at the National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change, which was held in Chicago.
- Working together with University Health Services, the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) now covers gender reaffirming in addition to non-surgical therapy – hormone therapy and counseling as it relates to transition.
- National and local incidents of hate and bias increased the need for students support hours.
- Collaborating with the Wisconsin Union Directorate’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

UW–Madison undergraduate Haley Drozdowicz, at left, presents and asks Laverne Cox, actress and advocate, to sign an art nouveau poster based on Cox that Drozdowicz made for a drawing class assignment. Drozdowicz, who graduated this spring, went on to explain, “Instead of choosing a stock photo for a model, I chose Laverne Cox and decided to make it a piece about transformation and being beautiful in your own body.”

Cox spoke to a capacity crowd at Shannon Hall as part of the Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD) Distinguished Lecture Series. The event was co-hosted by the LGBT Campus Center.

Part of National LGBTQ History Month/ National Coming Out Week, the LGBT Campus Center flies the pride flag on Bascom Hill. The colors of the rainbow symbolize the diversity of the LGBT community. The Chancellor’s Convocation, held in the Kohl Center each fall, formally welcomes new students to campus.
Multicultural Student Center

Our Multicultural Student Center (MSC) was a tremendous source of response and support for students in a time of racial unrest on campuses and cities nationwide, while still offering increased trainings and expanded outreach.

MSC staff held many group sessions and one-on-one student meetings throughout the year. All students are welcome at the MSC, where we focus on justice and equity as a community.

Highlights this year include:

- MSC staff created and hosted more than 70 racial and social justice workshops.
- Hosted two new social justice institutes – the Social Justice Leadership Retreat for students and the Equity Justice Institute for faculty and staff. Expected learning outcomes included: reframing social justice as a relational leadership issue, articulating the dominant narrative of belonging, identifying examples of racial micro aggressions, increasing awareness about patterns of social injustice, and inspiring individual action to interrupt social injustice.
- Launched new student support groups and held 44 sessions for them. They include: Ubuntu for African American Students, Tu Voz for Chicanx/Latinx, and SIS-Sisters in Solidarity for women of color.
- Created a four-year strategic plan: msc.wisc.edu/strategic priorities.
- Successfully completed a racial campus climate study.

Hundreds of people, including UW–Madison students and community members, gather on Bascom Hill for a “Black Out March.” The event was intended to show solidarity and support for Afro-American students at the University of Missouri amid events and protests on the MU campus concerning racial issues.
Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
Your generosity helps us to build programs and support our students. Thank you!

Thank you to our 2015–2016 Financial Supporters

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A refined Wisconsin Experience

The Wisconsin Experience was articulated in 2007 to describe what students might expect, and then pursue, during their time at UW–Madison. From the beginning, The Wisconsin Experience has ties to the Wisconsin Idea, co-curricular activities and certain inquiry-based high impact practices. New this year, a revised and enhanced articulation of The Wisconsin Experience highlights four dimensions that emerge from our unique institutional values.

Four Dimensions of The Wisconsin Experience:

**Empathy and Humility**
- Develop and demonstrate a cultural understanding of self and others
- Engage locally, nationally, and globally in a respectful and civil manner
- Appreciate and celebrate one another’s abilities, views, and accomplishments

**Relentless Curiosity**
- Actively learn with expert teachers, scholars, and peers
- Engage in creative inquiry, scholarship, and research
- Develop resilience and foster courage in life and learning

**Intellectual Confidence**
- Develop competence, depth, and expertise in a field of study
- Integrate ideas and synthesize knowledge across multiple contexts
- Exercise critical thinking and effective communication

**Purposeful Action**
- Apply knowledge and skills to solve problems
- Engage in public service, partner with others, and contribute to community
- Lead for positive change

“The Wisconsin Experience is a college experience unlike any other. As a student at UW–Madison, I was prepared to be a leader in the world not only in academics but also in critical thinking and problem solving. I was encouraged to meet and discover a diversity of people and ideas, and that has broadened my perspective, both personally and professionally.”

Emily Mech, 2016 graduate and Leadership Certificate recipient

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