

Advising team makes their mark at WACADA conference

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Madison College advisors recently attended a [Wisconsin Academic Advising Association \(WACADA\)](#) conference, where several of our advisors presented and two received state-wide awards.

Madison College led the following sessions:

- Voices That Break Boundaries: Hmong American Students Transition in Higher Education – Presented by Academic Advisor Dr. Phillip Y...
- Early College STEM Academy: How to support underserved groups and increase representation in STEM fields – Presented by Early College Associate Manager Laz Enriquez and Early College Advisor Andrew Lam



Madison College employees at the WACADA conference

This was a great opportunity for our advisors to share their expertise with other advisors within the UW-System colleges and universities, private universities, and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

As part of the conference, two Madison College Advising Leaders were recognized with awards:

Outstanding Achievement Award

Academic Advising Director Dr. Kerry Froehlich-Mueller was named the 2023 WACADA Outstanding Achievement Award winner. This state-wide award recognizes outstanding achievement and longevity in advising. Nominees must have 10 years in the advising profession, show a record of excellence, and distinctive contribution to the institution.

One of her four nominators shared, "She is enthusiastic, energetic, has strong attention to detail, and is an excellent communicator. She is a leader in academic advising and higher education. I have not engaged with many leaders and advising directors and managers that have displayed unwavering and consistent leadership, passion, dedication, caring and committed approach to her staff and the college."

Another stated, "Kerry is always willing to listen to differing perspectives and propose a solution that ultimately enhances the situation. She is a strong



Dr. Kerry Froehlich-Mueller and Lazaro Enriquez

advocate for the advising team and the needs of the advisors as well as the needs of our students. She also articulates and champions the college's mission, vision, and values throughout the work that she does and in the messages she shares."

Advising Excellence Award

Early College STEM Academy Associate Manager Lazaro Enriquez received the Advising Excellence Award. This award recognizes advisors who demonstrate effective advising qualities and practices that distinguish them as an outstanding academic advisor.

His nominator noted, "Laz was the first advisor in our program and basically built it into the strong, successful program that is today. He did this with his passion to support students with their academic, career, and life paths. Laz's advisees regularly stop by his office to share good news with him – he always welcomes students with positive energy and is a good listener. Laz has regularly been awarded a Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society Golden Apple Award by his advisees – nearly every semester since he has been advising in our program. Laz also is invited to and regularly attends his advisee's extracurricular events, like a K-Pop dance performance at the college or a musical at their high school. This says a lot about his ability to build strong, caring relationships for his advisees."

Please join us in congratulating and celebrating Kerry, Laz, Andrew and Phil!