

**OFFICE OF THE
DEAN OF STUDENTS**

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

The Office of the Dean of Students strives to maximize each student's learning experience by creating a culture of care, fostering personal responsibility, and encouraging involvement as members of the campus and broader communities. At the core of this work is a clear guiding philosophy and message to all students at UW-Stevens Point: You Matter, Point Cares.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

After a difficult year, we remain committed to our work and our students.

The academic year of 2020-2021 was the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Much has been said about the disruption caused by the virus, and its impact on people—our students, faculty, and staff. As we reflect on the past year and try to share the impact of our work, it would be wrong to not again call attention to how incredibly difficult this past year has been.

This experience will be with us forever. For many, they are still trying to recover from the stress and trauma brought on by working to manage a pandemic and continuing to provide care, support, and learning opportunities for our students.

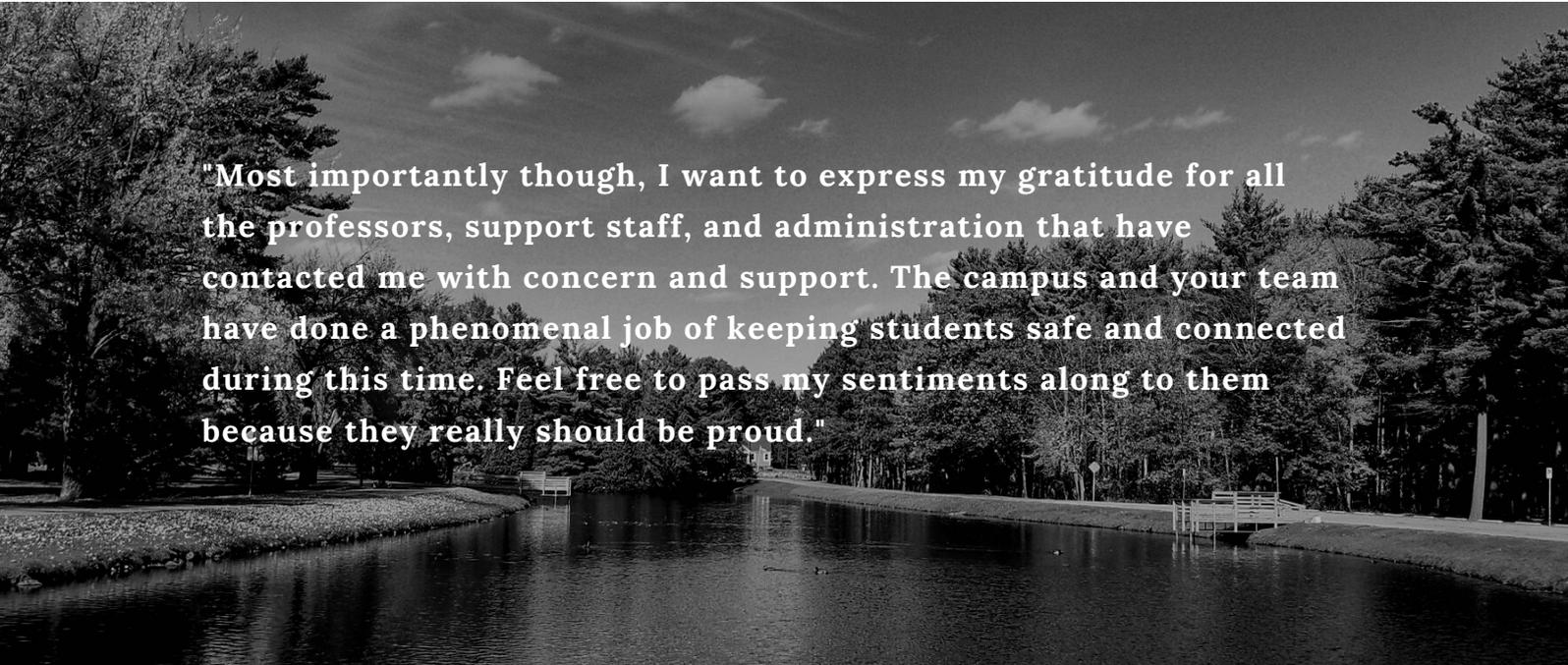
Every person at the institution had to create new ways of working, of being, as

we navigated our traditional responsibilities and the addition of volumes of COVID related work. Thank you to our students and colleagues across campus for your support during these difficult times.

This annual report is a summary of our work over the last year. It is by no means comprehensive but does provide a snapshot of how we care for and support our students.

Most importantly, thank you to Brittany Hook, Rebecca Rogge, and Stacey Duellman, my staff, for your commitment to our students and dedication to great work.

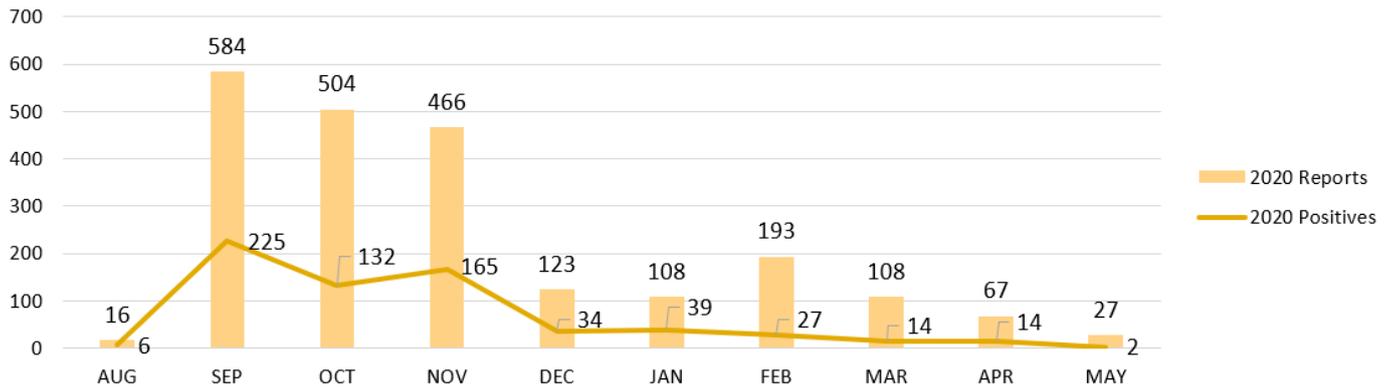
Troy L. Seppelt, Ed.D.



"Most importantly though, I want to express my gratitude for all the professors, support staff, and administration that have contacted me with concern and support. The campus and your team have done a phenomenal job of keeping students safe and connected during this time. Feel free to pass my sentiments along to them because they really should be proud."

COVID-19

2020-2021 COVID-19 Student Report Numbers

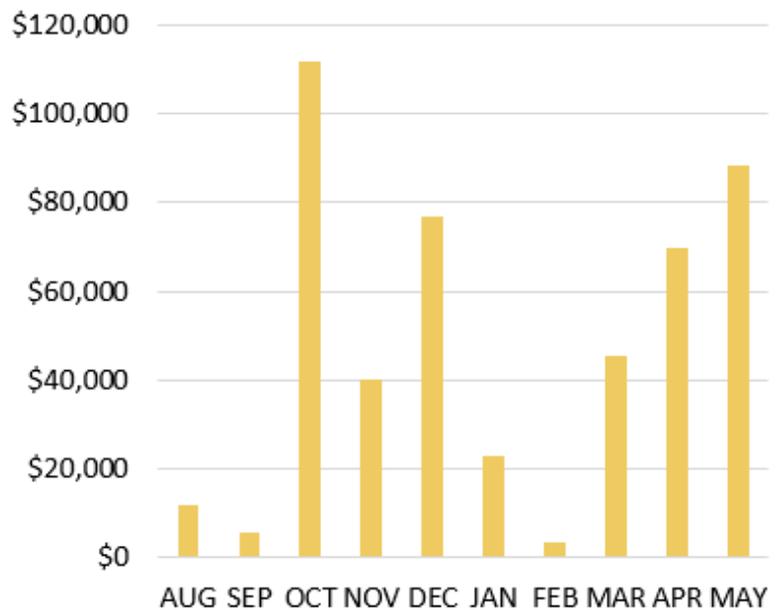


"Thank you so much for reaching out to me. I really appreciate knowing that I have a support system."

In preparation for the academic year, our staff created an incident reporting system, case management process, and outreach plan for students impacted by COVID-19. Our office managed 2,196 cases between the start of school and end of May, working closely with Residential Living, Dining and Summer Conferences, and others to ensure students were well cared for.

Additionally, Dean of Student staff created the process for, managed, and awarded \$480,000 in CARES Act and other emergency grant funds over the same time period. Students most frequently asked for help with housing (rent), housing expenses (utilities / wifi), and food.

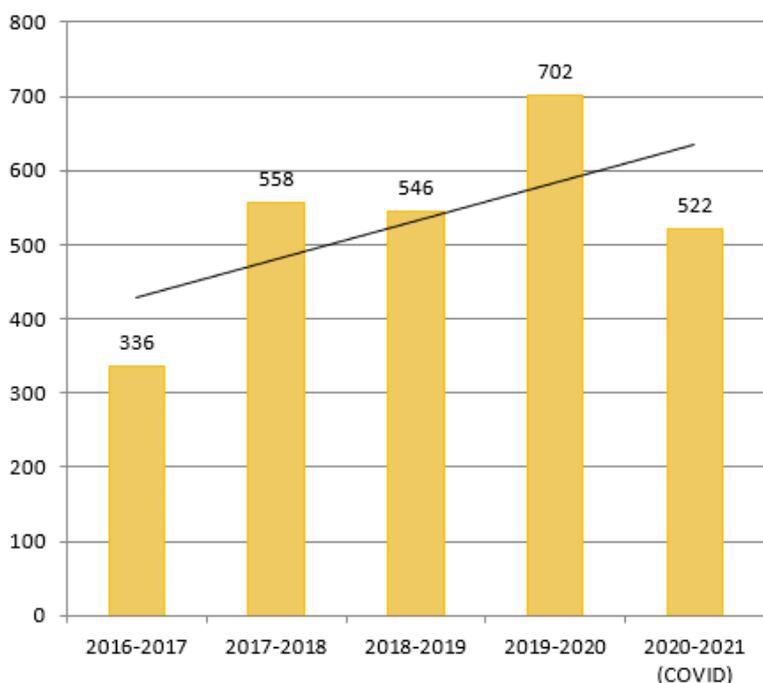
COVID-19 Emergency Grants



STUDENT CARE

Formal case management began at UW-Stevens Point in 2014, with the creation of a students of concern reporting process and Care Team, later expanded to include students on the Marshfield and Wausau campuses.

Number of Individual Cases by Year



Although many students took some portion of their courses online, and residence halls were at 65% occupancy for the 2020-2021 academic year, the number of student care cases remained steady. More than 430 individual students, most with multiple needs, sought support or were referred to case management. Since 2014, more than 2,900 students have been connected to our office for care and support. For the fifth year in a row, mental health concerns, academics, medical issues, and family challenges remain the top presenting issues.

Emergency grant requests (870) and COVID related reports (2,196) mentioned earlier, are not included in the student care numbers.

“This semester has been going really well for me, despite some extenuating circumstances, and I have you to thank for that. Your support last semester and the fact that you were kind enough to check in with me this semester has meant a great deal. Thank you for making time for me.”

“Thank you for reaching out. It really means a lot to me, and it shows that the administration cares about us as students. I hope others observe the great work you are doing and seek you out because mental health is really important.”

STUDENT CARE

“I still appreciate everything you have done for me in the past. You have no idea how much that meant to us. You’ve always done so much for me. I can’t express enough how thankful I am.”

“I love that you are taking the time to touch base with struggling students. It’s one of my favorite things about UWSP.”

“Thank you for all your help. I really appreciate having that support in place and available to me.”

“I would just like to say how thankful I am for how much you helped me during the semester. So, thank you so much for all that you do.”

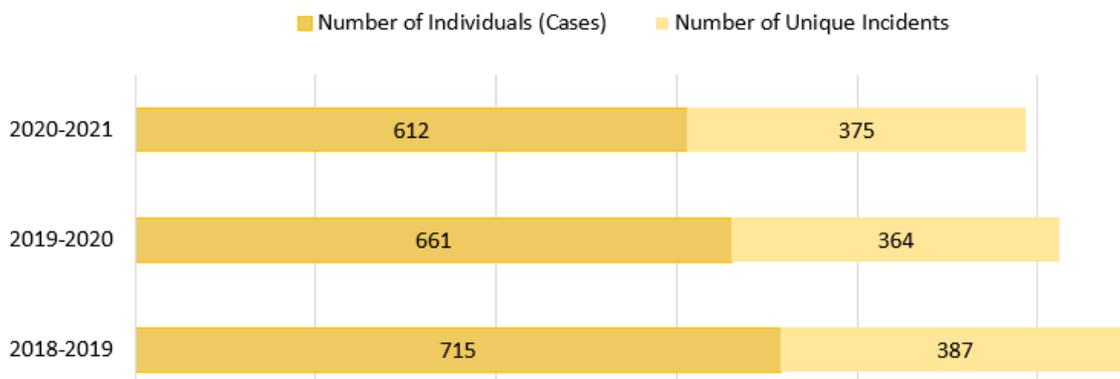
“I really appreciate it. I needed to hear that, being reassured that it will all work out. Thank you to you and all the staff working hard, so the students can continue their majors.”

“You are really helpful to talk to and you help a lot.”

STUDENT CONDUCT

Our office addresses alleged student behavioral misconduct, both on and off campus, for all three campuses of UW-Stevens Point.

Behavioral Misconduct Numbers

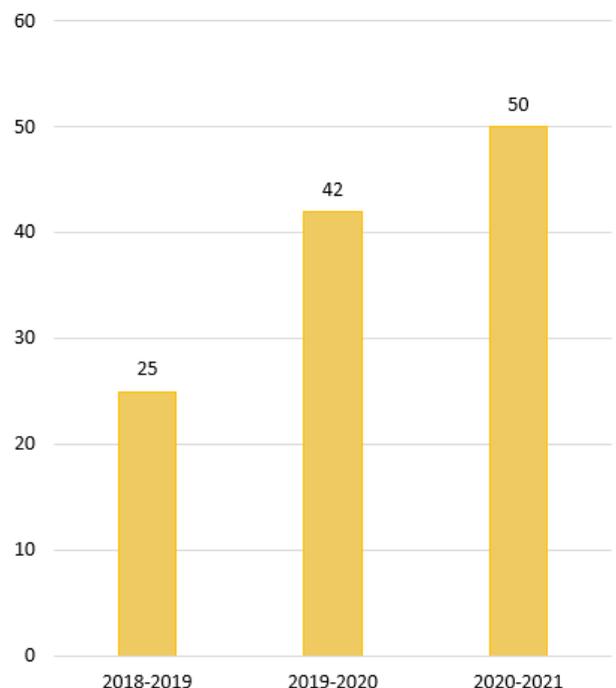


"Thank you for taking the time to address my concern. I appreciate how thorough and dedicated you were to ensuring that I was heard."

Similar to student care cases, reports of alleged student behavioral misconduct remained steady, despite fewer students being on campus or in the residence halls. Of note however, is that approximately 40% of conduct conversations were COVID policy related (i.e., residence hall masking, guest policy violations, etc.).

Despite concerns of a dramatic increase in student academic misconduct, given the virtual learning environment, the number of actual cases increased only slightly from the previous year. The most frequent charge was students claiming credit for the work of another. Just over 77% of students were found responsible.

Academic Misconduct Case Numbers



STUDENT CONDUCT

"To finish, I guess I want to say thank you. Thank you for making me see that I was wrong, and thank you for allowing me to grow as a person. I truly learned a lot about leadership and myself these past six months. College is a time to learn and make mistakes so you don't later in life. I think I needed this to happen to me, because if it didn't happen now, it would have at a much worse time and with perhaps much worse consequences. Thank you."

"Thank you again for meeting with me yesterday. This process (academic misconduct) is a real drag, but you made it better." (Faculty)

"Thanks for everything you do, Brittany." (Faculty)

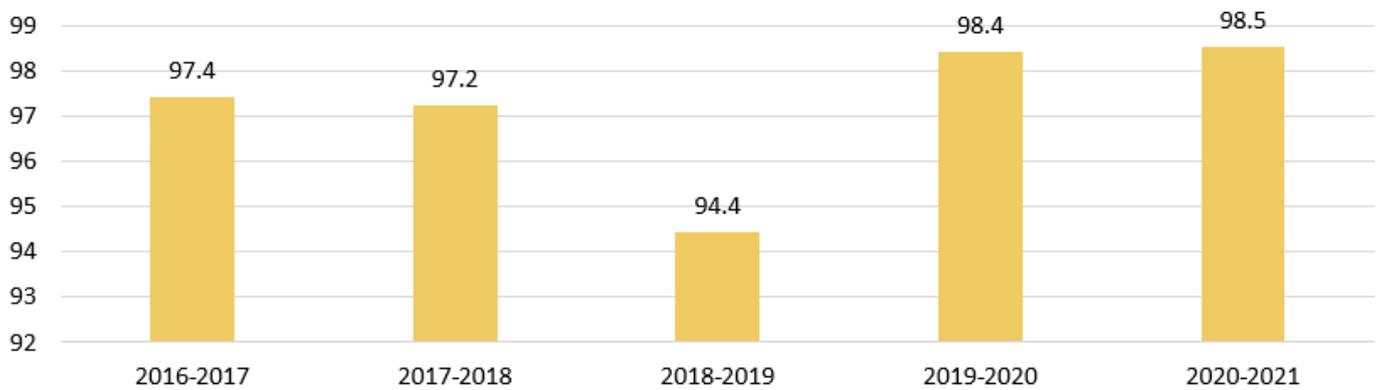
"I just received The Deans letter and can not begin to explain the feelings I have right now. I'm just going to say Thank You. It's such a relief to feel heard and believed for the first time. Thank you so much."

"I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Not only have you offered a learning opportunity to (student) but a learning opportunity for me as well. You're right, I have anger, but true leaders will always show grace. I have extended that to (student) and hope for a better and brighter future going forward. Both you (Brittany) and Troy are such wonderful people and I truly cannot thank you enough."

CENTER FOR PREVENTION

Created in 2016, the Center for Prevention creates programs and educational opportunities focused on interpersonal violence prevention and the prevention of alcohol and other drug issues for students.

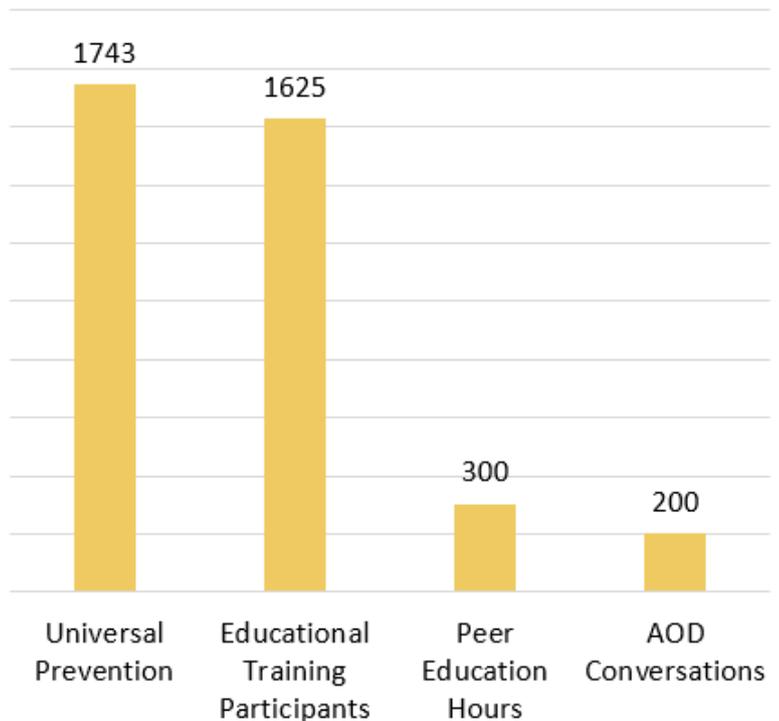
First-year Students: Universal Prevention Completion Percentage



Given the number and variety of prevention efforts coming from the Center for Prevention (CFP), it is difficult to capture the depth and breath of their work, even during the pandemic. COVID-19 did however, limit the overall outreach efforts and in-person conversations. Depending on the program type, some activities were reduced 20 to 50 percent. There were of course, successes.

CFP continues to lead the UW System in student competition of the online universal prevention program (above) and 100% of returning student athletes completed bystander intervention training. To support their work, CFP received more than \$15,500 in external grants. And last, CFP received the “Excellence in Vaping Prevention and Education” award/recognition from the Marathon County Tobacco Free Coalition.

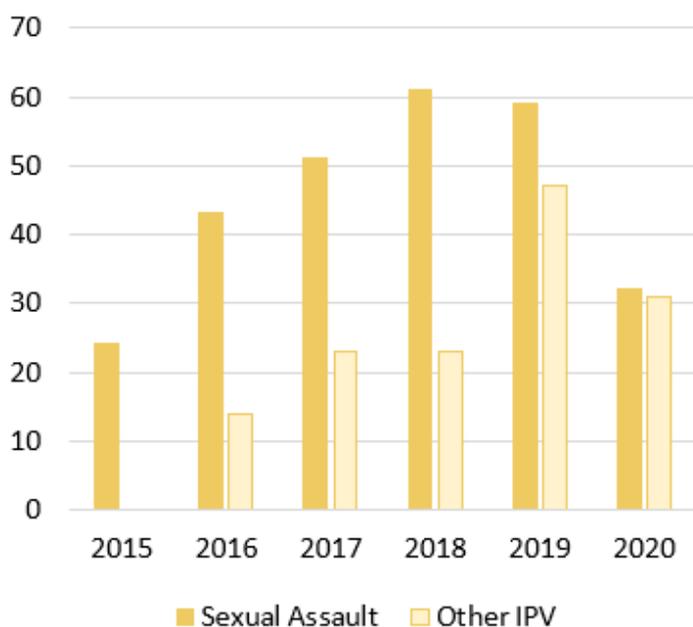
Center for Prevention Contact Numbers



INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Committed to preventing interpersonal violence and supporting those impacted.

Reports of Interpersonal Violence



2020 brought with it significant changes to the federal Title IX rules, and subsequently, updates to our student code of conduct. Although this changed how we approached the accountability portion of the process, our prevention, outreach, and response efforts remained relatively strong, albeit at times delayed by the addition of COVID responsibilities to our office.

Reports of interpersonal violence were down compared to previous years, likely due to fewer students on campus and locally because of the pandemic. Per the updated definitions under Title IX and our student code of conduct, 50% of sexual assaults were reports of rape, 12.5% reports of fondling, and 34% could not be categorized based on the reported information.

“Can I just ask – how many of these (Title IX conversations) do you do per day? You’re amazing.”

“Thank you for reaching out and thank you for helping. I really appreciate it and just talking to you to figure out what I can do going forward has helped so much.”

“You were able to put how I was feeling into words, and represented what I said well. Even though I got a part wrong, you were able to still understand why and what I felt. You really helped me go through this process.”

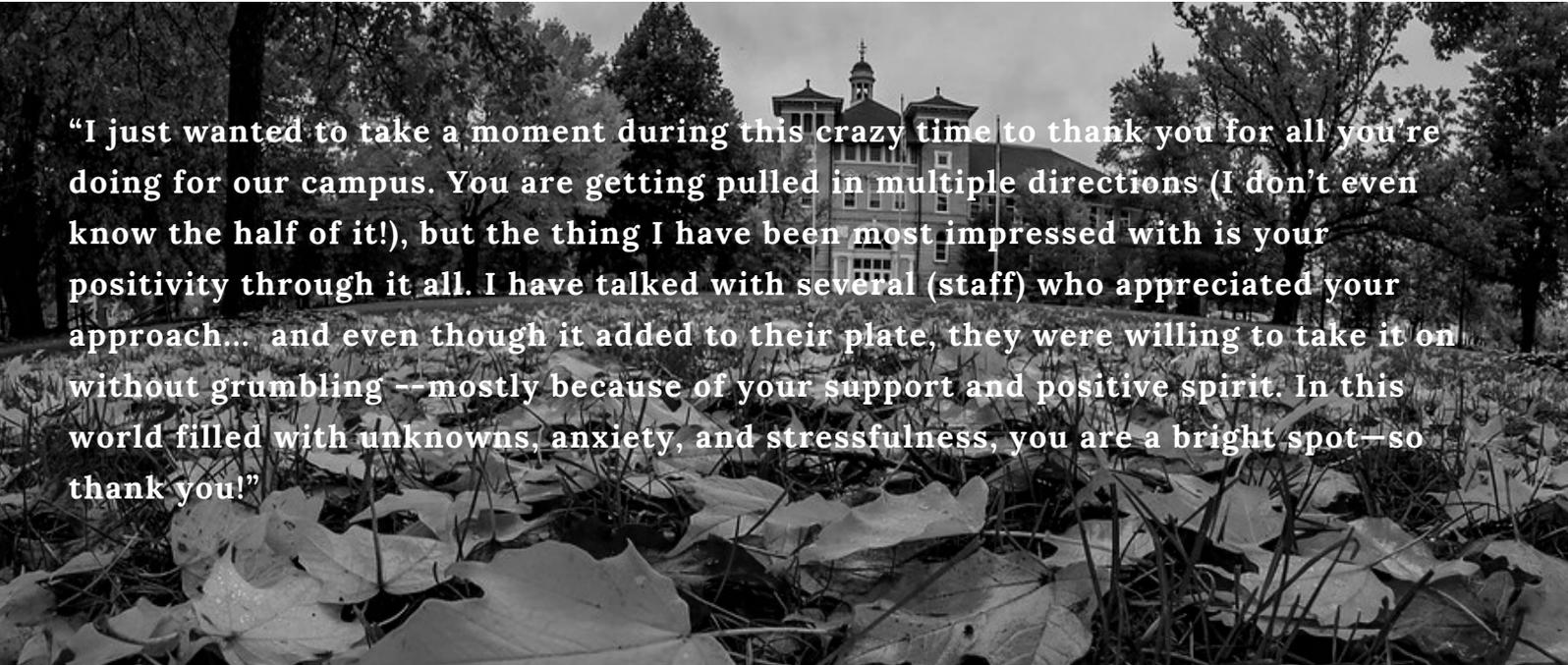
OUR FUTURE

Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible.

The benefit of completing this annual report later than planned, is that we already know some of what the 2021–2022 academic year might bring. We are mostly back on campus, the residence halls are full, and COVID-19 continues to profoundly impact our work and lives. The Dean of Students team continues to do deeply meaningful work for students and our institution. And to be honest, the idea of setting goals beyond just managing what shows up each day has been a daunting exercise.

We do of course have some plans and here is the brief list.

- Hire and onboard colleagues to fill our Office Manager and new Case Manager positions.
- Evaluate and update our case management process to better serve students.
- Outline a broad, multifaceted 'care campaign' to connect students, faculty, and staff to resources and support.
- Review, and update as needed, our student conduct materials and training.
- Explore new ways to connect students and the broader community to interpersonal violence prevention work and response.
- Discuss inclusive excellence in the context of our work and our individual background in order to craft a plan for our ongoing growth and commitment to the work.
- Continue to support each other as a team as we help students and campus colleagues who continue to manage the impact of the pandemic and the challenges that life can bring.



“I just wanted to take a moment during this crazy time to thank you for all you’re doing for our campus. You are getting pulled in multiple directions (I don’t even know the half of it!), but the thing I have been most impressed with is your positivity through it all. I have talked with several (staff) who appreciated your approach... and even though it added to their plate, they were willing to take it on without grumbling --mostly because of your support and positive spirit. In this world filled with unknowns, anxiety, and stressfulness, you are a bright spot—so thank you!”